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Campaign to elect female lawmakers fails in Lagos, nationwide

By Rasaq Adebayo
with Ladapo Kolade

With just only three out of the 40 members that will constitute the 10th Lagos State House of Assembly, gender activists are wondering why they ended up with such a meagre number of elected women lawmakers despite their efforts.

In the elections into the House of Assembly held March 18, 2023, Lagosians re-elected Hon. Mojisola Meranda (Apapa constituency 1-APC) and Hon. Mosunmola Sangodara (Surulere Constituency II-APC). Same day, voters in Amuwo-Odofin constituency elected Labour Party candidate, Hon. Fokuke Osafire. She succeeds Hon. (Mrs.) Mojisola Ali-Macaulay of APC.

This number of elected female lawmakers is considered too low in attaining the 35 percent affirmative action as prescribed by the National Gender Policy (NGP). It also excludes women from being part of the governance process in the state despite making up almost half of the population.

No fewer than 14,100,000 of Lagos' 30 million estimated population are females. Of its 7,06,195 registered voters, about 3,367,828, an estimated 47.5 percent average reported by INEC, are women.

Prior to the polls, there were high hopes that the 2023 elections would mark a higher point in the election of women.

Women, particularly in the Western region, which included most parts of Lagos, began voting as early as 1959. They were



Amina Oyagbola

joined by their northern counterparts in 1979.

Since the return of democracy, efforts to put more women in power have not met targets.

A study by Olujemisi Oloyede of the National Bureau of Statistics noted that Nigerians elected three women out of 106 senators in 1999, seven in 2011 and only eight to the Upper Chamber in 2015.

The figures for the 360-member House of Representatives are not significantly better. These include 12 in 1999, 21 in 2003, 23 in 2007, 26 in 2011 and 19 in 2015.

Elor Ukereuwem, reviewing the performance of women in the 2023 polls in a study under the auspices of the Carnegie Foundation, listed four major hurdles faced by 1,544 women candidates.

According to her: "The number of women in Nigeria's National Assembly has fallen by 19

percent compared to the last assembly, with women now occupying 3 percent of seats in the Senate and 4 percent in the House of Representatives.¹

To understand why Nigerian women performed so poorly in the recent elections, the 2022 primary elections provided insight into the challenges and barriers faced by women aspirants and candidates. The results of the various parties' primary elections highlight enduring limitations to women's representation in competitive politics in Nigeria...four main factors contributed to high attrition rates for women during party primaries: political party gatekeeping; conservative norms and culture; the variation of competitiveness in executive versus legislative offices; and the combined effect of novice candidature (large



Hon Mojisola Alli-Macaulay

number of political newcomers) and low persistence (staying power) of women candidates who lose elections."

It was gathered that out of the 1,019 females who contested in the Nigerian 2023 State Houses of Assembly elections, only 48 won. This amounts to 4.7 percent of women across the country.

Compared with the 2019 election where 45 women were elected into the state legislatures, the number of females elected into the state parliaments in the 2023 election increased by three. Nevertheless, it is still far below proper representation.

This is far from the expectations of the global human rights community that defined support for women candidates in the elections as priority and offered grants in dollars to put their money in it.

For instance, on May 24, 2022, the UN Women offered grants to promote

women participation as candidates in Ekiti State.

On a larger scale, Women in Successful Careers, WISCAR, founded by corporate lawyer, Amina Oyagbola encouraged many women seeking public office across party lines to pitch and funded successful ones.

One of them, Joyce Daniels, acknowledged the funds helped her campaign.

As early as 2018, another, non-profit, Emerge Women, began training potential women candidates. Its founder, Mary Ikoku said EW would increase the number of women in elective and appointive offices.

According to available data, a total of 10,240 candidates contested for the 990 state houses of assembly seats across the 36 states. Of these contestants, 9,221 were male, while 1,019 were female.

The outcome of the state

legislative elections shows that only 48 females emerged winners out of the 1,019 that contested, representing only 4.7 percent of the total.

This represents less than a 1 percent increase when compared with the number of female lawmakers elected into the outgoing state assemblies.

In the 2019 election, female representation in the 36 states' houses of assembly members was only 4.41 percent.

A breakdown of the 48 females elected into the state legislatures in 2023 by states showed that Ekiti State had the highest number. Out of the 26 seats in the state's House of Assembly, six will be occupied by women. In 2019, only four females were elected into the Ekiti State House of Assembly. Could this have come from the UN for Women grant? The answer is, at best, a guess.

Campaign to elect female lawmakers fails in Lagos, nationwide

Kwara and Akwa Ibom States were next with the number of elected female lawmakers in 2023. The two states have five and four females in their state houses respectively.

In the state's outgoing assembly, Akwa Ibom has only two female lawmakers out of the 26 seats in the state. This has now increased to four.

Surprisingly, Kwara State, with the second highest number of female elected lawmakers in the just concluded state house of assembly election, had no female lawmaker in its state's parliament in 2019.

As in Lagos State, only three females were elected in Ondo State.

According to data from Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), 15 states do not have a single female elected lawmaker in the just concluded state houses of assembly elections.

Out of the seven states in the North-West region, all except Kaduna State will be male-dominated houses of assembly. Kaduna State has two elected female lawmakers this year. In 2019, it had none.

Some social and political analysts in Lagos said the majority of the females in the State have more interest in supporting the males in politics rather than being in the forefront themselves.

They noted that the females constitute those who drum support for their male counterparts, adding that many of them are scared to face the rigour of election.

Apart from that,



Hon Mojisola Miranda



Hon. Mosunmola Sangodara

experts highlight high costs, poor media coverage, and others as barriers to female participation in politics.

Damilola Agbalajobi, a political scientist and gender specialist, attributes the high cost of politics, poor media coverage of female candidates, and societal factors such as cultural or religious norms surrounding issues like marriage and the burden of care as some of the factors affecting women participation in politics in Nigeria.

According to the gender specialist, oftentimes, women do not have enough money to pay for the mandatory expression of interest and nomination forms required by political parties to run for positions on their platforms. Not to mention the huge cost required to run an election campaign.

She explained that the

poor access of women to education means poor access to gainful employment which makes it more difficult for them to follow through the process of getting leadership positions.

Meanwhile, a new female Lagos State House of Assembly member who was elected under the platform of Labour Party representing Amuwo-Odofin Constituency I, Hon. Foluke Osafile, pledged to pursue gender-based Bills at the parliament to attain 35 percent female participation in politics.

"In terms of gender-based legislation, the 35 percent derivation is not yet met, even when the president has talked about equal representation. We are supposed to be about 20 in the House but we may be four. We shall get there. We will continue to emphasise on the implementation

of any Bill gender-based legislation. As a female legislator, right from my State here, I will continue to fight for the signing of those Bills," she said.

Answering a question on whether she and her counterpart from Labour Party being the only two opposition party members in the House may consider decamping to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) as insinuated by the public, Osafile said people must be enlightened that the law does not permit any elected politician to defect from their party to another party.

"A lot of people keep asking this question because they are not enlightened about the new electoral law. The media should enlighten Nigerians about the new electoral law that with the law if you decamp, you are as well leave the party through which you are elected. Let the media

enlighten people that the norm has been changed.

"The people should also be enlightened over the function of the lawmakers so that they don't hold them responsible for the rehabilitation of roads, provision of infrastructure, and all that. For me, my constituents should expect good representation and we are working together with the local council chairman to bring down the dividends of democracy to our people right from the federal level."

Speaking on how lawmakers lobby to get things from the House, especially for their constituencies, she said it requires negotiation.

"That appears to be the norm and I want to say this is where the power of negotiation comes in when there is a will, there will be a way out. We are not there for personal gain, I know

the challenge will be there but we take one thing at a time. Irrespective of your party, we are all working for Lagos State but it is just that we all must come through a party and I want to believe it will remain so."

The problem of low women representation has led to calls for a more democratic electoral system such as proportional representation.

Echonews publisher and political consultant, Kehinde Bamigbetan told Echonews that the best way to execute the 35 percent affirmative action is to make law requiring parties to allocate certain number of seats to women based on the proportion of their population.

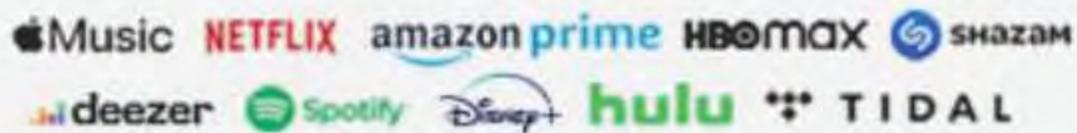
"It means women from different parties will contest against each other in those constituencies and one of them will win."



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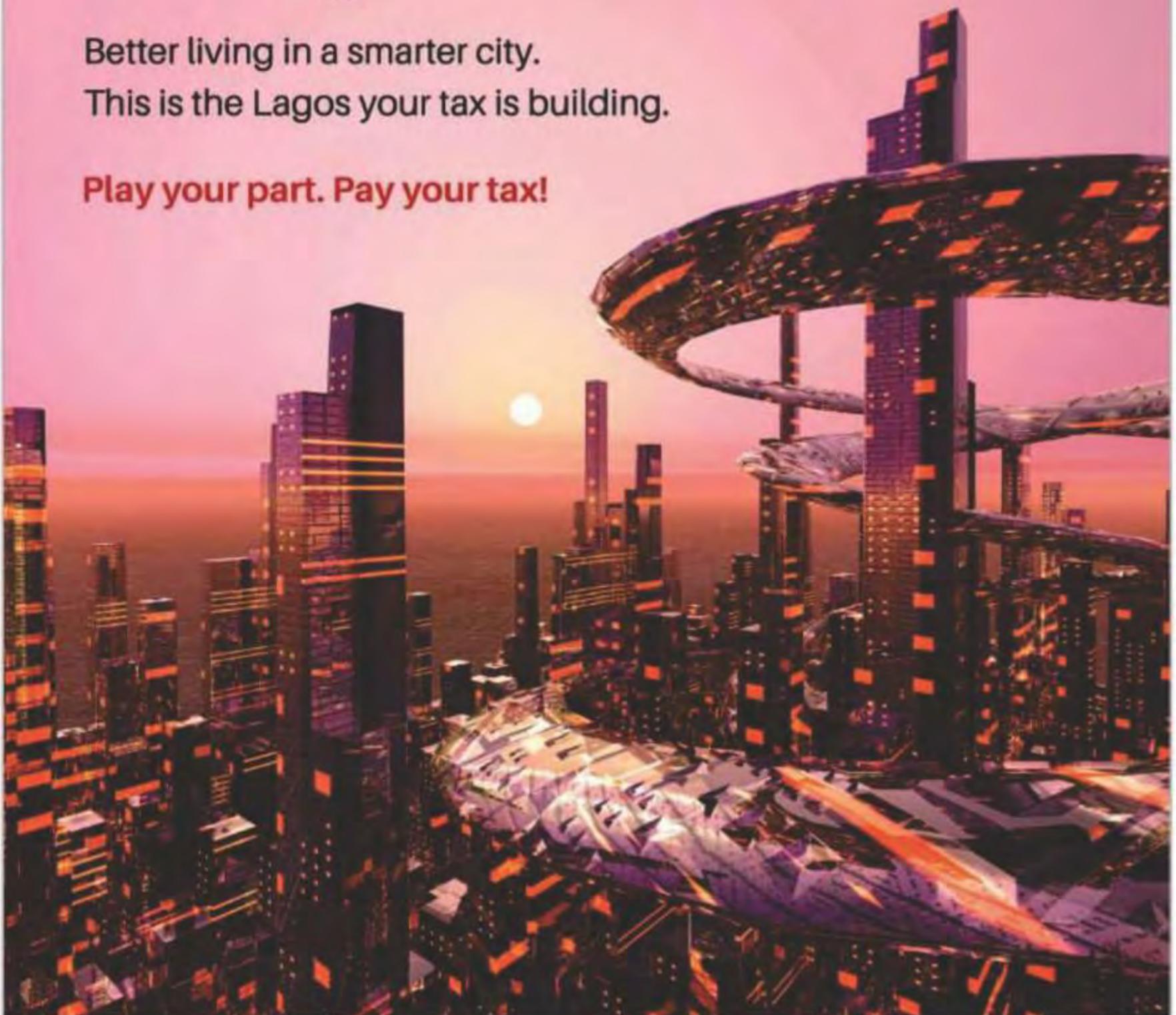


