

**Man waits 8 Years
for Pre-Paid Meter**

PG.4

**Councillors
honour
Ejigbo DPO**

PG.6



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APC WARD CONGRESS:

'KEEP OFF', PARTY RAPS REP



**Grooming
to give 150
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APC Ward Congress: 'Keep OFF', Party raps Rep

By Ladapo Kolade

The chairmen of the All Progressives Congress in Isolo and Ejigbo local council development areas and the 13 ward chairmen shunned a meeting organised by the member, House of Representatives, Hon. (Engineer) Ganiyu Johnson representing the constituency to discuss the forthcoming ward congresses and the next council elections last Wednesday September 16 alleging that he was dabbling into a matter that was strictly party affairs. The letter, issued on the letterhead of the member, House of Representatives, was issued on Monday September 14, this year, titled "Forthcoming APC Congresses and Council Polls".

It reads: "I humbly write to request for your presence at an interactive forum on the above subject matter. The meeting will enable us to brainstorm on the activities of the party within the constituency.

Your presence is highly important to the success and progress of the party. Thank you."

The meeting was scheduled to hold at No.61, Irekari Estate road, Isolo

The letter was copied to the state chairman of APC, Alhaji Balogun.

Barrister Gani Bello is the chairman of the party in Isolo LCDA and Alhaji Fatai Kasumu is his counterpart in Ejigbo LCDA.

The names and wards of the 13 chairmen are Sunday Olawumi, (Aigbaka); Idowu Falana, (Ifoshi); A. Adefioye, (Ailegun); Wale Tonade, (Ishaga/Ire-akari); Mrs. Adegbite, (Ilamoshe); Enoch (Ajao); Badmos, (Akinbaye); D. Pikuda, (Alagbeji); K. Oluwatosin, (Okota); G. Shelle, (Ilasamaja) S. Adeogun (Fadu) and S. Dejo, (Oke-afa).

The party officials said the letter violated the constitution of the party which has not given any member of the House of Representatives the power to take over the functions of the party.



Barrister Gani Bello



Alhaji Fatai Kasumu

The local government officials promptly reported the matter to the state chairman who promised to speak to Hon. Ganiyu Johnson to shelve the idea.

According to the chairmen, the party constitution provides for the senatorial district as the next level after the local government for discussing party matters.

Considering the fact that the LCDAs are in the Lagos West Senatorial District, Vice Chairman of the party in the district, Chief Funsho

Ologunde is the appropriate officer to summon such a meeting.

He would then report to the state chairman in line with the hierarchy of the party organs.

Another option, insiders say, is for the two members of the party's caucus at the state level, the Governor's Advisory Council, GAC who operate in both local governments to call for such meetings.

The members of the GAC are the former vice chairman of the Alliance for Democracy, AD, 84 year old Pa Imran Taiwo

and the former chairman of the party, Chief Henry Ajomale.

According to the party's constitution, the body with the ultimate power to deliberate on the matters listed for discussion is the state executive committee of the party.

According to Article 13 subsection 7 (v), the state committee is empowered to "consider reports from Local Government Area Chapters of the Party and take such decisions that are necessary to Protect, advance and

Consolidate the gains and interest of the Party within the State".

In separate interactions, the chairmen also argued that the meeting was unnecessary because neither the national nor state chapter of the party has issued any directive to the local government branch to take any action on the subject so it would be anti-party to act outside the authority of the party.

Besides, the party constitution, in Article 20, has established fair and free procedures for the election of candidates of the party for all posts.

The incident sparked a controversy in the constituency over the powers of a member of House of Representatives to intervene in party matters.

Veteran party officials considered the development unusual stating that none of his predecessors such as Gbolahan Okuneye, 1999-2003; Jaiyeola Ajatta, 2003-2011; and Abiodun Muniru, 2011 -15; had taken such interest in election of party officials and council officials.

After 8 months, IKEDC allocates new transformer to community

By Edith Igbokwe

For eight months, the residents of Dosumu Baderin and Shamura Salako Streets in Mafoluku Oshodi have been in darkness. But that is about to become

history.

The Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) has allocated a new transformer to the community and bring light to chase the darkness away.

The company informed that the transformer has gone through pre-installation test

and is certified fit to be delivered at Sumonu terminal distribution site.

Following the damage to the first transformer, the affected Community Development Associations (CDAs) formed an adhoc committee saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that power supply

was restored in the community.

In a chat with ECHONEWS, the committee's spoke person, Mr. Ally-zik Abiola said the concerted effort of the committee led to the allocation of a new transformer.

