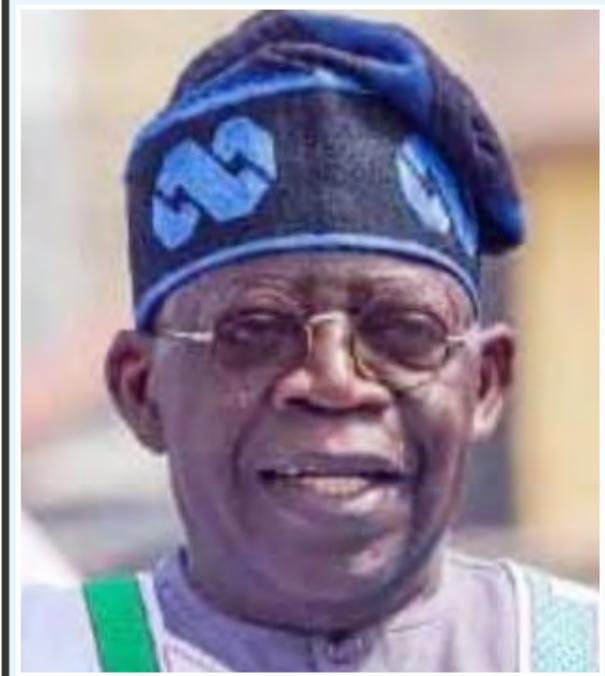


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How Tinubu Will Floor Obi

By Ladapo Kolade

All is set for the mother of legal battles between President-elect Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the candidate that came third in the February 25, 2023, presidential election, Mr. Peter Obi.

Defending Tinubu in this landmark case are 50 legal luminaries led by Mr. Wole Olaonipekun, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria.

They include senior advocates such as former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Akin Olujimi, Yusuf Ali, Lateef Fagbemi, A.U. Mustapha, Ahmed Raji, Abiodun Owonikoko, Kemi Pinheiro, Niyi Akintola and H.M. Liman.

Others are Taiwo Osipitan, Babatunde Ogala, Roland Otaru, James Onoja, Muiz Banire, Olusola Oke, and a former Bauchi State Governor Mohammed Abubakar. Obi is disputing the qualification of the president-elect and the processes of his election.

The Labour Party candidate has joined the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, the All Progressives Congress, and the Vice President-elect, Senator Kashim Shettima.

Following a rigorous review of the Labour Party's petition, the legal team of the president-elect has submitted its counter-arguments to the courts. The document obtained by Echonews provides details of how the president-elect's team plans to floor Obi at the courts.

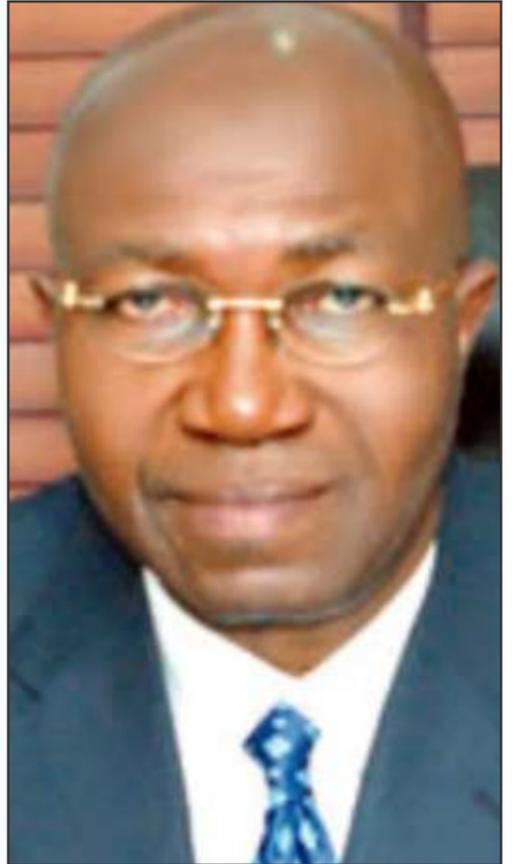
In the first instance,



Bola Ahmed Tinubu



Peter Obi



Wole Olaonipekun SAN

Tinubu's lawyers will persuade the court that Obi ought not to be on the ballot as the candidate of the Labour Party in the first place.

To prove it, the lawyers will rely on the Electoral Law which states that only members of a political party whose names appear on the register submitted to INEC 30 days before the party's primaries are eligible to contest the primaries.

Applying the law, Tinubu's lawyers will present the list of the Labour Party's membership register which does not include Peter Obi's name, and the party register of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP which includes Obi's name 30 days to its primaries.

It will also present the letter of resignation written by Obi to the PDP dated May 24, 2022, to further confirm that, not being a member, he could not have been eligible to participate in the

primaries of the Labour Party to elect a presidential candidate.

On this first ground, Tinubu's lawyers will conclude that the first petitioner (Obi) did not have any right to contest the presidential election held on 25th February 2023 while the second petitioner, (Labour Party) also had no legal right to present the first petitioner as its candidate for the said election contrary to their petition.

The second ground to be canvassed by Tinubu's lawyers is that the petitioner's prayer before the Court that he should be disqualified because of corrupt practices is not supported by facts and the law.

Describing the petition as "incompetent, nebulous and imprecise", they will persuade the court that it has no jurisdiction to hear it.

The president-elect's lawyers will also ask the court to dismiss

Obi's prayers seeking the Court to determine that as of the February 25 presidential election, Tinubu and Shettima were not qualified to contest as "incompetent and ungrantable".

Obi's lawyers had sought, first to disqualify Tinubu from the election, cancel his votes as wasted to boost the significance of the votes of the third-place contestant.

But Tinubu's lawyers, on a tit-for-tat tactic, will be going for his jugular by using his attempt to belong to two parties at the same time as the albatross that made him ineligible to contest.

They will also take on the Obi team on its prayers as regards the status of the Federal Capital Territory in deciding when a presidential candidate has obtained the mandatory 25 percent of votes cast in two-thirds of the states by accusing the team of manipulating the letters

of the Constitution.

According to the reply to the petition obtained by Echonews, Wole Olaonipekun, SAN and his team will argue that "by the way and manner the petitioners have couched reliefs 1(iii), they have adulterated, twisted, edited and manipulated the clear provision of Section 134 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended".

They will explain to the court, that, by introducing a coma, in the wording of the section, the petitioners have altered the spirit, intention, and letter of the said section of the Constitution.

The lawyers will also prove to the court that the Labour Party was unlikely to win the election because it had been on the fringe of the electoral system has won only one state governorship in elections from 1999 to 2019.

By contrast, the APC

was better positioned to win because it controlled the presidency, 20 state governors, 64 senators, 217 members of the House of Representatives, and over 600 members of the state Houses of Assembly.

The lawyers will argue that Obi has been inconsistent in party affiliation and has moved from the All Progressives Grand Alliance to the PDP and the Labour Party.

Furthermore, they will present data showing how the Labour Party could not garner up to 25 percent in 21 states and it could only win a governorship in the March 18 polls.

In the reply, the president-elect's team refuted allegations of the petitioners concerning the qualification of both Tinubu and Shettima to contest and pray the court to dismiss the petition.

Obawole community gets first public school

By Edith Igbokwe



Obawole community primary school

The community of Obawole in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government has finally got a public primary school after long years of agitation for a public school. The community was plagued with non-existence of a single government-owned primary school, making it difficult for the residents to enjoy or have access to

free education. Due to the challenge, most of the residents are forced to enroll their children in private schools with exorbitant fees which become unbearable to finance the education of their children over the time. However, their lost hope was rekindled when Obawole Primary School became a dream come true for the residents, which was

facilitated by the member, Federal House of Representatives, Hon. James Owolabi. The school contains one block of 12 classrooms, two extended administrative offices, Sports Arena/Open Space and Toilets to start with, looking forward to its extension sooner. The community extends to Olowo-Onibata area with over 35 Community Development

Associations (CDAs) and huge population depending on the new primary school for the educational need of their children in the community. The chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Hamzat, the member, representing the constituency at the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. James Owolabi as well as

the member representing the constituency at the State House of Assembly, Hon. Adewale Adedeji visited the new school last week to confirm the quality of the project. They assessed its development level and the readiness for official commissioning soon. Owolabi assured the people of his continuous impacts even after leaving office, saying he has made enough

connections to take Ifako-Ijaiye federal constituency forward.

He promised that the school will be properly handed over to the Local Government after official commissioning in couple of weeks.

After officially commissioned, the Obawole Primary School will be the first Government-Owned Primary School located in Ndiike Area of Obawole, Ifako-Ijaiye.

Hamzat appreciated the residents of Obawole community for donating the landed property that made the project a reality.

He also applauded the efforts put in by Rep Owolabi towards facilitating such an educational edifice for humanity, especially in Obawole community.

On his own, Adedeji commended Owolabi, describing him as the best MHRs for his impressive impacts in the area of infrastructural development of which Obawole community is a beneficiary.

The All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman, Ifako-Ijaiye LG, Deacon Banjo Omole commended the lawmaker for his "unrivalled track records and unalloyed passion for development" as he prayed for divine guidance in all his endeavours.

Also speaking, Ifako-Ijaiye CDC Chairman, Pastor Samuel Opajobi gave kudos to Owolabi for his giant strides and for birthing the long awaited school in Obawole.

He assured him of good maintenance while also appealing for employment opportunities for the unemployed educated youths in the local government area with cognate qualifications to be given employment opportunity to work in the school as teachers to reduce the rate of unemployment in the local government.

He expressed the gratitude of the entire Obawole and Olowo-Onibata communities, saying they remained indebted to the lawmaker for his laudable gesture and have his name engraved on the hearts of the people.

Seize the last days of Ramadan to pray for peace - Olabinjo admonishes Muslims

By Edith Igbokwe

House of Representatives Member-Elec for Ifako-Ijaiye Constituency, Hon. Benjamin Olabinjo (BAO) has urged Muslim faithful to use the last days of the holy month of Ramadan to seek Allah's mercy for peaceful coexistence in Ifako-Ijaiye, Lagos and Nigeria at large. According to him, the night of majesty known as 'Lai-la-tul-quadri' is very important as it said in the holy Qur'an that

prayers are answered during the night. He implored Muslims to Use the night to pray for the constituency so that everyone can eat the fruit of the land. He made the appeal at the Ramadan Lecture organised in the community to end the 2023 Ramadan fasting. The president of Ifako-Ijaiye Muslim community, Alhaji Lateef Sunmonu led believers in Ramadan lecture. After the lecture, Olabinjo host all to an iftar.



Holy Ramadan lecture in ifako-ijaiye

Rep Agunsoye facilitates 80-bed capacity PHC

By Edith Igbokwe



Kosofe PHC inspection

project to ascertain its quality and assess the current state of the project as resolved by the Assembly on the urgent need to improve the quality of all primary healthcare facilities in the state for effective healthcare service delivery.

The newly constructed 80-bed ultra-modern primary healthcare centre located at Emmanu Government Area is to boost the quality of primary healthcare service delivery in the constituency.

The federal government-sponsored project, the Ojota Ultra-modern Primary Healthcare facility is expected to be handed over to the Lagos State Government down to Kosofe Local Government by Agunsoye for proper management immediately after its commissioning.

The lawmaker representing Kosofe

Constituency II at the State House of Assembly, Hon. Femi Saheed was among the committee members that went for the

inspection of the healthcare facility in his own constituency.

Kosofe Local Government Chairman, Barr. Moyosore

Ogunlewe, and the officials of the Ministry of Health and Primary Healthcare Board were present at the inspection ground.

The has facilitated an The 80-bed capacity primary healthcare center facilitated by Member, House of Representatives in Kosofe Constituency, Prince Rotimi Agunsoye is about to be commissioned as the

project is expected to be completed soon.

While inspecting the facility, the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on health services confirmed the quality of the project.

According to the committee, it is necessary to inspect the

Akintunde confirms ambition for Ikosi-Isheri LCDA chairmanship in 2025

By Edith Igbokwe

One of the aspirants vying for the chairmanship position in Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Prince Bidemi Akintunde (Stainless) has confirmed his ambition to contest for the council chairmanship in 2025.

He made the clarification following the reports on various platforms tagging his ambition as fake news.

According to him, "it is not fake news, I have the right to vote and be voted for. Akintunde stands for Equality, Inclusiveness, Development and sincere open door



Prince Akintunde

policy, the unifier is coming."

His confirmation has caused a stir in the political circles in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA as many speculated that he could pose a serious challenge to the incumbent chairman, princess Samiat Bada. It was gathered that no

fewer than 10 contestants through the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) are eyeing the council chairmanship seat.

As other contestants are preparing to join the race, political observers believe that the chairmanship contest is going to be tough.

CDC rewards 3 CDAs in Kosofe

By Edith Igbokwe

Three Community Development Associations (CDAs) in Kosofe Local Government have been rewarded for their consistence in executing projects in their communities.

The selection criteria for the award was based on selflessness and insightful projects executed in their various communities.

