

# Echoneews

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# Dumpsite Emission: A Silent Killer In Lagos

By Kunle Awosiyan

**M**ary could not stand the smoke anymore as she hurriedly ran away from dumpsite, leaving her money for the dustmen who had come to pick wastes from the dunghill. She roams the streets to sell groundnuts. She sold for the scavengers at the dumpsite but was choked by the emission from the site.

When our correspondent accosted her and asked why she was running away, the groundnuts seller who simply identified herself as Mary narrated her ordeal.

"The scavengers are my good customers. They buy groundnuts from me everyday but today the smoke at the dumpsite is too heavy. I cannot stand it. It can kill. I will come back to collect my money." She said.

Air pollution has been responsible for over 50,000 death in Lagos. In 2021 alone, Lagos recorded over 30,000 premature deaths, according to Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, LASEPA.

A statement signed by the former General Manager of the agency, Dr. Dolapo Fasawe, confirmed that 22,500 children were among the 30,000 people that died in 2021, representing 75 per cent. This is coming barely two years that a study by the World Bank showed that excessive waste burning, generator smokes, industrial waste and fumes from vehicular activities contribute to high rate of pollution and premature deaths of residents in Lagos.

The study, published in the World Bank Blog identified Lagos as one of the world's fastest growing megacities but with high rates of illness and premature death caused by unhealthy air to the citizens.

The study shows that



Groundnuts seller at one of the smoky dumpsite

inadequate waste infrastructure without a proper waste management system, makes people resort to open burning of waste and illegal dumping, causing the emissions of toxic pollutants.

It estimates that illness and premature deaths due to ambient air pollution caused losses of \$2.1 billion in 2018, representing about 2.1% of Lagos State's GDP. In the same year, it caused an estimated 11,200 premature deaths, the highest in West Africa. Children under five were the most affected, accounting for 60 percent of total deaths while adults suffered from heart disease, lung cancer, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"Without a proper waste management system, people resort to open burning of waste and illegal dumping, causing the emissions of toxic pollutants. Nigerian ports statistics state that in 2017, 33 million metric

tons of cargo passed through the two major ports of Apapa and Tin Can. Every day, about 5,000 highly polluting diesel trucks seek access to the ports or park around for months, picking up or waiting for their loads, causing heavy congestion and pollution," according to the study.

EchoNews visited the popular Olusosun in Oregun and Igando dumpsites where it observed the indiscriminate burning of wastes mostly by scavengers who had since turned the place to their homes. They build shanties around the dumpsites.

Residents around these areas complain of air pollution as a result of waste burning, which also affects passersby. At Seven Up area of Ikosi, Ketu, both residents and commuters lament over the bad quality of air in the area.

"We thought the government was ready to



provide a better waste management when it deployed the police to remove the shanties built by the scavengers at the Olusosun but up till now, nothing has happened. We breathe in bad air," a resident, Bukola Bangbose said.

"I cover my nostrils each time I drive towards Seven Up Bus Stop due to the bad air from Olusosun dumpsite. This is not good for the image of Lagos State at all," a commuter who identified himself as

Banji told Echonews.

The Igando dumpsite is worse and government is not taking it lightly with some residents who are in the habit of burning wastes not only at the dumpsite but also at homes.

Despite the Lagos state environmental law, many residents still burn wastes at home while scavengers move around various dumpsites in Lagos to burn wastes.

Section 14 (A and B) of the state's environmental

sanitation law says no person shall burn or cause to be burnt, waste of any description on a tenement, or dump waste at any place other than a waste disposal site. Any violation of this law is liable to terms of imprisonment or fine or both, violators caught in the act will face severe penalties, including N50,000 fine imprisonment or fine or both, violators caught in the act will face severe penalties, including N50,000 fine.

# Dumpsite Emission: A Silent Killer In Lagos

In their own findings tagged, "Preliminary Assessment of Air Pollution Quality Levels of Lagos, Dr. Francis Olawale Abulude of the Environmental and Sustainable Research Group (ESRG). Science and Education Development Institute Akure Ondo State, Usha Damodharan, Sunday Acha, Federal University of Technology Minna and Ademola Adamu, PhD Analytical Chemistry concluded that the burning of fossil fuels, vehicular movements, high population rise, rapid economic development, and re-suspended soil dust are the contributing variables of airborne contaminants in different cities of the world, including Lagos.

The results of their research indicate that biomass burning and vehicular emissions in such areas as Ojodu, Maryland, Ikeja, and Opebi are high, which they describe as 'Very Unhealthy' but most results in Eti-Osa area are 'good' due to its location near the lagoon. Reacting, the General Manager, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Dr. Babatunde Ajayi stressed the need for green and improved air quality across the state to ensure healthy living for the citizenry, noting that the present air quality in many parts of the state as indicated in the state's Air Quality Index is unhealthy.

He said that the government has dislodged the scavengers and those who burnt tyres at the Olusosun dumpsite. However, there are many smaller dumpsites across the state where wastes are still being burnt, with smokes and odorous emission being released into the air.

As a result, the State government has called



for the understanding and joint efforts of the public towards achieving a common and sustainable action plan, geared towards mitigating the climate change effect and its attendant consequences on human health.

Ajayi noted that the air quality index as released by his Agency recently was an indication that there is a need for people to be more conscious of what they do to the environment, imploring residents to retrace their steps and join hands with the government in protecting the environment through actions and activities that are more environmentally friendly. Scavengers at dumpsite According to him poor air quality as indicated in the index, stated that people in the affected areas may suffer from respiratory-related diseases such as lung infections, asthma,

cystic fibrosis, mesothelioma, pulmonary hypertension and running nose among others.

Other common diseases that may be found in areas with poor air quality, according to the General Manager, include high blood pressure, sight problems, irritation, heart problems, worsened underlying health conditions and other related health issues.

While highlighting some of the human activities aiding poor air quality and other climate change-related problems, Ajayi listed emissions from generators in residential areas where there is no regular supply of electricity, adding that vehicular emissions also contributed in no small way to poor air quality in some areas as most motorists pay little or no attention to the

maintenance of their vehicles.

He also identified agricultural and industrial emissions as another major contributor to poor air quality, noting that there are other worrisome issues of agricultural activities such as the burning of cow skin as well as emissions from areas with large concentrations of industries.

"The entire Lagos has pockets of industries in different areas, so in areas with high industrial concentration, you will have poorer air quality", Ajayi stated.

To regain green and quality air for improved healthy living, the LASEPA boss underscored the importance of tree planting and urged residents to cultivate the habit of planting trees in homes and neighbourhoods to absorb carbon dioxide

emitted into the environment.

He urged the people to mark their major celebrations with tree planting to increase the number of trees in public places, adding that tree planting advocacy must be strengthened in all public and private schools so that the youths can imbibe the culture.

The General Manager also advised that people must reduce the number of vehicles on roads through carpooling or a preference for public transportation rather than individuals putting their vehicles on roads daily.

He vowed that his agency would continue to monitor the environment and implement policies that would ensure compliance with government regulations and guidelines towards achieving a cleaner, safer and pollution-free environment befitting the status of the state as the nation's Centre of Excellence and the 5th largest economy in Africa.

Meanwhile, the World Bank is working with the authorities in Lagos to support the city's efforts to improve air quality. Its Pollution Management and Environment Health Program (PMEH) offers opportunities for change and collaboration with IFC helps to leverage private sector investments.

It is clear that no single action can solve the challenges faced by a high energy consumption megacity like Lagos. But, we propose various options, keeping in mind that they can be effective only when implemented simultaneously. Low emission vehicles could reduce air pollution if they adopt cleaner fuels. Old generators could be decommissioned but alternative power

sources must be put in place first.

Lagos is making some progress in initiating laws that still need to be implemented. In 2017, standards for sulfur content in fuel were lowered to reduce emissions: from 3,000 parts per million (ppm) to 50 ppm for diesel; and from 1,000 ppm to 150 ppm for gasoline.

Through the Lagos PMEHAir Quality Management Program, we are working with the Lagos government to prepare an air pollution control plan based on deeper research on key emission sources and implementation cost. We are also advising them on the adoption of policies that create incentives to purchase cleaner passenger vehicles, improve vehicle inspection, retrofit the most polluting vehicles, shift to public transport, and adopt cleaner fuel.

