

Echoneews

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Why you may pay more for waste

By Saheed Afolabi

The Association of Waste Managers of Nigeria (AWAM) has alerted the Lagos State residents of proposed increment in the payment for the disposal of their wastes.

The Chairman of the Association, Mr. David Oriyomi, gave the hint weekend, giving the high cost of diesel as the factor causing the increase though he was mute on the percentage of the increase.

This was coming amidst the series of complaints by the customers of the waste management operators across the state, who claimed that the services of the private sector partnership (PSP) has not been worthwhile.

The residents have lamented the return of heaps of refuse on major roads and markets in the metropolis which have become a source of worry for residents on the mainland and the Island. They complained that the refuse is left uncleaned for weeks, by the state Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) in residential areas and estates.

According to them, the mounting refuse often finds its way inside drains and waterways, while some traders and residents have resorted to dumping their refuse inside drains in most areas as the PSP operators refuse to cart away the refuse, thereby hindering the free flow of rainwater.

Also, there are questions about LAWMA sweepers, who are often seen sweeping major roads without waste bins or vehicles to convey the refuse. After sweeping, the officers often abandoned refuse and sand by the roadside or inside canals.

In some parts of the metropolis over the weekend, it was discovered that residents have resolved to either burn their wastes or dump them inside waterways whenever it rains.

Some residents said since PSP operators engaged by LAWMA no longer come to their streets



to pick up refuse, they now dispose of their wastes on major roads at midnight.

In Mushin and Oshodi markets, it was discovered that some portions of the roads have been converted to a dumpsites.

A resident in Mushin, Kamoru Isaq, said before now, there were mini-trucks working with sweepers, but they have suddenly disappeared.

A trader in the market, Tunde Akinniyi complained that residents around the market dump their wastes at midnight. On the heaps of refuse littering the market, Secretary, Ladipo Auto-Spare Parts International Market, Onyeka Igwe, said they were made to understand that LAWMA is facing challenges dumping refuse at dump sites.

"We have a way to checkmate the traders and prevent anyone from dumping their refuse inside the canal.

"When the bin collectors in Ladipo are filled up, our people will start dropping waste beside

it, and we have security around the canal axis to make sure that our people don't put the waste inside the canal.

"At Ladipo market we take environmental sanitation seriously and if anyone is caught breaking the environmental sanitation rules, he or she will be penalized," he added.

Residents of Agege Community, Orile Agege, Gbagada Estate II, have accused the Lagos State Waste Management Authority of neglecting the waste in the area despite several calls and requests.

Gbagada is a community between Kosofe and Somolu local government areas of Lagos State.

The residents lamented that the waste agency and the contractor in charge of the area, were putting their lives at risk.

The residents alleged that LAWMA and the waste company, identified as Kent and Kelly Nigeria Limited, turned a

deaf ear to their pleas despite increasing the waste collection fees recently.

The case was not different in Agege LGA, Orile Agege LCDA as waste were seen littering the streets, signifying inefficiency of LAWMA in delivering effective services.

Our correspondent observed an army of flies in the area as a result of the accumulated waste.

Decomposing waste was also seen in front of a restaurant on Ora-Ekpen Street, and two religious centres in the area.

A mini-mart owner on Church Street, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "We used to pay N8,000 every two months, but they increased it recently. We went to complain that the new fee was high, but they said they would reduce it and that we should pay it for the first time. We later paid N11,000.

"They have not been here for over a month now and we have complained several times. They

promised to come, but they did not come. Sometimes, they say there was no diesel or their truck was not working."

A resident, Alimat Quadri, lamented the health risk the waste piles posed to her family while pointing to a huge waste pile in front of her house.

She said: "You can see the sight of the waste. They have not come for over a month now. Even the gutters are now filled with waste. I am afraid for my life and that of my child."

A fashion shop owner on Church Street, Toke Busayo, said waste management in the area was pathetic.

"I hardly eat here because of the flies. I have to go back home or move away from this area to eat before I come back," she added.

The fashion designer added that the piles of waste near her shop had affected her sales as customers became irritated whenever they came to her shop.

She said complaints made to

the authorities have yielded no results.

Also, Dimeji Joseph, who lives off Osolo Way, along with the Aswani market, Isolo, advised the government to overhaul its old system of refuse collection and disposal.

"To get things back to normal, the old system should be overhauled. LAWMA should evacuate on time. Proper orientation should be done also for the citizens," he said.

Reacting to the complaints in an interview on Friday, the AWAM Chairman, Oriyomi identified some challenges, which he said are impeding their operations.

He linked the situation to the high cost of diesel as well as queues at dumpsites.

According to him, accessibility to the dumpsites is a major challenge for operators.

He said: "During the rainy season, we usually have problems with access to the dump sites. We are encountering queues on the sites.

"There will definitely be refused on the streets because a truck that is supposed to go two trips in a day is unable to do so in two days, whereas, it shouldn't take a truck more than 20 minutes to discharge its contents.

"So, the spillover effect is what we are having. Except there is drastic action at the dump sites to ensure that operators are able to dump their waste on time, it will continue.

"We have complained to LAWMA about it and they are doing something about it. We hope it will be rectified."

Meanwhile, Oriyomi hinted there would be increase in the bill payable by the residents for their waste disposal.

He said that there is nothing the association could do to avoid the increase due to the high cost of diesel.

However, some of the residents who spoke to ECHONEWS suggested that the operators should look for another dumpsites and seek government's approval to decongest the existing ones.



PDP's no threat to APC in Lagos – Prince Balogun

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Prince Idris Balogun, an APC chieftain in Lagos State, has said the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will not be a threat to the ruling party in the 2023 general elections.

Balogun, who contested the APC ticket for Alimosho Federal Constituency seat during the party's primaries is the son of the late Oba of Isheri-Olofin Kingdom, Oba Wahab Balogun.

He said APC needed to work as a team for the victory of its presidential candidate, Sen. Bola Tinubu and the re-election of Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2023.

"In 2023, the APC chances are very bright in Lagos, we don't see PDP as a threat. APC is on ground for a while more than PDP and the structure of APC is strong more

than the PDP.

"Before PDP will overtake APC in Lagos, it will take a long stretch of time, strategy and energy. In all ramifications, APC has more advantages than that of PDP in Lagos State," Balogun said.

He said both the governorship candidate of PDP, Dr Olajide Adediran and his deputy, Funke Akindele, could not make APC lose sleep because the ruling party had a solid structure across polling units, wards and local governments.

Balogun said although the party's House of Representatives' primaries in Alimosho became inconclusive due to violence, he would abide by the party supremacy on whoever the party agreed on as the candidate for the constituency.

He said: "Whatever that happens in our party, I will not defect from

this party.

"I have been with the progressives since 1998 from Alliance for Democracy, Action Congress, Action Congress of Nigeria and now APC. I belong to APC and will remain in APC."

He urged the party leadership to intensify efforts at making peace among various aggressive groups in the party to make victory seamless for APC at every level of elections in 2023.

"We must call all aggrieved aspirants together to appease them as to prevent them from crossing over to other parties or working against the APC."

He said that APC had continued to change the face of Lagos and had taken the state to enviable heights.

Also speaking, Alhaji Lukman Idowu, Supervisory Councillor for Environment, Egbe Idimu Local Council Development Area,

commended Balogun for the gesture to party members.

He said that the unity of the party and its supremacy must be paramount in the heart of all APC leaders in Alimosho.

"Since the outcome of the primaries and everything that happened, we have to come together and forge ahead with a common goal, particularly to deliver Alimosho for our National Leader, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu who is contesting for the Presidency in 2023.

"Some groups in the party are bent on tearing the party apart, but we must be united for victory to be ours.

"Let us end all caucuses now that elections are approaching. APC binds us together," Idowu, who is also the Director-General, Prince Idris Balogun Campaign Organisation, said.



Prince Idris Balogun

LG chairman reappoints Chief of Staff

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Alimosho Local Government, Hon. Sulaimon Jelili Sulaimon has reappointed Mrs. Bukore Alli-Jayesimi as his Chief of Staff

Alli-Jayesimi had served as chief of staff during the first term of the council chairman. Appreciating her administrative and resource control, she was again considered for the same

position as the council boss returns to office for a second term.

Mrs. Alli-Jayesimi is a proactive person who has shown enormous interest in the growth and progress of Alimosho Local Government under the chairmanship of Hon Jelili.

With this appointment, it makes the third time she will be sworn in into Alimosho Local Government as an appointee. First as a Senior Special



Alli-Jayesimi Bamidele

Assistant and twice as Chief of Staff.

Mrs. Alli-Jayesimi is a graduate of Business Administration of the University of Lagos and she is happily married with kids.

Emulate Osun voters, Osolana urges Agege electorate

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for Agege Federal House of Representatives, Sola Osolana has urged Agege and Orile Agege residents to emulate the voters in Osun State and vote for competent and visionary leaders in the upcoming general elections.

He gave this advise while congratulating the Governor-elect of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke on his victory in the just concluded Governorship Election.

"As INEC released the official results and announced Senator Ademola Adeleke as Governor-elect, it is a clarion to all of us in Agege and Orile Agege to create a new channel of developing our communities. I enjoin all residents to embrace the change that happened in Osun State and replicate it here in Agege for us to bring needed development to our environment.

"For many years, Agege Federal Constituency has been neglected by poor representatives and this is evident across the 13 Wards in both Agege and Orile Agege

Council Areas. It is doable for us to change the narrative and build greater Agege," he said.

He added that if residents of Osun State can vote against incumbent Government in Osun State because of underdevelopment, Agege and Orile Agege electorate can do the same in the forthcoming Federal House of Representatives election in Agege Federal Constituency.

Meanwhile, Osolana promised to bring true representation, youth employment and sustainable development goals to Agege and Orile Agege Local Government Areas.

Expose sexual, domestic violators, council boss' wife urges residents

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency in collaboration with Alimosho LGA, Egbe-Idimu and Igando-Ikotun LCDA has organized a sensitization and enlightenment programme on the need to stop domestic and sexual violence in Lagos State at Alimosho Local Government Secretariat, Akowonjo.