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Rotary Club Feeds Kirikiri Inmates



Food supply to Kirikiri inmates

As part of its social responsibility, the Rotary Club of Greenfield in collaboration with Festac Central, last week, fed inmates of Kirikiri Medium Correctional Centre with

1,500 packs of cooked rice. Members of the clubs, who visited the Centre also donated items to the inmates, ranging from several crates of soft drinks, water,

cartons of detergents, and drugs for various ailments such as malaria, among others. The President of the Club, Francis Opute said the gesture was to give the inmates a sense of

belonging because it is not everybody inside the facility is a criminal. "Some of them are just unfortunate to be there. We bought five bags of rice and slaughtered one

cow to prepare the meal. The idea is to let them eat what we eat outside for them to feel a sense of belonging. Mr. Emeka Augustine Okolonji, who represented the District

Governor, Omotunde Lawson, at the event, said they were there to spend time, wine, and dine with the inmates "because Rotarians believe in giving their time and treasure to the less privileged in society."

Residents Rejoice Over Ongoing Road Rehabilitation

By Edith Igbokwe



Ongoing reconstruction road

The residents of Amuwo have expressed joy over the rehabilitation of roads in their community. The State government has hearkened to the agitation as it embarked on the repair of some roads at the Oriade axis of Amuwo-Odofin. The area is known to be a difficult road for vehicles to

ply due to its bad state that existed for a long time. The residents had lamented for many years over the pain and suffering inflicted on them by the bad road. Buba Marwa Road, one of the enlisted for rehabilitation is currently undergoing reconstruction. The work

is said to be at 31 percent complete with a fully concrete road. However, the residents are pleading with the contractors and the state government to hasten the pace of work which they complained to be slow. "We hope this reconstruction gets to other bad roads in the Oriade axis of the LGA," they said.

Catholic Priest Appreciates Buraimoh's Good Deed

By Edith Igbokwe

The Parish priest of Holy Family Catholic Church at 22 Road, Rev. Fr. Melvis Mayaki accompanied by some Parishioners paid a courtesy visit to the Amuwo-Odofin Local Government.

Mayaki appreciated the council chairman, Engr. Valentine Buraimoh for finding time from his busy schedule to attend the rededication of the newly constructed church building. He noted that the chairman has shown a

high level of commitment to religious activities. He offered some gift items in appreciation of the chairman's gesture during the church building dedication. He prayed and blessed the chairman for continuous progress in life endeavours.



Priest Mayaki appreciating Amuwo Odofin LG chairman

Guinness World Records: Pains And Gains of Chef Baci

Story By Kunle Awosiyan

Six hours into her journey to breaking a new world record in her Cook-A-Thon challenge, Nigerian Chef, Hilda Effiong Bassey, "Baci" nearly quit. She wrote on her Instagram page that her body could not bear it anymore but she resorted to God for strength.

"It can only be God. I prayed and with the support of Nigerians who were cheering me up and my mom who stayed with me for the first 14 hours I was able to move on," she said. On Monday night she broke a new Guinness World Record in 100 hours of marathon cooking and fed about 3000 people with her delicacies, including Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Baci who once won the Nigeria/Ghana Jollof contest said that she had planned for the marathon cooking for five years before she could eventually do it this year.

It is a challenge that has come with five years of planning, which when it became a public awareness, Baci realised that she had to put her skin on line to succeed.

She had just five minutes to rest in every one hour of the marathon cooking in which she was not allowed to sit nor sleep. She cooked all through.

She passed through the heat and felt the burn in her body for about four days to become a record breaker. In those hours, various personalities visited to cheer her up. It was a painstaking exercise filled with dedication and perseverance.

As Nigerians await Guinness World Records to officially announce Hilda Baci as the new record holder of the longest



cooking time, brands, government and individuals have continued to celebrate the chef.

The current holder, Indian Lata Tondon who broke the record in 2019 in 87 hours 45 minutes is also waiting for the body to officially announce Baci.

While the world waits for Guinness World Record to announce Baci, various brands will not as they have started aligning themselves with this celebrity.

First was Vesti and Zaron who endorsed the chef. Vasti and Zaron is a cosmetic outfit that will be supplying Baci with its skincare products for a whole year.

In their words, "We are in awe of Hilda's unwavering commitment to breaking the Guinness World Record for longest cooking by an individual. It's undeniable how resilient she is. To cheer her on to triumph, we at Zaron are supporting her by providing 1 year free supply of skincare and makeup products.

The company also said that

it would be sponsoring Back trip to Maldives this summer.

As the management put it, "We are thrilled to announce that @vestiofficial will be offering an all expense paid trip to the Maldives this summer, to the phenomenal @hildabaci of @myfoodbyhilda on her daring and record breaking attempt at the #Guinness world record at 27years for the longest number of hours a chef has cooked.

We are inspired by this global feat and wish her the best as she attempts to break the record, and believe this will inspire the next generation of record breakers in Nigeria and on the African continent.

Another brand, Dana gives one-year free flight tickets to Back for all her domestic travels.

The Chief Operating Officer of Dana Air, Ememobong Ettete, announced this in a statement via its official Twitter handle.

Ettete assured that the company would always support the craft, creativity,

efforts, and innovations of young Nigerians, who embody the true Nigerian spirit as a proudly Nigerian brand.

"We have always blazed the trail in terms of support for the arts and entertainment industry, health care, and culture and our corporate social responsibility has been all-encompassing."

"We will be supporting Hilda's local travels for one year and We are inspired by her.

"We understand her mum is also a chef and she must have gotten this inspiration from her and in the light of this, we shall be supporting her mum with 3 months of local flights for free."

When he visited Baci at Amore Gardens in Lekki during the cooking hours afternoon, Lagos State Governor said he had appeared at the place to motivate and celebrate a young talented Lagos-based chef, Hilda Baci, who is making a global record in Longest Cook-a-thon contest.

The chef had cooked for 68

hours when Sanwo-Olu stopped by to boost her morale. The Governor's appearance generated spontaneous excitement among the crowd of youths who gathered at the garden.

Hilda's mother, Mrs. Lynda Brown, and some family members were also around to support her.

In a chat with the Governor, the chef offered a taste of some of the delicacies prepared, including Akwa Ibom's traditional Edika Ikong and Egusi soup. The Governor witnessed the moment Hilda hit 69th hour in the kitchen, which was at exactly 1pm on Sunday.

Addressing the crowd, Sanwo-Olu said: "My presence here is to encourage a young talented citizen who has been making all of us proud. You can see the Nigerian spirit popping out from her; the resilient spirit that Lagos is known for. We can also feel the Akwa Ibom spirit.

"Hilda is a great inspiration and motivator displaying the values of our country. I

wish her the strength and courage to finish well and break the global record. Having made history with the largest cupcakes, we are expecting to have another first for our country and State."

The Governor urged youths across the country, who had been cheering her on social media, not to relent in sending their wishes, stressing that the global record would be their collective win.

Meanwhile the Guinness World Record has reacted to the attempt made by Baci to create a new record, stating that it would have to verify the evidence of the cooking marathon before officially declaring Baci as the new record holder.

The body said that officials on its records team look forward to reviewing the evidence and hope to be able to verify Hilda's efforts as a new record very soon.

"We are aware of the record attempt and are looking forward to receiving the evidence for our Records Management Team to review before we can confirm the record is official," a Guinness World Records spokesperson tweeted.

The application process for the Guinness World Records is in stages.

The first stage requires Guinness to review the record contender's proposal against its extensive record database.

Having been accepted, the individual is then sent a set of record guidelines and an information pack detailing the rules for the record and the evidence required.

Generally, the duration for the standard application takes up to 12 weeks, but priority application can be granted within five working days at the cost of \$1,000 for new titles.

Lagos State Government has said that many projects from respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are delayed for approval because they lack proper conduct of financial regulation, application in the preparation of the budget, submission writing and other financial requests.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Internal Audit, Mrs. Kikelomo Dawodu revealed this at an interactive briefing organised by the Office of Internal Audit to sensitise Heads of MDAs on government budget and expenditure with the theme: "Synergising For Effective and Swift Delivery Of Expectations" held at Alausa, Ikeja.

She charged Heads of Government Parastatals who are the Accounting Officers of their respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), on the proper conduct of financial regulation and focus on proper documentation and verification that would help deepen the culture of accountability and transparency within the Public Service.

Acceding to her, the cause of delay in getting approvals for some government projects was improper documentation as she advised them on processes of accessing funds to carry out government businesses in line with laid down rules and regulations.

She said that the interactive session would focus on proper documentation and verification that would help deepen the culture of accountability and transparency within the Public Service, saying that the cause of delay in getting approvals for some government projects was improper documentation.

Dawodu, however, urged Chief Executive Officers of the various MDAs to ensure filing of documents for

Why Projects Are Delayed For Approval, Lagos Govt Gives Reasons

Story By Kunle Awosiyon

approval of funds is done properly and in accordance with the law, stressing that Financial Regulations must be strictly adhered to for the smooth running of their offices.

