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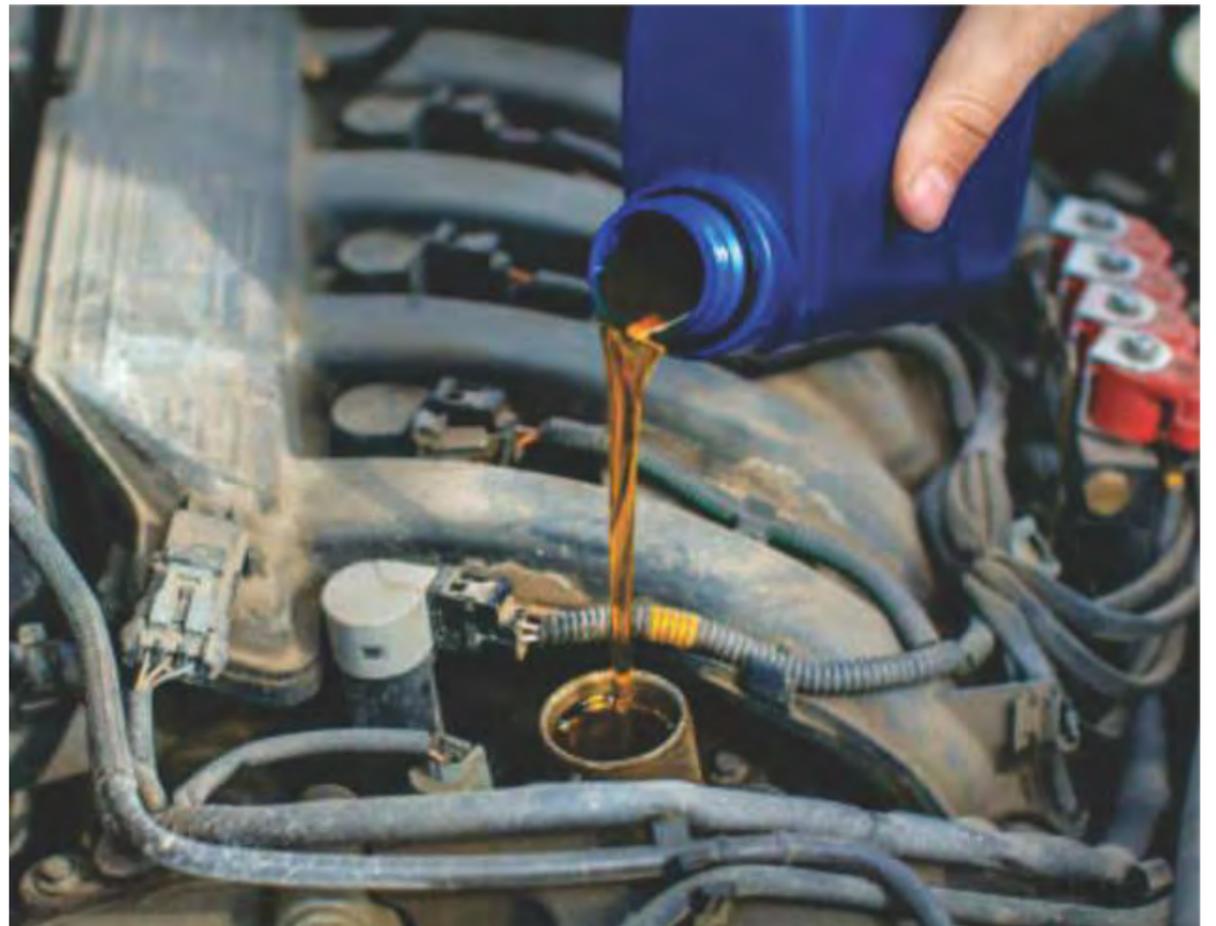
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# Engine Lubricant: Experts Reveal Problems With Palm Oil

By Kunle Awosiyun

Experts in the field of mechanical engineering have continued to kick against the use of raw palm oil as vehicle engine lubricant.

The discourse about the use of palm oil was loud in November 2023 in a viral video where a man was seen pouring palm oil in a car engine as a substitute for the costly synthetic petroleum product in the open market.

However, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering Olatunde Oyeleran of the Federal University, Oye-Ekiti, Ekiti State, has raised the alarm that the use of crude palm oil is unsafe for vehicle engine.

