

Liverpool will retain Premier League title and finish ahead of Manchester United – Crouch

PG.4



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My aim is to win Lagos Access Marathon race – Abiola

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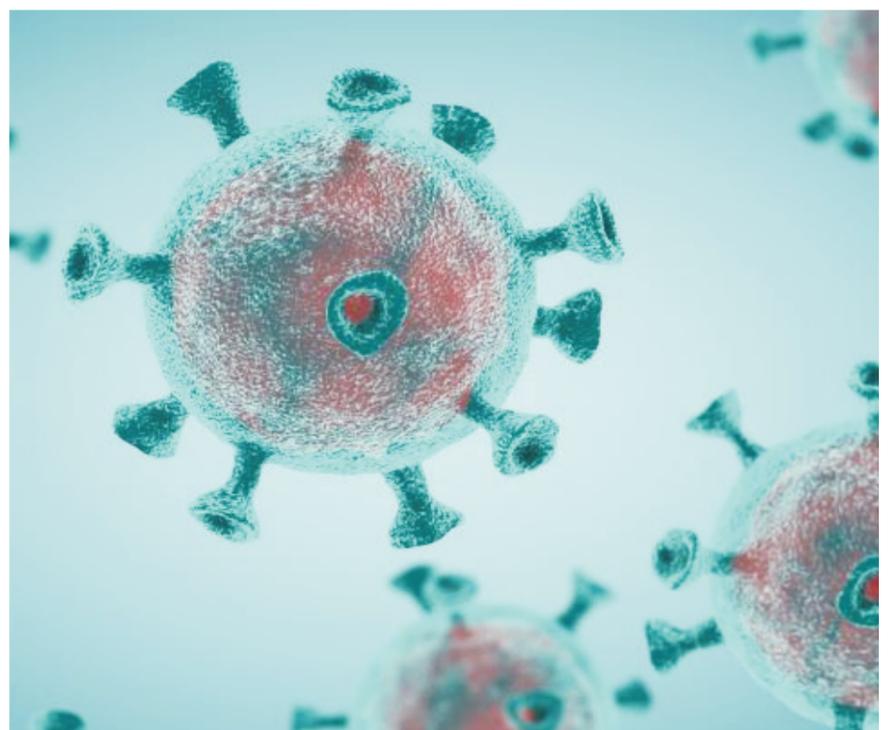


Two CDAs commence N27m road project, seek govt's support

PG.3

RUSH FOR INVERMECTIN TO COMBAT COVID-19

PG.2



Empowered beneficiaries hail Yayi

PG.7

Ilasamaja police station ready soon -Isolo LCDA

PG.3

Oshodi 2021: Adesanya joins chairmanship race

PG.7

Rush for Ivermectin to combat Covid-19

By Abolaji Adebayo

With 1,302,410 tested and 130,557 confirmed cases, the rate at which the Covid-19 virus is spreading is indicated by the figures from the National Centre for Disease Control which put active cases at 25,267 and death at 1,578 as at Sunday, January 31, this year.

The official figures is considered a far cry from the actual rate of deaths from the virus because of the poor death recording system, doctors interviewed by EchoneWS said.

The rate at which the new wave of Covid-19 kills people on daily basis is worrying doctors and other medical professionals who are now certain that the virus seems more intelligent than the army of the scientists striving to rein in its devastation on humanity. "This virus is ahead of all of us because the rate at which it is mutating and invading human organs is unprecedented" says Dr. Olatunde Olusunmade of Estate Clinic, Ejigbo. "Oxygen level is one of the indicators of its impact on the respiratory system. While a normal blood oxygen level varies between 80 and 100 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg). A blood oxygen level below 70 mm Hg is considered low. Yet this virus, at 70, continues to mislead the brain that the body has sufficient oxygen, giving the brain little time to act before the person gives up the ghost. This is what we call the happy hypoxia in medical science."

But virologists are not giving up. In line with the saying that the way the bird learns how to perch, the hunter will have to learn how to shoot, new researches into old drugs to explore their potential to inhibit the viral activity of COVID-19 has led to the application of old drugs used to cure other ailments to the treatment of coronavirus.

The first popular drug in this category was chloroquine used for the cure of malaria. However, according to the investigations of EchoneWS, the new drug making the

waves is Ivermectin.

Produced as tiny tablets with five as a single dose believed to be able to prevent coronavirus for a year, ivermectin is an antiparasitic used in the treatment of river blindness and lice. The drug is now becoming relevant to serve as remedy just as Chloroquine was initially embraced to combat the virus when it first broke.

When Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine (CQ), an aminoquinoline used for many years for the prophylaxis and therapy of malaria and autoimmune diseases, was put forward as a treatment option, regulatory authorities warned against the use.

