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House May Amend LASTMA Law

There are indications that the Lagos State House of Assembly may amend the law that set up the state Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA going by the incessant allegations of extortion and other negative activities, such as bribery against some officials of the agency by members of the public.

The Speaker of the assembly, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa emphasised on the possible amendment at the a plenary where issues bordering on the recklessness of drivers and careless attitudes of LASTMA were discussed last week.

He said that the House of Assembly may dust up the law regulating transportation to address the problem of alleged multiple taxations by various unions in the sector.

Dr. Obasa gave the hint following a motion raised by Hon. Adewale, over a recent protest against alleged extortion by the transport unions in Lagos.

Many Lagos motorists do not have good stories to tell about officials of the state Traffic Management Authority. Their main grievance is that of extortion, which they said had got out of control recently.

Echonews observed that the harsh economy had turned many car owners to commercial drivers and by so doing, may have broken the Lagos traffic law, which is against using private cars for commercial purpose.

The private car owners who engage in commercial operation are more susceptible to extortion due to their flouting of the state traffic regulation,



according to findings. While private car owners have to live with the burden of LASTMA, members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, protested against the alleged extortion.

They stormed the major roads in the state last Monday with placards to express their displeasure with the activities of some LASTMA officials.

On the same day, officers of the Lagos Taskforce were alleged to have chased a motorist that eventually killed two street sweepers working for the Lagos State Waste Management Authority at Gbagada.

While the taskforce had denied the allegation, the driver of the car who killed the two street sweepers turned in himself to the police and confessed that he was being pursued by the taskforce.

This happened about 40 days after a vehicle being chased by LASTMA officials ran into a tricycle, killing a pregnant woman, her child and the driver at

Okota area of Isolo. Echonews correspondent who was stuck in the traffic at Gbagada area last Monday gathered that a car owner was escaping from the Lagos Taskforce when he knocked down two street sweepers.

These were a few of the excesses of the LASTMA officials, some of which the government had responded to in the past but with lesser punishment.

From 2013 till now, over 200 LASTMA officials had been sacked due to bribery, extortion and fake certificates.

In 2013, the government dismissed 157 LASTMA officials. In 2017, the the government sacked 20 and in 2019, it sacked 34 because of various offences. Last month, 14 officials were arraigned and consequently dismissed over extortion.

To Lagos motorists who have not had bad encounter with LASTMA officials, the allegations may sound unbelievable but to many of their victims,

the government still has a lot to do to reform the transportation agency.

According to Investigation, many LASTMA officials had devised some ways with which they extort motorists. They use touts to front their nefarious activities.

At Iyana Oworo bus stop, no fewer than six LASTMA officials are always on duty. They work with some touts who disguise as NURTW members to collect money from any car owner who park to pick passengers.

In Ikoyi and Victoria Island, LASTMA officials had towed parked vehicles away from mechanic workshops in the guise that the workshops operate illegally along the road or under the sheds.

And because of the nuisance that the motorists themselves usually create at the various bus stops, the officials capitalise on this to make arrest instead of controlling the traffic.

Another trick is that some LASTMA officials usually pack themselves inside

commercial bus to patrol and apprehend breakdown or stranded vehicles in some parts of Lagos.

They move with towing vehicles and hardly take their prey to the office for proper documentation and legal fine. Rather, investigation shows that they extort the motorists and allow them to go without prosecution.

During the course of investigation, Echonews found out that an average LASTMA official deployed to control traffic in some busy areas makes about N10,000 daily, using NURTW officials.

However, many of the LASTMA at "dry" posts do not make more than their salary. This set, perhaps enjoy tips from motorists sometimes.

While the police spokesman, Lagos command, Benjamin Hudenjin has said that the reckless driver would be prosecuted, the Lagos Taskforce had denied the fact that its officers' incivility on the road had led to manslaughter on

Gbagada - Oshodi Expressway.

The Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye said that his men were not involved in the pursuit of any motorists along Gbagada - Oshodi Expressway.

Jejeloye who spoke at the scene of the incident where members of the public had gathered to vent their anger and displeasure towards the unfortunate incident described the situation as sad.

He said, "It is a very sad and most importantly avoidable incident today that has led to loss of lives. For us as an Agency, we have a very firm believe that traffic offense is not a criminal offense, therefore it is better for a traffic offender to escape from the scene of the offense than to create a madness on the road that could lead to loss of life".

Jejeloye disclosed that none of the Taskforce officials were posted out for any traffic enforcement, rather, they were deployed to Ile-Zik, Dopemu and Ikeja to maintain law and order during the

House May Amend LASTMA Law



NURTW protest. "So there is no way they could have been involved as widely speculated. The vehicle and occupants involved in the chase were clearly not in Taskforce uniform. "The officials involved in this devastating incident will be fished out, arrested and will be made to answer for their crimes. The suspected motorist who evaded arrest and knocked down these two innocent workers will also be trailed and prosecuted. In this era of social media, there is no hiding place for any criminal". Jejeloye admonished Lagosians to maintain calmness and serenity and allow the law take its full course. He assured that justice will be adequately served and no stone will be left unturned till all parties involved in the heinous crime are prosecuted. "I strongly hope this

serves as a deterrent to any overzealous officer who sidelines the safety and security of Lagosians who we have sworn to protect. Anyone caught jeopardising the safety and security of Lagosians all in the name of apprehending a traffic offender will be severely dealt with."

Meanwhile, the Lagos State House of Assembly has frowned at the alleged recklessness of some motorists in the state just as the lawmakers had raised concerns over the activities of some officials of LASTMA. At a plenary presided over by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, the House invited the Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Hon. Sola Giwa, to appear

and give explanations concerning the incessant recklessness of drivers and the roles played by LASTMA officials. Also invited, among others, is the General Manager of LASTMA, Bolaji Oreagba. The decision of the House followed a 'Matter of Urgent Public Importance' raised by a member, Hon. Temitope Adewale, on the death of two officials of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) resulting from a road rage engaged in by two drivers. Speaker Obasa, while noting that incidents involving the recklessness of drivers and careless attitudes of LASTMA officials were on the increase, said, that in addition to the invitation of the affected top officials, there was a need to revisit the laws guiding transportation in the

state. "The Commissioner and others can be invited so we know what to do to change the current narrative. It is good that we also look at the law to see the penalties. Maybe this would reduce such recklessness on the roads. "The driver who has been arrested must be prosecuted to the latter. If the driver is not found, the owner of the vehicle should be arrested where the driver is an employee of someone to serve as a deterrent to other motorists," Dr. Obasa said. The Speaker also supported suggestions by the Majority Leader, Noheem Adams, and another lawmaker, Gbolahan Yishawu, that modern technology be added by the government in the cleaning of roads in the state, but said it was necessary to accommodate the

sweepers, who, he argued, were employed to earn a living and assist their families. "We have to call on our people, the road users, to be very careful. LAWMA should also come up with ideas to help protect staff, insure them and make the motorists know when the sweepers are working," the Speaker said while calling for more enlightenment of motorists. The House of Assembly may dust up the law regulating transportation to address the problem of alleged multiple taxations by various unions in the sector. Dr. Obasa gave the hint following a motion raised by Hon. Adewale, over a recent protest against alleged extortion by the transport unions in Lagos. "This alleged extortion affects our people generally and looking

at the economic condition of the country, we need to intervene. We must be able to define the paths that these unionists have to tread so that they do not make life unbearable for the people. "At every bus stop, they collect money causing traffic snare. In the end, the man making the payment would go home with nothing and to avoid this, he has to put the weight on the commuters. "We must avoid a situation where people would be moved to take laws into their hands. We need to extract seriousness out of this situation. Where there is a law, there will be penalties," he said while calling for the engagement of candidates recently interviewed for recruitment into the Neighbourhood Safety Corps to expand the security network in the state.



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Child Protection: Lagos Taskforce Commences Monitoring Assessment

The Lagos State Government through the Joint Task Force on the implementation of the Executive Order on Safeguarding and Child Protection has commenced monitoring and assessment across the Six Education Districts in the State.

The members of the Joint Task Force comprise top-level representatives of the Office of Education Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Lagos State Safety Commission, State Universal Basic Education Board, Child Protection Network and Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency.

According to the Executive Secretary of DVA, Mrs. Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, the monitoring exercise which began on the 31st of October at the Lagos City College, Sabo-Yaba, has so far

engaged over 200 schools in Education Districts IV and V, whilst over 90 schools have been visited to ascertain and measure compliance by the Districts.

Also, on-the-spot assessments were conducted in the schools to confirm the practical implementation of the policy and identify strengths and areas for improvement.

While speaking at the engagement, a representative of the Office of Education Quality Assurance, Mr. Kamaldeen Akodu elaborated on the need for schools to put precautionary measures in place to ensure a safe learning environment.

Similarly, a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mr. Jubril Yakub informed school Administrators of the essence of the exercise, highlighting the fact

that it is not punitive but rather corrective. He further explained the reporting procedures to be adopted in schools.

Representative of the Lagos State Safety Commission, Mrs. Ajoke Oshokoya emphasised the importance of having safety measures in schools. According to her, certain security measures such as having security personnel, safety equipment, conducting safety training, and well-maintained facilities for a hazard-free environment, are expected to be put in place to ensure the general well-being and security of students, staff and visitors.

Recall that the State Government in December 2016 ratified the Executive Order (No. EO/AA08 of 2016) establishing the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. The policy is to be mandatorily adopted by



all child-centred institutions to ensure that the rights of children in their care are safeguarded and adequately protected even as clear-cut

protocols for handling reports and disclosures of abuse are clearly defined.

The monitoring exercise aims to

ascertain the level of adoption and implementation of the Executive Order across all Six Education Districts in Lagos State.

Well Fastrack Approval for LCCI Convention Centre-Sanwo-Olu



stated that the administration will continue to build the capacity of MSMEs through various training in branding, packaging, digital marketing skills and others, while further promoting locally made products by facilitating access to market for entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperative, Trade & Investment, Hon. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem noted that Lagos State, the economic nerve centre of Nigeria, currently contributes approximately 25 percent of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"Over the past year, we have seen an impressive eight percent growth in our non-oil sector, a testament to the resilience and innovation of our industrious business community. Many of our Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are growing, accounting for about 80 percent of the State's employment, which underscores their pivotal role in job creation and economic development", she said.