He advised Nigerians not to rush into using palm oil to run their vehicle engine, adding that the cooking oil must undergo chemical process such as "Transesterification", among others, before it could be considered safe for use in vehicles. The process, he said, removes water contents and other particles from oil.

He said, "Palm oil in its natural and pure form is not safe because of its water contents. There are processes the regular palm oil needs to go through before it can be used as engine oil. That process is called "Transesterification" of palm oil which reduces its water content. It can be used as

diesel. It contains similar properties and even has some advantages over petrol.

"Indonesia tested palm oil and after some processes, they have started using it as aviation fuel. Such palm oil must have passed through processes such as transesterification to reduce its viscosity which in the long run makes it safer for use."

Also In their research, "A Comprehensive Review on Palm Oil and the Challenges" by Muhammad Arif Dandan, Wan Mohamad Aiman, Wan Yahaya, Syahrullail Samion Mohamad and published in the Journal of Advanced Research in Fluid, the scientists concluded that Palm oil is good as lubricant but must have passed through chemical process to make it usable.. The study reveals that palm oil has potential to reduce the dependency on mineral based oil lubricants.

According to the research, there are four major groups of palm oil that were investigated by the researchers around the world namely 100% palm oil as a test lubricant.

palm oil as additives, palm oil with additive and palm oil emulsion. All the researchers found out and proved that palm oil shows satisfactory results and has a bright future to be used widely in engineering applications. It



also been proven that palm oil has several good performances in term of lubrication and has potential to reduce the dependency on mineral based oil lubricants.

According to the researchers, the crude palm oil must be refined to produce higher value oils and products, which means that this oil has gone through a purifying

process to remove the unnecessary fatty acid and odour.

Razak et al., also agrees that using palm oil has more significant compare to mineral oil. In his experiment, the influence of lubricant on Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS) curve surface structure (CSS) sliding against ball bearing was investigated. The palm oil and commercial mineral oil (MO) were tested as the lubricant. The sliding friction was measured on a modified standard four ball tester with untested ball cup. It was found that the measured friction using palm oil is lower than the mineral oil.

Speaking, an auto mechanic at Ladipo automobile and spareparts market in Lagos, Mr. Edison Godwin told Echonews that any engineer who uses palm oil in place of synthetic engine oil would knock his engine.

As he put, "Im not saying that all vehicles that use palm oil will knock but it is advisable not to try it on any brand of vehicle. I do not know what a

good engine oil contains but I know that many brands of vehicles today come with engine oil specifications. None of them came with palm oil as specification.

Godwin explained that later in the future palm oil could be useful for cars but not until the "Oyibo people" work on it. "Who knows if there is palm oil in the one we buy and put in our cars now but they have worked on it. For somebody to just pour palm oil inside a car engine, my brother na "gbese" he said.

A car owner, who simply identified himself as Lawrence said that he would never risk servicing his car with palm oil. "Yes I also saw the video in which a man was pouring palm oil in his car engine. That car is an old model, which can run on black oil. He can never try it with Benz, he will knock the engine straight away,"he said.

To a commercial motorcyclist, Tunji, one can use any type of oil if the machine is old, adding, "But I have not tried palm oil. I also saw the video but I can't try it now."he said.



# Lagos Govt, FHA Partner On Affordable Housing

• Lagos leading in housing models in West Africa – FHA boss



Lagos State Government and the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) have promised to synergise and collaborate to provide affordable housing for Lagos residents and Nigerians in the diaspora.

The promise was made on Saturday by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Housing Authority, Hon. Oyetunde Ojo, during a courtesy visit by management of FHA to the Governor at the Lagos House, Marina. Governor Sanwo-Olu said the vision of the Federal Housing Authority is in line with

the objective of the Lagos State Government to provide housing needs for various strata of the economy, noting that his administration in the last four and half years has commissioned 18 different housing estate projects in different parts of the State to reduce housing deficits in Lagos.

He said: “The Federal Housing Authority is known for opening new areas, new cities and corridors. We can see from your (Hon. Oyetunji Ojo) drive and move in the last couple of weeks that indeed, you want to make a positive impact in your tenure.

“For us in Lagos, we know what the deficits

are and are open for collaboration. In the last four and half years that we came into government, we have commissioned about 18 different housing estate projects in various numbers in different parts of the State. The citizens want shelter and we have been very strategic and think out of the box to create housing solutions that would meet the needs of the citizens.

“Your (FHA) vision sits with our objective which is to be able to provide housing needs for various strata of the economy. We can collaborate. There are a lot of needs for Lagosians that we can collaborate on.”

