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By Kunle Awosiyun

# Lagos set to enforce No Horn Day

Lagos State Government is set to enforce "No Horn Day".

This is the highlight of the eighth edition of Lagos Noiseless Campaign a few days ago.

The General Manager of Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. Dolapo Fasawe said at the campaign that it is high time government enforced the Horn Free Day in its efforts to create a noiseless megacity.

Not many people still remember the Lagos state Free Horn Day of October 15 of every year. It is a day set aside by the government for all vehicles to refrain from honking their horns or blaring their sirens.

It is a day the mosques and churches must silence their loudspeakers. It is supposed to be a noiseless day in Lagos.

Former Governor Babatunde Fashola (SAN) came up with the idea in 2014, which later became an act to be obeyed by Lagos residents and motorists.

However, nine years after the formulation of this policy and pronouncement of October 15 as Lagos Horn Free Day, the enforcement has been a total failure.

Echonews observed that motorists used sirens and horns indiscriminately on October 15, 2022 and no offender has been arrested.

During the monitoring, it was gathered that many



Governor Sanwo-Olu



Mr. Tunji Bello

motorists could not even remember that October 15 is Lagos Horn Free Day.

Investigation also revealed that many of the officials of the state Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA had forgotten the Horn Free Day. The newly recruited among them do not even have any idea about the day.

Ironically, noise pollution constitutes 81.8 per cent of environmental complaints received yearly by the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency and it is the least that is being enforced by the government.

The General Manager of LASEPA Miss Dolapo Fasawe said at the eighth edition of the 'Noiseless Lagos' campaign that noise pollution had

become a recurring decimal, attracting more public complaints and conflicts.

According to her, the World Bank study informed the need to address the menace of noise pollution, having discovered it as the second most significant environmental health risk factor after air pollution.

"Urban noise pollution must, therefore, be controlled, such that excessive noise does not conflict with human activities and people's perception of wellbeing. It is, therefore, essential to raise awareness to reduce noise pollution in our environment," she said.

She said LASEPA, being the implementing organ of the ministry of the

environment and water resources for regulating noise pollution amongst others, domesticated the campaign and tagged it 'Noiseless Lagos'.

Speaking on the steps so far taken by her agency to curb noise pollution, Fasawe said that LASEPA had partnered the ministry of transportation and the National Union of Road Transport Workers to provide free hearing tests for transporters, commuters and other road users.

She said the outcome of the test results culminated in the announcement of the ban on the use of the public address system at motor parks.

The LASEPA boss said other efforts by the agency in

addressing noise pollution included awareness walks on the possible loss of hearing from excessive exposure to noise pollution and school advocacy on noise pollution.

It also included the installation of the 'NO NOISE/NO HONKING ZONE' signage on the premises of some schools and public hospitals.

"The strategies adopted by the agency are in partnership with various stakeholders, both public and private, to discuss the problems associated with it and to find practical solutions germane to our environment," she noted.

The LASEPA chief mentioned that other related sources of noise pollution that are equally of concern

to our environment are noise pollution from religious activities, commercial and entertainment industries, generators noise and the ones from domestic animals.

Speaking, the state Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tunji Bello said that the effort to reduce noise pollution is a collective one as he called on all relevant stakeholders in the environmental sector across the state to be actively involved in ensuring the attainment of a serene and safe environment that is commensurate with Lagos vision of a smart city.

The Commissioner made the call while speaking at the 8th Edition of the Annual Stakeholders' Forum.

# Lagos set to enforce No Horn Day

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Speaking on the theme, "Vehicular Noise and Hearing Deficit", held at the JJT Park, Alausa, Ikeja on Tuesday, Bello, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr. Omobolaji Gaji, said that the State Government will continue to partner with relevant stakeholders to ensure improvement in the standard of living of residents of the State by advocating self-compliance in all facets of the environment.

According to him, the ultimate objective of the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is to improve the quality of lives of its citizens and develop a culture of sustainable noise management in all sectors of the economy.

In his words, "This 8th edition of the annual stakeholders' forum on 'Noiseless Lagos', Campaign is to emphasise the need for active contribution and commitment of all, and for everyone to see it as a collective responsibility towards ensuring a serene and safe environment that is commensurate with a smart city, with trees adorning our neighbourhoods and butterflies returning to its natural place in the environment".

The commissioner stated that the theme, "Vehicular Noise and Hearing Deficit" is apt due to the indiscriminate honking on the streets of Lagos by motorists, and this stakeholders' engagement is to proffer solutions as well as provide free hearing tests for everyone".



Miss Dolapo Fasawe

Earlier in his welcome address, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye reaffirmed the competence of the doctors on ground and urged the people to avail themselves of the golden opportunity of free hearing tests as early diagnosis would protect against further hearing loss.

"The earlier an audiologist can identify any issue through a hearing test, the easier the hearing loss is treated. Treating problems when they first arise can prevent long-term and permanent damage to your hearing. Any serious cases of hearing defects will be referred to our government hospitals for necessary attention", he reiterated.

In his paper at the event, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Abdulhafiz Toriola informed that the Ministry of Transportation, having realised the implication of inappropriate honking from motorists in Lagos State, introduced the annual October, 15th safety campaign week initiative tagged "Horn Free Day" which commenced in 2014. He explained that the objective of the "Horn Free Day" in the State was to eliminate noise pollution coming from vehicles by discouraging the indiscriminate use of horns and sirens as well as ultimately improving the health condition of Lagosians.

While noting that transport is a significant

and growing contributor to noise pollution globally, the Permanent Secretary maintained that there is a need to promote a data-gathering initiative for enhanced policy direction to address the development.

He said that even though there are no available statistics to locally show the contribution of noise pollution to the global health impact on human well-being in terms of percentage, concerted efforts and synergy are required by all stakeholders in a bid to promote a healthy environment devoid of noise pollution and significant investment in this regards will be necessary.

Furthermore, Fasawe, affirmed that the annual "Noiseless Lagos"

campaign usually organised by the Agency to sensitise and create awareness on the menace of noise pollution due to the fact that noise pollution has become a recurring decimal in the state environmental protection activities, attracting more public complaints and conflicts over the years.

She described noise pollution as an unlawful act as stated in the State's Environmental Management and Protection Law of 2017, Section 177 which clearly stipulates the prohibitions on wilful actions to cause noise pollution in any environment in Lagos State, adding that LASEPA has the responsibility of protecting and

safeguarding the environment of Lagos and its citizens from all forms of environmental pollution and degradation.

In his earlier presentation, Titled: "Vehicular Noise and Hearing Deficits", Director, Special Projects, Ministry of Health, Dr. Tolu Ajomale expressed that continuous noise levels will result in hearing damage and could lead to permanent or temporary loss.

According to him, Loud noise can cause ringing, hissing, or roaring in the ears (a condition called tinnitus) which occurs immediately after exposure to the loud noise and can be an indication of early hearing damage.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

# Data Management System: Borno Officials Visit Lagos To Understudy Oracle

The Borno State Commissioner, Hon. Adamu Alhaji Lawan has led a team to Lagos to understudy the digitisation of Lagos Financial Management Process with the intention of replicating the same in northeastern state. In his entourage are Baba Bura Usman, Accountant General; Babazanna AbdulKarim, Project Coordinator, MOFIDAMS; Umar Ali Ka'ana, Focal Person, MOFIDAMS; Shehu Yakubu Gana Project Manager MOFIDAMS; Bulama Mulima, Procurement Officer MOFIDAMS and Shamsudeen

Mohammed Head, ICT, MOFIDAMS. Speaking during a meeting with Lagos team, the Commissioner for Finance, Borno State, Hon. Adamu Alhaji Lawan, said that the Borno State Government had put in place some preliminary steps that will help the smooth take-off of the Modernisation of Financial and Data Management System (MOFIDAMS). According to him, the Borno State Governor, Babagana Umara Zulum, is very passionate about MOFIDAMS and he is ready to give the political support that will that make the

implementation stage seamless, stressing that the approval be granted for the delegates to understudy Lagos State is a testament to the Governor's interest in the Data Management System. He identified the need for adequate stakeholders' engagement with political heads and continuous sensitisation of Borno State Public servants as a whole to embrace the initiative as it will save time and resources and will help attain an effective and efficient public service. In her own words, the Permanent Secretary, Borno State Ministry of Finance, Maryam

Shehu sought continuous partnership with the Lagos State Government, saying that the visit was not the first as earlier visits were to understudy LASTMA and LAWMA. She stated that the introduction of the Modernisation of Financial and Data Management System (MOFIDAMS) for Borno State was a result of an intervention of the European Union Trust Fund through the World Bank, to enable Borno State Government to have full deployment of a robust Financial and Data Management System. Reacting, the Lagos State Accountant-General and Permanent

Secretary, State Treasury Office (STO), Dr. Abiodun Muritala affirmed that the State Government is making steady progress in its quest to attain full automation of its financial processes since the automation process started some years ago. Dr. Abiodun, while explaining the successes recorded by Lagos State in its automation processes, identified the key role which the introduction of Oracle Software plays in easing financial transactions in the State and in eliminating gaps and transaction loopholes. Speaking on how the Lagos State

Government integrated IT into the processes of its financial transaction, a Deputy Director from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Mr. Jimoh Wasiu told the Borno State delegates to be deliberate in ensuring the sustainability plan when implementing their Modernised Financial and Data Management System. He said: "In adopting IT, System Integration is one of the challenges to watch out for. This is important because every agency of government that works manually now must be able to work on the system communicating with one another".

# Towards Scientific Auditing: Lagos Trains Auditors On "Developing Result-Driven Audit Work Programme"

The Lagos State Acting Auditor-General, Mr. Adewuyi Monshood Adewale has reiterated the importance of continuous training and retraining of the state's auditors towards effective and efficient auditing service in Lagos. Adewale made this known on Tuesday in his address at a two-day workshop organised for Auditors on Grade Levels 10-14, by the Office of the State Auditor General with the theme: "Developing Result-Driven Audit Work Programmes", held at the Tax Professionals' House, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, CBD, Alausa-Ikeja. Adewale said that auditors who are not

properly trained will not be useful to the service because knowledge is so important in auditing, adding that it is important that auditors have adequate knowledge about their jobs for effective and efficient delivery. "The theme was specifically chosen because we know you cannot carry out the work of audit without having effective programmes for audit objectives. Audit programmes are very important in carrying out our work", he said. Adewale stated further that the workshop is very important to the auditors because it will guide them appropriately in carrying out their audit assignments, saying "This is why we have chosen the topic for the

training of the participants", Adewale said. Olatunji Fanifosi, Principal Partner, Olatunji Fanifosi & Co, Chartered Accountants, the facilitators of the training programme,

said the workshop is primarily designed to train auditors in the office of the State Auditor-General. According to him, audits have now become more scientific, hence it is important to build the

capacity of the auditors towards developing an audit work programme to deliver their statutory responsibilities effectively. Olalekan Salaudeen, Assistant Director of Audit, Office of the State Auditor-General,

said that the auditors must participate actively and garner the required knowledge to deliver effectively on their assigned duties, noting that the title of the workshop is key to delivering efficient audit services in Lagos.



Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

# Lagos Partners Casio To Give Free Scientific Calculator To Pupils

**P**lan is underway between Casio, maker of Casio Scientific Calculator and Lagos State Government to give free calculators to pupils of public schools in the state.

The Commissioner, Ministry of Education, Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo made this known at the 2023 Lagos Education Conference with the theme, "Exploring the Opportunities in Public Private Partnerships for Educational Development in Nigeria", held recently at NECA House, Ikeja.

She said training teachers, building and funding of Casio Mathematics Training Lab among others are the major contributions of Casio towards the educational development of the State, adding there is an ongoing plan by Casio to ensure every student is given a scientific calculator free of charge. According to her, Lagos government is ready to improve its educational sector through innovative ideas that will strengthen Public and Private Partnerships (PPP).