Meanwhile, the study concluded by proffering some solutions to the pollution problems that emissions from dumpsites, industries and power could be lowered with better technologies such as solar power. The massive amount of waste illegally buried, burned, or dumped requires investment in technologies, teams that monitor and penalize these activities, and appropriate waste management infrastructure. We are working with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to create a recycling market for plastic waste.

In the future, priorities could include long-term monitoring of air pollution, centralized health data by age and cause of mortality or morbidity, an inventory of polluters and better analysis of the impacts of indoor pollution on health.



# Lagos Mobilises Grassroots Support For SDG Actions

To reach the global benchmark as outlined by the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the Lagos State Government has undertaken proactive initiatives to mobilize grassroots communities towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Expressing this during a tour of the State's SDGs Centres in some Local Government and Local Council Areas, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Sustainable Development Goals, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih disclosed that efforts towards ensuring that the aspirations of the global goals are translated into tangible and impactful actions at the local level is the priority of the present administration. The Special Adviser,

while acknowledging the need to bridge the gap between global ambition and local realities, noted that a critical aspect of the state strategy is to foster a sense of ownership and understanding among local communities. According to her, global evidence has indicated that local involvement with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains nascent at best in many countries. She said, "Local institutions have a critical role in advancing progress towards the goals, especially at a sub-national level. We are aware that more needs to be done to connect the SDGs with local people at the grassroots level as it seems the agenda is more global than local. Our mission is to re-imagine and re-invent



these goals to make them more tangible and relevant at the grassroots level". While noting that the present administration, through its T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda has put forth a vision of cities with vibrant public spaces, clean environments, and robust civic participation, the Special Adviser highlighted the importance of aligning this vision with the SDGs. Addressing some of the beneficiaries of the NG-CARES under the Labour Intensive Public Workfare (DLI 1.2), Dr.

Finnih revealed that the social intervention programme underscores the many transformative initiatives that the government is implementing to improve the lives of the less privileged in the community. She expressed the government's commitment to ensuring that the goals are seamlessly integrated into the fabric of local communities, creating a harmonious relationship between the global sustainability agenda and the unique needs of Lagos State residents. In her words, "As we strive to empower

communities to actively contribute to the realisation of the SDGs by 2030, the vision of this administration aligns seamlessly with our grassroots mobilisation effort of ensuring every citizen understands their role in this global agenda and actively participates in building a sustainable and inclusive future for Lagos State". The Permanent Secretary, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Mrs. Tolani Oshodi acknowledged the need for government and development partners to create opportunities that will transform the lives of the grassroots dwellers. She emphasised that interventions, such as the NG-CARES programme, aim to empower individuals with opportunities for skill development, employment, and

improved socio-economic conditions. "The government remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and uplifting the marginalised sections of the society, recognizing the profound impact that such targeted initiatives can have on community well-being and sustainable development", she stated. Some Local Council officials present at the occasion include the Vice Chairman of Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Hon. Mojisola Badmus; The Vice Chairman, Orile-Agege LCDA, Alhaja Kafilat Pedro and the Council-Manager, Ojokoro LCDA, Mr. Adebola Adeyemi. They all applauded the state government's desire to mobilise grassroots citizens towards contributing to the broader vision of sustainable development in the State.

## Lagos Govt Establishes Anti-Human Trafficking Centre



The Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA) has set up a Human Trafficking and Taskforce Centre in line with the efforts of the State Government to curb the menace of Human Trafficking across the State. The Lagos State

Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN), stated this during the handing over ceremony of the Countering Human Trafficking Office donated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Governments of the United States and the

Kingdom of the Netherlands, located inside the Headquarters of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency at Oshodi. He said the Centre will bolster the fight against Human Trafficking, not only in Lagos State but across the Southwest region of Nigeria, stressing that the

dedication of the Centre to house the Human Trafficking Unit of the LNSA and the Taskforce on Human Trafficking is a testament to the commitment of the State Government to the fight Against Human Trafficking. He also seized the opportunity to thank the United Nations, especially the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Governments of the United States and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the donation of such a befitting Office Space, just as he commended the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) for their collaborative efforts in the fight against Human Trafficking. Earlier, the Director-General of NAPTIP, Professor Fatima Waziri

commended the Lagos State Government and the LNSA for the State's effort in tackling the menace, imploring the agencies to continue in effective collaboration as information sharing is very critical. On her part, Mrs. Eva de Wilt of the Kingdom of the Netherlands traced the collaboration between Nigeria and the Netherlands on human trafficking to some years back and confirmed that the two countries have recently been developing new methods against the menace. "Those fighting Human Trafficking cannot rest because the perpetrators are always evolving tactics", she stated. The Consul-General of the United States Embassy, Will Stevens said the United States Government will

continue to assist various arms of government and agencies fighting human trafficking, especially in the area of capacity building and attributed the recent spike in human trafficking to the "JAPA" syndrome. The General Manager of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA), Prince (Dr.) Ifalade Oyekan, FSIN, thanked the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for the vision to rebrand the Agency which has resulted in a lot of tangible achievements. Oyekan also commended the donor Agencies for their support to the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the LNSA, assuring them and the good people of Lagos State of the commitment of the LNSA to deliver on the purpose of the new Centre.



# LASODA To Review Lagos State Special People's Law

The Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) has again taken a step forward in its efforts to foster goodwill and mutual understanding by expanding its engagement with stakeholders within the disability community. The General Manager of LASODA, Mrs. Adenike Oyetunde-Lawal, speaking during a meeting held recently

via Zoom with Service Providers of various Homes caring for children and persons with disability, said it is important that all homes ensure unity of direction and purpose where everyone aligns with the objectives of the Agency as enshrined in the Lagos State Special People's Law.

"We appreciate your support and cooperation toward our

mission to promote the cause and protection of PWDs and call for inputs to the proposed review of the Lagos State Special People's Law", she stated.

Mrs. Oyetunde-Lawal said the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs is embarking on the review of the Lagos State Special People's Law, 2011 to bring the law in line with the current realities, saying "It is because of this, we call for your input to the review process, for identifying key areas/issues for

consideration".

She urged the stakeholders to forward their input to the Head of the Legal Services Department, Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs on or before the 31st day of January, 2024

The General Manager reiterated that LASODA will continue, through impactful empowerment initiatives, to provide assistive devices, educational support and psychosocial tools needed to integrate PWDs into society.



## LAWMA Fabricates Waste Bins For Ekiti State



...Extends Partnership Offer to Other States at Affordable Rates

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has begun fabricating waste bins for Ekiti State in a partnership aimed at tackling a myriad of waste management and environmental challenges. Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, who disclosed this in his office on at the weekend, noted that LAWMA remained committed to ensuring proper waste management practices, within and outside the State, adding that Lagos State was willing to support and partner with other States in all areas of waste management.

He said, "I am happy to announce the partnership between LAWMA and Ekiti State Government, which will see us fabricate their waste bins at a reasonable cost. By fabricating waste bins in-house, we gain greater control over quality, production speed, and

ultimately, cost-effectiveness".

"This allows us to not only ensure a steady supply of bins for Lagos, but also help us to extend our support to other states like Ekiti, which is currently a prime beneficiary of this initiative. LAWMA has assisted some other States before now and we are willing to do more".

Gbadegesin averred that the partnership with Ekiti State shows LAWMA's proactive approach to environmental issues, adding that the Ekiti project would serve as a pilot programme, paving the way for similar partnerships with other states.

"We believe that effective waste management is not just a Lagos issue, but a national concern. LAWMA's door is open to any state seeking our assistance. We are offering our expertise

to provide technical support, training and even manpower, to help other states develop and implement efficient waste management systems", he said.

The LAWMA boss noted that the Authority's Engineering Department, known for its ingenuity and resourcefulness, has developed a robust and efficient waste bin fabrication process, adding that the department utilised locally sourced materials to produce durable bins, for diverse waste management needs.

"LAWMA's in-house bin fabrication initiative offers several advantages beyond cost-effectiveness and quality control. It fosters skill development and job creation within the agency, promotes local content utilisation, and reduces reliance on imports. Hence, other states who are interested can get the bins at affordable rates", he stated.

## LASPPPA Goes Tough on Illegal Property Development

The General Manager of Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA), Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike has reiterated the resolve of the Authority to reduce to the barest minimum the existence of illegal developments in Lagos State.

Osinaike stated this while leading the Monitoring and Compliance Unit of LASPPPA in enforcement exercises around the Ikeja Area of the State.