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who promised to support the Federal Housing Authority with land, which he described as 'our (Lagos) own oil', charged the federal agency to hit the ground running once it got the approval.

“Land in Lagos is our oil. We will support you but you must be ready to hit the ground running. Let your people work with the Lagos State Commissioner for Housing. The advantage that we have is that the market is here (Lagos). We will challenge you to change the skyline and try to have your footprints in as many parts of the country as possible,” he said.

Speaking earlier, Hon. Oyetunde Ojo, said

affordable housing for Nigerians is very key in the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu.

He said: “We want a synergy between the Federal Housing Authority and the Lagos State Government because when it comes to housing, Lagos State is leading in housing models in West Africa. We want to learn and that is why we need the synergy with the Lagos State Government. President Tinubu must flag-off and commission FHA housing projects in Lagos State.

“We want people abroad to be secured in buying properties so that when they pay by

installments with the digitalisation FHA is about to do in collaboration with the Diaspora Commission and Ministry of Tourism and the Lagos State Government, our people abroad will be safe. We want a place where we will partner and people overseas would be very confident about it.”

The MD/CEO of the Federal Housing Authority also commended the giant strides of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration in key sectors, particularly in the areas of infrastructures like the Blue and Red Rail lines and the Lekki – Epe Expressway, as well as the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

# Rainy Season: Lagos Govt Intensifies Cleaning of Drainage Channel

...Awards Contract for Concrete Lining of System 44 – Lekki II to Ikota Channel

As part of efforts to actualise its promise to sustain a flood-free Lagos, the State Government has intensified dredging/cleaning of major drainage channels and canals across the state. The Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab disclosed on Sunday when he led state officials on another inspection tour to some parts of the state.

He explained that the redesigning and reconstruction of the system 44 drainage channel after the removal of structures on the setback will prevent flooding in the Lekki axis when the rains commence.

Addressing journalists after the tour, Wahab said the system 44 drainage which is about five kilometers is a major channel that cuts across Lekki Scheme II, Gedegede Community, Ikota GRA, Cluster I/Ivy Homes and Megamond Estates.

He added that the dredging and lining of the canal will ameliorate the difficulties encountered in the areas during the rainy season and also save lives and properties.



According to him, “I would like to appeal to all residents to take ownership of public infrastructure provided by the government in their communities, ensure they protect the canals and drains from refuse dumping and do away with encroaching on canals and drainage right of way”.

At a meeting with chiefs and Baales in the Lekki II area, the contractor that will work on the concrete lining was formally introduced to them, seeking their cooperation to ensure timely completion.

The Commissioner was accompanied on the tour by the Special Adviser, Environment, Mr. Kunle Rotimi-

Akodu; Permanent Secretaries, Environmental Services, Gaji Omobolaji Tajudeen; Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Mahamood Adegbite; MD of LAWMA, Dr Muyiwa Gbadegesin; GM of LASPARK, Mrs. Adetoun Popoola; General Manager, LASEPA, Dr. Tunde Ajayi; General Manager, LASWMO, Engr. Adefemi Afolabi and some Directors.

Earlier, the team also inspected the ongoing enforcement action for the re-establishment of drainage setbacks in PeleWura/Ladylak Collector drain, Kofe Abayomi and

Aerodrome Collector drain all in Apapa.

The team also visited System 157, Orchard Road, Lekki where properties that fall within the approved metres setback of the channels were issued abatement notices before the commencement of enforcement action. “We are cleaning up our infrastructure and making them more resilient and this will be done continuously all year round, manually and mechanically across the state”, he said.

Wahab also visited Ilabere Drainage Channel, off McPherson Road, Ikoyi where he directed immediate cleaning of the channels and serving of abatement

notices to contractors who were in the habit of illegally placing their construction materials on the road thereby disrupting the free flow of traffic.

He expressed satisfaction with the recent removal of shanties on the Coastal Road, Mayegun and Jakande Area of Lekki, reminding residents that no government is out to hurt its citizens, adding that what was done in Mayegun/Jakande is being done to override public interest.

He added that during the enforcement activities, some individuals were caught parading arms

and these suspects have been handed over to the appropriate authorities and will be charged to court and jailed if found guilty.

He warned all those who have erected structures on setbacks and alignments of the channels to remove them or have them removed, advising residents to desist from the illegal act and have a change of heart towards the environment.

The Commissioner also advised pedestrians to always use the pedestrian bridges and avoid endangering their lives by crossing the highways as they will face the wrath of the law when caught.

