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Federal projects coming to Lagos soon

By Abolaji Adebayo

The residents of Lagos State across the 24 federal constituencies will soon witness massive infrastructure development and empowerment as Federal Government is set to embark on constituency projects. The projects expected to be executed in each constituency are contained in the Invitation To Tender for 2022 Capital and Constituency Projects released by the National Productivity Centre.

The projects to be executed in Lagos State as contained in the document obtained by ECHONEWS include supply of food items and consumables for vulnerable persons in Ajah, Obele, and Iponri, Lagos; provision of starter packs for skilled cooperative women and youths in Ikeja, Agege, Ejigbo, Oto-Awori, and Oloja in Lagos.

Other expected projects are supply of development materials for women and youths in Alimosho Federal Constituency; supply and distribution of deep freezers and grinding machines in selected areas of Isolo and Ejigbo in Oshodi-Isolo Constituency 2; provision of empowerment materials for unemployed youths in Ikeja; provision of E-Hailing transportation empowerment in Surulere 1 Federal Constituency; provision of security patrol vehicles for security agencies in Surulere 1.

Lagosians are also expecting other constituency projects from their House of Representatives members such as supply of medical equipment to Araromi Health Centre, Lagos Island Federal Constituency 2; supply of empowerment materials for youths and women in Alimosho Federal Constituency; construction of selected township roads in Surulere 1 Federal Constituency; strategic empowerment for unemployed youths; supply and installation of solar powered streetlights in Oshodi-Isolo Constituency 2; as well as installation of solar powered streetlights in few communities within Lagos State.

Meanwhile, many of the projects are not delivered while the few executed are being used to campaign by some reps members



FOOD ITEMS



SOLAR POWERED STREET LIGHTS



GRINDING MACHINES



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

in their constituencies.

Following the trend, the House of Representatives committee on constituency projects outreach said it will now encourage lawmakers to monitor and ensure the successful implementation of their constituency projects.

The committee reached the decision at the end of a two-day agenda setting retreat held in Owerri, Imo State capital recently. The committee in a communique signed by its members said discussions at the retreat were on oversight, constituency projects for inclusive governance, constituency engagement and democratic accountability in Nigeria.

"At the end of the retreat, the committee resolved as follows: To utilize its powers and mandate to ensure proper education and improve citizens understanding of constituency projects and effective ways of engaging lawmakers on constituency project implementation. This will build public trust and promote democratic accountability," the communique read.

"To ensure proper implementation

and release of funds for members' constituency projects in line with the demands of their constituents. The committee also commits to provide an updated database of constituency projects as allocated in the Appropriation Act annually for ease of monitoring and assessment of constituency projects.

"To deploy its oversight powers to ensure that members set up functional constituency offices as statutorily required. This will enable effective communication between constituents and their representatives and deepen legislative accountability. The Committee is committed to promoting regular engagement between constituents and their representatives to promote inclusive governance.

"To encourage lawmakers to monitor and ensure the successful implementation of their constituency projects and for ease of identification appropriated constituency projects should be labelled as 'facilitated by' in place of 'donated by'."

The committee also said it would partner with civil society

organizations (CSOs) and development partners in the monitoring and tracking of constituency projects and constituency offices.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) said it has commenced the tracking of 550 constituency projects across the country.

According to a statement issued on Friday, Azuka Ogugua, ICPC spokesperson, the tracking exercise is phase four of the commission's constituency and executive projects' tracking operation.

Ogugua said the operation started on May 9, focussing on federal government-funded executive projects in 18 states — Benue, Nasarawa, Plateau, Borno, Yobe, Taraba, Kano, Kaduna, Kebbi, Abia, Ebonyi, Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Edo, Lagos, Ogun and Ekiti and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

"The Constituency and Executive Projects Tracking Initiative (CEPTI) is an initiative of the ICPC that commenced in 2019 with the aim of promoting social accountability

and transparency in the conception, execution and management of public-funded projects as well as ensuring value-for-money in the execution of the projects," the statement reads.

"The first phase of the exercise in 2019 had a total of 424 projects tracked across 12 states, while the second and third phases conducted in 2020 and 2021 featured 722 projects in 16 states; and 1,098 projects in 16 other states and the FCT respectively.

"The focal sectors of the Phase 4 exercise remain Education, Health, Water Resources, Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Power sectors, among others.

The ICPC spokesperson added that the tracking operation will compel the "return of runaway contractors to sites to complete hitherto abandoned projects, tracking contracting companies for all statutory regulatory compliance, among others as well as prosecuting persons or institutions found culpable in undermining the execution of government-funded projects".

Adhere to the party's rules, Kasumu charges new APC excos

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Local Government Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ejigbo LCDA, Alhaji Fatai Kasumu, has emphasised on the adherence to the party's rules and regulations.

Kasumu made the appeal at the inauguration of both Local Government and Ward executives of the party in order to inspire them to work towards the development of the party.

He cited cases of well-known political office holders that neglected their duties after being sworn into the portfolio but which backfired against them.

He said documentarily, their deeds have been recognised by the party, stating that one's attitude at the grassroots can

never be overlooked.

Ejigbo APC chapter appointed 27 new excos in each wad, making a total of 189 members representing the party.

The Legal Adviser who officiated the legalisation of the executives echoed the confidentiality of both the oath of allegiance and oath of secrecy issued to them.

The council chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe), stated that their obligations as party members exceed attending meetings as they need to master the roles and responsibilities bestowed on them as executive members.

He said as officials, they must be prepared to defend the party regardless of their personal interest as the oath guarantees the party that all officials are reliable.



The inauguration exercise

Ejigbo stakeholders deliberate over community devt

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe), has met with stakeholders representing all divisions in the community to deliberate on ongoing developmental projects and needs of residents.

He revealed that seven network road projects at Iyalaje estate, which are 75 per cent complete, will soon be delivered, adding that rehabilitation of Iyana Ejigbo - killer bust stop - Ejigbo police division is another giant stride (a state project) "which we have no choice other than to fix, make it motorable at all cost in order to allow social economic activities to thrive shall also be completed in less than a year." Obe emphasised the prevailing challenges facing the construction of Iyana Ejigbo - inward Ejigbo police division over the years, following several attempts by the state government to make it motorable.

He said it has been awarded to

a competent construction company - Mega Reference Construction Company, whose commendable delivered projects so far can be reckoned with.

His words: "Power line by virtue of the constitution is a property of the Federal Government, championed by NERC, but however handed over to the state Government for proper management. Efforts of our LCDA so far is to timely take a swift advantage of the on going demolition exercise to effect a lasting solution to our age-long deficiencies on this road; deficiencies such as constant gridlock at Iyana Ejigbo, perennial flood from killer bust stop to Iyana Ejigbo and so on."

He, however, informed that the power-line portion has been defined suitable for motor pack in order to neutralise the traffic (gridlock) at Iyana Ejigbo, and "as such most of whom have one way or the other played host nor contributed to the development will laugh last." He added: "Given the topographic nature of the



Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe)

surface and texture from Iyana Ejigbo to killer bus stop, interlock system with competent drainages has been approved of to permanently solve the perennial flood problem, as well as substantial asphalt thickness to address the road mishap from killer bust stop to the police division."

Responding to the request of Oba Moroof Ojoola to consider a long lasting quality road rehabilitation, Obe confidently assured of a quality construction better than the expectation of Ojoola on Ifoshi Road.

He further explained the need to figure out at the least, a day to

call on residents around the pipeline axis for proper orientation as to how to constantly engage their neighbours to participate in a periodical environmental sanitation exercise, ranging from de-silting of drains, monitoring of saboteurs who often ignorantly dump refuse in

the drains.

Following several questions and demands by stakeholders, Obe appealed to everyone to abstain from the act of dumping refuse in drains in order to maintain orderliness, cleanliness and be an ambassador of the council.

He further implored the community to unanimously rise to the occasion of building and fulfilling the dreamed modern Ejigbo LCDA.

The council boss appreciated the kind gesture rendered by WestCare hospital as its management made a corporate social responsibility by donating 14 loads of laterite to support the rehabilitation of Idowu Egba street.

He urged other potential beneficiaries of Ejigbo infrastructural projects to equally contribute towards the development.

In addition, the Chairman of Community Development Committee (CDC), Prince Jelili Atiku Jelili, enjoined everyone to make it a point of duty to protect what belongs to Ejigbo.

Mile 2 pedestrian bridges finally opened for use

By Motolani AbdulGafar

After fourteen years of reconstruction of Lagos-Badagry Expressway of ten lanes, to incorporate Light Rail Transport (LRT), Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, the pedestrian bridges to avoid highway crossing have been opened for use as railway set to commence operation soon. The railway slide fence have been fixed completely, giving the road users opportunity to

use the pedestrian bridges.

The fence is erected to prevent commuters from walking on train tracks and crossing the highway to avoid unnecessary incident of train accident and highway knocked down. In recent times, commuters have been urging the government to open pedestrian bridges as schools resume for new term, especially for the pupils of Amuwo-Odofin senior high school to have access to the bridge than crossing the highway to avoid accidents.