Speaking to journalists on the exercise, Osinaike disclosed that the focus on the Area was a result of reports of flagrant disregard to contravention notices and stop work orders served to structures in the Area.

Osinaike implores Owners/Developers to imbibe the norm of voluntary compliance to Physical Planning Permit Laws as it is of immense benefit to both the Developers and the Public.

He said, "Voluntary compliance saves money that would have been used in paying penal fees on the side of the Developer when

apprehended and also ensures the safety of lives and properties amongst others.

Osinaike encouraged the building public to always endeavour to obtain Planning Permit which has been made faster through reforms put in place by the Authority. He attested to the Authority's resolve to complete the processing of the Planning Permit within 10 working Days provided the applicants submit all necessary documents including evidence of tax payment.

The General Manager applauded Owners/Developers who have already embraced the culture of voluntary compliance,

urging prospective land owners to always visit the nearest Town Planning Office to the location of the land in speculation before purchasing so that they could be guided on whether the land is approvable or not and not fall into the hands of scammers.

Osinaike further revealed that the Authority has increased the number of its District Offices to expand its coverage and make more available its services to the public.

He urged the public to cooperate with LASPPPA to achieve a sustainable Lagos by reporting any violation of Physical Planning Permit Laws to the Authority's Headquarters or any of her District Offices closest to them.





# Men Remanded In Prison For Allegedly Defiling Teenager

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** man, Onyeka Mbaka, has been charged to court over an alleged rape and defilement of a 15-year-old girl.

Mbaka appeared before Justice Rahman Oshodi at the Ikeja Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Court after being arraigned by the Lagos State Government.

The state counsel, Bukola Okeowo,

informed the court that the defendant who was pronounced to be gaoled in Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Center pending the determination of his bail application and commencement of trial committed the offence sometime in March 2023 at No.16, Moshalasi Street, in the Ilasa area of Lagos. According to Okeowo, the offence contravened Section 137 of the Criminal

Laws of Lagos State, 2015.

He pleaded non guilty. Following his not guilty plea, Okeowo prayed the court to remand the defendant accordingly. She also told the court that the prosecution intends to call three witnesses to prove the charge against the defendant.

Justice Rahman Oshodi subsequently adjourned the case until March 22 for trial. One Suleiman Lawal



was arraigned at the Ikeja High Court over robbery of a commuter of an iPhone.

Lawal was accused of using a weapon to scare and rob the victim, Karimat Olugorowa at Jetty Waterside, Baiyeku Ikorodu, stealing the gadget reported to be worth

N180,000 on September 5, 2022.

The state counsel, Ojukutu Shobande told the court that the litigant, who belonged to an unlawful association known as Aiye confraternity contravened Section 297 (2) (b) of the Criminal Law of Lagos

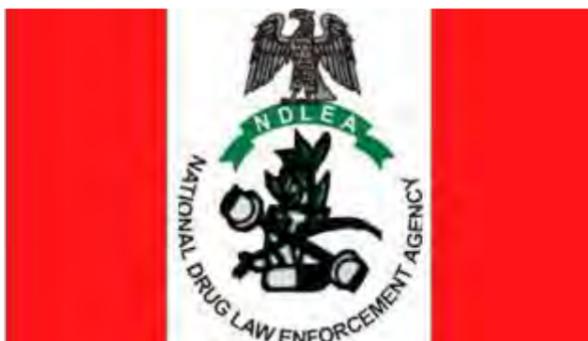
State, 2015, and Section 2 (3) of the Unlawful Society and Cultism (Prohibition) Law of Lagos State, 2021.

Presiding over the case, Justice Adenike Coker remanded the defendant in a correctional centre and adjourned the case till February 12 for trial.

## NDLEA Prosecutes SAHCO Deputy Manager, Others

By Felix Kuyinu

**T**he National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arraigned the Assistant Manager of Skyway Handling Company, SAHCO, Olajide Kafidipe, for unlawful trafficking and possession of harmful drugs.



Kafidipe alongside seven other workers of the company : Sanyaolu Oladele, Musa Opeyemi, Sanamo Daniel, Anuge Isibor, Mahmud Musa, Udeh Felix and Obinna Henry were arraigned at the Federal High Court, Ikoyi on Tuesday.

The octet appeared before Justice Deinde Dipeolu on charges bordering on conspiracy, unlawful importation and possession of 1,440.90 kilograms of Tramadol. Abu Ibrahim, counsel for the NDLEA, hinted to the court that the defendants conspired with a triumvirate : Mubarak Salami, Abdullahi Aliyu and Anwal Monday, who were erstwhile staff of the company to commit the offence on or about October 25, 2023.

The Ibrahim noted that the gang transported the drug from SAHCO Import Shed through one Lawal

Temitope in a Mercedes-Benz bus with Registration Number LAGOS MUS 269 YC belonging to one Platinum Pacific International Limited. According to Ibrahim, the offence contravened Sections 14 (b), 21 (2)(d) and 20 (1)(c) of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Cap. N30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and punishable under Sections 11 (b) and 20 (2)(b) of the same Act, all being pleaded not guilty of by the defendants.

The counsel on hearing their plea position urged the court to remand the defendants in the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Services, NCoS, until the hearing and determination of the

charge against them.

The lawyers for the defendants countered the utterance of the counsel notifying Justice Dipeolu that they had filed their clients' bail application except that of the first defendant, Olajide Kafidipe and Obinna Henry, asking the court for a short date, to enable them to file the bail applications for the duo. As a result, the prosecutor urged the court to remand the defendants in the NCoS' custody until when the court would hear their bail applications.

Justice Dipeolu, in his rulling, ordered the operatives of the NDLEA to call their Airport Commander to allow the defendants to be remanded in their custody until when their bail applications would be heard and determined.

## Police Arraign Driver For Allegedly Killing Pedestrian

By Felix Kuyinu

**A** driver has been arraigned in court for allegedly knocking down a female pedestrian to death in Abule-Egba area, Lagos. Appearing before the Magistrates' Court in Ikeja, the 38-year-old accused, Tosin Awosanya, was charged by the police for reckless driving,

causing the death of a pedestrian and driving without a license.

Awosanya, who resides at No. 13 Busare St., off AIT Road, Alagbado Lagos pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecutor, ASP Raji Akeem, told the court that the defendant drove recklessly at Ajala Bus Stop in Abule-Egba on November 13, 2013

and rammed his vehicle on the victim, one Gloria Eberechukwu of age 55 who died instantly.

Akeem told Magistrate Bola Osunsanmi that the offences contravene Sections 51, 52, and 111 of the Road Traffic Laws of Lagos State, 2018.

Magistrate Osunsanmi, granted the defendant bail of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till February 5..





# Commissioner Urges Accountants To Embrace Social Skills For Innovation, Creativity

The Lagos State Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluoyomi has emphasised the importance of social skills for accountants working in the Lagos State Public Service, saying that possessing social skills, including emotional intelligence, is essential for unlocking creativity and innovation.

Speaking during the Opening Ceremony of the Y2024 Retreat for Directors of Finance and Accounts held in Epe with the theme: "Unleash Your Potential for Excellence Through Innovation and Creativity", the Commissioner highlighted the need for Accountants to go beyond cognitive and academic qualifications.

He referred to the present annual budgetary proposal of Lagos State, which he said, is not sufficient to meet the development aspirations of Lagosians that keep expanding every day.

The Commissioner, however, urged Accountants to think creatively and innovatively to expand the government's revenue, ensuring that the annual budget

aligns with the level of development befitting Lagos.

Earlier, the Special Adviser, Office of Internal Audit, Dr. Oyeyemi Ayoola, FCA, emphasised the need for Accountants to be widely knowledgeable beyond the management of finance and accounts, stressing that they must develop an interest in all the activities of their respective Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of Government.

According to Dr. Ayoola, Accountants are expected to act as financial advisers in government, going beyond their traditional roles by thinking outside the box and contributing to various aspects of decision-making and strategy development within their organisations.

In the same vein, the Special Adviser on Taxation and Revenue to the Governor, Mr. Abdulkabir Ogungbo, in his goodwill message implored Accountants to identify loopholes in government expenses and block the identified leakages to save more money for the implementation of

additional developmental projects.

He said that a framework that will guide the process of government revenue among all revenue-generating MDAs is currently being developed for uniformity purposes, urging the Finance and Accounts Directors to adhere to the provisions of the framework when it becomes operational.