The three CDAs include Soluyi 1 CDA led by Elder Eniayewun for the construction of Fred Karimu-Omojole link bridge, Peace Estate CDA came second led by Pastor Oseni for the purchase of a 500KVA Transformer for their Community, and Ogudu-Ori Oke CDA led by Chief Akinmusir for facilitating a road construction with interlock, paving



CDAs in kosofe with state cash awards

stones and erection of street lights in their community.

The award was presented by Kosofe Community Development Committee (CDC) chairman, Mr. Segun Babatunde.

The chairman, Kosofe Local government, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe lauded the three communities for a job well accomplished.

He said the community

is an integral part of larger society and must be seen as executor of communal projects since government cannot do it all alone.

He noted that it is imperative that CDAs must help to lighten the heavy yoke.

He appreciated the community Associations for making Kosofe proud, charging them to work harder as he wished them more.

KOSOFE LG holds annual Ramadan lecture

The chairman of Kosofe Local Government Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe, host the Unified Local Government Muslim (Staff) Association Lagos State, Kosofe Chapter to another Ramadan Lecture.

The event held at the secretariat was conducted by guest lecturer, Iman Imran Rufai, the Director of

the Arabic Village, Ikosi-Ketu, Lagos.

Speaking at the event, the Imam spoke on the Role of Ramadan in Strengthening the Relationship With Allah, His Creations, Developing Self-Discipline And Will-Power.

His words: "Muslims should emulate the fathers of Islam and follow their teachings." The Ramadan lecture

was graced by the Secretary to the local government, Hon. Fatai Gbadebo, Councillors, Head of Administration, Mrs. Ogabi A. Supervisors, SSAs, Management and Staff.

Other religious leaders present at the event are Abdulraheem O. Obasa, Chief Imam Kosofe LG.; Alhaji Sikiru, Amin, Kosofe LG. Mosque; Alhaja Risikat Adedeji, Amira, Kosofe.

Council boss sympathizes with Balogun market traders

By Saheed Afolabi

Various stakeholders in Mushin and its environs have appealed to the new Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, CP Idowu Owohunwa, to increase the number of personnel and provide more equipment for the police officers to combat crimes and maintain security in the 10 divisions of the Area command.

The request was made by the stakeholders during a familiarisation visit by the new commissioner of police where members of the community commended the new Area Commander and officers of the various divisions in Area D Police Command for their commitment towards reducing crime and maintaining peace in the 10 divisions under the Area Command.

The CP, who graduated from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, with a Second Class Upper in International Relations, expressed his vision to succeed with a policy of inclusiveness in his leadership style and good relations with the citizens.

He stated that his purpose for the familiarisation visit was to help him understand the peculiarity of the Area Command through feedbacks from stakeholders on the



CP Idowu Owohunwa

security challenges and assessment of performance of his officers in order to improve on policing and make the divisions in the command safer and better for everyone to live.

Speaking at the familiarisation visit, the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, thanked the Commissioner for the professional and peaceful conduct of his officers throughout the 2023 general elections. He described the Area Commander, ACP Ibrahim Chika, as a hardworking and intelligent man who is ready and committed to duty.

The council boss commended the Area Commander and his

men for having their grip and total control of security in the entire Mushin metropolis since his resumption. He attributed the success achieved during the dislodgement of a group of hoodlums terrorising Itire community to the hardwork and dedication of the Police. He finally encouraged members of the community to express the feelings and challenges they have with officers of the Nigeria police in the Area D command.

His colleague from Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsuru Oloyede Obe, in his comment, described the Area Commander and his officers as dutiful, respectful and committed to duty.

He, however, appealed to the commissioner to help provide brand new

operational vehicles for the police with additional manpower, to help the officers perform effectively, especially with the increasing rate of human population and criminal activities in his community.

The two religious leaders, Primate Akindele of Christian Association of Nigeria and Chief Imam of Mushin, Alhaji Sulaiman Olanijo, both poured encomium on men of the Nigeria Police in the Area D command with their Commander.

They requested for the improvement in the welfare packages of the police and provision of more equipment and personnel, for them to operate successfully in the control of crime and security.

Other stakeholders who spoke at the interactive familiarisation visit included members of Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC), led by Engr. Jacob Ogungbe, Community Development Association (CDA), Ladipo Market Traders and other stakeholders in the 10 Police Divisions under the area command which included Mushin, Itire, Alakara, Ijesha, Aswani, Ajao Estate, Okota, Isolo, Ejigbo and Ilesamaja.

The commissioner of

Police who has worked within the ranks and files with wide experience across many states in the country and international trainings with the Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) in the United States of America, London Metropolitan Police (UK), United Nations, Botswana, Israeli and has written many publications in Criminal Justice, Policing and Intelligence, also worked as principal staff officer with three Inspector General of Police before his promotion and deployment as the Lagos State Commissioner of Police.

In his final remarks, CP Owohunwa thanked the stakeholders for their observations and appealed to them for more assistance and support for the police. He challenged his officers to sustain their level of diligence in their services and maintain cordial relationship with the stakeholders.

He regretted the unfortunate incident which occurred at Okota which left a Police Inspector dead with the DPO injured. He however confirmed the arrest of motorcycle operators at the Okota spot where the incident occurred with over 300 motorcycles impounded in the operations carried out on 13th April, 2023.

The police commissioner

expressed that "Lagos State has a history of diligent, hardworking and courageous officers who work round the clock". He stated that Okada is a menace in Lagos and should not be allowed to make the state ungovernable. He said "No state can grow through disobedience to constituted authorities."

He declared that those who feel the way to go is by attacking his men would face the full wrath of law.

According to the Lagos police boss, "Anyone, either cultist or area boys, who lifts his hands against the police in the course of their duty, will be dealt with, under the constitutional provisions guiding their operations".

He declared that the battle line has been drawn at the exact location where his officers have been attacked. He admonished members of the community to be on guard against inflammable information that could trigger public unrest.

He commended members of PCRC for their support since 1980s and encouraged them not to relent in their assistance to the police. He ordered the Area Commander and the Divisional heads of the 10 police divisions to always convene a quarterly interactive meeting with members and stakeholders in their various communities and send the reports to his office.

Prepare your girl-child for marital responsibilities, Islamic scholar tasks mothers

By Saheed Afolabi



Hon Emmanuel Bamigboye with the Chief Missioner of United Muslims Council

Islamic scholar, Sheikh Mohammed Ajagbe, has tasked mothers to always inculcate good legacies in their children in order to prepare them for matrimony and family responsibilities.

He said this while delivering a lecture titled "The Role of Women in Islam" at the 2023 Ramadan Lecture held at the council secretariat.

He admonished women to always prepare their female children as pillars and helpmates for their future husbands in their matrimonial homes and the society.

A cording to him, the teaching on how to handle home in marriage by the females starts

from their mothers.

Also speaking, the chairman of Mushin LG, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, who joined the council of Imams in Mushin Local Government at the Lecture, said the youths need to be lectured more by the religious scholars to perfect their lives.

The council boss posited that if the youths were left alone without the words of God, the world would have been worst.

He stated that anyone who does not appreciate the teachings of God is doing so at their own risk "because the teachings and knowledge of God are like a light that guides man in his journey of life."

Bamigboye thanked the Council of Imams for the various lectures being organised during the holy

month.

He commended them for upholding the tenets of Islam and teachings of the Holy prophet Mohammed (SAW), which has kept the youths and children away from social vices and juvenile delinquencies.

He commended them for the lessons they have patiently and diligently acquired from their fore fathers which they are now transmitting to the new generation to imbibe the fear of God and knowledge of holiness in the minds of youths and children in the society.

The chairman, who was received by the Chief Imam of Mushin, Alhaji Sheikh Sulaiman Olanijo, prayed for the Imams to continue with the teachings, and long life for them to celebrate many more years of Ramadan on earth.

Faleke gives 620 small business owners grants



Hon Faleke

No fewer than 620 small business owners in Ikeja Federal Constituency got grants from the Member of the Federal House of Representatives representing the Constituency, Hon. James Faleke to support their businesses. He gave the grant as empowerment fund to those who participated in the vocational trainings organised for the people especially the youths in the constituency. According to the lawmaker, the empowerment was targeted at Small Scale and Medium Enterprises

and some unemployed youths, market women and widows who were given cash to startup business after training. Tagged 'Mr. Empowerment' due to his various empowerment programmes since elected as a member of the House of Representatives, Faleke

was said to be one of the best leaders the constituency has ever produced, as the beneficiaries lauded him for the recent empowerment gesture. Commenting on the programs, Faleke said "a good work delivered is definitely a call for higher and more work."

He promised continuation of empowerment programmes to raise the standard of living of his constituents. He, therefore, requested for their prayers for God to continue endowing him with more grace to deliver more good works, and to be protected from all evils and to grant his heart desires.

Odunmbaku distributes good items to Christians

By Edith Igbokwe

In commemoration of Easter celebration, the chairman of Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. David Odunmbaku, distributed food items to the Christians in the locality, appreciating them for promoting peaceful coexistence among the residents and the support given to his administration. The food items were handed over to the local council branch leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and some churches in Ojodu environs. He implored religious leaders to teach their members about the importance of sacrifice and how to live Christ-like life, urging the residents of Ojodu LCDA to learn and imbibe selflessness that the season teaches. He also promised that similar gestures would be extended to the Muslim community in the spirit of Ramadan



Food support items.

as he also charged the Muslims to remain holy for Allah to accept all the fasting, prayers, worship and good deeds done in the holy month. "May the holy month of Ramadan illuminate lives to Allah's blessings, peace, and mercy," he prayed.

Odunmbaku donates N1m to rescue kidney patient

By Edith Igbokwe



Presentation of N1m donation

Mrs. Hassan Adebamijoko has appreciated the kind gesture of Ojodu Local Council Development Area LCDA chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku for supporting her health condition with the sum of N1 million. The beneficiary was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in 2021, medical report showed that one of her kidneys was ectopic while the other one was bad which she was not aware of until the test was carried out late 2021. Ever since then, she has

been on drugs to sustain the ailment. Fortunately, Hassan has found a kidney donor but needs N15 million to carry out surgery for transplanting. As part of his support, the council chairman donated N1 million as he implored the public to assist in donating towards the humanitarian effort of saving Mrs. Hassan Adebamijoko Rashidat. While receiving the chairman's donation, the beneficiary's sister appreciated the chairman for the kind gesture, saying it would be a food example of a leader. She therefore, appealed to

other philanthropists within and outside the council area for their support for her sister to live again. "We really appreciate our council chairman for his donation towards the health challenge of my sister. We pray Almighty God be with him to be success in his dealings. We are hereby appealing to every other person to come to our aids, we need N15 million for the surgery. May the good God support you as well." People can contact the local council chairman to make enquiry for their supports.

Echoneews

SPECIAL PULL-OUT ON HON. (DR.) AHMED OLANREWAJU APATIRA'S BIRTHDAY

My 2023
birthday'll be
remembered for
Asiwaju Bola
Ahmed Tinubu's
success - Apatira

APATIRA ADDS ANOTHER YEAR

Hon. (Dr.) Ahmed Olanrewaju Apatira,
Executive Chairman, Itire-ikate LCDA

My 2023 birthday'll be remembered for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu's success - Apatira

Today, Monday, April 17, 2023, the Executive chairman of Itire-Ikate LCDA, Hon. (Dr.) Ahmed Olanrewaju Apatira, is celebrating his birthday. In this interview with ECHONEWS Editor, ABOLAJI ADEBAYO, he expressed his joy over the political success of the new Nigerian President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, saying his 2023 birthday will forever be remembered for Asiwaju's success at poll. He also spoke on his family's roles in his growing up, his political journey and his commitment to his people at the grassroots. Excerpts:



Hon Ahmed Apatira

being. In addition to our immediate family, we were also supported by extended family members, who were an integral part of our upbringing. They provided guidance, advice, and mentorship, contributing to our personal and social growth.

Overall, the roles of my family members in my upbringing were centered around providing support, guidance, and encouragement. This support system helped to shape my character, and it has been a significant factor in my ability to lead and serve others in my community.

What will you remember this year's birthday for?

Certainly, as for me, I will remember this year's birthday as the year that ushered in my revered leader Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as the President-elect of Nigeria and his recognition by TIME magazine as one of the most influential leaders in the world. His success in grassroots politics has greatly inspired me, and his focus on helping fellow human beings is a lesson we can all learn from. In the Quran, I have found many verses that emphasize the importance of helping others, and one of them is Surah Al-Ma'idah 5:2. This verse encourages us to work together in righteousness and piety and avoid sin and aggression. It reminds us to fear Allah and cooperate in doing good, a value I hold dear in my personal and political life.

Overall, this year's birthday has been significant for me because it has reinforced my belief in the importance of helping others, as exemplified by my role model Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the teachings of the Qur'an.

At what stage of your life did you venture into politics or were you born into it?

As the saying goes, "Man is a political animal." This means that politics is a natural part of human life, and it is something that we are all born into. While some people may be more inclined to politics than others, everyone has the potential to be involved in politics in some way.

Birth day celebration is a reflection of the past, how has the journey been so far?

Thank you for asking that question. Indeed, birthdays are a time of reflection and gratitude for the journey we have taken thus far. As the Chairman of this ldda, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve my constituents over the years.