Ambrose-Medebem said beyond the numbers, the real value lies in the stories the

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured the leadership of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) that his administration will fastrack the approval for the Certificate of Occupancy of the land allocated to the organisation for the construction of trade fair and exhibition centre.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance at the celebration of Lagos State Day/Closing Ceremony of the just concluded annual Lagos International Trade Fair held at Tafawa Balewa Square, Onikan, Lagos on Sunday with the theme: "Navigating Economic Challenges: Forging a Path to Prosperity".

Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro, said his administration is committed to improving the business environment towards making it more attractive for investment.

His words: "With the T.H.E.M.E.S Development Agenda, now rechristened T.H.E.M.E.S. Plus Agenda, our administration rose to the occasion as we confronted the challenges of infrastructure and others frontally because we understand how important they are to achieving the major responsibility of government, which is facilitating friendly environment for living and ease of doing businesses.

"We shall continue to place a high priority on the provision of key infrastructure that would make our State safer, more secure, functional and productive as an impetus towards achieving sustainable economic growth, leveraging on a highly motivated and vibrant private-sector participation".

The Governor also

Fellows of Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy Visit Oba Oniru

In a bid to garner knowledge and experiences from leaders in the Public Service, the Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) visited the royal palace of Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II), the Oniru of Iru land, to gain firsthand insights into his Life, History and Leadership skills.

The Executive Secretary of the Academy, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, who led the Fellows, harped on the importance of continuous learning as a tool for self-development, reiterating the commitment of the Academy to transform participants into formidable leaders.

In his remarks, Oba Oniru urged the Fellows to remain focused on their set goals, as they transition into great

leaders. "To truly become a good leader, you must be open to learning new things, reading regularly and transforming your weaknesses into strengths. It is also important to note that we are in the Social Media era, so you must embrace all that it has to offer and take advantage of it", he said.

The Monarch guided the Fellows through taking policy decisions and cultural initiatives while highlighting the significance of



collaboration and adaptability in leadership.

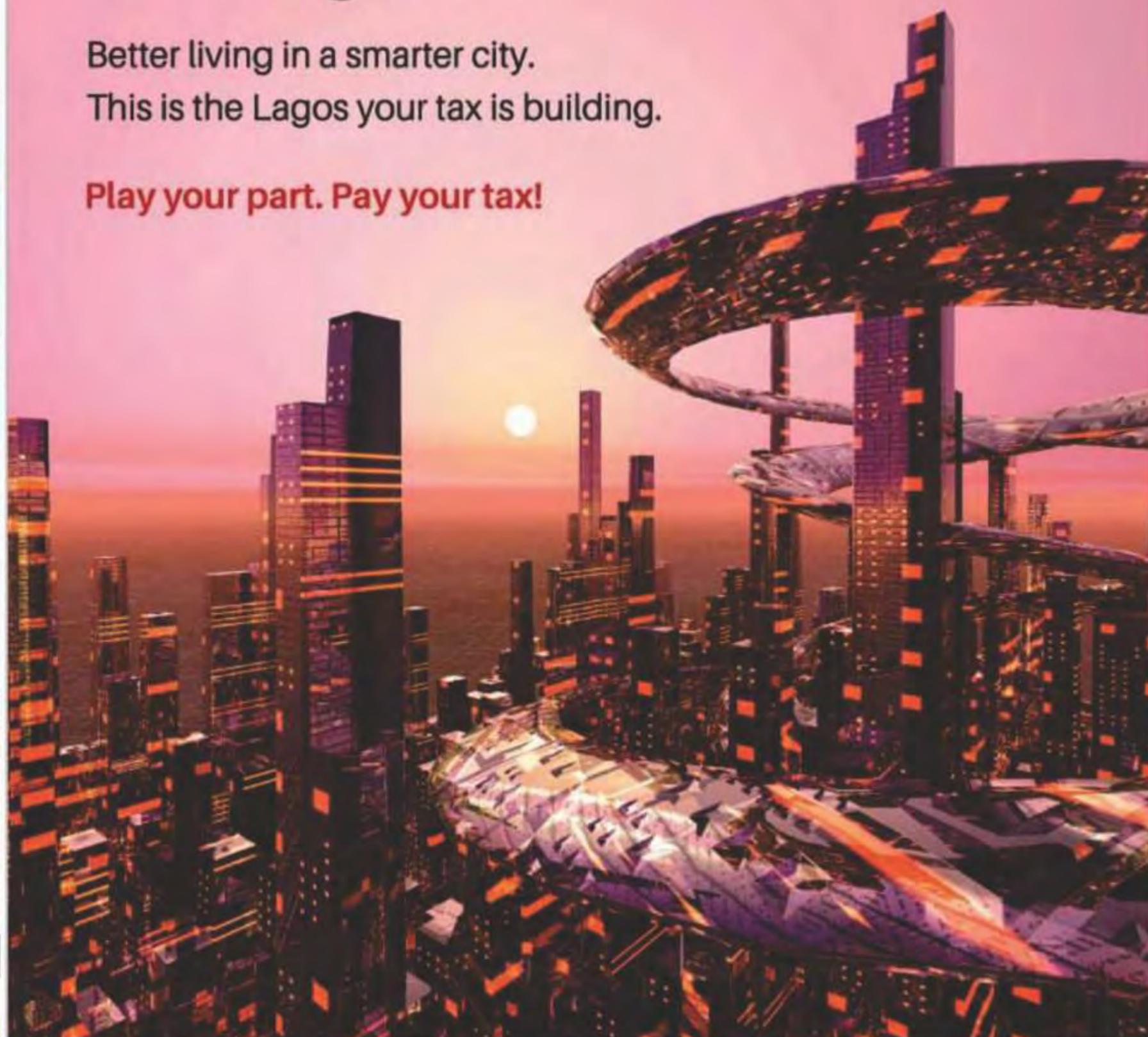
The learning visit to Oba Oniru and the acquired knowledge about his exemplary leadership skills left the Fellows with a newfound appreciation for cultural heritage through a firsthand experience of the intricate etiquette of the Royal Court.

Also in attendance during the visit was the Olopon of Iru land, Chief Olumide Oniru and the Baale of Igbosere, Chief Salau Issa among others.

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Commissioner Applauds Lagos Public Pupils' Excellent Performance

The Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated the pride of the State in the distinct quality of knowledge shown time and again by public school students in national and international competitions. The transformation in the education sector under the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has gradually returned the State education sector to an enviable position of excellence in recent times. The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun stated this when he received pupils and students who made the State proud at the recently concluded

Junior Engineers, Technicians, and Scientists (JETS) competition held in Abuja. The Commissioner commended the students for their impressive performance and commitment to making Lagos State a shining star among other states and implored them to do more in future. He also appreciated the teachers for mentoring the students to make the State proud, saying, "The students went to Abuja, they saw, and they conquered the rest of Nigeria. Alli-Balogun also stressed that the immense growth and improvement in the quality of Basic and Secondary education in the State will be scaled up with more intervention in infrastructure, capacity building and welfare of



teachers. This is the target the State has set for the Ministry in addition to attaining global standards in teaching and learning. It should be noted that Lagos State bagged the first prize, winning the Overall Best State in Nigeria and received medals for Best Overall

Female JETS Student, and Tertiary Education Scholarship for three students. The State also received trophies for first position in the following categories; Primary Mathematics, Primary Technology, Junior Basic Science, Junior Computer, National Theme Project,

Senior Mathematics and Physics. The Lagos State team, which comprises pupils and students from Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary schools across the State, won a total of over 22 trophies and medals. The presentation of

Awards and Commendation Letters to the Schools Students and Teachers who participated in the competition was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary, Mr Abayomi Abolaji and Directors from the Ministry.

Commissioner Donates Books To 10 Primary Schools

The Lagos State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide has reached out to school pupils on Lagos Island with the donation of exercise books and biros. Speaking during the presentation of the items to 10 different schools on Friday, Dr. Olumide said that leaders should endeavour to return to their roots and support the locals as the government could not do it alone. The benefitting schools include the Christ Cathedral Primary School, Anglican Missionary School, Holy Cross Primary

School, Ebute Elefun Primary School, and Tinubu Methodist Primary School. Others are Lagos Island Local Government Primary School, Jamaitul Islamiya Primary School, St Peters Primary School and St Mary's Girls Primary School as well as St Mary's Anglican Primary School and St David's Primary School. The Commissioner, who remembered with nostalgia how he had benefited from public educational facilities and the inspirations of notable personalities, urged everyone to collaborate with the Lagos State Government in achieving the Greater Lagos vision through

socially responsible acts. The Chairman, Lagos Island Local Government, Hon. Muibi Alade Folawiyo expressed satisfaction with the gesture of Dr. Oluyinka Olumide and enjoined other well-meaning Lagosians to emulate his good deeds. The Chairman, Lagos Waka Club 1945, Capt. Lisk Carew (rtd.) who coordinated the distribution, said that the Commissioner, who doubles as the Secretary of the Club, exhibited the good spirit that the Waka Club has been known for over the years, saying that more support programmes are in the pipeline from the Club.



Lagos, Nordic-Nigeria Connect For Sustainable Green Economy

Governor Sanwo-Olu said this at the opening ceremony of the Nordic-Nigeria Connect Conference 2023, themed "Innovation for a Greener Future", held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, added that as the countries open the doors to knowledge exchange, networking and collaboration, they should embrace the spirit of innovation that will drive them towards a greener future.

Mr. Governor stated that the conference presents an opportunity for Nigeria to learn from the Nordic countries, made up of Denmark, Sweden and Finland, to adapt best practices and innovative ideas that will enhance the nation's progress towards building a greener and more sustainable economy.

He added that the conference will explore cutting-edge technologies, sustainable practices



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has stated that it is through collaborative efforts, shared expertise and exchange of ideas that Nigeria and Nordic Countries can harness the power of innovation to overcome environmental challenges that lie ahead.

and collaborative initiatives that can pave the way for a more environmentally conscious future, adding that from renewable energy solutions to waste management innovations, each session will inspire and empower all to take meaningful actions.

Speaking further, Sanwo-Olu noted that Nigeria, with its dynamic and rapidly growing economy, presents a unique opportunity for collaboration in developing and implementing innovative solutions to address environmental

concerns.

He said, "Nordic countries have long been pioneers in sustainable development and innovation, setting benchmarks for the rest of the world and the collaboration between the Nordic countries and Nigeria is a testament to our shared commitment to creating a more sustainable and eco-friendly world".