She said, in actualising the 21st-century educational skills and transformation in the State, there is a need to explore and consult Public Private Partnerships in education to standardise the quality of education and improve the academic performance of teachers and students in the State.

The Commissioner stated that the power of collaboration in the

education sector is a collective responsibility which has been a wonderful experience and has gone a long way in promoting the State's education sector.

Referring to the existing relationship between the State Government, Casio – the maker of Casio Calculator, and SKLD Integrated Services – their sole distributor in Nigeria, Adefisayo said the Ministry has been in partnership with the company in the development of the educational system for several years, stressing that the contributions of the company have been remarkable.

She said training teachers, building and funding of Casio Mathematics Training Lab among others are the major contributions

of Casio towards the educational development of the State, adding there is an ongoing plan by Casio to ensure every student is given a scientific calculator free of charge.

The Commissioner affirmed that the partnership has been fruitful as the impact has made the State record an outstanding performance in the last three Western African Examinations Council results, where students excellently passed Mathematics.

She added that the students' outstanding performance is attributed to the quality of training, competent teachers, conducive and learning environment, among others.

While noting that the Ministry is open to

partnerships for educational programmes that will improve and better the lots of students, Adefisayo, however, noted that the State Government is open to more partnership initiatives that will improve the State's education sector.

Also speaking at the conference, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Mr. Andrew David Adejo said the Federal government has been pursuing and sponsoring Public Private Partnerships interface to ensure the smooth running of government establishment.

He said education is an indispensable tool for the socio-economic and

technological transformation of any society, adding that the provision of quality education does not come cheap, hence the need for Public Public Private Partnerships.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Mr. Abayomi Abolaji said adopting Public Private Partnerships is the way to go in achieving quality education for students in the State.

The Permanent Secretary, who was represented by the Director/Head of Education Resource Centre, Mrs. Akinlade Omolayo, said quality education plays a major role in the academic development of the Nigerian students.

He said the outstanding academic achievements

the State has recorded ever since it has been partnering with some key stakeholders in the education sector cannot be overemphasised.

Abolaji, however, urged the concerned stakeholders and residents to give full support to the State Government towards achieving sound and qualitative education in Lagos.

Speaking on the move to assist the education sector of the State further, the General Manager of Casio Middle East and Africa, Mr. Koji Shimada revealed plans to come up with more educative programmes that would make learning interesting and easier for both students and teachers in the State.



Pupils using scientific calculator

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Esv. (Mrs.) Olayinka Patunola-Ajayi, Mni, today reiterated the commitment of the Lagos State Government to improving the public Inland Waterways transit system in the State.

She stated this while welcoming the members of the Alumni Association of the Nigerian Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) AANI – Lagos Sisters led by the Chairman, Ms. Omolara Balogun, Mni in her office today.

According to her, the State Government, through the Ministry, would continue to effectively monitor the State-owned

# Lagos Reiterates Commitment To Improving Waterways Transit System



Ferry Opetators

Terminal/Jetties to ensure the safety of lives and properties of the citizens as well as improve all waterfront infrastructures to make the facilities the

best in the World. Speaking on the purpose of the visit, the Chairman of the Alumni Association of the National Institute (AANI) Lagos State

Chapter, Ms. Omolara Balogun said the visit was to felicitate Mrs. Patunola-Ajayi, who is one of their members, on her well-deserved appointment as

Permanent Secretary. She pledged the member's support to the Lagos State Government on the provision of world-class Waterfront

Infrastructure in the State to complement the Multi-Modal Transportation system of the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration.

# Lagos Pledges More Support To Manufacturers Association of Nigeria

Lagos State Government has pledged to give more support to the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) to further strengthen their operations and consolidate the State's position as the industrial hub of Nigeria.

Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr. (Mrs.) Lola Akande made the promise at the 12th edition of MAN Apapa Branch Business Luncheon themed: "Facilitating Ease of Clearing Inputs for Manufactured Goods under AfCFTA", held on Tuesday at Garden Top Hotel, Amuwo Odofin, Lagos.

Akande, represented by Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya, FCA, reassured members of the Association that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu remains their partner in progress and his administration is conscious of the fact that its policy

thrust of creating A Greater Lagos will materialise when it supports local industrialisation and heed the yearnings of manufacturers in the State. Her words: "The administration of Mr. Governor has been collaborating with the Federal Government to resolve the traffic gridlock, improve on traffic management and ensure seamless movement of goods and services in and out of the Ports' corridor, as it continues to work with all stakeholders towards ensuring ease of doing business in the State.

"The recent commissioning of the Lekki Deep Sea Port and the 18.75km Eleko-Epe six-lane rigid pavement expressway will complement and further assist to decongest Apapa Ports and facilitate ease of clearing inputs for manufactured goods so that Nigerian



Permanent Secretary, Lags Ministry of Commerce and Industry Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya, FCA (middle) flanked by executives of MAN

manufacturers can partake of the immense benefits of AfCFTA.

"The administration has also domesticated the AfCFTA initiative in the State as the State Technical Working Group (STWG) members will soon commence a Statewide sensitisation across the 20 Local Government and 37 Local Council

Development Areas to ensure that each Local Government Area finds its voice in the overall vision and mission of AfCFTA", she added.

On his part, the Customs Area Comptroller, Kirikiri Light Terminal, Mr. Timi Bomodi stated that the twin process of scanning and physical inspection is employed to ensure

imported materials conform to the brand, value and quality as stated in the documents.

"To avoid delay on imported materials with unclear status, importers should apply for Tariff Ruling at the Customs headquarters to ascertain the compliance of such items to ensure speedy clearance at the ports", he

said.

Participants at the Luncheon called for more assistance from the Government in respect of the provision of more access roads in Amuwo Odofin, removing illegal checkpoints and facilitating movements of container-bearing trucks from the Ports to various destinations in the State.

Story By Kunle Awosiyun

# Lagos Govt, Experts Set Agenda For State Urban Development Policy

As part of the process for the preparation of the Lagos State Urban Development Policy, technocrats in the state public service and experts in various fields on Tuesday converged at the Ostra Hotel, Alausa Central Business District, to set the right agenda for the proposed policy. The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Bamgbose-Martins, in his address at the Agenda-Setting workshop, said that the ongoing preparation of the Lagos State Urban Development Policy was synonymous with the State's drive to achieve a sustainable built environment that would be the pride of all. The proposed policy

covers a period of thirty years from 2023-2053 with the aim of creating inclusive cities through sound socio-economic foundations. He said, "The Lagos State Urban Development Policy, when in place, will set the right tone for the development of Lagos State while taking cognisance of all planning index".

Bamgbose-Martins, who described the Agenda-Setting workshop, as an appropriate mileage in the step to bequeath a blueprint for the management of the built environment sector in the State, urged participants to give critical inputs to enrich the final outcome and promote ownership of the policy. He averred that the

proposed policy would complement other notable initiatives of the Lagos State Government to revamp the physical planning sector and birth a 21st-Century Lagos Economy.

"It is my belief that to give the much-deserved progress in the system, the Lagos State Urban Development Policy will reinforce the new initiatives of involving private professionals in regulatory activities in Physical Planning through the Certified Accreditor Programme (CAP) and the Certified Structural Integrity Programme (CSIP)", he said.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on e-GIS and Planning Matters, Dr. Olajide Babatunde said that the Urban

Development Policy was necessary to address growing urbanisation and attendant consequences, stressing that it would serve as the bedrock of city planning to accommodate the socio-economic and infrastructural development of Lagos State.

The former President of Nigeria Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Tpl. Toyin Ayinde, the National President, Association of Town Planning Consultants, Tpl. Muyiwa Adelu and the Project Director, Arctic Infrastructure, Tpl. Lookman Oshodi called for a painstaking process that would produce an enduring policy, comparable to what is obtainable in other climes.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Technical Committee on the Preparation of the Lagos State Urban Development Policy, Tpl. Adekunle Salami recalled that the assignment to prepare an urban development blueprint for the State commenced in July 2021 with the approval of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos State.

"We have since covered many grounds, including the review of the United Nations Habitat's concept note on the Lagos State Urban Development Policy, stakeholders engagement and advocacy, baseline assessment visits and requests for memoranda as well as the review of the same, among others", he said.

Others, who spoke at the

event, include the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Oluwole Sotire; the Chairman, NITP, Lagos State, Tpl. Tayo Awomosu and National Chairman, Women in Town Planning, Tpl. Riskat Bello.

Also present at the event were the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Gbolahan Toriola; the General Manager, Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency, Ms Ajibike Shomade; the General Manager, Lagos State Building Control Agency, Arc. Gbolahan Oki and the General Manager, Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Authority, Tpl. Daisi Oso.



Lagos Urban Centre

# Tourism Development: Lagos Set To Partner Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture has expressed its readiness to partner with the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) towards developing the State's tourism sector.

Addressing officials of LCCI recently when they paid a courtesy visit to the Ministry at the Secretariat, Alausa, the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Oyinade Nathan-Marsh stated that the partnership proposal by LCCI is a welcome development and a collaboration that will further assist the Ministry in the achievement of its mandates.

Describing the plan as a new oil needed for the overall growth of the tourism sector, Nathan-Marsh expressed the hope that the proposed partnership of LCCI with the Ministry will increase networking and engender mutual interest.

The Permanent Secretary also thanked the LCCI team for visiting the Ministry, saying that the State Government will continue to promote the tourism industry as private-sector driven such that the government will only be involved in the area of providing an enabling environment for the growth and development of the tourism sector.

Responding to some of the issues raised by the LCCI team regarding tourism development, she informed the visitors that the State Government is consolidating and improving the Security architecture of the State to ensure that all its tourism sites are well-secured for both local and international tourists.

"For us in Lagos State, we're more concerned with enabling the tourism

sector. Take for instance, we are enhancing our security architecture so that people can feel safe and secure when they visit tourism, hospitality and entertainment centres in all parts of the State", Nathan-Marsh stated.

The LCCI Chairman of the Hotel, Hospitality & Tourism Group, Lady Sally Ukpo congratulated the leadership of the Ministry for the giant strides made in the implementation of different infrastructural

projects that are gradually transforming Lagos State into a Tourism hub.

Ukpo stated that LCCI wants a synergy between the Hotel, Hospitality and Tourism group of the Industry and the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture in the area of publicity and promotional activities that would give leverage to both LCCI and the State Government.

Speaking further, the Chairman added that the collaboration with the Ministry will provide a

direction for would-be investors willing to invest in the tourism value chain, like beaches, entertainment and transportation among others.

"We are thinking of ways Lagos State can benefit economically from Tourism because for the rest of the world, Tourism is one of the highest earners worldwide and there are some countries that totally depend on tourism as their major source of income", she added.



A tourist place in Lagos

As part of efforts to ensure that the vulnerable children in Lagos State are well taken care of, the SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria has partnered with the State Government on the provision of Transit Care.

Speaking at the agreement signing ceremony held recently at Alausa, the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Olusegun Dawodu said that the initiative by the organisation will go a long way in reducing the number of children on the streets of Lagos and the cost being borne by the State Government.

In his words: "As a Ministry, we were conscious of the fact that the initiative by SOS Children's Villages will complement our implementation of the Child Rights Law. Also, taking into cognisance the track record of SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria in the area of child care, the Ministry wasted no time in agreeing to its proposal on transit care".

The Commissioner, who attributed the success recorded by the present administration in child care to visionary leadership at the helm of affairs in addition to the hard work of the civil servants, stated that the Ministry will not

## Lagos, SOS Children's Village Collaborate on Promoting Alternative Care for Vulnerable

rest on its oars.

Earlier in his remarks, National Director, SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria, Mr. Eghosa Erhumwunse said: "This collaboration with the Lagos State government was started in 2018 when we began a journey to redefine the practice of Alternative Care in Lagos State in line with UN Guideline".