Mile 2 pedestrian bridges

How mortality rate decreased in Amuwo-Odofin

By Motolani AbdulGafar

As at May 11, 2022 Amuwo Odofin Maternal and Child Centre (AOMCC) said it has recorded 2,500 deliveries out of the 3,040 antenatal bookings in 2022, accounting for about 210 babies monthly. According to the Medical Director, Dr. Taiwo Adeyi, the statistics in terms of mortality had been encouraging as only seven deaths were recorded. Adeyi noted that it was a massive achievement for the hospital

bearing in mind the challenges it was faced with. He said some of the challenges they had to cope with included population size, inadequate infrastructure and manpower. He noted that the hospital management had been able to cope with the situation by improving the moral of the staff by giving incentives and rewards. "The Health Service Commission (HSC) is trying to fill this void but we are losing medical personnel to the brain drain," he said. He said in spite of the achievements recorded, there

were still opportunities for further growth, which he said could only be attained if the centre is upgraded to the status of a general hospital. "Then we can have medical, surgical, ophthalmology and other related departments and also incorporate our male counterparts into our services. "Even for mother and child, those who need surgical and medical emergencies can be better accommodated within our facilities instead of referring them to other places," he said. He urged the state government to

help provide the necessary infrastructure, as the hospital had a wide expanse of land, so the upgrade could be achieved as soon as possible. Dr Ademuyiwa Eniyewun, Permanent Secretary, HSC, said the blueprint was already in place to upgrade the hospital but would also need the cooperation of the community. Eniyewun commended the hospital for living and delivering its dream in the areas of service delivery; particularly in the area of emergency response, customer and staff satisfaction.

Dr Olumuyiwa Solanke, Commissioner One, HSC, advised AOMCC management to seek the collaboration of the community, including politicians, philanthropists and corporate organizations in developing infrastructure. He urged the stakeholders to take ownership of the hospital so it could go higher. The Chairman of Amuwo Odofin Local Government, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh, commended the management and staff of AOMCC, assuring that he will continue to support the health sector.

Council workers trained on productivity

The National Productivity Centre in collaboration with Amuwo-Odofin Local Government has sensitized workers on basic ideas they need to know to promote their success while on duty. The training was set to stimulate and develop the productivity of workers in all sectors. The Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin Local Government, Hon. Valentine Buraimoh, said its essence is to help encourage workers to be productive not only at work but in their respective families and everything that concerns them while also improving on their current levels at the workplace. He addressed that as an expert, it is expected for everyone to know what is expected of them stating that labour is about responsibility and creativity. He said their intuition of being aware of their duties and obligations would help the government in formulating and executing demanded projects to the public which will fast track development. He urged all officials to imbibe in them the trainings so far for an outstanding Amuwo to be achieved.

Community raises alarm over activities of masquerades

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Kirikiri Town, in Oriade Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have raised alarm over the activities of members of the Igunnuko Cult. They lamented that the group has been terrorising members of the community with their activities. It was gathered that the leaders of the Kirikiri Community, which include, the Alahun of Imore and parts of Apapa, Oba Taofeeq Adegboyega, who is the ancestral owner of the Kirikiri land and Apapa, the Baale of Kirikiri Town, Chief Babalola Shabi, who is the traditional head of Kirikiri Town

and members of the Kirikiri Community Development Association (CDA) had recently, in a joint press conference, called on the Lagos State Government, the state police command and members of relevant security agencies to come to their aid and put a stop to the activities of members of the Igunnuko Cult, who, they said had been making life unbearable for residents of the community. They said members of the Igunnuko Cult move around the community with their masquerades, which they said are usually armed with charms and thugs bearing dangerous weapons during business hours. resident, Yetunde Abdullatif, who

spoke to this medium, explained, how members of the cult, have allegedly made residents of Kirikiri, which is hosting some of the nation's foremost Correctional Centers, Oil and Gas Depots and container terminals, a hell. According to another resident, Mr. Taiwo Owolabi, "we are currently living in fear over activities of the Igunnuko Cult. We are not members of their association and they are not members of the Kirikiri traditional institution. The Igunnuko Cult is from Niger State, and owners of Kirikiri Town are the Imores, who have their own traditional practice. "It is an open knowledge that the Alahun of Imore and Apapa, Oba

Adegboyega, the Baale of Kirikiri Town, are not members of the Igunnuko Cult. There is no reason masquerades should be taken to their homes. The person who led the two masquerade and some armed thugs to the Baale of Kirikiri was arrested by the police and was charged to court, but some senior people are working hard to let him off the hook. "This is very sad, knowing that a senior police officer, who is supposed to uphold the rule of law is seriously trying to protect a criminal from facing justice." Meanwhile, an official of the Lagos State Art and Culture Ministry, who pleaded anonymity, said no permission was given to

masquerade to operate in the area on the day in question. The ministry supervises and grants permissions to masquerade activities in the state. Also, Public Relations Officer of Lagos State Police Command, Benjamin Hundeyin, in his reactions, when contacted, said the Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi, has ordered a full investigation into the allegations. Shabi was appointed and installed as the Baale of Kirikiri Town and parts of Apapa, by the Alahun of Imore and Apapa, Oba Taofeeq Adegboyega, on July 20, 2020, after the demise of the late Baale of Kirikiri Community, Chief Wahidi Agunbiade.

Court fixes monarch's fake kidnapping suit judgment for May 17

By Edith Igbokwe

Justice Hakeem Oshodi of a Lagos High Court sitting in Ikeja has fixed May 17, 2022 for judgment in a fake kidnapping suit involving the dethroned Monarch, Mutiu Michael Yusuf Ogundare, the Baale of Shangisha in Magodo, his wife and brother.

Baale Ogundare, his wife, Abolanle and one of his brothers, Adams Opeyemi Mohammed were arraigned for alleged fake kidnapping and breach of public peace.

The case was scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2022 for judgment, but Justice Oshodi further adjourned it till May 17 due to the absence of the second defendant, Mohammed over ill



health.

At the resumed proceeding, the second defendant's (Mohammed) counsel, Dr. Yinka Owoye told the court that his

client couldn't make it due to ill health.

Owoyee, who apologized for the absence of his client, told the court that he has filed a medical

report, noting that his client suffered high blood pressure.

He prayed the court for a short adjournment, stressing that his client had not been absent in

court during trial.

Counsel to Ogundare, Mr. Olanrewaju Ajanaku as well as the prosecution counsel, Mr. Jubrin Kareem did not oppose his request.

Justice Oshodi, who said the judgment was ready, adjourned the matter based on the provisions of amended section 235 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law (ACJL) 2015 for all parties to be present. He, therefore, fixed May 17 for judgment.

Ogundare allegedly on July 5, 2017, "put himself forward to be kidnapped for the purpose of causing a breach of public peace," contrary to Section 5 of the Kidnapping Prohibition 2017, No. C17, Law of Lagos State.

The three defendants in the third count allegedly took part in the offence of fake kidnap contrary

to Section 16(1)(a-d) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, CH. 17, Vol. 3, Laws of Lagos State 2015.

The Governor of Lagos State sometime in July 2017 ordered the immediate removal of the monarch as the Baale of Shangisha in Magodo Lagos for allegedly staging his own abduction.

The monarch was suspended after he was paraded by police alongside his brother, Mohammed. He was stripped off his duty by the Akinwunmi Ambode administration in accordance with section 38, subsection 1 of the Obas & Chiefs Laws of Lagos Inter-alia.

They were arraigned before Magistrate T. Akanni sitting in Ogba Magistrates Court, Ikeja and were later granted bail, but remanded in Kirikiri Maximum prison until they met their bail conditions.

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have arrested two pregnant women among other drug traffickers, at Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja, for attempting to import and export illicit drugs through the airport in the last week.

The first to enter the agency's dragnet is a Brazilian returnee, Nworie Phillip Chikwendu, who was arrested on Tuesday, May 3, during an inward clearance of passengers on a Qatar Airways flight from Sao Paulo, Brazil en route Doha to Lagos.

During a thorough search of his luggage, two parcels of cocaine were discovered concealed in a pair of brown slippers hidden in his oxblood backpack.

A statement by Femi Babafemi, Director of Media and Advocacy said that a further search of the pair of black slippers worn by the suspect also led to the recovery of additional two parcels of cocaine built into the soles of his footwear, bringing the total to four parcels weighing 800grams.

"When undergoing a preliminary interview, Nworie who claimed to be a barber in Sao Paulo, said he came to Nigeria for the burial of his father.

"He confessed he decided to get

NDLEA nabs two pregnant women, barber trafficking drugs at Lagos Airport

By Edith Igbokwe

into the criminal act because his trip was sponsored by his Brazil-based friend who gave him the drug to deliver in Lagos for a fee of N2,000,000.

The following day, NDLEA operatives at the SAHCO export shed of the airport intercepted some cartons of alcoholic drinks suspected to contain illicit drugs.

A freight agent who brought the consignment for export to Dubai, UAE, Shola Ogunrinde was immediately arrested while a follow-up operation led to the arrest of a pregnant woman, Mrs. Seun Babatunde, who operates an alcohol joint in the Pleasure area of Iyana Ipaja.

When the cartons were opened in the presence of the agent and the pregnant owner, seven parcels of cannabis and a sachet of ecstasy drug (MDMA) were found concealed inside Cans of black bullet alcoholic drinks.

"In her confession, Mrs. Babatunde claimed the drugs were being sent to her husband who lives in Dubai".