The journey has been full of challenges but also rewarding experiences. We have been able to complete several projects that have improved the lives of our people. We have also implemented policies and initiatives to promote our constituents' well-being.

For instance, we have prioritized the provision of basic amenities such as clean water and electricity to ensure that our people have access to the basic necessities of life. We have also invested in education and healthcare, which are essential for human development.

We have also made efforts to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, which has led to increased economic activities in the ldda. This has provided job opportunities for our teeming youths and improved the standard of living for our people.

However, we are not resting on our laurels. We recognize that there is still a lot of work to be done, and we remain

committed to improving the lives of our constituents. We have a vision of a more prosperous and developed ldda, and we work towards that goal daily.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the journey so far and committed to serving my constituents to the best of my ability. Thank you.

Can you tell us how you grew up and where?

I grew up in Lagos and of Yoruba/Muslim parentage. We are typical Lagosians, and I grew up in and around Ikate and Surulere. My siblings and I were raised to be God-fearing, and our parents took good care of our needs, especially in the area of education. We were made to respect elders and constituted authorities and be good citizens. My parents took good care of our needs, especially in the area of education. They emphasized the value of education and hard work as a means of personal development and success in life. As a result, my siblings and

I were well equipped to pursue our dreams and contribute positively to society.

In our home, there was a culture of moral uprightness, and my parents modeled this in their actions and interactions with others. I never experienced any rancor or bitterness in our home, which is a testament to the harmonious relationships that existed within our family. Growing up in Lagos, I experienced the vibrant life of the city and the diverse cultures that make up its population. My Yoruba Muslim heritage and upbringing have played a significant role in shaping my worldview and character.

Overall, my upbringing was one that emphasized strong values and a commitment to personal and social growth. It has had a significant impact on my life and my ability to lead and serve others in my community.

Can you explain the roles of your family members in your upbringing?

Indeed, my family played a significant role in my

upbringing, and I am grateful for their support and guidance. One of the notable things about my family is that there was no sibling rivalry among us. Instead, we grew up to support each other's dreams materially, prayerfully, and emotionally. This support system provided a nurturing environment for us to pursue our goals and aspirations. My parents played a significant role in our upbringing, providing for our needs and emphasizing the importance of education and moral uprightness. They modelled the values they wanted us to embody and instilled in us a sense of respect for elders and constituted authorities.

As siblings, we also played an active role in each other's lives. We supported each other in our academic pursuits and extracurricular activities, providing assistance and encouragement as needed. We also shared a strong bond of prayer, regularly praying for each other's success and well-

For me my interest in politics was nurtured from a young age by the values that were instilled in me by my parents and the community I grew up in. However, it was not until later in life that I actively ventured into politics. I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by great mentors who eventually chaperoned and guided my journey into politics. Having mentors is essential for anyone who wants to develop their political potential. These mentors can help bring out the hidden tendencies we all have as political animals and guide us towards positively impacting our communities.

As for the specific stage of my life when I entered politics, I prefer not to mention a specific date. What is essential is that we are all born with the potential to be involved in politics and to lead, and it is up to us to nurture and develop that potential with the help of mentors and a supportive community, parents, siblings, friends and even the environment.

What motivated you to go into politics?

For me, the motivation to go into politics was borne out of an innate desire to help the less privileged in society and contribute to nation-building. Politics can be a powerful tool to effect positive change in our communities and make a difference in people's lives. Through my involvement in politics, I have worked with others of similar minds to create policies that benefit those most in need and to advocate for the rights of the marginalized and underrepresented.

I am passionate about improving access to education, healthcare, and social services for all members of society, and politics provides a platform for me to make a meaningful contribution towards achieving these goals.

Ultimately, my motivation for going into politics is rooted in a desire to serve



my community and positively impact the lives of those around me. By working together, we can harness the power of politics to create a better future for ourselves and future generations.

How would you describe grassroots politics in Lagos, citing your local council, Itire Ikate Local Council Development Area, as an example?

As its name implies, grassroots politics refers to the most basic level of politics. As politicians in the local council development areas, we are the closest to the people in rural areas. Itire Ikate Local Council Development Area, where I am the chairman, is a perfect example of 'grassroots' in Lagos. Here, we are fully aware of the needs of the people and

work tirelessly to address them. Being close to the grassroots, I receive numerous visitors who throng my office daily for one thing or another. This means there is no hiding place for any grassroots politician, so we must perform if we want to walk on the street. It is not easy in my LCDA, which is classified as urban and has many learned people who have travelled far and wide. However, we have been able to strike a balance between the needs of the people and the demands of modernity, and this is what gives Lagos state its cosmopolitan and metropolitan outlook.

In summary, grassroots politics is essential because it allows us to understand the needs of the people at the most basic level and

work to address them. As a politician at the local government level, I am proud to be able to serve my community and make a difference in people's lives.

What will you say caused the low vote count recorded by your party, APC, in the last presidential election?

The low vote count recorded by the APC in the last presidential election was a result of several factors, one of which was the low turnout of people. The lack of cash to board vehicles to polling booths and petrol scarcity were significant hindrances to the electorates, making it difficult for them to exercise their voting rights. Again, there was a sense of apathy among supporters of the APC who believed that their presidential candidate was unbeatable in Lagos due to his and his successors' track record of performance. This belief led to some supporters staying at home instead of casting their ballots, forgetting that every ballot counts towards the total tally. The election was a watershed moment in the history of elections in Lagos and Nigeria, highlighting the need for improved voter turnout and education.

As a chairman of the Local Government, what do you expect from the residents as their contributions to the development of your local council area?

As the local council development area chairman, every resident has a role in developing the local council area. One significant contribution is the payment of taxes, which is a civic responsibility of every citizen. As the famous quote goes, "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society," and it is through taxes that we are able to provide basic amenities such as good roads, water supply, healthcare, education, and security. In addition to the payment of taxes, residents can contribute to the area's development by volunteering their time and skills for community

development projects.

This can include cleaning up the environment, participating in public health campaigns, supporting local businesses, and working with community groups to improve the overall quality of life in the area. Furthermore, residents can participate in town hall meetings and other community events to voice their concerns and suggestions on how to improve the local council area. This feedback can help guide the government's decision-making process and ensure that policies and programs align with the community's needs.

Overall, the development of a local council area is a collective responsibility that requires the participation of everyone. By paying taxes, volunteering time and skills, and actively engaging in community development activities, residents can contribute to the growth and progress of their local council area.

What can you be proud of as your achievements as a local council chairman so far?

As a local council chairman, one of my proudest achievements is the area's infrastructure improvement. We have carried out several road construction and rehabilitation projects, which have considerably eased the movement of goods and people. We have also provided boreholes and water facilities in different parts of the community, ensuring people can access clean and safe drinking water.

Additionally, we have embarked on various healthcare initiatives, including constructing a health centre and providing medical equipment to existing healthcare facilities. We have also prioritized the welfare of our staff, providing training and development opportunities to improve their skills and ensure better service delivery

Furthermore, we have engaged in various community development projects, such as providing scholarships to deserving students and empowering women through skills acquisition programs, and we also aim to provide support to farmers to boost agricultural productivity.

Finally, we have also greatly emphasised security, partnering with law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of lives and property in the area. All these efforts have been geared towards improving the living standards of the people in the local council development area and making it a better place to live and work.

What legacy do you plan to leave for your successor when you leave office?

A quote by former United States President Obama comes to mind: "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

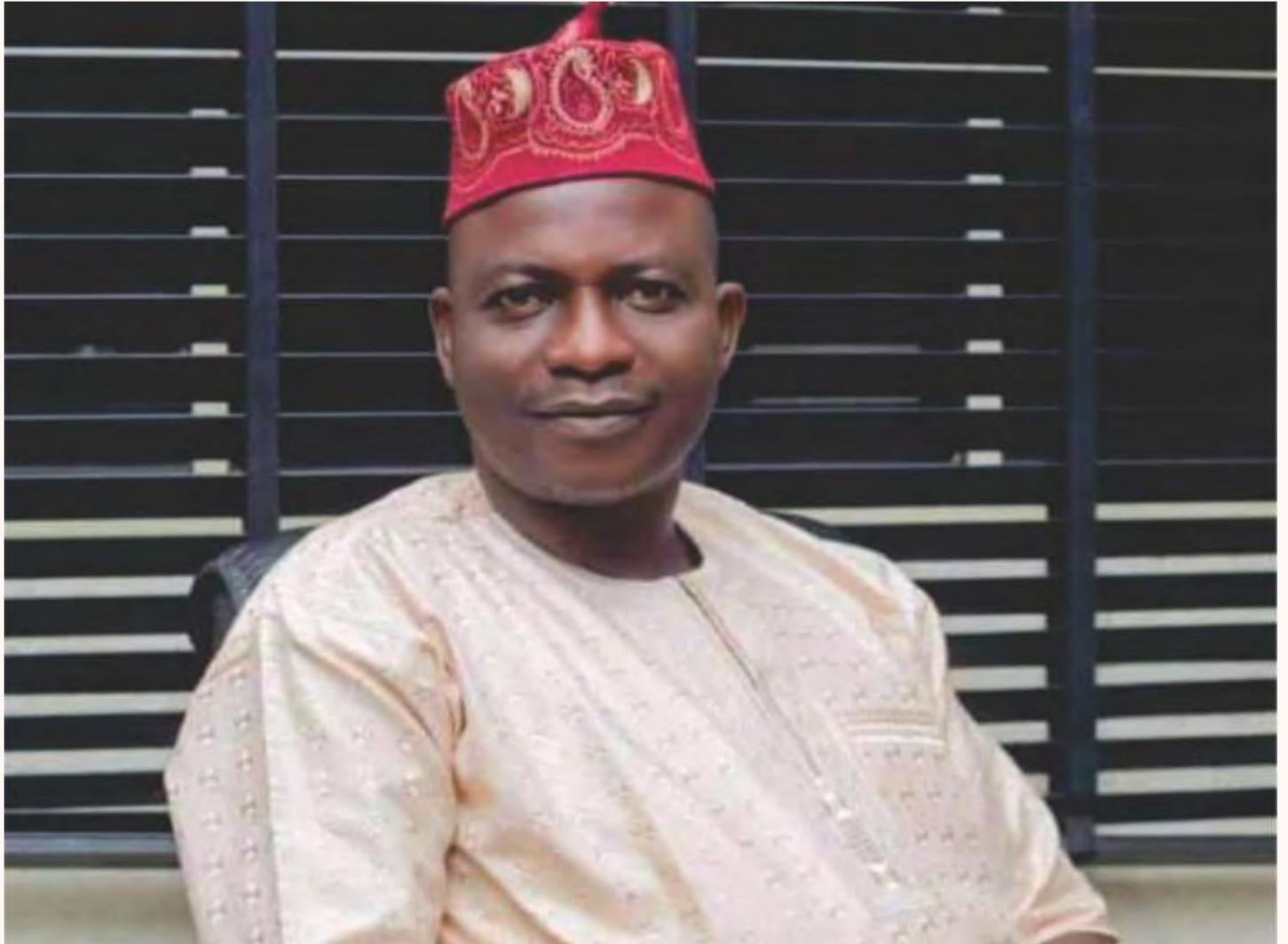
As a local council chairman, the legacy I leave for my successor should be one of progress, development, and continuity. It is important that I lay a solid foundation that my successor can build upon. This means ensuring that the local council is financially stable, creating policies and programs that benefit the community, improving infrastructure, and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, it is essential to leave behind a legacy of good governance and ethical leadership. This means promoting integrity, honesty, and professionalism in local council operations.

Additionally, I would like to empower and train my staff to be competent and effective in their roles so that they can continue to provide quality service to the community even after my tenure ends. Ultimately, my goal is to leave a legacy of progress, development, and good governance that will benefit the people of the local council for years to come.

What are you putting in place to ensure your achievements will be maintained when you eventually leave office?

As the local council chairman, I understand the importance of continuity in governance and the need to ensure that my achievements are not only maintained but improved upon by my successor. To achieve this, I am putting in place a comprehensive handover process that will ensure a seamless transition of power. This includes documenting all ongoing projects, policies, and initiatives, providing regular briefings and updates to the incoming administration, and ensuring that all necessary resources are available to facilitate the



Hon. Hameed Apatira

continuation of existing projects. Furthermore, I am committed to building institutional capacity within the local council, including the development of standard operating procedures, the establishment of an effective monitoring and evaluation system, and the training and empowerment of staff to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge necessary to sustain the progress made in the LCDA.

Ultimately, my goal is to create a sustainable legacy that will continue to benefit the residents of the LCDA even after my tenure as chairman.

What do you foresee about the incoming government under the President-Elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu?

Thank you for the question. The incoming government under President-Elect Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu holds great promise for Nigeria. With his vast experience in leadership, governance, finance, and activism, he has the capacity to provide visionary leadership and steer the country towards greater prosperity. His focus on running a government of 'National Competence', based on merit and the appointment of competent individuals irrespective of age, tribe, or political affiliation, is a welcome departure from the norm. This approach will enable the government to tap into the best talent

available and drive development across all sectors of the economy. As he has stated, his administration will bring 'Renewed Hope' to Nigerians who have lost faith in leadership, and I am confident that his vision, leadership, and dedication will lead to a brighter future for our country.