He added: "Guided by the desire to prevent unnecessary placement,

promote suitability of Care and increase the options of Care for vulnerable children in Lagos State, SOS Children's Villages has served as a technical partner to the State government to Review Alternative Care practice in Lagos; Facilitate capacity building and stakeholders' engagement; Support the development of the Lagos State Guideline on Alternative Care and Train homeowners in Lagos State on the guideline".

Mr. Erhumwunse further

disclosed that the organisation decided to partner with all stakeholders in a bid to stop the institutionalisation of care of vulnerable children and provide safe and supportive Alternative Care options for children who cannot live with their families.

According to him, the transit home provided by the organisation is a fully furnished five-bedroom apartment with a capacity for 12 children and two caregivers with one large

living room and dining section together with a well-equipped kitchenette to provide children with a short placement of up to six months before they are placed in a permanent family or other options of care as determined by the Family Court.

Permanent Secretary, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu also remarked that the Ministry will go to any length to ensure that the interest of the vulnerable children in the state is given priority.



Homeless Children

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

# Ilera Eko Records 41, 588 Hypertension Related Visits In Three Years

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), known as Ilera Eko has recorded 41,588 visits for hypertension-related cases since its inception in 2020.

The General Manager, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, said this at the first ILERA EKO Providers' Forum.

She revealed that since the full commencement of ILERA EKO in 2020, Enrollees have visited Hospitals under the Scheme 457,770 times. Out of these visits, the highest was for malaria cases with 156,458 visits followed by 41,588 visits for hypertension-related and 20, 559 visits for diabetes

She added that 25,514 antenatal visits were recorded and 17,358 babies were delivered on the Scheme out of which 7,290 babies (42 per cent) were delivered via Cesarean sections and 10,068 (58 per cent) were normal deliveries.

Zamba appreciated the providers from the primary level to the secondary level and across the board who have supported the Agency to ensure that residents in the State have access to

quality and affordable healthcare.

She said that the Forum, which would become an annual platform to create opportunities to co-learn and co-develop strategies targeted at improved service delivery on the Scheme while advancing the State towards UHC.

She added that the Forum would also facilitate knowledge exchange between the healthcare providers and LASHMA for defined policies or strategies for the improvement of access and quality of care on the Scheme.

Board Member, Dr. Tunji Akintade urged the providers not to renege on the outcomes of the Forum. He added that while the Forum identifies opportunities and incentives to enhance cooperation and foster partnerships that can deliver the ILERA EKO mandate, it is critical to avoid any reversal or stagnation in the significant progress that has been made on the Scheme.

Three categories of Awards – Customer-centric, Special Recognition and Most Supportive Medical Directors/Medical Officer of Health were also presented to recognise and celebrate health workers

who have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner.

Recipients included the Medical Director, Island Maternity, Dr. Olufemi Omololu; the Medical Director, SUBOL Hospital, Dr. Olayiwola Bello; the Medical Officer of Health, Itaelewa PHC, Dr. Rahman Odesesan; Ikorodu General Hospital, Okiki Clinic and Maternity Hospital, Aruna Ogun Memorial Specialist Hospital, Odumbaku PHC and Golden Cross Infirmary Hospital.

With the theme "A Brighter Future" the state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi said that the first ILERA EKO Providers Forum became necessary in order to harness all the resources and capacity available to move the Scheme forward. Represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye, the Commissioner said that as the State Government would continue in its giant strides towards ensuring a Smart City, the health sector has made significant contributions and is continually striving to improve the overall health indices and quality of life of Lagos residents.

Prof. Abayomi said that ILERA EKO was conceived

by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, as part of his promise of a healthier Lagos in his T.H.E.M.E.S AGENDA. In keeping with that promise, the Commissioner said that the present administration has continued to provide immense support to LASHMA towards the actualisation of the mandate as an integral part of the State Government Universal Health Coverage (UHC) journey.

He reiterated that ILERA EKO has provided various healthcare services across different spectrums of care and Lagos residents have benefitted immensely from ILERA EKO in the areas of access to quality maternal and child health services, immunisations, outpatient and inpatient treatment of medical cases, quality laboratory and diagnostic services as well as surgical procedures.

The Commissioner said that the State Government has taken actionable steps toward improving access and benefits on ILERA EKO by unveiling various ILERA EKO health plans, expanding the health benefits package and also implementing various provider improvement initiatives such as technical training and distribution of drugs to address out-of-stock.

## LASU VC, Prof. Olatunj-Bello Bags Labour Fellowship Award



Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello receiving her award

In recognition of her role in the promotion of the welfare and well-being of workers, the Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, has been conferred with the award of Fellow of the National Labour Institute (FNLI), by the Michael Imodu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

The Fellowship award was conferred on the Professor of Physiology at the 40th Anniversary of the Institute held on Tuesday, 9th May 2023, at the MINILS Campus, Ilorin.

While conferring the award, Director-General, MINILS, Comrade Issa Aremu, mni, praised the Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University, for her labour-friendly leadership, which came to the fore during his visit to the University for the signing of MOU between MINILS and LASU. He gave kudos to the Vice Chancellor for "...promoting decent work agenda" as generously alluded to by workers' unions in the University, and urged her to continue

in that spirit.

It is noteworthy that the professor of Physiology has a solid reputation for prioritising the welfare of workers in the University, a disposition that has earned her the nickname "Mama Welfare" by students of the institution. She joined other eminent Nigerians such as the Minister of State, Labour and Productivity, Mr. Festus Keyamo; President, Industrial Court, Kanyip Bakwaph Benedict; Director-General, National Productivity Centre, Dr Kashim Akor; Executive Secretary, TETFUND, Arc. Sony Echono; Director General, NECA, Comrade Adewale Oyerinde and NLC President, Comrade Joe Ajaero, amongst others, to get the award.

The Michael Imodu National Institute for Labour Studies, founded in 1983, is the only institution that provides labour education in Nigeria. It is empowered to grant academic and professional awards and to honour persons who make significant contributions to Industrial peace and harmony as elected or appointed public office holders



Road show on Ilera Eko

Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

# Lagos Clamps Down On Scavengers, Miscreants At Dumpsites

The Lagos State Government has gone after scavengers and miscreants at some dumpsites in the metropolis. The exercise is being carried out by the enforcement Unit of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA).

The agency has launched a robust operation to dislodge scavengers and miscreants from illegal dumpsites across neighbourhoods in the city, for a cleaner and healthier environment. In the past few days, the LAWMA enforcement team has been routinely patrolling neighbourhoods across the State, notorious for illegal refuse dumping and the presence of scavengers, rummaging through waste piles, contributing to littering and unsightly landscapes and public spaces.

Commenting, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni expressed concern over residents' increasing disregard for proper waste management practices, stressing the importance of prompt payment for waste services, and the negative consequences of indiscriminate disposal.

He said, "The activities of scavengers and miscreants not only deface our cities but also pose serious health hazards to residents. It is disheartening to see some individuals engaging in indiscriminate disposal because they do not want to pay for waste services. This behaviour undermines the efforts

of LAWMA and hampers our progress towards maintaining a clean and healthy environment".

During the enforcement operations, the LAWMA team dismantled shanties and illegal structures and apprehended individuals caught engaging in indiscriminate waste disposal at various locations in Ipaja, Ikate, Surulere and Ikeja.

The LAWMA boss stressed the need for residents to take responsibility for their waste and participate actively in proper waste management practices, urging them to utilise the services of PSP operators, to ensure scheduled collection of their waste, as well as take advantage of various waste recycling initiatives introduced by the authority.

"To achieve a cleaner and healthier city, it is crucial for residents to play their part in waste management. LAWMA, through PSP operators, is working relentlessly to ensure efficient waste collection services. We urge residents to take advantage of these services by properly sorting and disposing of waste to establish a better quality of life for everyone", he stressed.

Odumboni stated further that LAWMA had continued to embark on awareness campaigns alongside the enforcement operations, to educate residents on the importance of proper waste management, adding that the advocacy drive included community engagements, door-to-door visits and the distribution of

educational materials, for enlightenment on waste segregation and responsible disposal.

He called on residents

to support the efforts of the Authority, by adhering to waste management guidelines, adding that,

with concerted efforts of the agency and active participation of residents, the state would witness a

significant improvement in waste management, resulting in a cleaner and healthier environment for all.



Scavenging at Lagos dumpsite

## LASU Alumni Donate Public Address Systems, Projectors To Departments, Faculties

The Lagos State University Alumni, 1991 set has donated no fewer than four (4) Public Address Systems and four (4) projectors to some Departments and Faculties of their alma mater.

The gesture was part of the need to give back to the University and contribute to the growth and development of the citadel of learning that moulded them.

The event took place on Wednesday, 10th May 2023, at the Vice Chancellor's Conference Room, 6th floor, Babatunde Raji Fashola Senate Building, Main Campus, Ojo, Lagos.

Speaking on behalf of the alumni (1991 Set) during the presentation of the items, Mr. Adeyemi Mapaderun, expressed delight over the realization of the dream of giving back to the

University.

He said "...Today we are here to kick-start a journey and show our appreciation to LASU for what was impacted on us, this donation is for us to register our commitment to continually give back to our alma mater. It is a delight to every one of us that the Lagos State University over the years has grown in leaps and bounds and the level of development seen after been away from the University for over three decade is a call for us to always look back and do much more for our alma mater", he ended.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Adenike Omotunde Boyo, welcomed and

commended the representatives of the 1991 Alumni set for the donation of the Four (4) Public Address Systems and Projectors.

Prof. Boyo noted that the donated items would in no small measure aid teaching and ease the process of learning while calling for more donations.

The University Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel A. FANU delivering the vote of thanks applauded the 1991 set for their great gesture and show of appreciation towards their alma mater.

Mr. FANU wished them favor and honor in all of their endeavors with the promise to include the 1991 Alumni set in the Hall Of Fame of the University.

The Eight (8) Departments and Faculties who were beneficiaries include:

Faculty of Education (Public Address System), Faculty of Social Sciences (Projector), Faculty of Science (Chemistry Department, Projector), Faculty of Law (Public Address System), Aerospace Engineering Department (Public Address System), Chemical Engineering Department (Public Address System), Mechanical Engineering Department (Projector) and, Electronic & Computer Engineering Department (Projector). The donation was witnessed by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Prof. Olufunsho Omobitan, Members of staff of the Vice Chancellor's Office, Representatives from the beneficiary Departments and Faculties, and members of staff of the Centre for Information and Public Relations.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyun

On the eve of the Lagos governorship election on March 18, 2023, one Eze Ndigbo of Ajao Estate, Frederick Nkemdilim Nwajagu went online to threaten the peace of the state.

His words, "I will bring IPOB to Lagos to protect our people. We will guide them in their stores. We will shit down Lagos for two weeks or one week or three days. This is what we will do."

As he spoke, a voice said underneath, "Yes, there is no going back. We have to take Lagos."

The Department of the State Security saw the video and went after Nwajagu the next morning. He fled and was about escaping through Ejigbo when the operatives of DSS apprehended him.

The boasting Eze began to plead that he never meant all what he said about inviting IPOB to Lagos.

Speaking on Journalist Hangout, a TVC television popular programme, Babajide Kolade Otitoju, a vibrant political analyst blamed Nwajagu for reckless talk, threatening to invite a terrorist group to Lagos.

# Terrorism And Lesson From Eze Ndigbo of Ajao Estate

To Otitoju, IPOB is not a musical group that can just be invited for entertainment but a globally recognised terrorist group that has currently subjected its own people to serious economic crisis.

He noted that IPOB laws had declared stay-at-home order on Mondays in Imo, Anambra and some other eastern states of the country for more than two years now.

Igbo children cannot go to school on Mondays, they go to school on Saturday because of IPOB order.

Otitoju said that such situation cannot be allowed to extend to Lagos.