The Governor emphasised that as a government, his administration has laid a firm foundation upon which the state is building collaborations and alliances with the private sector that would allow businesses in sectors operating in Lagos to key into the new

economic trend.

He, therefore, advised, "As we engage in discussion and forge new connections, let us keep in mind the shared responsibility we bear towards our planet. Our actions today will shape the world that future generations will inherit. By fostering innovation and sustainable practice we can ensure that the legacy we leave behind is one of environmental stewardship and resilience".

In his remarks, the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Olatunbosun Tijani noted that the federal government is committed to opening the country's economic potential to the world to invest. He said the country has tremendous untapped opportunities in many sectors of the economy.

He said the country is open for business and partnerships that will help the Nation to grow its economy as it is awakening to applying technology and innovation to drive the nation's economy through various

sectoral activities, adding that the government hope to build collaboration that they can leverage on the opportunity to build the nation's economy.

Similarly, the Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy of Denmark, Dan Jorgensen stated it is important for the Danish and Nigerian governments to collaborate in finding solutions to environmental challenges, stressing that climate change is no longer a far-off threat in the distant future, but already here.

He noted that Nigerians are more knowledgeable than anyone in terms of climate change, saying "I have been closely following how Nigeria is already affected by climate change; unpredictable rainfall patterns, drought, water scarcity, floods and coastal erosion, crop failing because of either lack of water or excessive rainfall".

The Danish Minister maintained that his government has an

ambition to strengthen engagement with the African continent, to build new partnerships and stronger alliances.

According to the Deputy Minister for International Trade, Finland, H.E. Mr. Jarno Syrjälä, innovations can be achieved through networking, partnership and collaboration as innovations do not happen in a vacuum, but require the right policy decisions, culture and problem-solving and can also be fostered in investment in science, education and research are key.

Director-General for Trade, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, H.E. Mr Per-Arne Hjelmbo noted that Sweden wants to be a strategic partner to Nigeria and the rest of the African continent to help boost the value chain and also wants to become a knowledge partner for the nation in research, innovation, in competence development and skill transfer.

He pointed out that Nigeria and the Nordic Countries have enjoyed a long tie and it is becoming more dynamic in sectors such as Power Generation, Energy, ICT, Transport and digitisation, declaring that Nigeria is a good match with Sweden in partnership.

Lagos Govt Onboards 25 MDAs on Citizens Gate 2.0 Platform



...Holds Training on Service Level Agreement, Customer Relationship Management

To further bridge the communication gap between citizens and the Lagos State Government, the Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement has onboarded an additional 25 Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) on the Citizens Gate 2.0 Platform (CVG 2.0). The onboarding of the 25 MDAs brings the total number of MDAs on the platform to 45, while plans are being concluded to onboard 24 more next week.

In his welcome address at the event held on Monday at the OPL&CE

Conference Room, Alausa, the Special Adviser, Office of Political, Legislative and Civic Engagement, Dr. Tajudeen Afolabi said the Citizensgate Application was revamped from version 1.0 to 2.0 to strengthen grassroots participation through electronic processes and digital communication between the State Government and the people.

He added that the data gathered from the application is expected to be of tremendous value to

the government as it will help tailor government decisions to address the challenges of its citizens as well as meet the expectations of Lagosians.

The Special Adviser called on the facilitators to make the training as interactive as possible, equip the resolvers from the newly boarded MDAs with key skills to set and uphold high service standards, effectively manage enquiries, and complaints, as well as enhance citizens' satisfaction.

While appreciating Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat for their unwavering support towards the CitizensGate project, he implored the Resolvers to be diligent, communicate effectively and resolve all issues as it affects their agencies.

He reiterated that they should exhibit total commitment by using the CitizensGate App as their bible for the utilisation of the platform to be fully realised.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Political,

Legislative & Civic Engagement, Engr. Abiola Kosegbe averred that the Office recognises the importance of Service Level Agreements (SLAs) to the deliverables, target and key index performance of each MDA and effective management of customer relationships to ensure optimal service delivery, hence the need for the comprehensive training programme on Service Level Agreement and Customer Relationship Management for all MDAs on-boarded onto the CitizensGate 2.0 platform.

Kosegbe further asserted that the continuous training will serve as a veritable tool to impact the necessary knowledge for promoting positive interactions between the governed for all-inclusive governance, foster stronger communication links and build trust between government, agencies and citizens.

Urging the Resolvers to get more citizens to log

onto the citizens' gate platform, Kosegbe said the most important factor in the training is to get the buy-in of the resolvers so as not to make the platform a failure and that they should leave the training with a full understanding of what the CitizensGate 2.0 Platform is all about.

Taking the participants on the Essence of the Citizens Gate Application as a Service, the Objectives and key Roles of Resolvers, the Lead Consultant, Instant Project Company, Mr. Idowu Thompson said the new direction of the CitizensGate App is more robust with the inclusion of more features such as Security Alert/Reporting, Direct Access To Ministries and Agencies, Governors' Office News, Employment/Vacancy Alert, State Government Permit Application, Citizens Feedback to Government Portal and Government Project

Bidding Notifications.

He highlighted the benefits of CitizensGate 2.0 Platform such as Empower the Citizens, Real-time access to State related information, Sub portal to Lagos State Government, Ministries and Agencies as well as Real-time opinion polls and Citizens feedback initiatives as given to its Citizens as they can reach out to Government and its various Parastatals across the State in Real-time.

Another Consultant from Applistructure, Mr. Michael Chizoba took the Resolvers on the practical and demonstration sessions of the CitizensGate App 2.0.

Citizensgate 2.0 platform is a one-stop shop that offers a real-time channel of enquiries, complaints, commendations and a real-time interface that enables Lagosians to maintain a clear line of communication with the government and relevant MDAs.

It also serves as a digital gateway that enables seamless communication between citizens and the government providing convenience, transparency and efficiency in delivering public services.

Clean Energy: USAID Power Africa Partners Lagos To Empower Women

USAID's Power Africa Nigeria Power Sector Programme has collaborated with the Lagos State Government to launch a three-week training programme on clean energy solutions for the first 30 women out of the 500 women across Nigeria who will receive this training. The initiative by Power Africa aims to increase women participation and leadership in Nigeria's renewable energy sector. The training, held recently at the Lagos State Electricity Board in Ikeja, is part of



Power Africa's Growing Green Jobs for Women in Nigeria programme. It will equip participants with hands-on expertise in solar installation and maintenance, just as they would get the

Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) certification. Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Engr. Shola Shasore said that Power Africa's skills

training programme aligns with the State Government's commitment to promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment. She noted that empowering women to compete in the renewable energy job market supports the administration's T.H.E.M.E.S Plus development agenda. "With women currently holding just 8% of energy sector jobs in Nigeria, programmes creating opportunities for women in technical roles are essential for an inclusive and sustainable future," Shasore emphasised. The Permanent

Secretary further urged the trainees to utilise the knowledge from the programme to create positive change in their communities and encourage more women to pursue technical careers. The Chief of Party of Power Africa Nigeria Power Sector Programme, Mr. Tunde Gbajumo, thanked the Lagos State government for supporting the initiative. "Closing the gender gap in energy sector jobs and leadership will accelerate Nigeria's transition to sustainable power," Gbajumo asserted.

In his remarks, the Head of Administration and Human Resources of the Lagos State Electricity Board, Mr. Demilola Lateef Shitta praised the participants' dedication and emphasised the need for more initiatives that empower women in solar and renewable energy. It should be noted that the collaboration with Lagos State Government on the skill training programme demonstrates USAID Power Africa's commitment to ensuring inclusivity and sustainability in the energy sector. As more women develop expertise in clean energy, Nigeria can position itself at the forefront of the global energy transition while creating new economic opportunities for its citizens.

NG-CARES initiative: Lagos Enrolls New Beneficiaries into Scheme



The Special Adviser to the Governor on Sustainable Development Goals, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih has described the NG-CARES initiative as a state-level intervention programme designed to alleviate the local effects of the pandemic by advancing social inclusion in Lagos State. Dr. Finnih, who stated this recently at the official presentation of Certificates to outgoing beneficiaries of the NG-CARES (DLI 1.2) Labour Intensive Public Workfare held at the Onigbongbo LCDA Secretariat, Ikeja, disclosed that one of the core priorities of government in the attainment of SDGs is the creation of opportunities for

citizens' empowerment. She explained that as a state-level intervention programme designed to alleviate the local effects of the pandemic by safeguarding the livelihoods of both existing and newly vulnerable households, beneficiaries of the schemes are predominantly unemployed and unskilled youth and women from vulnerable households, between the ages of 18 and 45 years. In her words, "The Office of Sustainable

Development Goals, responsible for initiating the Labour-Intensive Public Workfare of the programme in Lagos State, has in the last year implemented this project across all 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) of the state, targeting identified vulnerable individuals. According to her, this delivery platform plays a pivotal role in the overall implementation of the NG-CARE project. It is designed to significantly enhance the socio-economic well-being of vulnerable members of society and alleviate their challenges.

Dr. Finnih stated that the primary objective is to provide immediate employment opportunities in social sectors, thereby addressing the emergency constraints caused by the loss of labour income in poor and vulnerable households due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "This programme has achieved significant milestones, evident through the numerous success stories of our beneficiaries. We have graduated 1,716 beneficiaries from various communities, working with organisations like LAWMA, Public Works, Ministry of Transportation, LASPARK, Primary Health Care, and other intervention agencies", she disclosed. While noting that the initiative has also played a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of participating youth and women, the Special Adviser stated that another set of beneficiaries have been enrolled into the scheme to ensure that no one is left behind.

She pointed out that the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is dedicated to providing opportunities to achieve a state of well-being and socially acceptable standards of living for all our citizens, affirming that emphasis has been on the implementation of strategies that will expand the socio-economic safety net and reduce the burden on the majority of vulnerable communities. Dr. Finnih, who revealed that the present administration's partnership with both the public and private sector will continue to birth new opportunities for the people, affirmed that interventions like NG-CARES are pivotal towards enhancing a prosperous and peaceful society. Appreciating all stakeholders for identifying with the programme, she implored the new beneficiaries to be diligent in their

assigned duties and respect their host communities to ensure the success of the programme. In his remark, the Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area, Hon. Olakunle Oladotun said, while the initiative is providing opportunities for beneficiaries to improve their standards of living, it is equally making them responsible citizens as they contribute to the development of the state through the social services rendered. Expressing delight and gratitude to the state government for enrolling new beneficiaries into the scheme, the Chairman emphasised that involving more vulnerable Lagosians in the project underscores the government's commitment to building a productive society. Acknowledging the contribution of the beneficiaries to the community through the social intervention scheme, Hon. Olakunle offered immediate employment to three outgoing beneficiaries for their outstanding effort and dedication to duties during their period of engagement with NG-CARES.