Meanwhile, going by the velocity at which the new coronavirus kills, there are calls for its urgent treatment.

With this situation, Nigerians are embracing the use of Ivermectin while waiting for the federal government's ordered vaccine.

According to the World Health Organisation, Ivermectin was originally produced in the 1980s as a veterinary drug used largely for nematode control in cattle, horses, pigs, and dogs and became the standard for control of the ectoparasitic disease such as scabies. It soon became the world's most profitable veterinary drug.

Since then, Ivermectin has been used on humans for controlling strongyloidiasis, a human pathogenic parasitic roundworm causing the disease strongyloidiasis.

In Nigeria, it has been used to treat worms, according to a

pharmacist who spoke to ECHONEWS.

"Originally it's a worm expeller (Anthelmintic) used in the elimination of parasitic worms from the body. They use it in combination with doxycycline. They also use Vitamin C in combination with Axrthromycin."

However, more recently, the drug is now being used for the treatment of Covid-19 pushing demands for the drug high across pharmacies in Lagos.

Another pharmacist, Adeleye Ilori, explained that "it was one of the available free drugs dispensed to patients at clinics in Nigeria – for eliminating different types of worms from the body. People usually don't buy it from pharmacies because of the low price, thinking it's not good quality tableted for expelling worms. It was not expensive and almost cost next to nothing, but now it sells for as high as N200 per tablet."

At N200 per tablet, a pack of 500 tablets could go for as high as N10,000.

Several social media reports point to the efficacy of the drug in "preventing and curing" Covid-19 but this is yet to be certified by the WHO.

The drug however came into the limelight after a Financial Times article claimed the drug had a chance of cutting covid-19 deaths by up to 75%.

The article was based on research published by the International Ivermectin Project Team led by the University of Liverpool lecturer Andrew Hill.

A Nigerian, Olufemi Emmanuel Babalola, from



Dr. Olusunmade

Bingham University/Lagos University, Nigeria is also part of the group.

The result of the research conducted by the group stated: "Ivermectin was associated with reduced inflammatory markers (C-Reactive Protein, d-dimer, and ferritin) and faster viral clearance by PCR. Viral clearance was treatment dose- and duration-dependent. Ivermectin showed significantly shorter duration of hospitalization compared to control. In six RCTs of moderate or severe infection, there was a 75% reduction in mortality (Relative Risk=0.25 [95%CI 0.12- 0.52]; p=0.0002); 14/650 (2.1%) deaths on ivermectin; 57/597 (9.5%) deaths in controls) with

favorable clinical recovery and reduced hospitalization."

Currently, the only other drug with the same level of worldwide unofficial approval for treatment of Covid-19 are Famotidine and Remdesivir, after they also showed an effect on improving recovery rate for Covid-19 patients.

With this, people have to make choice between waiting for government's ordered vaccine and the available alternative. More recently, the search for cures for Covid-19 has been overshadowed by vaccine breakthroughs across the world.

Just like the demand for chloroquine, zinc, and vitamin C soared in the first wave of Covid-19, demand for Ivermectin is rising along with

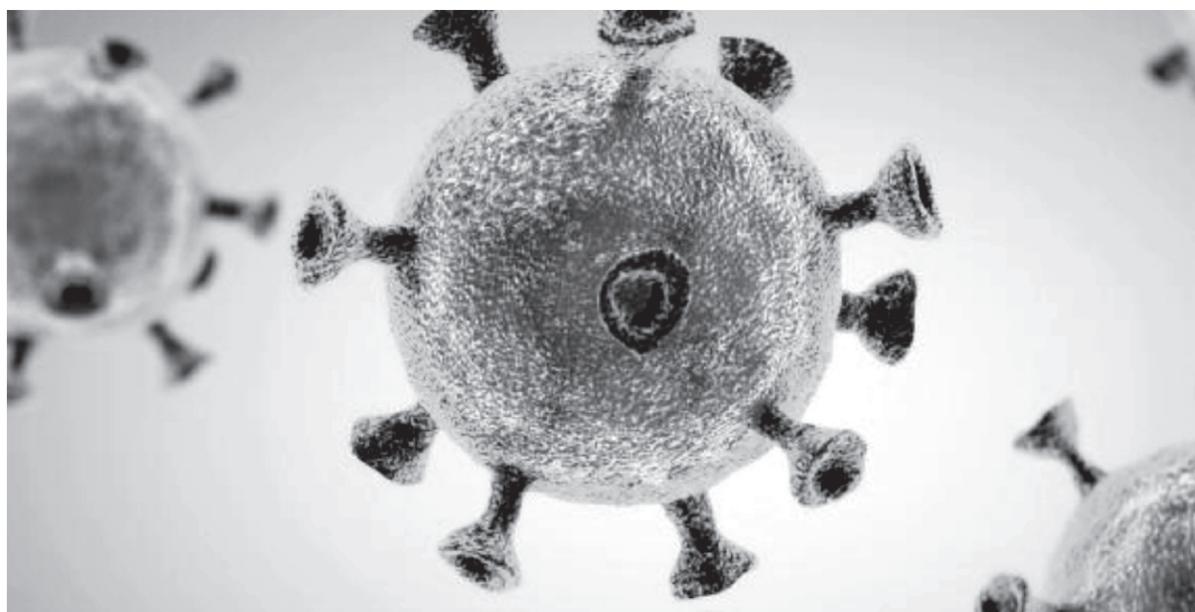
its price.