The second pregnant woman, Mrs. Gloria Asibor was arrested while attempting to board a Turkish Airline flight to Bolonia, Spain via Istanbul, Turkey.

A search of her luggage containing food items led to the

discovery of 300 tablets of 200mg and 225mg high dosage Tramadol concealed in crayfish.

Meanwhile, large consignments of psychoactive substances have been intercepted in parts of Northwest, Northeast and

Northcentral.

Chairman/Chief Executive of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Retd) has commended the officers and men of the MMIA and he commended the agency for the arrests and

seizures.

He charged them and those in other commands across the country to sustain the heat on drug cartels as well as balance their drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction efforts.

LASG suspends RAVC ad-hoc team committee

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Government has again placed an indefinite suspension on the entire ad-hoc teams of committee on Removal of Abandoned Vehicles (RAVC) operating in the 20 local governments (LGs) and 37 local council development Area (LCDAs) in Lagos state with immediate effect.

The suspension was contained in a directive issued to the Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde by the Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The suspension was as a result of several complaints of



Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

extortion and harassment of members of the public by RAVC which is causing an embarrassment to the state government despite several reviews conducted on the operational guidelines of the team.

The directive warned that any ad-hoc team found operating after this notice will be handed over to the Law Enforcement Agencies for trial and prosecution in accordance with the Law of the state as captured in the Traffic Sector

Reform Law (TSRL) in 2018.

The directive while requesting the general public to take note of the order also advised abandoned vehicles owners which hitherto poses environmental nuisances, security and traffic impediment to remove them from the roads as this directive is not an excuse for negligence of the traffic laws of the state.

It would be recalled that removal of abandoned vehicles committee, (RAVC) earlier suspension was lifted on the 30th December 2021, in view of several appraisal and review of the operational guidelines of the team by the state government.



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The Apex Nurse of Ijede General Hospital, Nurse Olubunmi Diei, has highlighted the vital roles played by midwives in the lives of pregnant women, families and society at large, noting that the profession is populated with responsible and accountable individuals who work in partnership with women to give all necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour as well as postpartum period. She said this during the Year 2022 International Day of the Midwife with a zoom meeting of midwives at the Health Service Commission (HSC) and a special prayer by all nurses for improved services delivery at the facility held recently. Other roles performed by midwives, according to her, include educating new mothers on breastfeeding, bathing, dressing babies, instructing and educating mothers on related baby healthcare issues and administering medications as prescribed by the consulting physician, among others. Speaking further, she described a midwife as a person who has completed a midwifery education programme based on the Essential Competencies for

Ijede GH Apex Nurse, Diei highlights roles of midwives

By Saheed Afolabi

midwifery practice, noting that it must be in line with the framework of the Global Standards for Midwifery Education.

While informing that a midwife has an important task of counseling and educating women, the family and the community, Nurse Diei maintained that midwives are also trained to provide routine gynaecological care during childbirth and pregnancy by making the process as healthy and smooth as possible.

She explained that certified midwives work in hospitals, health clinics, obstetrics and gynaecology practices, birth centres and private homes, noting that if there are more certified midwives in rural areas with the support and recognition from the authority, there will be a drastic reduction in maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality in the State.



MD/CEO, GH, Ijede, Dr. Abimbola Sunday Okudero, with the Assistant Director, Nursing Services, Nurse Mojisola Adenigba, Apex Nurse Diei Olubunmi and other nursing staff

Medical expert tasks residents on proper hygiene to prevent diseases

By Saheed Afolabi

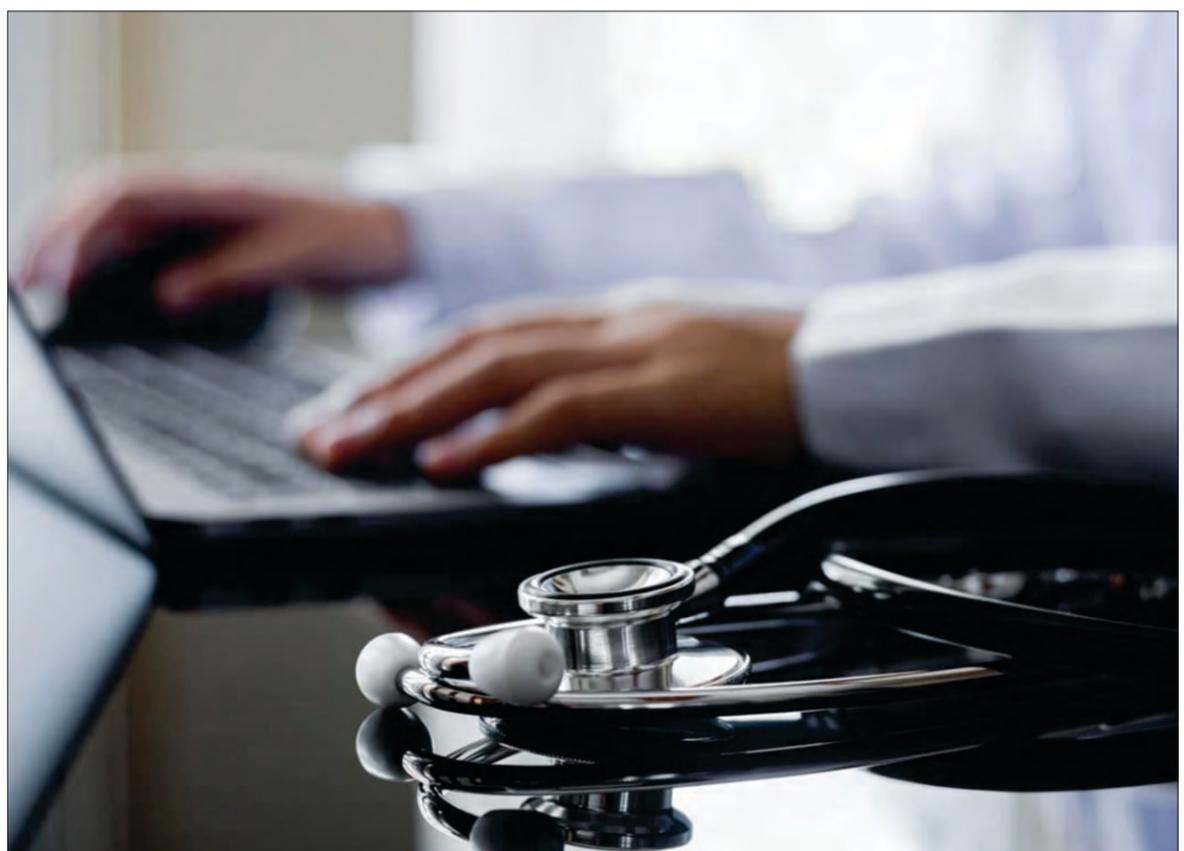
The Chairman of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the General Hospital, Ijede, Dr. Adeyemi Ogo-Oluwa, has called on the residents to embrace proper and constant hand washing to prevent contracting diseases and illnesses. Dr. Ogo-Oluwa made the call during an event organized by the hospital to commemorate the Year 2022 World Hand Hygiene Day recently, adding that hand hygiene is the act of removing germs and microorganisms from the hands. He explained that within all healthcare facilities there is an increased concentration of disease-causing germs, many of which are resistant to germ-killing antibiotics. Research, according to him, has revealed that the hands, food or water contaminated by

animal and human sewage account for 80% of all infections in society, including healthcare facilities.

The IPC Chairman averred that every health facility's "Quality and Safety Climate or Culture" strongly depends on hand hygiene and Infection Prevention and Control measures (IPC), stressing that this results in visitors, patients and health workers being protected and adequately cared for.

Dr. Ogo-Oluwa maintained that people need to believe and get involved in the practice of hand hygiene and infection prevention control to save lives by being team players in achieving the appropriate behaviours and attitudes.

While imploring health workers and the general public to unite in ensuring proper hand hygiene, the physician noted that the COVID-19 infection has made it imperative for all and sundry to make it a collective



responsibility.

His words: "We need to adopt a culture of safety and quality through cleaning our hands

regularly and also encourage people to clean their hands at the right time and with the right products".

The medical doctor submitted that the general public should adopt and cultivate a culture that ensures proper hand

hygiene as it will go a long way in preventing diseases and saving lives in society.

INVISIBLY INVINCIBLE

Readers fall in love with reporters for breaking news, they worship columnists for their rhetorics, celebrate cartoonists for comic commentaries and salute photojournalists for their off-guard angles.

Who celebrates the sub-editor? Sub-editor? Who is that? You just asked. Let me explain. Reporters, columnists, cartoonists, photojournalists and even the advert executives must ultimately observe the production rites of submitting their contributions to the newspaper at the gate, so-called because it marks a critical departure from the events which have happened up to that point.

For instance, mobility across diverse spaces characterizes the occupational routine of the above suppliers. The reporters and photojournalists roam the field for news. The columnists and cartoonists roam the cerebral environment of research, digest and form opinion before delivering their perception of events in prose or visuals.

At the gate, such gyrations cease. They surrender their journalistic wherewithal to the Gatekeeper, the man who determines the fate of their exertions. For good or ill. Indeed, though bound to be eternally invisible, in terms of the production of the media product to the readers, he is licensed at this point to play God, to determine the sacrifices acceptable to the spirit and purpose of the newspaper establishment. This is not a laughing matter. In the late 80s, when interns or cub reporters rely on the edited copies from the gate to know how many paragraphs out of their long reports were left to calculate how much they would be paid if on a freelance, the gatekeeper's circles, underlines and outright crosses across paragraphs were directly proportional to the number of meals to look forward to.