Speaking on the theme; "Unleash Your Potential for Excellence Through Innovation and Creativity," the Permanent Secretary/Accountant-General, Dr. Abiodun Muritala maintained that the theme resonates deeply and emphasises the fact that confronting the emerging challenges of today demands unprecedented solutions.

He said: "As Finance and Accounts Officers of the Lagos State Government, we have a fiduciary responsibility to the public which we must embrace with utmost professionalism bearing in mind that our functions are pivotal in shaping the economy of our great State.

"Our time together is not just an opportunity to discuss technical and topical financial issues;



it is a call to action, a summon to explore innovative and creative avenues that will propel us to new heights".

While noting that Lagos State and the world at large face multifaceted challenges, from economic uncertainties to global disruptions Dr. Muritala averred that what is needed to confront these challenges is not just adaptation but proactive and ingenious responses that go beyond conventional boundaries.

He encouraged participants at the Retreat to take ownership of their roles in the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in achieving the common goal of the

Greater Lagos vision.

The Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office (PSO), Mrs. Sunkanmi Oyegbola harped on the need for public servants to be in a good mental state as only mentally stable officers can continue to be innovative and creative.

As a way of re-awakening mental alertness among civil servants, the Permanent Secretary revealed that the Head of Service, Mr. Olabode Agoro has approved a monthly Walk For Fitness for staff to help them keep fit and mentally stable.

She reiterated that the Lagos State Government is committed to fostering a culture of innovation

and creativity among its accountants, enabling them to make significant contributions to the development of Lagos.

In their submissions, the Permanent Secretaries of Tourism, Mrs. Oloruntoyin Atekoja and her counterpart from the Office of Internal Audit, Mrs. Kikelomo Dawodu, affirmed that the Retreat will serve as an avenue for the incubation of ideas that will help fortify the accounting profession.

While affirming that accountants within the employ of the State Government have the inherent potential to innovate ideas, the duo called on the Accountants to live above board by providing solutions beyond conventional boundaries.

# Physical Planning Ministry, Agencies Brainstorm on Enhanced Service Delivery

The Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, as well as related Agencies, has held a strategy session on the best way of improving its services to the people of the State.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, who spoke during the strategy session, tagged: "A Day with the Honourable Commissioner and the Special Adviser", held recently at the LASBCA Auditorium, GRA, Ikeja, said that the

new year presented an opportunity to review business processes, eliminate bottlenecks and resolve the issue of overlapping functions among agencies in the physical planning sector in the interest of the State and its residents.

His words: "It is paramount for us in the physical planning family to map out the best strategies to realign and improve the quality of our output while repositioning the Ministry and enhancing the image of the Lagos State Government".

He added that the physical planning family must, as a result of the very impactful nature of its mandate, focus on advocacy and strategic stakeholders' management, especially with developers, property owners, and built environment professionals as key stakeholders.

The Special Adviser, e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, who moderated the business process review, urged the ministry's technical departments and agencies to collaborate and support one another for efficient and effective



service delivery.

He stressed that to achieve the desired goal of sustaining the Lagos built environment, processes of government institutions in the sector must be streamlined, less cumbersome, and result-oriented such

that Lagosians would experience a more efficient regulation of the built environment.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Oluwole Sotire thanked the Honourable Commissioner and the Special Adviser for the rewarding session, which, he noted, had been fruitful in fixing the grey areas and promoting the resolve amongst critical members of the physical planning family to work better together.

Earlier, the Guest Speaker, Mr. Abiodun Bamgboye, a former Permanent Secretary in Lagos State, had set

the tone for the session with a presentation on social and emotional intelligence, where he highlighted the value of transparency, empathy, effective communication, the reward system and clarity of purpose amongst others as essential factors in organisational and personal success.

Heads of Agencies, including the General Manager Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Arc. Gbolahan Oki and the General Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA), Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike presented the business processes of their respective agencies.



## Education District VI Honours Teachers, Scholars

The Chairman Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Mrs. Victoria M. Peregrino has tasked teachers and scholars in Education District VI to remain driven by excellence.

Peregrino, who gave the advice at the Education District VI Y2023 Annual Merit Awards and Honours' Day ceremony held recently at Oshodi, enjoined the awardees to remain selfless while encouraging other teachers to work harder and put in more effort to be recipients of such awards in future.

She implored the teachers to take advantage of all the programmes and policies designed for their benefit by the Lagos State Government, adding that they should also strive to remain bastions of excellence and role models for their students.



Earlier in her opening remarks, the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Education District VI, Dr. (Mrs.) Shareefah Adejoke Yusuf said the award ceremony is an annual event created to acknowledge and celebrate achievers who have distinguished

themselves last year, noting that it is also intended to serve as motivation and morale booster for all stakeholders.

Yusuf disclosed that the awards are in different categories, such as the Merit Awards for Students who excelled in co and extracurricular

activities; Students who have brought glory to the District through their outstanding exploits; Teachers who have proven their worth through their outstanding contributions to growth and successful exploits of our students, and Stakeholders who have the District pillar of

support. Dignitaries at the event include Hon. Olubunmi Oluyadi, Vice Chairman Ojodu LCDA, representing the Chairman, Mr. Segun Odumbaku; Alhaja Folashade Moronkeji, immediate past President (ANCOPSS) Lagos State; PS, TESCO Mrs. Iyabo

Motilayo Seriki-Bello; PS, Health District VI, Dr. Abimbola Mabogunje; TG/PS, District I, Mr. Adeoye Adebawale; TG/PS, District VI, Mr. Olusegun Osinaike; PS, Estab & Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun; SUBEB Chairman, Dr. Hakeem Shittu and TG/PS District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye.

## Education District III Holds 19th Annual Merit Awards

The 19th Annual Merit Award and Honours Day ceremony for the outstanding staff of the Lagos State Education District III was held on Thursday at Epe Grammar School Epe with the theme: "Upskilling For the Future of Education - An All-Inclusive Responsibilities". Speaking at the event the Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary (TGPS) of Education District III, Dr. Idowu Olufunke Oyetola commended the teachers and staff of the District for their dedication to service

and praised them for taking the District to greater heights. She said that great teachers were the soul of an enlightened society as they have been entrusted with the development of the children who are the future of the nation. Oyetola appreciated the Governor of Lagos State and the Commissioner of Basic and Secondary Education for their vision and unwavering support, stating that huge investments had been made in the Education sector of the State and the District

such as the provision of digitised teaching and learning via distribution of IBILE mobile tablets as well as Android Phones to classroom teachers. This is in addition to the establishment of an iconic school building at Ogombo Community Senior Secondary School among others. She said that these students of the Community Junior Secondary School, Elemoro, Ibeju-Lekki representing Nigeria at the World Robotics Competition in Panama, adding that their improved co-curricular

activities also resulted in District III winning the "Chess for Change" competition back to back. While appreciating the Sanwo-Olu's administration for the allocation of housing units to teachers of schools located in remote areas in Imota, Agbowo in Epe LGA, the TG/PS lauded the commitment of the teachers in the District in the 2023 academic session, stating that selection of the winners was a daunting task as all the teachers were outstanding. Oyetola, therefore, encouraged the

teachers who did not win any prize to try harder, advising them not to relent in their efforts or rest on their oars as continuous improvement is the key to lasting success. The award for the Best Principal in the Senior Secondary School Category went to Mr. Efuwape A. Babatunde of Epetedo Senior School Lagos Island, while that for the Junior Secondary School category went to Mr. OdunayoGbemisola of Resettlement Community Junior Secondary School. The award for Best Teacher in the Senior

Secondary School category was given to Mr. Oretan Bolaji Omoniyi of Alaro Senior High School, Epe. While Mr. Odunlami Oluwatosin from Ogunmodede of Junior College, Epe won the award in the junior secondary school category. Dignitaries present at the event include the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Abayomi Abolaji; HRM Oba GaniuAsunmo, Alayandelu of Odo-Ayandelu Kingdom and HRM Oba Babatunde OgunlajaAladesonyin of Odo-Noforija Kingdom among others.

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# "Lagos Budget Will Be Transparent, Accountable"



Lawmaker representing Alimosho Constituency II at the Lagos Assembly, Hon. Kehinde Joseph, has told residents of his constituency and Lagos as a whole to key into the plans of the executive on the budget implementation

plans laid down by the government. Joseph, who witnessed the bill signed into law by the House of Assembly members stated that the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has examined the conditions of the state and is poised

on effecting plans which will benefit the inhabitants of the metropolitan state. Reacting to the passed budget tagged "Budget of Renewal, prioritises infrastructure, environment, education, and technology, with increased allocation

for security and public safety", Joseph said "The successful implementation of this budget is crucial for the citizens' wellbeing and aligns with the themes and agenda of the State Government, aiming to transform lives and businesses. "I am assuring my

constituents and all Lagosians that transparency and accountability will be our watchword in the implementation and oversight of this budget, and I thank Rt. Hon (Dr) Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa for the honour and privilege given to me during the budget review."