The occasion which had the Igando-Ikotun Vice Chairman and Chairman's wife as well as Supervisors for Women & Poverty Alleviation in attendance was used to discuss different cases of sexual abuses, harassment and violence against the females and children in Lagos State.

In her welcome speech, the wife of Alimosho Local Government Chairman, Hajia Kabirat Sulaimon said the programme came timely because the recent statistics in Lagos State shows that Alimosho has the highest record of Sexual and Domestic violence and this

calls for concern. She consequently appealed that one good way to curb sexual and domestic violence is to speak out to expose the perpetrators and not wait till they cause more damages.

The council chairman, Hon. Jelili Sulaimon added that it is the sole responsibility of parents to check their kids if they don't want outsiders to help them to do same.

"They should however know

that when outsiders help them, it will come with a cost of sexual abuse," he concluded.

Other speakers also emphasized the need to continue to sensitize the people on the need to speak up against sexual and domestic violence with the slogan, "If you see something, say something and do something immediately."



Hajia Kabirat Sulaimon



Hi-tech accuses Dangote of delaying road rehabilitation

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Some workers of the Hi-tech Construction Company have said the delay in reconstruction of Mile 2, Apapa/Oshodi Expressway is as a result of the negligence of the Dangote Construction Company. According to them, the reconstruction project was originally awarded to Dangote Construction Company in 2018/19 on a public-private partnership deal at the expense of N73 billion under the tax credit scheme wavers of the

government.

However, the project was re-awarded to a Hi-tech Construction Company as a sub-contract to be executed. One of the site engineer said Dangote Construction Company was responsible for the provision and supply of contractors and materials for the reconstruction but the needed materials were lately delivered to the site. He said that materials like cement, granite, stone base and iron rods for casting the concrete have not been available for months which subsequently delayed their

working pace.

In addition, another worker who preferred anonymity, analyzed that the lack of material makes them resume duty at 7:00 am as normal resumption time but close as early as 2:00 p.m. because of lack of equipment, saying this lack of equipment also affects their payment at end of the month. He appealed to the Dangote Construction Company to expedite action as to the development of the road as they intend to execute their duties on time to avoid affecting commuters' daily activities in the area.



Hi-tech construction company workers on duty

Resident commends LASEMA's quick response over fire outbreak

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A resident of Amuwo-Odofin, Mr. Shakiru Fashina has commended the quick response effort of the rescue team at the fuel tanker disaster at Amuwo-Odofin Local Government. The fire outbreak was reported to have erupted after the explosion of a fuel tanker at Aboki Garage Fuel Tanker Depot, Mile 2 Otto wharf, Oshodi/Apapa Expressway on July 20, 2022. Fashina described the distressing incident as a thread-line escape route for present commuters due to the timely arrival of the response team from Lagos State Emergency Agency (LASEMA). As a media practitioner with

experience in similar cases, he said that their proficiency ought to be reckoned with due to the arbitral understanding of Nigerians for their usual late response noting that their efficiency shows the present developed state of the parastatal. He said as an eyewitness who contacted the Agency through a direct contact number 08129928597, he hopes that they will continue to portray such efficiency to save lives and properties on other occasions. He advised residents to appraise both public and private workers as each officer continues to contribute towards the development of the state, noting that their actions are an attribute of greater Lagos years to come.



LASEMA officials

Police pledge to investigate suspected robber in Amuwo-Odofin

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Authorities of Satellite Police Division in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government have assured residents of a thorough investigation of a suspected robber in the area. The case was said to have involved two victims, an Uber driver, Toheeb Folorunsho and a commuter, Awwah AbdulGaniyu at

about 9:45 pm on July 18, 2022. According to report, Folorunsho and AbdulGaniyu were separately robbed of their belongings at the standstill traffic at Mile 2 bridge axis of the Cele/Oshodi/Apapa Expressway. The suspect, Sikiru Ayinla revealed that he was a ticket seller under the governance of Agbasura in Amuwo

bridge with five other colleagues while pleading not guilty to the accused crime. However, Satellite Police Division recorded that the 32-year-old suspect had on him a locally made pistol which falsified his claim. The police assured victims of further investigation while appeasing residents and commuters of optimum security service in the area.



Suspected thief, Sikiru Ayinla

RRS arrests vandals for cutting crash barriers on Lagos overhead bridge

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Officers of Rapid Response Squad (RRS) at the early hours of Friday arrested two suspected vandals cutting crash barriers installed on the sides of overhead bridge around Lagos State Trade Fair. The suspects, Abdullateef Abdulrahim (22) and Aliyu Lawan (16) were arrested around 3:00am at Abule Oshun, Badagry Expressway with a pile of already cut crash barriers. Abdulrahim, who was arrested with a hacksaw could not explain what he was using it to do. The Commander, Rapid Response Squad (RRS), CSP Yinka Egbeyemi, had in response to an intelligence tip on crime in the area directed one of the squad's tactical teams to the area. Recovered from the suspects were a hacksaw and pile of cut crash barriers. Speaking on the development, the Commissioner of Police, CP Abiodun Alabi, directed that the case be transferred to the State CID, Panti for further investigations and prosecution.



AMATO laments Apapa port extortion

By Edith Igbokwe

Truck owners and drivers under the aegis of Association of Maritime Truck Owners (AMATO) have continued to lament the extortion at Apapa-TinCan port.

Speaking at the stakeholders' meeting hosted by Convention on Business Integrity (CBI) in collaboration with Maritime Anti-Corruption Network MACN, AMATO's Secretary, Mr. Mohammed Sanni, said the multiple illegal checkpoints on the Apapa and Tin Can Island Ports roads have become a channel of organized impunity, lawlessness and excesses defying the authority of both federal and state governments.

"There are over 30 illegal checkpoints existing within the Apapa and Tin-Can Island Port corridor where truckers are compelled to pay between N50,000 and N60,000 per trip to access the port, despite having valid electronic call-up tickets. "The myriad of illegal checkpoints on Apapa and Tin Can Island Ports roads in Lagos have become a



Trucks on Lagos Road

channel of organized impunity, official lawlessness and excesses that is defying the governments efforts.

"Existence of multiple checkpoints in the ports corridor is among the major cancer eating away the proceeds of truckers

and undermining growth and progress of the transport sector in the maritime industry.

"It is the root cause of why trucks are looking rickety due to damaging activities of traffic enforcement, security agencies and transport union and local

government hoodlums.

"The Apapa and Tin-can ports corridors have become a notorious haven of corruption and extortion by state and non-state Actors.

"As a result of multiple checkpoints, we no longer have

security along the port roads because the priority of security men is to extort money from truckers.

"On the same road with presence of security operatives, containers are being burgled and hijacked, hoodlums are extorting and

robbing truck drivers.

"On the bridges manned by the security personnel, the bridge light cables installed by the Federal Government to light up the bridges at night for security have all been stolen by scavengers."

Okada riders take over Apapa Expressway

By Edith Igbokwe

One month after the Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu banned the activities and operations of commercial motorcyclists on the Apapa Express Way, Okada riders have reclaimed the expressway in the state.

In May, Sanwo-Olu imposed a ban on Okada from operating in six local government areas such as Apapa, Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, and Surulere. The total ban order also extends to all LCDAs under the listed councils.

Effective from June 1, 2022, the governor directed security operatives to enforce the

proscription order across the listed councils.

However, the activities of Okada riders on Apapa Expressways in conjunction with truck drivers continued to exist.

Questions on people's lips remain: Why are Okada riders back on the expressways? Where is the Anti-Okada Squad in Apapa? Have they compromised? Are the riders stronger than the squad?

Something needs to be done and it has to be done very fast, before Okada riders fully takeover the expressways in the state.

The expressways was reported to be totally blocked by riders who were competing for roads with big and mini buses.

Recall that on the 15th of June, 2022, the state government inaugurated an Anti-Okada Squad to join the police in enforcing the ban on motorcycles.

A statement by the Commissioner for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde, stated that the ban was in line with the Transport Sector Reform Law 2, 2018.

The commissioner said at the inaugural ceremony, that the Special Anti-Okada Squad would be reporting to the police.

"Individuals arrested (riders and passengers) will be made to face the full wrath of the law in line with the provision of Section 46, sub-section 1, 2 & 3 of the Transport Sector Reform Law, 2018."

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Apapa Area 1 Command, Port Harcourt Area 11 Command, Ports Terminal Multi-services Limited (PTML) Command, and Kirikiri Lighter Terminal (KLT) Command said they generated a combined revenue of N778.77 billion in the first half of 2022, as against N563.75 billion generated in the corresponding period of 2021.

Apapa Command generated N522.4 billion representing a 42.54 per cent growth compared to the N366.5 billion collected same period of 2021.

Port collected N115.2 billion as against N78 billion collected in 2021. PTML generated N117.57 billion against N104.65 billion in 2021 representing an increase of 12.3 per cent while KLT recorded a 38 percent growth to N23.6 billion from N14.6 billion in 2021.

Speaking on revenue collection, the Customs Area Controller of Apapa Area 1 Command, Malanta Yusuf, said in line with the Federal Government's effort to diversify the economy through

NCS, PTML, KLT record boost in export trade

By Edith Igbokwe

non-oil export, the Command recorded a boom in the export of non-oil commodities with about 2.5 million metric tonnes, above the 540 metric tonnes in the year 2021.

He noted that the Free-on-Board, FOB, value for the exported items also rose to \$138 million in 2022 from \$1.6 million in 2021.

"This feat was made possible

because of our officers' resilience in ensuring that identified revenue leakages have been mitigated while sustaining the level of compliance by the importers/stakeholders in the clearance value chain.

"Items exported include steel bars, agricultural and mineral products amongst others. The Federal Government policy and export incentive schemes have played vital roles in boosting export trade in Nigeria," he said.



Nigeria Customs Officials



Land grabbers burn houses in Epe; residents protest

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Yegunda, Abomiti and Eyin-Osa development areas, in the Free Trade Zone, Epe, Lagos State, have lamented the invasion of their communities by suspected land grabbers.