What do you expect from the Federal government as local council chairman in Lagos State?

As a local council chairman in Lagos State, the Federal government should prioritize devolving more powers to the local government. This approach has proven effective in other countries, where local governments are empowered to implement policies and programs that meet the needs of their communities. Additionally, I expect the Federal government to disburse all revenues collected on behalf of councils in Lagos State promptly, including the VAT (Value Added Tax) mainly collected from Lagos. Furthermore, local governments should be given autonomy to carry out their functions effectively. This will ensure that decisions are made quickly and efficiently and that resources are allocated where they are most needed. This is a common expectation of local councils in other countries, where they are granted autonomy to govern themselves and take responsibility for the development of their areas.

In summary, I expect the Federal government to prioritize devolving more powers to the local government, disburse revenues promptly, and ensure local government autonomy becomes a reality. This will allow us as local council chairmen to effectively carry out our duties and contribute to the development of our communities.

What is your priority in the coming government?"

As a local council chairman, my priority in the coming government is to fulfil all the campaign promises made to the people in the party's manifesto. This includes prioritizing the provision of basic amenities such as good roads, water, health care, and educational facilities. Additionally, I will ensure a peaceful co-existence among the different tribes in the local council development area and a conducive atmosphere for commercial activities to thrive. Furthermore, I will work towards ensuring that the local council receives prompt disbursement of revenues collected on its behalf and that the autonomy of local government becomes a reality. These priorities are crucial for the development of the local council and the improvement of the lives of the people.

Finally, sir, what should the people in your LCDA expect from your government before your tenure expires in 2025 sir?

As the chairman of this local council development area, I want to assure my people that we will continue to work tirelessly to deliver on all our campaign promises. My priority will be to ensure that all our projects and initiatives are completed and that more developmental projects are executed before the expiration of my tenure in 2025. My people should expect more dividends of democracy, as we will work harder to improve their standard of living and provide basic amenities like good roads, healthcare, and educational facilities. We will also continue to promote peace, unity, and progress in our LCDA.

In similar positions all over the democratic world, electorates expect their elected leaders to be accountable, transparent, and responsive to the needs of the people. They expect their leaders to provide good governance, create jobs, promote economic growth and development, and improve the people's standard of living. The people also expect their leaders to be honest, sincere, committed to serving their constituents, and accountable for their actions and decisions. Our people in this LCDA are not different in this regard, I want to assure my people that we will strive to meet these expectations and deliver on our mandate as their elected representative.

GALLERY OF SOME OF THE NUMEROUS ACHIEVEMENTS



Commissioning of Omilana Street



Presentation of Official vehicles to Political Office Holders and Management Staff



Graduation and Empowerment ceremony for Participants of Skill Acquisition training program



Free Medical Outreach by Boskoh tagged Jigi Bola Relaunch



Akorede International Market, during construction



Presentation of Utility Buses to the Nigerian Police Force



Ongoing Construction of Itire-Ikate Customary Court

GALLERY OF SOME OF THE NUMEROUS ACHIEVEMENTS



Distribution of school bags to pupils



Construction of drainage and interlocking system paving stone at Oshofisan street



presentation of a sewing machine to a disabled resident



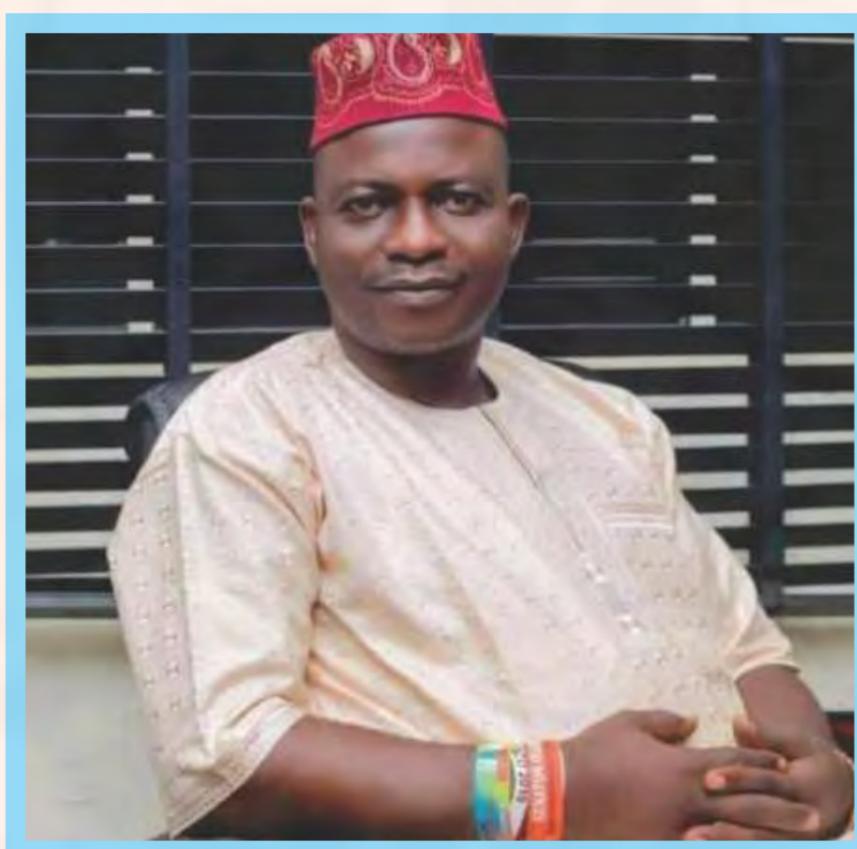
presentation of a sewing machine to a resident



Collection of distributed business and household equipment



The Executive, Legislative, Management and the entire Staff of Itire-Ikate Local Council Development Area, Lagos State wishes our Chairman



**Hon. (Dr.) Ahmed
OLANREWAJU APATIRA**

a fabulous birthday.

Happy birthday to an exemplary leader!
Your leadership by teamwork inspired us to attain success
and we are proud of your contributions towards
the development of Itire-Ikate LCDA.
Happy birthday to the most extra-ordinary administrator!

Signed:

Hon. Kehinde Baruwa
Secretary to The Local Government
On behalf of Itire-Ikate LCDA



My Dear Brother

Wish you
all the best
as you mark
your day

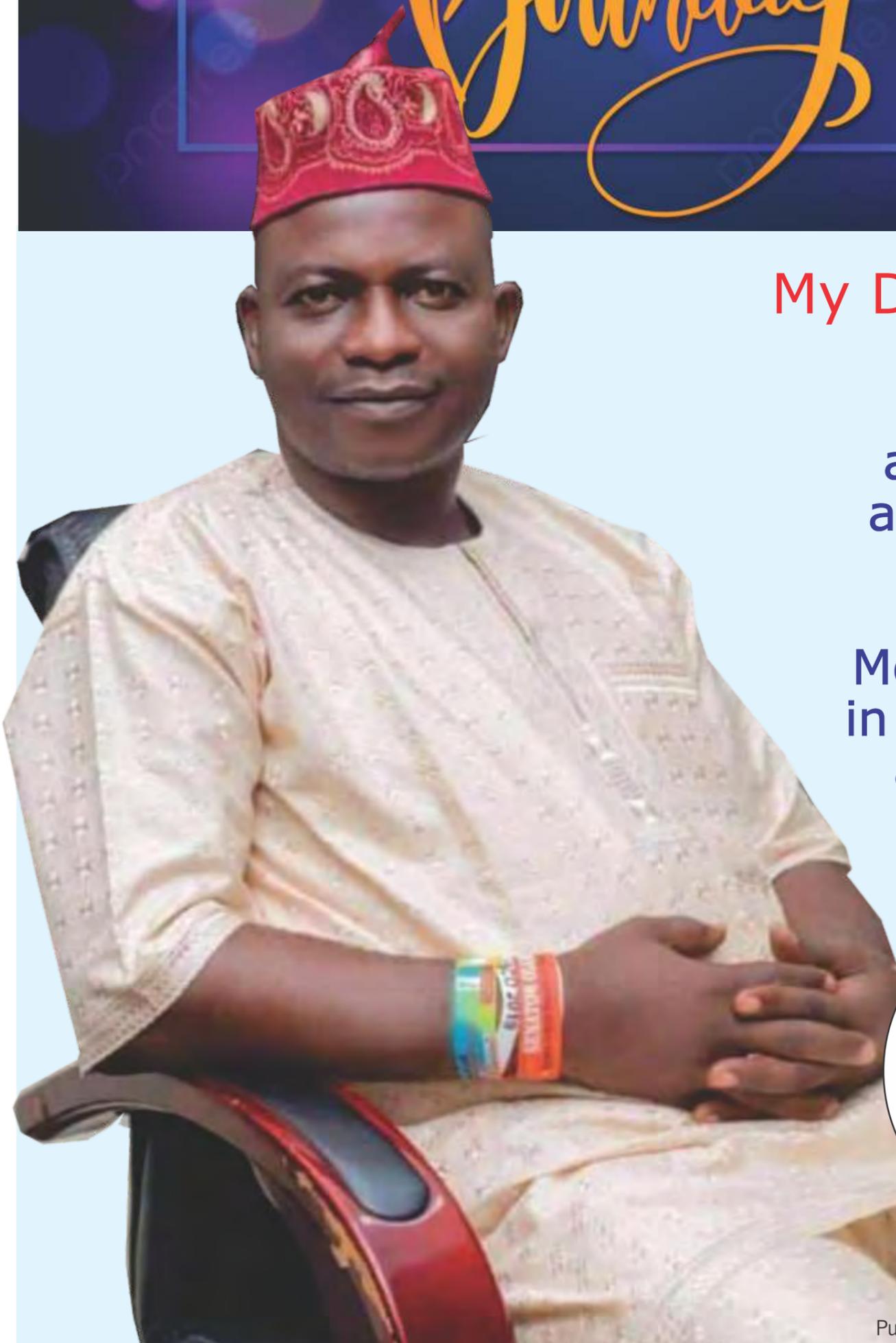
More decades
in good health
and wealth

Signed



**HON. KEHINDE
BAMIGBETAN**

Publisher, Echonews Newspapers LTD



I'm building on my predecessor's legacy - Babatunde

By Rasaq Adebayo



Hon Johnson Babatunde

The chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area, Hon. Johnson Babatunde, has disclosed that he is consolidating on the legacy of his predecessor, the former council chairman, Hon. Taofeek Adaranijo to move the local council forward. He said this when Adaranijo paid him a courtesy visit on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

While expressing his honour to receive his predecessor, Babatunde said Adaranijo left a good legacy while he was at the helms of affairs in the LCDA, reiterating that his administration has consolidated on the legacy with numerous human, educational, developmental programmes and projects. The council boss used the opportunity to show his predecessor some of the recently completed projects which include legislative chamber, Adaranijo Taofeek multi purpose event center, the newly rehabilitated council secretariat and Claudiana Ibijoke public health centre at Omotoye Estate to mention a few. The former council boss who is now the commissioner representing Ikeja Division at the Local Government Service Commission said he was excited to see

great developmental projects executed by Babatunde, He prayed that the Almighty God give him strength to finish the remaining projects, and more wisdom in steering the ship of Orile - Agege successfully. He, therefore, urged other local council chairmen to emulate Babatunde, testifying that he has given dividends of democracy to the people of Orile-Agege LCDA.

Council boss lauds community media



By Rasaq Adebayo

The chairman of Orile-Agege Local Council Development Area, Hon. Johnson Babatunde, has commended the efforts if community media in the local council area. He noted that community media practitioners have contributed immensely to the development of the grassroots with their positive and insightful reportage of the government's activities. According to him, the community media is synonymous with

grassroots development since they are closer to the government and people at the grassroots. He said the community media should be accorded the respect and support needed for them to grow and present timely information about the grassroots governance to the people. The council chairman particularly commended the first online community media platform, Agegetv in the council area for its community news reportage and media

related activities in Agege and Orile-Agege. The council boss, called "Mr Project" by his people, described the media platform as the best community media platform among others in the council area. He made the statement while appreciating the efforts of all community media practitioners in Agege, during the inspection of his projects by the pioneer executive chairman of the Local Council Development Area, Hon. Taofeek Adaranijo, who paid him a courtesy visit last week.

Osolana appreciates Agege, Orile-Agege residents

By Rasaq Adebayo

The candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during the last National Assembly elections, Hon. Sola Osolana has appreciated the residents of Agege and Orile-Agege as he organised an Easter

celebration with them. The Business cum politician praised the residents for standing tall and aiming for development. He said: "I thank all the residents for their support and willingness to have greater Agege and Orile-Agege. I urge all residents

to emulate our Lord Jesus Christ in terms of belief, trust and sacrifice to uplift our environment. In the spirit of the season, I wish you prosperous Easter celebration in life." Osolana later appealed to all residents to maintain peace and order in all their dealings



Osolana

Isolo LCDA partners LSETF, Sahara Group, Wecyclers on waste-to-wealth initiative

By Rasaan Adebayo

The residents of the Isolo Local Council Development Area have been charged to key into the initiative of converting waste (plastic bottles, nylon, plastic, cartons) into wealth creation under the recycling expose that has just berthed in the council area.