Fortunately, Ivermectin is backed by research even though the researchers expressed caution as more trials need to be conducted.

"Despite the encouraging trend this existing data base demonstrates, it is not yet a sufficiently robust evidence base to justify the use or regulatory approval of ivermectin. However, the current paucity of high-quality evidence only highlights the clear need for additional, higher-quality and larger-scale clinical trials, warranted to investigate the use of ivermectin further.

"The maximum effective dose of ivermectin needs to be clarified and new clinical trials should use a consistent multi-day dosing regime, with at least 0.4mg/kg/day. The appropriate dose and schedule of ivermectin still requires evaluation and the current randomized clinical trials of ivermectin need to be continued until ready for rigorous review by regulatory agencies," International Ivermectin Project Team.

Asides Ivermectin, Nigerians have also resorted to traditional medicine such as a beverage of lemongrass, dogonyaro leaves, garlic, ginger, and bitter kola to prevent and cure Covid-19.



Ilasamaja police station ready soon-Isolo LCDA

By Damiola Kushimo

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye (Shammeh), has emphasised his pledge to complete the long-abandoned Ilasamaja Police Station. The council boss had promised that he would complete the station to serve as permanent station for the police in the community following the destruction of the old building formerly used by the police during the EndSARS protest. As earlier reported by ECHONEWS, there was controversy between the community and the council authority on which of the two buildings owned by the community and the government should the police relocate to after the destruction of their station. The two buildings were being constructed to serve as police

stations.

However, growing out of patience for the absence of police personnel in the community because the officers eventually relocated to Area D immediately after the incident, a common ground was met and both parties agrees that the police should permanently move to the two-storey building built by the council authority but for the meantime, they should temporarily move to the complex built by the community since it is still in a more conducive state, pending the time the council will complete its project. Although, it was observed that the police had since comfortably moved to the old complex as agreed, nothing has been done on the other complex two months after the promise was made.

Meanwhile, the Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Hon. Emmanuel Olojede told ECHONEWS that the project



Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye

would be captured in the year 2021 budget and will be completed anytime soon. "The station will be completed this year, it will be included in this year's budget," he said. Answering question on why the

council has not prepared its year 2021 budget, Olojede said the effect of the outbreak of coronavirus was delaying the budget, assuring that it would soon be presented to the legislative arm.

Two CDAs commence N27m road project, seek govt's support

The residents and stakeholders of Ademulegun Street Residents Association (ASRA) and Olubunmi Residents Association (ORA) have appealed to the government for supports as they began their N27.2 million road rehabilitation project.

The project which was launched recently with the laying of paving stone beginning from the entrance of the enclosed CDAs is a self-help project the community is embarking on to repair the major road which connects the two CDAs.

According to the Chairman, Finance Committee for the project, Mr. Joshua Ogbimi, the community has taken a step to commence the project with the limited resources realised from the contributions made by the residents.

He noted that only 42 out of the 103 houses in the community have so far made financial contributions to the project as each house is expected to pay the sum N270,000 minimum. He expressed his optimism that the other residents would be encouraged to make their donation as the community commenced groundbreaking.

He reiterated the appeal to the governments both at state and local levels for support as the project is scheduled to be completed by May, this year.

He also revealed that the project is being handled by an in-house contractor, a fellow resident who specialises in moulding paving stones, boasting that the quality of the project is world standard.

His words: "This project was conceived some years back

and we've held several meetings on how to go about executing the it. In August last year, the two communities came together to set up a joint committee on the road rehabilitation. So far, We've contributed some money though not all residents have contributed we decided that we shouldn't wait till we have the full money and we believe that by the time we start, others will be encouraged to pay and it will also attract more supports from outside.

"Good road network is a major sign of development in the community. We believe that this development will make our community a better place for all. One of the beauties of the project is that people are willing to contribute, nobody has objected to the contribution regardless of the unfavourable economic condition.

Everybody has bought into the project but we are also appealing to government to support us because ideally, this is supposed to be a government project but government cannot do everything, they have a lot to do. This is like a support from our end that's why we're calling on government to assist us."