The development areas/zones, made up of over 300 communities, were reportedly resettled on the land by the state government after they gave up their land for a state project.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, allegedly hired by one Ibile and one Otunba, stormed the communities on Saturday, July 16, to sack residents.

They were said to have set three thatched houses on fire, vandalize several buildings and injured residents, who were rushed to hospital for treatment.

Our correspondent also learnt that the hoodlums stole rams and motorcycles as several people were dispossessed of their phones and money.

Pictures of the attack were seen by our correspondent.



Some of the residents protesting for the burning of their houses in Epe

On Wednesday, the council of chiefs, resettlement committee members and community youths took to the streets to protest the attack.

The Odofin of Epe and Chairman of Eyin-Osa Resettlement Committee, High Chief Olatunde Oluwo, said the land, measuring about 800 hectares, was statutorily awarded to them

by the Lagos State Government.

He said: "The government acquired our land through global acquisition. They then gave us about 800 hectares as resettlement land for the three zones. We filed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government and they gave us Certificate-of-Occupancy to show that we

are the statutory owner of the land. The C-of-O was written in the association's name."

Oluwo said the state ministry of energy recently gave a stop work order on illegal mining on the land.

The Chairman of the Abomiti Zone, Ayodele Olayinka, said the assailants were not registered with the resettlement committee and

were unknown to the state government.

He said: "We do not have any dealings with them but they are trying to take over our land. This land was given to us by the government. The government acquired over 8,000 hectares from us and gave us the C-of-O of 800 hectares this year."

The protesters, who gathered at the Ilamija

Junction, Epe, lamented the brutalization and loss of property during the attack.

The Secretary, Yegunda Zone, Sade Adeniyi, said residents were injured while others fled for safety.

"They held guns and cutlasses. The land is still not safe for us. We want the government to intervene. All we want is peace," he added.

A woman leader in the area, Atinuke Adedokun, said: "We did not argue when the government gave us a small portion of what they took from us. But we cannot allow land grabbers to encroach on our land and beat our people. We and our children cannot work again."

Some residents also told our correspondent that another attack happened on Tuesday, as residents were sacked from another part of the land.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, promised to react after speaking with the Divisional Police Officer of the area.

He was yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.

Ewade family petitions Lagos CP, indicts DPO of abuse of office

By Saheed Afolabi

Members of the Ewade Ruling House, Igbooye, have urged the Lagos State Commissioner of Police (CP), Abiodun Alabi, to investigate the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Noforija, CSP Gregory Ikpehia, over alleged conspiracy with thugs and hoodlums to avoid breakdown of law and order in the community.

The family's petition was contained in a letter dated July 14 and titled, "Save Our Soul, Abuse of Office, Criminal Conspiracy and Perversion of Justice by CSP Gregory Ikpehia, DPO of Noforija Police Station, Eredo-Epe, against the Head and Principal Members of Ewade Ruling House, Igbooye-Epe."

The petition was signed by Head, Ewade Ruling House, Otunba Abdulwasii Musa-Adebamowo, Principal

member and Head, Osekelu branch of Ewade Ruling House, Alhaji Mikhail Quadr, Principal member and Head, Okuyemi branch of Ewade Ruling House, Chief (Mrs.) Kikelomo Oladeji, Principal members, Chief Ligali Ayodele Olatunji and Chief Adegbenro Otunowo and Family Secretary, Abiodun Adekoya.

The representatives of the ruling house said they decided to file a civil suit against the thugs and

hoodlums as required by the Rules of the High Court of Lagos State, as a result of which pre-action protocol letters were served on one of the leaders of the thugs, but that, the DPO, CSP Ikpehia, dispatched his men to invite them for questioning on the reasons for wanting to file a civil suit against the suspects.

In their petition, the five-man executive committee said that they have been representing the interest of

the Ewade Ruling House over time, citing various court judgments and rulings, including representations at various court cases, letter of appointment of the head of the family in 2006, reflecting the name of the head of the family and names of some of the accredited representatives to back their claims.

They alleged that some disgruntled and unknown members of the family

(names withheld) constituted themselves into thugs and hoodlums, invaded part of the family land at Abapawa and other related family lands at Legumo, Idotun, Gbojuwara and Talese, in Igbooye, Eredo-Epe and started disposing off same to their collaborators and other unsuspecting members of the public, thereby causing pandemonium and commotion in the community.



Council Chair commends residents for participating in free healthcare programme

By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman of Lekki LCDA, Hon. Rasaki Kasali has appreciated the large turnout of residents in the council at the just concluded free healthcare programme that took place between July 18 and 22, 2022.

He said the idea of the free healthcare programme had been conceived since his campaign period which triggered his visitation to health facilities in the council after being elected. He noted that his conversation with the health officials goaded him to construct a healthcare centre at both Idotun and Magbon Segun in the first three months of his administration.

In addition to that, as he said, the centres were equipped with adequate solar systems that could meet up with the electricity demands and set up a dental centre at Origanrigan. The council had earlier purchased an Ultrasound Machine to aid pregnant women who travel far distances for scans.

He assured residents that prioritizing the health of the people has become a major obligation as their good health enhances good cooperation between the government and the people. Kasali recalled his efforts in paying for surgery of some people in the community while also recruiting and posting new doctors, community health workers, nurses and other staff to reduce unemployment.

"We had on some occasions purchased drugs and medical supplies and observed at some point, the general utilization of our healthcare facilities has improved. "However, we will continue to look at ways to ensure our people get the right kind of



Health officials examining a patient at the free healthcare service, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government

health services that they deserve because we believe we still have more to do in the health sector."

He, therefore, appreciated the support of medical officers in aiding the provision of free biophysical

profiles, free drugs, free eyeglasses and free screening as they were able to attend to patients with

hypertension, blood pressure cases, cervical and prostate cancer, doing a pelvic scan for pregnant

women, free Covid-19 immunisation, free dental care and general routine immunisation.

Ajayi congratulates Lekki on new appointment

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the Lagos State House of Assembly in Ibeju-Lekki Constituency II, Hon. Oladele Ajayi has congratulated the Mr. Abdurrahman Ogunbekun Lekki on his appointment as the new Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Scholarship Board.

He said the competence of Lekki is what has elevated him to his current status having related with him on some occasions.

Ajayi noted that his essence of publicly congratulating Lekki is to encourage youths in the community to get fascinated with the strengths of their predecessors as they keep making a great impact in public offices.

He said their existence is not to be

underrated as they have contributed towards the development of the community in their own way.

He prayed for the uplift of more indigenes in public offices while echoing his expectations towards Ibeju-Lekki youths.

He also promised to meet up to the expectations of the community by redefining the existence of the grassroots if elected in 2023 general elections.



Abdurrahman Ogunbekun

Council unveils bursary for indigent students

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Ibeju-Lekki Local Government has unveiled its bursary awards for indigent students of the council area in various higher institutions.

According to the council authority, the sponsorship is part of the council's initiative to boost the education sector

of the council.

The Head of the Public Affairs Unit, Mrs. Maryam Hamzat revealed in a statement that the bursary awards is a means of encouraging youths towards academic excellence in their various course of study.

She said it is also to aid the less privileged but promising youths in the course of

completing their studies as all competent indigenes would be awarded.

According to her, the eligibility criteria and requirements set for the application for the bursary award include application forms to be filled by applicants.

"Applicant must be an indigene of Ibeju Lekki LG, have proof of being a student

of the institution he claims to be, must present a letter from the political head of his community, and also present LASRRA card/identity card of the institution.

"Requirements include letter of admission into any Nigeria University, Polytechnics or College of Education, evidence of being indigene of Ibeju Lekki LG, letter from

candidate's village or town heads, school ID card, recent session result and NAILS Membership Card."

Hamzat encouraged students to utilize the once-in-a-while opportunity before its deadline scheduled for July 29, 2022 to register through or visit the Local Government Education Department to obtain the form.



Government College Ikorodu Old Students Association (GCIOSA) has reiterated its commitment to construct a N12.5 million laboratory project for the school, calling on the state government to do more in terms of infrastructural facilities.

GCIOSA President, Funmi Bamkole made the call on Saturday while fielding questions from journalists shortly after the alumni's Prize Giving Day for the 2021/2022 Academic Year, at School Hall, Government Senior Model College, Ikorodu, Lagos. Represented by his Vice, Ademola Somide, he said the ground breaking ceremony for the N12.5 million project took place about a month ago to serve the science students in its junior school.

The alumni who bemoaned the fast dilapidating classrooms and other structures in the school urged the government to urgently rescue the situation. "Recently, we previously renovated the school clinic, dining hall, and did the groundbreaking of the N12m laboratory for Junior school.

"I understand that infrastructural facilities are capital intensive and that is why we are out to support the government's effort." According to him, the state government has a lot on its agenda as infrastructural

Alumni pledges to build N12.5m laboratory

facilities are given priority.

"We are aware that the government has its primary responsibilities but infrastructure is key.

"Things are as bad as this but we the alumni also support in our own little way," he said.

He noted that the event was packaged to celebrate excellence and hard work among students and teachers of the school. "We are here primarily to appreciate our young and upcoming ones by way of prize giving ceremony."

In her address, the school Principal, Mrs Adefolarin Modupe, applauded the school for its outstanding performance by scoring 88% in the 2019 West African Examination Council (WAEC) result.

"These are pointers that Government Senior Model College, Ikorodu is on the right path and cannot afford to turn back," she said.

The principal solicited the support of the alumni in giving



GCIOSA vice president, Ademola Somide giving a certificate to an outstanding student of the school and flanked by one of the school administrator

the school a face lift.

An SSS1 student of the school, Akinkuowo Daniel, received the prizes for the best student in English Language, Government and Literature in English, Owoyemi Adebola received the prize for the overall student in SSS2 while Subomi Olajide

received the prize for the overall best student in SSS3.

Similarly, Michael Adigun was appreciated for returning the lost money he found within the school premises about a fortnight ago.

Four teachers from the Arts, Science, Commercial and

Vocational departments received outstanding awards.