The charge was made at the council Secretariat on Thursday during the unveiling of the

recyclable waste collection depot.

Speaking at the event, the Director of Strategy for Lagos State Employment Trust Fund Mrs. Adewunmi Omolara said that for a greener and cleaner Lagos to be achieved as part of the vision of the State Government, there is need for residents of Lagos State to be availed with the opportunity of wealth creation from their waste and, by so doing, engender an

environment that is safe for living which was the main reason for the waste to wealth initiative.

She added that Lagos State Employment Trust Fund is in partnership with Sahara Foundation and Wecyclers in order to help the residents of Lagos state on making money from their waste as she assured that more depots will spring up in other areas of the state in due course.

In the same vein, the Director for Energy and

Sustainability of Sahara Foundation, Mrs. Teju Abisoye lauded the Council Authority of Isolo LCDA for providing the necessary support which made the opening of the centre a reality thereby bringing the huge benefit derivable by residents closer.

On the benefits of recycling through waste to wealth creation, she said it will help the residents to properly control waste generation and make them to be more conscious of making wealth from their waste which, in the long run, averts environmental abuse.

Reeling out their modus operandi, the Chief Operating Officer of Wecyclers said the depot will be opening Mondays through Fridays to accept recyclables and document such supplies properly.

According to her, "we operate a seamless process that have our suppliers rewarded in cash upon accepting their recyclable wastes."

She explained that cash redemption of supply sums comes up quarterly to allow for handsome take-homes at the turn of every quarter as she encouraged residents to maximize the

opportunity.

In his closing remarks, the Council Chairman Olasoju Adebayo ably represented by the Council Manager, Mr. Samson Akinbami appreciated the LSETF, Sahara Foundation and Wecyclers for the human-oriented initiative which will help in waste management and also help the residents to make money from their waste.

He added that the current council administration is open to collaborations that will continue to ameliorate the plight of the residents and help them in making a good living.

15-year-old wins N1m at 3rd annual Quran competition

A 15-year-old Ibrahim AbdulGafar on Sunday clinched the N1million grand prize at the 3rd edition of the annual Qur'an Competition organised by the Ilferioluwa organisation and Penckers School, Lagos, in memory of late Wasilat Olaronke Ashabi Ayinde-Marshall, daughter of Fuji maestro, Wasiu Ayinde Marshall.

The keenly contested competition held on the premises of Penckers Schools, Addawt Close off Adebisi Omotola Street, Isolo produced six lucky winners from 57 contestants who slugged it out in two categories (senior and junior).

AbdulGafar emerged winner from the senior category following his impeccable and accurate recitation of the Holy Qur'an.

He was trailed by Abdul Quadri Atukale and Muhaz Bada who came second and third respectively winning for themselves cash prize of N500,000 and N250,000 each.

In the second category where participants were tested for their memorisation of the Holy Qur'an from Suratul A-Qaf to Suratul Nas, the winner, Olanrewaju AbduWadud claimed the N500,000 star

prize as Kareem Aminat and Rabiun Marzug came second and third, respectively to smile home with N250,000 and 150,000 each.

The Chairman of Isolo LCDA, Olasoju Adebayo who is the brain behind the tournament, while making his remarks congratulated the winners and participants at large as he explained that the importance of the annual event is to encourage children to familiarize themselves with the scriptures and sustain their foot on the path to righteousness adding that the late Wasilat have had the competition as her pet project.

He said: "This programme is about helping to improve people's devoutness because there's no way you will come for such a program that your spirituality won't be aroused and it is an avenue to encourage our people, particularly the young ones to brush up their spirituality and intellectual capacity as it has to do with the Holy Book.

"Wasilat happens to be my sister and one of the very areas she likes so much is education and she loves the Quran. When her dad was turning 50 that was when she decided to have her walimot'ul Quran. This is what she would have loved to be remembered for and this is what we are doing."

Olasoju promised that

next year's edition will record significant improvement just as this year's as he urged prospective contestants to anticipate the event.

On his part, the Director of Penckers School, Lagos, Faizol Zugloul admitted to the interesting nature of the program noting that it meets international Standard as the Judges are scholar from Al-Azhar University, Egypt who commands impeccable understanding of the Holy Quran as he averred that the winners can hold their own at any world standard competition.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Ibrahim Abiola Ayinde-Marshall expressed his deep appreciation to the organizers especially the Isolo LCDA council boss for making his late step-sister an unforgettable Islamic believer.

Other participants and attendees smiled home with mouthwatering prizes like fans, bags of rice and quality fabrics as popular Islamic gospel singer, Ahmed Alawiye, in a short interlude, extolled the virtues of the Holy Quran and also dolled out cash gift to a student of Daaru Dawat Institute.

In his own remarks, the Mudeer of Daaru Dawat Wal Irshad Arabic Institute, Sheikh Ridwan Sanusi-Zugloul showered encomium and prayers on the sponsor, Otunba Olasoju Adebayo for his gratefulness to his benefactor, Alhaji Wasiu Ayinde-Marshall by way of immortalizing the late Wasilat Ayinde-Marshall in a manner like this. The same line was earlier toed by Fadilat-Sheikh Isa Authentic who praised Olasoju for his

Olasoju makes special prayer request for Tinubu

By Rasaan Adebayo

The chairman of Isolo LCDA, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju, has urged the Islamic faithful to pray for the President-elect, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as he take over the affairs of the country soon.

Olasoju made the request at the second annual public Ramadan Lecture he organised at the council secretariat.

Present at the public lecture were various Islamic scholars and politicians.

In his pre-lecture message, a top cleric and hardened fan of Olasoju, Sheikh Isa Olayinka Solaty (Authentic) paid glowing tributes to the council chairman for spending in the cause of Allah and being loyal to his benefactor - Alh. Wasiu Ayinde-Marshall as he led the gathering in prayerful songs for the duo.

Speaking on the lecture topic "Choosing Leader in a Diverse State: The Islamic Perspective", the guest lecturer, Sheikh AbdulRaheem Alli, said politics is not alien to Islam as Allah (S.W.T.) sought to make Prophet Adam the leader of other creatures including angels which the devil found difficult to accept.

Alluding to the scripture, Sheikh Alli, who talked on the



three major ethnicities in Nigeria, said the north could be likened to the Angels whose ground for non-conforming was that they are more religious, while the other nonconformist whose arrogance stemmed from his self-belief could be likened to the second ethnic group with the third major tribe being the Yorubas which symbol was Asiwaju Bola Tinubu given the recently concluded 2023 elections as a case study.

Going further, Alli maintained that choosing leaders has nothing to do with faith but rather capacity, competence and deep understanding of governance all of which Tinubu is known for.

He maintained that Prophet Muhammed's sterling qualities made the Yathribites (people of Medina) to

adopt him as their leader despite the diverse nature of the state when he migrated there, even though they were at the edge of installing a candidate as their king.

Sheikh Alli's terse sermon was wrapped up with a special prayer for the incoming administration of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, the council boss and members of his cabinet as well as the generality of the audience as requested by the council boss in his opening remarks.

Side attractions at the well-attended lecture included an interlude and musical performance by Alhaja Mistura Aderonmu Ashafa (Temini success) and a reading from the Holy Qur'an by Ustaz Abdul Waris Zulqarinain.

The Grand Chief Imam of Isolo, Alh. Sheikh Qasim Hassan Ajiyan, who was also full of commendations for the sponsor, led other members of the League of Imams, Isolo LCDA Chapter to the occasion among other dignitaries and scholars present.



Shaving Pubic Hair Increases Infection



Edith Igbokwe

Trimming pubic hair is an intimate choice but many experts feel that shaving pubic hair is simply a misleading attempt at personal hygiene. An increasing number of studies is now advocating against shaving the pubes as it exists for a purpose. Pubic hair are there for a reason. Being the most sensitive part of our body, it is much prone to rashes and itching. Lack of friction may trigger such reactions,

making your pubes vulnerable to infections. Avoid razing or shaving them, and let your pubes serve the purpose they have.

PROTECTION AGAINST BACTERIA

Pubic hair acts as a barrier against unwanted bacteria and infections. Pubic hair also protects you against pathogenic bacteria and dust from getting in. So, it's wise to leave a healthy amount down there and prevent your vagina from unwanted

debris.

NO MORE ITCHING

A fresh shave leaves a soft and clean feeling. But in a few days, as hair starts to grow, you get a bad itchy feeling.

NO MORE INGROWN HAIR

Waxing or shaving often leaves ingrown hair into the skin. It's difficult to remove them, especially from the most sensitive areas. And if not removed, they can actually turn into annoying blackheads and other skin

problems. Leave them in a natural state and avoid the problem of ingrown hair.

MAINTAINS VAGINAL TEMPERATURE

Like other parts of the body, pubic area also sweats. Pubic hair absorbs sweat and moisture from these areas and regulates vaginal temperature and controls unwanted dampness.

REDUCES THE RISK OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED

DISEASES

Though it is not a fool proof solution but pubic hair traps bacteria and other harmful infections up to a great extent. This way you can avoid direct contact of harmful bacteria with your skin. Also keeping them clean helps prevent many infections. Pubic hair acts as a protective buffer, reducing friction during sex and other activities. It can also prevent the transmission of

bacteria and other pathogens.

Some sources even refer to pubic hair as a "dry lubricant." That's because it's easier to rub hair against hair than it is to rub skin against skin.

Hair removal can easily cause irritation, ingrowing hairs, or a shaving rash.

The bottom line, there's a reason you have pubic hair. What you do with your hair — whether you trim, shave, wax, or let it grow — is up to you.

NUC verifies additional three courses in LASUSTECH



Members of management and the NUC Team.

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has conducted resource verification of additional three courses in the University. The courses include B.Sc. Tourism & Hotel Management

and B.Eng. Chemical Engineering.

The first batch of the NUC team, who arrived the University on the Tuesday, April 11, 2023 concluded the exercise by Thursday, April 13, 2023.

The team members who conducted the exercise were: Prof. Benjamin Esu, Mrs. Nosa Ehigie (Tourism & Hospitality Management), Prof. Collins Ajinomoh, Barr. Adejoh Samuel and

By Rasaan Adebayo

Mrs. Clara Abu for Chemical Engineering.

The second batch of the NUC team is expected to arrive the University on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 and conclude its duty on Friday, April 21 2023 for the resource verification of the Insurance Programme.

The NUC team leader, Barr. Samuel Adejoh commended the Vice Chancellor, Principal Officers, Deans and HODs for the warm

welcome since the arrival of the team.

He also noted that the essence of the visit was to ensure that the University is prepared adequately for the proposed additional programmes.

"It is expected that the visit will in turn add value to the College and Institution," he said.

Speaking further, he applauded the Institution for making sure that standard equipment has been put in place, as well as necessary requirements to kick-start the

programmes. However, he advised the Management to improve on the lapses identified.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya in his remarks, appreciated the Team for the visit.

He said: "We are glad to have gotten to this second step and we want to specially thank NUC for been generous and kind to the University. We will work on the grey areas identified."

LASUSTECH Muslim Community Holds 3rd Ramadan Lecture

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology Muslim Community held its 3rd Annual Ramadan Lecture titled "Governance in the Islamic Golden Era; A Guide for the Nation" at the College of Agriculture (500-seater) Auditorium on Tuesday 12th April, 2023.

The Chairman of the Muslim Community, Dr. Oladayo Ibrahim in his speech welcomed everyone in attendance and presented the outline of the event.

The lecture was delivered by Dr. Ibrahim Akosile. In his lecture, he highlighted the importance of the Night of Majesty.

Speaking further, he talked about the areas of governance in Islam, while highlighting key areas in governance which include: Religion, Life, wealth and Integrity. Dr. Akosile pointed out that Islam emphasizes on relationship with people and that they have freewill when it comes to religion as Islam does not force religion on people. Muslims relates

peacefully with others. Islam prioritize life and kicks against unjust killings.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya who was ably represented by the University Librarian, Mrs. Kuburat Yusuf, welcomed the attendees and prayed that Allah gives them the grace to complete the remaining days of Ramadan in good health. She identified the Month of Ramadan as a period of love and giving. She also urged the Muslim Community to imbibe the qualities of a good Muslim at all times, as well as remember the University community in prayers not forgetting Lagos State and the country at large.

Special prayer session/donation was facilitated by Dr. Abioye Lawal, a former Rector of LASPOTTECH who also doubles as the Chief Imam of the Muslim Community. He urged Muslims to donate towards the course of Allah and remain steadfast and prayerful at all times.

LASPOTTECH Students' Union Judiciary Council trained on justice dispensation

By Rasaan Adebayo

Members of the Students' Union Judiciary Council of Lagos Polytechnic were on Thursday trained on how to dispense justice among their members within the school system.

The training had all the 14 members of the council in attendance as well as the chief judge of the Students' Union Judiciary Council,

Oyebade Isaac Olamide.