To Paul Dada, another public analyst, Eze Nwajagu did not know the implication of his statement, saying that most community or tribal leaders are unlearned.

"This is a lesson to many community leaders that they should tame their tongues so that it does not



Eze Nwajagu

run them to trouble," he said.

On Wednesday the Lagos State Government arraigned Nwajago, a self acclaimed Eze Ndigbo of Ajao Estate for act of terrorism.

In a statement signed by the Director of Public Affairs, Lagos State Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Grace Alo, Nwajago was arraigned on nine count charge Hon. justice Y.A

Adesanya' of the Lagos High Court.

The statement reads, "On the 9th day of May, 2023, the Hon. Attorney General of Lagos State represented by Mr. Jonathan Ogunsanya (a Deputy Director in the Ministry of Justice), arraigned Frederick Nkemdilim Nwajago (Eze Ndigbo of Ajao Estate, Lagos) on a nine count charge before Hon.

Justice Y.A. Adesanya (Mrs.) in Suit No. LD/21505C/2023 – THE STATE OF LAGOS VS FREDERICK NKEMDILIM NWANJAGO.

It says that the defendant was arraigned for the offences of attempt to do Acts of Terrorism under Section 403(2) of the Criminal law of Lagos State, 2015; Participation in Terrorism Meeting to Support a Proscribed

Entity, Attempt to finance an Act of Terrorism, Preparation to Comit an Act of Terrorism under Sections 12(c), 18, 21, 29 & 12(a) of the Terrorism (Prevention & Prohibition) Act, 2022, amongst others.

The Defendant pleaded NOT GUILTY to all the nine counts. The matter was adjourned to the 4th and 5th of July, 2023 for trial."

## Public Service Development Centre, PSSDC, Advocates Needs For Digital Skills

The Director-General, Lagos State Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC), Mr. Adekunmilola Toluwase Adio-Moses has stated that as the world is evolving technologically, it is important to be acquainted with current digital skills in order to effectively and efficiently achieve the objectives of the various disciplines. Adio-Moses stated this at the opening ceremony of a five-day course on Digital Skills and Productivity Tools organised by PSSDC for Lagos State Public

Officers on grade levels 08 to 12.

He informed that the course would expose the participants to current trends and practices in the world of Information and Communication Technology to satisfactorily compete in the ongoing IT revolution.

He advised the participants to be open-minded and participate actively throughout the training to fully utilise the facilitators' wealth of experience as all the sessions are practical. Furthermore, Adio-Moses assured participants that the

seasoned facilitators would take them through the Overview of Computing, MS- Excel: Data Validation/Consolidation, MS Word with Mail Merge and the Maintenance of Computer Systems.

He, therefore, urged the participating officers to develop themselves personally after the course, as it is a stepping stone to learn more about IT, adding that it is also expedient of them to utilise the knowledge acquired during the course by serving humanity diligently in their various offices.



Lagos civil servants at a function

# Odumbaku PHC Gets Recognition Award From Ilera Eko

By Edith Igbokwe



Orile-Agege chairman receiving PHC award

**O**dumbaku Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC), a 24-hour comprehensive health facility of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA) was presented with a special recognition award by Lagos State Health Scheme (ILERA EKO) as it held its first edition of the Annual ILERA EKO Providers Forum. Odumbaku PHC merited the award for its continuous efforts in quality improvement and contributions towards the delivery of universal health coverage through ILERA EKO in Lagos State. The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), the agency in charge of delivering universal health coverage through the Lagos State Health Scheme (ILERA EKO) organised the Annual ILERA EKO Providers Forum. Part of the activities to showcase high performers in the Healthcare Providers Network includes the presentation of awards to deserving health facilities in both the private and public health sectors. The council chairman, Hon. Johnson Babatunde said one of his focal points is the provision of good and quality healthcare service to the residents of Orile-Agege. It would be recalled that a new public healthcare centre furnished with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities named after the first lady of Lagos State Dr. Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu was commissioned on February 14, 2023, in the council area.

## Orile- Agege Chairman Promises To Equip Primary Schools With Computer Systems

By Edith Igbokwe



Babatunde set to distribute computer systems to all primary school in orile Agege LCDA

**T**he chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Johnson Babatunde has promised to donate computer systems to all public primary schools in the council area. According to him, the move is to allow the less privileged children in the council area to have basic knowledge of computers, adding that it is also part of his drive to develop basic education in Orile-Agege LCDA. Meanwhile, the council has promised to empower overall best students in each of the vocational training categories such as hairdressing, make-up, tailoring, catering, decoration, tie & dye, and ICT. According to the council authority, the qualified students would be selected and empowered at its quarterly empowerment programme. Speaking, the council vice chairman, Hon. Kafikat Pedro-Akanni said the Hon. Johnson Babatunde-led administration is making an effort to impart the lives of residents as he invests in the vocational training centre. Pedro-Akanni, who doubles as the Supervisor for Education, encouraged the students to put in their best and not relent in their search for more knowledge. She encouraged them to make the best use of the knowledge they have acquired at the vocational centre as she further promised them on behalf of the chairman that the overall best student in each category would be empowered at the quarterly empowerment programme of the council.

## Egunjobi Gives N2m To 20 Residents For Empowerment

By Edith Igbokwe

**N**o fewer than 20 residents got N100,000 each to boost their businesses in Agege LG.

The largesse was part of the business support scheme given out by the council chairman, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi (JP).

The council boss said he has embarked on the scheme to aid the needy in the community financially while empowering them to be on their own.

While presenting cheques to the beneficiaries at the council secretariat, the Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Alhaja Aminat Abdulsalam, who represented the council boss advised the beneficiaries to make use of the money judiciously. She admonished them



Hon Ganiyu Egunjobi

to make sure that the money is used for business startups or boost their existing businesses to conform with the purpose of the scheme.

Abdulsalam added that the council boss remains committed to the welfare of residents, particularly, the struggling families in the council area, as she urged them to

always support the Egunjobi-led administration for more dividends.

The beneficiaries, who received the money appreciated and praised the council chairman for not relenting in his efforts to ensure that residents gain financial support to improve their welfare.

They pledged to make use of the money for the purpose it was given.

# Efficacy Of Turmeric Properties To Health

By Edith Igbokwe

**T**urmeric (*Curcuma longa*) not only gives a taste and colour to food, but it also possesses anti-inflammatory properties for a healthy body.

It is more than just an ingredient in curries, this bright orange spice boasts several health-promoting properties.

It's a member of the ginger family and the root of a flowering plant.

The nutritional profile of turmeric: One tablespoon of ground turmeric powder contains approximately: 29 kcal/123 KJ, 0.9g protein, 4g carbohydrates, 1g fiber, 0.3g fat, 196mg potassium, and 7mg iron.

Top health benefits of turmeric: Contains protective bioactive compounds and colourful plant food is good for our health, thanks to plant pigments, and turmeric is no exception.

Much of the publicity around the spice is due to curcumin, the main active component which makes up about 3% of the root by weight. Although an impressive constituent, curcumin is just one of the hundreds of bioactive compounds found in turmeric.

It has antioxidant properties: The value of protective compounds like curcumin is that they help the body combat the damaging effects of cell oxidation.

Over time, this process may lead to chronic inflammation and, as a result, age-related conditions such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer.

Including protective antioxidant foods in our diet makes our bodies better placed to cope with aging and the inflammation associated with it. It also helps with exercise-induced inflammation and muscle soreness.

Another property possessed is that it may help ease arthritis: Studies comparing the anti-inflammatory properties of turmeric with those of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have shown great promise.

Animal studies exploring curcumin's therapeutic potential as a treatment for arthritis have also been encouraging.

Nevertheless, we need more well-designed clinical trials to



determine the efficacy of curcumin for arthritis patients, particularly those who rely on NSAIDs to manage their condition.

It may also support those with Alzheimer's or dementia: Another active ingredient in turmeric is turmerone. Although less is known about turmerone, studies suggest it may be useful for treating conditions such as stroke and Alzheimer's disease since it helps trigger cell repair and may potentially support the recovery of brain function.

However, these studies typically involve animal and cell models only, and because the active constituents of turmeric are often poorly absorbed in humans, more research is needed to establish how beneficial turmerone may be.

May lower the risk of cardiovascular disease: Studies suggest the antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects of curcumin may protect against some

of the steps inherent in the development of heart disease, such as helping balance cholesterol levels.

Another aspect is to support the immune system: According to studies, curcumin may act as an immune system modulator, influencing important immune cells; these include T cells, B cells, and Natural Killer cells.

In addition, curcumin appears to down-regulate pro-inflammatory cytokines, compounds whose prolonged activity can lead to damage caused by inflammation.

When consumed at low doses, curcumin may also enhance our antibody responses, helping us fight off infection.

Animal studies suggest it may even play a role in controlling allergic conditions such as hay fever.

Turmeric properties may help prevent cancer: Curcumin also appears to lead to many cellular changes that may help in the fight against cancer. Active at different stages of cancer development, studies suggest curcumin may help limit the growth of new

blood vessels in tumours, reduce the spread of cancer, and contribute to the death of cancer cells.

It's also good to boost mood: Once again, it is curcumin that may be responsible for helping the spice lift our mood and alleviate some of the symptoms of depression.

One study examining its anti-depressive effects found that curcumin was as effective as the drug, Prozac.

There's also a suggestion that curcumin may boost feel-good brain chemicals, including the neurotransmitters serotonin and dopamine.

In the memory aspect, Animal studies suggest that curcumin increases the levels of a brain hormone called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). This helps promote the life of nerve cells and plays an important role in memory and learning.

Speaking about anti-aging properties: Curcumin may help slow the aging process by activating certain proteins and protecting cells from damage.

Thus, it may delay the

progression of age-related conditions and alleviate the associated symptoms.

More human studies are needed to fully investigate these benefits, but initial findings look promising.

For most of us, turmeric is a safe option, however, there are some circumstances where caution is needed.

If you're pregnant, you should avoid taking medicinal quantities

of turmeric. Recent studies on animals suggest curcumin may alter levels of the hormone estrogen. However, enjoying the spice in small amounts, for example in a meal or drink, may be beneficial during pregnancy.

If you have iron deficiency anaemia, avoid turmeric in high quantities. Compounds in the spice appear to bind to iron in the gut, making it unavailable for absorption and worsening symptoms.

If you suffer from gallstones, bile duct obstruction, or liver disease, you should be aware that turmeric increases bile secretion. Including large amounts in your

diet may aggravate your symptoms.

If you're taking medication, you should refer to your GP or pharmacist for guidance. Those taking blood thinning medication, diabetes medication, or PPIs such as omeprazole for acid reflux should take particular care with turmeric.

Overall, is turmeric good for you?

Turmeric has rightly earned its 'superfood' status. The golden spice is believed to protect our cells from inflammation and damage, slow down the process of aging, ease symptoms of arthritis, and even reduce the spread of cancerous cells.

What's more, it's believed to help boost mood, memory, and brain function, with some studies suggesting it may be useful for treating conditions such as stroke and Alzheimer's.

If you're considering any major dietary changes or thinking about taking supplements, please consult your GP or registered dietitian to ensure you do so without risk to your health.

# Akinsanya Blesses 20 Female Mechanics With Working Tools

By Edith Igbokwe



Akinsanya giving out tools to female Mechanics trained

In a move to encourage them in their chosen career, the chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Comr. Lasisi Akinsanya has given working tools to 20 newly trained female mechanics.

The beneficiaries got the tools after undergoing a three-day training organised by the council in collaboration with

Water Aid International, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). The training was held at the council secretariat.

Appreciating the council boss for presenting working tools to the 20 selected

beneficiaries, Ms. Olajumoke Okedara, who spoke on behalf of others said the feature was well appreciated, saying it served as impetus for them to excel in their chosen career.