LASHMA Commences Second Phase of EKOSHA

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), in its commitment towards ensuring that no one is left behind in the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) of the State Government, has commenced the second phase of the enrolment of the vulnerable and indigent residents on ILERA EKO.

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), Dr. Emmanuella Zamba, who disclosed this recently in Alausa, Ikeja, said that the Agency completed EKOSHA Community Storm 1.0 in the first half of the year and now there is the need to embark on the second half of the year Community Storm 2.0 in order to ensure that the newly identified vulnerable and indigent residents in the State are enrolled on ILERA EKO.

During the first half-year, according to her, a



total of 13, 897 vulnerable were enrolled by the EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA) arm of LASHMA, making a total of 277, 672 vulnerable enrolled on the Scheme.

Dr. Zamba said that the enrolment of the vulnerable supported by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) will be done in the 20 Local Government Areas/Local Council Development Areas in the State, adding that

this is to ensure that the vulnerable have access to healthcare and also improve their quality of life.

The Permanent Secretary commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his passion and commitment towards ensuring that every resident in the State, has access to quality and affordable healthcare services. She also thanked Mr. Governor for graciously approving and releasing the Equity Fund which is used for the enrolment of the vulnerable.

She said that now that the State Social Health Insurance is compulsory, the Government is alive to its responsibility to ensure that those who cannot afford to pay for their healthcare, are catered for by the State Government.

She further said that aside from the vulnerable having access to free healthcare, the EKOSHA programme also has a sustainability component, which is to work with other social welfare Ministries,

Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Government as well as interested private organisations, to empower the vulnerable that have been enrolled on the Scheme so that they too, can start paying their premiums after a while.

The empowerment, she explained, will also enable the vulnerable to be financially independent to pay their premiums and contribute their quota to the development of the State.

She equally advised the vulnerable not to take their registration and enrolment on ILERA EKO for granted but that they should utilise the hospital of their choice whenever they need medical attention.

Dr. Zamba who commended individuals and organisations who have already adopted some vulnerable by paying for their

premiums appealed to other influential personalities, groups, organisations, philanthropists and donors home and abroad to support the State Government by enrolling the less privileged in their communities, churches and mosques on ILERA EKO.

She said that instead of giving out any other gift during the Yuletide Season which is around the corner, ILERA EKO Health Insurance plans can be given to the vulnerable and indigents in the State.

The Permanent Secretary also applauded traditional rulers, politicians, community leaders, community development council (CDC) and community development associations (CDAs) for supporting the Agency in identifying the vulnerable and encouraging them to utilise the hospitals whenever they need medical attention.

Double Honours For Lagos Fire Chief



The Director, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service (LSFRS), Mrs. Adeseye Margaret has been

honoured with the Africa Safety & Emergency Response Ready Ambassador Award (SafERR) by the

World Safety Organisation at the Lagos Chamber of Health, Safety, Security and Environment Summit. Adeseye was recognised

for her selfless dedication to protecting the lives and property of Lagos citizens alongside other dignitaries and corporate bodies including Safety Advocates, Fresh Fountain Consultants, Nigerian Association of Master Mariners, Federal Road Safety Corps and National Emergency Management Agency. Similarly, over the weekend at the prestigious Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Mrs. Adeyeye also received a National Award for the Firefighter of the Year from the Leadership Excellence Award (LEEX 2023) on the platform of Igbere TV who described the awardee as "having a good heart in carrying the public burden at their worst time".

The Firefighter of the Year Award was bestowed on her for outstanding performance as a team leader in swiftly responding to fire and related emergencies as well as serving humanity.

Dignitaries at the occasion include Deputy Speaker, Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Benjamin Kalu; Secretary to the Government of Federation, George Akume and Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Dr. Betta Edu among others.

It should be noted that winners at the award ceremony were drawn from a wide range of occupational health and safety elements, incident investigation, emergency preparedness and innovations. AfriSafe is a clarion call for a safer workplace and a safer Africa.

LASTVEB Celebrates 15 Retirees

The Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) has celebrated 15 retirees who dedicated 35 years of their lives to the State Civil Service and retired statutorily after meritorious services.

Speaking at the retirement ceremony held on Monday at Ikeja, the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro implored the retirees to prioritise their health as they embark on the new chapter of their lives and wished them a fulfilling and joyous life in retirement.

He said, "The State Government will always be checking on you through phone calls and visits periodically, especially during your birthdays and for confirmation of some processes".

Agoro, who was represented by Mrs. Boluwatife Bankole, also mentioned that their legacies will forever be cherished and their impact will continue to shape the



landscape of technical and vocational education in Lagos State.

Also speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary of LASTVEB, Ms. Moronke Azeez said the retirees who have been part of LASTVEB's success, were honoured for

their commitment, expertise, and outstanding contributions to technical and vocational education in Lagos State.

Their tireless efforts have left an indelible mark on the board and have positively impacted the lives of

countless students. "We are immensely proud of the retirees' contributions to LASTVEB and the field of technical and vocational education. Their years of service have helped shape the future of our board and laid a strong foundation for

generations to come", she said.

Azeez averred that the retirement ceremony was a fitting tribute to exceptional individuals and provided an opportunity for colleagues, friends, and family members to gather and express their appreciation for

the retirees' remarkable careers.

"This retirement ceremony is also to serve as a reminder of the value and importance of long-standing service and commitment by showcasing the retirees as role models", the Executive Secretary enthused.

Speaking on behalf of the retirees, former Principal of Government Technical College, Ado Soba, Badagry, Mrs. Christianah Bajulaiye appreciated the State Government for organising a befitting retirement ceremony for them on their exit from service.

She prayed for LASTVEB and Lagos State to continue to move from strength to strength so that Technical and Vocational education will continue to sustain and improve on the existing standard.

The retirees were later presented with various gifts including Certificates of Service from the Office of the Head of Service (HOS).

Lagos Govt Tasks PSP Operators On Improved Service



Lagos State Environment and Water Resources Commissioner, Tokunbo Wahab and the Special Adviser on Environment, Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu over the weekend convened a meeting with PSP waste operators, harping on improved service delivery and transparency.

Addressing the executive of the Association of Waste Managers of Nigeria (AWAM) during a meeting held at Alausa, he noted that their modes of operations must be digitized to make them more transparent and profitable.

He added that the association should put in place proper data

collation and enumeration of all commercial and private facilities being serviced as this process would increase accountability and allow the operators to carry out their responsibilities seamlessly for the benefit of all.

Wahab averred that the State Government is aware that the PSP operators need some interventions but they must explain why the revenue being generated presently has dropped by 50% within five years.

"When you had a surplus, did you increase the stake of the government? As such I reject the appeal to reduce the 25% remit to LAWMA. I will not go that route except

on two conditions: I want the enumeration of all the houses and digitize the number of household facilities across the State", he said.

He said the continuous increase in population with the corresponding increase in the generation of waste has necessitated the need for a major change in PSP daily operations, adding that the present cost is not sustainable in the light of growth to the economy.

He stressed that the time has come for PSP Operators to create an online portal where GPS receivers are installed in their trucks to provide accurate locations, including the numbers of trips undertaken by each operator daily among other things.

The Commissioner urged

the PSP operators to be ready to confront the issue of waste, saying there was an urgent need to continually clear waste across the metropolis, while a holistic solution was being worked out.

The Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu noted that the government understands that the State is faced with a solid waste management challenge as a result of urbanization and population growth resulting in large tons of waste being generated daily.

He said residents will expect an uplift in the city's waste management system with the resumption of door-to-door residential waste collection by the PSP operators, especially during the yuletide and after.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Olalekan Shodeide stated that it is important for PSP operators to employ technology and innovation to make things work better for

all, stressing that PSP operators should embrace digitization as this will help with better service delivery.

"This move is to reassure you that the government is set on a new beginning in order to consolidate what has been achieved. Everybody must work together for a flood-free and sustainable environment", he said.

Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Dr. Gaji Omobolaji Tajudeen urged the PSP operators to redesign templates for the provision of their services so that their proficiency and efficiency can be measured.

He asked the association to put all their compactor trucks in good condition, saying if residents get better services from them they would pay without being forced.

According to the Managing Director of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, there is a need to have a verifiable database to ascertain the size of the PSP businesses.

He appealed to the PSP operators to provide accurate data for all households so that the government would know those paying and those who are not.

In response, the President, Association of Waste Managers of Nigeria (AWAM), Mr. Olugbenga Adebola expressed appreciation to the State Government for re-awakening the consciousness of residents to be more environmentally conscious.

He said AWAM members are committed and set to continually work with the State Government having invested billions of naira in the project which has contributed a sizeable percentage to the economy of Lagos State.

He stated that the PSP Operators are operating under a very tough business environment which is making it difficult for them to break even.

At the end of the meeting, both parties agreed to reconvene soon and bring all options to the table to agree on the best way forward.

Meet Your Legislator Hon Mojisola Lasbat Meranda



Constituency: Apapa i

Legislative year: 2015 – 2019 (the 8th legislative assembly)
 Legislative year: 2019 – 2023 (the 9th legislative assembly)
 Legislative year: 2023 – date (the 10th legislative assembly)
 Marital status: married
 2. Date of birth: 16th august 1980
 3. Place of birth: lagos state
 4. State of origin: lagos state

5. Schools attended, qualifications obtained with dates
 A. Primary school(s) attended with date(s)
 I. Randle primary school 1986-1992
 B. Secondary school(s) attended with date(s)
 I. Lagos Anglican girls grammar school (1992-1996)
 Ii. Ansar-ud-deen secondary school (1996-1998)

C. Tertiary institution(s) attended with date(s)
 I. Lagos state university (lasu) 2009-2013
 Ii. University of Lagos (unilag) 2018-2020 (in view)
 6. Qualifications obtained with date (s)
 Ii. Elementary primary school leaving certificate (1992)
 Iii. Senior secondary certificate examination (ssce)(1998)
 Iv. Advanced certificate in software development

(2005)
 V. Bsc (hons) public administration (2012/2013)
 7. Working / professional experience with dates
 I. Personal assistant at the office of the surveyor general (2003-2007)
 Ii. Cirrus Nigeria limited (oil and gas) procurement manager (2007-2008)
 Iii. Apapa local

government (2008-2014)
 Iv. Worthline international services limited (head of operations) 2014-2015
 8. Others/ comment
 9. Political career, posts held with dates
 I. Apapa local government (senior special assistant) intervention and inter government affairs

2008-2011
 Ii. Apapa local government (supervisor for health) 2011-2014
 Iii. Lagos state house of assembly, member (2015-till date)
 10. Hobbies: reading, travelling
 11. Constituency: apapa 1
 12. Constituency office:3, kofo Abayomi Road, Apapa, Lagos
 13. Position: Deputy Speaker

Agege Youths Celebrate Lagos Speaker Birthday In Grand Style

Kehinde Adeleye



The Youths in Agege last weekend celebrated the birthday of the Honourable Speaker of the Lagos State House Of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa in grand style with millions of naira worth of foodstuffs and

household goods given to hundreds of residents.