The Director of Legal Services of the University, Mr. Okunowo Oladele and the Legal Officer, Mr. Omotayo Okuwobi Esq. facilitated the training.

The Director highlighted the importance of the training and why it had to be taken seriously to the current Members of the Council who are

mostly Science students with little or no knowledge of the law or how the judiciary functions

Mr. Omotayo Okuwobi Esq. pointed out that their predecessors had knowledge of the law and their duties, and that the training was the first in the history of the union, hence the reason he has decided to take it upon himself to educate the

members.

The facilitators gave in-depth introduction to the union's statutes and informed them of their duty to interpret the lawmakers' intent and not add to or subtract from it. They both gave examples of criminal cases, they compared and contrasted them and this made the meeting very interactive and informative.

Akinloye pledges support for Muslims

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, has reinstated his commitment to support the Muslim community by rehabilitating their mosque in the secretariat.

Akinloye made the promise at the 7th annual Ramadan lecture of the Muslim community of the council, which was held under the auspices of the Eredo LCDA section of the Unified Local Government Muslim Staff Association.

The council boss declared that the Muslim community remains an essential component of his administration and that he would make



Hon. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye

every effort to provide them with a comfortable place to pray.

At the Ramadan lecture, Akinloye also reaffirmed his commitment to the

welfare of local government employees in general.

He said: "This annual Ramadan lecture is a remarkable one. Let me restate here that the Muslim

community remains an integral part of my administration and that i would do everything possible to uplift the mosque to ensure a more conducive praying center for all. We will not relent in our support for the mosque and Muslims in general."

The guest lecturer, Sheikh Iman Salman, spoke on the topic "Social Vices: Islam A Way Out."

He charged everyone present to be cautious of Allah in whatever they do, as he said only the fear of Allah can bring everlasting succor to all.

The guest lecturer also charged them to abstain from all sorts of social vices like indecent dress, smoking, gambling, and adultery, among others.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos Potable Water: LUWASH To Gulp \$45m And Serve About 4m Residents

The Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation and Health (LUWASH), a scheme by the state and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is estimated to gulp \$45 million, Echonews has gathered.

The scheme, which is targeting about 4,000,000 people in low-income communities, will have access to improved water and sanitation services.

Following the signing of Memorandum of Understanding last week, the representatives of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) led by Dr. Joachim Ezeji and Chief of Party, Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (LUWASH), Mr. James Racicot have met with officials of the Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LASWARCO) to begin the implementation of new water regulation in the state.

This is part of their efforts to institutionalise regulation as a critical component of water governance in the State's water sector.

Speaking at the meeting held recently at the Secretariat, Alausa, the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Mrs. Funke Adepoju commended the intervention of USAID to support the ongoing efforts by LASWARCO to achieve its mandate in the regulation of the water and wastewater sector in line with global best practices.

She explained that the engagement is a follow-up to the Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU) between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Lagos State Government on Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (LUWASH) to improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene across the State.

Her words: "We appreciate USAID's support and input in the annual Lagos International Water Conference (LIWAC) which gives opportunity for stakeholders to brainstorm on the strategic improvement of the water value chain. I, therefore, seek technical assistance within the scope of LUWASH in capacity building for staff of the commission". In his remarks, Dr. Joachim Ezeji, who led the USAID delegation, said the Agency has been monitoring the

water sector in Lagos State and is committed to partnering with the present administration to strengthen the regulatory framework through the Commission for the implementation of the LUWASH to improve governance and

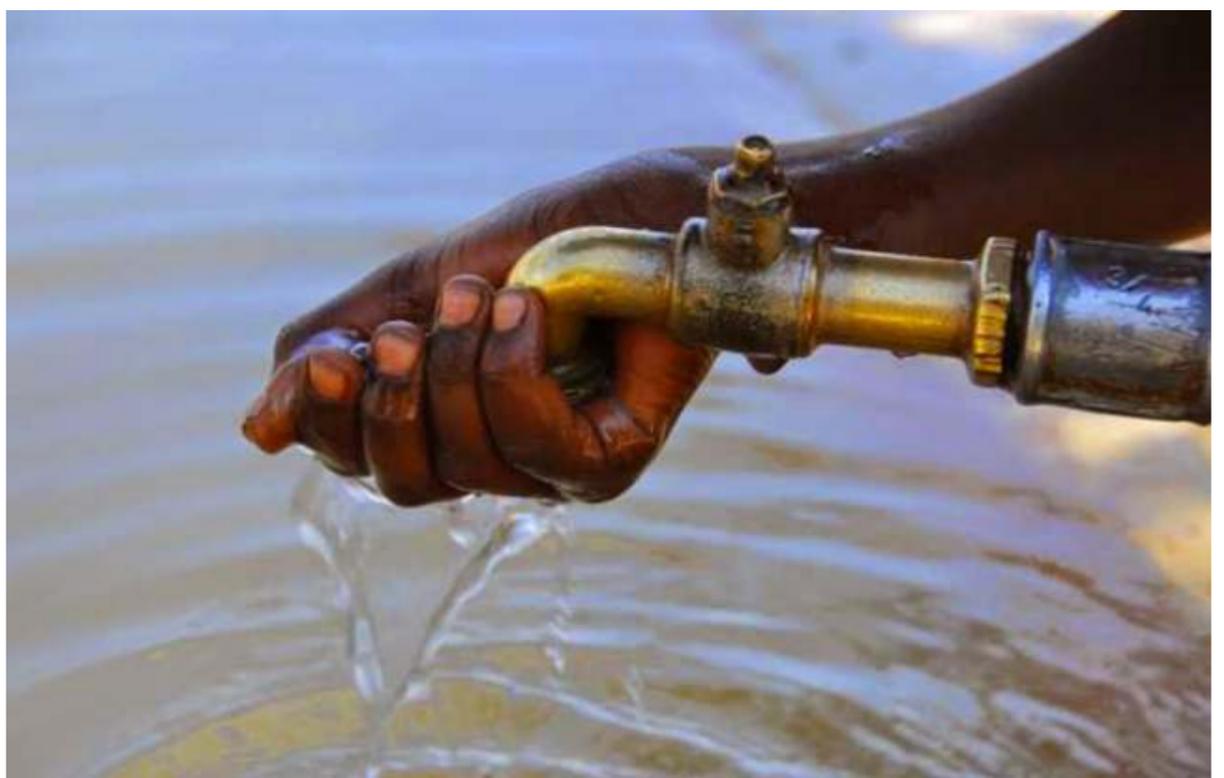
enhance water and sanitation services.

According to him, USAID is keen on collaborating with the Lagos State Government at improving infrastructure and strengthening its regulatory mandate

towards ensuring that citizens can trust their water sources to guarantee their good health.

James Racicot, Chief of Party of the Lagos Urban Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (LUWASH), asserted

that the project is an integrated approach to improve water supply, manage its demand within a strengthened regulated framework to ensure free access to sanitation services for low-income communities.



Water Tap

Hajj 2023: Pilgrim's to pay 700,000 more

Anyone that has the intention of going to Saudi Arabia on holy pilgrimage from Lagos in 2023 will pay N3.2 million. This is according to the state Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Anofiu Olanrewaju Elegushi. This is different from N2, 496,815.29 that the pilgrim paid last year and it is due to dollar to naira rate according to findings.

Elegushi said that Lagos State Government has approved the sum of N3,200,000.00 as the total fare to be paid by Intending Pilgrims performing the Year 2023 Hajj exercise in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board.



Pilgrims

The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Anofiu Olanrewaju Elegushi, disclosed this at a meeting held with the intending pilgrims and other stakeholders at the Shamsi Adisa Thomas (SAT) Mosque, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, April, 2023.

While addressing the

gathering, Elegushi stated that the breakdown of the total package, as announced by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON), includes Hotel Accommodation, Cost of Airline and Basic Travel Allowance (BTA), amongst others.

He appealed to intending

pilgrims who had initially deposited the sum of N2,640,000.00 to commence payment of the balance sum of N560,000.00 on or before the 21st of April, 2023 which is the deadline given by NAHCON to all the States for remittance.

While praying that Allah would help the intending pilgrims in actualising their dream of performing the holy pilgrimage this year in line with the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (SAW), Elegushi reiterated that the participants do not need to travel with any foodstuffs, saying that the Government would provide them with Nigeria's local delicacies

while in the Kingdom.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Board Chairman, Imam (Engr.) Shakiru Ayinde Gafar informed the gathering that necessary Pre-Hajj visits had earlier been embarked upon for a convenient and seamless Hajj operation for all intending pilgrims.

The programme was also attended by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Mrs. Lolade Aina. Also present were the Board members including, Dr. (Mrs.) Fausat Dabiri (Lagos division); Alhaji Mojeed Sanni (Ikorodu); Alhaji Yusuf Ara (Epe) and Hon. AbdulWaheed Lolade Shonibare (Ikeja), amongst other stakeholders.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyani

LAWMA Boss Assures Cleaner Lagos As State Provides More Refuse Trucks

To ensure a cleaner Lagos, the state Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has added more refuse trucks to its fleets across the metropolis, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni has said. He said also said that the PSP operators had been directed to work efficiently in their designated areas irrespective of assigned days, with the agency providing backup services to bridge any gap. While expressing readiness to manage waste in the state, Odumboni said the

agency had since stepped up its operations by adding more fleets across all districts in the state. "We want to assure residents that LAWMA has made adequate arrangements by adding more trucks across all the districts to ensure that Lagos is environmentally friendly. PSP operators have also been mandated to ensure prompt evacuation of waste generated by tenements, Odumboni said. He implored the populace to avoid acts that could pollute the

environment, just as he advised motorists to drive with caution, considering the sanitation workers (street sweepers) and other service providers discharging their duties during the period. He called on all residents to bag their waste, patronise assigned PSP operators, and promptly pay their waste management bills. He also enjoined the general public to call LAWMA toll-free numbers 07080601020 and 617 for all waste management-related issues in their areas.



Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni

Pupils Jubilate As Lagos Marks International Day of Sports

Pupils across Lagos schools gathered on April 6 as the State Sports Commission celebrated them to mark the International Day of Sports.

The pupils selected from public schools in the metropolis expressed their happiness that the government had always carried them along in the area of sports development.

The Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), in partnership with Sports Global Ambassador Initiatives for Youth Development and Conflict Resolution, has celebrated the 2023 edition of the International Day of Sports for Development and Peace (IDSDP) with a three-day sports competition for students from 14 Junior and Senior Secondary Schools (both Private and Public) across the Six



Selected pupils from Lagos Schools

Education Districts in the State. Executive Chairman, Lagos State Sports Commission, Sola Aiyepoku, in his address at the commencement of the event held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, said this year's event was designed to encourage the youth to get more involved in

sports activities because of the inherent benefits as well as bridging the gap between Public and Private Schools. Emphasising the core benefits of sports as a leadership trainer and a means to harness potential while assisting those who want to take to sports as a career, the Chairman said

participating students also competed in sports debates. Executive Trustee of Ambassador Initiatives for Youth Development and Conflict Resolution, Ndid Edeogho remarked that this 2023 event had brought together students from different schools to discuss a united

environment that will engender tolerance, conflict resolution and raise the standard for collaboration. Part of the activities of the three-event was the Athletics competition held at Caleb British International School, Abijo Lekki, Lagos. The competition featured participants from Oreyo

Junior and Senior Secondary Schools, Ijaiye; United Junior and Senior Secondary Schools, Pinefield Schools, Lekki; Whitesand Schools, Lekki and Corona Schools, Agbara, among others.

The organisers designated the IDSDP as a day to showcase the impact of sports as a vehicle to bridge the gap of inequality, gender sensitivity, promote a healthy environment and its immense contributions to livelihood

The event was successful in accentuating the collaborative effort between Public and Private Schools in the State while consolidating the cooperation among the Lagos State Sports Commission, the Ministry of Education, the Six Education Districts and a Sports Supporting Entity.

Stories By Kunle Awosiyen

Lagos Residents' Registration: Court Fixes April 19 To Hear Suit Against State government

The Federal High Court, Lagos has fixed April 19, 2023 to hear the suit against Lagos State Government over its introduction of state residents' registration.

The suit was filed before Justice Yellin Bogoro of a Federal High Court, Lagos, by a group, the Initiative for Golden Rule of Life Advocacy.

In the suit filed by Mr. Oluwole Kehinde, the group is praying the court for a declaration that Lagos State has no power, legal right or responsibility to register Nigerians that reside in it.

National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Attorney-General of Lagos State and LASSRA were joined as first to third respondents respectively.

BUT responding, Lagos State government is praying the court to



dismiss the suit for lack of jurisdiction, saying that the plaintiff does not have locus standi to institute the case.

