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Borehole Threatens Lagos

Barely three years that a research by Climate Central, a science organisation based in New Jersey predicted that Lagos among 12 others may sink due to climate change and human activities, not much has been done by successive administrations in the state to prevent the impending doom. The study published in the journal, Nature Communications mentioned New York City, Mexico City, Venice, Italy, Mumbai, India, Houston, Texas, Miami with Lagos city ranked seven on the list of the world's sinking cities that might not even make it to the next century. Apart from the fact that climate change is a big threat to the world with the rising sea level due to melting of the glacier, human activities like drilling of boreholes and illegal dredging and sand fillings have become major threats to the survival of coastal towns in Lagos State. Even though Climate Central research emphasised on

Kunle Awosiyan

climate change as the real threat, a few other studies and experts opinions observed that the rate at which people sink boreholes and engage in sand dredging may sink part of Lagos earlier than as predicted.

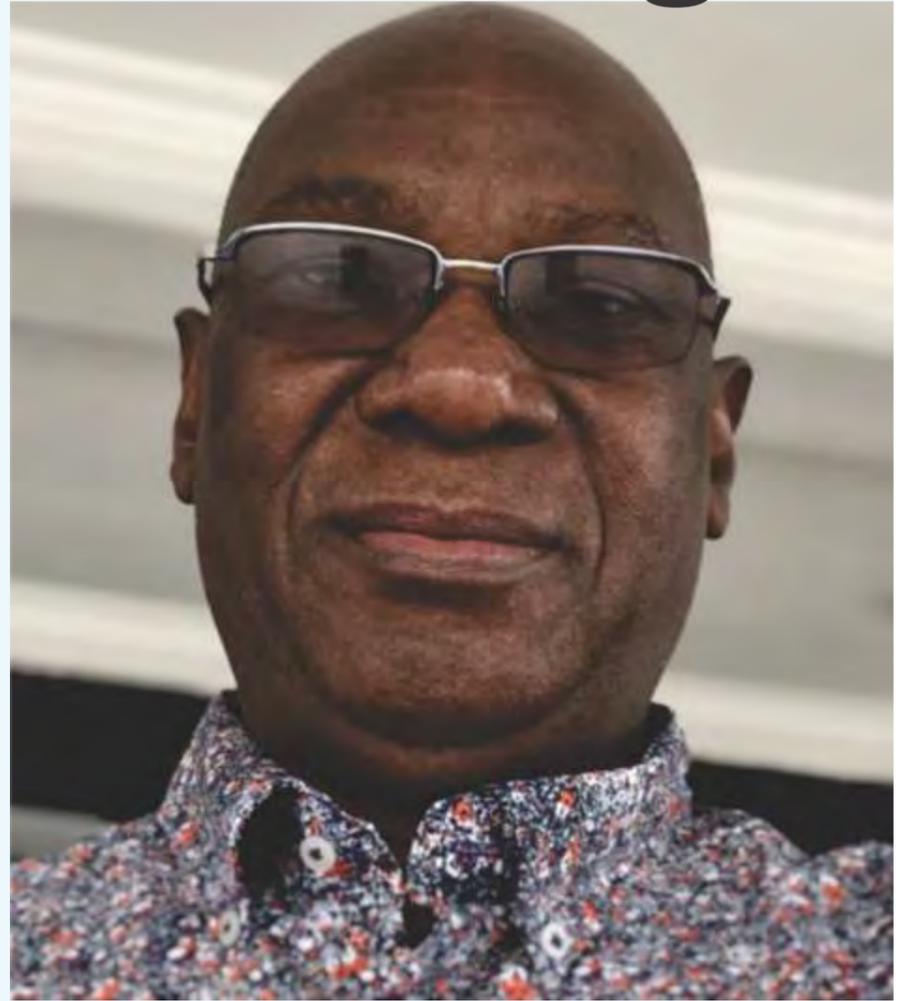
The coastal areas in Lagos include Lekki, Victoria Island, Ikoyi and Lagos Island. While almost all the buildings in these areas were built on sand-filled foundation, Echonews observed that most of them had borehole sunk in the premises.

According to a renowned Engineering Geologist, Professor Tamunoene Kingdom Simeon Abam, much of the dredging that is done in Lagos is done in the coastal area. He said, "These are areas we have a lot of compressible material. The land is not usable at its primary condition but they elevate it above the natural level by placing sands over it." To him, when one places sand on compressible

materials, it creates consolidation settlement. "With this, it reduces the level and make it more vulnerable to flooding. With climate change, ice melts, contributes to rise in sea level. The coastal area receives constant flooding. With some places already above sea level, it will increase their vulnerability to flooding. And those places that had been reclaimed may suffer increased flooding. In other word, water level that should not ordinarily constitute a flooding will begin to do so."

Abam explained that there were places where borehole drilling had created excessive abstraction. He stated that in the hope of extracting water or oil, human activities had created what he called ground subsidence.

As he put it, Land subsidence occurs when large amounts of groundwater have been withdrawn from certain types of rocks, such as fine-grained sediments. The rock compacts because the water is partly



, Tamunoene Kingdom Simeon Abam

responsible for holding the ground up. When the water is withdrawn, the rocks fall in on itself. He stated that over extraction of groundwater due to the activities of borehole drillers will lead to the sinking of the ground itself. "In Lagos where you have heavy industry that

utilizes large amount of water, it will induce subsidence that increases vulnerability to flooding. It can also lead to saline water infusion into the body of freshwater.

Abam noted that over-extraction of water would distort the balance between the fresh and saline water, leading to interface and salinization of the fresh water.

Recall that a former president of the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society Chief Alabo Charles had called the attention of government to indiscriminate drilling of boreholes due to lack of pipe-borne water. At a conference by the society, Charles said that unregulated access to water reservoirs on the ground is dangerous to the existence of the cities. "We are even lucky in Nigeria that the underground

water reservoirs do not have sinkholes", he said.

To him, unregulated sinking of boreholes has become an all-comers game, adding that "there is need for government to rise up to the challenge of regulating the system. "Indiscriminate sinking of boreholes is a failure of government to provide potable drinking water for members of the public".

However, Abam said that sinkhole can collapse to cause a bigger disaster that can sink a whole city. He describes sinkhole as limestone formation, an underground cavity which can collapse and lead to subsidence. Sinkhole is an aquifer that releases the water and when water is over-extracted from it, the aquifer can collapse.



Borehole Threatens Lagos

Speaking, a Water Engineer and Production Director, Lagos State Water Corporation, Engr. Olufemi Ewumi said that borehole drilling will definitely affect the aquifer and dredging will remove the wall of the aquifer. "As time goes on, there will be no enough water underground," he said. However, he noted that government is in control of borehole drilling and dredging and that no company or home can just drill the ground for water without approval by Lagos government.

Lagos government has since criminalised drilling boreholes without permit. The Environmental law stipulates a prison term or fine for residents who drill boreholes without government authorisation.

The legislation also criminalises sale or distribution of water by container, tanker, or any other method without a valid license issued by the Department of Water Resources.

However, six years after the state House of Assembly passed the bill, it has not been signed into law. Investigation revealed that the current administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu could now sign it into law because of the same reason by his predecessor, Akinwunmi Ambode that unless the state government can provide potable water, it will harsh to introduce such law.

Reacting, said that efforts to control illegal dredging are being put in place and that the government had been engaging dredgers over this.

He said that the Lagos state government would not tolerate such criminality, saying he had since conveyed the message to the dredgers that it would not be business as usual.

"We have a meeting with Dredgers' Association of Nigeria, Lagos State chapter. The meeting was called to seek the cooperation of the association in enforcing guidelines regulating dredging activities and to declare Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration's zero tolerance for illegal dredging operations.

The commissioner said though the meeting was a familiarisation forum to interact with members of the association and get first-hand information on how dredging activities can be improved upon with the view to maintaining the state's waterfronts and prevent environmental degradation.