The LAHA Speaker who was represented by Mr Afolabi Ayantayo, the Lagos State Commissioner for Establishment, Pension and Training

said that the speaker deserved to be celebrated in an opulent way for his outstanding performance at the state assembly. During the celebrations and raffle draw, he gave kudos to the Obasa Youth Crusader for organizing such a

massive program where many grassroots residents benefited from the kind gestures. He said "I appreciate the Agege youths for this annual program where residents benefit from various items to celebrate the Speaker, it's highly appreciated. At the same time, we

appeal to the beneficiaries to make proper use of the home appliance, pls don't sell it," the commissioner said.

The Vice Chairman of Agege Local Government, Mr Gbenga Abiola, in his message said that Obasa Youth Crusader has committed to celebrating the Lagos speaker on his birthday annually.

Abiola who was the convener of the program said that the event was the second edition where the residents benefited from both food items and other home appliances like televisions, Fridges, Gas cookers, pressing irons, clippers, generators, and the grand prize of N200,000.

"Hundreds of residents in the Agege community and beyond have benefited from this kind gesture from 2022.

"We have improved more and increased the items to give room for more people to benefit from the materials.

"The youth appreciate the efforts and support of the speaker in giving adequate support to both young and old in the community that's we are giving back to our society to honour the speaker on his birthday. Mr. Akinola Shasanya,

the Chairman of the Planning Committee Obasa Youth Crusader, while giving his remarks thanked the members and Agege youths generally for their support towards the events.

Shasanya also urged the youth to be a good ambassador of the Agege community and in all ramifications.

"We thank the Almighty God for allowing us to organize this massive event to celebrate our leader.

The speaker deserves to be celebrated and our people also deserve to be happy, that's why we put together all these food items and the home appliances for the benefit of the people," he said.

Mr. Sola Adefemi, one of the beneficiaries who spoke with the newsmen thanked the youths for organizing such a big raffle draw for the benefit of the grassroots members.

"We thank the organizers of the program, though I didn't benefit from the previous one but I thank God that I am one of the beneficiaries this year.

Mrs Folashade Lawal, also a beneficiary gave kudos to the Obasa Youth Crusader for organising such a programme for the benefit of the people.

"This food item would go a long way to sustain me and my family for some days and I appreciate it," she said.

Building a World-Class University is Our Priority - LASUSTECH VC

The Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), Olumuyiwa Odusanya, has reiterated the commitment of the school management toward building a world-class institution.

He said this at a one-day orientation workshop for staff members of the institution, stating that the University will not compromise excellence.

According to him, excellence refers to the quality of being outstanding, saying committing to be a University that is outstanding and one of the best in the world remains their priority.

"To achieve being the best, we need to work

hard to achieve an enviable position in the IVY League universities," he said. Also speaking at the workshop themed "Building An Excellent World-Class University", the immediate Past Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University, Prof. Lanre Fagbohun admonished that to be an excellent university, LASUSTECH must run a stable academic calendar, adding that the staff members must be diligent, maintain discipline and encourage resolvable

disputation. The Vice Chancellor, the University of Medical Sciences Ondo State, Prof. Segun Fatusi noted that to be the best, the university must encourage research, which is a mark that distinguishes any



Participants at the workshop

university. Other factors for the attainment of an excellent world-class university discussed

at the workshop include Mindset for an Excellence University; Research and Grant-Manship;

Staff-Student Relationship; Effective Financial

Function; Modern Teaching and Examinations and Project Management Techniques.

LASUSTECH Rolls Out Palliatives to Host Communities

In a bid to contribute its quota towards community development and also ease the sufferings caused by the economic situation, the management of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) last week donated palliatives to its host communities including Araromi - Okegbegun and Lambo Lasunwon communities.

While presenting the palliative, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya appreciated the communities for accepting them and the token donated to them.

He explained that the motive was to contribute the

University's quota towards the development of the communities and also support the elderly in the communities.

"The University is not just about education but impacting the lives of those around and creating means to end or reduce poverty to its barest minimum. It's a fact that Universities develop communities that house them, to this end, we want our University to be impactful and we hope to make it continuous," he said.

He further implored the communities to help take care of the students, adding that the communities are their parents as long as they still study at the University.

Responding, the Baales of the two communities - Chief Atobajaye Tajudeen and Chief Olaiyiwola Idris of Araromi Okegbegun and Lambo Lasunwon Communities respectively - appreciated the VC and the University Community for the gesture, as they both expressed their joy over the gesture.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Onileowo Opeyemi, applauded the gesture, pointing out that it was a wonderful and confirmed Corporate Social Responsibility.

"I want to appreciate the management for considering our community and I must tell you that it's the first of its kind from the University," he said.

MoMo partners with Kwik Delivery to transform payment system

MoMo Payment Service Bank (MoMo PSB), a leading financial institution, and Kwik Delivery, a prominent logistics and warehousing company in Africa, have announced their strategic partnership to facilitate seamless payments using MoMo for deliveries by Kwik.

According to them, the partnership represents a significant milestone in the logistics and payment services sector. "MoMo PSB users can now initiate payments through the Kwik App and access it from the MoMo App, to make payments for their services.

"At MoMo PSB, our commitment is to enhance the lives of our customers

through innovative and convenient financial solutions. This partnership with Kwik Delivery embodies that commitment, as it empowers our customers with greater convenience, speed, and security when making payments for delivery services. We remain committed to partnerships that will advance digital payments in Africa," the Chief Executive Officer, MoMo PSB, Eli Hini, said.

Speaking about the partnership, Kwik Africa's CEO, Romain Poirot-Lellig, emphasised its customer-centric nature, stating, "At Kwik, our mission is to provide efficient and reliable delivery services. We understand that a seamless payment process

is a vital component of this mission. Partnering with MoMo PSB enables us to offer our customers an innovative solution, reducing payment restrictions and improving their overall experience. By integrating our services with MoMo, we're extending the reach of our platform and opening up a world of convenience for our users.

"In the era of digital transformation, MoMo PSB and Kwik Africa are determined to simplify the lives of their customers, making payments for deliveries and logistic services more accessible and efficient than ever before. Kwik Delivery service is currently available on the MoMo App or by dialing *671#."

Airtel commends LUTH for maintaining N200m intervention project

Two years after Airtel Nigeria renovated and commissioned the WARD-A Block at Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), the company's Chief Executive Officer, Carl Cruz, has said the organisation was pleased that the facility has been serving its intended purpose. Cruz made the statement during an inspection of the building by Airtel leadership, which also included Airtel Africa Non-Executive Directors. "We are pleased to observe that the collaboration with LUTH has continued to touch the lives of so many Nigerians. The outstanding leadership of LUTH also deserves our commendation for how well they have kept the equipment and building for the past two years. Their approach is worthy of emulation," he said. In 2021, Airtel

embarked on an extensive renewal project at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), investing 200 million to renovate and upgrade the medical equipment as well as the physical architecture of WARD-A, which is a general ward at the institution. The recent visit, which was to assess the continued impact of the revamped ward, also provided an opportunity for the Airtel executive team to engage with LUTH's management, staff, and patients to evaluate how significantly the upgraded equipment and building ward have enhanced the delivery of healthcare services. During the reception organised for the Airtel delegation by LUTH, Cruz reiterated Airtel's commitment to impacting communities and improving the lives of the less advantaged.



L-R: Director, Corporate Communications and CSR, Airtel Nigeria, Femi Adeniran; Independent

"It is always a delight to contribute to the community in the best ways that we can, especially supporting the government's efforts to make society better. At Airtel, we have a strong belief in contributing to the well-being of our countrymen, including anyone who is now able to benefit from

LUTH as an institution." The acting Chief Medical Director of LUTH, Prof. Lanre Adeyemo, reflected on the hospital's journey since the renovation and noted that Airtel's donation was a significant contribution to the hospital's development. "The impact of Airtel's

intervention is very visible," he said, adding that, "Airtel has become a model of corporate social responsibility to other organizations that have also been inspired to take up projects in LUTH. Before Airtel's renovation, Ward A, which had not seen any major renovation since it was built in

1962, was the worst of the blocks." He noted that since Airtel intervened in 2021, LUTH, which operates on a tripod of patient care, research, and training, has had over 800 inpatients while training several nurses, doctors, and dentists within the same period.

MTN MoMo Hackathon: Why we created financial solutions - winners

The winners of MTN MoMo Hackathon 2023 have said they invented new financial solutions to make transactions effortlessly and bridge the financial inclusion gap, especially in rural areas. The MoMo Hackathon 2023 was a stage set for innovation, collaboration, and financial brilliance as developers, innovators, and entrepreneurs across Nigeria converged to showcase their skills, creativity, and determination to create innovative applications using MTN's Mobile Money (MoMo) APIs. After intense competition, the spotlight shone on the winners, and they answered the \$10,000 question: How did they

create financial magic? Speaking, Oluwapelumi Yusuf, who emerged as the overall winner with a cash prize of \$5,000 said he invented Rova Pay, an innovative method allowing users to conduct transactions effortlessly, anytime and anywhere, using automated USSD. The technology, according to him, eliminates the necessity for internet access and manual code dialing, offering enhanced convenience to customers. Yusuf expressed that Rova Pay extends financial services to marginalized communities facing internet accessibility challenges. He said he aimed to ensure that individuals without internet

connectivity could benefit from digital financial services. Yusuf demonstrated how, with MoMo's advanced APIs (V2.1 - Notification, KYC, Auth. and V2.2 - Channel as a service), one could create a mobile application that redefined financial transactions and user experiences. The second runner-up, Marvis Igbokwe and Favour Ajie Divine, also made their mark, receiving \$3,000 for inventing MoMo Cash. Inspired by the need to create a system that awards both consumers and producers, MoMo cash, according to them, is a solution that rewards consumers who perform MoMo tasks with MoMo coins that they can leverage to pay bills or run other transactions.