In his vote of thanks, Subomi urged the students to put in their best at any given opportunity.

"Some talents are innate while some are acquired through regular training. Whichever

category you find yourself, kindly use every opportunity at your disposal to bring out the best in you.

"This is a journey of six years and we hope to work harder to achieve more," he said and thanked the alumni for organizing the event.

LASG reclaims land in Ikorodu GRA

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State Government has reclaimed the encroached portion of Ikorodu Government Reserved Area (GRA) Scheme III, located in Odonla, Lucky Fibre axis of Ikorodu.

Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, who disclosed this, said the state government had to dislodge the illegal occupants and return the affected portion of land to the original allottees that are with Certificates of Occupancy issued by the Lands Bureau.

According to Salako, the move

has become necessary to restore confidence in government schemes, give deserved restitution to the rights of the original allottees and also forestall bastardization of the scheme.

Salako said the government action, which was prompted by the unlawful estrangement of the rightful owners from their property, the unconscionable development by usurpers, land grabbers and the deafening complaints of allottees, was a follow-up to the service of statutory notices, including the stop-work order of February 4, 2022.

He, therefore, warned that land grabbers parading themselves

as "Omo-Onile" should stop further encroachment on government lands, urging unsuspecting buyers to beware of such land offers.

Meanwhile, the ministry has stated that it will henceforth make available records of permits issued for public viewing through its mobile app (MPP&UDApp).

Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs. Abiola Kosegbe, said through the measure, all stakeholders, including property owners and developers, could view planning permits issued on a monthly basis, which will include the type of use and number of floors, among others.

She further said stakeholders would also be able to monitor for compliance, particularly with respect to type of use and number of units.

The permanent secretary, therefore, urged them to notify authorities of any construction that deviates from approval.

Kosegbe said that in the case of provisional permits, which were issued temporarily while the applicant's land title was still under processing in the Lands Bureau, stakeholders should note that they were only valid for just nine months.

According to her, the list of distressed and abandoned buildings would also be uploaded on the app.

Court restrains Shittu from parading self as head of Regun family

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikorodu has restrained Jamiu Shittu from parading himself as the Head of Regun Family of Ikorodu.

Trial judge, Justice Adeniyi Pokanu, while granting the order, noted that it would subsist, pending the determination of a suit filed by two claimants, Kameel Dada and Gbenga Oshin.

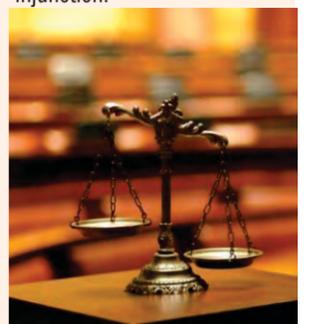
The Ayangbure of Ikorodu, Oba Kabir Shotebi, and Shittu are the first and second defendants in the suit IKD/87380CM/2022.

The claimants through their counsel, Yemi Okewoye, prayed the court to restrain the first defendant from removing the first

claimant as the Head of Regun Family and Regun of Ikorodu.

They had also prayed for an order, restraining the second defendant from parading himself as the Head of Regun Family of Ikorodu."

Justice Pokanu while dismissing the preliminary objection by the defendants, granted the prayers for injunction.





Airlines groan under closure of Runway 18L

By Edith Igbokwe

The Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) has written to the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), seeking an urgent review of the 90-day closure of Runway 18L to work on it.

The on going work was part of efforts aimed at improving safety and efficiency of flight operations at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja.

The group's letter, dated July 15, signed by AON President, Alhaji Abdulmunaf Yunusa, was recently issued.

It stated that a week after the

closure, work had not begun on the runway and the move was causing "unsustainable additional operating costs" to airlines.

FAAN had on July 6 announced plans to complete the installation of CAT III Airfield Ground Lighting system on Runway 18L/36R.

It said that the project would begin on July 8, and was expected to last for 90 days.

Consequently, it said that Runway 18L/36R would be closed to flight operations during the time.

It, however, assured stakeholders that there would be no disruption, as all normal flight operations would be conducted through

Runway 18R/36L.

FAAN said that a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) to this effect had already been published and disseminated accordingly.

The airline operators, in their letter, also claimed that the notice on the closure was short.

The association, who is groaning under harsh operating conditions, has also written to the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) requesting approval to remove 5 per cent fuel surcharge.

It wants this as an ameliorative measure to cushion the effect of the continuous increase in the exorbitant price of Jet-A1 on airline operations in the country.

In the letter written by AON

President to FAAN, the group flayed the 90-day period stipulated for the installation of the Air Field Lighting.

The airlines stressed that due to the ever rising cost of Jet A1, the closure of the main domestic runway of MMA automatically adds an additional 10-15 per cent on fuel costs per sector into and out of MMA.

This, it said, is based on the additional flight and taxi time incurred.

The letter, directed to the Managing Director, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, Capt. Rabiun Yadudu, called on the FAAN boss to convene an urgent stakeholders consultation

meeting, to review the closure of Runway 18L.

It said there was a need to enter into discussion with the users of the runway on a procedure for the project that limits both the cost impact on airlines as well as disruption to normal flight operations.

The letter read in part: "The AON welcomes the effort by FAAN to install runway lighting on Runway 18L, at last.

"However, international best practice for such critical airfield infrastructure projects is for the airport operator to enter into discussions with all affected parties, to arrive at an optimal arrangement that allows the work

to be done, while limiting the inconvenience, economic impact and safety implications on all concerned.

"In this instance, FAAN failed to do this.

"The closure of the main domestic runway of MMA automatically adds an additional 10-15 per cent more fuel costs per sector into and out of MMA, based on the additional flight and taxi time incurred as a result.

"The airlines have already felt these additional costs within the first week of the closure of the runway.

"This unnecessary burden is unsustainable for a 3-month period on the airline."

Hamzat calls for functional boundary to curb communal clashes

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat has called for the establishment of functional Boundary Committees in Local Government Areas across the country to curb the incessant cases of communal clashes. The Deputy Governor made the call while receiving a delegation from the National Boundary Commission who was on advocacy visit to Lagos State.

Hamzat stressed the importance of the National Boundary Commission, saying creating such committees at the Local Government levels would aid

easy identification of boundaries and go a long way in attending to communal issues before it degenerates into crisis.

According to him, "There is no need for communal clashes if all states and Local Governments in the country know their boundaries and this could only be achieved with the kind assistance and support of the commission."

He stressed the need for a functional pillar emplacement on interstate boundaries by the commission.

Hamzat noted the importance of demarcation and pillars for proper identification to stop communal clashes among states.

"If we do not do that, there will

be clashes. It is not decent for us as Nigerians to be fighting ourselves over boundary issues."

He also said Lagos State Government will continue to work with and support the commission in achieving its set goals and objectives.

Earlier, the Director-General, National Boundary Commission, Adamu Adaji, who was represented by the Director, Internal Boundaries, Mr. Nicholas Emowele, called on Lagos State Government to kindly direct and support the active participation of the State in the agency's quest for speedy execution of the programmes and projects involving the state.

He added that owing to the slow pace of progress on



Hamzat Obafemi

some of the boundaries, the Director-General also solicited the support of

government to direct the active participation of the Lagos State team planned

fieldwork of the pillar emplacement on the interstate boundary.

Lagos State Government through the Office of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Ikeja has again warned residents of the state to refrain from clogging drains with silt in order to prevent flooding and the attendant threat to lives and property during the rainy season.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Public-Private Partnerships, Mr. Ope George, who gave the advice against the backdrop of recent floods witnessed across the state as a result of heavy downpour has appealed to

PPP office frowns at indiscriminate dumping of refuse

By Edith Igbokwe

motorists to avoid driving through flooded areas during rainfall in order to prevent avoidable accidents and loss of lives.

George, in a statement issued by the PPP Office, frowned at the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in drainages by some disobedient residents despite strident awareness and warnings by the

state government on the dangers of clogging the drains with refuse. While lamenting the poor attitude of many residents to the environment, he stated that the recent flooding and the subsequent loss of lives and property were avoidable if all residents had heeded the advice not to block the drains with waste.

"We are all aware that Lagos is vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The rains are

here again, and the weather forecasts have shown that we should expect a lot of rain this year.

"Clogging the drains with silt and refuse puts all of us at risk of preventable flooding and attendant threat to lives and property during the rainy season. Therefore, let us desist from indiscriminate dumping of refuse on water channels. Motorists should also avoid driving through

flooded areas during rainfall in order to prevent avoidable accidents and loss of lives."

George further decried the poor attitude of many residents to the environment as impacting negatively on the efforts and huge investments made by the state government to ensure a flood-free Lagos.

"Flood control is a key component of the T.H.E.M.E Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's

administration because a flood-free Lagos is critical to the realization of the Greater Lagos vision.

"A good environment will promote the inflow of foreign and local investments as well as raise the quality of life for Lagos residents. So, as citizens, we must play our part by ensuring we clean, clear, and dredge our drains and major collectors for the proper discharge of rain waters."



LASG implements SLAMDAM to curb flood

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State government has started implementing the innovative mobile flood barrier and management solution called "SLAMDAM". Director of Lagos State Drainage and Planning Services, Tayo Fagbeku said in a statement that the implementation began at Omojuwa Estate in Kosofe Local Government Area. SLAMDAM is an easily deployable water-filled flood barrier and was implemented as part of the adaptation benefit mechanism programmed by the African Development Bank (AfDB). "The project aims to implement innovative solutions to mitigate flood risks and strengthen resilience to climate change-induced flooding at the

community level.

"The project is designed to implement a small-scale, high-impact, highly replicable climate change adaptation demonstration technique with a focus on the water sector in Nigeria."

A community leader in Omojuwa Estate, Charles Otabor said the project team trained some community members as the initial flood response team.

He disclosed that the first responders who had been trained with a hands-on demonstration of the technology showed the people that the technology was simple for anyone to use without a degree from the university.

He promised that the people would utilize the equipment appropriately for the benefit of the community and the state.