Also speaking, the Chairman of ASRA, Deacon Scott Awhe, explained that the project is a huge one that either of the CDAs cannot handle alone.

The contractor handling the project, the CEO of Samad Kunle Investment Limited, Mr Adeniyi Adekunle, confirmed that the paving stones are of high quality moulded to meet up with standard and that the laying is professionally handled.



Construction work in progress

We aim to move young entrepreneurs online through our ICT Hub - Adebajo

By Damiola Kushimo

The CEO of Sheroes ICT Hub, Olorunfunmi Adebajo, has disclosed that her passion for the empowerment of the female youths in information and technology prompted her to launch an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) centre in Isolo Local Council Development Area. She said the centre, which was launched by United State Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard along Okota Road, was established in memory of her peer mentor, Ms Vweta Chadwick. According to her, about 400 girls would be trained on basic computer packages to make them computer literate and entrepreneurs. Adebajo said the project was

brought to Isolo in a bid to give back to the community where she grew up and contribute to the human capital growth in the area of computer literacy of girls in the locality.

She said: "We are opening the Sheroes ICT Hub for girls in Isolo within the age of 15-25 years. We are doing this because during Covid-19 pandemic, we realised that the world of work has moved from offline to online and a lot of people don't have access to computers. They know how to

use their phone but they cannot use computers.

"Meanwhile, while still in school you can learn a skill on a computer and start to work. Our hope is to train girls for free, they'll only pay for their certificates and few things. We will be training them monthly in basic computer appreciation, Microsoft Suite and typing.

"I grew up in Isolo, I'm an Isolo girl. I grew up at Ire-Akari and I felt that all the good that I've been doing outside, there is a

need to bring them back home and that's why I've brought this to Isolo to work with my people. We intend to train at least 400 girls every year. It is important for them to have skills for employment and personal income so that they will be independent.

"The hub is established in the memory of Vweta Chadwick. She was my peer mentor but she has died. I got a grant from Mandela Washington Alumni Association to honour her memory."



Set of computers in the ICT hub

Liverpool will retain Premier League title and finish ahead of Manchester United – Crouch

By Saheed Afolabi

A former Liverpool player, Peter Crouch, believes Liverpool have what it takes to retain the Premier League title come May 2021. Crouch does not think Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side will be able to keep pace with Jurgen Klopp's men in the long run, and he still believes the Premier League trophy could end up back at Anfield for a second successive year despite their recent struggles for consistency. "I believed it when they were still going through this bad spell.

I had a little bet with Rio [Ferdinand]. I still think they will finish above United. I think they're still in the title hunt," the ex-Reds striker told BT Sport. "I think they have got some top players. I thought Henderson dropping into centre-back tonight was fantastic and, yeah, it's going to be a struggle at times because Nat Phillips had to come on and I'm not sure what happened with Matip. "They're definitely struggling in that area, but when you've got the attacking talent they have on display you cannot write them off." Peter Crouch scored 40 goals in 132 matches during his time at Liverpool.



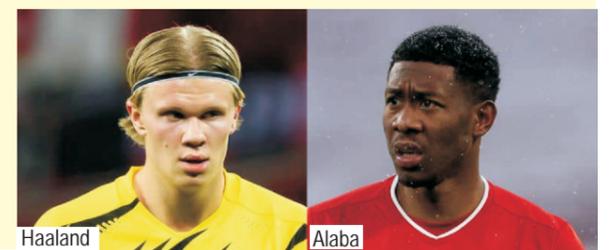
Crouch

Europe heavyweights chase Haaland and Alaba

By Saheed Afolabi

Borussia Dortmund striker, Erling Haaland and Bayern Munich defender, David Alaba are on the radar of Chelsea, Real Madrid, Manchester United and Liverpool this summer. Real Madrid are favourites to sign 20-year-old Norway international Erling Haaland, who has scored 37 goals in 37 appearances for Dortmund in all competitions, and are confident

he will end up at the Bernabeu. Haaland is under contract at Dortmund until 2024 but it is understood the Bundesliga club could be tempted into selling the striker if they receive an offer greater than his €75m (£66m) release clause, which comes into action in the summer of 2022. Chelsea, Manchester United and Real Madrid are one of very few clubs in European football who will have that kind of money available to spend this summer.



Haaland

Alaba

My aim is to win Lagos Access Marathon race – Abiola

By Saheed Afolabi

Experienced distance runner, Oluseyi Abiola, who won the Estate Youth Parliament marathon race in October 1, 2020, told ECHONEWS about how he has participated in some marathon races before clinching his first winner's medal at the EYP marathon race. "I have participated in Globacom (Glo) Lagos International marathon race, MTN International half marathon race, Lagos Access Bank marathon race in 2019, Standard Chartered Nairobi marathon race in 2017 and 2018, Rotary marathon in Tanzania in 2017 and EYP marathon race in 2020 which I won."