Also speaking, the State Accountant General/Permanent Secretary, State Treasury Office, Dr. Abiodun Muritala said the financial management activities are governed by laws, regulations and circulars, imploring all Heads of MDAs to get themselves acquainted with relevant rules and regulations guiding government finance.

He listed Public Finance Management Law, the Appropriation Law and Fiscal Responsibility Acts among others as the financial law books Chief Executive Officers across the MDAs need to read before handling financial-related matters in public service.

The Accountant-General added that the CEOs who also act as the Head of Procurement in their respective MDAs need to be conversant with Procurement Law for accountability and transparency.

Speaking on the theme of the programme, "Synergising For Effective and Swift Delivery Of Expectation", the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ibrahim Obajomo said it addresses the current ways of processing financial expenditure in line with stipulated laws. Speaking about the role of the budget in the financial expenditure of MDAs, Obajomo said, Budget is core to financial management activities of government establishment,



noting that it gives details on how the expenditure will be judiciously spent.

He said the budget for MDAs is guided by law, urging the Chief Executive Officers in various government establishments to abide by the law while preparing their budgets.

The Director-General Public Procurement Agency, Mr. Fatai Onafowote, on his part, said good governance can only be guaranteed where there is total compliance with the rules of law, adding that financial-related matters of every MDAs is guided by law that would make access to funds seamless and constitutional.

He said it is the duty of the Office of the Accountant-General, Internal Audit, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget and Public Procurement Agency to ensure no MDA operates contrary to Financial Regulations and proper budgetary expenditure.

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Story By Kunle Awosiyan

Food Security: Lagos Begins Distribution of Agricultural Inputs, Production Assets To 20, 000 Farmers

... 120 Fishing, Farming Clusters Across 57 Councils To Benefit

Story By Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture has launched its free distribution of agricultural inputs and production assets to 20,000 farmers in 120 farming and fishing clusters across the 20 Local Government Areas and 37 Local Council Development Areas of the State.

Speaking at the flag-off of the scheme held recently at the Secretariat of Ikorodu Local Government, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya said the initiative was part of the comprehensive plan of the State Government to drive food security by supporting farming and farmers to thrive.

She said a needs assessment was conducted by officials of the Ministry to get the view of farmers as to the required production assets to boost farming, and that the inputs distributed were as a result of their responses.

According to her, "The 2022 Agricultural Value Chains Enterprise Activation and Farmers' Support Programme, which is being flagged off today, is designed to provide agricultural inputs and production assets to 120 fishing and farming clusters/communities across the 20 Local Government Areas and 37 Local Council Development Areas of the State".

"In all, over 20,000 fisherfolks and farmers will benefit from the programme while budgetary provision has been made to accommodate a larger number of Value Chain



Actors in the 2023 edition of the programme. I express profound appreciation to Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, the Governor of Lagos State for his immense support to agricultural development in the State", Olusanya stated.

She said the attainment of food security had consistently been a major policy thrust of the Sanwo-Olu administration given its relevance in promoting the health and well-being of citizens and the achievement of the State Government's T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda, especially the fourth Pillar of Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy.

She said, "In this regard, the Ministry developed a Five-Year Agricultural and Food System Roadmap to galvanise public, private, and donor agency efforts in the development of agriculture in the State's economy. The Roadmap also provides solutions for the wholesomeness of

food items, reduction in post-harvest losses, and improving linkages with the industry concerning backward integration as well as access to financial services and markets. This is expected to scale food production from 20% demand to the projected 40% by the year, 2025".

While pointing out that in furtherance of the roadmap various programmes and projects were designed and implemented to facilitate the attainment of the vision, create jobs, and promote livelihood sustenance for the Value Chain Actors, the Commissioner averred that the key challenge is the ageing farmers and fishermen population and catching the interest of youths to take to agriculture as a profession.

To this end, she said, the Ministry partnered with innovative companies to introduce technology in agriculture, especially the

upstream sector, adding that this is evidenced by the recently launched Tractor-on-the-Go project which is a tractor-hailing service designed to facilitate easy and affordable access to mechanisation services through applications installed in mobile phones and integrated agricultural projects implemented in the state secondary schools tagged: "Lagos Agric Scholars Programme" to stimulate the interest of school children in agriculture.

"Other youth-centred efforts include the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme to train 15,000 youths with a passion for agriculture of which 3,000 has been successfully trained and plans are being put in place to train an additional 1,200 youth this year. Aside from these, this Administration has trained 51,476 and empowered 29,353 women and youth in different agricultural

value chains, such as the Cage & Pen Culture, Poultry, Rice Production, Snailery, Bee Keeping, Coconut Arts & Craft amongst others, using various government platforms", Olusanya said. Speaking earlier, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola said the Farmers' support programme commenced in 2014, and that a total of 16,466 farmers, fishermen, agro-processors, butchers, and marketers have so far benefited with corresponding impacts on agricultural productivity.

He urged beneficiaries to make the best use of the inputs received towards the overall development of Agriculture in the state.

In his remarks, the Ayangburen of Ikorodu, Oba Kabiru Shotobi lauded the initiative, saying it would go a long way in promoting farming and bringing about sufficiency in food

production.

He particularly commended Governor Sanwo-Olu, Commissioner Olusanya, and the Ministry of Agriculture for supporting farmers with critical equipment, assuring that more would be distributed by the state government.

On his part, the Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina said he was delighted that such a laudable project was launched in Ikorodu, just as he appreciated Governor Sanwo-Olu and the Ministry of Agriculture. He, however, advised farmers to improve their seedlings and farming method.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr. Akin Sokehinsi, who is an Aquaculture farmer from Oke-Ado, said farmers were appreciative of the various initiatives of the state government to create a conducive atmosphere for them to thrive.

Discrimination Against Women: Commissioner Seeks Strong Framework To Sanction Perpetrators

Lagos State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada is seeking framework for women and girls to get justice and hold people and organisations discriminating against women accountable for their actions.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a two-day Sensitisation Workshop on the Revised 2021 National Gender - Policy across the six Geopolitical Zones of the South-West States, held in Lagos, the commissioner said that the framework create a culture of respect for women and girls, to promote Gender-Equality.

Dada who was represented by the Director of Domestic Violence, WAPA, Ms.



Director of Domestic Violence, WAPA, Ms. Olorunfemi Toyin, WAPA, (Middle) flanked by two other experts

Olorunfemi Toyin called for a redress policy enactment that eliminates gender discrimination against women and girls. She stated that despite

discrimination being ingrained in our society, it is imperative to curb these menace from being embedded in the social development of our

communities. "We need to provide a framework for women and girls to seek justice and hold perpetrators accountable for their

actions with keenness at creating a culture of respect for women and girls, to promote Gender-Equality." While reiterating the

measures to be adopted, such as criminal sanctions and Civil remedies, Dada assured of working synergy with Government Agencies, Civil Societies and Private sectors to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions.

In his address, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs; Alhaji Shehu Shinkafi revealed that the various challenges which women face as abuse, respective to human rights, prompted the redress outlined in the National Gender Policy of 2021-2026.

He informed that the gathering was designed to help in closing the gaps for gender parity in all spheres of life, protect women's rights to mitigate the effects of gender-based violence through the use of appropriate buffers and related services, harness women's human capital assets as a growth driver for national development, as well as ensure that socially excluded groups of people living with disabilities and the elderly are mainstreamed into developmental projects and programmes of government.

Also speaking, Ms. Atinuke Odukoya, a gender expert from the Centre for Women's Health and Information, averred that the Policy's goals will establish Gender-Equality, women's independence through empowerment programmes for targeted social improvement.

The highlight of the two-day event, is the inclusive participation of representatives from Ondo, Ekiti, Oyo, Osun, Ogun and Lagos States in effecting a Gender Management model in Nigeria, as a means of lending voices to our women.

LASU VC Pledges Cordial Relationship With Lagos State Cooperative College

The Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University (LASU), Professor Ibiyemi Tunji-Bello has expressed her readiness to continue with the working agreement between the institution and the Lagos State Cooperative College, especially in academic development. Professor Bello stated while welcoming members of the Lagos State Cooperative College Governing Council who paid a working visit to the Lagos State University, Ojo, recently, reiterating that her administration would not depart from the previous working agreement the College

had with LASU. She said, "Government is a continuum. The already working agreement the College signed with the University while her predecessor was in office still subsists. The College should only do more by informing me of other areas we can collaborate". Earlier, the Chairman of the Lagos State Cooperative College Governing Council, Mr. Oyebowale Raji had solicited continued healthy working relationships with the new administration in LASU. He said the two institutions had developed a harmonious relationship since having the working agreement. The association, according

to him, had been beneficial to both parties. His words, "We must admit to achieving some important goals during the last two years. One of which was that we could conclude establishing our own financial regulations fashioned after LASU's version. We are, however, here today to show our commitment to continuing the relationship we started two years ago". The Provost of the College, Mr. Akorede Ojomu, spoke in the same vein and called for more synergy to ensure that the National Diploma Graduates of the College continue their academic progression at Lagos State University (LASU).



Professor Ibiyemi Tunji-Bello (Middle) flanked by Executive of Lagos Cooperative College

Stories by Kunle Awosiyan

Invest Your Entitlements Wisely, Lagos Govt Tells Intending Retirees

The Lagos State Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with Nigeria Insurer Association, has told intending retirees to invest wisely with the entitlements after they bow out of active service. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Sewanu Temitope Hundogan gave the advice at a workshop for intending retirees with an appeal to start preparing themselves mentally before retirement and the need to invest their retirement benefits wisely. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Mr. Sewanu Temitope Hundogan, who made the appeal in his address at the event, described retirement as a major life change which most people do not prepare for. He reiterated the need for them to be aware that it takes a lot of time than most people think to get used to the idea of retirement, stressing

that it can not be done within months talkless of weeks, So, it is advisable to start preparing yourself mentally for it as early as possible. In his words, "You must know what you want to do in retirement by preparing adequately for it with your spouse and other members of your family. So, preparing well in advance will make your transition into retirement less stressful". Hundogan applauded Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for creating an avenue for those preparing for retirement, He added that retirement is what everyone will go through in Life, which is why this type of workshop is organised to enlighten and prepare intending retirees for their life in retirement. The Permanent Secretary further encouraged the participants to make sure their financial plan for retirement is up-to-

date and on the right track, adding that it must include having a budget plan for the dreams and projects that the retiree plans to do while in retirement. He said, "If you've figured out how you want to spend time in retirement, you also need to check if your financial plan backs up your fun plan. You don't want to retire with a head full of dreams and not be able to afford it. So, it is necessary you guide against loss, unrealistic and dubious investments while preparing for the journey ahead. "Doing a job well gives you satisfaction, a worthy, useful and accomplished feeling, but once you retire, all go away. As such, you need to discover a new purpose in life to make it meaningful. Always pray, analyse, keep fit and invest wisely. Retirement is a huge milestone in a person's life, celebrate and make it even more memorable", Hundogan advised.