Flood

Elephant House to accommodate all revenue generating depts

By Edith Igbokwe

Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu recently led the inspection team to the site of the ongoing renovation work at the eight-storey building formerly known as Elephant House. The comprehensive renovation of the Revenue House of the Lagos State Government would be completed by the end of next month, with the contractor putting finishing touches to the imposing edifice located in Alausa, the seat of government. The Revenue House is a multi-department office complex being put up to accommodate all revenue-generating agencies of the state government under one roof. The Lagos Inland Revenue

Service (LIRS) would occupy substantial space in the building, while other agencies, like Lagos State Lottery and Gaming Authority, Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA) and Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency (LAASA), among others would share the rest of the space in the complex. The edifice would offer a one-stop-shop revenue services for individuals and organizations paying taxes to the government. The single-office complex will offer our citizens and organizations a one-stop shop to come in and complete a lot of statutory transactions in the building, which include licence renewal, issues about vehicles, tenement rate, land assessment and general land administration.

Residents of Gbagada Phase II Estate have accused Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) of neglecting the waste in the area despite several calls and requests.

The residents lamented that the waste agency and the contractor in charge of the area are putting their lives at risk.

They alleged that LAWMA and the waste company, identified as Kent and Kelly Nigeria Limited, turned a deaf ear to their pleas despite the recent increase in the waste collection fees.

Decomposing waste was said to be seen in front of a restaurant on Ora-Ekpen Street, and within the two religious centres in the area.

A mini-mart owner on Church Street, who did not give his name, said: "We used to pay N8,000 every two months, but they increased it recently. We went to complain that the new fee was high, but they said they would reduce it and that we should pay it for the first time. So, we later paid N11,000.

"They have not been here for over a month now and we have complained several times. They promised to come, but they did not come. Sometimes,

Residents lament LAWMA poor waste management



LAWMA Vehicles

they say there is no diesel or their truck is not working well." A resident, Alimat Quadri, lamented that the waste piles pose a health risk to her family while pointing to a huge waste

pile in front of her house. "You can see the sight of the waste. They have not come for over a month now. Even the gutters are now filled with waste. I am afraid for my life

and that of my child." A fashion shop owner on Church Street, Toke Busayo, said that the waste management in the area is pathetic.



Nigeria has capacity for \$65.1 billion global art market - Keturah Ovio

By Saheed Afolabi

Keturah Ovio, a Director of Patrons, an art advisory and dealership firm, says Nigeria has the capacity to tap into the \$65.1 billion global art market.

Ovio said this while answering questions on her upcoming miniature art exhibition titled, 'small is beautiful', billed to take place between July 30 and 31 at Cabaret, 32 Musa Yar'Adua, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report 2022 puts the size of the global market at \$65.1bn.

Ovio said the Nigerian art industry has mature so much that works done by

artists in the country are exhibited in various parts of the world, including London, Paris, Rome, New York, Valencia and Berlin, which are often regarded as artistic cities of the world.

"Nigerians are quite creative and can make something out of nothing. All we need is to ensure we are able to participate in global exhibitions with our works," she said.

She noted that artists are not given sufficient attention in Nigeria as some drop out of the way due to lack of patronage and support by the government and the consuming public.

"We need to consume art in Nigeria because it has a lot of benefits. Apart from being a big industry globally, it

provides excitement, leisure and tells stories of history that can't be engagingly told in written form," she said.

It is a big industry that can help to shore up our revenue. When Nigerians travel out of the country, they visit art galleries, attend exhibitions and conduct museum visits. They spend the foreign exchange in order to see and watch what we already have locally. Supporting local artists' starts one act at a time," she admonished.

She said the upcoming miniature art exhibition would showcase the works of a well-collected emerging artist, Oladimeji Alabi, who has exhibited and featured in several prominent places.

She noted that private viewing would take place on

Friday, July 29, and promised to be a weekend of Art, Italian boutique, wine tasting and delicious Hors D' Oeuvres.

She described the event as a miniature art exhibition series meant to spark memorable and inspiring conversations in the art industry through bite-sized art works.

As humans, our obsession to create great things in small sizes is evidenced since the world's earliest civilisations. There's something intricate and mind-boggling about paintings, sculptures, and engravings that come in small sizes.

"Miniature art is a novelty. As an art form, it is extremely detailed as it forces the artist to communicate and engage



Keturah Ovio, director of Patrons, an art advisory and dealership firm

with the audience in limited space and construct. 'Small is beautiful' is a series of miniature art exhibitions that are curated to stimulate one's mind to lean in, inspire, and connect," Ovio further said.

She promised that these series would ignite great appreciation of works done by Nigerian artists and will greatly distract attendees from the hurly-burly of Lagos life and the tensions around the society.

We're paid to attack Tinubu's convoy - Suspects

By Saheed Afolabi

Eight members of different cult gangs that reportedly attacked the convoy of the presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in Lagos have confessed to carrying out the attack.

The suspects, who were recruited by different gang leaders on the Lagos Island, admitted being paid to perpetrate the act.

One of the suspects, who identified himself as Ramon Aniseoju, said they were recruited to disrupt the movement of the convoy and not to allow it get to its final destination.

"We were paid to prevent those on the convoy from getting to the palace of the Oba of Lagos and to despas them," he said.

The suspects were arrested from their different hideouts on the Lagos Island by detectives from Zone 2 Command Headquarters, Onikan, Lagos.

Also arrested were seven members of an armed robbery syndicate operating at the Alaba

International Market in the Ojo area of the state.

Cables reportedly stolen from a company in the Yaba area of the state and valued at N80 million were said to have been recovered from them.

The officer-in-charge of Zone 2, comprising Lagos and Ogun states, Bode Adeleke, an Assistant Inspector-General of Police, who paraded the suspects, said, "Recall that recently the convoy of Alhaji Tinubu was attacked by some hoodlums where some members of his press crew were injured. Some of the suspects have been arrested."

The AIG said some of the suspects confessed to be members of various cult groups and named the principal suspect who sponsored the attack.

He said the mastermind would soon be arrested, adding that the police had stepped up manhunt.

The AIG, who was represented by Zonal Public Relations Officer, SP Hauwa Idris-Adamu, said, "They are suspected cultists, who attacked the press crew of the APC presidential candidate entourage



The arrested suspects

on the day they were to visit the Oba of Lagos.

The press convoy was attacked and this was sponsored by someone who we wouldn't mention his name until he is in the police custody.

"Following investigations, the suspects were arrested and they all confessed to have committed the crime. They mentioned the mastermind's name. They also belong to various cult fraternities. Investigations are still ongoing and we would get back to the press as

soon as we have the principal suspect in our net."

The PPRO, who also paraded nine other suspects in connection with the theft of optic fiber cables worth about N80 million, said they were arrested by the Zone's monitoring unit, led by CSP Uba Adams.

"We busted the chain of the suspected armed robbery syndicate at the Alaba International Market in the Ojo area of the state and recovered the entire cables stolen from a company in Yaba, valued at N80

million. The robbers stormed Jus Partners Cosmopolitan Limited, a telecommunications consultancy, at Yaba, on June 20, 2022, tied the security guards on duty and made away with 16 drums of 96 Core Starlite Optic cables.

Giving this criminal act, the company's management petitioned the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG), Bode Adeleke, who consequently detailed CSP Uba Adams-led Zonal Monitoring Unit (ZMU) to uncover the cabals. The unit

immediately swung into action and deployed its technical and intelligence-based investigation.

"A team of covert detectives accompanied the complainant to the market and directed the company's representative to pretentiously walk into the heart of the business community on market survey of the particular cables.

"This idea turned out fruitful as the first person the the company's representative met, though in the business of buying and selling of such items, later gave the investigating team a leeway into nabbing the culprits.

"Photographs of the exact cable were shown, and to show commitment, the company was directed to make a deposit of N500,000 before the company's representative could be taken to the warehouse. A deal was struck and money remitted into the account of one Felix Onyema, who turned out to be the principal suspect.

"Eventually, the cables were recovered from Felix Onyema's residence at Sibiri, who has since then gone into hiding."



Twenty-two people including a former journalist with the Post Express Newspaper, Frank Oshanugor, narrowly escaped death on the Third Mainland Bridge as a fully-loaded bus hung on the rail by the side of the bridge.

The conductor of the bus was injured as he fell from the vehicle while the driver was trying to control it from swinging into the lagoon.

It was gathered that the vehicle was on its way to Lagos Island when the steering wheel developed a fault while the vehicle was on high speed.

Oshanugor disclosed that the steering wheel of the bus pulled out on motion, the bus lost control and hit the rail of the bridge.