# Lagos Presents C of O To UAE For Cultural Centre

In a historic move aimed at deepening cultural ties and fostering intercultural exchange, the Lagos State Government has presented a Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the establishment of a cultural centre in Lagos.

This significant gesture which was held at the Consulate Office of the UAE in Victoria Island underscores the commitment of the state government to promote cultural diplomacy, celebrate diversity, and strengthen bilateral relations between the two regions.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih, who led the state's delegation, explained that the partnership underscores the commitment of both Lagos and the UAE to harness the power of education and cultural exchange in fostering global citizenship and

sustainable development.

While presenting the Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) to the Consular General, the Special Adviser explained that the donation marks a significant milestone in the establishment of a cultural hub that will serve as a beacon of cultural exchange and dialogue between the two regions.

Her words, "By harnessing the collective expertise and cultural richness of the two cities, this partnership holds the promise of creating a more interconnected and inclusive world, where cultural heritage is celebrated, educational opportunities are accessible to all, and meaningful exchanges shape the future of global citizenship".

Expressing enthusiasm about the collaboration, the Special Adviser pointed out that the cross-border

collaboration has the potential to enrich the cultural fabric and educational landscape of the state, submitting that the diverse cultural assets and educational resources of Lagos and the UAE will provide invaluable learning opportunities for individuals of all ages.

"Lagos is a melting pot of cultures, and we are thrilled to collaborate with the United Arab Emirates in celebrating and preserving our rich cultural heritage. The establishment of this edifice will not only deepen our cultural ties but also create new opportunities for educational and socio-economic growth", she added.

The partnership, according to her, marks a significant milestone in the present administration's ongoing efforts to promote cultural diplomacy and



educational excellence by leveraging the shared values and diverse heritage of the two economically advanced cities.

Dr. Finnih further confirmed that the collaboration will encompass a wide range of initiatives designed to promote cross-cultural understanding, facilitate knowledge sharing, and empower citizens to become global citizens.

Receiving the C of O

document, the Consul General, UAE, Dr. Abdulla Al-Mandoos appreciated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration for the kind gesture, pledging to strengthen the bond between the UAE and the state government through cultural and educational exchange.

The Consul-General emphasised the importance of cross-cultural collaboration, stating that the

partnership represents a significant milestone in international cooperation.

He said, "With a shared commitment to excellence and mutual respect, Lagos and the UAE are poised to embark on a transformative journey that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come. These joint cultural and educational initiatives will seek to deepen our bilateral ties and cultivate a more interconnected global community".

# Civil Service Commission Hosts House Committee on Establishment



Lagos State Civil Service Commission (CSC) has received the Chairman, House Committee on Establishments, Training, Pensions and Public Service, Hon. Oladele Ajayi and other members of the committee on a familiarisation visit to the Commission.

Speaking during the visit, Hon. Ajayi commended the leadership of the Commission for the already existing collaboration and innovations introduced into the State Civil Service.

He noted that the Commission had

always carried him along in most of its events and urged that such a working relationship be further extended to other members of the Committee. He informed that the visit was part of the efforts of the House Committee to further familiarise itself with the activities, programmes and challenges of the Commission.

Responding, the Chairman, Civil Service Commission, Mrs. Olubunmi Fabamwo informed that the Civil Service Commission is a statutory body enshrined in the

constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

She noted that the Commission's activities are guided by set of rules such as the Civil Service Commission's laws, Public Service Rules, Scheme of Service and other extant Circulars.

She said to ensure that the constitution is in tune with modern demands a committee has been set up for the review

of the establishing laws of the Commission and solicited the House Committee Members' support to fast-track

the review.

She enumerated some of the roles of the Commission to include Recruitment of Officers, Promotion, Disciplinary activities as well as Exit of Officers from the State Civil Service, noting that the Year 2024 Promotion Exercise is currently ongoing.

She mentioned some of the achievements of the Commission which include the commencement of the digitisation of the Commission's business processes which has three phases namely: Automation of Records Management System, Digitising the Commission's internal business processes and the final stage which is the Complete digitisation of both the internal and external business processes for the Commission.

Other initiatives of the Commission, according to the Chairman, include the introduction of the Revised Structured Training Programme (RSTP)

with two components such as the Cross-Cutting Knowledge Training Sessions and the Job-Specific Training Session.

She further informed that Oral Interview for Promotion Exercise which was earlier stopped was also re-introduced for Officers on Grade Levels 12 and above.