Pensioners

Lagos Youths Thank Govt For Social And Economic Empowerment



The Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke, during the distribution of POS machine

Thousands of youths went into wild jubilation after Lagos State Government presented them digitised POS Machines as part the state's empowerment programme at the weekend. The government gave out 1500 POS machines. One of the beneficiaries of the POS, Mr. Kehinde Ajala, from Ikorodu Local Government Area, stated that the distribution of the free POS to unemployed youths in the State will go a long way to reduce the rate of unemployment in the State. In the same vein, another beneficiary from the Ikosi area of the State, Miss Esther Ilesanmi, thanked Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Twenty-Solution Company and Opay for their help in reducing the lingering unemployment crisis in Lagos. The gesture is part of measures towards eradicating the lingering unemployment crisis in the State through wealth

creation and employment strategies for sustainable economic growth of Lagos State. Speaking during the distribution of the POS machine at the Ministry's Conference Room recently, the Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke disclosed that the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is aware of the needs of Lagosians, especially the youth population. According to her, the State Government is exploring a multi-dimensional approach to invest in the capacity development of youths and unemployed citizens in an attempt to increase the number of wealth creators in the State. Arobieke maintained that the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment will continue to come up with useful initiatives and more impactful programmes that will change the current narratives of joblessness and unemployment among the teeming young populace.

She further stated that the distribution of the free POS machine was a collaboration of the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Twenty-Solution Company and Opay Agency, an independent financial Institute licensed and regulated by CBN and insured by NDIC. The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment, Mr. Abiodun Onayele urged the beneficiaries of the POS gesture by the State Government to make good use of the empowerment initiative, just as he commended and appreciated the efforts of the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his continuous support in reducing unemployment among the youths. The CEO of the Twenty-Solution, Mr. Ayokunle Odebiyi said the company provided the digitalised POS Machines as a form of support to the Lagos State Government's vision of reducing unemployment to

2023 CHILDREN'S DAY Celebration

THEME
**MORE MONEY FOR
PRIMARY EDUCATION**

WEEK-LONG ACTIVITIES

1. THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Date: Sunday, 21st May 2023
Time: 9:00am
Venue: Chapel of Christ the Light, Alausa, Ikeja

2. YOUTH FORUM/CAREER TALK

Date: Tuesday, 23rd May 2023
Time: 9:00am
Venue: Lagos State Education Resource Centre, Ojodu

3. CULTURAL DISPLAY

Date: Wednesday, 24th May 2023
Time: 9:00am
Venue: Lagos State Education Resource Centre, Ojodu

4. JUMAT SERVICE

Date: Friday, 26th May 2023
Time: 12:00pm
Venue: Alausa Secretariat Mosque, Alausa

5. CHILDREN'S DAY PARADE & RALLY

Date: Saturday, 27th May 2023
Time: 8:00am
Venue: Police College Ground, Ikeja

#weleavenochildbehind



Lagos Public Procurement To Integrate 33 More MDAs Into Platform

No fewer than 33 more ministries, departments and agencies have been scheduled to be integrated into the Lagos State Public Procurement platform.

The Director-General, Lagos State Public Procurement Agency, Mr. Fatai Idowu Onafowote said this at the engagement with the Business Community on Procurement Process and Annual General Meeting held at the Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

He said "With 107 Ministries, Departments and Agencies already on the e-procurement platform and another 33 scheduled for integration on the platform in the current year, we have crossed the Rubicon; there is no going back. We shall, therefore, continue to leave no stone unturned to continuously improve the public procurement system in the State."

He stated that the main objective of the engagement was to enable the Agency to draw from the experiences, expertise and resources of members of the Business Community and the panel of discussants.

"The Agency had resolved to continue to leverage the use of technological tools as a foundation for achieving a seamless public procurement system in Lagos State," he said. Mr. Onafowote enjoined the participants at the event to actively participate in the discourse to enable the Agency to generate ideas that would enhance the efficiency of the public procurement system in the State.

He pointed out that the engagement forum was designed to build on the foundation already laid by the Agency from the synergy it had been building with other organisations towards eliminating all the perceived encumbrances militating

against the smooth operation of the public procurement process in the State.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman, House Committee on Procurement, Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Olawale Age-Rauf Sulaimon, stated that the House was committed to ensuring the onboarding of all MDAs in the State.

Some of the members of the Business Community, including Mr. Wale Obayomi, a Consultant and Mr. Oluwafemi Joshua of Millennial Technology, commended the Agency for its efforts towards ensuring a seamless procurement process and its prompt feedback on enquiries from stakeholders.

Some other participants also seized the opportunity to lodge complaints, seek clarifications or offer suggestions.

Members of the panel of discussants, drawn from the State Treasury Office, Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Alpha Beta Consulting, Kehinde Kassim and Co., Corporate Affairs Commission, Lagos Internal Revenue Service, Office of Internal Audit, Soft Alliance, Land Use Charge and the Lagos State Health Management Agency, were able to educate participants on what they needed to do to further facilitate a seamless public procurement system in the State.

Also at the event which had as its theme: "Achieving a Seamless Public Procurement System Through Collaboration", the Year 2022 Annual Report of the Agency was also unveiled by the representative of the Head of Service, Mrs. Oluwafemi Oyejobola and was supported by other dignitaries, including the Chairman, House Committee on Procurement, Lagos State House of

Assembly, Hon. Olawale Age-Sulaimon Rauf among others.

In his keynote address, the Lagos State Head of Service (HoS), Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola pointed out that for Lagos to maintain its enviable position as the commercial, industrial and economic hub in the West African sub-region, it must continue to work in synergy with experts and men and women of ideas to enable the State "continue to soar high and achieve its Greater

Lagos Dream".

While emphasising that the position the Agency occupies in the delivery of goods, works and services by the State Government could not be overemphasised, Mr. Muri-Okunola noted that this position calls for continuous understanding and cooperation between the Agency and stakeholders in the procurement chain, adding that for the relationship to be mutually beneficial to the parties

involved, it must be nurtured through regular engagements, consultation and collaboration.

He commended the members of the Governing Board and Management Staff of the Agency for regularly engaging with service providers on issues affecting the public procurement system in the State, adding that this, coupled with the professionalism and uncommon determination demonstrated by the

members of the top officials of the Agency, has carved a niche for the Agency and, indeed, the State Government among their peers both within and outside the country.

The Head of Service, therefore, implored members of the Business Community and service providers to continue to offer useful suggestions and ideas to meet the changing dynamics of the operating business environment in the State.



Participants at PPA workshop

Lagos Govt Seeks Public Input on Lagos Island Model Plan ... As 28-Day Display of Draft Final Report Begins Today

The Lagos State Government is set to commence a 28-day public display of the Draft Final Report on the Lagos Island Model City Plan, starting from Wednesday, 17th May, to Friday, 23rd June 2023. This was contained in a statement signed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Engr. Oluwale Sotire. The display, which is in

line with the standard Masterplan preparation procedure, will take place at four different locations to allow members of the public to make observations and comments before finalising the Planning Document.

The venues are Lagos Island Local Government Annex, Adeniji Adele Road; Lagos Island Local Government, 64, Freeman Street (Zappas Building); Lagos Island

East Local Council Development Area; and the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja. The public display, which is coming on the heels of a similar display of the Draft Final Report on Kosofe Model City Plan from 9th May to 15th June 2023, is in tandem with the State's culture of Citizen's Participation in the preparation of Operative Development Plans and

will precede final stakeholders meeting to allow for further inputs on 11th July 2023.

The Lagos Island Model City Plan, upon its completion, will cover 20 years between 2021-2041 and serve to harness the special characteristics and environmental sustainability of the Plan area to engender sustainable future growth and socio-economic development of the State.

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology is partnering with Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC) with a view to encouraging students and members of staff to do more on research and innovations that drive technology.

This was disclosed during a courtesy visit of the LASRIC Team and the Commissioner for Science and Technology, Dr. Hakeem Popoola Fahm to the University Council Chambers, Ikorodu.

Members of LASRIC, Prof. M. A. Anetekhai and Dr. Mrs. Folashade Ayinde stated that LASRIC focuses on Research and Innovation that benefits the society.

They informed that the Council has sponsored over 40 research projects and more still in progress, adding that the team has also visited various tertiary institutions in Lagos

LASUSTECH To Partner LASRIC On Research Development



Group photograph of Dr. Pham, Hon. Comm Lagos State Ministry of Science and Technology, LASRIC officials and Management members during the visit

State to seek collaboration.

Also speaking, Dr. Fahm remarked that "research is key to the development of any institution and also instrumental to the growth of the state and nation at large."

"LASRIC is committed to providing support to individuals and

institutions who have laudable research works focused on the social and economic development of Lagos State," he said.

The Commissioner assured the Management that LASRIC is willing to collaborate with the University having read the signal of readiness

on the part of the University management. He noted that the Vice Chancellor was also a beneficiary of LASRIC research grant and the first researcher to submit his report to LASRIC.

Responding, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya

appreciated the commissioner and his team for the visit.

He, therefore, pleaded that they extend opportunities to access international research grants.

He informed that research is one of the key areas on LASUSTECH agenda.

He also requested for

campus internet facility for the university as well as grants to challenge the university in the area of research.

Members of staff who had earlier benefitted from LASRIC grants include Dr.

Oladotun O. Oguntoyinbo, Mrs. Tolu Ojo, Dr. Yakub Bankole and Engr. Rafiu Olalere

LASHMA Introduces Ilera Eko To LASUSTECH

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has introduced the Lagos State health scheme known as Ilera Eko to the members of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH).

The Agency introduced the scheme during an interactive session with members of staff of the University at the College of Agriculture (500-seater) Auditorium, Ikorodu last week.

The interaction focused on the Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme of the Lagos State Government for residents of Lagos State.

The General Manager of LASHMA, Dr. Emanuella Zamba represented by a staff member of the Agency, Miss Uche Ugweonyia intimated members of staff of the University on the

various packages available on the scheme, the cost implications, hospitals under the scheme and the benefits attached to each package.

In his presentation

titled "Take Responsibility of Your Health", the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya, advised members of staff of the University to take utmost responsibility

and care of their health, adding that it is when they are alive that they can work and be active or relevant.