He noted that although the

transformer has been allocated, they were waiting for approval for its delivery and installation.

According to him, the committee has commenced the process for the approval while waiting for the delivery of the transformer.

He said after the approval,

subsequent arrangement would be made for the transformer to be properly installed and energised for the use of the community.

He, however, appealed to the IKEDC customers in the community to be ready to pay their bills once the power supply is restored.

A 26-year-old son of the Baale of Mafoluku/Ajao Estate, High Chief Hussan Raimi Shekoni-Elemo, Adeboye Shekoni-Elemo, said he is aspiring for councillorship to bring about qualitative representation for the constituents and stimulate youths' interest in taking front role in politics. Shekoni-Elemo is one of the aspirants seeking to compete with the incumbent councillor representing the ward, Hon. Chidiebere

Shekoni-Elemo wants to be the next councillor of Ajao ward

By Damilola Kushimo

Magnus in 2021.

According to him, there is need for the indigenous son of the community to take up the political position, noting that none of the sons of the soil has represented Ajao Estate Ward at the council since its inception in 2003.

He said he is ready to break the 38-year jinx and called on residents to support his

ambition.

However, he stated that he is not taking his indigeneship as an advantage over other aspirants but leveraging on the encouragement he gets from the people in the community to contest based on his leadership traits.

"My aspiration is centred around my desires to effectively represent the interests of the people of Ajao Estate; to make them feel what quantitative

representation is and sustain the hope and interests the youths have in politics so that they can be further encouraged to invest their youthful abilities, vibrancy, ideas and creativities in making this nation greater, beginning from the grassroots.

"I will qualitatively be the voice of the people, bridge the gap between them and the government, facilitate infrastructural development

to the community. Our roads are getting worn out so as our primary health care system which hasn't been so effective. All these basic necessities need to be improved on."



Adeboye Shekoni-Elemo

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Igbo community commends Idimogu, reassures support for APC

By Damilola Kushimo

The Igbo Speaking Community of Oriade in Oke-Afa, Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has commended the member of the Lagos House of Assembly in Oshodi-Isolo constituency II, Hon. Jude Idimogu for representing the Igbo well and presenting them to their host community in good. The Chairman of Oriade Igbo Speaking Community, Mazi Okechukwu Nnubia, who stated this during their maiden annual 2020 New Yam Festival held in

the area, described Idimogu as a leader per excellence.

Nnubia said the people in the area were fascinated by the level of patriotism and humility exemplified in Idimogu and his wife, stressing that his type of governance is hard to come by. He said Idimogu has won Igbo's interest in politics particularly in APC through his selflessness service to humanity, good and all inclusive governance.

"We are proud of Idimogu, and his amiable wife funnily called 'Osodieme'. He is not power drunk, their door is open not only to their constituents, but to all

classes of persons. We are hundred percent with him and the party any time any day.

"We have started mobilizing our people, those that have no voters' card yet are encouraged to do so while those who newly relocated to this area have initiated the process of transferring their voters' cards to this constituency to enable us give the needed support to Idimogu and APC in the state.

"Idimogu has brought us to the known. He has equally made us know that joining the ruling party of the owners of the land will enable us to have a say in

governance and benefit from the dividends of democracy."

According to him, time has come for the Igbos to change their mindset and perception towards Nigerian political permutations.

The community chairman however thanked Idimogu for taking time out of his busy schedules to honour their invitation, and to be with them till the end of the programme.

He said the celebration was a day of joy and thanksgiving for the Igbo speaking community of the South-Eastern Nigeria and their counterparts from the South-South living in Lagos, and

also their friends and well-wishers who celebrated with them.

The new yam festival, according to him, was an annual event in Igboland held in high esteem by the Igbos to thank 'chukwuabiamere' (God) for protecting them during the farming season especially at the time farmers were being attacked, maimed and killed either on their way to the farm or in their farms, and for protecting their crops and giving them bountiful harvest.

Mrs Adaeze Ani, an Igbo indigene from Enugu state and a

resident of Oriade, also said the festival was to thank God for the gift of yam, which she described as a blessing from God to mankind.

She stated that at the beginning of yam harvest in the year, the Igbos do this to show appreciation to God for protecting them throughout the farming season to the time of harvest.

Ani noted that the festival had created room for them to inculcate in their children the rich culture of their people even when they are outside the shores of Igboland.

Oke Ogbere community awaits construction of second outfall

By Damilola Kushimo

The residents of Oke Ogbere community in Isolo LCDA have expressed eagerness towards the commencement of the construction of second outfall along Community Road promised by the Lagos state government in August.