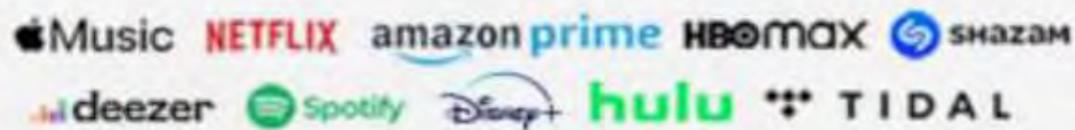
As the executive mark the start of a new expenditure cycle, Joseph stated that the Lawmakers will push in efforts to ensure that the targets of the passed bill are met in making sure that the residents in all constituencies get dividends of democracy.



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# Shops, Modern Office Inaugurated in Ejigbo LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Lagos State, has commissioned the Market Office of the Ejigbo Central Modern Garage and Shops. The event took place earlier in the week with the new Market Office situated within the Garage, at Double Power-Line, Iyana-Ejigbo Bus Stop. The contractor, Engineer Hazzan, warmly received the Council Chairman, his Cabinet, some members of the Management Team, NULGE Branch Executives and some members of the community. Speaking at the event, the Chairman appreciated Hazland-M Properties for investing in Ejigbo and helping the Council to achieve a long-conceived dream. He clarified that the idea of having a Central Motor Garage at Iyana-

Ejigbo was a brain child of his Predecessor, Mr. Kehinde Bamigbetan, the Royal Father of Ejigbo (Ojon of Ejigbo - O b a MorufuAdisaOjoola) in 2007. He made it known that at that time the idea was also conceived and endorsed by him however, his predecessor had no resources to bring the dream to life, until he assumed office as a Chairman in 2017, he therefore took the project as a matter of salient concern. The council Boss further mentioned that the occasion of the market office is not a commissioning-proper but a prelude, as the commissioning of the entire motor park and shops shall be more elaborate than this, when the whole project is fully actualized. Even the presence of the State Government will be felt. The Council Chair enlightened the audience to refute any form of disinformation



by psychopants who have been erroneously challenging the legality of this project, that due process was maintained and approval was granted by the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Lagos State. He also alluded to Ifoshi Road being one amongst other major

projects that were conceived far back, given the cost implications of the road, a state-owned road, which is about one kilometer in length and 18mm width on the average. His administration had summoned courage to fix the road to taste. The idea of the two motor park and shops at

both Iyana Ejigbo Double Power Line and Alaba Street, last Busstop, was also conceived amongst others and was born out of the need to ease bottlenecks causing traffic gridlocks around our major corridors, and today, to the glory of God, it has witnessed the light of the day. The tricycles (Marwa) would now be automatically channeled through Ojoola street from the park. He also emphasized that in the wake of the project, there were several attacks and spells from traders and psychopants, but today all have translated into blessings over him. The traders are now feeling happy because he has good intention, not only for the market vendors but also for the advancement of the entire people of Ejigbo. On the operation of the park, he spoke extensively on the

need to collaborate with other private parks to key into the mega plans for the transformation of Ejigbo, that the government is constitutionally empowered to halt any other private parks but would not do so, rather he would seek collaboration with each of the private parks who runs interstates to bring one or two of their vehicles into the government parks to show their support and commitment to the development of the LCDA. He further ascertained the introduction of a tech-based system in the running of the park, where all vehicles, drivers and conductors are tracked for the safety of passengers. He also assured that he would mount a signboard in the park to indicate all the due processes maintained from the beginning to the end - a bid to refute all the erroneous beliefs making the rounds and the deliberate attacks by mischief makers / sycophants.

# Iyaloja General, Folashade Ojo-Tinubu, Resolves Controversy in Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a reconciliatory move, Chief (Mrs) Folashade Ojo-Tinubu, the Iyaloja General of Nigeria and Lagos, successfully addressed the long standing controversies surrounding the appointment of the Iyaloja General of Ikorodu Division and Ikorodu LG. During a meeting held at the State Secretariat of the market in Ikeja recently, Iyaloja General invited all the

contestants, including Deaconess Busola Elizabeth Isikalu, Mrs. Bukola Osho, and other market leaders, to discuss the matter that had created a rift between the Ayangbure palace and supporters of Deaconess Isikalu, against the Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina. After carefully listening to all parties involved, Iyaloja General urged the warring factions to embrace peace and show respect for the

traditional institution. She expressed her intention to mediate with Chairman Adesina, whom she referred to as her brother. In a significant resolution, Chief Ojo-Oladejo announced Deaconess Isikalu as her preferred choice to lead the market in Ikorodu. The announcement was made in the presence of all attendees, with other market chieftains joining in raising Isikalu's hands. Consequently, Deaconess Isikalu now assumes the role of the Iyaloja General for both Ikorodu Division and Ikorodu Central LG.





# Odumbaku To Support Council Staff With N20,000 Monthly

Kehinde Adeleye

The administration of the Chairman Ojodu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. David Odumbaku has pledged to support staff with monthly token of N20,000 for a period of six months. The council chairman made this known during the new year solemn prayer with Executive members, Legislative members, and Management team of the council who all participated in the spiritual exercise. The prayer session which included supplications by both Islamic and Christian clerics, seeking divine

guidance and blessings for the year ahead. Odunmbaku drawing inspiration from Romans 3:22-23, encouraged the staff to approach their work with heightened zeal, productivity, and dedication. He also emphasized the importance of regular medical check-ups to maintain a healthy lifestyle and assured staff that the mini-staff clinic is available to attend to their medical needs at all times. During the prayer meeting, the Council Manager, Mrs. Olubunmi Akitoye, expressed gratitude for my unwavering support and commitment to



staff welfare. Comrade Dignitaries present at the event included the Vice Chairman, Mrs. Bunmi Oluyadi, Alhaja Stella Kokumo (APC

Chairman, Ojodu LCDA), SLG Mr. Olaide John Bello, Mr. Olalekan Peter, Supervisors, Special Advisers, Management Staff, and other members of the staff.

echoed her sentiments.

# Ojodu Community Gets New Transformer Courtesy of Faleke

Kehinde Adeleye

The Lawmaker representing Ikeja Federal Constituency at the Green Chamber, Dr. James Abiodun Faleke has donated another transformer to a community in Ojodu. The 500 KVA transformer threw the community into full encomium and praise as it was delivered earlier this week. Echonews Reports that the newly donated transformer is expected to serve Zinsou Street, Soyemi Street, Raimi Street, and part of Aina Street in Ojodu. Echonews gathered that the community was promised a transformer by the Green Chamber

representative to help aid businesses and improve the standard of living and promises were fulfilled. The residents of the area who showed appreciation posited that Faleke is an ambassador of good governance and a representative to be proud of at any time. The total distribution of Transformer by the lawmaker as of December 2023 was pegged at 29, however in the last few days, a total of 4 new transformers has just been added bringing the total to 33. Echonews reports that the federal lawmaker intends to see to the construction of the Police Community Relations Committee Building at Ojodu Divisional Police.





# Agura Alaru Community Presents Gifts to Alagura

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a show of communal support and celebration, Mr. Olufemi Ogunyemi, the Chairman of AguraAlaru, presented a generous gift on behalf of the community to the Alagura of Agura Kingdom. The occasion marked the monarch's one-year anniversary on the throne, with festivities spanning from Tuesday, 16th January, through Sunday, 21st January 2024.

The Chairman, representing AguraAlaru, gifted the Alagura a collection of plastic chairs and various other items as a token of appreciation. The week-long celebration was marked by a series of events, starting with "Omba Day" on Tuesday, followed by "CDAS/CDC/Youth Day" on Wednesday, "Market Women/Artisan/One Day Football and Indoor Games" on



Thursday, and concluding with the "Grand Finale" on Saturday. The community also observed Jumat Service on Friday and a special Church Service on Sunday, offering diverse activities to engage and honor the first year of the Alagura's reign. Expressing joy and unity, the entire Agura Alaru Community extended heartfelt congratulations to the

Alagura, wishing him continued success, prosperity, and wisdom in leading the kingdom. Chairman Ogunyemi offered a prayer for the enduring flourishing of the kingdom under the monarch's wise and steadfast rule, fostering harmony and joy for all citizens. As the Alagura of Agura Kingdom celebrates his one-year milestone, the community stands united in anticipation of a future filled with continued success and prosperity under his reign.