Speaking further, the VC highlighted reasons and facts

why health matters of the staff should be a priority.

He advised them to key into the Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme so as to enjoy its immense benefits.



Group photograph of officials at the event

Bamigboye Rescues Endangered Residents, Offers Scholarship To Kids

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, stormed a residence apartment with a combined team from council and officers of the Nigeria Police to rescue an extended family occupants in Matori area of Mushin, following reported case of serial death among the occupants.

The occupants who are siblings from the same mother, occupying a flat bequeathed to them through their late mother, have witnessed deaths of some of their children including a female sibling who passed away on Monday, May 15, after a yet to be diagnosed illness.

Following a tip off from members of the community after the sudden death, the council chairman went on an on-the-spot assessment with medical officers and environmental team of the council, to investigate the cause of death and curtail it, before it becomes an epidemic in the community. Complaint from tenants residing in the premises revealed that, the siblings are always at loggerheads with series of domestic violence cases reported at the police station.

An inspection conducted on the 3 bedroom apartment also revealed that the siblings and their children have been living under



Hon Bamigboye addressing the press

unhealthy conditions. The children have been out of school and suffering from malnutrition with some health challenges.

Bamigboye, who could not hold back his emotion, offered to take custody of the children and engage their surviving mother (Toyin) as a non-pensionable staff of Mushin Local Government.

The council boss paid for food stuffs to be supplied to the siblings and their children while he also paid some money to a food vendor in the street, for the supply of

daily foods to the family.

Before leaving, he bought some ready-to-eat items with milk and beverages for the children and directed for their reinstatement back into school, provide them with medical services and fumigation of the entire apartment and compound by the Health and Environmental officers.

Chairman of the CDA thanked the chairman for his gesture as he attested that the Councillor of Ward A, Hon. Hakeem Adeshile, had previously visited the family when

their case was first reported as threat to the community. The community confirmed that the Councillor had paid for their feeding at one time before the death of their sister (Titilola).

The Baale of Matori, High Chief Sesan Akintunde who joined the team, expressed his appreciation to the council boss for his timely intervention and safety measure taken, to avert the serial disaster among the siblings and the community. The team from Mushin Local Government comprised Councillor of the

ward, Hon. Hakeem Adeshile, Councillor of Ward B, Hon. Dele Abioye, Supervisor for Health - Hon. Femi Nuga, Supervisor for Works - Hon. Funmi Peters, Council Manager - Comrade Sogo Osikoya, Head of Medical Services department - Dr. Kayode Odufuwa, the newly posted H O D of Environmental Services department, Special Advisers to the Chairman, NULGE chairman - Comrade Jide Akinola and security personnel from the Nigeria Police, Olosan Division.

LG Commends Paul Okoku for Charity Works

The Lagos Mainland Government has given kudos to the founder of Greater Tomorrow Children Fund (GTCF), Paul Okoku for having an impact on the lives of youths in the society.

The educational secretary of Lagos Mainland, Tajudeen Tijani disclosed this during the handing over of 25 modern chairs and five giant-sized tables to St. Paul's Nursery and Primary School, Ebute Metta.

The educational secretary said the chairs and tables donated will help the students to learn under a conducive environment.

"We all know Paul Okoku because not only was he a former footballer, who played to the highest level at the 1984 Africa Cup of Nations, he has continued to stay relevant by doing so much charity works since he stopped playing football. Okoku is doing something that other individuals and foundations should learn from in order for the future of our children to be better and more prosperous.

"On behalf of the Lagos State government, on whose authority I am here to commission these beautiful chairs, tables and revamped classroom for Nursery pupils, we thank Paul Okoku for extending his finance towards the growth, education and development of our young ones."



LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT

**EVENTS FOR 2ND TERM INAUGURATION OF
MR. BABAJIDE OLUSOLA SANWO-OLU AND DR. KADRI OBAFEMI HAMZAT
AS GOVERNOR AND DEPUTY GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE**

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY
Sunday 21st May, 2023	10:00am 10:00am 10:00am 10:00am 10:00am	Youth Carnival and Robotic Competition including people living with disability (1) Ikeja Division - JJT Park, Alausa (2) Badagry - Badagry Grammar School (3) Ikorodu - Ikorodu Town Hall Premises (4) Lagos Island - Murl-Okunola Park, Vi (5) Epe - Recreation Centre
Tuesday 23rd May, 2023	10:00am	Public Lecture, Book Presentation and Stage Performance of "Echoes of the Drums" Muson Center, Onikan, Lagos
Wednesday 24th May, 2023	10:00am 10:00am 10:00am	Commissioning of Projects (1) Ajeromi (2) Alimosho (3) Ikeja
Thursday 25th May, 2023	10:00am	(1) Kosofe
Friday 26th May, 2023	10:00am 10:00am 10:00am 10:00am	(1) Eti-Osa (2) Lagos Island (3) Lagos Mainland (4) Surulere
Saturday 27th May, 2023	10:00am 12:00noon	Children's Day Activities/Novelty Match Children's Day (Police College, Ikeja) Novelty Match (1) Campus Square (Lagos Island Division) (2) Lagos State House of Assembly (Ikeja Division) (3) Badagry Grammar School (Badagry Division) (4) Ita Elewa Mini Stadium (Ikorodu Division) (5) Magbon Alade High School. Ibeju Lekki (Epe Division)
Sunday 28th May, 2023	10:00am	Pre-Inauguration Rehearsal
Monday 29th May, 2023	09:00am	Inauguration Day
Friday 2nd June, 2023	1:30pm	Post Inauguration Jumat Thanksgiving Service (1) Ikeja Division (2) Badagry Division (3) Ikorodu Division (4) Lagos Island Division (5) Epe Division (6) State Central Mosque, CBD, Alausa Ikeja
Saturday 3rd June, 2023	11:00am 7:00pm	Cultural display at Onikan Stadium Inauguration Dinner at Eko Hotel
Sunday 4th June, 2023	10:00am	Post Inauguration Church Thanksgiving Service (1) Ikeja - Arch Bishop Vinning Memorial Anglican Church (2) Badagry -Freeman Memorial Methodist Cathedral Church, Opposite Akran's Palace (3) Ikorodu - Methodist Church (4) Lagos Island - Cathedral Church, Marina Lagos (5) Epe - St. Patrick Anglican Church (6) Ikeja - Christ the Light Chapel, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja

Signed:

Mr. Gbenga Omotoso

Chairman, Media and Publicity Subcommittee

Oba Ajasa Of Awori Kingdom, Odualabe Celebrates 20th Anniversary On Throne

By Edith Igbokwe



20th coronation anniversary of Oba Odualabe of Awori kingdom

His Royal Majesty, Arolagbade 1 Alajasa of Ajasa Awori kingdom, Oba Suliamon Suberu Odualabe has charged his people to keep

showcasing the Awori kingdom for good as he celebrated 20th Coronation anniversary on the throne. He appreciated the Almighty God for the

journey so far as he prayed for many more years of celebration ahead. "I am very happy to mark 20 years on the throne, I pray to mark more years to sustain the traditions of

Awori kingdom. We must always showcase Awori kingdom culture for good and to teach our children to follow suit."

He stated that it is

paramount for Awori children to always move forward in life endeavors. He added that the Awori people will support the government, and leaders to make the country a good

place for everyone.

He assured the Awori people of his best leadership that will give a sense of belonging to every citizen of the Awori kingdom.

Lagos-Abidjan Road Construction: Residents To Lose Properties

By Edith Igbokwe

There was panic as some residents in Lagos State would lose their properties to the construction of a road from Lagos to Abidjan.

The project to be carried out by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will affect residents of Oto-Awori, Iba LCDA, Badagry Central, Badagry West LCDA, and Olorunda LCDA.

The councils organised a stakeholder meeting recently comprising the chairmen of the affected local councils, community leaders, Obas/Baales, religious leaders, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the issue.

The Director in charge of Badagry Express road at the Federal Ministry of Works, Engr. Mrs. Olukorede Kesha said the construction would affect a lot of properties in the host communities.

She explained that ECOWAS will take charge of the construction of the Lagos-Badagry-Seme-Border aspect of the road, while the Lagos State government extends to Badagry Express Road to Igboelerin junction of Okokomaiko and Seme-Border and continue to link other West Africa countries within the axis up to Abidjan.

She reiterated that development has to come with a lot of sacrifices as the Lagos-Abidjan corridor construction would affect some properties.

She, however, assured that owners of the would-be-affected properties would be compensated before the



Abidjan highway road construction plan meeting

commencement.

Meanwhile, some of the stakeholders said development in their communities is what they want and appreciate.

They, however, appealed that the government should complete the ongoing part of the Badagry Express road from the Ajibade axis of Agbara under construction before the idea of extending the existing road by ECOWAS.

They appreciated the privilege given by the federal government and other bodies as they promised to cooperate with the decision of the government after the ongoing road must have been completed so that the commuters would be relieved of the excruciating pains experienced daily on the road.

Meanwhile, the stakeholders complained unavailability of alternative routes/palliative measures to alleviate the sufferings of the road users when construction is ongoing.

Former Executive Secretary of Badagry West LCDA, Hon. Ade Agoro buttressed the complaint that such acts can not be perpetrated in other African countries like Benin Republic, Ghana,

and even Cote d'Ivoire.

A member of the LASU Governing Council, Hon. Sule Tolani, noted that the 250ft proposed road will result in colossal damages, particularly to the communities that have been in existence before the construction of the Badagry express road.

He also referred to the damage it will have on the two tertiary institutions along the road (LASU and LASUED).

H.R.M. Oba Josiah Ilemobade Aina (Olooto of Oto kingdom) also raised the issue of those whose properties were affected by the about-to-be-commissioned Badagry Express Road construction but are yet to be compensated by the government.

He stated that some of the people who acquired the lands even before the existence of the road do not have a certificate of occupancy requested by the government, saying such a request is a gimmick to deny them compensation.

Representatives from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and representatives from the Federal Ministry of Works, the Federal Ministry of Environment, Lagos State Government were present at the stakeholders meeting.

Iba LCDA Repairs Alape, Oba Ayoka Road

By Edith Igbokwe



Alape, Oba Ayoka road construction

The chairman of Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) has commenced rehabilitation of Alape Street and Oba Ayoka Road.

He appealed to other areas of the Local Government yet to be touched to be more patient with the

assurance that the developmental stride will be extended to all parts of Iba LCDA with time, considering that the government is barely twenty months in office. Residents within the jurisdiction of the ongoing rehabilitation roads have been enjoined to assume ownership of

the roads and ensure their maintenance.

The team saddled with the responsibility of supervising the project are the Supervisor for Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Niyi Alape, the Council Engineer, Engr. Whesu Medese and other Engineers.