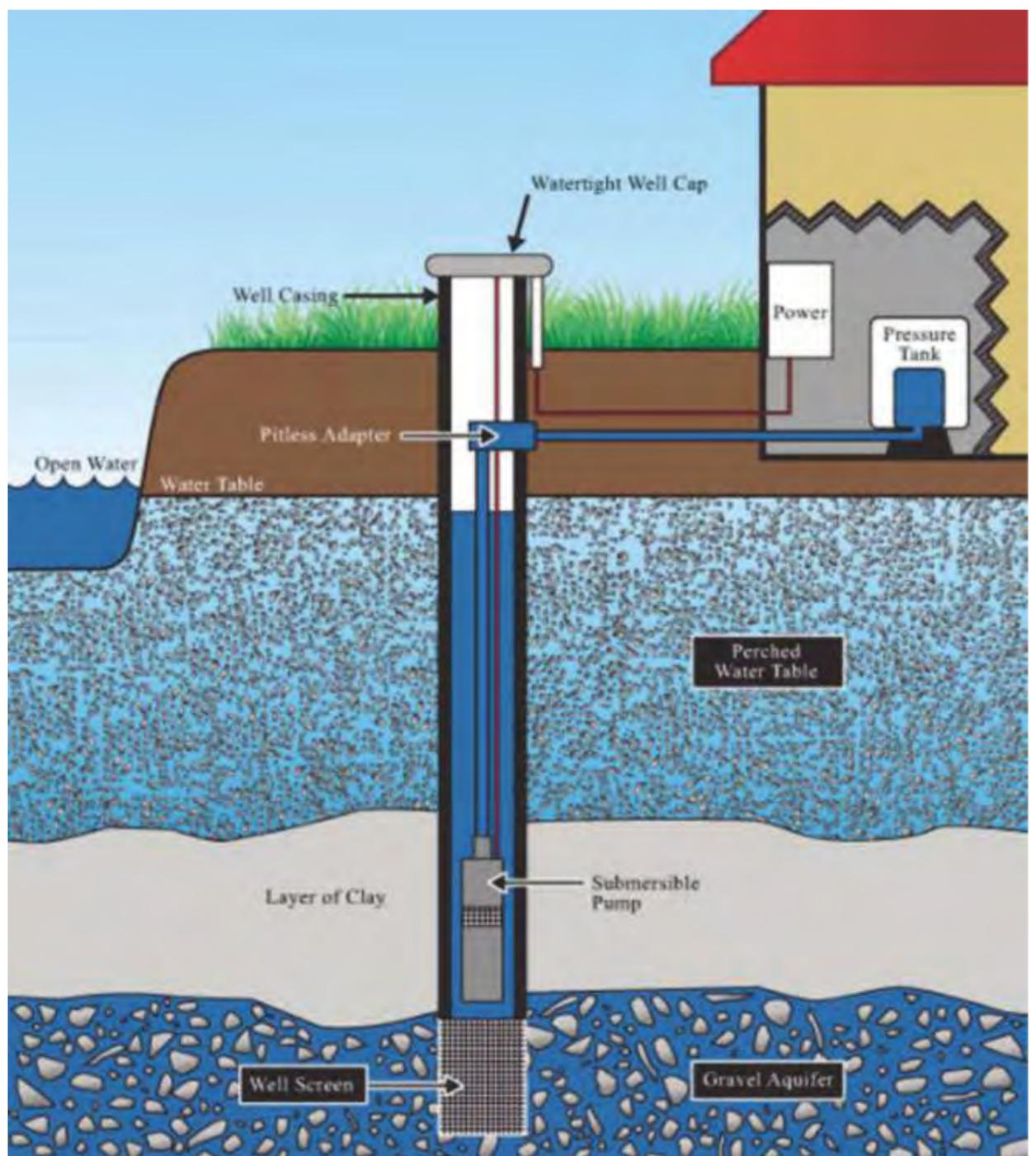
While soliciting their support in sanitising dredging activities in the state, Dayo Bush-Alebiosu disclosed that the state would not condone the spate of illegal dredging activities being carried out in every nook and cranny of the state.

Alebiosu also expressed the readiness of government officials to begin enforcement activities soon, saying that anybody caught violating dredging laws and regulations of the state will be prosecuted.

In his response, the President of the association, Mr Bature Akpomejoro, pledged his support and cooperation to the state government in getting rid of illegal dredgers in the state.



Lagos Commissioner for Waterfront, Dayo Bush-Alebiosu





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N250m Loan Will Be Accessed By Those Who Meet Criteria - Ajala

By Saheed Afolabi



Ajala

The chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Rasaq Ajala has revealed that the 250 million naira loan to be

accessed by residents is still intact and will be given to those who meet the criteria. The council boss

applauded the new CDC excos and promised them that Nigeria President, Bola Tinubu will soon put an end to the economic hardships presently experienced in the country.

He promised to continue to represent the people of the Constituency well and have programs that will better their lots in due course.

Ajala appreciated the CDC for supporting the party at the last election and for their unwavering support his administration has been receiving from them.

"What we are doing today is a testament or demonstration of the political philosophy of good governance at all levels of governance in our dear state

"We are here to appreciate you, to thank you, and more

importantly to celebrate with you on your emergence as leaders of our various communities," he stated.

He acknowledged the hard economic situation in the country.

"We can not live in denial that all is well economically, we share your pains, we know what you are going through

"But be rest assured that at the end of the tunnels, there shall be the light."

He acknowledged the difficulties the parents are going through after sending their children to tertiary institutions in the belief that they would be gainfully employed after their education.

He stated that he understood their disappointment as the belief is that they would reap what they have sowed by sending them to school and getting jobs after they graduated which is often not the case.

He told the gathering that the president of the country, Tinubu is building a sustainable template that would outlive his government.

"All these while, we have been living a fake life, living a life that can not position our country in the committee of the developed nation.

"For the first time, we have a man with the greater mission with the capacity to ensure we get it right once and for all," he stated.

He promised that all these would be the things of the past with various interventions from all tiers of the government which would manifest and return us to the old times when our graduates would be able to secure jobs after their education.

He made an announcement of a grant to the people of the LCDA to cushion the effect of the subsidy removal which informed the astronomical increase in the price of

commodities.

He further stated that the two hundred and fifty million loan he promised is still intact and shall be open for the people of the LCDA who meet the criteria to access the loan before the end of the year.

"A maximum of one million naira shall be available for the people for access which shall be strictly monitored for compliance

"Forms for the loan shall be out soon for the people of the LCDA," he stated.

He also told the gathering that visitation to the CDA shall commence soon to know how they are fairing in their communities.

He equally announced the commencement of 5 days of a Free health mission where eye surgery shall be carried out and glasses shall be distributed freely to the people.

"I am happy to inform you that there shall henceforth be the end-of-the-year party for the people of the LCDA."

Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA Boss Charges Parents To Monitor Their Kids

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Rasaq Ajala has charged parents in Mushin to monitor the movements and educational progress of their children.

The high rate of cultism have been rooted to non parental care of children in the community.

Ajala tasks parents to wake up to their responsibility in improving the lives of their children by playing their roles effectively in monitoring the movements and educational progress of the kids.

The council boss urges parents not to desert their children school but make frequent visit to the school to get adequate feedbacks

from their kids teachers.

"It is high time parent realized their roles in improving the standard of education in Mushin, Lagos, and Nigeria at large, as the government is trying their best to meet up with the provision of amenities in our schools, the parents should play their roles at home and in school by making sure that their children are doing their homework and reading their books not allowing to move about aimlessly," he said.

"They should be visiting the school to know how their children are doing, the type of friends their children keep and feedback from the teachers on the children.

"A lot is currently going



Ajala

on in our schools these days which is a reflection of our society today, you can imagine a boy of 8 years old joining a cult group in

our primary school." Ajala further added that, if parents do the needful on their children, it will be difficult for their

children to toe the wrong part.

"When parents check on the wards school bags, exercise books and visit the school to have feedback on the

children from the teachers, even a child on a wrong path can easily and collectively be monitored and disciplined for better."

Lawmaker, Joseph, Commits Self To Education Empowerment

By Edith Igbokwe

A Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Alimosho Constituency II who doubles as the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Account (State), Hon. Kehinde Joseph, has reiterated his commitment towards education in his legislature as he gives a scholarship to students in higher institutions. He said "As it is, there is no better way to empower people than through the education of their children. When you give money, it will certainly finish, and they may still be poor, and when you buy cars or motorcycles for

people, they will one day run out of fuel and come back for more assistance, but when you give their children education, you are setting them free and empowering them to become greater even more than yourself. That is what I have just done because educational empowerment is the greatest empowerment." He urged the recipients to make use of the opportunities given to achieve a better future for themselves, as education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to



Joseph's complaint on Dilapidated Roads Across State

change the world.

One of the beneficiaries, Lasisi Barakat lfeoluwa, who enrolled into the Higher National Diploma Programme to study Accounting, thanked the State Lawmaker for investing in education, assuring that she would ensure to make the Constituency, community, family, and Sponsor proud. One of the recipients'

parents, Mr. Azeez A. Amusa stated that the generous disposition to humanity by the founder was highly commendable, and such a spirit is required in the society. He emphasized that education is the surest path towards eradication of poverty, underdevelopment, and insecurity in the country.

He noted that the sector remains top of his Legislative priorities in the State Assembly. The State Lawmaker noted that educational sector is the pillar upon which Nigeria will sustain economic development and urged for more budgetary allocation for education.

According to him, through YES K

Foundation has given scholarship opportunities to five hundred (500) students in his Constituency to study at Aries Polytechnic – Ibadan, with acceptance, academic and mobility fees, fully serviced.

He expressed that education is the bedrock of society and that no nation can progress beyond its investment in the sector.

He said: "Leadership is about making impacts while in office, and those impacts last long after you have left office because, without that, you have failed in leadership. This is one of the reasons I have decided to play positive roles in changing the status quo in my capacity.

Famuyiwa Monitors Oke - Odo Market Sanitation Exercise

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman, Agbado Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. David Famuyiwa witnessed Oke-Odo Market sanitation exercise as it was marred with unhygienic activities of traders who have consistently violated environmental laws. The visit follows the re-opening of Oke-Odo Market that was earlier closed by the Lagos State Ministry of Environment due to indiscriminate dumping of refuse and poor hygienic practices by the traders in the market. As the chairman addressed market leaders, he expressed satisfaction with the current sanitation exercise witnessed in the market and enjoined them to maintain the tempo of cleanliness.

He reiterated that anyone found breaching environmental laws would face the wrath of the law while urging them to ensure the clean condition of the environment, just as he implored motorists to adhere strictly to the rules of parking their vehicles properly to avoid unnecessary traffic in the market area. Famuyiwa said his administration will continue to review the exercise to address areas that need to be improved, most especially the market roads and drainages. He further stated that the Sanitation Officers of the Council will continue to observe and ensure that all measures to keep the market clean and hygienic are maintained in their day-to-day activities. The Chairman also

emphasised the need to put in place waste bins by the market leaders while mandating everyone to imbibe the culture of proper disposal of refuse for pick-up by waste managers, as dumping them in inappropriate places will no longer be tolerated.