While congratulating them, the council

chairman advised them to improve on the knowledge they acquired during the training. Also speaking, the vice chairman, Hon. Mrs. Mojisola Badmus, encouraged the female mechanics to make good use of the working tools handed over to them.

# Igando Residents Applaud LASG For Road Rehabilitation

By Edith Igbokwe



Road rehabilitation in Igando Ikotun

on quality. In recent times, the Agency said it has modified its process of carrying out repairs to include three major methods, which are: asphalt premix as used in Alimosho road and interlocking paving stones, as well as lean concrete.

The processes have helped to apply the most suitable remedy to road maintenance needs and to sustain a non-stop approach to making roads motorable all the time.

Residents of Igando-Ikotun have appreciated Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Public Works Corporation over the completion of maintenance work on portions of the Isheri-Igando Road after Alimosho General Hospital. The rehabilitation work, which was done using asphalt premix, was necessitated by the potholes along the stretched road, causing vehicles to swerve to avoid falling into them.

The Lagos State Public Works Corporation is saddled with the responsibility of rehabilitating and maintaining roads in the state. According to the Agency, it is guided by a mission to constantly maintain all road networks in the state, such that they remain motorable all year round, using up-to-date technology manned by a well-motivated and highly skilled human capital with a high premium

# Foundation To Empower 2,000 Students In Alimosho LG

By Edith Igbokwe

The President of Faith Iyowuna Ikekhide Foundation (FIIF), Faith Ikekhide has stated that the forthcoming Lagos Children Empowerment Conference is a channel through which the foundation gives back to society.

She noted the foundation gives back by investing in the educational, vocational, spiritual, and social development of at least 2,000 students from 12 public schools and seven private schools in Alimosho Local Government Area.

She further explained that the gesture was informed by the need to address training and mentorship gaps in the nation's educational system.

According to her, the foundation will be empowering about 2,000 students in



President of FIIF foundation, Faith Ikekhide

Lagos State as part of its actions towards realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the state and country.

She stated that there was an urgent need for the system to invest more in initiatives that would enable youngsters to discover their talents early enough, adding that this responsibility was a clarion call to everyone.

Ikekhide stressed that the conference, with the theme "Destiny Discovery," is aimed at achieving sustainable

development and is part of the Foundation's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme towards the speedy achievement of SDG (4) on quality education.

She explained that the programme would be anchored on two sessions of vocational and mentorship empowerment.

The chairman of FIIF, Dr. Andy Ikekhide, also said a line-up of notable and respected resource persons from different fields would benefit on the ground to engage the attendees in a life-changing discussion and mentorship.

# Landlord Dragged To Court For Forcefully Evicting Tenant

By Edith Igbokwe

A 44-year-old landlord in Ikotun, Ganiu Tajudeen has been dragged to court for allegedly forcing his tenant, Mr. Olamilekan Oloyede, out without prior quit notice. He was also accused of stealing items worth N144,000 from the tenant after throwing his property out of his apartment.

The defendant is standing trial on a four-count charge bordering on breach of the peace

and unlawful eviction, to which he pleaded not guilty at Ejigbo Magistrate court.

The prosecutor, ASP Benedict Aigbokhan, told the court that the defendant and others at large committed the offences on April 27 at 10.30 am, at No. 5, Titilayo St., Liasu Road, Ikotun, in the Igando-Ikotun LCDA of Alimosho LGA.

He said the defendant unlawfully entered the apartment of his tenant and threw his properties out after his tenancy expired.

According to the prosecutor, the landlord failed to serve the tenant any notice to quit but took the laws into his hands.

Aigbokhan added that the defendant stole items worth N144,000 from the tenant.

The prosecutor said that the stolen items included an Elemax power generator worth N50,000, a pressing iron worth N10,000, an aluminum sheet worth N14,000, and a 42-inch Samsung television set worth N70,000.

He said that the offences contravened Sections 168(d), 287, 308, and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The Presiding Magistrate, Miss K. A. Ariyo, granted the landlord bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum. She ordered that the sureties must be gainfully employed and show evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government. Ariyo then adjourned the case until May 22, 2023, for mention.

# Govt Warns Traders At Alaba Rago Market Against Indiscriminate Waste Disposal

By Edith Igbokwe



Alaba Rago Market

The authority of Iba LCDA has warned the traders at Alaba Rago

Market to desist from indiscriminate waste disposal, saying anyone caught in the

act would be dealt with. Giving the warning, the Supervisor for Environment, Hon.

Hassan Mustapha (Haji LaLa), who complained about the traders' attitude in the market, declared that the environment was not hygienic.

He told the market committee chairman, Alhaji Hussaini Lajawa to find a solution to the situation of the market before the government takes action.

He lamented that dirty surroundings can cause communicable diseases that are very harmful to health.

He noted that the dirty

sight did not portray the image of the council well and that it would not be good enough if the State environmental taskforce comes for inspection and find the market in such a dirty and unorganized manner might lead to the complete shutdown of the market.

He urged the traders to comply with laid down rules and regulations to avert punitive enforcement where offenders will be running helter-skelter for pardon.

He also appealed to those encroaching on roads, walkways, and culverts thereby making free passage on the road miserable for road users to desist from the acts as the Council will soon start enforcement on that.

He promised that due environmental sanitation would henceforth take place within and around the market in due time, informing that the environmental sanitation committee within the market would take drastic actions to correct all abnormalities.

# Council Encourages Residents To Patronise WAPA Skill Acquisition Centre

By Edith Igbokwe

The authority of Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has appealed to the residents especially the youths to make use of the Acquisition Centre owned by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) which is situated in the council area.

The council authority appealed during a stakeholders' meeting with the Community Development Committee (CDC), the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), the League of Imams, market men and women, the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), and ethnic groups in the council area. The meeting was summoned following the visit of the new leadership of the centre led by Mrs. Ayanronbi to the council chairman of Iba LCDA.

The stakeholders identified and



Cross section photograph of participants at the meeting

discussed the factors hindering the youths from accessing the facility, while proffering solutions to the challenges.

The representatives of WAPA commended the State Government for the skill acquisition initiative as they urged the government to

create more empowerment opportunities for the youths.

They also commended the council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) for his commitment to skill acquisition and youth empowerment by sponsoring trainees to the centre with a plan to create jobs.

It was said that the council boss has approved the purchase of other forms from the centre as the youths within the council area are encouraged to key into the programme.

The Skills Acquisition Centre at Iba LCDA is one of the nineteen centres established by

Lagos State offering training in Catering & Hotel Management (9 months), Photography (6 months), Computer Studies (6 months), Hairdressing & Cosmetology (9 months), Barbing (6 months), Fashion Designing/Tailoring (12 months), Adult Literacy

(12 months), Welding (9 months), Aluminum & Fabrication (9 months), Screen-printing & Lithograph (9 months), Refrigeration & Air-conditioning Repairs (9 months), Tiles Laying & Interlocking (9 months) and Vulcanizing & Wheel balancing (9 months).

# Festac Junior Grammar School Gets Facelift Renovation From Rotary Club

By Edith Igbokwe



Festac Junior Grammar school students, teachers with rotary club members

**A** Junior Grammar School in Amuwo-Odofin has got multimillion-naira donations from the Rotary Club FESTAC Central and the Rotary Club of Greenfield.

Over N2.5 million was spent to renovate the toilet facility at the school, repair the school's borehole and provide a water treatment plant to ensure the water is

drinkable.

They also distributed over 680 pairs of sanitary pads to the female students.

On the choice of the FESTAC Junior Grammar School, the Service Project Chairman, Rotary Club of Greenfield, Anwuli Ogbonnaya, said it was the choice of their collaborative partner, the Rotary

Club of Festac Central.

"Each Club does projects within its locality and since the school is located in the same environment as the Rotary Club of Festac Central, we were only invited to collaborate with them. This is a three-in-one project, comprising the toilet, the borehole, and the sanitary pads for the young girls. We distributed over 680

pairs of pads to the girls."

While commissioning the projects the Assistant Governor of the Rotary Club of Amuwo, who represented the District Governor, Anthonia Agugoesi was impressed with the projects as they were an indication that the time spent attending rotary meetings and the little contributions Rotarians made was not in vain.

"I am here to commission these projects on behalf of our District Governor. I know that the Clubs involved in these projects are the Rotary Club of Festac Central and the Rotary Club of Greenfield. It doesn't mean that Rotarians are too rich; it only indicates that they have a mind to give."

She urged the school management and students to take care of the project stressing that it is easier to obtain than to maintain.

"Maintenance is very important because if you don't maintain what you have, I don't really think that you can have more. So, we are urging you to

see the project as your own personal property and maintain it very well. It will last a little longer and impact more. We are glad we are doing this. I call on the Rotarians to keep doing what they know how to do."

President of the Rotary Club of Festac Central, Ndudirim Nkechi also expressed satisfaction that the school's toilet which was already dilapidated and posing a health hazard to the students has been renovated into a modern toilet facility.

She also noted that the borehole which was brownish has been given a facelift with water treatment plants installed, thereby making the water drinkable.

"Today, they have a functional borehole with good water that they can drink and use to flush their toilet and the toilet is now a modern one."

She also stated that the Clubs provided sanitary pads to the female students to help them maintain proper hygiene, particularly during their monthly menstrual cycles.

She said the Clubs decided to concentrate

on pads because the girl child needs to learn how to protect herself.

"When there is no hygiene, there would be infection, and when a child is infected at a tender age, it goes all the way to affect her even in marriage.

"Some women that are suffering from infertility today are a result of incurable and long infections they had as teenagers.

"So, we don't want our girl-child to start having such problems that could lead to infertility when they are married. With the pads, they will clean up very well during their monthly cycle. This way, their health will also be protected. The value of what we have done here is about N2.5 million."

The vice principal of the school, Mrs. Oloye Monsurat Adebola, who stood in for the principal, thanked the Rotary Clubs for the projects.

Apart from the projects, she also thanked them for providing health tips for the female students on how to maintain proper hygiene during and after their monthly menstrual flow.

## FESTAC Residents Protest Over Power Shut Down

By Edith Igbokwe



Protest against darkness in festac town

**T**he residents of FESTAC town in Amywo-Odofin LG have marched down to Nigeria Power Holding Company (NPHC) in protest over electricity failure in some parts of the community.

The protestant claimed that for a week a fraction of FESTAC town has been suffering electricity

shutdown while other areas in the same vicinity enjoy stable power supply.

Affected residents grew impatient as the electricity supply was not restored and as a matter of concern, they resolved to carry out a protest.

Residents affected include 201, 202, 111, 21, and 311

roads and they stormed the EKEDC office at 23 Road, the FESTAC office in protest of the critical state in which the electricity situation has gotten in their area. The protesters were angry over the situation, saying they would rather have the entire FESTAC town in darkness than just suffer all alone.

## 24- Year Old Man Remanded For Raping Teenager

By Edith Igbokwe

**Y**aba Magistrate court has remanded one Jacob Ekene, a 24-year old man, at Ikoyi Correctional Center for allegedly impregnating a 14-year-old girl at her aunt's residence in Amuwo-Odofin. Magistrate P. E. Nwaka

remanded Ekene after being arraigned on three counts of conspiracy, rape, and inflicting bodily harm.

The incident occurred after the victim's aunt, who helped the suspect register his National Identification Number card, told him to come

to her house to pick it up. EKene was said to have carried out the act with his friend, Olamilekan Saidi seizing the opportunity.

It was gathered that Saidi fled after getting wind of the information that policemen were on his trail while Ekene was arrested.



# Lillestrom Ready To Sell Out Akor For Big Money

By Saheed Afolabi

Lillestrom has revealed that they are ready to sell Nigeria star, Jerome Akor for big money in the summer.

The club is optimistic that the forward will not be sold cheaply because they classify him as their priced asset.

Akor has found the back of the net five times this season after returning from a shoulder injury.