"For the upcoming Lagos Access marathon race, I have trained well and I am ready to unleash myself to the World. My major aim is to win the Lagos Access marathon race because winning a race is determined by the hundred percent hard work you put in training which I have always done," he said. He said he is coached by Douglas Wakiihuri who is a former Kenyan long distance runner and who also won gold medal in the marathon race at the 1987 World athletics Championship in Rome and another experienced trainer, Paul Wanyoike. Abiola appreciated Hon. Habeeb Anibaba, sating he has been supporting him in his career.



Oluseyi Abiola

Ms Success FC emerge champions of pre-season tourney

By Saheed Afolabi

Ms Success FC proved to be a major powerhouse at the grassroots by defeating FC Brave in a very exciting encounter. Chinese Kingsley secured the win for Ms Success FC. Ms Success broke the deadlock in the 10th minute through Chibueze Kingsley who converted from close range and was assisted by Anthony Ndubusi with a simple pass. Ms Success came close to add to their advantage in the 20th minute but the chance came crashing the crossbar. FC Brave equalised in the 49th minute through a fantastic header

from Mutiu Adeoye and a well placed cross from substitute Ifeanyi Obioku. Ms Success FC were awarded a controversial penalty in the 75th minute which Chibueze Kingsley converted successfully to send the goalkeeper the wrong way. Olabisi Oseni of Ms Success FC who is a midfielder was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the tournament with his impressive performance in the tournament. The goalie of FC Brave, Ismail Adio, was awarded the man of the match with his fantastic mouth watering saves to keep the score line minimal in the match and he is also the only player to win two man of the match award in the tournament.



Ms Success FC

PSG have been disrespectful in Messi pursuit - Barca presidential candidate, Laporta

The Catalan politician says he will take legal action against the Argentine's potential suitors if he is re-elected at Camp Nou. Paris Saint-Germain have been "disrespectful" in their pursuit of Lionel Messi, according to Barcelona presidential candidate Joan Laporta, who has threatened to report the Ligue 1 champions to FIFA. PSG have been strongly linked

with Messi ever since his decision to hand in a transfer request at Camp Nou at the end of the 2019-20 campaign. The 33-year-old ultimately decided to see out the final year of his current contract with Barcelona after opposition from club officials and La Liga, but his long-term future remains up in the air. "It is disrespectful to Barca that clubs like PSG publicly say they are going to sign Messi.



Brave FC defeat Utility Sport via Penalty shootout

By Saheed Afolabi

Brave FC secured a spot in the final of the Ms Success pre-season tournament with a hard fought victory over Utility Sport through the penalty shootout after playing a 1-1 draw in full time. Brave FC took the lead through the enterprising Bankole Jamiu while Joel Emmanuel put Utility Sport on level terms. Brave FC showed glimpses of impressive

play early in the first half and went ahead with a smashing left footed strike from Bankole Jamiu. Brave FC dominated proceedings in the first half but could not put aside the energetic Utility Sport players. Utility Sport equalised immediately after the start of the second half through Joel Emmanuel who was set up by a needle thread pass from Jude Uchemerie.

Control roads to avert accidents, residents urge govt, NURTW

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The residents of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have called on the local council authority to put more control measures on the major roads in the community to avert incessant accidents that claim human lives. The call came following the accident involving a white Toyota Camry without number plate along Ifelodun, Orisunmibare road last week which claimed the life of one person while eight others were injured. The accident involved a pregnant woman and her three children was said to have been caused by over speeding as a motorcyclist ran into the oncoming vehicle according to eyewitness. The incident occurred around 8:00 in the night.

"Although it was dark and I couldn't capture all that happened due to commotion but that night I was carrying a passenger through that Orisunmibare road and I saw the car ahead of me from afar ran in the opposite direction to hit the woman and her children," one of the Okada riders told ECHONEWS. Three days after, another according accident involving a Toyota Sienna and a tricycle occurred at Akitan Close, Bakery bus stop in which a mother one week old baby were injured. The baby escaped death as it was found under the Sienna and rescued alive. Some of the residents and road users who spoke to ECHONEWS said there is need for the government to build speed breakers at close ranges on the major roads to regulate the speed of the drivers.

One of the residents, Omolola Kabiru, explained that the Ejigbo community has been experiencing accidents in recent times due to the negligence of road users towards government's directives. "For instance in my area at Dauda Ilo the government just constricted the road for us early last year but I noticed that the speed breakers are far apart from one another, giving the reckless drivers the opportunity to drive at higher speeds which has been causing accident," she explained. She further stated: "In my opinion, the cause of the accidents is not the fault of the government because they are trying their best in creating an easy life for us but I will advise that speed breakers should be constructed closer to each other on the roads to at least regulate the speed level of



Accident scene

reckless drivers." She also urged the leadership of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW)

in Ejigbo to create a medium through which the commercial bus drivers who are members of the Union can

be regularly educated on road signs, speed level and other important things they ought to know as drivers.