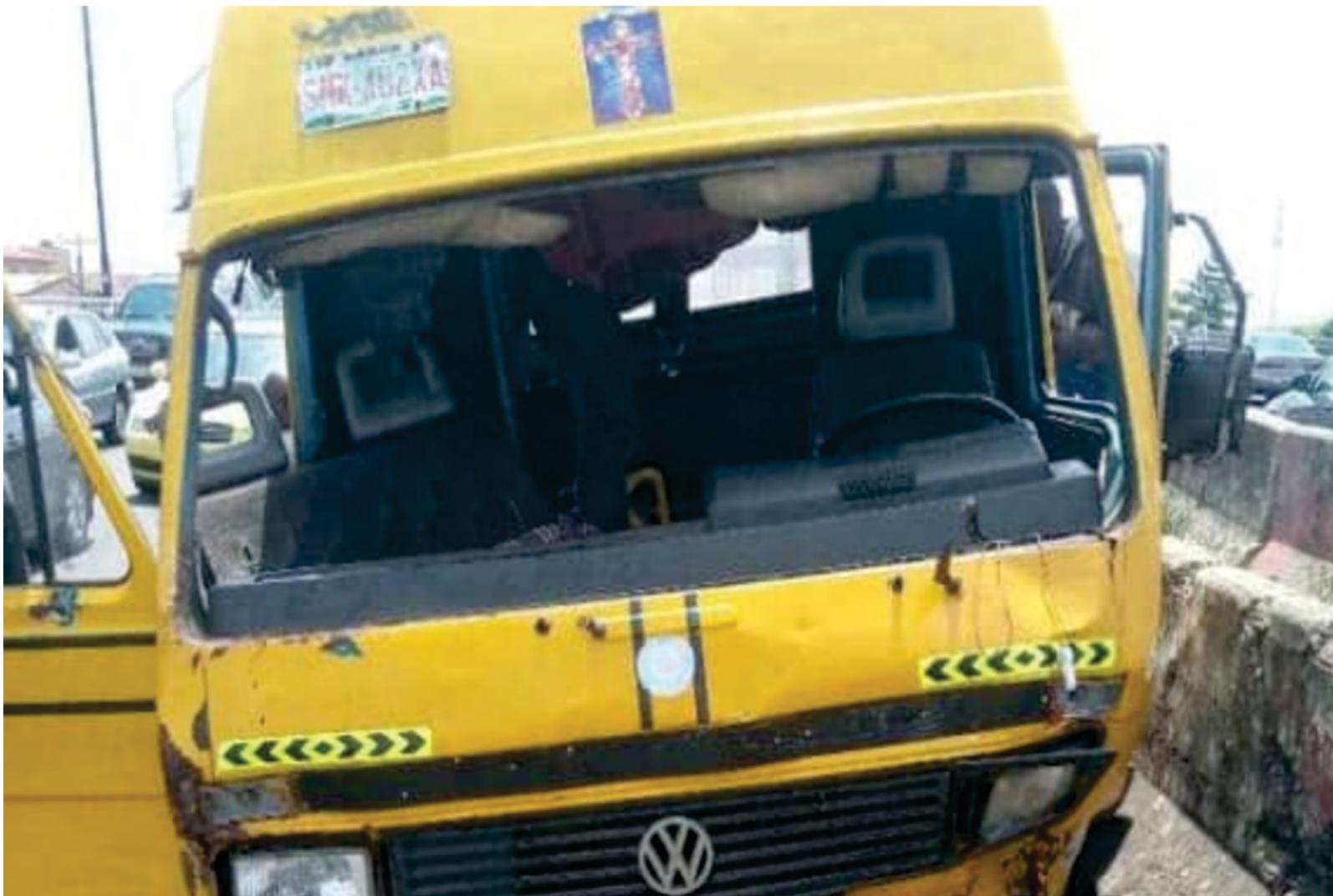
"I did not sustain an injury. Just resting somewhere now."

He further explained that it was only the conductor that had a serious injury as most of others in the vehicle were unhurt.

"The conductor fell as the door of the vehicle near where he was seated pulled off while the vehicle staggered.

"It was God that did it. The vehicle almost fell into the lagoon but the railing by the side of the bridge stopped it. We were all scared."

Oshanugor escapes death



The affected bus

Bamigboye stops extortion

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman, Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, has halted the activities of the unrecognized Federal Republic of Nigeria Legion Mass Transit Empowerment Scheme from extorting people and motorists in Mushin Local Government.

The council boss frowned at the activities of the body which has been going on for some months around Oye roundabout, calling for their immediate evacuation from the road.

Bamigboye warned against such nefarious action and described it as illegal and unacceptable in Mushin Local Government.

He was accompanied to the scene by the Vice Chairman, Hon. Aruwe Tunbosun, Supervisory Councillors and Special Advisers.

Task-force arrests Okada riders, passengers at Berger

By Saheed Afolabi

Officials of the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Task-force) last week arrested some commercial motorcyclists at Berger Bus Stop.

An eye witness said more than 100 bikes were impounded while some passengers were also arrested.

The eye witness, a tricycle driver who simply gave his name as Tajudeen, confirmed that the operatives arrested both the riders and passengers.

He said: "The task-force operatives had raided

Okada men in different places, including Grammar School, Ore-Meta, Akinyele, Ogba, but left Berger until now. It is Berger's turn today and it's obvious that they have informants among us.

"This place is a boundary between Lagos and Ogun States. They cannot come here because it is Ogun State, the raid was to be carried out in Lagos State.

"The men wore masks so people will not identify them. The tear gas shot into the air by the task-force officers forced me to leave my tricycle and run for safety; thank God it was not stolen."

He said the masked men pushed down Okada riders

from their bikes at the area where they clustered to pick passengers, noting that the operatives came in two vans and whisked away the alleged offenders in three Toyota Hiace buses.

"The seized motorcycles were packed in four different trucks.

"The heavily armed officials also prevented pedestrians, tricycle riders and other vehicle owners from passing the scene.

"The exercise created panic among pedestrians and business owners, who shut entrances to their shops against the riders."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, said



Okada riders

the raid would be daily in line with the ban placed on Okada riders in the area by the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

"Updates of the operation are usually sent monthly and I can't give any information right now, he said."



Ege gets "Sariki 'N Yaki" title in Ojo

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Arewa Group in Ojo Federal Constituency has named the flag bearer of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ojo Constituency I contesting for the Lagos State House of Assembly, Comrade Olusegun Ege as "Sariki 'N Yaki". The recognition was made to show their support for the candidate by canvassing for his success ahead of the general election. The leader of the group, Alhaji Gagare, disclosed that their essence of supporting Ege is as a result of his deeds and relationship with the Ojo community. He said that they believe that his ability to prioritize the well-being of the people has long

been portrayed through his previously organized selfless services in the community.

He further noted that the late Richard Afolabi Ege's house is their second home, because of the acceptability received from the late high chief Ege, not as a leader, but as a father to the none indigenous peoples that reside in Ojo Federal Constituency.

He added that the relationship of over 30 years with the late Afolabi Ege cannot be quantified or compromised, hence, the promise to harmonize with all Chief Imams and other Arewas to support Comrade Ege's mandate.

Based on the subsequent relationship between the harmonious ethnic groups and the potentiality portrayed by the son even after the late Chief's



Ojo Arewa group in a joint picture to show support for Comrade Olusegun Ege

demise, Gagare said the title "Sariki 'N Yaki Arewa" meaning "The Warrior of Arewa" was awarded to Ege to describe his determination in seeing to the

affairs of the people.

He advised Ege to continue to make himself available even after being elected as a lawmaker, charging him to know

the needs of his people by directly relating with them as he has always done.

He reiterated their readiness to give full support to Ege while

promising to deliver their polling units with massive votes and amazing turnout of the Hausas to vote for all APC candidates at the coming general elections.

Abila promises to ease PVC collection process

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) has deliberated with community stakeholders over the collection of Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) in the council. Abila promised to facilitate the conducive and quick collection of PVCs in the

council as the 2023 general elections approach.

He stated that the council has studied the progress of the exercise across all centres to note their needs and difficulties to provide lasting solutions for them.

He promised to make changes to needed areas in terms of provision of palliatives to ease the exercise,

strengthening the level of security, conducive environment and special treatment to residents on board as they have taken their time to register for their PVCs for better development in Nigeria.

He, therefore, urged community stakeholders to continue to propagate the collection of the cards as some registered residents are yet to collect their cards while promising that the council will foresee the affairs of the residents in due course.



Abila in a group meeting with community stakeholders in Iba LCDA

APC LAHA candidate charges pupils on good conducts

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the Lagos State House of Assembly in Ojo constituency I, Comrade Olusegun Ege, has advised the outgoing primary school students to be of good conduct and exhibit what they were trained for anywhere they might find themselves after their primary education. He said many students at the background level were good seedlings but derailed as a result of peer group influence in

the long run.

Ege noted that the essence of retaining a valuable education aside from making them of equal status with their peers would make them understand life and perceive the world in an upright manner.

He said for better development of the nation, Nigeria needs to recruit more young talents in various parastatals to awaken the spirit of vitality in their works.

He appreciated the efforts of the teachers in Ojo for their commitment and patience in upbringing students.

Considering the redundant attitudes of some youths towards achieving aspired goals and dreams, the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for the House of Representatives in Ojo Federal Constituency, Hon. Michael Ogunyemi (HLO) has advised the youths in the community to avoid giving up on their dreams, saying their perseverance would pay off later.

He said all youths should consider the "why" factor of beginning whatever they are

Ogunyemi encourages youths never to give up

By Motolani AbdulGafar

engaging in as the "why" factor was in the first place the motivating drive that enabled them to reach where they are at present.

He noted that for them to achieve sustainable

development in their pursuit, they must be self-conscious, self-aware and self-evaluate their improvement so far.

Ogunyemi noted that the government is fully looking up to the youths as they expect them to perform better, being in their prime which is why the

government is making available all sorts of opportunities for them to engage in the development of the nation.

He urged Ojo youths to be up and doing while promising to continue to facilitate their development even after being elected in 2023.



LNSA to deploy body camera

By Edith Igbokwe

The General Manager of Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (LNSA), Dr. Ifalade Oyekan, has disclosed that the agency will introduce crime data bank and bodywork cameras for officers as part of efforts to rebrand the agency and equip it to secure the entire metropolis of the state. Oyekan stated this new plans during a media briefing at the Lagos State Multi-Agency Centre, Oshodi. He disclosed that the agency is prepared for a state police status. Oyekan also noted some efforts made to improve the performance of the agency such as the introduction of professional service through specialized units, the development of new training and retraining modules for the officers, restructuring of the activities of the agencies and prompt response to security calls, among others. "The agency is exploring the option of collaboration and cooperation, logistics and technology, engagement and enlightenment of the populace, creation of crime data bank, the introduction of bodywork cameras, among other initiatives, to bring the agency at par with what is obtainable across the globe. "Officers of the agency now complement the efforts of traffic management officers in the state as a proactive measure to nip insecurity in the bud, as security concerns are more pronounced when there is a traffic situation. "I enjoin Lagosians to be security conscious and join hands with the government to sanitize the entire metropolis by offering useful security information to the agency." He further urged the media to be thorough in their reportage because the task of securing Lagos is a herculean task such that demands understanding and commendation for the selfless sacrifices being paid by the officers.