Some of the traders, who participated in the exercise, commended the efforts of the Chairman and his entourage and expressed enthusiasm to play their part in ensuring a cleaner Oke-Odo Market.

Council officials who accompanied the chairman include the Secretary to the Local Government, Chief Akinwumi Odeyemi, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Hon. Yinka Folarin, the HOD Environmental Services, Mrs. Okeowo Olubunmi, and the Sanitation Officers of the LCDA.



Famuyiwa monitors

Iba LCDA Chairman, APC Ward Chairmen Set Development Agenda

By Edith Igbokwe



Iba ward Chairmen Dialogue with LCDA Chairman

The chairman, Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Yisa Jubril has organised a meet with the All Progressives Congress (APC) Ward Chairmen across the five political wards of Iba LCDA. They deliberated on how to work collectively for the development of the LCDA. Jubril, the immediate past APC LGA Youth Leader of Iba LCDA was

pleased to receive the Chairmen in his office as he fraternize and consociate with them at length. The first Chairman of Ojo Local Government, Alhaji Isiaka Ajakaiye met the grassroots managers at the Council Chairman's office and encourage them not to rest on their oars in taking the party to greater heights. He also eulogized and showered encomiums on jubril for his

commendable leadership attributes/ traits and his accessible style. He noted that only antagonist will deny Jubril's commendable performance and his tireless efforts which has brought Iba LCDA to the spotlight for positivities. He prayed for his more success and for victory over his known and unknown enemies, antagonists and adversaries as he christened him 'IWA' (Good Character) in Yoruba language.

Cassidy Residents Appreciate Iba LCDA Chairman's Water Project

By Edith Igbokwe

Cassidy community in Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) and surrounding communities in Ward E have expressed their gratitude to Iba LCDA Chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril for the provision of Solar-powered treated portable water under construction. According to Jubril, the essence of the project is to deliver dividends of democracy to all communities. He said the project would address the gaps and challenges that traders and residents face in accessing safe and clean water in the



Ongong Water project in Iba LCDA

aforementioned areas. "Water is a basic need", The Chairman

urged the market associations and residents of the areas to

take ownership of the project when completed adding that

they must ensure that they protect and preserve the project as

a collective property. He noted that the project is being handled by LABAIKA Nig. Ltd ably headed by the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Bakare Lamidi. He further stated that If there are any difficulties, the organization attention should be called for the benefits of all residents and traders. He assured that in no distant time the project will be ready for commissioning. The Inhabitants and Leaders of the Ward appreciated Jubril for his thoughtfulness of instituting such a project, saying it would go a long way in improving the sanitation and hygiene in the market spaces and areas in general.

Residents Applaud Oshodi-Council Boss, Promise Support

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Oshodi Isolo Local Council Government Area have reiterated their support to the Chairman of the council, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede.

The Residents who paid a courtesy visit to Oloyede in his office encourage him to keep putting the needs of the people first because they valued what he was doing and they firmly supported him.

Leading the delegation of elders to the Chairman office was Pastor Reuben Odunlami of End Time



Revival Church who said the visit to the council chairman was necessary because of the significant road projects the council chairman has undertaken, how he has completely revamped the local

government, and how he has made the road network inside the market areas efficient and accessible.

Meanwhile the Chairman guaranteed the elders during the visit that infrastructure project would be

distributed equally throughout the local government.

The council boss assured that other areas within the local government would equally enjoy road projects. He disclosed that some roads had been identified at

Shogunle, Mafoluku, Afariogun, Ewutuntun and the Ogunoloko wards of the local government.

He implored the residents of the areas to exercise little patience as they will soon see contractors moving to their

respective areas. Oloyede also appreciated the elders for their visit and said that it gave him a boost of morale. He also said that because of his promise during the campaign, he is determined to give back to the community through programs that focus on helping people.

Over 200 Pupils In Ejigbo LCDA Benefit From Free Customised T-Shirts

Kehinde Adeleye



the people fully to ensure that only what is needed is taken and that all affected businesses are given somewhere else to use. He has therefore asked for their full cooperation.

On Ailegun and Double Powerline/Kayode Roads, which were initially submitted to the State Government as part of the 114 Roads to be reconstructed, the Chairman explained that it would no longer be reconstructed now, due to the length and width. The Local Council has been asked to instead pick two roads of lesser length and width.

Hence, Ajiboye Street at the end of Aigbaka and Sule Egba Road in Fadu Ward have been picked.

The Local Council has promised to work on Double Star Road in Jakande Estate in 2024.

Oloyede also appreciated the efforts of his predecessor, the immediate past Council Chairman, Hon. Kehinde Bamgbetan (KOK), for his struggles and efforts, especially on Roads like Canoe and NNPC/Lafenwa Road.

The Palliative Stakeholders Meeting had in attendance: the Executive Chairman and his tripartite team (the Legislative, the Executive, and Management Teams), the immediate past CDC and CDA Excos, CDA members, the Chairman and representatives of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), representatives of the Muslims Community, the Iyaloja and Babaloja of Jakande Market, the Disabled, and some other members of the community.

All Stakeholders have been charged to encourage their people to pay their rates and levies as when due so that more people-oriented projects can be carried out.

The Pupil of Akinsanya Ajalolu Primary School have benefitted from the free distribution of customised T-shirts from Alh. Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello, Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area.

He said that the pupils would wear the personalized t-shirts until their uniforms were ready. Remember that the Local Council built the school and gave it to the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), which is situated next to the Ilamoshe Ward, January 27 bus stop.

Before instructors were finally deployed, the Council's Education Department workers served as teachers for the first few weeks of the academic session in September.

The Council Boss has also assured residents of the council that he would distribute cash gifts as palliative soon.

This is to cushion the effect of the removal of fuel subsidies and other harsh economic realities.

Twenty Thousand Naira (#20,000.00) would be given to Two Thousand (2,000) people, for a total of Forty Million Naira (#40,000,000.00), according to Oloyede, who was speaking at a

Olasoju Giant Stride In Health Sector in Isolo LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye



Olasoju who took oath of office as the Chairman of Isolo LCDA two years ago wasted no time in revealing his lofty plans for the council area's development, including the development of the health sector.

In his Social Contract with the people titled "Towards the Isolo of our dreams," he made it plain from the beginning that the residents' welfare and healthy living are essential to the accomplishment of his envisioned larger and flourishing Isolo LCDA.

In order to improve the quality of the health care system at the community level, the Council's health sector was revitalized with a focus on the primary health centers that fall under the jurisdiction of the local government.

The project included extensive renovations as well as the provision of the facilities necessary for efficient and effective delivery.

In addition to this, however various medical outreach initiatives and health programs have been launched to increase access to and capacity for high-quality healthcare.

Topping the list is Monthly Care for the Elderly, which offers free medical diagnosis and medication for a

variety of illnesses, including arthritis, dental problems, cervical cancer, and hypertension among others.

Other health initiatives that have been made in the area include;

1. The Relaunch JIGI Bola which covered different medical issues with over 2,000 attendants
2. Partnership with Bruderhilfe Germany (NGO) to support pregnant women
3. Facilitation of the launching of Lagos State Government's Mother, Infant, and Child Development (MICHD) and other medical outreach carried out in the council.
4. Regular health program for Pregnant and nursing mothers

Over 2000 citizens received treatment and diagnoses as part of a recent medical outreach program by the council authority to mark the two-year anniversary of the Olasoju-led administration's tenure in power.

The advancement in healthcare delivery can be attributed to the fact that many diagnoses are accompanied by long-lasting medications, while complex health conditions are referred to the General Hospital with the council authority bearing financial responsibility.

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area Adebayo Olasoju giant stride in the health sector to see that the people of Isolo LCDA get dividends of democracy as regarding health facilities can not be over emphasized.

Olasoji has always said that his vision is to make Isolo LCDA an enviable community with top-notch socioeconomic infrastructure and facilities to meet the needs and aspirations of the people for good governance to thrive has captured the attention of grassroots government on an unheard-of scale.

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Lagos Govt Clamps Down on Illegal Structures around Waterfront



(Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Yacoob Ekundayo Alebiosu, with some developers)

The Lagos State Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Yacoob Ekundayo Alebiosu, has issued a Stop-Work order on illegally built structures at Oyinkan Abayomi, Ikoyi, in the Eti-Osa Local Government Area of the State, pending a review of any prior regulatory licences that may have been granted.

The Commissioner issued the order during an inspection trip to several development sites along the

waterfront corridor across the State, noting that the development violates the State's regulations. He added that the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration would not tolerate any act of illegality, lawlessness, or disregard for

established waterfront regulatory guidelines.

In his words, "The State Government's attention has been directed to the large unlawful development projects that have destroyed the area's desirable waterfront scenery, putting the entire environment at

risk of erosion and degradation".

The Commissioner, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Kehinde Gbajumo and other top officials of the Ministry also visited Orange Island, Ostia Island, Okun-Ajah Scheme and Okera-NIa Jetty to inspect ongoing projects and schemes.

Lagos NYSC Coordinator, Baderinwa, Lauds Govt For Supporting Scheme

The Lagos State Coordinator of the National Youth Service Corp (NYSC), Mrs. Yetunde Baderinwa has led members of her team to pay a courtesy visit to the new Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Hon. Olugbenga Oyerinde at his office in Alausa.