Oluwapelumi Yusuf, overall winner of MTN MoMo Hackathon

Also, Isaac Odinaka Franklin whose solution, Clinique Plus Pay, won third place with a cash prize of \$2,000, said the platform was designed specifically for healthcare institutions. The solution, according to him, enables patients to save toward healthcare,

offering them the option to accumulate funds in their MoMo wallet that they can utilize when in need of medical care. Isaac's motivation for Clinique Plus Pay originated during his service year at a military hospital. He said he observed the difficulties healthcare

workers encountered in accessing soldiers' medical records. This discovery sparked his idea to develop a digital platform for storing medical histories. For Isaac, integrating the MoMo payment system was key to improving the solution, enabling patients to pay for healthcare services.

Christmas: Over 20,000 Tourists Expected In Badagry

By Saheed Afolabi



Over 20,000 tourists are expected from December 23 to 26 in Badagry, Lagos State, as it showcases its rich cultural heritage, tourism potentials and history, in the Christmas-in-Badagry (CiB) celebration. The event is in collaboration with the Ministries Tourism, Art and Culture, as well as Home Affairs.

Project Manager of the CiB, Olufemi Iroko, disclosed the benefits of the event to tourists. "The CiB stands as a testament to the rich historical warmth that envelops this town, and this year's celebration promises to be an extraordinary blend of tradition, heritage, and joy. "This year marks the 181st anniversary of that historic Christmas celebration, and the CiB event is poised to

make it an unforgettable experience for residents and visitors alike. "With the ongoing Hamas-Israel war, Christian pilgrimage has been put to a halt. However, Badagry is positioned to be the destination for Nigerian Christian Pilgrimage. "Despite the challenges and trials that have tested our resolve, we have persevered, standing firm in our commitment to fostering unity, compassion

among all. "From December 23 to 26, we will be reminded of the enduring spirit of joy and goodwill that continues to unite us a community and a nation. "The festivities will kick off with the largest Santa walk and lightening of our 40ft tall Christmas tree. Other activities include beach Soccer, carnival parade, bonfire delight, performance

by our talented Badagry metropolitan artistes, retelling of the nativity story through captivating drama and recitations that will transport you to the Bethlehem of old. Christian leaders and speakers will also share their insights into the significance of the incarnation of the Redeemer, spreading hope and love. There

will also be a special shepherd's inn for children, and cultural exhibitions. "But beyond the entertainment, Christmas in Badagry is about community engagement and giving back. The event will feature various outreach programs and charity initiatives, reflecting the spirit of compassion and solidarity that has defined Badagry throughout its history."

2024 Budget: Eredo LCDA Engages Community Stakeholders

By Mohammed Adekola

Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) took a significant stride towards inclusive governance as it hosted a stakeholders' consultative meeting for the upcoming 2024 budget. Representing the Chairman, Mr. Ismail Monsuru Akinloye, Vice Chairman Mr. Lateef Adesanya presided over the event, providing a platform for community input and collaboration. Mr. Lateef Adesanya outlined the remarkable achievements of the LCDA under Akinloye's leadership. These accomplishments encompassed the renovation of two health

centres, the construction of a modern legislative building, the employment of 60 non-pensionable teachers in public primary schools, the construction of a block of six classrooms at Ajegbende community, and the development of 163 Kee clamp shops and 24 lock-ups in Iraye-Oke. Additionally, initiatives like the yearly free JAMB for prospective candidates and the distribution of writing materials to public primary school pupils, empowering the local securities were highlighted. The people of Eredo LCDA expressed their gratitude for the positive



transformations community and commendable achievements. Eager for more progress, they witnessed in their welcomed these

voiced their aspirations for further developmental projects. In response, the chairman's assurance resonated with the community, promising that more transformative initiatives are on the horizon. The collaborative spirit demonstrated during the meeting reaffirms the LCDA's commitment to meet the needs of its constituents and fostering a community-driven agenda. As Eredo LCDA moves forward, this consultative approach not only strengthens the bond between the leadership and the community but also sets the stage for a more inclusive and responsive governance model.

Epe Set to Soar with World-Class Lagferry Terminal

By Mohammed Adekola



Hon. Abiodun Tobun, member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing

Epe Constituency 1, has expressed optimism that the nearing completion of the world-class

Lagferry terminal in Epe would significantly elevate the socioeconomic status of the ancient division. The chairman of the

House Committee on Commerce, Industry, Cooperatives, and Investment revealed that construction is currently at an impressive 80 percent completion stage, with plans to commence operation in the first quarter of 2024. Emphasizing the positive impact it would have on Epe town, he commended the contractor for the rapid progress, outlining key features of the terminal, including administrative offices, a car park, a lobby, a walkway, a restaurant, a waiting/boarding room, a restroom, and a first aid room. "Once operational, the terminal will witness the immediate deployment of two ferries to the Epe terminal point, connecting commuters

to urban areas, with additional ferries slated for deployment in the future. This initiative aims to alleviate traffic congestion by offering a safer, more cost-effective, and faster alternative means of transportation through waterways. "It will dislodge and disrupt traffic in the Apapa area, as people will be transporting their containers to Epe Terminal now. The waterways are safer, cheaper, and faster to travel with them to your various destinations in Lagos City. Therefore, residents and travelers should endeavor to ply through waterways as an alternative means of transportation," he said. Hon. Tobun highlighted the terminal's potential to generate employment

opportunities, projecting the creation of hundreds of jobs for Epe indigenes. Additionally, he stressed the positive impact on local and state government revenues, further asserting that it would enhance the socioeconomic landscape of the Epe community. He assured the Epe community of unwavering government support, promising sustained efforts to ensure continuous progress and development. He expressed gratitude to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat for their steadfast support in advancing infrastructure development across the city. The completion of the Lagferry terminal signifies a remarkable stride towards a more vibrant and economically prosperous future for Epe.

NIS, Ibeju-Lekki LG Partner To Tackle Insecurity

By Mohammed Adekola

Comptroller of Immigration, Lagos State Command, Engr. Bala Dangana (pcc, fnse), led a high-profile delegation to meet the Council Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa.

The visit, aimed at fostering stronger ties between the local government and the Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS), underscored the significance of collaborative efforts in bolstering internal security.

Accompanied by Deputy Comptroller B.K. Danja, who is in charge of the Economic Community

of West African States, ECOWAS/African Affairs; the Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Immigration Ego Osemene; and other officers, Comptroller Dangana highlighted the pivotal role that synergy between local governments and security agencies plays in ensuring the safety of communities.

Comptroller Dangana shared a notable success story where collaboration led to the arrest of illegal Sudanese immigrants in Ibeju. He emphasized the ongoing need for support from the local government, citing requirements such as office space, accommodation, and



patrol vehicles for NIS personnel.

In response, Council Chairman Mr. Abdullahi

Sesan expressed gratitude for the visit, commending the Comptroller's

leadership approach. He stated, "The new approach of reaching out to the grassroots will

yield more results in the area of internal security," reflecting the Council's appreciation for proactive engagement.

Olowa further pledged the local government's support to the NIS, committing to assist in crucial areas such as office space and accommodation and initiating robust advocacy and sensitization programs to enhance community awareness.

As a symbolic gesture of hospitality, the NIS boss was later taken on a tour of the new secretariat building by the Council Chairman, solidifying the commitment to collaboration and reinforcing the importance of security partnerships at the grassroots level.

Retired Heads of Service, PSs Unite to Transform Epe Grammar School

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries (ALARHOSPS) made history as they converged on Epe Grammar School, the Premier secondary schooling Epe Division, for an inspiring event. The ALARHOSPS members who later headed to Community High School, Lekki to replicate the same gesture in the donation of metal doors to bolster security, comprised of seasoned technocrats who have played pivotal roles in Lagos' transformation through best practices, drew distinguished figures like ex-Heads of Service, Mrs. Folashade Jaji, Mrs. Folashade

Adesoye, and Helen Deile.

Epe's Federal Lawmaker, Rep. Wale Raji was ably represented while revered Royal fathers, including the Alara of Ilara, Oloja Epe, and the Aladeshonyin added their regal presence to the occasion.

Dr. Olugbile, addressing the gathering, highlighted ALARHOSPS' unwavering commitment to Lagos State's development, emphasizing its mission to create conducive learning environments. "Our gesture will inspire the younger generation to aspire for greatness in life," he declared.

D r .



Osiyimika, (Chairman of the Social Committee), recounted ALARHOSPS' previous projects, underscoring their dedication to education and community development. "Here, in Epe Grammar School, we rehabilitated this Assembly Hall," he announced, describing the impressive transformation. Chief Oluwaseun Afuye, representing the Alara of Ilara, praised

ALARHOSPS' enduring dedication to the state's progress during his goodwill message.

"Your commitment to education and community development is truly commendable. This act of philanthropy showcases the heartwarming synergy between dedicated civil servants and the community they serve. Your continued dedication to service, support for education,

and tireless efforts to uplift our beloved state are truly commendable," he affirmed.

Previously, Mrs. Ayodele Abosede and Mr. Jimoh Muhammed, the Principals of Epe Senior and Junior Grammar School, expressed heartfelt appreciation for the noble gesture. They emphasized that such a community service

endeavor is a significant achievement during their leadership.

Barrister Kazeem, representing the national body of the Epe Grammar School Old Students Association (EGOSA), conveyed gratitude on behalf of the alumni association and the students. In his address, he urged the organization to persist in initiating further projects within the school to promote academic excellence for future generations.

Firm Launches Recycling Hub in Ifako Ijaiye

Kehinde Adeleye



Under its Go-Recycling project, the Sahara Group Foundation has opened the fifth of twelve recycling hubs in Lagos State at Ifako Ijaiye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), in collaboration with Wecyclers, IBILE Oil and Gas, and the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF). Launched in January 2023, the Go-Recycling project is a waste-to-wealth effort designed to support environmentally sustainable practices while also providing employment possibilities for Lagos citizens.