The Assistant Director, Office of Drainage and Water Resources, Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, Engr. Adegboyega Ogunyemi, had confirmed that the project has been approved by the state government.

He added that the project has

already been awarded to a contractor and that he has taken possession of site, explaining that the second outfall is expected to be wider than the first one and is expected to be completed within six months.

Reacting, the Baale of Oke Ogbere Community, High Chief Tajudeen Orilowo Ganiyu said he and other residents were joyous when the news was broken by ECHONEWS, saying they were looking forward to the commencement of the project.

The monarch explained that the report which spread like wide fire in the community was received with great ecstasy as all and sundry had looked forward to



High Chief Tajudeen Orilowo Ganiyu

such development to complement other development the community has experienced lately.

He, however, appreciated the

state government for the development and implored the contractor to commence the project without further delay. His words: "We are grateful to the

state government for this impending project, it is a great development we've clamoured for. We are grateful to those who facilitated the project, as well. We hope the contractor can commence the work sooner. The project will bring great relief to all road users plying the road because, upon its completion, every effort to repair the work won't get washed away.

"Since the bridge was commissioned, last year, it has further eased intercommunity movement. This route has become a reliable thoroughfare. It has brought great convenience to the residents and road users from neighbouring communities

and open our community to greater opportunities without security threat.

"The residents, especially those along the road, will definitely cooperate with the contractor. Their cooperation is assured."

Also giving the assurance of cooperation, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of De-Prinocc Construction Company - the owner of the link bridge that connects Oke-Ogbere with other neighbouring communities, Prince Yommy Ogungbe, promised to work with the contractor despite the fact that the construction is projected to affect a part of the company's building.

Land scarcity delays our sch project in Okota - Shammeh

By Damilola Kushimo

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye (Shammeh) has explained that fruitless efforts in getting a befitting land in Okota delayed further plan to construct a model public primary school in the area as promised.

Being the only community in the council area without public primary school, the council boss had, during his re-election campaign, promised to construct a model public primary school in Okota.

The supervisory councillor for education, Hon. Bello Buhari, who spoke for the chairman, explained that difficulty in acquiring land in the community remains the major bane of the

proposed project.

He explained that the council had earlier sought the approval of State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) for a piece of land gotten in the area, but the board said it is not suitable for such project due to its small size. He added that the residents of the area also protested against the establishment of such infrastructure on the land, claiming that they would be exposed to security threats.

He however reiterated the council's readiness to embark on the project as soon as it gets a conducive and befitting portion of land within the community, even if the council would have to bear the cost.

Also confirming the scarcity of land in Okota, the Chairman of Estate and Rent Commission Agents Association of Nigeria



Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye

(ERCAAN), Okota/Isolo zone, Mr. Olugbemiro Akinlosotu, said there is no undeveloped land, vast enough to build a public school in the community.

He however pointed to an undeveloped two-plot of land along Enoma Street in Apena Ward which he said is up for sale at N50million as well as a vacant 3-storey building on a four plot of land which is also up for sale at N300million.

ISOLO 2021: Jubril Yusuf joins chairmanship race

By Damilola Kushimo

As the stakeholders are trying to lobby and canvass for a consensus candidate for the All Progressives Congress (APC) party to contest with other parties during the 2021 local government elections in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), a former councillor has thrown his hat into the ring.

He is Jubril Yusuf, the chairman of the council's revenue committee.

Yusuf, in a chat with ECHONEWS, said he stands a better chance to earn the people's mandate to serve as the next chairman of the council because of his experience in

local government administration.

Confirming the rumour that he would contest, he declared to Echonews that the knowledge and experience he has garnered so far, having served in various capacities in the council since inception till date, are enough to give him an edge over other aspirants.

His words: "I have a great conviction that I'm the best man for the job. I've been in the council since 2003 having served as the Special Adviser on Youths and Sport to the first chairperson, Hon. Modupeola Oseghale in her first term and also the Chairman of Revenue Monitoring Team in her second term.

"However, during the first term

of our chairman; the incumbent chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye, I served effectively as the chairman of Revenue Committee on Motorcyclists and now, I've been the Chairman of Revenue since 2017. These appointments have afforded me the opportunities to know more about the council's modus operandi.

"I am a former councillor and I've also served the party in various capacities. I am not challenged by any aspirant and the council chairman hasn't told me he is supporting anyone so, no one is a challenge to me. I have an impressive record of years of experience in the council. I believe in the party's supremacy over everyone but I'm sure I've the wherewithal to be the chairman. I've served the party and I believe in myself."