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Aswani PCRC seeks corporates supports in projects

By Damiola Kushimo

The Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC), Aswani Division has called for supports from companies and individuals in the community on its proposed projects lined up for execution this year. It also want the corporation of the companies on the security architect of the community. The Chairman of the committee, Hon. Adeleke Adegboyega who doubles as the Vice-Chairman, PCRC

Area D, explained that the committee planned to renovate and paint the station premises, complete the construction of the security post and have a command in the division this year. He said the projects could be achieved with the support of companies, corporate organisations and well-meaning individuals in the community. While speaking with ECHONEWS on the committee's programmes for the year 2021, Adegboyega, explained that the committee

is looking forward to carrying out all developmental activities that could not be done last year due to the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic. He noted that many corporate organisations could not help the committee last year due to the effect of the coronavirus on the economy. He also appealed to members of the PCRC to make the expected financial commitment to the growth of the committee and the fruition of all her projects for the year.



Cross section of participants

Divine Avenue CDA showcases self-help projects

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Transformer, road rehabilitation, security were some of the self-executed projects presented by Divine Avenue CDA to the committee constituted by the Ejigbo Community Development Committee (CDC) and the monitoring team of the local council during their community tour to monitor Community Development Associations' (CDAs') projects across the council area.

Prior to the monitoring tour, the CDC had notified all the CDAs that the local council authority and the CDC publicity committee would embark on a community tour to monitor those projects executed by each CDA in its

community.

The Divine Avenue CDA Chairman, Mr Uche Austin, while showing the committee the projects, said those projects being executed by the CDA were highly expensive.

The projects, according to him, include electricity, road, economy, security and socialisation of it residents without government's intervention.

On electricity, Austin made it known that the community through expensive contribution purchased a 500 KVA transformer, got the high tension from the major road, purchased over 80 per cent concrete pole in the community and connected street lights around the area after continuous negligence of Ikeja

Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) towards their request.

"From the onset when we started this project, we consulted IKEDC and we were told that their company is not ready to invest in a place where they will not have returns.

"We purchased the metre from them and they are fully aware that our effort is without the government as we were even encouraged to do it ourselves if we could."

On security, he lamented that the community has over the years experienced continuous threat from thieves, kidnappers and hoodlums that has even led to gunshot encounters in the middle of the night.

"The bandits once shot one of our landlord's sons and out of fear,

many households resorted to lodging at far away hotels for temporary residence at night."

He disclosed that the community afterwards hired about 20 Aguleri boys from the East, gave them accommodation, catering for their feeding expenses, and also paying them monthly to serve as their vigilante in the community for peace to reign.

Again, he explained that the community is presently doing budget for a 4 by 4 drainage of 1.6km for the appropriate channeling of water into the down land area.

"When it is raining, the water coming from the up land neighbouring area is directly flooding to our roads because our area is swampy. We have

written to the local council chairman to intervene but the response was that our area has been noted but they could not assure us of the exact time they will come to our rescue. We were therefore advised that the community should embark on whatever we can do on our own." He further briefed the committee that they were asked to submit a report on the construction process for it to serve as a guide for the government to know where to continue from in the construction process.

Also speaking, the CDA Vice Chairman; Mr Temple Dick, called on the government to approve the one acre of land intended for market area which has been encroached by the land grabbers (Omo oniles), leaving

about four plots of land left.

He noted that the community has successfully bought half plot of land at the Okeowo junction for building town hall which is the next project to be done after the drainage.

Meanwhile, while commending the CDA for its efforts, the committee advised the CDA members to adopt the use of rings and manholes in order to save cost and prevent road accident after the completion of the drainage.

The committee also advised the CDA to cut the grasses around the transformer for the purpose of maintenance and to ensure that it does a comprehensive presentation of all projects after completion to the Lagos State Government.

Use government health facilities - Agosu advises Ejigbo residents

By Motolani AbdulGafar

As Nigerians join in celebrating this year's World Cancer Day, the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Ejigbo LCDA, Dr Adewale Agosu Adewale has urged all residents to utilise medical facilities provided by the government in all Primary Healthcare Centres across the council area.

Dr Agosu made this call in a chat with ECHONEWS with the aim of educating and creating awareness of the disease in accordance to the publicised successive theme of the Day between 2019-2021.