This will assist in

addressing the state's plastic pollution problem, and residents of Ifako Ijaiye and the surrounding areas may now take part in effective garbage management while earning money in the process.

The Director of the Sahara Group Foundation Ejiro Gray spoke at the event and stressed the value of recycling and the Go-Recycling initiative. "Recycling is essential for reducing our reliance on landfills and protecting our environment," the speaker stated.

Lagos residents will find it simple to recycle and get

money at the same time thanks to the Go-Recycling project, which was developed out of the desire to strengthen environmental sustainability while simultaneously promoting the improvement of lives and livelihoods across communities.

We are thrilled to open this hub in Ifako Ijaiye LCDA in order to contribute to making Lagos greener for both the present and the future.

Echo news gathered that residents and 'Lagosians' can visit any of the Go-Recycling hubs located in the following areas: Isolo LCDA, Osolo Way, Aswani Road; Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Ikotun-Idimu Road, Off Egbe

Road; Lagos Island LCDA, 173 Adeniji Adele Road; and Onigbogbon LCDA, 30 Kudira Abiola Way, Oregon, Ikeja, NRC Building, Old Akute Road, Ifako Ijaiye Annex office, to exchange their recyclables such as: pet plastics, pure water sachets, plastic chairs, plastic tables, paper, cardboard, HDPE, LDPE, can bottles, and glass bottles for cash incentives.

While commending on the Go Recycling project, Dr. Cyril Akinyele, Director, Environmental Health Services, Ifako Ijaiye LGA, thanked the Sahara Group Foundation and its partners for a

commendable project such as this stating that the hub will assist the Environmental Health Services Department of Ifako Ijaiye LGA in its mission to solve plastic waste pollution.

He said: We are proudly committed to supporting initiatives around turning waste to wealth to ensure a healthy and sustainable environment. We will add value by installing signages around the hub to pass more information about Go Recycling initiative while seeing that indiscriminate disposal of refuse is largely curbed."

The hubs are open

weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and staff members are on hand to accept recyclables, offer advice, and impart knowledge about how recycling may improve our lives and have a sustainable impact on the environment.

The Sahara Group Foundation, the corporate sustainability vehicle for the industry-leading conglomerate Sahara Group, is dedicated to constructing sustainable societies by assisting in the improvement of energy access and the promotion of sustainable environments through the Go-Recycling project, which is a noteworthy step towards the promotion of sustainable environmental practices in Lagos State.

Ikeja Golf Club Unveils Multi-million Naira Project

Kehinde AdeleyeZ



The host our annual management pinnacle event, the committee of Golf Club Ikeja Golf Club has unveiled multi-million naira integrated golf range project and indicated that at least two hundred golfers are anticipated to compete for the Ikeja Golf Club Championship in 2023. According to the Club Captain Mr. Sina Akinyemi, the tournament, which falls on the club's 55th anniversary, makes edition a unique one. "The Ikeja Golf Club is at the heart of the city of Lagos. We are set to

host our annual management pinnacle event, the committee of Golf Club Ikeja Golf Club has unveiled multi-million naira integrated golf range project and indicated that at least two hundred golfers are anticipated to compete for the Ikeja Golf Club Championship in 2023. According to the Club Captain Mr. Sina Akinyemi, the tournament, which falls on the club's 55th anniversary, makes edition a unique one. "The Ikeja Golf Club is at the heart of the city of Lagos. We are set to

he disclosed that staff and caddies will raise the curtain for the Golf Championship on Monday 20 November. This will be followed by veterans and professional golfers on Tuesday 21 November. Women golfers will compete on Wednesday 22 November, after which a special kitty and auction night will hold on Thursday, 23 November. The main championship will commence on Friday, 24 November with guest players on Handicap 19 and above. The men's competition for golfers on Handicap 1 and 18 will hold on

Saturday 25 November. Golfers with the best scores will proceed to challenge at the grand finale holding on 26 November. Meanwhile, Akinyemi also announced that this edition of the championship will witness the phased commissioning of the Integrated Golf Range Project, a legacy project started by the incumbent committee. He explained that the Integrated Golf Range Project is a state-of-the-art facility that will improve golfing

experience for members of the Ikeja Golf Club. "This project is set to place Ikeja Golf Club on the map of the golf world," he added. Alumona added that the Integrated Golf Range Project will improve competition among golfers. "This edition will be the last easy edition for the winner because next year, the short range will be opened and golfers can practice before they play and this reduces the advantage of the highly skilled golfers,"

he noted.

The Integrated Golf Range Project will include Long and Short Game Areas, Practice Range, Virtual Golf Simulation Zone, Lounge, 60-vehicle capacity car park with roof netting among other facilities. The competition is supported by ADL Solutions, Express payment, Prime metro and Golf view hotels. Other committee members in attendance at the press conference included Messrs Babatunde Ojo and Seun Aderibigbe, Vice Captain and Treasurer respectively.



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Residents Commends Mushin LG Boss On Road Maintenance



Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Mushin LG have commended the council chairman for his efforts on road maintenance in the community.

The Road Maintenance Team of Mushin Local Government has taken the 'Operation Fill the Potholes' to Owo and Alafia streets under Aiyetoro and Alafia CDA in Ilasamaja (Ward C) area of Mushin Local Government.

The team, under the supervision of the Supervisor for Works and Infrastructure - Hon. Funmi Peters and Chairman House Committee on Works and Infrastructure - Hon. Hakeem Mustapha,

commenced their activities at Owo street, filling and patching all the potholes on the street, with Asphalt, to make it smooth for motorists to ride.

After the completion of their assignment at Owo street, the team proceeded to fix and fill the potholes on Alafia street, starting from the Da Silva end.

Residents were filled with joy as they commended Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye his Road Maintenance Team, for the initiative and passion towards giving the road a face lift, to allow smooth vehicular movement for road users.

One of the residents, Mr. Simon Uzodu,

who has been in the community since 1979, commended the team for keeping to their promise and he attested to the fact that, the chairman has always received commendations and awards for his good works across Mushin community. The road rehabilitation was conducted from the beginning of Alafia street from Da Silva end to Isolo road junction.

While the rehabilitation was going on along Owo and Alafia streets, the environmental sanitation department team were also de-silting and evacuating dirt from the drainage

channels along Layi Oyekanmi street.

The council boss appealed to the residents to always cooperate with the government when carrying out its duties.

"We hereby use this medium to appeal to members of the community for their cooperation and support for the team on traffic diversion when they commence their repair works in any of the roads

"The road repair is a continuous exercise till the end of this administration as community leaders are enjoined to always work with the team towards ensuring that all the roads in Mushin are smooth for driving."

Iyana Isolo Road Wears New Look

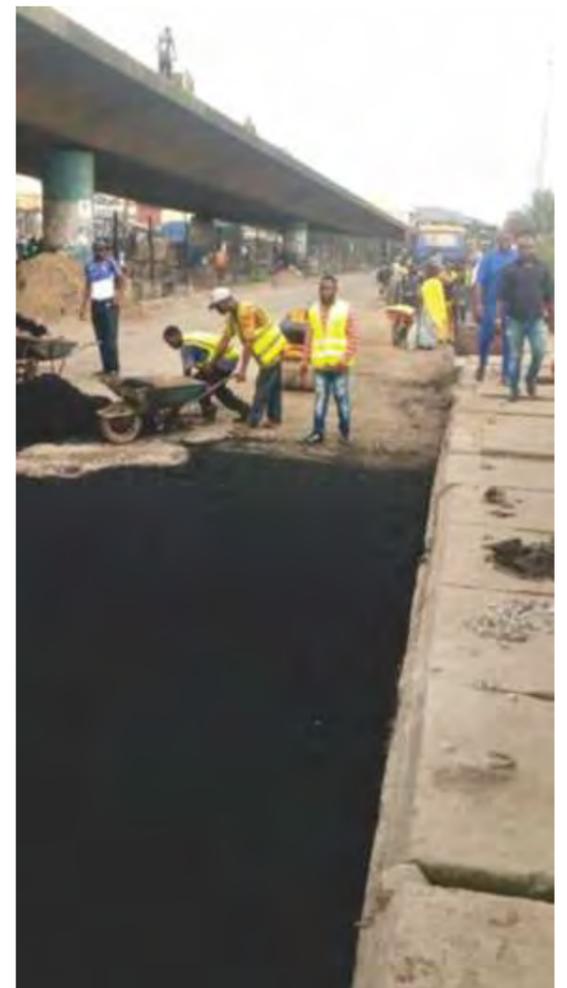
By Saheed Afolabi

The bad portion of road at popular Iyana Isolo junction in front of the Police post, is now wearing a new look with the laying of Asphalt to fill the potholes and corroded parts of the road, which has been giving motorists and trailers tough time negotiating into Isolo road from A papa / Oshodi express.

The rehabilitation which commenced with a marathon exercise preceded by evacuation and de-silting of the drainage channels, supervised by head of the Environmental Sanitation department - Mr Adekunle following the directive of the Chairman was completed today with laying of Asphalt to make the road smooth

and motorable, in preparation for vehicles that will be visiting the popular Daleko Rice Market during the yuletide season.

In another development, the Road Maintenance Team has also commenced rehabilitation at the Akinbayode junction of Sebanjo/Oteomi street beside UBA junction via Isolo road. After the evacuation of the blocked drainage channels which led to the road corrosion caused by stagnant water, flowing out from the channel, the portion has been cleared while cutting and filling of stone based materials have been delivered to the site in readiness for final setting of interlock stones to give the portion strong and solid support which can stand the test of time.



Fayinka Empowers 150 Mushin Residents

Kehinde Adeleye



More than 150 residents of Mushin received certificates of participation during the graduation ceremony at Aromire Street, Mushin, demonstrating how the Federal House of Representatives member representing Mushin Constituency II, Mr. Toyin Moses Fayinka, has equipped his constituents with the knowledge and abilities to establish their own businesses. He also provided them with cash and supplies to help them get started.

The representative promises to equip his constituents with money-making skills to lift them out of the unemployment basket and put them on the path to financial freedom during the nation's economic downturn. A six-week training program for both young and old in various skill acquisitions. Speaking during the graduation ceremony, Fayinka disclosed that he had pledged during his campaign to represent the interests of everybody and to

organize an annual skill-building program for his people, irrespective of the beneficiaries' political affiliations, groupings, or tribes. He declared that his constituency office is well-known to the residents of Mushin Constituency II and that it is always open, taking calls and providing assistance. "I am coming from a family that has nothing and today I am representing the people of Mushin II, I was once a photographer, a certified banker,

likewise my wife and kids are into making fruit juice and healthy drinks.