Like all centurions, the gatekeeper carries a burden he must discharge diligently and responsibly. Failure attracts the severest penalty. Although he wields a sword, a sharper sword of Damocles dangles over him.

First, he breathes into the copies the spirit of the newspaper, its *raison d'être* for

existence, its ideology, the principles that led it into the publishing market in the first place. Second, he implements the house style, how the newspaper wishes to express itself in the marketplace in words and appearance. Thirdly, he ensures the grammatical and lexical use of the language fits the

BY KEHINDE BAMIGBETAN

communicative competence of the audience and combines valuable information with exciting entertainment.

Perhaps, it is this huge burden and the obvious disaster that the failure to discharge would inflict on the newspaper that tames the gatekeeper to concentrate religiously on the copies as he weeds out unacceptable expressions, restructures grammatical summersaults and disciplines verbosity. Sub-editors have turned what came in as a 1,000-word news report into three paragraphs on the brief section, in the process separating the writer and his lovely piece. They have "butchered" masterpieces written overnight and sent them to the trash can to rest in peace.

Because they are the bouncers and enforcers of the newsroom, they tend to be dry-eyed. Since no reader is likely to accost them on the streets for disallowing an interview featuring him from being published, gatekeepers can draw blank when in social circuits pretending to be nobody while in fact, they determine the amount of exposure their hosts get.

In trying to psycho-analyse Senior Francis Gbenga Adefaye, (he was my senior at St John's Grammar School, Ile-Ife), I have found no stronger framework that explains

his character more than the dialectics of the interaction between him and this professional specialization that sub-editing entails.

Emphasis, on "stronger".

His alma mater, St John's Grammar School, established in 1960 by Fabian Cloutier, the Canadian reverend father with his inheritance, may account for Mr.Adefaye's selflessness, sense of duty and liberal comportment.

The international, multi-racial faculty of Ghanians, Indians, French and Carribeans that taught in the school might have prepared him for the cosmopolitan demographic that Lagos offers, but it is in the material circumstances of selling his labour to the capital of newspaper production that one discovers the psychology of his present personality.

Occupational socialization occurs when the professional adopts the code or the way of

life of the workplace as a personal system of functioning in society. The industrial workplace and its environment are critical to this selective process. This is why a review of Vanguard newspapers industrial environment is key to the socialization that has produced the easy-going, contented employee who now runs the company.

Established following a fallout between the professional journalist and his accountant partner, the Vanguard needed to be founded as a refuge for journalists who wanted to demonstrate that the pen would always be mightier than the lucre. Uncle Sam Amuka, the man who came to the canal with his dream of a newspaper that was light on life and easy to read, is himself a sub-editor. More than that, Sad Sam, still has a bon hommie that infects and excites. It is no surprise that he created the canal as a working lounge, a place where work and play were siamese twins. For his youthful generations of reporters and editors who still mill around him to date, Vanguard is still a way of life.

I should know. I spent about three years at the Vanguard, rising from a Features Writer to Assistant Magazine Editor, (Vanguard Saturday Special) to Deputy News Editor. When I was leaving, Uncle Sam told me: "Whenever you want to come back, just come and resume." As simple as that!

I was also the chairman of the Vanguard chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, NUJ, for two years. One of the unforgettable gestures of Uncle Sam as publisher was giving the staff, 100 per cent bonus following a very good year of business in 1991. The point is that Uncle Sam established the work culture and environment that Adefaye found conducive. It helped to nurture his editorial and managerial skills. It took him to the top.

Defending the quality of a system, modern or traditional, is one of the attributes that Adefaye has taken from this oeuvre. His passionate commitment to the ethics and standards of journalism, his practical and hands-on approach to management and his obvious leadership skills certainly impressed editors and led to his election as the president of the Nigeria Guild of Editors.

Another variant of this service to the profession is taking his time at the Times Journalism Institute where he holds the title of the Provost.

He displays a similar fierce commitment to sacred values of two other inter-related communities- the alumni of St John's Grammar School, Ile-Ife where he currently sits as the chairman of the 60th anniversary committee of the school and the Ile-Ife community, where he performs his much-valued role as the Deputy President, Ife Development Board.

A quiet man whose extra-ordinary network of contacts includes former heads of states and presidents, captains of industry and other senior citizens, Brother Gbenga discreetly deploys his powerful friends to achieve selfless agenda.

For the records, very few know that, but for his influential intervention, filling the sacred stool of the Ooni of Ile-Ife, the Cradle of civilisation six years ago might have been turned into the ping-pong of partisan politics. He rallied eminent statemen to convene a presidential accord that insulated the nomination and installation of Ooni Ogunwusi Ojaja II from the hustle of power players.

It is instructive of his nature, that, as soon as he executed the task successfully, he reverted to his role as a watchdog, placing the long term development of the cradle over and above any pecuniary reward from the royalists and their influencers.

His unapologetic willingness to push the case of the Ife people is well known to those who have governed Osun State. It is one good reason governors seek his opinion in managing inter-communal peace.

This leadership at the community level is ascribed from two traditional sources. Although he rarely flaunts it, Brother Gbenga is a prince of the Lafogido ruling

house of Ile-Ife. Therefore, he owes the community a duty to lead. Second, his father was both the leader of farmers and artisans who wielded a lot of influence among the rural and urban segments of the city till he was clothed with the earth.

This pedigree often manifests in his confident countenance and authoritative mien. It shows in his courageous attitude to assignments and his. "Can do" spirit. Consciously discreet, his life at 60 inspires younger ones like me to appreciate the value in standing firm on your principles and enjoying the solitude that comes from standing far from the madding crowd.

As you hit the diamond, accept my felicitations.



2023: Owokoya promises 15,000 jobs if elected

By Edith Igbokwe

Aspirant contesting for Kosofe Federal House of Representatives seat, Hon. Abiodun Owokoya (Cheche) has promised 15,000 job opportunities.

He said he has put workable plans in place that will facilitate employment opportunities for his constituents to take the youths off the streets and train them in tech knowledge.

According to him, he has an affiliation outside the country that will guarantee 15,000 jobs for

youths in Kosofe if he is elected. He urged his constituents to get their PVCs on or before the June deadline to enable them to participate in the 2023 general elections.

Owokoya disclosed that his declaration was in the interest of democracy, good governance, and quality representation for the constituents.

He said it was also intended to formally seek the people's support for the realization of his aspiration as the credible voice of young Nigerians in Abuja's green chamber.

"The youths have put all the money together to buy the forms and to tell Kosofe that we are ready to take over. We have everything it takes; we have the capability; we are enthusiastic, energetic, strong, powerful and knowledgeable to be in the office."

He acknowledged the great job the incumbent lawmaker has done.

He, however, stated that he is the best candidate this time around while explaining his plans if given the opportunity.

"The incumbent has done a great

job and he has tried his best, but I want to let him know that we have a better candidate that can do a better job this time around."

"I am sending a clarion call to our party members, men and women, youths and the elderly, most especially the delegates, that there is a lot of work to be done to achieve the Kosofe Federal Constituency of our dreams.

"I urge you all to come out and vote for me during our party primary election so that I can be the APC flag bearer in the House of Representatives election slated for May 19, 2022."



Hon. Abiodun Owokoya

Kosofe canvases for Tinubu, Sanwo-Olu

By Edith Igbokwe

The lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Femi Saheed and the Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Government Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Mrs. Abolanle Bada, have canvassed Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu to emerge as flag bearers of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the forthcoming party primaries. According to Saheed, Tinubu had a bigger vision for the state when he was the governor of Lagos State, assuring that he would do more as the country's president.

He explained that Tinubu's vision has translated into the creation of additional jobs, creation of LASTMA, improvement in IGR, improvement in road infrastructure, and improvement in the health sector, among others.

He, however, expressed that Tinubu had shown Nigerians that democracy is a very good business in the country because he had already put Lagos at the advantage of development.

"This has now made us realize that if a man can put the state on the advantage of developments in the whole of Africa, then there is a reason for us to seek more

when he becomes the president of Nigeria.

"He is a builder of leaders because I happen to be one of the beneficiaries of his magnanimity, so he has an institution, he is the only Nigerian that has an institution of leaders.

"With this, we know that he has the capacity, capability, and ability to move Nigeria to the place of one of the developed nations."

Saheed pointed out that Sanwo-Olu had been winning awards, which means that whatever they put out in Lagos happens to be the best.

He said since Tinubu and Sanwo-Olu had unflinching records, they felt it is right for them to call their people, critical stakeholders in the area to order on what would benefit them if given the chance to the duo.

In the same manner, Hon. Bada urged party delegates to vote for Tinubu as the party's presidential flag bearer during the forthcoming primary election.

She sought the support of the delegates to ensure Sanwo-Olu also emerges as the party's governorship candidate.

She further appealed to people to vote for the duo during the Ikosi-Isheri Open Rally for Tinubu and Sanwo-Olu that was recently carried out in Lagos.

She said: "We need to make it known and louder that we are on ground come 2023.

"The primary is coming soon, so we have to make sure that we canvass our people, especially the delegates.