We're On Track To Reform Education Sector - Babatunde

By Edith Igbokwe



Schools rehabilitated in orile Agege

The chairman of Orile-Agege LCDA, Hon. Johnson Babatunde said he has decided to follow the steps of the former Governor of Lagos, Late Alhaji Lateef Jakande in the reformation of the education sector in his council area. He said this as he embarked on the rehabilitation of schools across the council area, saying he has decided to place education over all other sectors. As part of the rehabilitation of schools, he makes provision of furniture and stationeries for pupils, engages students with educational programmes such as Spelling Bee and quiz competitions, and organises inter-school football competitions to give quality education. He, therefore, promised to turn around the face of all the 24 primary schools in the LCDA. So far, the council chairman said he has engaged in the total rehabilitation of Zion African Church Primary School, Orile Agege Primary School, Saka Tinubu Primary School, Yewa Primary School, Ideal Primary School, Araromi Primary School, Ibido Primary School, Okusanya Primary School, Government College, Girls High School among others. In fulfillment of his promise, the council boss said he has also embarked on the total rehabilitation of Ladoje Primary School, St. Peter Primary School, Oko Oba Primary School, Shiloh Primary School, Sacred Cherubim & Seraphim Primary School, Bishop Ajana Primary School and will be up for completion in few weeks. He noted that schools in Orile Agege will also be equipped with computer systems to ensure that pupils in Orile Agege are also captured in the global digital trend.

Key Into Our Vocational Training, Agege LG Chairman Urges Youths

By Edith Igbokwe



20th vocational graduation ceremony in Agege

The chairman of Agege Local Government, Alh. Ganiyu Egunjobi (JP) has encouraged youths to take advantage of the opportunity of vocational studies as the council held its 20th edition of the vocational studies graduation ceremony. He noted that his administration has prioritised youth empowerment as one of the vehicles to empower the youths. He expressed great joy as another set of youths completed and graduated from the council's vocational studies centre, which he rated to be among the best in Lagos State. He remarked: "In our little efforts, we are striving to change the narration of youths unemployment on account of lacking required skills. "I feel fulfilled and elated that another set in their hundreds is on their way out of the world they have earned their stripes. I vouch for them, that the world will not be disappointed because they have learned the rope. "If you may know, our vocational centre is the most reckoning in the city of Lagos today with eight training units namely; Fashion Designing, Hair Dressing/Cosmetology, Shoe and Bag Making,

Computer Digital Training, Computer Graphics, Computer Engineering/GSM Repairs and Photography/Videography.

"Our vocational centre has produced skillful youths in various fields of life, who today are proving their worth in the business world."

He added that under his watch, the council has in no way given a thought of ignorance or considered education as an option, saying his administration has invested hugely in education, particularly formal education.

"This is one of our social intervention programmes aimed at ameliorating the sufferings of indigent families and parents, who are struggling to meet their responsibilities to their children and wards.

"My advice to those graduating from the centre is that they should not despise small beginnings. You have gotten the skills, so don't wait but join the labour market because you are also trained to be an employer of labour.

"All multinational companies of today were once someone's dreams at a time but are now realities. You can also join their league with diligence, perseverance, and hard work."

LG Begins Construction of Idi-Abara Modern Market

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Laying of foundation blocks for the construction

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government under the leadership of Hon. Abdullahi Olowa has embarked on the construction of an ultra-modern multi-level market complex at Idi-Aba in Eleko Area.

The council chairman said the construction is an avenue to boost economic activities and

bring the market close to communities.

While laying the foundation blocks, Olowa urged contractors to hasten the project and hand it over in due course.

The Director of Works and Infrastructures of the Council, Engr. Rotimi Okunowo said his department would monitor the project

and make sure it is delivered on time.

The project partners, Top Royal Links, and Kazolak Construction Nigeria Limited pledged that the project will be completed in the next 12 months.

The council leader, Hon. Olayinka Mojeed expressed his happiness for being part of the development made by the council.

Rep Benson Bags IKODASS Community Builder Award

By Nurudeen Adebayo



REP Jimi Benson receiving his award

The member of the House of Representatives representing Ikorodu Constituency, Hon. Babajimi Benson, has been honored with Community Builder Award. The award was given by the Ikorodu-Oga Development Association (IKODASS) at the flag off of the Akin Ogunlewe Crescent.

Receiving the award from Mr. Rotimi Erogbogbo, the IKODASS Chairman who was accompanied by some members of his executives, Benson, who is the Chairman of the House Committee on Defense, said the award was highly valued. "IKODASS surprised me today with this award as the community developer. I love the sculptor used in

making the award. I will be taking the award to my home in Abuja, and placing it somewhere in my library. I thank the IKODASS executives for deeming me worthy of this community builder award," he acknowledged. Meanwhile, the lawmaker said he has fulfilled his pledge to the United African

Methodist Cathedral Church (Eleja), Igbogbo, by presenting the Church with a Chevrolet bus. He pledged last year in honour of the late APC chieftain, Chief Adenrele Olowu. He said he handed over the bus to the Bishop of the Church in the presence of dignitaries which included Sen. Adeseye Ogunlewe, former Minister for Works, Hon.

Adebimpe Akinsola, former Commissioner for Tourism, Mr. Hameed Olalekan Aroyewun, the former aspirant for the Ikorodu Constituency II seat, and Mr. Yinka Ogunlaja. He said the bus was donated to the Church in memory of the late Chief Reuben Adenrele Oladele Olowu. The residents of the White House Area,

Ikorodu Grammar School, also presented the lawmaker with a frame and letter of appreciation for installing solar lights in their communities. The IKODASS chairman stated that the lawmaker deserved the award based on his positive impact on the community. The residents thanked the lawmaker for all his projects in Igbogbo, and for bringing about goodness in his constituency.

Osinowo Advocates For Grassroots Sporting Competition

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Players being introduced to mayor Osinowo

The Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Hon. Dele Osinowo, has called for an increase in grassroots sporting competitions in the council to identify and nurture talented young players. His plea came during the exciting novelty match of the councilor Bashir Saheed (Elewedu) Kids Cups Competition, held at Ajelogo Primary School in Kosofe on Tuesday. Highlighting Nigerian's love for football and the passion of the youths for the sport, the council boss stressed the importance of supporting and developing children's football skills through such grassroots initiatives. He commended the

organiser of the competition, Councilor Elewedu, for his commitment to sustaining the tournament over the years, aligning with the council's vision for grassroots football development. Osinowo praised the organiser's mission to "catch them young" and redirect the attention of children towards sports activities. He recognised the positive impact of counselor Elewedu's programmes on the community, emphasising his dedication to giving back to society without any external influence. The chairman encouraged the participating children to

embrace sportsmanship, saying there would always be winners, runners-up, and third-place positions at the end of the competition. In his remarks, the competition organiser, Mr. Bashir Saheed, popularly known as Elewedu, expressed his motivation for organising the tournament, saying it is aimed at identifying talented children in football within the council area and providing numerous coaches to assess and discover the young talents. The councilor also urged parents to recognise and support their children's talents, encourage them to continue training, and organise friendly matches even after the competition.

LP Candidate Vows To Pursue Election Petition Against APC Winner In Kosofe Constituency

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Labour Party candidate for Lagos State House of Assembly in Kosofe Constituency I, Osikominu Akinwande, has expressed his determination to pursue his petition before the Lagos State National and State Houses of Assembly Election Petition Tribunal. The Tribunal is currently sitting at the Rosaline Omotoso Courthouse in Ikeja. Having filed his petition against the declared winner, Hon. Sanni Okanlawon, within the specified timeframe, Osikominu confirmed his readiness to vigorously pursue the case to its rightful conclusion. He expressed his belief in the ongoing legal process and his determination to bring about a positive



Osikominu Akinwande

change in Kosofe. Okanlawon was declared the winner by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with a narrow margin of 86 votes.

While Okanlawon is preparing for his inauguration into the 10th Assembly in the state, Akinwande said he would reclaim his mandate through the Tribunal.

Sanwo-Olu Commissions New Tech Lab In Ikorodu

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commissioned an innovation laboratory in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, SAIL Foundation, in Ikorodu.

The facility, which provides in-demand tech skills to motivated youths within the senatorial district, is an initiative by Senator Mikhail Adetokunbo Abiru and his wife, Mrs. Feyisola Abiru.

Delivering his keynote address, Governor Sanwo-Olu expressed gratitude to the entire Abiru family for carrying on with the legacy of service of their late patriarch, Senator (Honourable Justice) Mubasheer Akanbi Abiru.

Commending the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in scaling up the impacts of initiatives like the SAIL Innovation Lab, Governor Sanwo-Olu also went further to convey the commitment of his administration to ensure that Lagos State continues to set the pace in the tech space in Nigeria and on



Vice President-Elect Kashim Shettima, Hon Tokunbo Abiru at the commissioning the continent.

Respected figures in Nigeria's tech ecosystem commended the vision of SAIL founders. They averred that the SAIL Innovation Lab holds great prospects for the sustainable empowerment of young people in the Lagos East Senatorial District and beyond.

Dr. Bosun Tijani, Co-founder of Co-Creation Hub, and a Trustee of

SAIL Foundation, the owners of the lab, expressed confidence in the success of the SAIL Innovation Lab.

He said: "It is our young people that drive innovation and growth. We have to engage and empower them to be able to do this driving. Numerous people are doing amazing things. It is what these people are doing that will drive innovation in our

community.

"That is why the SAIL Innovation Lab is special. Young people in Lagos East Senatorial District will start to build solutions. The Fourth Industrial Revolution is here.

"The future we are looking up to is already being controlled by technology. We have to participate and if not, it will be second-level colonisation."

Microsoft Country Manager, Ms Ola Williams was thrilled by the passion the Distinguished Senator has for young people. He and his wife, through SAIL, have provided a platform for enduring and sustainable development. She revealed that Microsoft was willing to synergize with SAIL for greater impact.

Meta (Facebook) Head of Public Policy in Nigeria, Adaora Oshodi-Ikenze, described the SAIL Innovation Lab facility as world-class.

She said the facility and the quality of faculty can stand shoulder to shoulder with any Innovation Lab in the world.

Managing Director, of Bank of Industries, Mr Olukayode Pitan said the SAIL Innovation Lab demonstrates Senator Abiru's passion for youth development and capacity building.

He added that the Innovation Lab will impact greatly on the people of Lagos East Senatorial District.

The SAIL Innovation Lab was set up in 2021 in partnership with Co-Creation Hub. Since its

inception, over 490 participants have benefitted from the several programmes in person, while over 2,000 have participated in the online programmes.