The NYSC Coordinator, Mrs. Yetunde Baderinwa noted that the state government has always been supportive of the scheme by ensuring the welfare of both the staff and serving corp members in the state. She particularly appreciated the Honorable Commissioner for his participation in the NYSC@50 years event held at Abuja, while also noting his extensive contributions to the discussion at the event.

Baderinwa, who assured the state of the institution's commitment to the success of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, submitted that the



... Lauds LASG for Supporting Growth of Scheme in Lagos

NYSC in the state is interested in making an impact in development sectors including education, rural communities, youth engagement, women empowerment and agriculture amongst others.

While noting that the scheme in the state has not made much impact in agriculture, she revealed that the institution has farmland in Itokin area of the state and appealed to the state government for support in its operation.

The Coordinator along with her team presented Commissioner Oyerinde with a congratulatory card for his appointment.

Receiving the team, Oyerinde appreciated the delegation for the warm reception accorded him and the Permanent Secretary during the NYSC@50 programme held recently in Abuja.

He referenced his discussion with Mrs. Baderinwa at the event, affirming Mr. Governor's commitment to the development of the permanent orientation camp in Lagos.

According to him, the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of the present administration is primarily centred towards youth emancipation, women empowerment, and other social intervention initiatives, saying "We are sincerely committed to making a meaningful impact in the life of our youths irrespective of where they come from".

"Lagos is known for excellence, we plan to construct a befitting permanent orientation camp with top-notch facilities for an excellent experience for corp members", he said.

The Commissioner also expressed the desire of the state government to improve on the partnership with the NYSC to eradicate social vices such as advanced fee fraud popularly known as 419, the proliferation of hard drugs, rape, kidnapping, internet scam and other social vices.

Other members of staff of the Ministry present during the visit include the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, who was represented by Mr. Wale Aguda; Director of Administration and Human Resources; Director of Public Affairs; Mrs. Tinuade Aiyegbusi and Director of General Services, Mr. Samuel Dosunmu.

Waterfront Commissioner Assures Lagosians of Delivery of Quality Projects

The Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Hon. Yacoob Ekundayo Alebiosu has continued his tour of ongoing projects under the Ministry with inspection of project sites along the Badagry Division of the State. Speaking at the site of the ongoing Apa jetty, Hon. Alebiosu reiterated the State Government's commitment to delivering quality and durable waterfront infrastructure to the citizens of the State.

He stated that the monitoring of projects and assessment tour of facilities under the purview of the Ministry will be a continuous exercise to ensure

prompt delivery of assigned projects, ensuring the projects are completed according to specifications while being mindful of the highest safety standards.

Hon. Alebiosu enjoined contractors handling the Ministry's projects to use the best materials as the use of substandard materials would not be tolerated by the Ministry. He also warned that any

contractor found wanting would be disengaged and blacklisted.

The Commissioner, who was accompanied on the tour by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Kehinde Gbajumo and other Management staff of the Ministry, also visited the VIP Chalet Jetty Badagry, Badagry Marina reclamation and shoreline protection project along the Badagry and Ilashe Periwinkle corridor.



(Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Hon. Yacoob Ekundayo Alebiosu during his assessment tour)

Demolition at Lekki II: Govt Vows Not To Be Selective In Enforcing Law



... As Commissioner, Officials Visit Scene of Ongoing Demolitions at Lekki II

The Lagos State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, on Friday, declared that the Government would not be selective in its application of the law to residents, but ensure justice and fairness to all.

He stated this after his visit, alongside other State officials, to Lekki II Ikota Drainage Channel corridors where structures built on the drainage channel are

being demolished for an on-the-spot assessment.

Wahab, who was besieged by pleading occupants and owners of the fully built structures constructed on the drainage setbacks and already marked for demolition, said stopping the demolition exercise at this point would amount to a double standard.

The Commissioner added the demolished block of duplexes was on the same

drainage setback alignment as the ones yet to be removed and that the State is irrevocably committed to reclaiming its drainage setback and restoring the masterplan.

He explained that it is sad that the State Government had to take the very difficult decision to pull down the fully built-up structures to reclaim the drainage setback for the free flow of stormwater in the area.

He stressed that the owners of the structures demolished in Ikota were aware that they had contravened and have had different engagements with the Ministry from 2020 when most of the structures were at foundation levels and several notices were served.

"At Ikota, the level of encroachments is just unimaginable, people have built on the canal path and we resolved that these

nuisances cannot be allowed to continue. It just had to stop", he said.

Wahab said he made it a point of duty to visit the Ikota site once again and personally meet the owners of the structures yet to go down and advise them to vacate the building before the demolition exercise moves to their end because no amount of entreaties will stop the exercise.

"We have gone round and we concluded that all houses on the canal path and on those on the canal itself must be removed and the path recreated to discharge into Ikota River", he said.

The Commissioner also visited Victoria Garden City (VGC) in Lekki where some homeowners extended their approved plots beyond the five-metre buffer Zone of VGC. He said that the

extension will be pulled down to allow water to flow freely into the Lagoon, saying "We cannot be brazen in our illegality and be brazen in our nonchalant attitude to the environment, it has to end, illegality cannot beget legality".

He said the Government had hitherto toed the line of Advocacy but the people have refused to change hence reasons why enforcement action has to be taken to make corrections where necessary.

Wahab averred that homeowners should ensure that they seek and obtain drainage approval alongside other approvals before embarking on their building projects to avert such a situation.

people cannot blame the government for what they

Lagos Govt Provides Two 500 KVA Transformers For Ikorodu Communities

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Lagos State Government has taken a significant step towards rural electrification by providing two 500 KVA transformers for communities in Ikorodu.

These transformers have been installed at Yologbo Estate in Igbe and Alagbe Communities, addressing a pressing need for electricity supply in these areas.

Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni Agbaje, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development,



emphasized the importance of these transformers in improving the living conditions of the

residents.

They are expected to benefit over 400 households in the region, aligning with

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's vision of transforming rural areas into semi-urban communities, ultimately contributing

to the modernization of Lagos State.

Dr. Agbaje underscored the government's dedication to bringing essential services to rural communities, including rural electrification, access to clean water, and road infrastructure.

He urged residents to take ownership of these facilities and protect them from vandalism, recognizing their role in community development.

Chief Samson Saliu Odubote Odujare, Baale of Igbe Land, expressed gratitude for

the government's commitment to rural electrification, assuring that the facility would be safeguarded for the community's benefit.

Similarly, Mr. Kolawole Wasiu, Chairman of Upright CDA, Agbade, Ikorodu North LCDA, acknowledged the significance of this initiative, marking the first time in months that the communities would have access to electricity.

He pledged the community's commitment to ensuring the transformer's security and its positive use for all residents.

Lawmaker, Moshood, Partners Public Works To Fix Ikorodu Roads

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In an effort to address the deplorable road conditions in Ikorodu Constituency II, Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun, the representative in the Lagos State House of Assembly, has forged a strategic partnership with the Lagos State Public Works Corporation (LSPWC).

This collaboration aims to initiate vital road palliative measures, ensuring improved transportation and safety for residents in the constituency.

The Media aide to the lawmaker, Mr. Kabir Rasaq, disclosed that the partnership is already underway, with the grading of Ire One road, Agunfe, and the launch of palliative measures on Ijede, Igboya, and Ewu-Owa roads.

Notably, this endeavor signifies Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun's dedication to enhancing the road infrastructure and mobility in Ikorodu Constituency II.

The palliative efforts will further extend to critical areas, including Emily Junction, Macaulay Junction, Community Grammar School Junction, the continuation of Ijede Road, Abule Eko Igboya Road, and Banjoko area. These endeavors underscore the lawmaker's commitment to the constituency's welfare. Additionally, Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun is collaborating with fellow legislators in the Lagos State House of Assembly to address the deteriorating state of roads across Lagos State.

In a recent development, the House members have collectively resolved to invite the LSPWC for discussions to find solutions and alleviate the suffering of residents due to poor road conditions.

Recognizing the urgency of this issue, the Assembly is actively

working to expedite the resolution of ongoing road construction projects across the state, including Adeboluwa-Bola Ahmed-Igbe Road, Obafemi Awolowo Way-Baiyeku road, and Gberigbe road. Their aim is to improve commuter convenience and boost regional economic growth.

In response to these concerns, the Lagos State House of Assembly is taking proactive measures by inviting key government officials for discussions on the pressing need for enhanced road infrastructure.

This includes the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure, Adeyinka Lukmon, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, and other relevant government representatives. Officials from the Public Works Corporation (PWC) will also be part of these discussions



Aro Moshood

Badagry LG Boss Frowns At Rampant Drug Abuse Among Youths

By Saheed Afolabi

Badagry Local Government chairman, Olusegun Onilude has frowned at the incessant abuse of drugs among the youths in the community. Badagry Local government organized a one-day workshop on War Against Drug Abuse in conjunction with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). The event was held at the council premises with participants drawn from public and private schools across Badagry. The council boss said the rate at which youths were abusing drugs is at an alarming rate and noted all stakeholders



must put all hands on desk to stop the menace. "The rate at which our youths are consuming all manner of drugs for

whatever reason is alarming," he said. "From the statistics at my disposal, we are sitting on bags of grenades if we do not

rein in the availability and indiscriminate consumption of drugs. This is why we organized this forum for our students. I want to

thank the personnel of the NDLEA for the good job they have been doing in this regard. And we will

continue to partner with them to enlighten and educate our youths on the dangers of drug abuse."