"We have to make it known to them that they should not betray us in Ikosi-Isheri and to ensure that we reunite ourselves as one, that Ikosi-Isheri has the support of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu." Bada described Sanwo-Olu as their amiable governor and a wonderful leader, a mentor that the people of Ikosi-Isheri had adopted for so long.

The council chairman stated that the time has come to tell their people what the governor has been able to accomplish in the state.

According to her, both the governor and his deputy have really performed very well in their first term, which means that their second term will not be difficult for them.

"This is why you have witnessed this crowd today and we will be adopting these two aspirants to emerge as the party flag bearers in the forthcoming primary election.

"To all the delegates in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, I believe they will not betray any one of us because we have chosen the right people as the party delegates for the party primary."

The President of Succour for Health and Education Foundation who is contesting on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to represent Kosofe Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Samuel Olarenwaju Adebayo (SOA), has promised to represent without discrimination as he finally picked the All Progressives expression of interest and nomination form.

According to him, young, prepared candidates are highly productive with the pre-requisite experience to provide inclusive representation.

"We have been providing succour to the people without gender, political, or religious discrimination. If elected, I will represent the good people of Kosofe Constituency II

2023: I'll represent without discrimination - SOA

By Edith Igbokwe

without discrimination."

Adebayo disclosed that he has singlehandedly, in the last four years, provided over a million dollars worth of interventions on health, education, empowerment, and relief materials consistently to the people and now is the time to contest the APC ticket alongside the other three contestants.

He joined the race in compliance with President Muhammad Buhari and notable political stakeholders in Kosofe, who advised the youths to wait until 2023 before

contesting.

While appealing to the party leaders and delegates for support, he noted that it took Senator Tokunbo Abiru, a first-term lawmaker, just 16 months to make an impact on lives that his effect will follow quicker.

He said: "It won't take us much more time before constituents will feel our measurable footprints because we've been impacting lives long before and we'll even do more when elected.

"The best time the youths ought to have been in state was in 2019. The second best time is 2023."

Oloworo Obaship Tussle: Elebo Royal family seeks help from Ooni of Ife

By Edith Igbokwe

The Elebo royal family of the Oworoshoki Oba Elect, Aremo Nurudeen Saliu, in Kosofe Local Government has recently visited the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi Ojaja II, a source hinted, in connection with the Oloworo Obaship tussle that is

pending before the Lagos High Court.

The Elebo-Royal family Oba Elect, Aremo Nurudeen Saliu, Princess Adunni Oloworo, Councilor representing Orile Oworo "Ward B" Oworoshoki, Hon. (Prince) Kehinde Saliu, White Cap Chief, Prince Taiwo Saliu, Prince Kabiru Saliu and others were among the

delegation.

Meanwhile, Kosofe Local Government Vice Chairman, Prince Babatunde Saliu, Baale Idris Saliu, and a few other members of the Elebo royal family were conspicuously missing during the visitation.

However, reports disclosed that on Oworo Obaship tussle, Court declined the request to lift the injunction and adjourned the case till July 7, 2022.



Elebo Royal family with Ooni of Ife in photograph

Lagos moves to resolve flooding issue in Lagos Island

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Government at the weekend affirmed that a permanent solution to flooding in Idumagbo, Oroyinyin, Ojo Giwa and environs on Lagos Island would be put in place before the end of the year, stressing that the current upsurge of water at the Ilubirin end is a temporary measure. The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tunji Bello addressed stakeholders, including the Deputy Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Mr. Wasiu Eshinlokun Sanni, at a meeting held in the Lagos Island Local Government Area, saying the State government will provide a massive pumping station equipped with high-

capacity tanks to contain the issue of continuous floods experienced in the area.

He stated that when fully functional, the pumping station will be fitted with three bigger pumps of 3000m cube per minute M3 capacity each with a 400KVA generator to power the equipment, clarifying that whatever quantity of water accumulates within the environment will be drained within an hour.

Explaining that the existing temporary measure at Ilubirin end takes a minimum of two days to pump water after every heavy rainfall, Bello disclosed that a basin of about six meters depth will form part of the innovative features that will come on stream at the new pump station.

The Commissioner stated that

the Ilubirin terrain is responsible for the flooding because it prevents water from draining naturally into the canals, noting that the natural embankment constructed by the government is an engineering solution that prevents the lagoon from flowing back into the communities.

Citing climate change as a reason for the issues being experienced in Idumagbo and its environs, Bello pointed out that Lagos is projected as one of the sinking cities in the world. He advised residents of Lagos Island to desist from dumping refuse into drains and canals, urging them to take ownership of the environment by moving against property developers who litter drains with building materials, thus preventing the free flow of water through

drains.

Giving an assurance that the problem of non-availability of pipe-borne water on Lagos Island is being tackled, Bello stated that Governor Sanwo-Olu has approved a complete overhaul of the pipe network and machinery in Adiyan, Onikan and Iju Water Works.

According to him, when completed, the water supply to Lagos Island and Mainland would be fully restored.

The Commissioner directed LAWMA to collaborate with Lagos Island Local Government on the possibility of allowing PSP operators to discharge refuse generated by tenements at the Transfer Loading Station located at Ebute-Elefun before being trans-loaded to the Ojota dumpsite.

In his address, the Deputy

Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Lagos Island 1, Mr. Wasiu Eshinlokun Sanni, appealed to residents to cooperate with the state government in providing a permanent solution to flooding in the area.

Pledging to use his good office to ensure that adequate funds are allocated by the State House of Assembly for the provision of a permanent solution, Eshinlokun affirmed that contracts have already been awarded for the construction of many roads in the area and gave a commitment that the Sanwo-Olu administration will provide dividends of democracy to residents.

In the same vein, the Chairman, Lagos Island East Local Government, Mr. Muibi Alabi Folawiyo, expressed the need

for regeneration and construction of drainages in Lagos Island to permanently curb flooding in the area.

The Chairman also called for commitment and a greater sense of duty from PSP operators in Lagos Island, claiming that their level of service needs an improvement.

Also speaking, the Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Olalekan Shodeinde, who was represented by the Director of Drainage Enforcement and Compliance, Engr. Mahmood Adegbite, advised the residents to form a committee to liaise and meet with the officials of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources once a month and feed the community back.

Apongbon traders recount agonies after fire incident

By Saheed Afolabi

The affected traders evicted from under the Apongbon Bridge area following outbreak of inferno which gutted the area have recounted their agonies, saying after the fire at the market, it had been difficult for them to continue their trade effectively as they do not have any other place than their present location. In their unanimous voice, they lamented that after they had vacated the Apongbon Under Bridge and had to move to a loop nearby to continue their businesses in order to cater for their family but they were also driven away by some law enforcement personnel.

One of the affected traders, lyabo Deborah, said the lyaloja General, Folashade Tinubu-Ojo, gave her

approval for their protest, as well as the governor, who had earlier been sent a letter as regards their demonstration.

According to Deborah, "The law enforcement personnel who chased us out from under the bridge which we were managing had threatened to return next week Monday to evacuate us from where we are right now, a new site."

Appealing to the Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, they requested that they should be allowed to remain in their new location, continue trading in order to maintain their daily source of livelihood without any hitch.

The traders, therefore, appealed to both governments, particularly the Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola, that they should be allowed to continue their businesses.

NSITF charges employers on workers' safety

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), Island Branch has charged employers in the community to ensure the safety of their worker.

The Head of Health Safety and Environment, NSITF, Lagos Island branch, Oluferan Sunday, said the agency was leveraging on the day to sensitize people on imbibing safety as a culture at workplace.

He said it is mandated for every employer of labours to insure their staff under the Employee Compensation Act 2010, informing that the NSITF is saddled with the responsibility.

Sunday said because the Act is a statutory law, any employer that fails to insure his/her staff falls short of the law and would face the punishment.

"Every employer of labour has a duty to ensure that every employee that goes to work safely must return safely and even if there is a shortfall on their policies, the NSITF is there to also help to ensure all these things are put in place.

"The law is there to catch up on employers who do not follow all the processes of ensuring the workers safety. The Lagos State Safety Commission and Ministry of Labour also enforces and penalizes employers who fail to register their employees with the NSITF. The employers will be fined, their management jailed or whatever penalties the Act stipulate for such activities," he said.

Sunday said to ensure employers comply with the safety act, the

health and safety environment department of the NSITF visits companies to carry out safety audits using the ISO 45001 as a standard.

He said that the team audits the offices of every employer of labour, their environment and every unsafe act that they notice and do a report in which recommendation of their observations are given to the employers.

According to him, any employer that fails to implement the recommendation will be penalized

by the Lagos State Safety Commission and the NSITF.

He, however, urged employees to report unsafe working conditions of their workplace as well as follow the "Stop Work Policy."

"The employees can send us mail or get in touch with any of our branches anonymously and then we will take it up to ensure all these things are implemented and put in place and failure to do that means the company would be fined and penalized," he stated.



NSITF Building

Ndi-Igbo community in Mushin endorses Yemi Alli for second term

By Edith Igbokwe

The Ndi-Igbo in Mushin 1 Federal Constituency led by their leader, Mr. Amaechi Article, has commended the performances of Hon. Yemi Alli as the member representing Mushin 1 Federal Constituency, during a courtesy visit to his Harmony House office in Macaulay Street, Olorunsogo, Mushin.