Stakeholders make case for resumption of contact sports

By Saheed Afolabi

As the lockdown on various sectors continued to be eased by the government allowing some gatherings to come back, stakeholders in sports have appealed to the government to allow resumption of contact sports too such as football and others.

Already, the non-contact sports have been re-opened, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Sunday Dare said conversations are ongoing for the return of contact sports.

Appealing to the government, the grassroots coaches said the resumption should be hastened for them to return to field.

Ghetto Light FC General

Manager, Azeez Mustapha said: "We believe the words of the honorable minister who has been superb since his appointment to head the ministry of sports. Absolutely, Ghetto Light FC went on break in line with the government directive on March 19 and it has been six months without football.

"As law abiding team, we also

abandoned our semi final tie at the Oshodi unity cup to honor the directive of the government. The boys are match rusty and we all cannot wait to return to the game we live for."

Christopher Ogar, the coach of Great Success FC said: "I am sure that contact sports will resume soon because we know that the honorable minister of youth and sport is a man of his

words. If the markets and religious gatherings are allowed to resume by following the laid down Covid-19 guidelines then contact sports

should be ready to resume too. But above all, I believe that contact sports will return sooner than we think."

EYP holds marathon race in October

By Saheed Afolabi

The Estate Youth Parliament (EYP) has announced its maiden edition of EYP Marathon Race scheduled to hold on October 1st at Jakande estate Oke-Afa, Ejigbo to commemorate Nigerian independence Day.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the EYP chairman, Yusuf Adeyemi said 40 athletes are targeted to participate in the race, saying the organiser has already provided the kits for the participants.

According to him, the race is organised to awaken sportsmanship in more people in the estate hence, the forms were

obtained free of charge.

Adeyemi said at the end of the race sponsored by Red Grape Foundation in conjunction with the former House of Representatives aspirant under the All Progressive Congress (APC), Habeeb Anibaba, the sum of N10,000 would be awarded to the each of the winners in both male and female categories.

He reiterated the readiness of the organiser, saying it has put in place, perfect logistics for the take off of the competition.

"We are very ready because we have made provision for medical services for the participants in the race. Also, we are providing customized bibs to be worn by all athletes. Security and traffic



Hon. Habeeb Anibaba

control officers will be on standby to ensure a smooth race by the grace of God."

Also speaking about the race, one of the sponsors, Anibaba, said he is sponsoring the marathon to trigger sporting

interest and other developmental activities in the community.

As one of the residents of the estate, Anibaba said it became imperative for him to support good things happening in his community.

Gbeleyi pledges more support for grassroots sports

By Saheed Afolabi

The former Lagos State House of Assembly aspirant under the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Adebajani Gbeleyi popularly known as Skibanj, has pledged to commit his resources to the development of sports in the constituency.

Gbeleyi said he has been sponsoring grassroots sport competitions for over five years, emphasising his zeal to double his effort in order keep the young one engaged.

He explained that he established a football club, Skibanj FC, purposely to reduce unemployment rate through football and to provide the financial back up to players who want to seek greener pastures abroad.

He said: "Some players have been able to move abroad



Hon. Adebajani Gbeleyi

through the tournaments I have sponsored. I am assuring football lovers at the grassroots that they should expect more competitions from me as my own little effort in keeping the youths engaged.

"I established my own football club to provide a platform for many youths to showcase their talents, make their dreams come true and create a way of securing a professional contract abroad for them.

"At Skibanj FC, we have been able to secure professional contract abroad for players in Turkey, Azerbaijan and Russia who are all doing well."

NEWS

Allegations of delay in supplying and installing pre-paid meters years after payment are igniting anger against the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC).

One of the aggrieved customers is Mr. Sola Adeshokan of No 3, Ashiriabo Street, Isolo. He is alleging that he paid for prepaid meter since 2012 but has not received the meter despite all efforts.

He is also alleging that IKEDC has been billing him exorbitantly monthly with its estimated billing system even after disconnecting his home.

Adesokan explained that despite the fact that IKEDC disconnected his home in July, this year, it sent him estimated bill in August. According to him, he applied for prepaid meter in 2012 on his meter number (0100323502) when the distribution company was still Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) but was not supplied the device.

Following the privatisation of PHCN and emergence of IKEDC, Adesokan alleged that he wrote

several letters in hard copy and e-mails to the distribution company to enquire about the meter but was told to make a fresh application and pay another deposit.