# Ikorodu North LCDA Chairman Unveils Road Construction Plans

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Engineer Adeola Banjo, Chairman of Ikorodu North Local Council Development Area (LCDA), revealed plans to embark on multiple road constructions within the Federal Low-Cost Housing Estate along the Sabo – Itamaga Road, Ikorodu. At a stakeholders meeting held at A – Lane Road within the estate last weekend, Chairman Banjo not only pledged to construct the roads but also assured the installation of street lights and drainages to bolster safety within the community. The residents, led by CDA Chairman

Engineer Ayodeji Aka, expressed their unreserved appreciation for the chairman's long-awaited intervention. Elder Oduniyi, a resident of over forty years, emotionally addressed the gathering, recounting past efforts to secure road improvements and expressing sadness for those who had passed away before witnessing this development. He fervently thanked Chairman Banjo, noting the historic significance of the occasion. Residents, including Engr Aiyaleso, Alhaja Obalereko, Mrs Oyebo, Alhaji Adenekan, and others, took turns to express their gratitude,

celebrating the chairman's commitment to bringing smiles to their faces.

The atmosphere was filled with singing, dancing, and prayers offered endlessly for the Chairman.

The event was attended by key officials of Ikorodu North LCDA, including Vice Chairman Honourable Ameen Olawale Apanishile, Leader of the House Hon. Ayo Adekoya, Secretary to the Local Government Honourable Niyi Odugbesi, host Councillor Honourable Niran Adeyemi Wake Up, and several other members of the Executive arm.

The Chief of Staff to the Chairman, Honourable Abbey Banjo, was also present to witness this historic moment.





# Adesina, Alagura Unite for Educational Initiative

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**M**r. Wasiu Adesina, the executive chairman of Ikorodu Local Government has joined force with the transitional ruler of Agura Kingdom to distribute 18,000 notebooks to students across the Agura-Gberigbe region. This philanthropic initiative coincided with the eve of the first anniversary of the Alagura of Agura Kingdom, Alaiyeluwa Oba Ahmed M. Olakunle Ogunnaike Ogunderu (Alagura of Agura II). The distribution ceremony, a significant event held at the Methodist Primary School in Agura on January 19, 2024, highlighted the active involvement of Hon. Adesina. During the event, Adesina praised the Alagura of Agura Land for his unique educational

initiative and steadfast commitment to advancing education within the Agura Kingdom. Emphasizing the importance of nurturing brilliant minds and future leaders, Hon. Adesina commended the Alagura for his visionary approach, aligning with the principles of community development. He pledged continuous and unwavering support from his administration towards the Alagura's educational initiatives, solidifying their joint commitment to the educational upliftment of Agura. In reciprocation, HRM Oba Ahmed M. Olakunle Ogunnaike Ogunderu, the Alagura of Agura, expressed appreciation for the unwavering support of Hon. Wasiu Adesina in marking the first anniversary of his reign as king over Agura

land. The king commended the council boss for his leadership qualities and administrative approach that significantly contributed to the success of the celebration. During the event, the Alagura thanked Hon. Wasiu Adesina for his pivotal role and prayed for him to continue leading the council with the wisdom of God. The collaboration extended beyond the book distribution as both the executive chairman and the Alagura of Agura Kingdom actively participated in a Special Jummah Service. This service served as a poignant commemoration and celebration of the first anniversary of Alaiyeluwa Oba Ahmed M. Olakunle Ogunnaike Ogunderu, reinforcing the unity and shared commitment to the prosperity of the community.



**F**ulfilling his commitment to the residents of Otambala Street in Ikorodu, Mr. Wasiu Adesina has taken charge of the ongoing reconstruction of Otambala Road. This crucial thoroughfare, linking Ita-Elewa and Aga areas of Ikorodu, is undergoing a significant transformation following a recent flag-off ceremony. With a dedicated focus on ensuring the smooth progress of the reconstruction, Adesina has prioritized the revitalization of Otambala Road, addressing long-standing infrastructure challenges in the community. The current state of the road is a testament to proactive measures aimed at enhancing connectivity in the area. Speaking about the road facelift, Adesina shared his vision for the project, aiming to make Otambala Road more user-friendly and improving overall connectivity and accessibility between Ita-Elewa and Aga areas.

# Adesina Begins Reconstruction of Otambala Road in Ikorodu

He emphasized that this initiative aligns with his broader agenda to enhance the infrastructure landscape within Ikorodu local government. Acknowledging the potential inconveniences accompanying road reconstruction, the council boss appealed to residents of Otambala Street for strong support and patience throughout the ongoing process. He reassured the community of the collective benefits that will arise upon completion, highlighting the positive impact the reconstruction will have on their daily lives and the overall development of the area. The ongoing efforts on Otambala Road underscore Hon. Wasiu Adesina's commitment to fulfilling promises and driving positive change in the infrastructure of Ikorodu.





# Anomo Distributes Brush Cutters To Primary Schools In Ikosi Ejirin

By Mohammed Adekola

The Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, distributes brush cutters to all 17 Primary Schools within the LCDA.

The ceremony, hosted at the Council Secretariat Hall, saw the presence of notable figures, including the Vice Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA, Alh. Wasiu Oluwole Dehinsilu, SLG, Mr. Miniru Temtope, Councillors and

Supervisors, Council's Head of Administration, Mr. Sunday Awobajo, Aladebute of Itoikin, High Chief Francis Adegboyega Raji, The Aro of Agbowa, High Chief Shakiru Odufowora, Baale Sekungba, and the Baale of Lago Community. Executive Secretary of Epe Local Government Education Authority, Otunba Shittu Aliu Idowu, and all the Headteachers from the 17 Primary Schools who received the equipment.

Addressing the

gathering, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo emphasized that the distribution of these essential tools stems from his commitment to delivering quality education to the pupils. He highlighted the changing dynamics, noting that today's Pupils lack the physical vigor for manual bush clearing compared to the past. The introduction of these brush cutters aims to convert time previously spent on clearing bushes into productive teaching and learning hours without

belaboring the young ones.

The Executive Secretary Epe LGEA, Otunba SAICO, impressed by Anomo's ongoing dedication to education in the LCDA, commended the initiative and its potential impact. "Investing in efficient learning environments and tools directly translates to enhanced educational outcomes for our children," he emphasized, urging headteachers to leverage the equipment effectively and maximize its benefit for students.

Headteacher Mr. Odumeru of LG Primary School Ikosi-Ejinrin beach expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of all schools, recognizing Anomo's consistent efforts to prioritize education. He pledged, along with his colleagues, to utilize the brush cutters responsibly and



continue delivering their best in creating a vibrant and successful

learning experience for their students.

## Ijede LCDA Chairman Presents 2024 Appropriation Bill To Legislative Arm

By Mohammed Adekola

The Chairman of Ijede LCDA, Mrs MotunrayoGbadebo-Alogba, presented the 2024 appropriation bill of 1,966,661,620.42 to the legislative arm.

In her speech, the Chairman expressed gratitude to the Almighty God for the success achieved in the previous year, 2023. The local government was able to record a good percentage of success in budget performance, considering the available resources.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the focus is on looking inward to internally generated revenue to supplement the federal allocation. The aim is to achieve a greater percentage of success and ensure the prosperity and well-being of the people of Ijede LCDA.

Last year, the emphasis was on Education and Youth Development, and Hon. MotunrayoGbadebo-Alogba expressed satisfaction with the success achieved in this area. However, this year, the theme of the budget is "A Budget Of A Renewed Hope For Sustainable Economic Growth And Development."

The intention is to build an economically viable local government where all indigenes can prosper. Hon. MotunrayoGbadebo-Alogba seeks the continued support of the legislative house and encourages the maintenance of the harmonious relationship between the executive



and legislative arms.

Mrs MotunrayoGbadebo-Alogba took the opportunity to appeal to all residents for their continued support in promptly paying all rates and bills due to the local government. By doing so, the LCDA can continue to provide the dividends of democracy to all its residents.