Speaking about the theme "I Am and I Will", he disclosed that this year's campaign phrase "Together, all our actions matter" symbolizes that the collective campaign held all over the world has had a great impact in creating awareness to save millions of people of preventable deaths which has triggered the governments to formulate laid down procedures to educate and enlighten the masses on the disease.

"Of course Ejigbo local government does enlightenment. At Iyana Ejigbo for instance, we do free cervical screening for women so that we can quickly detect anybody that

has any symptom, intervene and treat the patient so that it would not lead to cancer."

In Nigeria, Dr Agosu explained, it is estimated that men are liable to contracting prostate and lung cancer while women are prone to cervical and breast cancer due to certain pre disposing factors they expose themselves to.

He explained the various cancers including cancer of the liver that can be caused by infections like hepatitis and cancer of the lungs mostly caused by smoking.

He advised that men from age 40 and above should do screening once or twice a year, noting that prostate cancer is common in men.

He disclosed that many independent organisations have partnered with the local government for sensitisation exercise to take place in the community in order to avert any problem that can lead to cancer.

He said: "Even in secondary schools, we have started teaching female students on

how to do a self breast examination as our health education department mobilises people to gather where they sensitise the masses on every disease. But presently due to Coronavirus, we educate people through the social media to avoid the spread of the disease."

The MOH, therefore, advised

all Ejigbo residents to cultivate the habit of visiting medical centres, informing that the State Government has made adequate provision to cater for the masses "but it is left to them to patronise the centres because the health of the people is the wealth of the nation."

NYCN honour Ejigbo NURTW chairman, Olowu

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Isolo/Ejigbo Branch B, Alhaji Femi Olowu, has been honoured by the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) Ejigbo branch for supporting the youths to be gainfully employed.

According to the body, Olowu has been assisting many youths in Ejigbo to be engaged in some jobs through which they make living rather than engaging in illicit acts such as theft and bribery as a result of unemployment.

Speaking, the NYCN Coordinator, Comrade Akinyele Akintunde, said the award given to Olowu by the body was to recognise and acknowledge his efforts to



Alhaji Femi Olowu receiving his award

make sure some youths are engage in legal jobs to make their living.

He added that the Union boss has also contributed towards the development of Ejigbo LCDA on his own part.

He noted that Olowu has equally supported the NYCN in assisting youths, saying it

would be of great benefit for both bodies to cooperate with the good intention of the LCDA in empowering and sensitising the youths of Ejigbo.

He, therefore, urged political office holders and wealthy individuals in the community to invest more in the developmental projects that

would have positive impacts on the lives of the youths in 2021 and create more job opportunities for the youths in the community.

Acknowledging the award, Olowu said it was an impetus to do more.

He stated that the success story of Ejigbo is a result of the

good leadership the LCDA has experienced over the years.

"I express utmost gratitude to NYCN as a whole and I must say that we can't be where we are today if not because we are blessed with a kind hearted council chairman who attach much priority to the growth of his people," he said.

Oshodi 2021: Adesanya joins chairmanship race

By Edith Igbokwe

As local government elections in Lagos State are fast approaching, another aspirant, Hon. Yusuf Adesanya, has declared his intention to contest for the chairmanship position of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government.

He said he has the support of leaders of four wards to contest the election while working towards winning the party primary.

Adesanya, the incumbent Supervisory Councilor for



Adesanya with supporters

Environment in Oshodi Isolo Local Government, who is

from Mafoluku ward D3 explained that as an active

member who has supported the course of All Progressive Congress (APC) party members in one way or the other has the backing of leaders such as Alhaji Rasaq Mabinuori, Mrs. Bola Lawal, B. L. Morakinyo, M. F. Ogundimu, Chief Mrs. Olagbaye and other party leaders.

He stated: "I have two points agenda for the good people of Oshodi, the most paramount one is the welfare of the community people, to make sure that the community has a good living. I believe so much in reaching out to people and that is one of the things that

motivated my aspiration to become the chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG. The second agenda is the infrastructural aspect of the community so that development will get to every nook and cranny of the community."

Adesanya clarified that politics has gone beyond giving out

cups of rice to people but imparting positively on people's lives for greater future that will benefit the community at large.

He emphasised that he is contesting for the position of chairmanship to better the lives of people and reduce the poverty in the community.

IKEDC, community agree to resolve December electricity bill

By Edith Igbokwe

Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) and the Araromi Community Development Association (CDA) have agreed to have a round table meeting on Thursday next week to resolve the outrageous December bills which have been causing faceoff between the two parties.

The residents have rejected the December electricity bills issued to the power consumers in the community, claiming that the bills did not commensurate with the units of power supplied and consumed in the community in the month.

The Association explained that the residents did not consume electricity between December 3 and 31, 2020 as the transformer was faulty during the period.