It stated that the subject matter of the suit is not within the jurisdiction of the court as provided in Section 251 of the 1999 Constitution (as altered). The group is, however, praying the

court for an order setting any registration of and/or issuance of identity cards to Nigerians resident in Lagos State, including members of the plaintiff, by the Lagos State Government pursuant to the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency Law, or any law whatsoever, as same is

unconstitutional, illegal, null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

RESPONDING, Lagos State government is praying the court to dismiss the suit for lack of jurisdiction, saying that the plaintiff does not have locus standi to institute the case. It stated that the subject matter of the suit is not

within the jurisdiction of the court as provided in Section 251 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

However, the Lagos State government stated: "This action by its nature is a challenge to the constitutionality of the law enacted by the House of Assembly of Lagos State and therefore not one of the

matters within the judicial competence of the Federal High Court as conferred by Section 251 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

"The matter before the court is not related to the validity of any executive or administrative action or decisions by the Federal Government, or any of its agencies.

"That second and third defendants are not agencies of the Federal Government as well as that the matter before the court relates to determination of the validity and constitutionality of a state law."

It further stated that LASSRA Law 2011 makes provision for registration of residents in Lagos State to ensure easy identification of residents and to provide reliable information for making policy, planning and implementation.

Lagos To Commence Phase 2 of Construction of Igbosere High Court

The Lagos State Government is preparing to embark on the construction of the phase two of the Igbosere High Court.

This was revealed by the Permanent Secretary of the state Ministry of Works, Mr. Jimi Hotonou to our correspondent.

Hotonou who is charge of "Rebuild Lagos Trust Fund", said that the government had already awarded the contract for the demolition of the burnt court structure to a contractor and that work would begin next week.

Recall that some hoodlums who hijacked the ENDSARS protest set the Igbosere Court on fire in October 2020.

According to Hotonou, the project was a bit delayed due to the ordering of the materials that would be used, adding, "the demolition will commence soon.

He noted that to kick-start the second phase, there is need for the consultant and the contractor to be on the same page.

"We need that synergy and we have been getting it to begin work possibly by next week.



Igbosere High Court

Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagosians Excited By Citizens Gate 2.0 Engagement App

Lagosians have expressed their pleasure to tap into the newly introduced engagement application to channel their complaints to the government.

Our correspondent was on the street to interviewed some residents on the App but noticed that many knew nothing about it. However, those who spoke to Echonews we're excited that the App, Citizens Gate 2.0 would go a long way in accessing government in real time.

According to one Mr. Nuru Agbaje, there are many complaints especially about the overzealous was of LASTMA officials, which Lagosians are willing to report but they do not know how and where to do so

With the introduction of an application by government to engage the residents, I think government is ready to help the citizens, he said.

Meanwhile the Office of Civic Engagement has organised a one-day sensitisation programme for Special Advisers, Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries of various Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs) across the State.

In her address at the event held recently at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa Secretariat, Ikeja, the Special Adviser to Mr. Governor on Civic Engagement, Princess Aderemi Adebowale said in order to have an all-inclusive government in the state, a conscious effort is being made to establish, deepen and sustain the government mode of engagement and communication with

various stakeholders hence the need for a more interactive Lagos State Citizens Gate 2.0 App.

She added that the implementation of the Citizens' Gate 2.0 platform in all MDAs in Lagos State is a crucial step towards promoting transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in government.

The Special Adviser explained further that it is expected that, over time, active and ongoing usage of the citizens' gate will make it easier for citizens to participate in dialogue and decision-making processes alongside the state government.

While emphasising the role of Special Advisers, Commissioners and Permanent Secretaries, Aderemi said that as Chief Executives and Accounting Officers of various MDAs, it is expected of them to monitor the activities at the backend to ensure cases being logged are given prompt attention.

"The platform is built to ensure easy monitoring of all activities as they unfold on the platform, you can further investigate tickets generated which were not effectively and efficiently addressed within the shortest time, while tracking and enforcing government performance", she said Aderemi added that, commendably, the Lagos State government has blazed the trail in bringing governance to the people via mobile phones and the internet through the deployment of the Citizen's Gate 2.0 platform, a web and app-based e-governance channel that enables access to and delivery of public goods.'

Lagos Surveyor-General Calls For Synergy With Land Use Allocation Committee

The Acting Surveyor-General of Lagos State, Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina, has emphasised the need for continuous synergy between his office and the Land Use Allocation Committee to enhance efficient service delivery in land and survey matters.

Speaking during the working visit of the Executive Secretary, Land Use and Allocation Committee (LUAC), Mrs. Lolade Ajetunmobi and her team to his office, Surv. Adesina commended the LUAC team for their quest to collaborate with the Office of the State Surveyor-General for improved performance.

He said, "The Land Use and Allocation Committee is one of our major internal

clients that have to be supported for excellent service towards enhancing our service delivery to the general public".

"It is important both offices establish this synergy to foster a better understanding that will improve turnaround time by using digital technology in almost all its business processes for seamless, enhanced service delivery", he added.

The Surveyor-General noted that the clientele of his office is growing by the day and maintained that digital technology has an important role to play in creating access to survey information required by the public.

While declaring that survey plans in

respect of the regularisation of parcels are now prepared electronically and can be endorsed through a digital portal remotely from any part of the world, Surv. Adesina urged the LUAC team to collaborate with his office to promote harmony and efficiency.

He promised to institute measures for prompt preparation of e-survey plans, just as he pointed out that the provision of a reliable alternative power supply in the office has impacted positively on productivity and greatly improved service delivery to the public.

Responding, Mrs. Lolade Ajetunmobi thanked the Acting Surveyor-General for his continuous support. She disclosed that the

visit was aimed at discussing ways of fostering synergy to ensure prompt review and faster delivery of e-survey plans, the validity of land information certificates, access to content servers as well as regularisation of documents relating to land and survey matters in the State.

Appreciating Surv. Adesina for the warm reception, Mrs. Ajetunmobi commended the professional conduct of surveyors and acknowledged that the work processes have become faster.

The Executive Secretary promised to continue the collaboration with the office of the State Surveyor-General, maintaining that the bond between the workforce of both organisations will continue to be strengthened.



Stories By Kunle Awosiyan

Building Collapse: Lagos Removes Distressed Structure in Ketu

The Lagos State Building Control Agency, LASBCA has averted an imminent building collapse by embarking on a manual removal of a critically distressed building at 13, Rasaki Bello Street, off Alhaji Lawal Street, Ketu. The LASBCA General Manager, Arc. Gbolahan Oki stated that the agency had earlier identified and listed the building amongst the 349 distressed structures published by the Agency. He stated that the building is structurally unstable and dangerous for human habitation, hence the need to quickly evacuate the residents and begin the demolition process.

Speaking further, Oki said the weak state of the building prompted the officials of the agency to opt for manual

demolition. The General Manager of LASBCA, therefore, urged property owners and developers, especially those whose buildings are exhibiting signs of distress to carry out necessary tests in other to check the

structural stability of the properties now that the rainy season is upon us. In a separate development, the officials of LASBCA have arrested Mr. Francis Umeh, who is suspected to be the owner of a site at 313 Cl, Banana Island,

for illegal dredging activities preparatory to commence building construction.

Speaking on the arrest, Oki said the suspect was arrested following a tip-off by well-meaning Lagosians on the activities of the dredgers

which could lead to disaster if not properly handled.

He reiterated the need for anyone intending to commence building construction to abide by the building codes of the State which includes obtaining necessary

permits and Authorisation of the property from start to finish.

Arc. Oki maintained that failure to do this would lead to the sealing of the site, outright removal, arrest and prosecution as prescribed by the law.



The Collapsed Building

Lagos Govt Intervenes In Low Demand For Egg

As part of efforts to improve the livelihood of the agricultural value chain actors towards wealth creation, job security and supply of wholesome nutritious foods to Lagosians, the Lagos State Government has intervened in bringing sustainable solutions to the fore as regards the egg glut problem confronting poultry farmers in the State. Speaking on the intervention, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya disclosed that the State Government, through the Ministry, has facilitated the offtake of a minimum of 300,000 eggs from

the Erikorodo Poultry Estate in Ikorodu by a private firm-Farm, Alert Ltd.

She added that this was achieved after several visits and negotiations by senior ministry officials and the Poultry Estate towards ensuring that all parties are in agreement on modalities of the offtake.

The Commissioner averred that the operation commenced fully on Monday, 10th April 2023, stressing that the support from the State Government shall further enhance the development of the poultry value chain in Lagos.

In her words, "The

poultry farmers operating within Erikorodo and Aiyedoto poultry estates form a large percentage of registered farmers under the Poultry Association of Nigeria (PAN), Lagos State Chapter. The initiative is aimed at supporting them and enhancing the food security agenda of the State Government".

"The administration of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu will continue to put measures in place to create a conducive environment for farmers to operate in line with efforts to ensure sufficiency in food production in Lagos State".



By Kunle Awosiyan

Shun All Social and Religious Vices, Tutor General Tells Pupils

The Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary of Education District III, Dr. Olufunke Oyetola has advised students to shun all forms of social and religious vices that can impact negatively on their academics. Dr. Oyetola gave the advice during the 2023

edition of Lagos State Education District III Ramadan lecture, titled "Quality Education, A Sustainable Development Goal: Islamic Perspective" held recently at the NUT pavilion, Ibeju Lekki. The Permanent Secretary pleaded with

participants at the Ramadan Lecture to exhibit the spirit of forgiveness, saying that the Ramadan period is a holy month when good deeds are rewarded. Also speaking during the programme, the Guest Lecturer, Ustaz Musa Muhammad Abu Haneefah said that

quality education must reflect on the individual's disposition within the society, because society is a reflection of the quality education received by everyone. He urged teachers and parents to teach their wards to be patiently and morally upright.

According to the Muslim Cleric, the overall makeup of a student must be taken into consideration while teaching them as this will go a long way in enhancing their future. As part of the Ramadan Lecture, there was a Quran recitation competition that

produced Abdul Wasii Muhammad of Elemoro Community Junior High School as the overall winner, while Abdul Samad Badmus of Ibeju Senior High School came first in the quiz competition. Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Tumblr Pinterest Reddit



Cross Section of students

17 Die, 17 Rescued n Lagos Boat Accidents In 10 Months

No fewer than 17 persons died in July 2022 in a boat accident around Third Mainland Bridge, Lagoos while another 17 were rescued in a different accident in February 2023 at the same place.

Both commercial ferries were heading to Ebute-Ero from Ibeche in Ikorodu when it capsized at place near the Bariga Jetty.

While the passengers in the 2022 accident did not survive, the same number of passengers survived in 2023 through the help of rescue team and their



Lagos Boats

adherence to safety rules by the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA.)

To improve waterways safety and in preparation for the rainy season, the

Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) has since commenced its yearly Waterways Safety Awareness Campaign aimed at enlightening ferry passengers about

waterways safety rules and regulations.

The continuous safety sensitisation programme kicked off recently at Ebute-Ero Jetty and also extended to Sabonkoji,

Temidire, and Liverpool Jetties respectively.

According to the General Manager of LASWA, Mr. Damilola Emmanuel, the Safety Awareness Campaign team also visited Ipakodo Ferry Terminal, Baiyeku, Ibeshe, and Ijede Jetties in Ikorodu axis for the enlightenment of ferry passengers within the axis.

The General Manager noted that during the awareness exercise, items like safety information booklets, safety souvenirs, and different sizes of life jackets, were given to ferry passengers at the Jetties

and Terminals free of charge.

Furthermore, Emmanuel informed that officials of the agency were at the various Terminals and Jetties visited to lecture passengers on safety precautions such as what to do in an emergency, how to wear a life jacket properly, and other safety rules and regulations.

Beneficiaries of the free life jackets commended LASWA for organising the programme and craved more periodic enlightenment sessions about safety on waterways.

By Kunle Awosiyan

Building Collapse: Sanwo-Olu Goes Hard on Developers, Govt Officials

Rainy season is here again and the fear of building collapse has gripped Lagosians, especially those who are close to the seashore.

In the last two years, no fewer than 10 cases of building collapse had been recorded in Lagos, killing about 60 people with hundreds wounded.

In November 2021 a 21-storey building under construction on Gerard Road, Ikoyi collapsed, leaving 42 persons dead. Many of them were construction workers who were inside the building when it caved in and collapsed.

In May 2022 another building collapsed on Ago Palace Way, leaving eight persons dead and many severely injured. In the same month, while the state government was still probing the cause of Ikoyi and Ago palace building collapse, another uncompleted structure fell in Ebutte-Metta, killing two people.

In August of the same year 2022, two buildings under construction in Ebutte-Metta and Ketu collapsed, killing six and four respectively.

All the accidents were investigated with final inferences that developers and some bad civil servants had compromised government regulations.

The coroner inquest into the Ikoyi 21-storey building collapse showed that there was a compromise



between government officials that supervised it and the contractors in charge.

The coroner report signed by a Chief Magistrate O.A Komolafe on November 1, 2021 says, "Due to negligence by agencies responsible for approval and supervision of the building project, the 21-storey building on Gerard Road collapsed," According to the report, there was a flagrant violation of the government regulation, especially in the building's density and setback on the site.

The report also noted that the project board failed to show the names and addresses of the consultants, the contractors that were handling the project, which made it suspicious that there

was a compromise somewhere.

Following the submission of the report, the state governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was visibly bitter. At the State Executive Council meeting, a source said that the governor could not hide his anger.