The NDLEA Deputy Area Commander On Drug Reduction, Ighekpe Ojojo cautioned students on the abuse of drugs and other harmful substances while the Area Command and PRO of the agency, Orekoya Afolabi enlightened participants on Drug Abuse with samples of the drugs on display to further educate the students and general public.

In attendance were political stakeholders, cabinet members and management team of the council, teachers, the NUT, and students across Badagry.

Free GCE Forms: Onilude Plans To Make Education Accessible

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Badagry Local Government, Olusegun Onilude has revealed that the purpose of the free GCE forms is to make education accessible to the residents. The council boss has reiterated his administration's commitment to providing educational opportunities to students in the community. Onilude said, this is the fifth consecutive year that his administration has been disbursing free GCE forms to senior secondary students in the local government. "We have made it our priority to give opportunity to every student willing to study

the impetus they need," he said.

"This is one of our interventions to achieve our aim. In the last 5 years, we have shared over 1,000 forms for students in our bid to make education accessible to as many students as we can. We don't just give out these forms, we also monitor the performance of the beneficiaries and I can tell you that ninety percent of the beneficiaries has done creditable well and are in various higher institutions today.

"With this, I implore this year's beneficiaries to make the best use of this opportunity by doing well in their examinations."

The Supervisor for education, Sewede Balogun appreciated



the council chairman for prioritizing the educational development of residents through procurement of GCE forms among other

laudable initiatives his administration has embarked on since inception.

"One of the things that has endeared the chairman to his people

is his love for education and human capacity development. And I want to tell those who have benefited from the free GCE form

this year that the best way to encourage the chairman to do more is for them to perform outstandingly in the forthcoming examinations."

LASRRA Officers Meet Igando-Ikotun CDC

Executive

Kehinde Adeleye

Mr. Oladipo Idowu, a representative of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency in the Igando-Ikotun LCDA, visited the meeting of the executive officers of the Igando Ikotun CDC to inform them of the necessity of visiting the LASRRA office for the review or upgrading of their LASRRA registration.

Mr. Idowu advised the community leaders to work with LASSRA by encouraging the members of their

various Community Development Associations in each of the wards to attend the LASRRA registration review.

The CDC Chairman asked about possible situations in which the CDC/CDA members would receive a unique registration device that would register our members within the CDC Office for prompt response.

It may not be possible to have a separate registration facility for CDC/CDA members due to insufficient registration equipment, but Mr.



Oladipo Idowu assures that anyone visiting his the community leaders office from the CDC/CDA

will receive particular and prompt care. He expresses gratitude to the CDC Executives for allowing him to speak to them.

Agbado/Oke-odo: 42 Students Funded By Olamide Obtain Seven Credits In NECO

Kehinde Adeleye

No fewer than 42 students of Aagbado/Oke-Odo Local Council Development area funded by a councillor, Fadipe Fisayo Olamide for NECO obtained seven credits.

Fadipe Fisayo Olamide a local councillor and the Deputy Chief Whip of Agbado/Oke-odo who is also the House Committee Chairman on education facilitated free NECO for the students. All the students made a minimum of Seven credits in the just released examination results by the examination body.

Olamide a member of the All Progressives Party (APC) who represents Ward D, Abule Egba is a young

and energetic lawmaker passionate about education.

Echonews gathered that a few months back, he had lobbied Olayinka Olasoji a party faithful, and convinced him of the importance of education, especially the scholarship scheme.

Olasoji who had complete trust in the lawmaker said he agreed to start the Princess Victoria Oyenike Olasoji Memorial Scholarship Scheme to help the young student achieve their dreams now and in the future.

Olamide explained that Olasoji gave him the go-ahead to organize a committee that comprises one committee member



from each of the seven wards in Agbado Oke-Odo.

Five (5) forms were shared to each of the seven (7) wards and the remaining forms were given to the party body.

A successful screening from each ward was conducted where successful candidates from each ward sat for the exams and all the candidates had a minimum of 7 credits. Fadipe being a

passionate Educationist on October 18th, 2023 organized a meeting with both parents and candidates of the scholarship scheme which was tagged "AFTER NECO! WHAT

NEXT?"

I want to monitor the exams and also find other means to secure free Jamb form for the students so that we can catch them young and plan for them for the future he said.

Ogundimu Hosts Newly Elected Executive Council Members of Agege Sports Club

Kehinde Adeleye

Mr. Yinka Ogundimu, the former lawmaker who represented Agege Constituency II between 2011 and 2023 at the Lagos State House of Assembly has hosted the newly elected members of Agege Sport Club at his roomy and tranquil YBII Farms Resort, Kobape Abeokuta.

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, the Agege Sports Club wrapped off its annual retreat, during which new Executive Council members were inaugurated to oversee club operations for the ensuing two years.

The two-day retreat is an annual retreat for members to connect, unwind, and refresh themselves and it came up on October 13 and 14, 2023 from Friday to Saturday.



The newly inaugurated Exco members are Stanley Adiele, President; Jamiu Ajiboye, Vice President; Oluseyi George, General Secretary; Collins Aladesanmi, Assistant General Secretary; Tajudeen

Tijani, Financial Secretary; Remi Aboderin, Public Relations Officer; Rasheed Ajayi, Treasurer; Felix Arauwou, Chief Whip; Kayode Alabi, Social Secretary; and Shola

Fetuga, Welfare Secretary. Highlights of the event included the gala dinner/induction of new members and the keynote address by Dr. L.T. Lawal, former Permanent Secretary,

Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, and Special Adviser on Health to Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun. Agege Sports Club is a multi-sports

organization that welcomes families and is committed to encouraging its members to have active and healthy lifestyles by offering them chances to participate in sports and physical activity.

30 Residents Of Agege Local Government Empowered With N100k Each

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Agege Local Government, Ganiyi Kola Egunjobi has empowered thirty residents with cash payments of one hundred thousand naira (N100,000) apiece for the month of October 2023.

Alhaja Aramide Abdulsalam, Supervisor for Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation, spoke on behalf of the council chief at the official presentation of cheques to the recipients on October 18, 2023, at the council's complex. She cautioned

recipients to use the fund wisely because it is intended to support new or expanding businesses.

Alhaja Abdulsalam remarked that High Chief Egunjobi, who started a monthly poverty alleviation program during his first term of office and is still doing so, is still committed to helping locals.

On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr. Yunusa Ismail (aka Lege) thanked the council chairman for the gesture, prayed for growth and development of entire Agege community.

NEMA Distribute Relief Material To Ojokoro Flood Victims

Kehinde Adeleye

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has distributed relief material to over 350 households/families affected by flood in Ojokoro Local Government of Lagos State. The distribution which took place at the council secretariat was handled by the Council Chairman Hammed Tijani who thanked the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for the distribution of relief materials to vulnerable households and victims of the June 5 flood in the council. The materials, which included rice, beans, ceiling board, roofing sheet, zinc nail, 3-inch nail, mattresses, nylon mats, blankets, wax print and bags of cement, among others, were distributed to beneficiaries to cushion the effect of the disaster.

The Council Chairman praised the quick action take by NEMA and the Lagos state Emergency Agency (LASEMA) in assessing the flood-affected regions on the spot. The areas included Oniyaomebi/Owolabi/Hanson streets, Alagbado; Famuyiwa/Manacula Estate, Alakuko; Agric Road/Abimbola Awoniyi Estate near Abattoir Canal; New Jerusalem/Gbeleyi/A mje Road, Alakuko; Adeola Almoruf/Opee Street, Jankara-Ijaiye and Agas Street, Alakuko, among others.

Tijani discussed the steps taken by the council's Environmental Services Department, including removal and carting away trash from drains to facilitate easy water flow; regular radio jingles to educate residents on how to

properly dispose of waste and maintain a clean environment; and other actions.