The aggrieved customer said he decided to use discretion to pay based on the calculated units he consumed in a month and this has made the supposed accumulated debt reach N508,257.83, a debt the distribution company cannot justify.

He said: "My argument is firmly established on three fronts, I duly made payment for a prepaid meter to the parent company of IKEDC in 2012 for which I was issued a receipt of payment and up till 2013, bills were still issued under PHCN only for me to be told that I would have to reapply again with IKEDC, which is not justifiable.

"The second is that, due to the discrepancies between the unit I consume on a monthly basis and the estimated bills I was served, I formally wrote to the company, on several occasions disputing the bills. This, which I believe should

Man waits 8 Years for Pre-Paid Meter ...IKEDC says he paid to PHCN and must pay afresh

By Abolaji Adebayo and Damilola Kushimo

be addressed with reconciliation, but nothing has been done from the end of the distributing company and based on my calculated consumption, I resolved to pay less than the estimated bills they brought. I want reconciliation.

"And thirdly, almost immediately, officials of the distribution company cut off my cables on Thursday, July 23, 2020. I formally wrote a letter requesting for a disconnection notice as well as a cessation of issuing of a monthly bill till the matter is resolved. But to my surprise, I was served bills for August, claiming that I consumed 390 units which amounted to N9,130.65k. The bill they sent to me for July was 52 more units than I used in June; July is a month I was serviced for 23 days and most of these days were characterised with usual

inefficiencies from the company. I want formal address on these three arguments."

Adesokan is not the only victim of bogus estimated power charges. Another customer, Mrs Temitope Bankole with meter number 0101478400 said she had paid for the meter since May but has not received the meter as at the time of filing this story.

Alhaji Olanrewaju Ipadeola also complained that he has not received the teller from the company to pay for the prepaid meter since he registered on his meter number 0100398492 in April.

He said, instead of installing the pre-paid meter, IKEDC continues to send estimated bills.

Responding to the allegations, the Head of Corporate Communications, Ikeja Electric, Felix Ofulue, said Adeshokan should have reapplied for the meter rather than waiting for the

old payment. "This was before the privatisation so the best advice is for him to apply for a new meter through the Meter Asset Provider (MAP) Scheme.

"He should disregard the bill for August since his supply has been disconnected."

Quoting a letter from the company to Adesokan's mail on September 14 this year, Ofulue said the company has written: "Dear Esteemed Customer, we acknowledge receipt of your mail. Please note that your payment receipt was issued in 2012, and as such paid into the now defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria.

"Consequently, you are advised to refer to the Nigeria Electricity Liability Management (NELMCO) for further assistance.

"Nonetheless, we have requested for a review of your billing from 2013 till date. This is currently

being worked on by the relevant unit in charge.

"Once verified and affirmed, and adjustment would be factored within one billing cycle. Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused."

On those who are still waiting for deployment of the prepaid meter after payment through the Meter Asset Provider (MAP) Scheme, Ofulue said they should calm down, promising that the meters would soon be distributed.

He claimed that the company faced challenges due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

He said: "Yes, this was caused by the myriad of economic challenges posed by the pandemic. However, there are ongoing concerted efforts to ensure that everyone who has applied for meter will have their meters installed as quickly as possible."

Happy Birthday

Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat
Deputy Governor, Lagos State