Lillestrom sporting

director, Simon Mesfin said many clubs have demanded the services of Akor and they are ready to sell for the right price.

"I have said it before that we could sell him for quite a lot of money," quoted by Score Nigeria.

"We could have sold him already last year if he hadn't been injured, but there were also clubs that called and asked

about his situation even after he had shoulder surgery."

Akor however played down transfer speculation surrounding his future in the club as he disclosed that he's more focused on his career and staying injury free.

He also talked about his partnership with fellow striker, Thomas Olsen and how it gave the team more energy.

"I can't answer that,



Akor celebrating a goal in the Czech league

## Taiwo Afolabi, Shukura Oladipo Lead Selected Players For Wafu B

By Saheed Afolabi



U20 players celebrating a goal with the head coach, Christopher Danjuma

Nigeria U20 head coach, Christopher Danjuma has picked the 20 players' squad to represent the country in the maiden edition of the Wafu B U20 tournament taking place in Kumasi, Ghana.

Midfield maestro, Taiwo Afolabi, Shukura Oladipo, Esther Onyenezide, and Flourish Sebastine top the list of the selected players for the West Africa Football Union women's football tournament.

Five players from the U17 FIFA Women's World Cup bronze-winning Flamingos team made it to the team of players that will be on parade at the Wafu B tournament, which is, Omowunmi Bello, Comfort Folorunsho, Taiwo Afolabi, Opeyemi

Ajakaye and Blessing Emmanuel.

After leading the last U20 team to the quarter-final of the U20 FIFA Women's World Cup last year, Danjuma has called up a strong squad that's capable of winning the Wafu B U20 tournament.

The Super Falconets are grouped in group B alongside Burkina Faso, Niger Republic, and Togo. The Nigeria side will start their campaign at the Wafu B with a tie against the Niger Republic on the 21st of May.

The Falconets will trade tackles with Togo on the 24th of May at the Baba Yara stadium before rounding up the group stage with a clash with Burkina Faso on May 28 at the

Paa Joe Stadium, Kumasi.

The Wafu B U20 tournament has been scheduled to kick off on the 20th of May and will end on the fourth of June.

Goalkeepers: Inyene Etim, Shukura Bakare, and Chinyere Mgbechi.

Defenders: Jumoke Alani, Oluchi Ohaegbulem, Chidinma Ogbuchi, Comfort Folorunsho, Blessing Okpe, and Monica Ameh.

Midfielders: Taiwo Afolabi, Chioma Olise, Chinyere Kalu, Esther Onyenezide, and Blessing Emmanuel.

Forwards: Shukurat Oladipo, Goodness Osigwe, Flourish Sebastine, Omowunmi Bello, Opeyemi Ajakaye, and Judith Okah.

you have to ask Mesfin (sports director) about that. Right now I'm focused on playing, helping, scoring, and staying injury-free," he said.

"In pre-season, we

both played alone at the top, so there have been a few new things to deal with now at the start of the season, but it has gone very well so far. The fact that we are now playing together at the top gives us a lot of

energy."

Lillestrom have played five matches in the Norwegian league this season and scooped nine points in the process. They will visit Odd on Friday, May 12, 2023.

## Rofiat Imuran Thrilled To Score Debut Goal For Stade de Reims

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigerian fullback, Rofiat Imuran was thrilled to net her first goal for Stade de Reims on her first league start for the club.

Stade de Reims crushed Le Havre 5-0 with Imuran scoring and getting on the assist record of the game.

The excited Imuran said she was fulfilled scoring her first goal

for the club and crowning it with an assist.

The Super Falcons left back appreciated her teammates for the support and teamwork to make the team excel.

"I am so glad and fulfilled to have scored my first goal and assist for Stade de Reims.

"Thanks to all my teammates and everyone for your

usual support."

Imuran will be hoping to cement her place in the team as a regular starter following an impressive display against Le Havre.

The defender had made three substitution appearances for Stade de Reims but she was in action for 84 minutes before she was substituted off.

Stade de Reims will face a crunchy test against Dijon on the 21st of May.



Rofiat Imuran dribbling past her marker in the French Women's League

# NOA Embarks On Peace Advocacy

BY Nurudeen Adebayo

The National Orientation Agency (NOA), Lagos State Directorate has embarked on a peace advocacy visit to the Palace of the Paramount Ruler of Oregun in Ikeja Local Government, High Chief Aderemi Ajani Fagbemi Ajose, Council of Ulaama and the Palace of Seriki Hausawa of Alimosho Local Government under the leadership of Alhaji Haruna Kuraga and the Secretary of the



Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ojodu, Ikeja Local Government, Reverend Femi

Odejobi. Dr. Mustafa Adedeji Tukur, Acting Director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Lagos

State Directorate who led the team on the advocacy visit said its essence was to solicit the continuous support of the religious and traditional institutions in preaching the messages of peace and harmony in the aftermath of the recently conducted General Elections in

the country. At the places visited, he admonished the religious and traditional leaders to continue to be agents of peace while using their revered positions positively to promote harmonious living among their followers. He said that the advocacy visits were in

line with the Agency's mandate of 'Building a People of Peace' and an indivisible Nigerian Nation. While responding to the visit, the religious and paramount leaders commended the Agency for sustaining its programme on peace and harmonious living in the country.

## Kafilat Ogbara Urges President-elect To Implement 35% Women In Politics

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Federal House of Representatives member-elect in Kosofe Constituency, Mrs. Kafilat Ogbara, has called on the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu to prioritise the implementation of the 35 percent affirmative action for women in political appointments.



Kafillat Ogbara

She said this at an event tagged "A Review of the Role of Women in the 2023 Election: The Way Forward" organised by the Association of Nigerian Women Business Network in collaboration with Radio 91.7 (The Voice of Women).

During the conversation, Ogbara emphasised the importance of upholding the Federal High Court judgment from April 6, 2022, which mandated the government to ensure the 35% affirmative action for women in Nigeria. She urged the incoming government to implement this judgment by May 29, specifically in terms of appointment positions.

Expressing her dissatisfaction with the current state of women's representation in Nigerian politics, Ogbara highlighted that Nigeria ranked 55th among black countries in Africa. She stressed the need for the incoming administration to increase the representation of

women in political appointments before 2027.

Ogbara encouraged action and emphasized the importance of not just talking, but also walking the path towards achieving gender parity in politics.

She urged women to support one another and advocated for the inclusion of more than 35% of women in the composition of the incoming government's cabinet. Reflecting on her own experiences, Ogbara acknowledged the challenges faced by women in politics. She called for women to rally behind competent female candidates, emphasizing the need for unity and support within the female political community.

The discussion also touched on the issue of girls' education, as Ogbara highlighted the link between education and women's participation in politics.

She emphasized that addressing the problem of out-of-school girls was crucial, as education opened doors to opportunities and financial empowerment, enabling women to actively engage in the political sphere.

Ogbara concluded by urging stakeholders to address the high number of out-of-school children, as it directly affected the future of female political participation.

By ensuring girls' access to quality education, opportunities and advantages would be unlocked, paving the way for their meaningful involvement in politics.

The conversation served as a platform for women leaders to come together, share experiences, and advocate for greater female representation and empowerment in Nigerian politics. Ogbara's call to President-elect Tinubu and fellow women emphasized the urgency of taking concrete steps to achieve gender equality and inclusivity in political appointments and governance.

## Man Bags Life Imprisonment For Raping Minor

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The sexual offences and domestic violence court sitting in Ikeja has sentenced Sunday George, a 26-year-old electrician, to life imprisonment for raping his neighbour's 12-year-old daughter. George was charged to court for committing the crime in his room and bathroom at their residence in Lagos.

Abiola Soladoye, the trial judge, on Thursday, convicted and sentenced the defendant, saying the prosecution team sufficiently proved the charge of the defendant against George.

In her ruling, Soladoye said the testimony of the survivor of the rape incident was "chilling, cogent, convincing, and truthful".

The trial judge said the defendant is an "irresponsible adult and a pathological liar" whose testimony was an afterthought and lacked credibility.

"The defendant defiled



her by having sex with her in the bathroom and told her not to tell anyone.

He had sex with her on several occasions in the bathroom and anytime she goes to watch a movie on the defendant's phone in his room," the judge said. "Identifications in criminal cases are very germane.

The survivor, in this case, identified the man in the dock as their neighbour who defiled her severally in the bathroom and his room.

"The defendant denied rubbing the survivor's breast and watching

movies with her on his phone in his room, this is an attempt to lie his way out but he failed.

"The defendant is an irresponsible adult and a shameless paedophile, whose denial of having any sexual relations with the survivor is an afterthought.

"Upon careful review of the evidence before this court, the defendant is hereby found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

"The judge directed the Lagos government to write George's name in the sexual offenders register.

# LASUTH Apologises Over Power Disruption

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) has appealed to the general public over the

inconvenience caused by the disruption in power supply to the hospital. A statement issued by the management on Friday said power

supply to the hospital has been disrupted for the past five weeks, necessitating the need to rely on the use of generators.

It, however, noted that to ensure a continuous supply of electricity with the generators, there has to be periodic shutdown, informing that the patients will experience

inconvenience during the period. While soliciting the cooperation and understanding of all staff and patients, the management

reiterated its commitment to keep the hospital's services running while prioritising supply to critical areas pending when normalcy is restored.

## Youths Group Distributes Food Items To Elderly, Widows

By Saheed Afolabi

A Mushin-based Wookan Youths Initiative has distributed food items to the elderly and the widows in the community.

The initiative was sponsored by Mr. Feyi Ogunlade, Alhaji Rafiu Aderomola, and Owolabi Jamiu Falana (Lagos SUBEB Public Policy Strategist).

Speaking to ECHONEWS, one of the beneficiaries, Toyin Ayilara appreciated the group for coming up with such a great initiative for the needy in the community.

"We appreciate people who did something like this, especially for someone like me who's a widow with two kids, the foodstuffs will be helpful. I'm so happy and excited."

Ajibode Oluwaseun Moses, a member of the Wookan Youths Initiative was glad they were able to put this together.

"I'm so glad that we were

able to pull this together, it wasn't easy but we did this to put smiles on the faces of the elderly and needy residents in our community."

Adedayo Raheem, a beneficiary said she was surprised because she did not expect it.

"When we were called to come here, we now saw that they gave us some goodies, we were surprised and I'm glad that the youths of this area did something huge like this to honor the elderly and widows in the community and they will all prosper."

Quadri Owolabi, a member of Wookan Youths said the event was done to put smiles on the faces of elderly and widows in the community.

"We did this in the name of Wookan youths so that people could benefit from the Eid and Easter celebration. We targeted the elderly above 60 and the widows in the community, this is just a token from the

Wookan youths and by next year, it will be bigger than this."

Oluwaseun Johnson Micheal a member of the Wookan Youths Initiative added that the idea was brought about by the positive impact they were willing to have in the community.

"What brought the idea of this initiative is that every year we spend over a million naira just to wine and dine with people and the next day, nothing comes from it and we have been doing it for the past 12 years.

"This election awakened our inner mind and brought me to my conscience because most of the politicians call on us to work for them and we see the results.

"So we banked on it and decide to organize a program where the less privileged in the society could benefit from and that's how we were able to put something like this and we promise to make it a yearly event that people will look forward to."



## Amu Plank Market Rebuilt

By Saheed Afolabi

Three years after the inferno which left over 150 shops burnt at the Amu Plank in Mushin, the traders in partnership with Mushin Local Government Authorities have put up a newly constructed state-of-the-art model market to enhance more business transactions in the plank and building materials market.

Commissioning the newly remodeled two blocks on one storey building each with 120 lock-up shops and two lines of 99 key clamp shops, the Apex Leader of Mushin and member of Governors Advisory Council, Senator Ganiyu Olanrewaju Solomon, who represented the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, thanked both the governor and his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, for their support throughout the trying period and approval given for the reconstruction of the market.