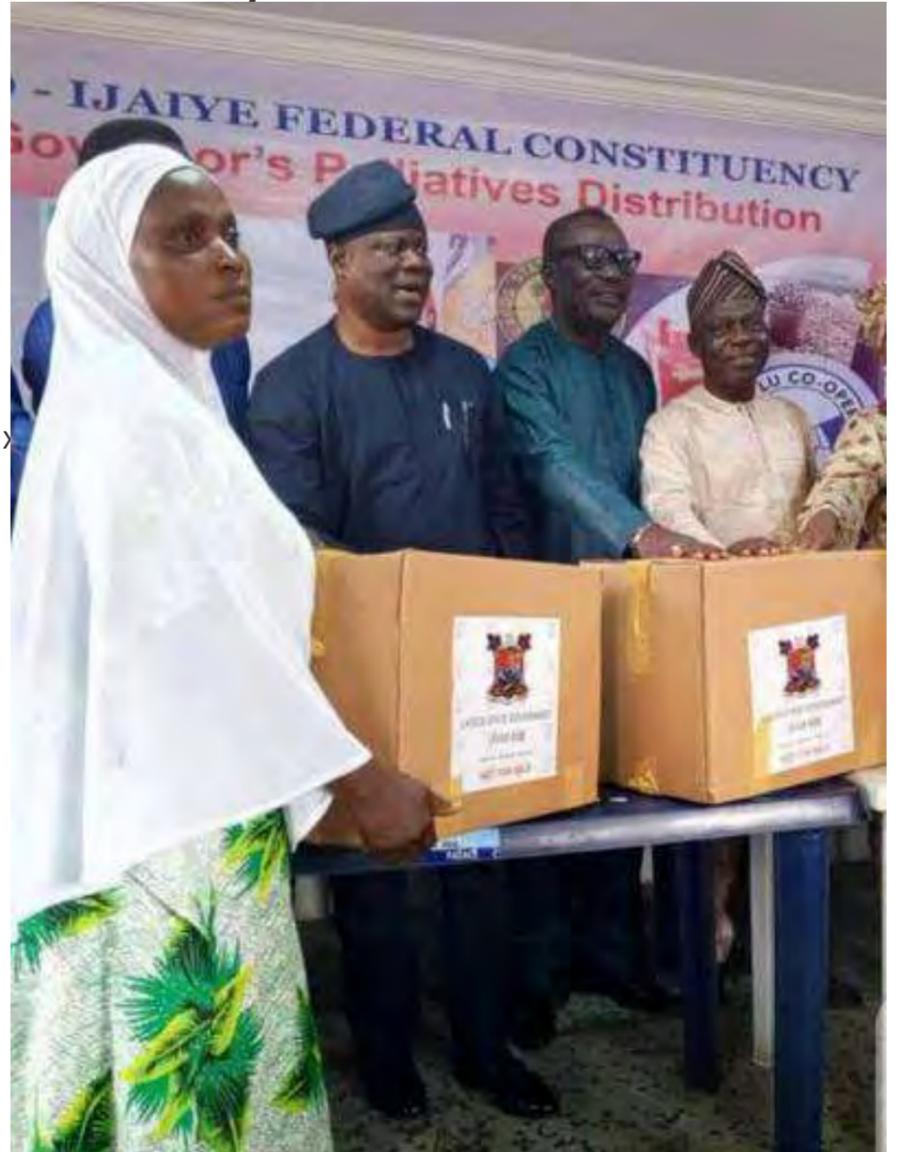
In order to ensure a cleaner environment, there were numerous community participation and advocacy efforts.

The chairman received accolades by Mrs. Adenike OgunKunle, director of general services for NEMA, for the actions done to prevent flooding in the Ojokoro neighborhood.

She promised that NEMA would keep aiding affected communities with supplies and support while promoting disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

Communities affected by flooding were given assurances by Ojokoro Council Manager Bola Adeyemi that certain routes had been submitted to the Lagos State Ministry of Works and that the required modalities will soon be in place.

"While we wait for the



necessary modalities to take place, we should desist from dumping refuse in drainage channels and

from building shanties along water and drainage channels so as to

prevent the reoccurrence of flooding, loss of lives, and prosperities," he stated.

Ojokoro, Ifako Ijaiye Residents Get Sanwo-Olu Palliative

Kehinde Adeleye

The Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure Adekunle Olayinka handed variety of food items to residents of the Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency, last week. The kind gesture of providing palliatives by the Lagos state government according to Olayinka is an effort to lessen the difficulties brought on by the recent federal government policy of eliminating fuel subsidies.

Without regard to a person's political or social affiliation, the food packs—each

including a 10 kilogram bag of rice, a 5 kg bag of beans, and a 5 kg bag of garri—were distributed to them across bars.

During the distribution at Irorun Ilu Community Centre House, Dr. Olayinka, conveyed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's empathy to the people affected by the fuel subsidy removal policy of the Federal government. He emphasized the importance of supporting vulnerable residents, particularly, the senior citizens, widows, orphans and other vulnerable classes, by providing them with the basic essentials as



palliatives. He urged the residents to maintain unity and calmness as brighter

days are ahead. Highlight of the event included free medical check-up for the

beneficiaries, with professional healthcare personnels of the Nigerian Nurses

Association were on ground to provide free medical services for constituents.

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Lagos Rallies Volunteer Groups on Environmental Conservation

The Lagos State Government on has rallied environmental groups to collaborate with it and explore innovative solutions to achieve environmental conservation.

Speaking during a workshop organised for Coalition of Lagos Environmental Group (COLEG) at LCCI Building, Ikeja, the Permanent Secretary Office of Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji said the objective of the workshop is a commitment to the protection and preservation of the environment.

Gaji, represented by the Deputy Director of Sanitation, Mr. Jide Adeoye said the Coalition of Lagos Environmental Volunteer Group (COLEG) is a coalition of Non-Governmental Organisations that offer non-profit voluntary services and intervention exercises across the State.

He mentioned that the



(Deputy Director of Sanitation, Mr. Jide Adeoye Office of Environmental Services with other officials)

group was created by the Ministry as an umbrella body to coordinate and regulate the activities of the group to check abuses as well as to ensure interventions carried out by the group are guided and focused to achieve maximum environmental gains.

"Consequently, this technical workshop will focus on training environmental NGOs registered as COLEG; cover expectations of the Ministry for the groups which

includes proper processes for carrying out environmental interventions in the State as well as compliance with rules and regulations", he said.

The Permanent Secretary said the duty of non-governmental organisations in the field of environmental conservation is truly invaluable, each playing a vital role in the collective effort to address various environmental challenges, adding that they are the driving force to provide innovative solutions, public

awareness, and advocacy for achieving a sustainable future.

He highlighted the environmental challenges faced in the state to include improper solid waste management, littering of public places, inadequate waste sorting and removal of recyclables leading to littering of the environment with PET containers as well as the impact of climate change and pollution, saying "All these are responsible

for reducing the aesthetic and tourism potentials of Lagos State".

The Permanent Secretary also gave the assurance of the government's support, stressing that the present administration recognises the significance of NGOs in shaping environmental policy, implementing initiatives and being the voices of conscience for the planet.

In a lecture, titled: "Process and Procedure for

Environmental Interventions and Compliance with Lagos State, Rules and Regulations", the Guest Lecture, Mr. Olasunkanmi Sojnu pointed out all areas where the NGOs can effectively partner with the Government, adding that the NGOs need to be a voice for the Environment.

He charged the NGOs and others, on the need to stop provoking the earth, adding that most waste can be used as raw materials for other products.

LASG, UNDP, Others Collaborate To Prevent Communities From Disaster

The Lagos State Government in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and other development partners has held a four-day Climate and Disaster Risk Finance Workshop to forge innovative solutions and strategies that will protect communities and contribute to the global pursuit of sustainability and resilience.



(Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals to the Governor, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih with other participants)

Addressing participants at the workshop held recently at Protea Hotel, Ikeja, Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals to the Governor, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih explained that the workshop is to provide the State Government with the propensity to support individuals, communities and institutions to better prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related shocks through inclusive risk financing and insurance solutions.

Stating that the workshop provides a bedrock upon which the government can build a resilient and sustainable future for the state, Dr. Oreoluwa noted that the shared commitment of global and national development agencies, policymakers, leaders and passionate individuals to discuss the pressing issues of climate and disaster risk financing underscores the prominence of Lagos in the attainment of sustainable development.

"We recognise the critical importance of collaboration and knowledge sharing. Our goal is to develop innovative strategies for financing, risk reduction, and mitigation in the face of growing environmental challenges", she said.

Describing the remarkable effort of Mr. Governor in advancing the cause of sustainability and resilience in the state, Dr. Oreoluwa admitted that the unwavering commitment of the present administration towards a more prosperous and sustainable tomorrow is a beacon of hope in the collective journey toward a safer, more resilient, and environmentally responsible future.

While admitting that challenges posed by climate change and disaster risks are becoming increasingly evident, she opined that a scale-up of climate and disaster risk financing instruments is urgently needed to enable the government and the humanitarian sector to strengthen safety nets for the most vulnerable and provide more timely financing and assistance.

"There has been very limited access to the risk financing tools and services that can protect from the resulting financial losses. This is why I commend the United Nations for Development Programme for actively engaging all stakeholders through this workshop to exchange ideas and work collectively to find practical solutions

that will benefit our communities and generations to come", she confirmed.

Speaking on the significance of climate change and disaster risk to the state's development agenda, Dr. Oreoluwa noted the presence of different MDAs at the workshop to develop a coordinated mechanism of programmes, which is to offer inclusive solutions to addressing different resilience needs of vulnerable communities taking into account the state's risk profiles and corresponding gaps in financial protection mechanisms.

"As a state government, we look forward to this workshop addressing fundamental issues that will enhance the promotion of good practices of risk finance and insurance. And most importantly, create opportunities to strengthen our resilience by Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) in our State Adaptation Plan Processes", she revealed.

Acknowledging the role of other critical stakeholders including the Insurance Development Forum, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and other Development Partners, the Special Adviser submitted that the state government is looking forward to the constructive dialogues that will drive innovation and collaboration.

Lagos Govt Will Continue To Upscale Civil Service For Greater Efficiency -Ayantayo



The Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo has assured the workforce of the State Government's commitment to continually upscale and upskill the Civil Service to meet the aspiration of the 21st Century Public Service as part of the overall objectives of THEMES Plus Agenda.

Mr. Ayantayo, who gave this assurance today in his office at Alausa during a media chat with pressmen, stated that the government is prepared to continue to invest in capacity building of the State's workforce, declaring

that the government, in the coming months, would be deliberate in increasing the rate of learning and development interventions in the shortest possible time frame.

He acknowledged that human capital is at the centre of the State's Government strategy for development, adding that building their capacity is critical for realising individual potential for greater efficiency and central to achieving some of the goals of THEMES Plus agenda. Expressing the determination to bring innovations that

would ensure every Civil Servant is equipped with relevant skills and competencies to deliver on their assigned jobs, the Commissioner affirmed that the State Government would deploy existing technology and improve the training schedules ranging from sector-specific hands-on and interactive training to industry exchange programmes that will make it possible for a significant number of Civil Servants to benefit from the capacity building programmes of government.