@
56



Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola
Head of Service



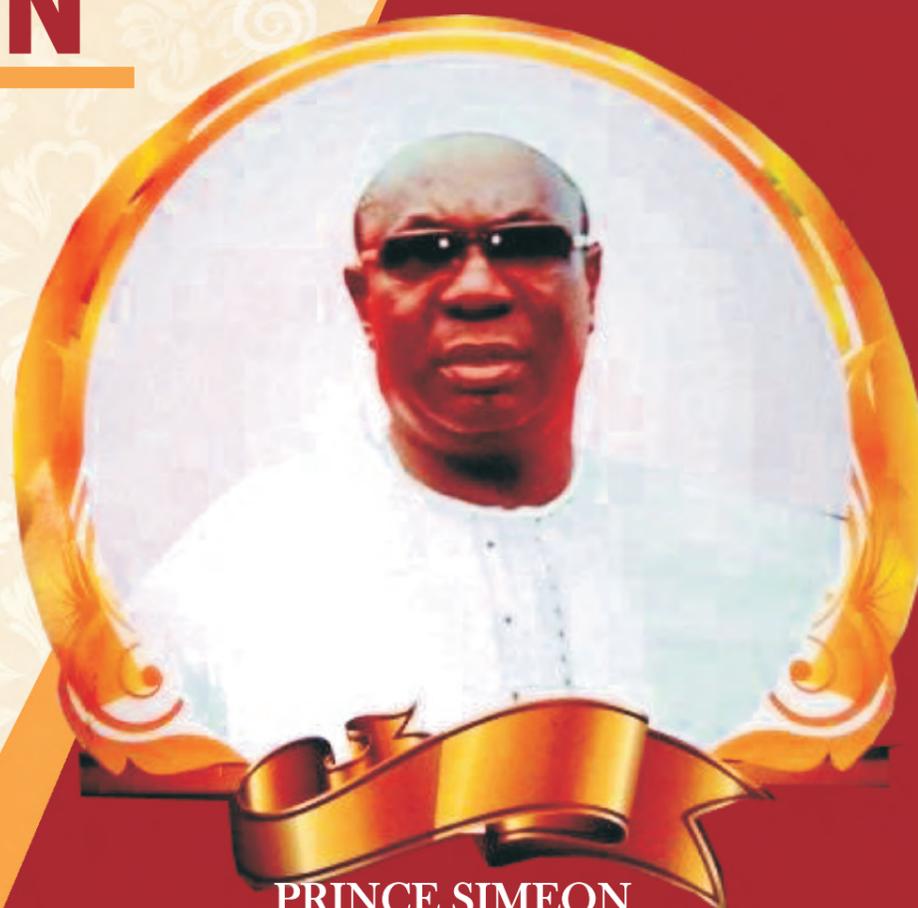
APPRECIATION

My children & I wish to express our profound gratitude and appreciation for your love, prayers and assistance in cash and kind towards the successful burial ceremony of our loving father and husband.

God bless & reward you.
Odun a jinna si ara.

SIGNED

MRS IYABO OGUNYEMI
Head of Administration, Ejigbo LCDA



PRINCE SIMEON
OLUKAYODE
OGUNYEMI JP

Why Ejigbo politics is peaceful - Ogunmefun

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Youth leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Babajide Ogunmefun, has disclosed that good governance by the council chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) has made Ejigbo the most peaceful local council area in terms of political and social life.

He further said understanding among the political leaders coupled with the legacy of the former council chairman, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan also brings about calmness in

Ejigbo.

He explained that every resident irrespective of their political, religious and ethnic affiliations have been enjoying the good works being done by the incumbent council chairman. He said this has generated a groundswell of support across political parties to support him for the second term.

"Honestly I give it to the present council chairman, he was able to identify conflict as expensive, hence he made peace from the first day of assumption of office. He is a chairman for all. Our leaders, the two former commissioners, Chief Henry

Ajomale with some notable leaders are part of this achievement.

"We must also appreciate our representatives at the House of Representatives and Lagos House of Assembly.

"Opposition will never end and opposition will never die, opposition party or parties as the case may be, of course we know one is stronger than the other, opposition parties are there but they talk when need be, to a large extent opposition has been silent not because they don't want to talk, not because we have over-powered them, but the

opposition has seen that the person at the helm of affairs Hon. Oloyede Obe is doing beautifully well.

"Of course there's no way you can convince the people against someone who's performing. The matter speaks for itself, there are meaningful development both structurally and in the living standards of the people. I am not saying the government has reached out to everyone but there's hope that it would get to them. Obe is God sent to Ejigbo," he said.

Speaking on why many people support Obe's second term in office, the youth leader said his

various achievements across the council area in virtually all sectors endeared him to the people.

According to him, some other people who may want to contest with the chairman in 2021 would do so just to make the election interesting in democracy.

"If you are within Ejigbo LCDA, you will want Hon. Monsuru Oloyede Obe to come back. The reward for good work is more work. Somebody has done well and that is the truth of the matter, it's therefore natural to want him back.

"However, there could be little contest, not because the

person who may want to contest has hope of winning but just for the sake of sportsmanship - just for the purpose of an election.

Meanwhile, Ogunmefun charged the youths to join political parties and be active in politics to be more represented and relevant in decision making.

"You cannot be relevant politically if you sit in your house and criticize the government, we've encouraged young people to join politics. Join a political party, the vehicle to becoming political relevant is a political party," he advised.

In recognition of her sterling performance in curbing crimes in Ejigbo local council area, the Ejigbo LCDA councillors have given an award of Excellence to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Ejigbo police station, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi.