Hon. Fadeyi Kehinde Abiodun, the Council Leader of Ijede Local Council Development Area. He emphasized the constitutional obligation of presenting the yearly budget to the Legislative Arm of Government, which has become an annual ritual enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Lagos State Administrative Laws.

Mr. Fadeyi Kehinde Abiodun highlighted the importance of the cooperation between the Legislative and Executive arms of

government in implementing ideas and initiatives. This collaboration is essential for the successful execution of projects and the overall progress of the Ijede LCDA.

Fadeyi said "As stated by the Chairman that the distribution of wealth in order of priorities and execution is vital for the betterment and progress the of the LCDA in the 2024 fiscal year.

He took the opportunity to assure the Chairman and the Electorates that he and his colleagues will diligently commence work on the 2024 budget, aiming for seamless and speedy passage.

The Apex Leader of the LCDA, Mr. Hassan Adefarasin, said In 2023, under the leadership of Alogba, "the Local Government worked diligently and carried out various projects. Their efforts were evident in the development areas, and we could see a noticeable difference compared to previous years."

## Mother of New Born Lauds Epe Maternal Centre

By Mohammed Adekola

A mother of a child with low birth weight, Mrs. Aminat Hamzat has expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government for providing quality health care services at the Maternal and Child Centre (MCC), Epe. Hamzat, a resident of Cotonou, Benin Republic, also appreciated the Medical team and the entire management of the hospital for their unwavering support during and after her delivery. The patient, who had travelled to

Epe to visit her mother, suddenly went into labour far ahead of her delivery date.

However, she was rushed to Epe MCC where she gave birth to twin babies at 30 weeks, Five Days gestational stage, but unfortunately lost one of the babies after delivery.

In her words, "After losing one of the babies, the nurses and doctors have been very supportive because they tried their best to ensure the second baby survives. He weighed

1.3kg at birth then dropped drastically to 0.9 kg which was underweight so they had to admit us to monitor and give him intensive care.

"It has not been an easy task being a mother to a premature baby but with the help of the nurses as well as the quality equipment procured by the government for the facility, the situation was not as bad as it would have been. Although I couldn't carry my baby at birth because he was too small, I'm very happy I have one alive", the mother of the newborn added.

Mrs. Aminat Hamzat, therefore, advised expectant mothers to register at any MCC close to them to benefit from what the Lagos State government has provided in all the Maternal and Child Centres across the State.





# LASUED Integrates 72 Contractual Cleaners Into Full Staff

By Mohammed Adekola

**E**pe Campus of the Lagos State University of Education (LASUED) has converted 72 cleaners, who had long served on contractual terms to full time workers.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Balikis Lafiaji-Okuneye said that the cleaners would be fully absorbed into the university system and receive their appointment letters.

Prof. Okuneye, while expressing her commitment to boost productivity said that the cleaning contractor is set to transition out by February 2024, in ensuring a seamless integration for these dedicated workers.

Adding to the thrill, she disclosed the successful regularization of the

672 members, assuring the university community that such oversights would not recur. Emphasizing adherence to qualifications, she proudly shared that one staff member, previously misplaced, has now found the right place in the academic sphere.

"We won't bend rules to favor anyone. Your due will be given, and we encourage constructive criticism for continuous improvement. Peace is the cornerstone of my leadership," Prof. Okuneye declared, setting the tone for transparency and fairness.

Highlighting the university's commitment to progress, she underscored the importance of aligning with established conditions of service.



Stressing the critical nature of foundational management, she urged a collective effort to secure a prosperous future for LASUED.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated the importance of addressing work attitudes for the NCE program's successful winding down. She warned against cantankerous individuals taking advantage of the transmutation process, clarifying the dissolution of MOCPED

by law.

She mandated that all NCE students graduate by December 31, 2024, both full-time and part-time across campuses, as per the directive from the Lagos State Government. The Vice-Chancellor, therefore, appealed for support and cooperation amid challenges, urging staff to approach university management for assistance when needed.

In her parting shot, Prof. Okuneye announced that payments would

now validate the allocation of matriculation numbers to students. With accreditation activities on the way, she rallied all stakeholders to ensure the success of accrediting 66 courses.

Amidst the enthusiastic atmosphere, the Registrar, Mr. Akinfenwa A.O., echoed the Vice-Chancellor's sentiments, reiterating the staff's status as LASUED members. He emphasized the need for a strong understanding of university rules, promising sanctions for any violations.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellors of Academics and Administration, Dr. Dawodu and Dr. MA Shittu, emphasized academic integrity and dedication, calling for ethical behavior and

diligence. The Bursar, Mr. Ajose, outlined approved financial regulations, reinforcing the importance of fiscal responsibility.

Dr. Abayomi Imam, the University Librarian, discussed plans for library services, organizational enhancement, and human capital development. The Head of Campus, Dr. Viatonu, lauded Epe staffers for their resilience, highlighting recent renovations and the compassionate leadership of the Vice-Chancellor.

Union leaders, Comrades Jamal Apena, Ogunlari, and Olayemi, praised the management's efforts in bringing smiles to affected staffers. Professors Fakolade and Ogundipe expressed support and commended the university's commitment to objectivity and global standards.

**I**beju-Lekki Local Government orchestrated a profound one-day retreat focused on the "Impact of Procurement Plans in Local Government Administration" at Jata Hotels, Awoyaya, Ibeju-Lekki. Chaired by the vibrant Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, the event gathered top management staff, executive council members, and other vital participants.

The chairman emphasized the retreat's significance, stating that it was a pivotal initiative to comprehend the intricacies of due process and procurement procedures to ensure optimal value for money.

"The retreat was put together to review the procurement process of the previous year and also the procurement plan for the year 2024. It also

## Ibeju-Lekki LG Goes on Retreat

By Mohammed Adekola



served as a refresher course for top management staff and political officeholders on procurement law and procedures. This is to ensure that we

achieve 100 percent compliance with the procurement law in the procurement of goods and services," he said. The benefits of reviewing the procurement process at

the local government level are multifaceted. Firstly, it fosters transparency and accountability, ensuring that the procurement activities align with legal and

ethical standards.

By scrutinizing the procedures, the local government can identify inefficiencies and streamline the process for more effective outcomes.

Additionally, a comprehensive review facilitates improved budgetary planning, enabling the allocation of resources to areas with the greatest impact on community development. Moreover, it enhances compliance with procurement laws, mitigating the risk of legal complications and promoting a culture of good governance.

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government's commitment to review its procurement process signifies a strategic approach to governance by ensuring compliance, transparency, and efficiency, the local government sets the stage for a more accountable and impactful administration, ultimately uplifting the lives of its constituents.



# How Dancing Transformed My Mental Health-Kaffy

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**R**enowned Nigerian dancer, Kaffy, whose real name is Kafayat Oluwatoyin Shafau, recently opened up about her journey into dancing as a means to improve her mental health. During an interview, Kaffy shared insights into her upbringing, highlighting that her parents' divorce

compelled her to turn to dance as a coping mechanism. Reflecting on her early experiences, Kaffy expressed how dancing served as a form of solace during her teenage years in the midst of navigating life with divorced parents. She emphasized that, initially, dancing was a personal outlet for her own well-being. However, as she honed

her dance skills, Kaffy discovered an opportunity to share the positive impact of dance with others. She recounted using her proficiency in dance to "give people life" during a fitness awareness event held at the Lagos State National Stadium. This marked a pivotal moment where she transitioned from a personal escape to an entertainer providing a source of inspiration and escapism for others.



Kaffy highlighted her journey from finding solace in dance to recognizing its potential as a form of entertainment that

resonated with a broader audience. Her story sheds light on the transformative power of dance, not

only as a personal coping mechanism but also as a means to uplift and connect with others in the social environment.

## Wizkid Acquires Adjacent Property to Maintain Privacy



By Nurudeen Adebayo

**I**n a move that has sparked discussions among fans and observers, Nigerian music sensation Wizkid has reportedly purchased a new property adjacent to his existing house in Banana Island, Lagos. The decision to expand his real estate holdings was influenced by the musician's desire for increased privacy, as his current residence faced frequent inspections from potential buyers. Wizkid, known for his international success and regular travels between Lagos and London, already boasts an impressive portfolio of

properties around the world. The recent acquisition, however, reflects a strategic measure to safeguard his personal space. Realtor and house agent, Francesca Oni, brought this development to the public's attention through a tweet expressing admiration for Wizkid's decision. She mentioned that the musician acquired the additional property due to the constant influx of people inspecting neighboring homes, causing unwanted scrutiny into his compound.