The high point of the visitation was to appreciate him for his good representation at the National Assembly and pledged their support for him during primary election and general election.

The Igbo community, who came in their numbers saluted Hon. Yemi Alli for his outstanding work in the first term as they believe he will do more if return elected to the House of Representatives.

On his own part, Hon. Yemi Alli appreciated the Igbo community for their commitment to his ambition to return to the House of Representatives and assured them of his total commitment to the Igbo community.



The Igbo community in a group photograph with Hon. Yemi Alli

Bamigboye urges party aspirants to be violence free

By Saheed Afolabi

As part of measures to prevent unhealthy rivalry and ensure peaceful and mutual relationship among aspirants contesting for House of Assembly and House of Representatives in Mushin Local Government, the council Chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, has convened a family meeting with all the contenders.

The chairman joined by his vice, Hon. Tunbosun Aruwe, welcomed all the aspirants in his office and expressed his appreciation to them for expressing their interest to contest under the umbrella of the All Progressives Congress. He stated that their desire to contest in APC is indication that they believe in the ideologies and great achievements of the

party.

The council boss advocated for smooth, peaceful and violence free primaries.

He also advised them to contest in the spirit of sportsmanship by cautioning their supporters and campaign officers, to avoid engaging in any campaign of calumny.

He reminded them to remember that there are more to benefit in the party after election.

The chairman confirmed that the Apex leaders have mandated them to address all the aspirants in order to avert any unwarranted violence during and after the primaries.

He, however, promised that the process of electing candidates who will fly the flag of the party at the 2023 general elections would not be biased as no candidate would be allowed to force himself on the party.

In addition, the council boss



Hon Bamigboye with the aspirants in Mushin LG

affirmed that all members of the party would work and support any candidate who emerges as the party's flag bearer at the general election. He also informed the aspirants to always be ready for any meeting convened by party

leaders concerning the primary and warned any group of persons planning any funny act during the primaries to desist from such plans as security has been beefed up to deal with such persons.

Bamigboye prayed that after

the primaries, everyone shall have cause to celebrate, especially the success of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the presidency.

He finally encouraged them to have a dialogue with one another and promised that

whoever steps down would be appreciated and rewarded handsomely.

The aspirants expressed their appreciation to the chairman for the honour and assured him of cooperation with the party's leaders through their directives and promised to be law abiding throughout the process of the primaries. They agreed to go back and talk to their supporters and campaign officers to abide by the rules of the party.

The aspirants at the meeting included, Hon. Yinka Kazeem (aka Esho), Mr. Toyin Aremu, Mr. Akinsupo Morgan, Mr. Adeniyi Isiba, Mrs. Mariam Lawal and others. The chairman had earlier met with some House of Representatives aspirants, namely Hon. Toyin Fayinka, Prince Ramon Taiwo and others.

Two suspects face jail term for attempted pick-up theft

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The new Supervisor for Health in Iba LCDA, Hon. Saheed Ajanaku said he is set to commence work in his capacity, promising to make sure the residents enjoy the healthcare they deserve.

He gave the assurance while inspecting the three Primary Health Centres - Iba PHC 1, Iba PHC 2 and Isashi PHC in the council area.

He commended the health workers for their commitment towards saving lives in Ojo constituent.

He noted that the need to inspect

the extent of service delivery was to assess the strength and challenges of each PHC in Iba to serve as a layout for him to perform his duty after being appointed.

The newly sworn-in supervisor appealed to the Apex Nurse, Mrs. Bolanle Kazeem and the Head of Department, Community Health, Mrs. Victoria Omolukare to keep being steadfast, diligent and committed to the wellbeing of the people while promising to showcase their complaints and challenges to the council chairman for better development.

He said the health of the residents is important in a developing community like Iba.



CDC partners local council on security matters

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Hon. Ganiyu Egunjobi, has deliberated with members of Community Development Committee (CDC) on possible solutions to security matters in the council.

Egunjobi appreciated CDC for their bold attempt to ensure Agege and environs are well secured.

He noted that so far, the council has partnered with security agents both within and outside the council to tame the recurrent case of hoodlums in the council which is becoming alarming.

CDC chairman, Alhaji Omodele Morufu, who succeeded late Alhaji Ayo Adesiyun who died few months ago, commended the effort of Egunjobi, saying his attitude towards developmental projects are worth reckoning with.

The former aspirant of the Federal House of Representatives, Ibeju-Lekki Federal Constituency on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC), Prince AbdulLateef Oniwolu has announced his defection from the Prince Bayo Balogun (BIBIIRE) caucus to the leadership of Alhaji Bode Oyedele Kashif (BOD) caucus.

Relating on his social media page, Oniwolu made it known that his decision to change sides was necessitated on a personal ground

Ex-aspirant defects from political caucus

By Motolani AbdulGafar

best known to him, informing that he had consulted widely before taking the decision.

"I want to express my immense gratitude to Hon. Monsur Adebayo Balogun (BIBIIRE) and Alhaji Taiwo Adebambo with other notable leaders and members of Bibiire group for their kind support all the

way and for giving me the political platform to showcase my political prowess.

"I believe that we are always under the same course to achieving Ibeju-Lekki of our dreams as we all remain under the same umbrella of All Progressive Congress (APC). I want us to all stand and believe on the fact that victory is certain.

"I have decided to move on with

peaceful, highly motivated and progressive people's group where success of members is always targeted, necessitated and appreciated," he said.

Oniwolu admonished that as a politician, having political interest is a necessary precondition for the desired characteristics of a responsible and democratic citizen: critical loyalty, ability, and

readiness for political participation because it leads people to weigh ideological positions, to assess their pros and cons and to make a commitment and achieve political identity.

He assured that despite his defection, his commitment towards the party would continue to be steadfast and supportive in all dealings.

Father demands justice for 4-years old allegedly shot by land grabbers

By Saheed Afolabi

The father of a four-years old boy, Abdulmalik Rahman allegedly shot dead by suspected land grabbers at Eredo in Epe, Kazeem Rahman has demanded justice for his son, saying he also escaped death by a whisker in the incident.

Rahman works for a business man named Wahab Bello and he is also a mechanic.

Narrating how the incident happened, he said: "I was about to feed the pigs when the land grabbers stormed the farm. Most of them wore masks except Ope 50, Bankoly, Seven-Seven, T-9, and Baba Amowe. Immediately they saw me, they started shooting at me and I ran for my life.

"As I made my way into the bush, they

pursued me, but I was able to navigate my way to Odosonoye town in Epe. I quickly called Bello and told him to inform the police as my son was still on the farm.

"After a while, I left Odosonoye town and went back to Eredo, where a friend took me to Bello, who took me to the Noforija Police Station. We, alongside some policemen, went to the farm. But on the way, I was told that the land grabbers killed my son and burnt two vehicles."

As the investigations by the police leading to the incident were ongoing, Rahman stated how some policemen from Abuja came to arrest Bello in his hotel and he was present at the hotel when it happened.

"When he attempted to run, the policemen started shooting. They took him to the Federal SARS unit at Adeniji.

"He was later taken to the Zone 3 Command in Abuja, and later transferred to the homicide section at Area 10. We had to travel down to Abuja to know why he was arrested and it was when we got to Area 10 that we discovered that the sponsors of the land grabbers told them Bello was responsible for my son's death.

"I had to write a statement to reveal the true state of things and also informed them that some of the suspects responsible for my son's death had been arrested. But the policemen at Area 10, particularly the investigating police officer, are trying to scuttle the case. They even threatened to detain us.

"We secured Bello's release and returned to Lagos on May 11, 2022. Policemen from Abuja and the Noforija Division later visited the farm where



Abdulmalik



Abiodun Alabi
Lagos CP, Abiodun Alabi

my son was killed for investigation. I want justice and I don't want the case swept under the carpet," he stated.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, confirmed the incident.

He said, "As of the time the case was reported at Noforija Division, three

people had been arrested and the father of the deceased positively identified two of them because he saw the hoodlums when they invaded the farm.

"The case was transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba, and investigation is ongoing."

Food Insecurity: Experts advocate implementation of small-scale fisheries guidelines

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Stakeholders from the Fishing industry across the world have advocated the immediate implementation of the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines in order to effectively tackle food insecurity in Nigeria.

Converging to discuss their progressive views on the guideline in Lagos State University, it was noted that the establishment of the guidelines are meant to support the visibility, recognition and enhancement of the already important role of small-scale fisheries and to contribute to global and national efforts towards the

eradication of hunger and poverty. Experts unanimous submitted that all stakeholders, from the national, regional and international communities need to work together to ensure the implementation of the SSF-guidelines to improve the lot of small scale fishers and ameliorate potential food crisis in the country. They opined that the country stand to benefit greatly, in the event of the implementation of the guidelines which had been adopted since 2014.

The Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello noted that apart from fish production, the small-scale fisheries are firmly rooted in local communities, sustaining rich

tradition and value system in many fishing communities and villages across the country, adding that "directly, the sub-sector provides livelihood for about two million people and as secondary source of employment for up to 20 million people."

The Dean, Faculty of Science, Lagos State University, Prof. Shehu Akintola, explained that the need for implementation of the SSF Guidelines was an urgent one because it has as its heart, protection of human rights, attainment of sustainable development goals and sustainable fishing management, requiring the cooperation and input of all experts.