Whilst responding to questions on pension payment, Ayantayo said that the State Government had been consistent in the payment of pensions to its retirees and reputed to be the best pension administration-compliant state in the federation. He promised that the State Government would not deviate from this path except to assure Pensioners of the State Government's commitment to improve the timely payment of pensions and clear the backlog.

Olowa Assures Cooperation With Ibeju CDC

The Community Development Committee, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Chapter, led by its chairman, Mr. Jabita Adebayo paid a courtesy visit to the Council Chairman, Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, in his office.

The courtesy call, is the first official visit since the inauguration of the new executive

members.

Mr. Jabita Adebayo, in his speech, said the essence of the visit was to seek the cooperation of the Council Chairman, particularly in complementing his efforts at taking the Council Area to greater heights. He went further to stress that the CDC has also come up with its own

road map in furthering the cause of the Olowa led administration by ensuring grassroots participation in developmental projects. Olowa, who was elated at the visit, thanked the CDC team for the August visit. The Council Chairman noted that the role of the CDA in community development can not be overemphasized as they are a strategic committee



that is reckoned with, in the scheme of things.

Abdullahi Sesan Olowa assured the CDC of the

administration's continued support towards a harmonious and cooperative relationship.

The Council Chairman

took members of the CDC to inspect the ongoing Local Government Secretariat which is still in the phase of construction.

Police Uncover Gun Factory In Idata Ibeju-Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola



Lagos State Police Command has apprehended two suspects who were allegedly operating a clandestine firearms manufacturing facility,

with the intention of selling their products to criminals in the vicinity of Idata Village in the Ibeju-Lekki area of the state.

The operation was

initiated based on intelligence received by the police regarding the existence of this illicit firearms factory. Notable items seized during the raid

included three locally-made single-barrel pistols, one locally-made double-barrel gun, one locally-made single-barrel gun, two locally-made long guns, ten expended cartridges, twelve long pipes, two drilling machines, one gas cylinder, one vehicle, and various tools used in the fabrication of firearms.

These two suspects, apprehended for their involvement in running

the illegal firearms manufacturing facility, were among 32 individuals arrested by the police in the past month in Lagos State for their alleged roles in various criminal activities. As outlined by Hundeyin, these activities encompassed product adulteration, firearm production, armed robbery, theft, and involvement in cult activities, among others.

During this one-month period, law enforcement authorities recovered 25 firearms, including a toy gun, 74 live cartridges, 12 expended cartridges, 12 long pipes, two drilling machines, one gas cylinder, a vehicle, assorted fabricated tools, two daggers, one UTC axe, a variety of charms, and 251 adulterated wires.

On September 18, the police apprehended a 27-year-old man who had posed as a dispatch rider to engage in vehicle vandalism, specifically by removing essential components like brain boxes and other parts. Furthermore, the police arrested a wanted individual suspected of involvement in cult activities and armed robbery on October 11, after he had killed a rival cultist in the Yaba area. This led to the arrest of six additional individuals in the Ikorodu area, with the recovery of two locally-made single-barrel guns, one double-barrel shotgun, three live cartridges, one dagger, and various charms.

75 Solar Street Light Completed for Idata and Ilagbo Community of Lekki

By Mohammed Adekola

Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali (RBK), has successfully completed the installation of another 75 solar street lights within the towns of IDATA and ILAGBO. It is expected that same will continue to be

replicated in other towns of the LCDA, while they await the full implementation of the mega power project that will be a joint effort of the Lagos State Government, AfDB and others. In addition, the street lights are proven ways

of reducing robberies, burglaries, and other crimes that often happen in the dark. The initiative will ensure properties in the towns have adequate lighting around them, and can reduce risks and avoid fostering criminal activities.





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LASEPA New Boss Vows To Fight Environmental Pollution

The newly appointed General Manager of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), Dr. Babatunde Ajayi has officially assumed office with a promise to tackle the problem of environmental pollution using the instrument of law to curb pollution in order to bring sanity and orderliness to the State.

Speaking at a maiden meeting with the Management and Staff of the Agency, Ajayi said LASEPA is pivotal to achieving a Greater and Cleaner Lagos, urging the workforce to brace up for the challenge of achieving all set goals of the State Government.

"I implore you all to prepare yourself and



get ready to deliver efficient and effective services that will improve the condition of the environment in Lagos so that LASEPA can achieve its mandate of a cleaner society to ensure that the Centre of Excellence takes its rightful place in the committee of modern cities", he stated.

Dr. Ajayi, a renowned medical practitioner and global health consultant, stated that he intends to embark on massive public enlightenment in addition to strict enforcement of all environmental laws across the State to actualise the Greater Lagos vision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration.

Dr. Babatunde Ajayi succeeds Dr. Dolapo Fasawe as the General Manager of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA),

LASPA Frowns At Public Assault on Officers



The General Manager of Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu has warned members of the public to desist from assaulting officers of the agency while carrying out their lawful duties.

She issued the warning today following an attack on some officers of the agency who were on official assignment to 8B Samuel Manuwa Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, by security operatives within the vicinity and other staffers of the Kitchen and Accessories store on 7B Samuel Manuwa Street.

According to the General Manager, before the assault meted on the officers of the agency, the LASPA officials had approached the Kitchen and Accessories store in a bid to resolve issues raised against them by the owners of the property at 8B Samuel Manuwa Street, Victoria Island Lagos regarding the use of setback approved for the occupiers of the property.

Adelabu stated that the monitoring and enforcement team reported that upon arrival while trying to courteously explain the setback infractions to the security operatives within the vicinity and other staffers of the Kitchen and Accessories store, were immediately attacked in the process.

She added that the

official vehicle deployed for the assignment was vandalised, while the body cameras on the officers were also destroyed and carted away by the assailants, leaving the officers with varying degrees of injuries.

The General Manager, therefore, reiterated that the Lagos State Government will not tolerate any form of attack or assault on its officials performing their lawful duties, assuring that the agency will explore all legal avenues to pursue the matter to a conclusion.

LASPA Frowns At Public Assault on Officers

The Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK), in partnership with Red Bull Nigeria, recently launched and unveiled the "Lagos Encourage Park", a purpose-built BMX Park which is the first of its kind in Lagos and indeed in Nigeria at Osborne, Ikoyi.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the state government is committed to returning the environmental sanity of Lagos wherein our parks can function as recreational facilities for all.

According to him, the Lagos Encourage Park is designed to showcase the versatility amongst our youths by providing an environment to sharpen their talents in cycling and skateboarding, charging them to take good care of the facility while promising that the state government would continue to support ideas and creativity for the development of youths in the State.

On his part, the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende implored the youths not to engage in unproductive activities but rather develop themselves in sports that can launch them to stardom just like Courage Adams whose dream inspired the park.

He asserted that Courage Adams is a renowned Red Bull BMX athlete who is inspiring youth across the world with his skills and tricks.

He called on experienced riders to serve as role models and mentors for aspiring athletes by sharing their



knowledge and guiding them on their BMX journey, stressing that the Park is expected to be a breeding ground for future champions, a place where dreams are born and nurtured.

She expressed gratitude to Red Bull Nigeria, saying that Lagos State Government through LASPARK will continue to seek out opportunities for collaboration to promote recreation and beautification in Lagos State, saying "The partnership is in line with LASPARK's mandate to promote beautification, recreation and leisure in Lagos State".

Highlighting the importance of parks and gardens as safe spaces for members of communities to converge, interact as well as improve their health and wellness by being active, Popoola averred that Parks can contribute to lower crime rates and that the partnership affirms Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's commitment to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment in Lagos.

"Our Agency is open to exploring partnerships and collaborations that will benefit residents of the State", Popoola added.

Customer Service Month: LASHMA Commends Ilera Eko Enrollees For Patronage

The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA), has commended enrollees of the ILERA EKO health insurance plan for the support, patronage and utilisation of the scheme.

Speaking during the flag-off of the ILERA EKO Customer Service Month, the Permanent Secretary of LASHMA, Dr. Emmanuella Zamba stated that ILERA EKO customers deserve commendation for their important role in the sustainability of the

initiative.

Stating that LASHMA would not have had major success stories in the last two years without the enrollees who have bestowed trust on the Agency's operations, the Permanent Secretary revealed that the scheme has promoted good health among Lagos residents and reduced the rate at which patients patronise quack medical practitioners or do self-medication.

"From January to September 2023, the total number of visits by



Enrollees to the various facilities under ILERA EKO is 58, 468. Out of this number, treatment of malaria recorded the highest with 19,193 visits representing 33 per cent of the total visits while that of hypertension was the

next with 14, 667 visits accounting for 25 per cent of the total visits", she said.

She further explained that during the period 5,461 Enrollees were placed on admission, out of which 3,704

visits were for diabetics treatment and 580 surgeries were performed.

For maternal care, Dr. Zamba explained that pregnant women visited the Hospitals 5,817 times for antenatal care of which 1,912 deliveries were recorded through Caesarean Sections (CS) and 1,423 were for normal deliveries.

The Agency, according to her, is working relentlessly to ensure that access to healthcare is seamless and that Providers render quality service delivery at all times.