The innovation lab, which is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, is managed 100% by Co-Creation Hub, one of the biggest innovation hubs in Africa, and highly-trained facilitators who deliver the wide range of programmes the facility offers.

Mrs. Feyisola Abiru, Co-founder of the innovation lab, noted that the innovation lab was the first of its kind in the Lagos East Senatorial District and encouraged the attendees to "revel in the fact that all of us here are making history together."

The programmes currently offered include Tech Talent Development Programme; STEM for Senior Secondary School Students; Lagos East Teachers Fellowship; Start-Up Accelerator; and Community Events and Ecosystem Engagements. In June 2023, the Innovation Lab is starting training in Data Science for Society. The call for applications is already open to interested applicants.

Speaking on the vision behind the SAIL Innovation Lab and why it needed to be done, Senator Abiru: "Many years ago, it was enough to go to school and train to be a professional in a particular field – law, accounting, broadcasting,

engineering, medicine, and other disciplines.

However, the realities of today have completely changed...the illiterate of today, not the future, would not be those who cannot read and write but those who cannot speak the new language of the world.

"The new language of the world is tech – this is why the setting up of the SAIL Innovation Lab became necessary. It is not a project of the future. It is a project of today; one that needed to be done.

Tech is the way and it was important to provide a platform for our ingenious youth in this district." Speaking further, he raised that the idea was to "deepen the acceptance of tech innovation in the Lagos East Senatorial District, using a human-centred approach."

The siting of the permanent location of the SAIL Innovation Lab was made possible by the support of the members of the Abiru family who agreed to dedicate their family home for this purpose.

This is in continuation of the legacy of their late patriarch, Senator (Honourable Justice) Mubasheer Akanbi Abiru, a distinguished jurist and prominent son of Lagos state.

The SAIL Innovation Centre will continue to promote support for youths in the Lagos East Senatorial District, making a difference with the power that digital innovations give.

Salvation Army School Ready Soon, At Roofing Stage - Adeshina Assures

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The On-going project

The chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina has declared that the construction of the Salvation Army School in Ikorodu LGA will soon be completed as the project is at the roofing phase.

He disclosed that the school project is part of his plans to facilitate beneficial academic

practice during his administration.

Part of the construction is the building of six cubic toilets and a fence around the school compound.

"We plan to make that iconic school a very conducive place for students and teachers to learn and grow their intellectual capacity.

"That area is often utilized by jobless boys to

gather and cause unrest, that was why we erected the school fence for the students not to be distracted in their studies. We're expecting very soon, the project will be completed," he said.

The council boss also used the medium to appreciate the residents for their support towards making his administration a success.

Oshodi Art Gallery Opens Fashion Studio In Ikorodu, Trains Youths

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Oshodi Art Gallery has opened a fashion and clothing-making studio to broaden its product breadth in Ikorodu.

The studio, launched this month, is another department of the multi-faceted creative entity known to house over 18,000 art collections.

According to the CEO of the Gallery, Dr. Oshodi Paul, the studio is inaugurated to further empower youths and individuals seeking to penetrate the creative sector.

Elucidating that the studio is not just about sewing, he said the goal

is to correlate aesthetics in sewing, and blending international style to locally made attire.

He explained: "Seven industrial machines were acquired, with two manual machines in addition to other appliances to keep the workplace operational. "As you can see, we already have students that we're currently training, the programme is accessible for youths between the ages of 18 and 30 years (both male and female).

"There is no duration to how long we train students because we aim to ensure they grow and master the craft. Some people are fast

in learning while others are slow."

The CEO further explained that the training is on a rotating shift basis, adding that while a set of students prefers to attend the morning training, others attend the afternoon session, which gives everyone good criteria to enhance their skills.

"Two instructors are on the ground to assist the students and guide them on each step of the work

"We know that things are hard and youths are clamouring to grow to be productive, that is why we're using the medium to support them because it's free for now," he added..

Kendoo Denies Selling Part Of Pry School

The chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG, Hon. Kehinde Oloyede (Kendoo) has debunked a report alleging him and others if selling a portion of a primary school, saying the report was malicious and unfounded.

In a statement by his media aides, the council chairman explained that the section of the said primary school was carved out by the local government as the said land belongs to it to build a recreational centre.

The statement read: "It has come to our notice, a malicious allegation of selling off a primary school land by the local government chairman and others mentioned in the concocted story.

"Laying bare the truth. It is true that a section of the said primary school was carved out by the local government as the said land belongs to it, but it is not true that the said land has been sold.

"The said fenced part is not in anyway meant for any secretive motive rather it is carved out for the interest of the community as a state of



Hon. Kehinde Oloyede

the heart Community cum Youth Recreational Centre will soon be built there for our people's benefit. The carved part has been duly approved by the appropriate authority for the project but was abandoned by previous administration.

"Owing to the fact that government is a continuum and in fulfillment of his electoral promise to the youths, the Honourable member representing Oshodi-

Isolo Federal Constituency 1, Dr. Bashir Dawudu and the Otunba Oloyede's led administration have deemed it fit to embark on the project for the sake of our teeming youth.

"Putting the records straight, community projects that our administration had carried out has always involved the various communities in the affected community for their input because projects done without meeting the needs of the people will amount

to nothing, hence, the administration has always carried along the community leaders at all time. So also is the case of the about to be unveiled project. When the plans are at advanced stage, we will get all the community development associations or the community development committee involved for their inputs, we appeal to our people to remain calm as the administration will not do anything detrimental to the growth and development of our dear Oshodi-Isolo local government, a goal we have been and still working to achieve.

"The Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede administration has since assumption of office mapped out strategies to improve the poor state of schools within the local government and soon these will materialises, we appeal for your understanding as we embark on rebuilding Oshodi-Isolo of our

dream in education, infrastructure and welfare improvement of our people. So it is not true that a government working on rebuilding schools will now stoop so low to sell off part of what it wants to build for the interest of the people, no we are not selling any school land not anyone in our dear council. Records are available to prove our claims that the said land is not carved out to be sold or for any interior motive whatsoever.

"We will not be deterred from the path of building a more developed Oshodi, this is our promise to the people and our oars will not be rested until we achieve these objectives and we believe collectively we can do this.

"We therefore call on well meaning residents of our great council to be rest assured that no land or part of it will be sold and or used for personal benefits rather than for the general interest of the public. Selling off of government properties is what our administration tackled in the first year of assumption of office because we have

records that some government lands were sold or put on lease for over 40 years with a meagre return or nothing for the council. If we could fight this to a stand still, we will not therefore be a victim of our crusade against selling of government properties.

"Least we forget, let's tell our people that names of persons mentioned in the defaming publication are people of high repute and community leaders who have proven their integrity in number of ways, these people can not therefore nor the chairman be seen in this type of shady deal, no, they won't do it.

"Their integrity will not allow them engage in such an unawesome act, we want our people to be guided against allegations aiming at tarnishing the image of the council chairman nor the characters mentioned in the malicious publication. Elements behind this are advised to stop peddling fake information because their claim is a lie from the pit of hell."

Obe Honours Former DPO Gabriel

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Ehigbo LCDA, Alh. Monsurudeen Bello (OBE), has honoured the former Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the Ejigbo Divisional Police Headquarters, ACP (Barr.) Folorunsho Gabriel, as he organised a sendoff ceremony for him last week Thursday.

The ceremony was held at De-Ark Event Centre, Idimu Road, Ejigbo.

Gabriel, who was a Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) while in Ejigbo, has now been transferred and promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP).



Hon Obe with ACP (Barr.) Folorunsho Gabriel

Speaking at the event, the council boss described the former DPO as an officer who gave excellent policing service, worked diligently and had an unquestionable reputation while working in Ejigbo.

Obe added that partnering with the Police and other Security Agencies has

been impactful on the local council, saying the partnership would continue strongly.

While appreciating the people of Ejigbo for their support so far in his administration, the council chairman asked for continuous support to deliver all his campaign promises, which he claimed would soon start getting

commissioned. Speaking on behalf of the Area Commander (ACP Abdullah), CSP Ahmadu appreciated the Council Chairman for holding the event, stating that such is only held for people that the Community recognizes for their hardwork and tenacity.

Member, House of Assembly, Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II, Hon. Jude Idimogu, described the former DPO as a good humble and effective officer, who knows the in and out of Ejigbo well. Hon. Jude therefore wished him well and encouraged the junior officers to emulate him. Others who gave testimonies about ACP (Barr.) Folorunsho

Gabriel, described him as someone who is able to manage tension and solve crime cases effectively, an embodiment of the knowledge of the law and a great team leader, a neat and organized person, an understanding man with the ability to simplify cases, and a fearless officer.

Responding to all the kind words and gestures, the former DPO appreciated the Executive Chairman and Ejigbo LCDA at large, for sending him forth in such honorable manner. He therefore assured the new DPO that the Community is ready to support her, adding that there is an established template which she should properly utilize. The new DPO, CSP

Mariam Shonubi, has therefore appealed for support and cooperation from the people of Ejigbo, while promising to do her best. Her slogan is, "If you see something, say something". Her phone numbers are: 08023053256 (WhatsApp) and 08103618946.

All stakeholders in Ejigbo were well represented at the Sendforth Ceremony. They include: the Executive, Legislative and Management Teams of the Local Council, some Political Leaders, members of the Nigeria Police Force (including some DPOs), other Security Agencies, the three religious groups, the Youth Council, the Transport Union, the Hunters Association, the Arewa Group, e.t.c.

Surulere LG Partners LASG On Agricultural Value Chain

By Saheed Afolabi

Surulere LG in partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture has held the Agricultural Value Chains Enterprise Support Programme.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Agriculture in Lagos State, Abisola Olusanya revealed that the ministry has set a benchmark of N3 billion as revenue to be generated by the ministry in 2023.

"For revenue generation in 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture has recorded

N1.2 billion and I remember that in the food festival, I said that it is hopeful that in 2023 we should be touching at least N3 billion in terms of revenue.

"The enterprise activation support programme that has been done is supporting processors and producers and marketers.

"The hope is for them to be able to increase food production, to be able to add more value to the

food thereby making more margins for processors and marketers to have easy access in selling to consumers.

"The stakeholders here today, not all of them will necessarily pay in terms of revenue generation to the Ministry of Agriculture to Lagos State, some will go directly to LIRS, so you have direct and indirect revenue.

"The most important thing and what is at the forefront of Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration is wealth



Hon Hameed Apatira

creation for the people, job creation for the people, and creating an enabling environment that ensures that our food system is secure.

"Towards revenue

generation, we have another pool of stakeholders, this is where we have agricultural assets; whether being concessioned or you have a private sector partner

doing the build, operate and transfer or just build, operate and you have a revenue sharing formula with the Government."