The tweet read, "Be like I don't turn Wizkid for o. That man legit bought the property beside his own in Banana Island because people were coming there for inspection too much and they're looking into his compound." Social media reactions poured in following this revelation, with users expressing a mix of amusement and admiration for Wizkid's proactive approach to maintaining his privacy. One user noted, "There is a certain level of boredom that comes with a lot of money. Big WIZ go just dey para," while others commended the artist's discreet handling of the situation.

## Nigerian Economist, Jaiyeola, Shares Key Rules For Successful Marriage

By Nurudeen Adebayo

**J**oseph Olaoye Jaiyeola, a prominent Nigerian businessman and Economist, opened up about the foundational rules he shared with his wife for a thriving marriage in an interview. The interview, posted on YouTube, provides a glimpse into the principles that have contributed to the success of their enduring union. Jaiyeola, who currently serves as the CEO of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, disclosed four crucial rules that he believes

have played a pivotal role in maintaining a strong bond with his wife, Soledemi Olutoyin. The first rule emphasized the importance of unity in public, as Jaiyeola advised his wife to agree with whatever he said in public, even if it was incorrect, and then to privately correct him later. This nuanced approach to presenting a united front in public while allowing room for correction behind closed doors reflects Jaiyeola's commitment to mutual understanding and growth.

The second rule involved using the husband as a shield when faced with requests or obligations she wasn't keen on. This, according to Jaiyeola, was a way of protecting her interests, with a willingness to reevaluate situations together for mutual agreement. In addition, Jaiyeola highlighted the importance of maintaining a united front in parenting. He urged his wife not to argue with him in front of their children, emphasizing the significance of presenting a unified parental front to ensure a stable family environment. Lastly, the Economist stressed that his wife should not act as a hiding place for their children when he disciplined them. This rule was established to maintain the clarity of parental authority within the household. Joseph Olaoye Jaiyeola and Soledemi Olutoyin, blessed with three children, have stood the test of time, and these principles offer a glimpse into the strategies that have contributed to the success of their enduring marital journey.





# Mushin Council Boss Meets Wives of Legislators and Supervisors

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye and his wife, Mrs Olajumoke Bamigboye on January 17th 2024 hosted the wives of the councillors and Supervisors in Mushin Local Government as part of familiarisation and motivational strategy to support their spouses in delivering quality services to the people of Mushin through their various offices. Mrs. Bamigboye tasked the wives of other political office holders, to always support their husbands in achieving the ultimate goal of Bamigboye led administration, which is good governance and quality living standard for the people of Mushin. She also admonished them to be better wives

at home, pray for their husbands and good role models to other women in Mushin Local Government. A minute silence was observed to honour late Mr. Muritala Oyeniyi, former Deputy Leader and Councillor of Ward D. Mrs Idowu Karaole and Mrs Oyefolu commended the Chairperson for her support and good gesture behind the meeting, as it aims to assist in achieving oriented goals while all the wives in attendance requested for such meetings to be encouraged and promised to be punctual at anytime, they are being called upon. The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye highlighted some of the administration's

achievements and sought their support. The Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Bose Olufunmilayo, who gave vote of thanks, I appreciated members for their participatory efforts attending the meeting and advised them to always be available as opportunities will be open for various programmes at the state level. The meeting was attended by the Executive Chairman, Mushin Local Government - Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye, Vice Chairman - Mr. Aruwe Tunbosun, Secretary to the Local Government - Mrs. Olubunmi Gbadamosi, Supervisory Councillor on Works and infrastructure - Mr. Funmi Peters and Supervisor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation - Mrs. Bose Oluwafunmilayo.



# Bamigboye Urges Stakeholders to Protect Roads



Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye has urged community leaders to help in salvaging the continuous road damage by members of the public in the community. Bamigboye who commenced the construction of another road in Atewolara area (Ward A), in Mushin as promised during his New Year message and budget presentation also began the drainage construction in the famous Omodigbo street which links the newly constructed Balogun street to the popular Palm Avenue. Echonews reports that the arrival of excavator that started the drain construction was

witnessed by residents. Bamigboye while inspecting the progress of work during the construction of Balogun street, had interaction with members of the community who pleaded for the extension of the project to Omodigbo for easy access and short cut from Ladipo road to Palm Avenue. The chairman while briefing newsmen in his office, advised community leaders of the newly constructed and rehabilitated streets, namely; Balogun, Tamuriatu, Ijaiye, Amodu, Solanke, Olatunji, Akinwunmi, Kuseyi etc., to always protect their roads from being abused and damaged by Auto - Mechanics who have turned main roads to workshop. He

warned that the government will not tolerate such act as it is a way of sabotaging the efforts of Government. He however advised members of the community in Omodigbo street to give the contractor, maximum support throughout the construction exercise in order to complete the project on time and move to other locations. The Councillor of ward A, Mr. Hakeem Mustapha, who was at the site encouraged the residents to support the Bamigboye led administration as there are more benefits coming their way in the year 2024 and beyond. He also warned against road blockage by glass traders along Buhari street as the chairman has constituted a taskforce which will soon storm the area.



## HEROES & HEROINES OF LAGOS

# Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi

**E**lizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi was the first female medical doctor in Nigeria. She was born on November 11, 1910, to Mr David and Mrs Rufina Akerele as the fourth child of seven.

She started elementary school at the St. Mary's Convent in Lagos and went to Queen's College, Lagos, before proceeding to Dublin, Ireland, where she studied Medicine.

Awoliyi graduated from the University of Dublin with first-class honours, including a medal in medicine, and a distinction in anatomy. She then qualified as a medical doctor in 1936.

She became a specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics with a diploma in child health. She also got a diploma in midwifery and was a member of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP). From being a junior medical officer at the Massey Street Hospital, Awoliyi became the Chief Consultant and Medical Director from 1960 to 1969. She was a member of the Royal College of Physicians (United Kingdom), and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG).

She was a director of

the Commercial Medical Store in Lagos and also owned a 27-acre poultry and citrus farm in Agege, Lagos State.

In 1962, the Federal Ministry of Health appointed her as a Senior Specialist Gynaecologist and Obstetrician.

An outstanding philanthropist and a religious woman, she belonged to several charities and organizations, which include:

- Girls Association of Nigeria.
- The Catholic Women's Association.
- Old Girl's Association of St. Mary's Convent School.
- St. Anthony's Guild.

- Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos (she was the first President of the Holy Cross Parish Women Council).

- Catholic Ladies Friendly Society.

- Motherless Babies Home Governing Council Business and Professional Women's Association (she was also the President).

- Child Care Voluntary Association (President).

- Young Women's Christian Association.

- Lagos Colony Red Cross, and

- The National Council of Women's Society (she was the first president of the Lagos Branch).

Her titles and



## Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi

— NIGERIA'S FIRST FEMALE MEDICAL DOCTOR —

awards include the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), Iya Abiye of Lagos State and the

Iyalaje of Oyo Empire. She was also awarded the Nigerian national honour, Officer of the Order of the Federal

Republic (OFR). Her marriage to her husband, Dr S.O Awoliyi, who was also a medical doctor, produced

two children. Dr Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi died on September 14, 1971. She was 60.



# Chess In Slums Founder, Onakoya, Triumphs In Germany



By Nurudeen Adebayo

**T**unde Onakoya, the founder of Chess in Slums, achieved a significant victory during a recent chess challenge in Germany. The event, held as part of a conference, witnessed Onakoya taking on the formidable task of

playing against ten opponents simultaneously.

Engaging in a dynamic and intense chess match that spanned approximately two hours, Onakoya showcased his exceptional skills as he navigated through

each game, emerging victorious against all ten opponents.

The chess master, whose primary objective was to raise funds for the education of a hundred children in his foundation, proudly shared news of his triumph on the X platform following the

challenging competition.

“On day two of the DLD conference, I played a simultaneous chess match against 10 players at once. After an almost two-hour battle of wits, I managed to win all the games. The Chess exhibition helped

us raise enough money to support the education of 100 children in our academy,” Onakoya expressed.

This impressive feat not only highlighted Onakoya's individual prowess in the realm of chess but also served

as a means to generate support for the noble cause of providing education opportunities for children through Chess in Slums.

The victory stands as a testament to Onakoya's dedication to both the strategic game of chess and the impactful work of his foundation



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