Joint picture of converging fisheries experts in Lagos State University

Iba LCDA APC to mobilise youths on PVC registration

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Plans have commenced by the All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth Leaders in Iba LCDA to mobilise youths across all zones for the registration and revalidation of the Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs).

The leaders led by Saheed Tijani noted that they had reached a consensus to mobilise Iba youths following their inspection and physical evaluation of youths registration at the council's registration sites.

Tijani said their decision was a way of complementing the government and party's effort towards waking the citizens up to their civic responsibility by registering for their permanent voter's cards.

He enjoined all the progressive youths in the local government area to also join the youths' efforts in complementing the efforts of the government and other patriotic Nigerians in sensitising and mobilising the masses for the voters' registration.

He, therefore, commended the relentless efforts of INEC officials for their consistency and hard work in Iba LCDA.

The chairman of Ojo Local Government, Hon. Rasulu Idowu, has given a two weeks ultimatum to traders in the burnt Iyana-Iba market to complete the agreement in the jointly signed Memorandum of Understanding.

Idowu made this known at the sensitisation and enlightenment programme organised by the council in conjunction with Lagos State Fire Service to educate traders on precautionary measures they need to take to avoid electrification disaster.

The council boss had earlier promised to hold a stakeholders meeting with traders, community leaders and fire service officials to review issues pertaining to the

Iyana-Iba market: Council urges marketers to adhere to MoU

By Motolani AbdulGafar

market's electrical appliances before reopening for the safety of lives and properties.

He warned that the market would be closed indefinitely if the council's Task Force reports any case of irresponsibility as the council has the capacity to both approve a clearance certificate for the establishment of any market and as well order its closure if necessary.

He revealed that henceforth, tricycle operations within Iyana-Iba market is now restricted to Oba-Daudu Street to avoid congestion.

Eight points were reached as agreement between the council, market representatives and Community Development Association representative in restoring the market.

The points are that electric wiring must be redone in the market, each shop must have a circuit breaker where they can switch off the light

in case of any casualty, each shop must have fire extinguisher placed in front of their shop, any shop extension longer than 2fts can not be installed to avoid being close to the high tension wire, no shop should display goods on top of drainage, do not block accessible roads and walk-way within the market and Iyana-Iba, all shops in an axis should maintain the use of one transformer, all formulated laws should be put in place within two weeks to avoid indefinite closure.



Hon. Rasulu Idowu

The Chairman of Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Jubril (ABILA) has reached out to DPOs in Ojo LGA to proffer solution to the excruciating gridlock at Igboelerin junction of Okokomaiko, Lagos-Badagry Expressway route.

Abila noted that his plea was triggered after witnessing operators glare towards one another and fight to maneuver moving space due to the ongoing road construction.

He noted that he has approached the construction company on possible solutions to the gridlock and that an agreement has been reached to hasten the construction of the road at the agreed time.

Council to work with police to curb gridlock

By Motolani AbdulGafar

He noted that the Traffic Monitoring and Control Team with all concerned will be stationed to manage and control the situation at hand so as to ease the gridlock in order to alleviate the sufferings of road users.

It was also said that palliating the available path from Afromedia Junction to Navy gate of the Igboelerin junction for easy passage of vehicles by the CCECC has been done to ease the incessant congestion.

Abila charged Police officers to instruct the traffic department



to be up to task while saying he knows that there is no gain

without pain, as the construction work would not be

achieved with some pains to be borne by the road users.

Orekoya promises compulsory free education to fight insecurity

By Edith Igbokwe

Aspirant of Lagos State House of Assembly in Somolu Constituency I, Hon. Biodun Orekoya has promised to address insecurity in the constituency through free and compulsory education if given the chance.

He made the promise during his declaration at Agunbiade Primary School, Somolu, stating that his focus was to address insecurity in the area through free and

compulsory education.

He, also, promised to take Somolu to a higher height through a peaceful atmosphere, noting that there could never be another sustainable empowerment of people than education.

Orekoya said if given the opportunity to represent the people of Somolu, he would lobby his colleagues on legislation to provide qualitative and compulsory education for all children.

"It is something we are all going

to look at together, using education. Most of the boys that are involved in menace are school-aged children.

"We need to make our primary and secondary education free and compulsory; not just free but must be compulsory as we have in developed countries.

"No children of school age is allowed to roam about there. We must get our children properly educated. When they are educated, the issue of insecurity will be a small thing. We want to

get our youths out of the streets. Many of them use illicit drugs because they are not meaningfully engaged."

While calling for support from the leaders and members of the community, Orekoya pledged to provide quality representation that would end some of the nightmares faced by residents of the area.

He also promised to positively engage the area boys through dialogue which he said will stem the tide of violence in the

community.

"The basic thing is to sit them down and talk to them. When I was on board, I called all of them to a meeting and they comported themselves.

"We cannot throw them away, they are part of us and there is nothing we can do about that, many of them are sensible. So, we need to get them engaged."

An APC party leader, Mr. Dayo Adefuye in the constituency, commended Orekoya for his record of sacrificial services,

saying the aspirant knows how to talk and engage the youths.

Adefuye described Orekoya as a trustworthy leader that knows where shoes pinch and said people look up to him for the desired change in Somolu.

The Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), Mr. Adedapo Odugunwa said the community need someone like him who understand the challenge of the people especially, the problem of flood.

The chairman of Bariga Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kolade Alabi has expressed his happiness to be identified with the special children as part of the society as he celebrated his birthday.

He joined the special children at Modupe Cole Memorial School for Special People whom he referred to as his special friends.

He said he chose to celebrate with the special people because they need to be shown love and affection and to make them understand that they are part of the society, and need not to be stigmatized.

He admonished all politicians and friends to keep loving and caring for the special persons.

By Edith Igbokwe

He reiterated that public officials need to lead by example, saying they should see his action as his legacy.

"I will continue to remember you in my prayers and pay you unscheduled visit, not only when I'm in office, even as I promise to remain your friends forever," he told the children.

Alabi also visited Gbagada General Hospital to support the

less privileged patients by paying for their minor and major treatments.

Accompanying were his Vice, Hon. Adeola Kuponiyi, the Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Hon. Bukola Adedeji, Bariga APC party chairman, Hon. Akin Mejolagbe, and his Somolu counterpart, Hon. Ademola Olisa.

The council leader, Hon. Temitope Okanlawon led other Bariga Councillors to the event.

Council chairman, Alabi marks birthday with special children



Alabi with the special children

Maintain peace, Olowo appeals to supporters

By Edith Igbokwe

An aspirant for the House of Representatives on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Hon. Rotimi Olowo, has appealed to his supporters to maintain peace during and after primary election as he continued to seek support from the party leaders and community members.

Already, the former Reps member, Hon. Oluwole Diya has declared his support for Olowo having signed his party's nomination

form.

He said he had also met and got endorsement from the Chairman of Somolu Local Government, Hon. AbdulHamed Salawu (Dullar), and other leaders of the party.

The 2023 elections atmosphere in Somolu Local Government area of the state continues to get more interesting as aspirants are not resting on their oars in ensuring they get their political ambition on the right track with quite a number of them reported to have picked their nomination and expression of interest forms.

The former chairman of Somolu

Local Government, Hon. Omogbolahan Bagostowe, the former Executive Secretary of Somolu Local Government, Hon. Biodun Orekoya, the former Sole Administrator of the council, Hon. Williams Lawanson, Printing Entrepreneur, Sheriff Adekoya, Businessman and Hotelier, Remi Ogbara, Real Estate icon, Babasehinde Ogunmuyiwa, and Lekan Osiyemi have all secured Lagos State House of Assembly nomination and expression forms to replace Hon. Rotimi Olowo who is eying House of Reps.

LASEMA demolishes old building in Shomolu

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) has given the directive to demolish an old building at 36 Sanusi Street in Somolu.

This was made known by the Permanent Secretary of the Agency, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu after arriving at the scene of the partially collapsed two-storey building.

To avoid any secondary incident, members of the public are to be assured of the commitment of the administration of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to public safety, law and order.

It would be recalled that in the last few days, two buildings had



Old building in Somolu

collapsed in Lagos, one in Ebute Metta area, with 10 people registered dead and another in Okota area of the state without casualty.

It was gathered that the building had been marked by LASBCA since July 2021 as the structure was

severely distressed with many cracks.

Fortunately, no casualty was recorded while the tenants of the building have been advised to move out with immediate effect because the structure is unsafe for habitation.

Hassan Tairu emerges chairman of the Lagos State Football Coaches Association

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State Football Coaches Association election which held at the main hall of the Ifako Ijaiye LG saw Coach Hassan Tairu emerge chairman of the Lagos State Football Coaches Association (LSFCA). Coach Hassan Tairu, who was the former 1st vice chairman of the last administration polled a total of 26 votes to defeat lone competitor, David Dosu who amassed 18 votes in the contest. The new chairman said that he is ready to work with all the coaches because he is on a mandate to unify the coaches association.

Having no choice than to accept defeat, Coach David Dosu

disclosed to newsmen that he won't work with Coach Tairu stating unless he is called upon to offer advise, he will never accept any role or appointment to work with the Coach Hassan Tairu led Lagos State Football Coaches Association.