While presenting the award to the DPO at the council Secretariat, the council leader, Hon. Olanrewaju Akinbowale, said the legislative arm of the council decided to honour the DPO with the award to intensify her efforts toward taming crimes in Ejigbo.

Akinbowale recalled the role played by the DPO and her team in displacing miscreants from their hideouts; particularly, how she chased away the armed robbers terrorising Ilamoshe ward, He said her timely intervention brought peace back into the community.

In addition to the award, the councillors promised to

Councillors honour Ejigbo DPO, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi for outstanding performance

By Saheed Afolabi

provide 50 litres of petrol monthly for the smooth running of the police in the community.

Responding to the award, the DPO said it was a dream come true for her and her team.

Okuwobi said the award is for all the police officers of Ejigbo police station as it was earned through team efforts.

She therefore appreciated the councillors and the people of Ejigbo for their support and the recognition given to the Nigeria Police in Ejigbo.

She said: "This is a dream come true for me because this award is the biggest honour to all police officers in the community and that's why I brought police men

representing each rank of the force to come here and witness this award together with me because this is a team effort which I cannot achieve alone but with the help of my fellow police men, we have been able to safeguard the community.

"On behalf of all the police men in Ejigbo, I want to say a big thank you to this legislative house and to the good people of Ejigbo for this award. In fact, people of Ejigbo have proved a point that community policing is the way to go with their endless support to the police in Ejigbo LCDA because the police cannot do it alone."

She therefore promised that the police would improve on their activities and make sure the community is safer for everybody to live.



Hon Olanrewaju Akinbowale and CSP Olabisi Okuwobi

Grooming Centre to give 150 university students research grants

By Abolaji Adebayo

Grooming Centre, a leading microfinance institution in Nigeria, is set to give research grants to 150 undergraduate and post-graduate students in universities across the country. Announcing the grant termed "2020 Grooming Centre University Grant Scheme", the project coordinator of the financial institution Mr Chikezie Egbulefu stated that the scheme, which is the second in

the series, is to catalyze research and knowledge development in the areas of microfinance, rural development, inclusive finance, social enterprise, MSME and women in development in the country.

According to him, the 2020 University Grants will be awarded to 100 undergraduate and 50 post-graduate students who are presently carrying out their research studies in the areas of microfinance, rural

development, inclusive finance, social enterprise, MSME and or women in development.

The project which is managed by the Center for Research in Enterprise and Action in Management (CREM) will focus on research which would enhance the Nigerian economy post Covid-19 and contribute to general human development.

Explaining the requirements of the scheme, the technical committee chairman Mr Alex Ajibo said a participant must be

either a student at the postgraduate or undergraduate level in a Nigeria tertiary institution whose research study is in the area of interest.

He explained that when the portal for submission of research works opens on September 30, this year, the applicants must submit their entries through the company's email: info@groomingresearchgrant.org latest October 8, 2020.

He stated: "The focus of the

research study must be relevant to the Nigerian context. It should be practical, innovative and should be capable of promoting any of the above areas of interest, in the Nigerian space.

"The research must show a high level of originality, imaginative thought and be data inclusive. The applicant must be a student at an approved Nigerian university or polytechnic.

"The applicant must submit a

written recommendation from his/her project supervisor and submit a research proposal of not less than 25 pages which will include an introduction, a literature review, and research methodology along with candidate's personal profile.

"The candidate will also submit a final soft copy of the research project on completion of the study.

He said there are no age, gender, religious or ethnic barriers.

Private school owners trained on safety

By Edith Igbokwe

As head of school resumption, private school owners have been trained on safety of the students and other workers. To ensure they uphold the safety protocols, a two-day training programme on safety was organized for the private school owners powered by the office of Education Quality Assurance.

The training focused on health safety and hygiene management in schools while the areas covered in the training include self assessment plans, reopening plans, data communication plans, academic plans, safety checklist plans among others. Addressing the participants, the Director of Education and Quality Assurance, Mr. Remi Abdul analysed the steps required to maintain safety precautions as stated in the guidelines for school reopening after COVID- 19



Cross section of private school owners during the reopening training

pandemic.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the President of the Association of Private School Owners (APSO), Mr. Monsuru Ayinde Obiola promised that they would ensure the safety of the students and the teachers

during school sessions.

He said with the training, the private schools are ready for operation as there would be checks on the schools from time to time.

He said: "We are not going to take any chance as school owners, we will make sure

that the school is managed in the best way we can with maximum safety of students and teachers without compromising in any form."