Ogundipe mourns late Nelson, urges party unity

By Saheed Afolabi

Oshodi-Isolo constituency 1 House of Assembly candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Otunba Stephen Ogundipe (Omojomolo) has mourned the death of former Lagos Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Chief Kemi Nelson. Omojomolo, in a condolence message described the death of the South West Women Leader of the APC as devastating, shocking and a great loss to the party. He reiterated that Nelson's leadership prowess will be missed by the party hierarchy in no small measures. "The announcement of the passing-on of Mrs. Kemi Nelson was a shock one to me as it was broken. Her demise has left a big vacuum for us to fill in the party especially for the people of Ikeja where she was, as the apex leader, until her death. "She was a virtuous woman who lived an exemplary life worthy of emulation by all.

"I pray for her repose and for the family and our party to have the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Meanwhile, Ogundipe has called for unity within the party, urging members to get their PVCs.

He appealed to the party members and leaders to work in unity for the success of the party.

He made the appeal as he attended ward meeting of the constituency across the seven wards.

He addressed the party members of the need to be in unity as the party heads towards the 2023 general elections.

While addressing the party faithful, Ogundipe disclosed that he is ready to bring back aggrieved members.

"I have attended the meetings of other wards and I will relay the same message I delivered to them that we need to have a united front as we approach the coming elections.

"Without doubt, there are some of our members that are aggrieved due to one reason or



Late Kemi Nelson

the other, it our duty to pacify and bring them back home. I am ready to visit our aggrieved members and pacify them myself because united we stand but, division will only bring defeat.

"In addition to the peace, harmony and love I have come

to preach within our party, it is also very important I stress to you all the need to get your Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) Your vote is your power but you will not be able to exercise that power without you having your PVC. Let us go out en mass to register so as to perform our

Civic rights."

An elder from Ogunoloko ward, Elder Salako (JP) implored party members to let go of their grudges and work for the victory of the party in the coming election, noting that Ogundipe has paid his dues within the party.

Labour Party candidate declares governorship bid in Surulere

By Saheed Afolabi

Achieftain of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Lagos State, Moshood Salvador, on Wednesday defected to the Labour Party (LP), saying the national leadership of LP had given him the party's governorship ticket for 2023 in the state. Salvador, the leader of Conscience Forum in Lagos APC, said he was moving with the entire members of the forum across the state into LP to serve and protect his followers. At the official declaration, held at the Surulere area of the state, Mr Salvador said, "I can assure LP that I am going to get the best for you. Moving from one party to the other is just because of the people. "My concern is all about

people, hence we just have to look for where they just have to be recognized. All the APC promised to give my people, none was given," said the former PDP chairman in Lagos who defected to the APC in 2018.

"It is not worthy to be in APC. We have to move to where labour counts. Where we were before, we were only working and none was coming to my people, hence the movement to Labour."

He alleged that members of his forum were not accommodated in APC, from ward level to state level, in both elective and appointed positions.

"Any right thinking person will look for where he and his people will be recognised. That is where we are today. I, Hon. Moshood Salvador and my teeming members of CF, we have moved to LP.

"Having moved to LP, we have been doing a lot of things together, that is why we have come to show the whole world that we are no more in APC.

"Our members have been given recognition in LP, such that some of them have become the candidates of the party," he added.

On the Lagos LP governorship ticket, Salvador, who noted that the party's national leadership had conceded the ticket to him, said he had filled and submitted the party's governorship form.

"We have given the pledge, with the collaboration of my followers we will work hard and get the victory for LP in Lagos in 2023. We are starting now, the work starts now, no delay," he said.

Speaking, the LP Deputy National Chairman, Bashiru Apapa, said the party had

decided to take over leadership of Lagos in 2023, urging the people to vote for all the candidates of LP.

Describing Salvador as a big fish in LP, Apapa said: "We are pleased with a number of achievements he has got. He is not a poor person but because of his love for people, he is coming into our party.

"I welcome Alhaji Moshood Salvador into our party and his teeming supporters. As symbol of our party, we put value on people. We accept all nominations brought by Alhaji Moshood.

"We must work for victory. Don't hesitate to send the ruling party packing. This is a very good opportunity for us."

He urged the electorate to vote for the LP presidential candidate, Peter Obi, Salvador and all the candidates of the party in the state.

In his remarks, Arabambi Abayomi, the LP National Publicity Secretary, said voting for Salvador and Obi would be a guarantee for desired future and freedom for ordinary people in the state and country. Mr Abayomi expressed confidence that Salvador would become the next governor of Lagos to make the resources of the state work for the people.

In his welcome address, Seyi Sowunmi, the LP Chairman in Lagos State, said the party had begun the journey into a new era.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the event was attended by various bigwigs in LP, including chairpersons of the six south-west states, some national officers, and candidates of the party for various elective positions.



I'm at Arsenal to win trophies - Zinchenko

By Saheed Afolabi

Arsenal latest signing, Oleksandr Zinchenko have stated his desires at Arsenal after completing a £30 million move from Manchester City. The 25 year old utility player, who can play as a left back and also a midfielder describes Arsenal as his boyhood club. Zinchenko stated that, he is at Arsenal to win titles,

achieve big things and fight for every title Arsenal will be involved in.

"This is a boyhood dream come true, because I was a massive fan when I was a kid.

"Since Thierry Henry and young Cesc Fabregas was playing here, I was just enjoying watching those games, that Arsenal. And obviously I started to love this club, so I am so excited and I cannot wait to play for this amazing club."

"Since the first day at City, I

knew that he's going to be a very good manager," Zinchenko added.

"I am here to achieve big things and I hope we can win some titles and I hope we are going to fight for every title in which we are going to be involved.

"Even from the last season, I was watching Arsenal's games and I could smell it's coming, you know? The team is growing up so quickly and I think it's time. It's time to do our best and to achieve something big."



Oleksandr Zinchenko

NWFL Club Owners Election: Henrrietta Ehiabor emerges chairperson

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigerian Women Football League (NWFL) club owners association elected another new set of executives to steer the ship of the club owners in the NWFL women league in Nigeria. The election was held at Radisson Blu Hotel Ikeja among 26 women club owners as only the club owner of Pelican Stars was absent. Before the former executive members were dissolved, the former chairperson apologised to the NWFL Club owners for any issue they believed that she did not do well and admitted that she held the NWFL club owners dearly to her heart. The ex-chairperson of the NWFL Club owners, Mrs Matilda Otuene and the former vice chairman, Emmanuel Osahon of FC Robo Queens lost their re-election bid as they were defeated in the contest.

Delta Queens Chairperson, Mrs Henrrietta Ehiabor emerged the association chairperson as she polled 16 votes to defeat Matilda Otuene who gathered 10 votes.

For the vice chairman position, the chairman of Adamawa Queens polled 14 votes to beat the proprietor of FC Robo Queens, Emmanuel Osahon who got 12 votes in the contest.

In the secretary position, Dream Star owner Abolore Abdulrahman polled 17 votes to defeat Osun Babes chairman, Tope Akinbade who got 9 votes.

The position of the PRO, financial secretary, treasurer, assistant secretary was unopposed as the candidates were given the green light by the 26 present NWFL club owners at the election.

The newly elected chairperson NWFL club owners association, Henrrietta Ehiabor said she will work for the benefit of the club owners, the growth of the league and work collectively with the chairperson of the NWFL to get

productive outcome.

The newly elected secretary, Abolore Abdulrahman stated that they will look for ways to revitalize the league as club owners and they are there to help the NWFL league board to make the league one of the best in the world which stakeholders will be happy to be associated with.

One of the electoral committee members, Danny Nazzal (President Dannaz Ladies) described the electoral process as a transparent one.

The elected are: Chairman - Henrrietta Ehiabor (Delta Queens); Vice Chairman - Aminu Muhammad (Adamawa Queens); Secretary - Abolore Abdulrahman (Dream Star); Assistant Secretary - Sylva David (Abia Angels); Treasurer - Tosin Ojo (Confluence Queens); Financial Secretary - Kehinde Ogunde (Sunshine Queens); PRO - Humphrey Njoku (Heartland Queens).

It's record breaking night for me, winning Women's player of the year five times - Asisat Oshoala

By Saheed Afolabi

Asisat Oshoala once again made sure that Nigeria was not isolated in football in Africa as she won the CAF Women's player of the year for a record 5th time thereby surpassing the record of 4 previously set by Nigeria legendary ex football player, Perpetual Nkwocha.

Oshoala, who is a product of FC Robo Queens of Mushin have had a great season despite some setbacks through injury but she has been able to show composure and dedication to win trophies for her club side Barcelona Feminine and emerged the highest goal scorer award in the women La Liga as she got the pichichi award in Spain.

Reacting to the award win, Asisat Oshoala described it as a record breaking night for her, Africa and appreciated everyone that helped her through her career.

"It's a record-breaking night for me as an individual and for Africa as a whole. I've got five, FIVE!

"I want to thank everyone who helped me out in my career. The 2021/122 season was really tough for me.

"This year made me realized if you don't fall, you don't know the power of comeback. Special thanks to my teammates at FC Barcelona and

the national team, the best team in the world, Super Falcons.

"Also, thanks to my (NFF) President, Amaju Pinnick, for always helping us and making sure we can do our stuff on the pitch. I want to dedicate this award to the Super Falcons team, who showed the world their hard work even though they were two women down."



Asisat Oshola



Eulogies for Pa Johnson at 75

Saturday July 30, this year promises to be a landmark event for Amos Johnson, pastor, entrepreneur, community activist and a good friend of the police.

His friends and admirers are not letting the day pass without celebrations in words and dance.

In this article, we feature a few of the eulogies by friends, families, neighbours and colleagues. All of them agree on the consensus: He is a jolly good fellow.

Bro. Rev. Dr. Olumuyiwa Omotoyinbo.*

PASTOR, LCA LAGOS.

My dear brother, it has been a real joy and a rich blessing to have known you all of these many years.

My mind goes back to the very beginning, those early years at 26, Adekunle St. I remember the long conversations you and I had in your early days in the Message in the early to mid- 1990's, your simplicity, your openness, your friendliness, your family easy-going personae, your dexterity, the flair, the finesse, that exquisite taste, the great attention to detail, the eye out for quality, that genuine love of God and His people, the father lines, that readiness to serve at all times, the class and the distinction, the finesse you added while our church building was in construction, the love, the respects, the brotherliness... need I say more?