It was gathered that the transformer broke down as a result of fire outbreak from the transformer which burnt one side of the cables and rendered it nonfunctional for some weeks while the incident was immediately reported at Ikeja electric Oshodi undertaking office.

When December bill was issued

to each affected house, it was N31,000 plus which the community rejected, claiming that the transformer was restored on December 31.

Having refused to pay the December bill, the officials of Ikeja Electric started disconnecting people's wires which was rebuffed by the residents which led to faceoff between the residents and the Ikeja Electric workers.

Meanwhile, the management of Ikeja Electric claimed that the transformer got spoilt on December 10 but not December 3 as claimed by the community.

The community, on the other hand, said even with the December 10 claimed by the company, their bills were still too high.

However, to resolve the issue, the CDA Chairman, Alhaji Olanunmi Ogunbakinde and his executive members wrote a letter to the Ikeja electric CEO, the Branch Manager at Alausa and to Oshodi undertaking Manager to notify them with the issue on ground and how resolution can be achieved.

The management of the company has therefore agreed to meet with the community to address the issue.

Empowered beneficiaries hail Yayi

By Damilola Kushimo

The beneficiaries of the empowerment and poverty alleviation materials in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) distributed by the Senator representing Lagos West Senatorial District, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola (Yayi) have commended the initiative, saying it is part of the dividends of democracy the constituents expect from political office holders.

Some of the beneficiaries in Isolo and Ejigbo who spoke to ECHONEWS confirmed that they received various equipment for their empowerment such as grinding machines, hair dryers, sewing machines and others.

One of them, Mrs. Omolaja who received a sewing machine said she was elated

to be among the beneficiaries. She said she would be able to commence her tailoring job and feed her children.

Another beneficiary of a deep freezer said he was lucky as he could not explain how his name got into the list of the beneficiaries.

The programme was designed for residents of the 28 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in Lagos West Senatorial District as 28 units of 500KVA transformers, 28 tricycles, 330 Sewing machines, 484 Grinding machines, 28 Hair Dryers, 28 Clippers with sterilizers, 28 Generators, 28 Deep Freezers, 28 Refrigerators and 126 Vulcanizing machines were distributed.

It was gathered that one CDA in each of the 28 local government areas and LCDAs



Yayi

got a transformer.

It was also gathered that Oshodi-Isolo LGA and its two LCDAs received 11 sewing machines, 15 grinding machines and four vulcanizing machines each.

While motorcycles were distributed based on the number of wards in each of the council areas; deep freezer, refrigerator, hair dryer, barber

tools and tricycle were given each to one person from each of the council areas.

Speaking about the items, the law maker explained that the programme "is not to solicit support for 2023 but to reward the people for their support during the 2019 election," as he urged them to always ask their representatives for dividends of democracy.

Oshodi CDC Chairman, Olawoyin unveils plans for 2021

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of the Community Development Committee (CDC), Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA), Alhaji Adisa Olawoyin, has revealed the committee's plans for the year 2021, saying the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic limited their achievements last year.

According to him, one of the plans is to raise the CDC hall building to completion, saying

other projects would be unfolding for execution bit by bit.

Olawoyin said this during the first anniversary celebration organised for him by other executive members of the committee.

They noted that in his one year in office, despite the challenges of coronavirus pandemic, the CDC boss has achieved tremendously which needs to be appreciated and celebrated as they prayed for him to have more strength to steer the leadership of the committee for the

remaining part of his tenure.

Olawoyin was appreciated by the committee members for his fatherly advice and how he has been handling the affairs of the community which is traceable to good relationship among members.

Speaking about the celebration, the Chairman told ECHONEWS that he was highly elated seeing how much the members love him and how they have accepted his candid advice from the three zones - Oshodi, Mafoluku and Shogunle.

He said: "Members have never rejected my words. We have been collectively doing the community jobs which were recommended at the local and state levels. And I thank God that it brought forth good results that made us to be celebrating today.

"I have a lot of agenda for the development of the community and I pray for the strength to bring them to limelight. With the support of the committee members, we will achieve greatly in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area as a whole.

"Though, the work is tedious, coupled with Covid-19 pandemic that disturbed us from having our regular meetings which posed as a major challenge to achieving a set of developmental projects proposed."

He, therefore, charged all the Community Development Association (CDA) leaders to sensitize their community members to always protect themselves from the second wave of Covid-19 by following the government guidelines of constant nose mask wearing, washing of hands and social distance keeping to curb the

spread of the pandemic.

He appreciated the past CDC Chairmen such as Chief Israel Orija, Alhaji Rasheed Alamutu for their constant support in ensuring that the affair of the community is well attended to for the development of the local government area.

He also appreciated the Local Government Chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh, who, he said, has been actively committed to the activities of the CDC in terms of financial support given for the development of the community in all the zones.



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