He commended the Governor for keeping to



Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye

his promise with the traders despite pressure from various quartets.

He also commended the traders and management of Mushin Local Government for their patience, cooperation, and perseverance in ensuring that the market was finally reconstructed to a modern standard.

He, however, advised that safety measures be put in place to prevent the reoccurrence of the inferno which erupted at the market on the night of 24th to the early hours of 25th January 2020 and destroyed goods worth hundreds

of millions of naira. The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, expressed his happiness and thanked God that the Senator, who conducted the foundation laying ceremony of the newly constructed market, is alive to commission it with the aged Baba Oja and all the leaders in the market.

The chairman gave an account of how he received the news of the incident with the inspection conducted by the Governor with his deputy and Senator Ganiyu Solomon, on the day the market was razed down by fire.

# Ikorodu LG Chairman, Wife Hold Annual Thanksgiving Ceremony

BY Nurudeen Adebayo

The chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, and his wife, Mrs. Abolanle Adesina, staged a dance-filled gathering of appreciation to God at the council secretariat last week.

Tagged 'Joyful Noise', the event was billed as the 3rd annual Thanksgiving ceremony hosted at the Secretariat.

Mrs. Abolanle Adesina told the guests that the gathering was meant to thank God for His mercies, blessings, and favour over the years, conveying indebtedness for His compassion and grace.

She said: "We're using this medium to thank



God for the success we recorded during the last elections in which our APC National Leader, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

"Jagaban of Africa" emerged as the President-Elect of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"We are appreciating

God for the successful re-election of Lagos State Governor, His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, our distinguished Senator Adetokunbo Abiru (representing the Lagos East Senatorial district), Hon. Babajimi Benson MHR (representing Ikorodu federal constituency), and the newly elected House of Assembly Members in Ikorodu Division.

"Another juncture we're depicting with this programme is letting the good people of Ikorodu local government know that thanksgiving propels God to do more for us. By expressing an attitude of gratitude, we are sure that Nigeria is going to be a better place for us all," she asserted.

On his part, the council chairman stated that

Thanksgiving is a time for gathering friends and family, showing generosity and candour in providing.

Underscoring that God has been faithful to everyone, the council boss emphasised his strong perception, stating that giving thanks and praises to God secures divine security and protection.

He stated: "Our method of worship may differ, but the Holy Book still directs us to "One God" for us to see Him in oneness and appreciate His sovereignty. As we raise our voices, thanking Him irrespective of our beliefs, culture, or practices, God answers our prayers because it's never by our power or might."

Adesina further commended the efforts of the various Heads of Departments and members of staff of the

council, calling them a great strength in propelling his administration.

"The Almighty God will continue to be our guiding light for direction and a strong tower as we partner and support this administration to greater developments and change in making Ikorodu Oga an extraordinary place to abide."

Pst. Femi Gilbert of the Daylight Revival Church International, Ikorodu took the word exhortation, bringing a depth of understanding to the reasons everyone must live a life of thanksgiving.

The highlight of the programme was the presentation of both cash gifts and welfare packages to widows and needy families in the council area.

## Council Chairman Praise Sanwo-Olu For Creating Employment Opportunities Via Agriculture

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina has lauded the Lagos State Government for taking effective measures to reduce the unemployment rate in Lagos State by creating job opportunities in Agriculture.

The council boss made the statement as the State Government kick-started the distribution of Agriculture inputs and Production assets to fishing and farming clusters/communities.

Aimed at supporting agricultural value chain enterprises, the program targets fish/poultry production/processing, cold storage solutions, and horticulture operations.

According to the chairman, programs of this essence bolster the productive preferences of any economy, building a functional penchant for people.

"His Excellency, The Executive Governor Of



Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has always launched outlets to generate livelihood opportunities for Lagosians, and this is another outstanding example of his many actions"

."Just like myself, the good people of Ikorodu Local Government are very grateful to Mr. Governor for demonstrating himself once again as a working administrator, and we're proud of him."

Adesina added Multiple people across

Ikorodu division are set to benefit from the agric-based business-sustaining program. Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Agriculture, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola, Lagos State Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Mrs. Olatokunbo Emokpae, and the Ayangburen of Ikorodu kingdom, Oba Kabir Adewale Shotobi among others attended the flag off ceremony at the council secretariat.

## Adesina Expands Revenue Sources For LG

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, has expanded the revenue-generating sources for the local government with the commissioning of a new event centre.

The event centre seated at the upper section of the council secretariat, which was recently opened for business, is built on public-private partnership (PPP).

According to the council boss, the project is a collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Elucidating its value, Adesina said the essence of the project is to generate revenue for the council.

"This project was put into deliberation as part of our propensities to accumulate our earnings in the local government.

"When my administration started, the council had a revenue base of N5 million, but today we've

generated about N200 million.

"Like this project, the council had successfully found ways to thrive without putting pressure on the good people in Ikorodu Local Government, and we'll continue to do so."

Also speaking, a serial entrepreneur, Mr. Babatunde Adeleke popularly known as 'Sayleke' a partner in the project said with state-of-the-art equipment, the 500-seater capacity centre is designed to host wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, corporate events, state functions, and burial receptions, also serving as a conference centre and an arena for religious and other private activities.

Speaking at the centre, the initiator of the project, Adeleke explained that a wide variety of activities such as age and gender group meetings, retreats, town hall meetings and more can also take place in the centre with 20% discount attached during its first year of operation.

"Our special features include a welcoming red-

carpet reception, a special guest waiting room, caterers and catering space, and executive conveniences for male and female guests with a Constant power supply backed up with a standby power generating set.

"There is the availability of spacious parking lot, Wi-Fi, and other complementing amenities to ensure the comfort of guests at each event," he said.

Conveying his gratitude, Adeleke applauded the effective involvement of the chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, which he said made the project a reality, clarifying that the project was not just all about funding, but the thoughtful collective minds that structured the edifice.

"Let me also thank corporate bodies that aided in making this project a success, God bless you all," he stated.

The new edifice was officially commissioned by the former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, who commended the Local Government for constantly defining paths to growth.

# Lagos Hajj Board Commences Medical Screening For Intending Pilgrims Today

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has said the compulsory medical screening for intending pilgrims for the 2023 Hajj will commence today (Monday) and end on May 16.

The board Secretary, Mr. Saheed Onipede, said the screening is necessary to ascertain the health status of the intending pilgrims to detect any medical challenge affecting them early enough and for doctors to be able to manage and give them adequate treatment before departing for the

holy pilgrimage.

"Hajj is a rigorous exercise, which requires that intending pilgrims must be physically and mentally fit to perform throughout the duration," he added.

The secretary said the exercise, which would take place at the Shamsi Adisa Thomas Mosque hall, Old Secretariat, GRA, Ikeja, at 8 am on each day, would be handled by medical workers from the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital.

He said intending pilgrims from Agege, Amuwo-Odofin, and



A view of the holy Kaaba

Ikeja Local Government Areas would kick-start the screening exercise on Monday, while

Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Mushin, Shomolu, and Surulere would have theirs on Tuesday; Alimosho, Kosofe, and Ifako-Ijaiye would follow suit on Wednesday.

Apapa, Badagry/Ojo, and Eti-Osa intending pilgrims would have theirs on Thursday, while those from Ikorodu and Lagos Island are scheduled

for Monday, May 15; Oshodi-Isolo, Epe, Lagos Mainland, JAIZ Bank, and other intending pilgrims would have theirs on Tuesday, May 16.

## Ex-Player, Okoku Donates Learning Materials To School

By Saheed Afolabi

The Greater Tomorrow Children Fund (GTCF), a Foundation run by 1984 AFCON silver-medal winner, Paul Okoku, has donated chairs and tables to St. Paul's Nursery and Primary School, Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

At the presentation ceremony of the 25 chairs and five desks to the school, which he attended many years back, Okoku, who resides in the United States of America, was represented by the GTCF coordinator, Mrs. Grace Jalekun, who said the donation was Okoku's contribution towards the 120th anniversary of the elementary school.

While recalling Okoku's kind gestures towards the school in the past, Jalekun said: "We have seen the impact of Okoku's philanthropy. His generosity has provided our pupils with sporting accessories, trophies, a power generator, computers, and printers. This donation of chairs and tables will help our pupils to learn in a conducive environment."

Mrs. Jalekun is a former head teacher and headmistress of St. Paul Primary School.

Also speaking from his



The learning materials donated to St Paul's school by Paul Okoku

US base, Okoku said: "I would like to thank the CEO and Founder of the African Children's Fund (ACF), Mr. Victor Mbaba for his partnership in the project."

The tape cutting of the remodeled beautiful classroom, where the new chairs and tables are to be used by Nursery 1 and 2 pupils, was done by Tajudeen Tijani, Education Secretary in the Lagos Mainland Local Government Education Board.

The elated Education Secretary said he was proud to be conferred with the honour of commissioning the items donated by Okoku, who he lauded for his selfless and untiring contributions to humanity.

While noting that Okoku has been in the vanguard of spearheading noble

projects that have impacted the lives of children of Mainland Local Government in particular, Tijani said: "What Greater Tomorrow Children Foundation is doing is something that other individuals and foundations can take a cue from for our society to be better and more conducive for our children and us."

In her remark, the head teacher and headmistress of St. Paul Primary School, Mrs. Mary Akintomide thanked Okoku for coming good for the school once again even as she appealed for more support from well-to-do individuals.

Other old pupils of the school, who are now senior citizens in the society, attended the occasion that was laced with singing renditions by some of the school pupils.

## Court Sets Aside Judgment Restraining Oloja Of Epe

By Nurudeen Adebayo

A Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos has set aside the judgment of the State High Court, which restricted the Oloja of Epe, Oba Kamorudeen Animashaun from adjudicating over a parcel of land in the Alakaba area of Epe Kingdom.

Justice A. J. Bashua of the State High Court had declared in a judgment delivered in a suit delineated EPD/017LM/2016 on September 22, 2021, that the claimants who instituted the suit against the monarch and others are entitled to the Certificate of Occupancy on the land situate and being along Ijebu-Ode Road, at Ita-Marun, Epe covered by survey plan dated the 7th of November 1927.

But in a unanimous decision, the three-man panel led by Justice Abdulai Mahmud Bayero ruled that the importance of jurisdiction in all adjudicative exercises cannot be overemphasised and it is well settled that if a court is shown to have no jurisdiction to

He, however, advised that safety measures be put in place to prevent the reoccurrence of the inferno which erupted at the market on the

night of 24th to the early hours of 25th January 2020 and destroyed goods worth hundreds of millions of naira.

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, expressed his happiness and thanked God that the Senator, who conducted the foundation laying ceremony of the newly constructed market, is alive to commission it with the aged Baba Oja and all the leaders in the market.

The chairman gave an account of how he received the news of the incident with the inspection conducted by the Governor with his deputy and Senator Gahiyu Solomon, on the day the market was razed down by fire.

entertain a matter before it, the result will be that all its proceedings on the matter, however well conducted, are a nullity and any decision reached thereon by the court is void ab initio and of no effect whatsoever.

"The long-established principle of law is that the courts, in seeking to determine its jurisdiction, look solely at the claimant's claims as contained in his originating processes.

However, in a case like this, where the issue of statute of limitation is being raised on appeal

for the first time, this court is not confined to looking at the originating processes alone.

"The Court should consider the pleadings of both parties in arriving at the question of when the cause of action arose. From Paragraphs 11, 12, and 13 of the Respondents' statement of claim, they did not state when they first discovered that the 3 Defendant (Unknown Persons) was encroaching on the land; the letter purportedly written by the Respondents were not written to the Appellants but to some unknown person and even the said letters never referenced the actual date or period they became aware of the encroachment. At Paragraph 14 of the statement of Claim the Respondents stated that the "Defendants have been selling, alienating and building on the Claimants' family land without the consent of the Claimants' family.