CDCs applaud Gbajabiamila For Constituency Projects

By Saheed Afolabi



RT Hon Gbajabiamila

The Community Development Committees (CDCs) comprising Surulere CDC, the Coker/Aguda CDC, and the Itire/Ikate CDC, have applauded the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila over laudable projects in Surulere 1 and 2 constituencies.

The CDCs appreciated Gbajabiamila for constructing the infrastructures in the community and making Surulere LG a pride among LGs in Nigeria.

Aside from the international sports facilities, the over 400

roads constructed in Surulere 1, the lighting up of almost all the roads and streets in the area, the building of hospitals and standard health facilities, fire service stations, reconstructed drainages, educational empowerments for students and teachers, and lifting of businesses of petty traders and members of the communities, consistent annual ceremonial palliatives during Muslim and Christian festivals and building of hundreds of vocational training centres in Surulere, car gifts to community

members and CDA's chairmen, setting up of Surulere Transport Scheme 'The Gbaja Ride', among others were noted as worthy of appreciation as they prayed for their benefactor.

Gbajabiamila was also commended for his performance in Surulere 2 made up of Coker/Aguda and Itire/Ikate local government areas for constructing over 50 roads with standard drainage and street lights. Others mentioned are the provision of a fire service station with standard international facilities, hospitals, and the first secondary school.

Surulere Residents Appreciate Sanwo-olu, Bamidele For Agricultural Equipment

By Saheed Afolabi

The beneficiaries of the Lagos State agricultural revolution in Surulere have appreciated the state government for coming to their aid.

The President of Live Bird Marketers Association, Lagos State chapter, Alhaja Olosola Osoba appreciated the Lagos State government for empowering the association with a truck and 15 electric de-feathering machines.

Osoba said the empowerment would upgrade the operations of the members to modern practice.

"We are very happy for the support we received today from the government, it is a big surprise for us.

"With the empowerment,



Gov Sanwo-Olu

our members will no longer use their hands to de-feather birds, they will use electric machines.

"The electric de-feathering machine is safe, faster, convenient, and hygienic," she said.

Also, Alhaji Lateef Adelodun, the President of the Lagos State Plank and Building Materials

Marketers Association of Nigeria lauded the effort of the state government.

Adelodun urged the state government to support its members with plain and circular machines to meet market demand.

"We are appealing to the state government to include us as beneficiaries in the 2023 empowerment programme," Adelodun said

Federation Cup: Our Mentality To Win Gave Us Victory, Alvin Dah-Zossu

By Saheed Afolabi



Alvin Dah-Zossu

Federation Cup: Rivers Angels Win Excites Coach Edwin Okon

By Saheed Afolabi



Coach Edwin Okon

Rivers Angels head coach, Edwin Okon has stated that the club should not be written off despite starting the season badly.

This came on the heels of the club's famous quarter-final 3-1 penalty shootout win against Delta Queens in the NFF Federation Cup. Veteran coach, Okon described the game as a very hard one which came with a hard-fought victory that made him the happiest man.

The erstwhile Super Falcons coach was optimistic that the substitution he added into the game added more

impact to it as chances were created but not converted.

Okon stated, Rivers Angels should not be underrated despite starting the season in not a good way but they have made it to the NWFL super six.

After Thursday's win, Edwin Okon said it was not an easy game but was glad his girls got the job done.

"I am the happiest man today because this wasn't an easy game, it was a hard-fought victory. My girls gave everything in today's encounter and had chances to wrap up

the game in the regulation period but the goals failed to come.

"The substitution we made added more impact in the game however we were unable to capitalise on our chances despite having more advantage over Delta Queens.

"No one should write off Rivers Angels, as you can see, we started very badly but have so far made it to the NWFL Super 6 and now to the Semifinal of the Federation Cup."

The pride of Port-Harcourt will face Nasarawa Amazons in the semifinal of the Federation Cup.

Rivers Angels midfielder, Alvin Dah-Zossu said the team gave their all to defeat Delta Queens in the quarter-final of the NFF Federation Cup tie.

Delta Queens had forced Rivers Angels to a barren draw in regulation time and two missed spot-kicks from Cynthia Mega and Chinaza Agoh of Delta Queens paved the way for Rivers Angels to emerge winner in the penalty shootout.

The pride of Rivers midfield general, Alvin

Dah-Zossu was delighted with the win over Delta Queens and she attributed it to the work rate of the team.

The former Nigeria U17 international said the game was a tough encounter as their last game in Asaba was a fierce battle.

She added that the team came into the game with a mentality to win and they got the job done in style.

"The entire team is very excited with the win over Delta Queens today. We really worked hard to get this far and I'm happy

we are now getting good results.

"I knew this game wasn't going to be an easy one having met Delta Queens twice before today's game and our last encounter with them in Asaba was a fierce one.

"We headed into today's game with the mindset that we would give it our best and qualify for the semifinal and I'm glad it came to pass," she added.

Rivers Angels will trade tackles with Nasarawa Amazons in the semifinal of the NFF Federation Cup at a date and venue to be announced later by the Nigeria football governing body.

Taekwondo Must Be Practiced In All Aspects, Saidu-Baba Says

By Saheed Afolabi

The President of the Nigeria Taekwondo Federation, Abdullahi Saidu-Baba, has stated that the current board is consolidating all forms of the sport.

Speaking to the media after the conclusion of the International Kuikiwon Seminar and Dan Testing at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium in Abuja, Abdullahi Saidu-Baba explained what the seminar and Dan Testing were all about.

"Taekwondo has two forms of the sport, Kyrougi, which is fighting, and Poomsae, which is forms and patterns, and they are all scoring events, and there are world championship medal events in both events, which makes it

very important for us as a federation to train our athletes so that as they compete in Kyrougi, we should be able to do the same in Poomsae, so for us, we are ensuring that the basics of the sport are addressed."

The President, who expressed his delight at the number and class of athletes who attended the seminar and testing, stated that the future of Nigerian Taekwondo is bright.

"Let me tell you that the good thing about this training is that our athletes are now understanding that it's not just normal to claim that you're a coach, but that they need to go through rigorous testing, and when you get such a certification as a Dan Certification Holder, it's a

world recognize certification, and I'm so happy with the class of the young ones here; our future is so bright for the game."

As a result, he maintained that the federation is not sitting still, but is working around the clock to keep its athletes in good shape even before the African Games camp opens.

"We just finished a two-week national camping training exercise in Birnin-Kebbi and will begin the President Cup tomorrow, which will feature the best of all our Olympic medal classes, after which we will look at our calendar for the next open."

He concluded that the Nigeria Taekwondo Federation President Cup will be held from the 19th to the 21st of this month inside the indoor sports hall of the Moshood Abiola National Stadium in Abuja.



President Nigeria Taekwondo Federation, Abdullahi Saidu-Baba

Eworitse Ezra Plans To Use Boxing To Help The Masses

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigerian boxing champion, Eworitse Ezra has revealed that he has plans to use boxing to alleviate poverty and use it to help the voiceless in society.

The ABA's Elite Cruiserweight Eastern Counties Champion said he started boxing through a fighter company.

Ezra who has a record of ten wins in ten fights with eight knockouts and two by unanimous judges decision stated that he ran ten miles daily during the pandemic to raise funds donated to charity and within two years he won a boxing title.

"I started boxing through the company called White collar fighter based in Manchester, raising money through my ticket sales for the Anthony Nolan blood cancer charity.

"During the early days of the pandemic, I ran 10 miles every day for 10 days for the St Martin homeless charity in

Norwich. I raised a total of £1,000, which was donated directly to the charity.

"Not only was I raising the money, I was also winning. Within two years of boxing, I had won the ABA's Elite Cruiserweight Eastern Counties Championships. I boxed out of Attleborough Boxing Club.

"I want to use boxing as an opportunity to make a difference. As a professional, I aim to use my platform to help give the voiceless a voice. I aim to donate my earnings from every fight to help children back home in Nigeria get a better education.

"Ever since I got into the boxing game, I have wanted to use my talent for good and to help the community.

"My foundation not too long ago donated funds to help 4 people in Warri with kidney dialysis treatments as kidney failure is a huge societal issue the foundation also aims to help alleviate."



Eworitse Ezra

Okiki Afolabi Nets Brace In Iraqi League

By Saheed Afolabi

Nigerian forward, Okiki Afolabi scored two goals to lead Newroz to a 2-1 victory over Naft Missan in the Iraqi Premier League. Afolabi scored in the 5th and 69th minute to seal a win for Newroz.

Newroz played out a drab first-half draw with Naft Missan as chances came hard to find in the first 45 minutes of the encounter. Afolabi rose to the occasion to power home the lead for Newroz in the 54th minute of the game. 15 minutes later, Nigeria international, Afolabi netted his second of the

encounter in the 69th minute to give Newroz a commanding stand in the game.

Younis pulled a goal back for Naft Missan toward the tail end of the game. Newroz was able to grind out a 2-1 win over Naft Missan at the 15,000-capacity Sulaymaniyah Stadium

The Wali Karim tutored side is in the 12th position in the Iraqi Premier League with 38 points from 29 matches. They will face Al Hudod in their next game on the 24th of May..

Olympic Qualifiers: Nigeria Amasses 12 Medals In Africa Weightlifting Championship

By Saheed Afolabi



A Nigerian weightlifter at the Africa games

Nigerian Weightlifters amassed a total of 12 medals at the 2023 Senior Africa Weightlifting Championship in Tunisia which also serves as 2024 Olympic Games qualifiers. Nigeria won a total of 12 medals comprising 3 gold, 7 silver, and 2 bronze medals at the championship. Lawal Rufiatu Folashade

and Olarinoye Adenike Adijat won three gold and three silver medals respectively in the 59kg women's category on Tuesday.

Joy Eze Ogbonne and Edidiong Umofia won 6 additional medals on Wednesday. Whereas Joy clinched 3 silver medals in the 71kg women category, Edidiong won a silver and 2 bronze

medals in 73kg men.

Edidiong could have won higher medals but he had an injury during the Snatch and won a silver medal. He managed to continue and got bronze for Clean & Jerk and Total. Nigeria's quest to increase their medal haul on Wednesday did not go as planned after Akano Desmond came 4th in the 89kg men category.

Desmond who rounded off Nigeria's participation at the championship had a lift of 145kilos in snatch, 190kilos in Clean & Jerk, and a Total lift of 255kilos to emerge 4th in the category.

Nigeria weightlifters will participate in six Championship qualifiers as they seek to return Nigeria to the global weightlifting map in the 2024 Olympics Games in Paris, France.