He later asked the then Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Architect Idris Salako to resign or be booted out of the system.

It was also gathered that the deputy governor was not happy with the situation as he said that the present administration would not condone bad heads in the cabinet of Sanwo-Olu.

A few weeks after Salako's resignation, the governor appointed Mr. Tayo Bamgbose-Martins as the state Commissioner for



Physical Planning and Urban Development but the question is, has this change of leadership reduced the corruption in the sector?

On April 12, 2023, a seven-storey building under construction collapsed on First Avenue, Banana Island

Ikoyi but with no casualty.

According to the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Emergency Management Authority, Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, about 25 persons were rescued from the accident.

He said that the rescue

team is still at the site evacuating the debris to know if people had been trapped underneath.

Oke-Osanyintolu attributed the cause of the collapse to a truck that rammed into the building under construction, breaking some of its columns.



But to the commissioner, Mr. Bamgbose-Martins who also visited the site, the cause of the collapse could only be ascertained after necessary investigation is conducted and report submitted. He said that government would commence investigation soon.

Disturbed by the recent incident, the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has put on hold all ongoing construction projects in Banana Island, Ikoyi.

He said this in a statement signed by the state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotosho.

Sanwo-Olu said that there would be no work at any site as government commences investigation over the latest building collapse on the first avenue of the Banana Island Estate on Tuesday. According to the statement, the Lagos State Government has launched a probe into the collapse of the seven-storey building under construction on Banana Island, Ikoyi, following a

directive by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The statement noted that although nobody died in the incident, which occurred on Wednesday - as of the time of this report, every work must stop in the estate for now. Giving the situation the statement noted that 25 people were rescued from the site, which Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) scanned with a high-precision 3-D Laser Imagery System for life, and found no evidence of anyone trapped in the rubble. A roll call has also been done by the site supervisors, with everyone accounted for. Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) has continued with the excavation of the site, using the architectural designs. The site has been divided into quadrants for a painstaking search and rescue operation.

According to the statement, presently, quadrants two and three have been levelled to ground zero, with the

search operation completed. Quadrants one and four are ongoing."

"Physical Planning and Urban Development Commissioner Bamgbose-Martins, an engineer and Special Duties Special Adviser Mobolaji Ogunlende are co-ordinating the operations. LASEMA Permanent Secretary Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu is leading the search-and-rescue efforts.

Commissioner for Health Prof. Akin Abayomi has visited the site and hospitals where victims of the incident were admitted," the statement said.

Of the 25 persons rescued by LASEMA, 16 with moderate injuries were admitted at General Hospital, Odan, Lagos Island and Police Hospital Falomo for treatment and care. Nine others with minor injuries, such as bruises, were treated and discharged at the site by Lagos State Ambulance Services (LASAMBUS).

Of the 16 persons on

admission, 11 were taken to Police Hospital Falomo. Eight of the 11 persons have been treated and discharged. Some are required to come for daily follow-up and management. Three with various injuries, including blunt traumatic chest injury, knee injuries, deep lacerations and others, are on admission.

At the General Hospital Odan, Lagos Island, there are five patients with more serious injuries.

The State Government, as a matter of policy, will be responsible for the emergency treatment and care, including the medical bills of the patients on admission. It will also provide a post-trauma counselling support and care for all victims through the Lagos MiND programme (Mental Health in Development) - a free mental health counselling and support service provided by the Ministry of Health.

Preliminary investigations have shown that the incident occurred during concrete

casting. Eyewitnesses said one of the concrete mixer trucks rammed into some load-bearing columns of the building, causing a loud bang and leading to the collapse.

The building was hitherto sealed by the Lagos State Government for not having the approval to commence construction, but the developers continued to build, hiding under the security of their estate/gated community.

Mr Governor has directed that all developments on Banana Island be placed on hold, subject to a comprehensive audit by the officials of the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA). This is to determine:

how many buildings are being constructed without approval from the Lagos State Government; and

if all approved buildings are being built in line with the approval limits provided."

Sanwo-Olu said that the exercise would be extended to other estates and gated communities.

Before now, the Lagos

State House of Assembly in its effort to address incessant building collapse had looked into how contracts were being awarded by the executive arm of the government.

Early this year, the house summoned the Commissioner, Bamgbose-Martins to explain why his office had been awarding contracts without making recourse to the house for ratification.

Bamgbose who later appeared exposed fresh allegations of some new appointments of personalities who now parade themselves as supervisors of some projects, which the house knew nothing about.

To this, the house had since announced its plan to stop the salaries of all political appointees that were never ratified by the legislature.

Investigation also revealed that many who claimed to be government appointees were more or less touts who move across project sites to compromise government regulations.

2023 HAJJ: NAHCON, Lagos Government Disagree Over Fare

Trouble may be brewing between Lagos State Government and the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) over the fare to pay by intending pilgrim from the state.

NAHCON had earlier announced the sum of N2, 999, 000.00 as fare to transport each pilgrim to Saudi Arabia but Lagos Government announced N3.2 million.

In a swift reaction, NAHCON kicked and cautioned all State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards (SMPWB) from charging above the announced Hajj fare to be paid for the 2023 exercise.

However, the Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Anofiu Olanrewaju Elegushi, affirmed that the sum of N2,999,000.00 by NAHCON did not include the cost of other Islamic rites that every pilgrim will have to observe during the exercise.

He explained further that during a meeting with the intending Pilgrims, NAHCON's publication in respect of the Hajj fare was brought to their attention and boldly shown to them for confirmation.

He added that intending pilgrims at the meeting agreed on a one-line package payment of the total sum of N,2,999,000.00 on or before 21st April 2023, being the deadline for fare remittance given by NAHCON for State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Boards. Elegushi also stated that aside from NAHCON's fare, the meeting considered the importance of fulfilling some essential Islamic rites/activities to be carried out by the Pilgrims both in Nigeria and at the Holy Land which were not captured by NAHCON, hence, the agreement between intending Pilgrims and the Lagos State Government that an additional sum of N200,000.00 be added to the initial NAHCON fare.

According to him, the added sum would cater for items such as the cost of Hadiyyah (sacrificial) ram, medical screening, and

ziyyarah to important Islamic sites both in Makkah and Madinah, amongst others. He also said that intending Pilgrims would be provided with local delicacies whilst in the Kingdom. Elegushi said that it was also agreed at the meeting that the additional N200,000.00 should be paid within two to three weeks after the 21st April deadline by NAHCON, adding that a video clip of the meeting is available for NAHCON's confirmation.

He expressed his happiness that intending pilgrims are complying with the payment of Hajj fare, in line with the agreement reached. The Commissioner said that the Lagos State Government has no interest in making profits at the expense of intending pilgrims but committed to providing Pilgrims with a seamless, comfortable and acceptable Hajj exercise which has been its goal over the years.



Prince Anofiu Olanrewaju Elegushi, Commissioner for Home Affairs



Hajj Pilgrims

The Cradle's Choral Contest on Easter Monday

By Kehinde Bamigbetan

From 24 choirs to three, the stiff contest at the Ojaja Arena Hall of the Hotels & Resort, Ile-ife got everyone on the edge of their seats.

Not even His Imperial Majesty, Babatunde Enitan Ogunwusi, the Ooni of Ife, took his eyes off the stage, not willing to miss a beat or pitch.

It was Easter Monday. The seats in the large banquet hall were filled with choristers robed in various colours and members of the public who thronged the venue to feed their eyes.

The stage was well-equipped. Lights rolled, throwing their colours at the stage in beautiful sequences.

The drums were set.

The organ, microphones, and speakers were regulated. The stage was set for the brave. There had been an earlier contest of 24 choirs pruned to 12. The 12 were asked to perform within six minutes in the second round.

The choirs cut across Christian denominations: Anglican, Catholic, Celestial, Pentecostal, and Methodist.

Each conductor came with a stand. As soon as the choir came on stage, the conductor mounted the stand and began to guide the singers into the soul-lifting hymns in Yoruba and English.

Hymns such as Jesu ti Joba, Olorun Dada l'Olorun tawa, Mo duro le Kristi Apata, Gbogbo Aye Juba Re.



The Cradle's Choral Contest on Easter Monday

With Biodun Olanrewaju and Olayinka Ibikunle as masters of the ceremony and a panel of vigilant judges assessing performances, we got to the final list of four choirs after four hours of rendition of hymns. They were the Catholic Church of Perpetual Light, St Paul's Anglican Church, Celestial Church of Tabernacle, and GOFAMINT. At stake were five prizes donated by His Imperial Majesty, Ooni Ogunwusi: N1million for the winner, N500,000 for the First Runner Up, N250,000 for the Second Runner Up, N150,000 for the Best Robed or Dressed Choir and N150,000 for the Best Music Conductor. Others got consolation prizes. Speaking at the event, the Ooni of Ife expressed his joy by recalling how he loved to sing hymns in childhood. He thanked the organizers including

Sooko Gboyega Ogunwusi who suggested the idea of a festival of songs at Easter. The Ooni was there with his wives, Olori Aderonke Ogunwusi and Olori Tope Ogunwusi. Even before it was announced, you could feel the consensus that the Catholic Church of Perpetual Light would carry the day. The creativity in weaving a dance drama into their performance was unique and they had different uniform dresses each time on stage. The thoughts of the people turned out to be the verdict of the judges. The choir won the contest and it was quite understandable that its conductor also went home with the prize for the Conductor of the Year. The Celestial Church of Tabernacle was second. No doubt, their choreography and musical arrangement boosted their chances



Ooni of Ife, His Imperial Majesty Enitan Ogunwusi (right) with Sooko Gboyega Ogunwusi at the event.

and displaced St Paul's to third place. But the Choir was not sad. It won the additional prize as the best-robed choir, carting N400,000 to the Cathedral.

Beyond the prizes, the choir provided great entertainment. The oldies among them were singled out for commendation. Considering that it was the maiden event, the

clockwork event flow was exceptional. Surely, the next edition will attract more. In his words, His Imperial Majesty told the audience that the event and other

festivals were designed to attract tourists so that people would have one reason to see the cradle of the Yoruba as a place to visit, relax and enjoy entertainment.



Victor Boniface plays down transfer rumours

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigeria forward, Victor Boniface has denied any offer linking him to another club in the summer.

The Union SG striker has been in blistering form in the UEFA Europa League as he leads the scorers chart with six goals in nine

matches.

After opening the scoring of the game against Bayer Leverkusen in the 51st minute, Boniface reveals the match was a difficult encounter but the club is delighted with the result as they set their sights on the return leg in Brussels.

"We knew it would be a

difficult match, so we are happy with the draw. We can be proud that we are already there, against a very strong team. But now we are looking forward to the return match in Brussels," he said.

"I don't know anything about any interest, I'm hearing it for the first time now. I'm not working on it either, I'm focusing on Union."



Victor Boniface

New Zealand coach reacts to loss to Super Falcons

By Saheed Afolabi

New Zealand head coach, Jitka Klimkova has reacted to the loss against the Nigeria national team in a recent friendly game played in Turkey. The FIFA Women's World Cup co-host lost to the Super Falcons 3-0 at the Mardan Stadyumu, Antalya, Turkey. Klimkova was disappointed with the goals conceded by her side as she believes the Football Ferns defense wasn't

gritty enough.

"It was disappointing, specifically in front of goal," she said.

"We were not gritty enough in our defensive third.

"We gave up a goal from a set play, we gave up a goal from a cross." "Then we were obviously pushing for a better result and we took a risk and went with three center backs and they got a chance in the last minute and scored."

The New Zealand tactician promises an improved defense going to the world cup.

"For me, the biggest improvement that we need to now look for is our gritty defending in the box and putting bodies on the line, the same way they did.

"How many crosses did they block from our side? How many times did they win those battles in our final third? The critical piece today was really in front of the goals, defensively and in attack."

The Super Falcons will trade tackles in group B with World Cup co-host Australia, Canada, and Republic of Ireland in the FIFA showpiece.



Jitka Klimkova, New Zealand coach

Osimhen eyes Africa Best Player Award

By Saheed Afolabi



Victor Osimhen

Napoli forward, Victor Osimhen has set his sights on winning the CAF Africa best player award.

The Nigeria forward is having a tremendous season in the Italian Serie A as he has found the back of the net 21 times this season and only Erling Haaland and Harry Kane have more goals than him.

The 24 years old said it would be a dream come true for him to win the African best player award.

Osimhen added that seeing Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang when he

won the award in 2015 have always inspired him to win the CAF gong.

"I am not going to lie, it would be my dream to be African Footballer of the Year," he said.

"I was at the ceremony in 2015 when Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang won the award. As an African, you dream of this prize and maybe I can win.

"I think I still have a long way to go in achieving that dream. I am really working towards that direction and I think I'm on the right path. But as a

man, it won't be easy but I think having my own family (here) has a dream come true."

The lanky striker believes football is the only thing on his mind as he's at Napoli to deliver.

"I have a long way to go, so football is the only thing on my mind and I want to keep focusing, and of course, a lot is expected of me so I'm here to deliver."

Osimhen will compete with Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Riyad Mahrez for the African best player.

The last Nigeria player to win the award was Kanu Nwankwo in 1999.