"The Appellants however in their statement of defense not only denied the claim of the Respondents but also went further to state that the land in dispute has been in exclusive possession of the Ebode Community from time immemorial; that the Appellants have been in occupation of the land in dispute to the knowledge of the Respondents," the court held.

# Road Violators To Face Sanction, Obe Warns

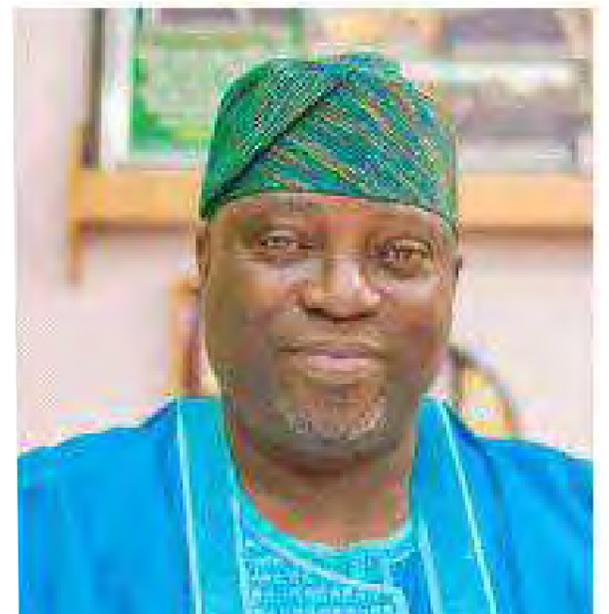
By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Alhaji Mobsurudeen Oloyede Bello (Obe) has given a strong warning to the resident of Ejigbo especially the market men and women to desist from encroaching on the newly reconstructed Ifoshi Road and other government

infrastructures. The council boss appealed to them, especially the residents of Ifoshi, to take the road as their project and take ownership of it, saying this can only be achieved by proper and adequate maintenance. "Refuse should not be dropped at roadsides or drainages, but they should be disposed of

properly, making use of the PSP operators. Also, mechanics should not turn the road into a workspace or workshop, and people should not convert it to a parking space or carpark," he said. He stated that whoever violates the sanctity of the road or misuses the road will be dealt with, irrespective of who it is. Religious leaders, community leaders,

society leaders, and others were charged to sermonize and encourage their members on how to properly maintain government facilities and the importance of doing so. Obe also assured the residents of Ejigbo LCDA that all funds coming in will be judiciously used. He, therefore, encouraged them to pay their respective rates and levies as when due, to enjoy the dividends of democracy.



Hon Obe

"The reconstruction of Ifoshi Road is gradually coming to an end and it will be delivered soon. "Another major campaign promise made is the Reconstruction of the Council Secretariat into a three-story modern edifice that would conform and compete with other Local Governments / LCDAs across the globe. This would be delivered in a couple of months as it is

already ongoing. "The people of Ejigbo should also expect the first ever modern garage in the Local Council. The Construction of the Central Motor Garage has started at Iyana-Ejigbo. Upon completion, it would reduce the gridlock and environmental insanity in Iyana-Ejigbo, and bring about consciousness in the conduct of buyers and sellers along the axis."

## Council Manager Leads Management Team On Inspection Of Ongoing Projects

By Saheed Afolabi



Ejigbo LCDA council management team inspecting ongoing projects

The management team of the Ejigbo LCDA led by the council manager, Princess Iyabode Ogunyemi, embarked on an oversight function to some of the ongoing project sites in the council area. The team was charged with the responsibility to ascertain and certify the quality of the ongoing projects and make necessary suggestions and clarifications where necessary. The team comprises all the Heads of Departments and Units. The sites visited were: the ongoing Construction of the CDC House/ Area Office at Dauda Ilo, the Link Mini Bridge at Orilowo Ejigbo, and the Ifoshi Road. At the ongoing construction of the CDC House/Area Office, it was evident that the one-storey building is

already taking shape. The concrete first-floor slabbing had already been done and the work is gradually proceeding to the second floor. Moving on to the Link Mini Bridge, the project covers the construction of drainage, construction of retaining walls, grading of the road, and carting away of refuse from the drainage. The previously existing drainage, a collector drain that receives water from Ifoshi and other communities, has been far below standard, hence constantly causing massive floods from time to time. Also, there have been reports of persons being carried away by the flood. Furthermore, the surrounding houses have been marked for

demolition, as their structures have failed, and they have become dilapidated, thereby posing the risk of falling on their own. Ifoshi Road, which is being fully constructed was also visited. The reconstruction of Ifoshi, which is in two sections, Asphalt and Interlocking, runs a length of 950m, almost a kilometer (km). The asphalt has now fully been constructed from the side of Ejigbo Divisional Police Station to Falana Junction, while the interlocking will be laid from this point to the Iyana-Ejigbo bus stop. The drainages are being reconstructed too. While interacting with some shop owners on Ifoshi Road, the Council Manager encouraged them to always cart away refuse from their surroundings, especially the drains.

He told them to report any erring tax agent of the council operating contrary to the stipulated laws guiding tax collections. "The Local Council will not impose any unregulated charge or any levy that is not compliant with the one approved by the Lagos State House of Assembly.

## OBE wins Double Awards

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Alhaji Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) has again won two major meritorious awards (consecutively) amongst the fewer recipients; one at the unveiling of the 2022 Heroes award, titled: The Champion Newspaper's Public Servant Of The Year. The event took place at EKO Hotel and Suites Victoria Island Lagos on Friday, May 12, 2023. The Chief Host was the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu. The second is the Best Performing Local Government In The



SLG, Mr. Paul Fregene receiving the award on behalf of the council chairman

Federation Award, 2023 at Nicon Luxury Hotel, Area II Abuja, on May 11, 2023. The Award was organised by the senate committee on State and local

government administration in collaboration with Global Consult. The council Boss was represented by the vice chairman, Mr. Ayodele Ayodeji, and the SLG, Mr. Paul Fregene.

# Pilot on a Rescue Mission

The boy in green shirt and brown knickers brought the right hand on his forehead down sharply to salute. His mates equally dressed in the uniform of the Boy's Scout of Nigeria followed suit. They began a military parade turning left and right and finished the exercise to the excitement of the audience.

After the Boys Scout, the members of Red Cross, dressed in their white uniform with the organisation's name in red letters stepped forward to perform a similar drill.

Both clubs were well rewarded with deserved award.

Echonews learnt that the boys were put through the training by senior officials of the Boys Scout and the Red Cross just a few days before the event held on Friday April 28, this year.

The venue was the football pitch of St John's Grammar School, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. The audience comprised the 1977 set of the school's alumni, the officers of the national body and wellwishers.

One man made it happen. His name Adeniran Ademiju, a

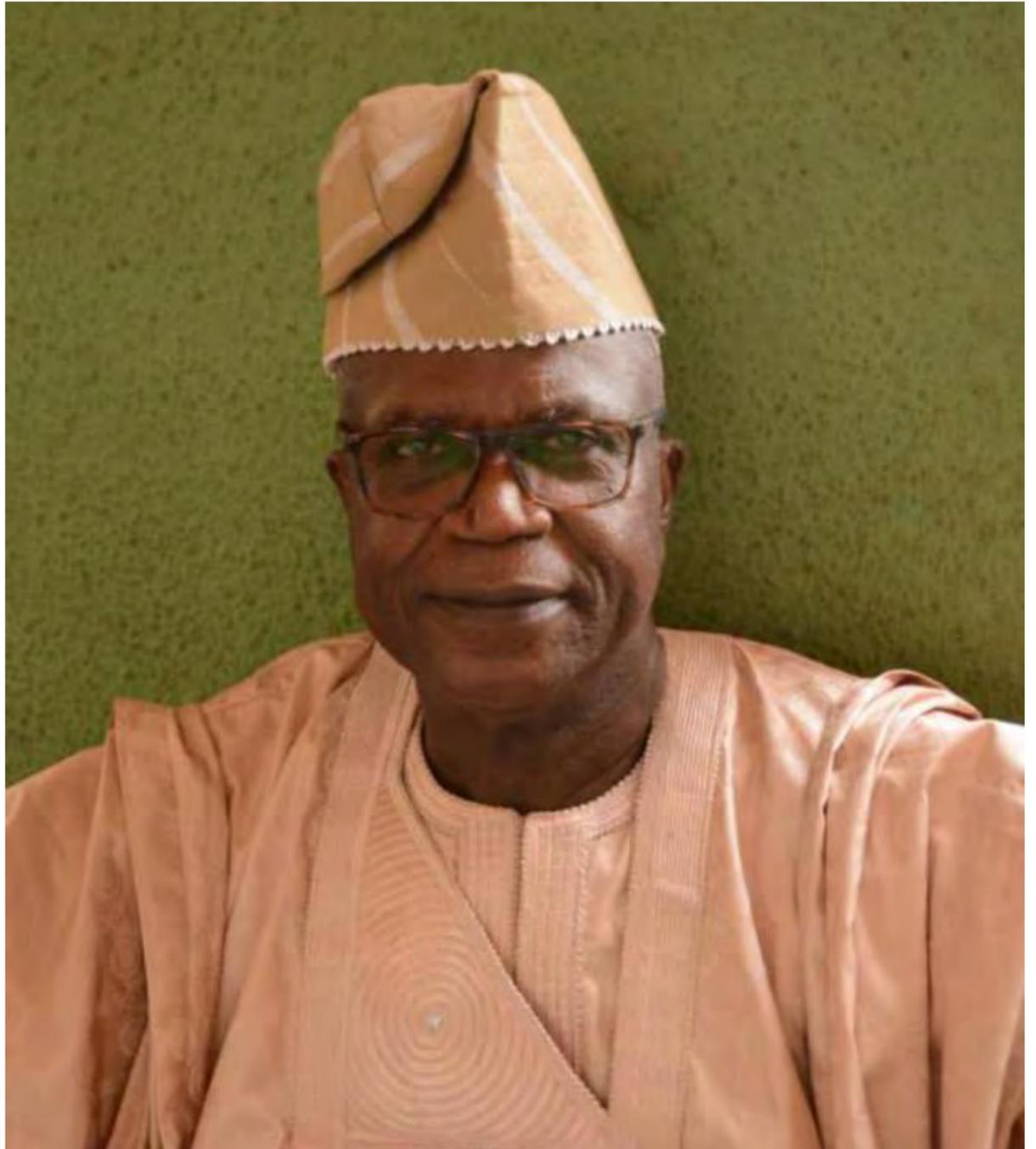
pilot of over three decades who currently flies chartered operations.

Ademiju was passionate about the need to stem the declining moral standards among the youths. He was sad that the culture of respecting elders was disappearing. The love of money had displaced values of hard work and the society had to deal with children that no longer cared.

His words: "It was the incident of the girl that was electrocuted during sports at Chrisland College in Lagos that got me worried. According to the reports, despite dying from shock, they were pouring cold water on her. I felt if there had been students who belonged to the Red Cross in the school, they would have given the victim proper first aid that might have saved the girl.

So I called the secretary-general of our alumni, Debo Adefisan and asked if the school still had a Red Cross club. He told me it had died.

I felt sad because I used to belong to Boys Scout as a student and we worked with the Red Cross to



handle such accidents during inter-house sports.

I also remembered that Wednesdays preparatory period was set aside for meetings of clubs and

societies. So I decided to give back to society by bringing back the clubs."

Ademiju spent over N1.2million to kit and train 20 recruits and two teachers each for

the new Red Cross and Boys Scout clubs and attended the training.

When he saw the students in their new uniforms on April 28, he was moved to tears

how his effort had delivered such immense value.

"When I saw them sitting in the hall, in their uniforms, I felt very fulfilled", he told Echonews in a chat.





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