"If you have a skill, you will be able to put food on your table and make provision for others in the family. I am not saying a white-collar job isn't good but no matter what you study, you can still have a second address to maximize your income, which will reduce poverty in the community and also security threats," he added.

Mrs. Vivian Okechukwu, the CEO of Berneth Ltd, the facilitator shared how

she started without any support from anyone but she believed in herself and the idea birthed her company, providing skill acquisition services to thousands of customers.

The participants were trained in Haircut and Crochet, hand-waving sweaters, and head warmers. The two instructors, Mr. Bolaji Ige Emmanuel and Miss Adeleke Dolapo for Haircut and Crochet respectively were given awards for their dedication and sharing of their wealth

of knowledge. Mrs. Ayantunde Kaosara, one of the beneficiaries appreciated the facilitators and said: 'I am still a student, this is my first skill to acquire and today I have made bags, beach hats, tops etc from the training'. Mrs. Rita Ogidi, said she chose Haircut to add to his skills to support her present business which she has been cutting her kids and younger ones' hair at home now. Six beneficiaries were picked randomly by Hon. Fayinka to secure a shop and he would be paying for their 2 years rent. .

Oshodi Federal Lawmaker Facilitates SMEDAN Empowerment

Kehinde Adeleye



Member House of Representative for Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency I, Mr. Bashiru Dawodu has facilitated another round of empowerment to his constituents through the federal agency programme, Small and Medium-Scale Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) specifically for market women and men.

The empowerment initiative aims to improve people's ability to sustain themselves through small and medium sized businesses and provides them with possibilities to apply for government loans through corporative as a means of reducing social menace in society.

According to Dawodu, a sustainable route for small- and medium

sized business owners to readily obtain financial assistance to maintain their operations and put food on their tables must be established in order to obtain soft loans to maintain themselves, the lawmaker urged them to establish a cooperative society. Many of those who took part commended the federal lawmaker for enabling the empowerment program to raise their standard of living and make sure their productivity is focused on entrepreneurship.

The program was supported by the Federal Government Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency Of Nigeria (SMEDAN), in collaboration with ATYS

Project Limited Present Other Enterprise Support Service In Oshodi-Isolo Federal Constituency.

The representative of SMEDAN, Mrs Toyin Susan disclosed that the lawmaker should be commended for pushing and bring home such program for the benefit of the constituents.

She however commended the federal lawmaker saying his kind is rare she however advised the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the opportunity.

She further disclosed that the lawmaker has paid for their membership fees, registration of the cooperative societies and also make available the capital where they can access soft loans with little

and convenient interest rate. According to her "We have done for the first batch where several traders benefitted. This is the second batch and we shall train and group them into a sizable number to be able to operate as a cooperative society and access the loan in a convenient manner."

Speaking on the programme, Mr. Dawodu ably represented by Alhaji Usman Rafiu reinstated his commitment to taking the constituency forward in terms of empowerment, education, infrastructure amongst other significant projects in the constituency.

The facilitator however lauded the lawmaker for his continual support and his love for his constituency.

Group Applauds Oshodi Council Boss Over Human Capital Development

Kehinde Adeleye

The women wing of Anularigba group, a socio-political group within the All-Progressives Congress (APC) in Oshodi-Isolo local government area have lauded the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Kehinde Oloyede Almaroof over his steadfastness in human capital development of residents in the area. They praised the council administration for working tirelessly to restructure and rebrand Oshodi-Isolo local government.

The group at the end of its strategic meeting assessed the Oloyede led administration since assumption of office and lauded his welfare approach and the development of human capacity via ongoing educational scheme and the empowerment of the community's most vulnerable individuals. The group also applauded the administration of the council chairman for his unprecedented Infrastructural achievements within the local government. They urged him to continue on his good

leadership prowess, while pledging their unflinching support and loyalty to him. They equally showered prayers on him for the success of his administration. Present in the meeting were the Chief of Staff to the chairman, Hon. Leke Banjoko, the APC party Secretary, Hon. Kehinde Adekunle, women leader, Alhaja Modinat Ibrahim, Assistant Women Leader, Alh. Wemimo Success and Alhaja Zanaib Muazu, Anularigba Women Leader, Mrs. Mariam Adebayo among host of others.



Somolu LG Boss Seeks Residents Support For Better Life



Somolu LG Chairman, Hammed Salawu has urged the residents to be committed to a viable community environment. In a significant move towards enhancing infrastructure and ensuring the well-being of residents, the Chairman of Somolu Local Government, Hon. Abdul Hamed

Salawu, has given the go-ahead for the rehabilitation of key roads and drainages in the areas of Olorunjare in Akoka, George Alade off Fola-Agoro, Ariyo in Bashua, and Shoyinka in Fadeyi. This decision is in line with the commitment to improving the living standards of the people residing in Fadeyi,

Akoka, Bajulaiye, and Fola Agoro neighborhoods of Somolu. The rehabilitation project aims to address longstanding concerns related to road conditions and drainage systems, ultimately contributing to the overall urban regeneration agenda set forth by the

Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu-led administration. "Residents can anticipate positive outcomes as this initiative reflects the local government's dedication to creating a safer and more accessible environment. The rehabilitation efforts are expected to alleviate transportation challenges, prevent

flooding, and enhance the general quality of life for the community. "Somolu Local Government is committed to fostering sustainable development, improving infrastructure, and enhancing the overall well-being of its residents." Salawu emphasizes

the importance of collaborative efforts in achieving these milestones, urging residents to support and cooperate with the ongoing project. The chairman extends gratitude to the Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, for championing initiatives that prioritize the welfare of Lagos State citizens.

Dino SC have emerged champions of the Lagos Supremacy Cup.

In the final held Friday morning at the FIFA legacy pitch of National Stadium Surulere, Lagos, Dino SC defeated Mavlon 4-3 on penalties after barren draw at the regulation time.

In their semi final match played earlier today, Dino SC also defeated former champions, 36 Lion 5-3 on penalties after one goal apiece at the regulation time.

It was a tough final as Mavlon and Dino SC entertained fans with their football artistry. Both teams created some scary moments but failed to convert their chances which led to the penalty shootout.

Dino SC Coach, Godwin Gibson Zakka said they came to the tournament with determination and commended his boys for their commitment and doggedness especially in the semi final against 36 Lion.

"Of course, nobody gave us chance, but we have shamed our critics

Lagos Supremacy Cup Sees New Champions

and proved the bookmakers wrong. Our tactics worked for us, and we deserved to be crowned as new champions," he said.

While the Dino SC Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Omamofe Samuel expressed gratitude to God for the victory saying that it was a well deserved victory.

"We came, saw and conquered. I am happy that we achieved our target. Although we lost to Mavlon in our group opening match when we were not settled down. After the defeat, we were able to rise to the occasion and show football fans we are formidable team.

"I thank the coaching crew, players for their commitment and the management would continue to support the team in subsequent engagements," he said.

Mavlon coach, Abdulraham Kayode Sulaiman said he was not disappointed with the defeat and congratulated his opponents for hard fought victory.



Solaty Sets Ambitious Target For New Season

Dannaz Ladies striker, Fatimoh Solaty has revealed her target for the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership season.

Fatimoh was instrumental for Dannaz Ladies promotion last season into the elite women's league.

Dannaz Ladies made Lagos proud when they held Confluence Queens to a goalless draw in their first game in topflight women's football league.

According to the young super striker, she said her aim with the Lagos based club is to seal a Super Six championship playoffs this season.

"Our aim is to get to super six this season," she said.

The other Lagos side, Robo Queens lost to Edo Queens 4-1 at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium



2024 Budget Will Address Residents' Challenges-Apatira

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Ahmed Apatira has revealed that the 2024 budget will address the challenges residents encounter in the LGA.

As a prerequisite for the formulation of 2024 fiscal expenditure, Itire-Ikate LCDA held a consultative forum to capture input and demands of stakeholders in the council area.

The event, held at the council secretariat drew attendance from representatives that make up the council area as well as representatives from the seven political wards.

The council Chairman, Apatira who set the tone

of the forum by appreciating the stakeholders for their insightful contributions at a similar event held last year as he commended them for always justifying the essence of the forum every year with the hope that this year's forum won't be an exception.

He went on to reel out the gains of his administration in the outgoing year which he said cut across all areas of governance adding that he remains on course to foster development and ultimately achieve his

"This year's stakeholders meeting and budget interactive

session is crucial at this time to further reiterate the commitment of our administration in addressing several challenges we face as people and collectively play our roles as citizens, community leaders, corporate entities and government. We are a government of the people and we value the input of our people in the administration of the council. We run an open-door policy thus the high point of today's event is to have direct inputs from you in developing an inclusive budget for 2024 fiscal year," Apatira said.

Another major highlight of the event was the brainstorming session wherein the



stakeholders in their cluster put heads together to deliberate on the needs of their respective communities. Top among their demands include road infrastructure and empowerment.

In their various remarks, the former Lagos APC Chairman, Tunde Balogun, Surulere APC Apex

Leader, Chief D.O Adenekan, CDC chairman, Engineer Adelani commended the council boss for his numerous developmental policies as they urged him to focus more on infrastructure and human-capital development of residents in the coming year.

Responding to some of the demands made, Apatira stated, the stakeholders inputs will reflect in the eventual formation of the 2024 proposed budget. He used the avenue to also call for continuous support for his administration in the areas of revenue generation and other patriotic acts.

Apatira Promises More Accessible Roads

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Surulere LG, Dr Ahmed Apatira has promised more improved road as he begins construction of Adenike street.

The council boss said he's inspired to leave an indelible mark in the faces of the residents and enhance infrastructure in the locality, with good road networks.

He pleaded with residents to be alert and information conscious about the ongoing project at Ramoni ward in Ikate community.

"The endeavor marks a significant stride in enhancing the infrastructure of our locality, promising

improved accessibility and upgraded living conditions for residents.

"As the appointed contractor swiftly moves to site, we anticipate a seamless execution of the project, aligning with our commitment to fostering a more vibrant and sustainable community.

"We encourage residents to stay informed about the project's progress and look forward to witnessing the positive impact this development will have on our beloved Ikate Community."





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