The proprietor of De Global Passion School, Mafoluku Oshodi, Mr. Saheed Adewale said the information acquired

at the training would be transferred to the parents through Parents Teachers Association (PTA) meeting to work on the same page for the achievement of maximum protection of both students and teachers while in school.

Gas station, community reach compromise on operation

By Edith Igbokwe

After fulfilling the conditions laid down by the local government to operate, Kass Cooking Gas station has resumed business. ECHONEWS reported that the local government authority had, based on the complaints of the community, ordered the business outlet to obtain some documents and put some precautionary measures in place before it could be allowed to operate in the community.

Speaking with both parties in a meeting in his office over the issue, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Taoheed Abiola who represented the local government chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh, confirmed the submission of fire service certification, safety compliance certificate, environmental health service certificate and comprehensive insurance policy agreed upon by all at their last meeting.

With the submission of the documents, Abiola said the

business enterprise has met the requirements under the law to commence operation in the community.

He recalled that the community had requested for an insurance policy to cover the houses beside and back of the gas station, stating that the company had gone further to seek comprehensive insurance policy to cover not only buildings within the gas station but any injury or loss that may arise to any person or property as a result of the Gas station

ineptitudes.

Due to the inflammable nature of the company, the local government has approved parking space at the front of the gas station for the company only and a copy of the insurance policy was given to representatives of the community.

Mrs. Akinsaya, who represented the chairman of Oluyeye Dosumu CDA, Elder Adebayo at the meeting, commended the local government authority for the peaceful resolution of the

matter as she urged the Gas station to continue to maintain a peaceful relationship with the community through corporate social responsibility and get involved in the community administration of the environment through the CDA.

In response, the management of the company, thanked the entire community for their patience and corporation, promising peaceful coexistence as it vowed to abide by the community rules and regulations.

As part of efforts to salvage the problems confronting entertainment industry especially at the grassroots, the member representing Oshodi-Isolo constituency I at the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Bashiru Daudu has organised a sensitisation programme on good practice for the film marketers and distributors in the constituency.

According to the lawmaker, the programme, which was stimulated by the Executive Director/CEO, National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB), Alhaji Adedayo Thomas, became necessary to educate the marketers and distributors on

Daudu sensitises film marketers on good practice

By Edith Igbokwe

how to move the industry forward, promising to keep eyes on the industry and render the necessary support.

Speaking during the programme, the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Pharm. Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile revealed that the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has released the sum of N1billion palliative loan to support the Tourism, Art and Entertainment industry in general which the film marketers and distributors could access.



Hon. Bashiru Daudu, left, with dignitaries at the event

She explained that the loan could be accessed by the industry without any form of 5 percent tax rate as it is meant to ensure prosperity in the industry.

Meanwhile, the NFVCB CEO called for strong collaboration

between the Board and Lagos State government to restructure the industry.

He commended the governor for appointing capable hand to move the industry forward.

He also appreciated the

lawmaker for organising the programme, saying there is need for further sensitisation of the marketers and distributors and dialogue among the stakeholders to bring more development to the sector.

Tailors seek suspension of payment for trade permit as COVID-19 palliative

By Edith Igbokwe

The Association of Nigeria Union of Tailors (NUT) has appealed to the authority of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government to remove the this year's lockup/trade permit charges to serve as palliatives to cushion the effect of COVID-19, claiming that the pandemic has cut so much of their business that is difficult to sew back.

The NUT Charity Orile Oshodi Zone chairperson, Mrs. Muyibat Iyaniwura disclosed to ECHONEWS that the lockup/trade permit personnel from Oshodi-Isolo local council have been visiting their members since last week to pay the N3,000 yearly charge, in route of their challenges.

"We don't have customers making clothes due to lack of events (weddings, birthday, naming ceremonies, etc.), people are no more sewing new cloths unlike before. We are struggling with the business now.

One of the NUT members, Mrs. Omobola Babalola who owns a tailoring shop along Folorunsho Street, Orile Oshodi narrated her ordeal with the lockup permit personnel to ECHONEWS.

She explained: "On Friday last week, one of the lockup permit officials who claimed to be working for Oshodi-Isolo Local Government came into my shop and ordered us all out of the shop to be locked up because I have not paid the charge for the year. As my apprentice continued with her sewing, he almost slapped her for not heeding his instruction to move out of the shop immediately.

"When some people around intervened in the matter, he dropped his phone number 08032944200 as he threatened that he would come back to lock the shop up.

"We are all pleading with the local government authority to help us see to the harassment and embarrassment that we suffer in the hands of the lockup agents who have been parading our shops without serving us any prior notice.



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