The new general secretary of the Lagos State Football Coaches Association, Moses Ikpo stated his belief in fighting for the benefits of the coaches. The Provost of LSFCA, Coach Adejare Adewale popularly known as Skenchi stated his desire and willingness to ensure the security and welfare of coaches is attended to by his office.

The electoral committee headed by Coach Suraju Alao thanked God that the election that was supposed to be done



The newly inaugurated excos of Lagos State Football Coaches Association

last year was done successfully without any hitch and urged the new chairman to carry all members along in his activities.

The full list of the new excos are: Hassan Tairu Adewale (Chairman), Elegunleye Adeleke Ibiyemi (2nd Vice

Chairman), Andrew John Inaboya (3rd vice chairman), Moses Ikpo Ifeanyichukwu (General Secretary), Warri

Charles (Assistant Secretary), Adejare Moses Adewale (Provost), Adegbeni Ganiat Modupe (Social Secretary).

Supporters Club priority's to promote women participation in football - Club President

By Saheed Afolabi

Sapphire Nigeria Women Football Supporters Club (SNWFSC) came into limelight as the first women supporters club in Nigeria. The SNWFSC was created as a body to support the women national team sides, club sides and grassroots football. The President of Sapphire Nigeria Women Football

Supporters Club (SNWFSC), Mrs Jadesola Adelabu in an exclusive interview with ECHONEWS stated that the reason the supporters club made top of their agenda is developing the girl-child active participation in football and also have a mechanism in place to support and inspire women footballers to have a rewarding career. "The passion for the development of the girl-child

via active participation in football is a fundamental essence of our establishment. We aspire to use our support mechanism for the game not only for development but also to inspire the young people to have a rewarding career opportunity in the game. "We will also organize friendlies and competitions amongst upcoming talents in

Lagos, We plan to apply this initiative at secondary school levels with a view to create a league which can be likened to the erstwhile Principals Cup in Lagos State and it would be for only the girls or women in the secondary school to participate in. The establishment of an identity/support mechanism for potentials, encouragement

of female active participation in the game nation wide in the course of our continued support of National female soccer teams in all their events, to promote the game in areas where female participation is absent in football and further promote it where women already take to the pitch daily are all our plans to propagate the development

of women football.

"One of our aims is, to aspire to be an essential part of the developmental process for women football in Nigeria, Africa and the World.

"Also, we hope to be a part of the global community through which positive support can be channelled towards the continual growth of women participation in the game."



Jadesola Adelabu

Nakamura Strikers played a 1-1 draw friendly match with Unstoppable FC at Bishop Aggey mini stadium, Mushin as both clubs prepare for the second round of the Notayo's Cup.

It was a thrilling encounter between both sides as they displayed talented, agile and hungry for success young kids. Habeeb Olatunji grabbed the goal of Unstoppable FC, while Damilare Omoshebi was on the score sheet for Nakamura Strikers.

The first half was an enthralling

FRIENDLY MATCH: Nakamura Strikers settles for draw with Unstoppable FC

By Saheed Afolabi

encounter as both teams showed competitiveness and created chances in the game.

Habeeb Olatunji put the Unstoppable FC warriors ahead in the 25th minute with a great Panenka penalty, which sent the Nakamura Strikers goalkeeper the wrong way.

Nakamura Strikers dominated

proceedings but failed to break Unstoppable FC defense in the first half, as they remained firm and focused.

The second half became more competitive but Nakamura Strikers pegged Unstoppable FC to their own half for the majority of the second half as they created numerous chances but their conversion rate was poor.

Combative midfielder, Damilare

Omoshebi came to the rescue for Nakamura Strikers in the 78th minute as he sends a powerful striker into the far corner of the net and leaving the goalkeeper of Unstoppable FC rooted to the spot.

Despite some late chances created to kill off the game by both sides, they couldn't get the ball at the back of the net as the game ended 1-1.

Ebute-Metta residents protest estimated billing

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents of Ebute-Metta last week staged a protest against estimated billing system by the Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC), demanding pre-paid meters. They lamented the failure of the distribution company, charging the company to be transparent in its billing system.

One of the protesters, who simply gave his name as Mr. Williams said what they wanted to achieve through the protest was to secure a

reasonable billing system to residents who do not have prepaid meters at the end of the month.

"The electricity company has failed woefully in its obligations. EKEDC lacks transparency billings, all we are asking the service provider to do is to be legitimate in dealing with its customers and be transparent in its billings.

"I have not used up to N4,000 since the prepaid meter was installed in my house in July 2021, yet EKEDC brings a N50,000 monthly bill to every household who are without prepaid meters.

"The residents get the outrageous bills after EKEDC brings light for just four days in a month.

"As human rights fighters, we are saying no to the arbitrary bills of Eko Disco.

"We had meetings with EKEDC on several occasions, wrote to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and even went to court but all to no avail. They are extorting us unlawfully. We want justice."

He urged the distribution company to have a dialogue with the affected residents in order to agree on the amount to

be paid on a monthly basis.

Another resident, Mr. Hakeem Esulonso, a former councillor of Ward D, Lagos Island said the committee had a meeting with the Managing Director, EKEDC on the same issue but they could not reach a resolution.

He noted that they will not relent until their needs are met and their rights are given to them.

"The company wants to divide us by giving one part of Ebute-Metta power supply and the other has been neglected for over two months since their cable has been taken away.

He advocated that prepaid meters should be provided if the distribution company is unable to meet their demands.

"What we are agitating for is that if the company wants to supply us power, it should be at least 10 hours a day and charge N1,000 per room, N2,000 for two rooms and N3,000 for three rooms.

He stated that Disco is only concerned that Ebute-Metta locals have not paid for power consumed just few weeks the supply was restored "forgetting about the huge money we have been paying and yet no supply."

Man in court for allegedly stealing plasma TV

By Edith Igbokwe

A 32-year-old man, Joseph Saluma, has been arraigned in an Ogudu Magistrates Court for alleged burglary and stealing of an office television valued at N200,000.

The accused, a security guard at Chill City Drinks located at No. 9, Olatunji Street, Ojota, was charged with burglary and theft.

The Prosecutor, Insp. Sunday Basse, told the court that the accused person committed the offence on April 30.

Basse alleged that he broke into the office of Omowunmi Oguntula, the CEO of the company and stole a 40-inch plasma television valued N200,000.

He told the court that the head of the security outfit, Adebolu Habib, had earlier called his employer on April 30 to inform her that the window of their offices located at the address was left open.

"He came on May 1, 2022 to see how he could secure the place and discover that a television set was already missing.

"He added that the accused was the one on duty at the time the television was discovered missing."

Basse told the court that the offences contravened Sections 287, 309(2) and 411 of the Criminal law of Lagos, 2015.

The accused, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The Magistrate, O. A. Daodu, granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 and two sureties.

Daodu said the sureties must reside within the court's jurisdiction and also present evidence of two years tax payment to the state government.

She adjourned the case till June 8, 2022 for mentioning.

Lagos State Government will show no mercy to weak buildings in Ebute-Metta and other areas of the state as the administration is set to embark on long week demolition exercise.

The exercise is to prevent collapse of buildings and to safeguard lives and properties.

Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, disclosed that only identified defective buildings in the state would be taken down.

The commissioner said the exercise would focus on structures already marked as distressed by the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), particularly in Ebute-Meta East where an occupied building collapsed a week ago with many others vividly showing distress signs.

Salako is quoted as saying that it became pragmatic to promptly

Building Collapse: LASG embarks on demolition of distressed buildings

By Edith Igbokwe

demolish structures earlier identified as critically distressed to avert disaster during the rainy season.

The commissioner declared that the exercise will be done while the assessment of structures in the area and other parts of the state continues.

"The administration of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu is committed to ensuring the security of lives and property.

"This underlies our resolution to act promptly in addressing the spate of building collapse by removing uninhabitable structures before they cause more havoc, especially during the rainy season when such buildings are



The distressed building in Ebute-Meta

more prone to collapse."

The commissioner urged residents to be extra vigilant and report anomalies through the

state government's communication channels.

He said they should do so particularly through the Lagos

State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development Mobile App available on Google Play.

Denton Police Station DPO, SP Joseph has assured residents based on the recommendation of Lagos Mainland Local Government chairman, Hon. Omolola Essien that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure that the people residing within the mainland as well as business owners across the LGA will carry out their activities without any form of hindrance.

Police assure LG of safety environment

Iponri Police Division DPO, CSP Onah Emmanuel shared the opinion of Area 'C' Commander, ACP Adedeji that police should be extremely sensitive to any sign of growing tensions in their jurisdictions, urging residents and business owners to keep calm and feel safe.

The security officers made the

statement following the recent security meeting held with the council chairman to follow-up on the recent outcry of mainlanders over the security challenges facing some parts of the community.

Essien, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Ogunniyi, council Manager, Mr. Olusegun Ajagunna and all the

security agencies were present at the meeting which was held at the conference room of the council secretariat.

After the meeting, the council boss presented three patrol vehicles to Denton Division, Iponri Division and the Local vigilante group.

"By assisting law enforcement agents with patrol vehicles, we

hope that lawlessness will be addressed and will also reduce in our community. They'll ensure the streets are safe for each and everyone to be able to walk freely as well as create a conducive environment for business to thrive.

"And our police can continually attend to calls for assistance as always," Essien said.

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