She implored ILERA EKO



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20 Clubs Set To Compete at Signet Youth Championship

The second edition of the Signet Youth Championship has been scheduled to kickoff on November 15 at Albati Barracks, Surulere. The organizers have lined up exciting and lucrative offers that will be up for grab at the youth tournament centered on exposing grassroots talented youngsters. 20 clubs will slug it out to determine the eventual winners of the tournament which will be determined through

a knockout phase. Speaking to the Press, the representative of Signet, Faruq Olateju said the purpose of the tournament is to give the players a more vibrant exposure and opportunity to represent the brand in tournament outside the shores of the country. Each participating club will be given a hundred thousand naira each as participation fee. The organizer of the tournament, Azeez Mustapha said the

purpose of the increase of clubs from four in the first edition to 20 in the second edition is because of the interest indicated by clubs on Lagos. Ajibade Football Academy head coach, Taiwo Ajagun stated that, he's excited about the tournament and the opportunities to be benefited by the clubs. Papa Soccer Academy coach, James Temidayo said, he's satisfied with the rules of engagement highlighted by the organizers.



Lagos Street Soccer To Drive Social Integration, Says Yusuf

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Lagos Street Soccer Championship, Bolaji Yusuf has revealed that the tournament will be used to drive social integration among the youths. Surulere was agog as

the foremost Lagos Street Soccer made its return to Lagos football with the opening ceremony at the Obele Oniwala Mini Stadium, Surulere. Yusuf said the opening ceremony will provide the spectators a

preview of what the tournament entails in the coming weeks, while the draws for the tournament will be conducted to resume hostilities. He added, the aims of the competition is to promote community cohesiveness,



Ghetto Tigers To Open Title Defense Against Papa Soccer Academy

By Saheed Afolabi

Defending Champions of the Signet Youth Championship, Ghetto Tigers will open their title defense against Papa Soccer Academy from Epe. The Pride of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA will lock horns with the Epe based side in the official opening game of the Signet Youth Championship. The tournament have

been scheduled to take place at the Femi Gbajabiamila mini stadium at Albati Barracks, Ojuelegba. Ghetto Light FA will slug it out with Unification FC, Industrial Tigers battles Evergreen FA and Victory Ones will clash with Arewa FC. In the other fixtures, Gasfat FC will trade tackles with Little Warriors FA, HB Utility

FA will clash with Lyon Blessed FA and HOP FC will engage Ajibade FA. In the playoffs, Amsterdam FC faces FC Phoenix, Rainbow FC engages Embassy FC and Tuto Atalanta will play against Big Family FC. The Signet Youth Championship will kickoff on November 11 2023. The registration of players closes on November second 2023.

discourage the abuse of drugs, cultism and gangsterism. The tournament will also offer opportunities in promoting the Girl Child and showing her inner talents. The championship will be used to also promote the significant of sports and education which remains core values of the tourney. "The opening ceremony of the

championship will give spectators a preview of what to expect in the coming weeks," Yusuf said. "Draws for the teams would be conducted soon to usher in 16 weeks of hostilities. "To drive social integration, community cohesiveness, stem the prevalence of drugs, cultism, gangsterism and crime in our communities. "A springboard for boy and girl-child to showcase their innate

talents, and promote the significance of sports and education remain our core values in the Lagos Street Soccer Championship." The competition started with some exhibition games as Wazbak defeated FC Middlewell 2-1. Dolphins High School defeated Kings College 2-0 in the U15 category. Another exhibition game played to kickoff the Lagos Street Soccer saw Ayo Davis Street thrashing Bogun Bolu Street 2-0.



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How I Established Startup From Personal Savings-Temitope

Mrs Funsho Temitope is the Chief Executive Officer of Startup, an investment and finance company. In this interview, she sheds light on how to manage cash flows while giving loans and other issues

Why did you go into the credit business?

This journey started when I was in the university in the late 90s when I used to save from the pocket money my brother gave me and the earnings made from the holiday jobs I used to do, which always made me financially buoyant. Then, I used to have two neighbours; one Togolese and the other one was an elderly Nigerian woman. These two women became my pedestal where I started the idea of lending money to people. However, it was my love and care for them that informed my voluntary decision in lending money to both the Togolese and the Nigerian woman to start their respective businesses of selling cooked beans "Ewa Aganin" and soft drinks since she had a fridge. The money was lent out without the intention of collecting interest on the loan since it was done out of self-pity for them.

Secondly, my work experiences as a manager in an outlet of a major distributor to Nigerian Breweries Plc, Guinness Nigeria Plc, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company exposed me to counting and lodging huge amounts of money in the bank on behalf of the distributor especially when she was sick. Though, I used to follow her to the bank before the sickness. Likewise, working as a manager in a Fund Transfer

Company gave me exposure to all the 21 commercial banks in Nigeria then. This experience exposed me to methods of handling big figures and diversity in banking system operations. Thirdly, my experience in the bank as a corps member where I served as a bulk teller and was privileged to enter the vault informed my decision of running a bank-related business, like giving loans and acceptance of deposits. Lastly, I understood that there was a gap somewhere to be filled. I realized that people usually have one financial issue or the other and they don't like going to relatives or friends to seek help because they will automatically turned them down after the disclosure of their problems while they will still return in shame. So, they prefer an organization where the solution will be provided with little or no rigour in processing the fund while they sort out their financial issues and arrange for modalities of payment plan with such finance company. In view of these reasons, when I stopped working in my former place of assignment, I decided to start a credit business over a decade ago to create the value that people want and meet their needs.

What are the challenges of raising funds?

Well, as a way of preamble, we all know that capital



resources or funding is one of the major challenges when it comes to running a business especially on an individual level. Also, money is the blood that flows through the veins and arteries of a business for survival. Remember that an organization has different organs and it functions like human body. So, the importance of blood to the body is likened to the role money plays in business organization.

Back to the question, we usually raise funds through our investors and on a personal basis too. The challenges associated with raising funds is that investors will only invest in a business that is credible and trusted. However, we

have built these two qualities, which necessitated our accessibility to such sources.

What are the challenges of getting loans paid?

In fact, loan business is not an easy one because people see the facilities given to them as free money or a national cake, especially in this part of the world.

Going back to the question, we have not had issues with getting loans paid by our customers because we operate by building relationships with them and ensuring that we carry out our due diligence in ascertaining that the approved customers have steady means of income for their repayment in the first

place. In addition, they must have guarantors to sign for them in case of any default.

In compliance with this requirement, they tend to be very careful about their decisions, that is, the loanees and the guarantors. This process has been helpful and it has removed headache from us in getting back our funds. For example, there was a case of a client who referred another client to us that we invariably made her become the loanee (supposed guarantor). Eventually, the supposed creditor defaulted and on showing the referral the form where she signed as loan applicant, she was held responsible and cleared the whole mess.

How I Established Startup From Personal Savings - Temitope

Tell us the most difficult case of loan repayments you have experienced.

Hmmm, the only experience was when a former banker obtained a loan to start a polythene bags manufacturing business. After her long and consistent relationship with our firm, she displayed this funny attitude and defaulted on her repayment plans. She was always suggesting a rollover of her payment which necessitated an unusual prolongment in clearing of her debt.

After dragging the issue with her, eventually, she liquidated the loan and later opened up to me about the challenges she was facing in her family that was related to her spouse's health. Presently, she has resigned from the bank and has expanded her business which runs into millions of naira and gotten a landed property where her factory is situated with tones of production of the polythene bags that she supplies to Lagos markets.

5. Is there insurance against bad debt?

Insurance? Well, what we do is that we ensure that our clients or customers present a guarantor and two sureties. The guarantor will fill out a portion of the forms and sign against the indemnity portion in the case of any default by the loanee. In this regard, any eventuality will be the responsibility of the guarantor and this has helped us thus far.

As a woman do you think customers want to take advantage of you when they beg for more time to



pay?

Taking advantage is a challenge faced by women in business or any position of leadership in life because people believe that this life is a man's world. But let me tell you that a woman who knows her onions will not be taken for granted in anything or in the business she handles. Also, let me add that a woman who wants to attain a leadership position of any sort must be highly intelligent academically, socially, and emotionally. If need be, she must be spiritually intelligent as well, by going on her knees always because it takes God for one to become high-flyer in life. Hence, I am saying this because I teach and mentor people online on entrepreneurship, business development strategies, effective

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Taking advantage is a challenge faced by women in business or any position of leadership in life because people believe that this life is a man's world
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customer service management, leadership, personal development, and several other related topics. As well, I am a life coach who encourage women in fulfilling purpose in life.

Due to my experience and exposure in life, I have developed my credentials, which includes excellence and ethical delivery of my business. Not only that, I have not only relied on my first degree from the University of Lagos but increased my knowledge

by obtaining an MBA in Business Administration from Covenant University and presently running another master's programme at another prestigious university to increase my knowledge bank in order to professionally run my business. All these have helped my self-esteem and informed me on how to relate with people as well as resolve issues professionally and amicably which eventually prevents a situation where people will take advantage of

me.

More so, if there is any client who pleaded for extension of their payment, we would always reach an agreement on how the payment will be made without any alarm or taking advantage of me, and provided such individuals meet with our terms and conditions. Then, such request will be granted after reviewing their former repayment plan in our folder. With this conflict resolution strategy in mind, it is always a win-win situation and anything other than this is always abolished.

So, the issue of taking advantage of me will not even surface because we will always solve such problems by negotiations and arrived at a conclusion without mincing words or conflict from both sides.



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