I pray that our dear and ever caring and loving Lord Jesus Himself will bless your new year and always, with great bounties of His grace and favour, and uncommon outpourings of His love, goodness and mercy upon you, your dear wife, children and grandchildren.

75 sure does look good on you, my dear brother!

Many Happy Returns!

TIMOTHY F. OLUWAFEMI, PASTOR, BETHEL TABERNACLE, AKURE ONDO STATE, NIGERIA.

This is special tribute to ALAGBA AMOS JOHNSON, fondly called BOBBY, on your propitious and magnificent 75th Birthday celebration.

I consider this Birthday special, memory-laden and worth celebrating. Our paths crossed few decades ago at Green Park Hotel, Akure.

You were then, a Produce Merchant into Cocoa Export Venture. Recall, Femi Bamishaye, now Pastor Ado Ekiti Church sighted a message booklet in my car. Femi was then living with me and this brought you to fellowship with us, introduced yourself as Bro Amos Olasubomi Johnson from Lagos Local Assembly, Ebute Metta, Lagos.

On some occasion, you came to fellowship with your family and some of your children; they sang "We shall be change" beautifully as a special number. You worshiped with us throughout your time in Akure and shared the pulpit between the three of us; I, Femi 1, Femi 2 and your good self.

Recall the debilitating adversities that you encountered in your Cocoa Export Venture in which your frontline Cocoa suppliers at Idanre, failed to give you the paid-in-advance cocoa beans running into millions of Naira. We went on several occasions to appeal to their conscience but the entreaties failed woefully.

Like Job, another calamity, when you moved into a new apartment, the third day, your properties were burgled, most valuable properties carted away including over N200,000.00 cash.



Elder Amos Olasubomi Johnson

Yet another one happened.

Your operational vehicle—a Toyota LitAce minibus was stolen while in the fellowship at Lagos Local Assembly, 26, Adekunle St, Ebute Metta Lagos.

This of course made it very difficult for you to collect Cocoa products; thereby leaving you with great debts hanging on your neck, coupled with nauseating marital problems then.

The most disgusting one was the fact that people you thought would understand did not believe you.

But you never allowed these adversities to depress you.

Like Job, your faith remained unshaken.

We shared intimating thoughts, prayed together. You sold your house at Ire-Akari Estate, Isolo, Lagos to defray the colossal debts and went to live at Ejigbo in an incomplete building.

Recollect also that, Femi and I visited you at Ejigbo in this uncompleted building; prayed with you and your family after our intimate talk.

BOBBY, that's the reason I love you.

I thank God, you never lost your balance in the Message of the Hour, despite the pre-mentioned adversities and being misunderstood.

Ajiri Onewokae

A Blessed Happy 75th Birthday to my precious big brother and friend Elder Amos Johnson!!! You have come a mighty long way!!! God has indeed been so good. Thanking God for adding another year to your amazing life and His divine protection thus far. To God alone be all the glory, honour, praise and adoration for all He has done for you and your family. You are an amazing and gallant Christian soldier who loves the Lord with all your heart and an uncommon depth of sincerity. Your passion and zeal for the furtherance of God's Kingdom is worthy of praise and emulation. I celebrate and salute you. You have been such a blessing and strong support. A rare gem of inestimable value with a heart of gold, beautiful inside out. May God continue to bless you, especially because of the real burden you have for God's children, your community and humanity. I can't thank and appreciate you enough for being such a reliable, faithful and diligent support down through the years. Your unwavering commitment

in giving so unselfishly and unconditionally has been the hallmark of your selfless service to so many. Your generous, kind and welcoming spirit is outstanding. A quintessential gentleman who is always willing to give of your time and resources. Another remarkable quality is your self effacing, gracious and humble demeanor. You are always open and ready to learn anything positive that adds value from anyone, young or old, I feel so undeserving of the respects you accord me at all times. Ever so gracious, you put me on a pedestal of which I'm most unworthy. You just love to brag on others. Much love and respects my precious Egbon of inestimable value. Shalom

ALHAJI ALIU ABU BAKRE

I'm so overwhelmed by your track record of performance that I don't really know where and how to send you birthday wishes. Is it on your resilience in d splitting of ; POWERLINE IFESOWAPO CDA (PICDA) into three, now viable CDAS, or your doggedness in running PCRC as the unequalled Chairman?

How about your administrative capacity with which you've kept SENIOR CITIZENS EJIGBO having fun and thereby making themselves happy together, not to mention your untiring representation of the community at the Local Government Level.

For all these and many services you're never tired of rendering your continuous selfless services to the community, I say;

HAPPY BIRTH DAY TO YOU.

I WISH YOU MANY HAPPY RETURNS.

Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan

Publisher

Echonews Newspapers

It gives me great pleasure to felicitate Elder Pastor Amos Johnson, a senior citizen par excellence on the occasion of the celebration of 75 years.

In the last two decades, the study of Political Science has been exploring the concept of power outside the structure of the formal entity called the State.

These studies have increasingly emphasised the role of individuals and groups who are more committed to the sustenance and development of their neighbourhood

much more than the conventional obligations to government at federal, state or local government levels.

The idea of the "communitarian" describing the focus on serving the community as the ultimate objective and expression of citizenship has become the phenomenal reminder or modern replication of the ancient city states and their direct, open and simple communal civic processes.

Pastor Amos, through his activities in building the communities which influence the development of the material and human transformation of our Ejigbo community is our own distinguished version of the communitarian.

He has proven his mettle as a major force in community development association, the police community relations, the Church and most recently, the senior citizens forum.

This "majeobaje" natural trait manifesting in an unobtrusive, complementary and supportive style of standing to be counted on the side of progressive causes and elements makes him the quintessential elder celebrated with the proverbial accoutrements of the Yoruba heritage: "Agba ki wa l'oja, m'ori omo tuntun wo". (The elders ensure that, children are properly backed in the market)

Despite his age, Pastor Amos connects well with the youths and younger elements. On one occasion during my recent campaigns for public office, he advised me on what would surprise anyone reading this tribute. Be advised me to shave my beard! He was of the opinion that I looked more presentable with a cleaner, bare, well groomed chin than the greying beard I had.

Until her transition to eternal glory, Fatimah, my departed wife, was my consultant on such matters. She would take a look at me and tell me if it fitted or not.

However, when I received the message, I went to the mirror and scrutinised my face. I checked my visual profile and the public face I had maintained while serving the public. I could not but agree with his brilliant counsel. And so, I deprived the luxuriant strands of their tenancy and reclaimed the clean composure that you saw in the latter phase of the campaign. In fact, I had to do a photo shoot to replace the pictures which were on my media platforms.

Let us, for a moment, process that development. What kind of a person, having so many things to think about and do, would spend his precious time on how he could influence how a young man seeking votes should appear in public? There must, certainly have been some love your neighbour feeling, a Christian value that has become part of his persona. There must have been, I repeat, a " Majeobaje" obligation to see this local adorable politician excel. And there must have been a willingness to contribute something valuably humane yet non-material and non-financial. We can see how a simple expression of love influenced a fundamental repackaging of the brand.

One can go on and on to provide evidence of the labour of love of this old but young at heart man; I could go down memory lanes to discuss our chats and occasional spats till this tribute turn to a book.

Let me stop here to give others their much deserved space. There is one wish I should be allowed to make: that God should spare our lives to mark his centenary.



DAMILOLA BENDER:

My Music Will Go Places

Mother, Voice Over Artist, Writer and broadcaster, rDamilola Bende has just released a song that is hitting the airwaves. She spoke to Echonews Ladapo Kolade on the trials and triumphs of making her own music. Excerpts: What is the inspiration? My inspiration comes from within and it is one of my greatest talents that was given to me by God and I am also fortunate to be born into a loving family that loves music. These have been part of my inspiration. How long did it take you to move from idea to production? My ideas were clearly written down by my humble self more than a decade ago along with writing lyrics and composing my songs. I recorded my own music four years ago and released my solo work this year 2022. The reason for that was that I have been working on other music artist projects which required time, dedication and energy. I was also sharing my creativity in advertising and broadcasting industry to add value to client products and services while developing myself in creating new ideas. What were the challenges? I had several challenges which was finding a good instrumentalist that understands my kind of music, financial challenges in booking for studio section, Paying for instumentalist, music promotions, sourcing for shows and motherhood challenges. All these challenges are there but I was able to scale through with more encouragement from myself, friends, my husband and my colleagues in music. Their encouragement pushed me to release my first solo work "Rhythm of Life" in Indies genre. Marketing music has taken a new dimension since the emergence of digital communications. How are you making money from your music? Well, the emergence of digital communication has really helped most artistes in general because it helps to save a lot of money. It makes a work easier than it was before. In the past before the emergence of digital communication, music artists will often think of recording music tracks to printing hundreds of thousands of CDs and CD jackets to be



Damilola Bende

sold before one can earn a little while the pirated companies get the larger share out of the artiste's hard work. But with the emergence of digital communication, it has been easy for music artist to upload music, share content and music link to an online music player, such as boombox, audio mack while also making money

from online music promotion companies that helps to circulate music such as trac, tinder including social media handles like YouTube, instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn to mention few. When will you hit the stage and take part in concerts? I will hit the stage as soon as I get booked for concerts. What makes your music

different? My genre of music is Indies and country, my personality, my style, charisma, well written lyrics and my voice makes my music different. What is the future of your music? The future of my music will be so bright and accepted internationally and all over the world. It is work, explore and shine.



Exploiting the Poultry Industry Potential

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The Poultry Sector is a huge one, contributing about 25% of agricultural GDP to the economy, with a net worth of about N1.6 trillion. Yet, there remain the challenges of smuggling, and the huge gap between demand and supply. Now, as stimulus for the sector, the Central Bank of Nigeria has disbursed funds to over 166 poultry projects across the nation, and partnered with relevant bodies towards food sufficiency, job creation and eliminating poultry importation by 2023

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