Fabamwo also noted that in a bid to promote standardisation and uniformity in the management of human capital in the State Public Service, the leadership of the Civil Service Commission pioneered the establishment of the Meeting of Chairmen of Statutory Service Commissions and Boards,

Furthermore, she averred that as part of the collaboration for uniformity and standardisation in the State Public Service the Commission convened and institutionalised the Summit for all

Statutory Service Commissions and Boards

Some of the challenges of the Commission mentioned by Fabamwo include the need for a review of the current laws establishing the Commission as well as the need for the Commission to be empowered to have joint responsibility of capacity building of Civil Servants as other Commissions.

Earlier in his remarks, the Permanent Secretary of the Civil Service Commission, Mr. Akinbode Obadina expressed appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Establishment, Training, Pensions and Public Service for the visit.

Other dignitaries at the event include Commissioner I, CSC, Mr. Adesina Odeyemi; Commissioner II, CSC, Hon. Kamal Olorunjo; Commissioner III, CSC, Mr. Babatunde Seriki; Commissioner IV, CSC, Hon. Hodewu Suru-Avoseh and the Heads of Directorates/Units in the Commission.

# Creation of Lagos Residents Database A Necessity- Joe Okei-Odumakin

The leader of the Centre for Change, (CFC) Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin has said that the mission of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) to identify and register all residents of Lagos for efficient planning and allocation of resources cannot be underestimated, not even at this time of the season that Governors of different States are bracing up to cushion the effect of the economy hardship for their residents by distributing palliatives



Joe Okei-Odumakin said this recently during a courtesy visit with her team to the General Manager of LASRRA, Mrs. Bilikiss Adebisi-Abiola in her

office at the LASRRA Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos. The visit, which also allowed her to validate their information with LASRRA was aimed at

understanding the process of registration as regards the LASRRA 2.0. In the course of updating their details, the pro-democracy Advocate

realised that the process is very seamless and used the medium to call out to other residents who have not done this to quickly do so, adding that many benefits await residents who have registered or validated.

"It is a seamless process and I want to implore all residents to be part of it. It is our civic right to register, and when the government is in the know of its demographic location and other basic information to help her plan properly, the basic amenities and other

provisions would be made so easy without a hitch. So, let's agonise less and organise more. You shall see more of me as far as Advocacy on card pick-ups, registration/validation with LASRRA is concerned", she stated.

Joe Okei-Odumakin is a Nigerian women's rights activist, President of the human rights groups, Women Arise for Change Initiative and the Campaign for Democracy

In appreciation, the General Manager LASRRA was enthusiastic about the visit describing Joe Okei-Odumakin as an Amazon that she has always admired from afar.

# Cleaner Lagos: LASEPA, NPA Collaborate

As part of the efforts to rid Lagos State of pollution, emissions and other environmental infractions that may be dangerous to human health and the ecosystem, the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) and the Nigerian Ports Authority have expressed willingness to collaborate towards achieving a cleaner Lagos environment.



For this reason, the two agencies have agreed to strengthen collaborations that would help to monitor and protect the environment from pollution and other environmental violations that may have direct consequences on human health and the ecosystem.

This was part of the agreements reached on Tuesday during a meeting between the Officials of the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency, (LASEPA) led by its General Manager, Dr. Tunde Ajayi and

representatives of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) led by Mr Emeka Uchendu, NPA's Principal Manager for Health, Safety and Environment, who represented the Acting General Manager, Engr Adekunle Adesona, held at NPA Office, Marina Lagos.

In his address at the meeting, LASEPA General Manager, Dr Tunde Ajayi noted that there is a need for collaboration and cooperation between LASEPA and NPA in various areas of environmental

management to make the goal of a safe and sustainable environment possible in the State.

Dr. Ajayi, who was accompanied to the meeting by top officials from his agency, stressed the need for understanding and joint efforts in tackling environmental challenges in the State, noting that the State Government remains the first point of contact and respondent in any emergency, hence the need for proper enforcement of the State environmental regulations for the

protection of human life and the ecosystem.

"The purpose of this meeting is to explore opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between LASEPA and NPA in various areas related to environmental sustainability, particularly Tank Farms management, issue of oil spillage, monitoring and enforcement, submission of statutory reports, audit, environmental, contingency among other areas", Dr Ajayi explained

He emphasised the importance of

fostering synergy between LASEPA and NPA to effectively address environmental challenges and jointly ensure compliance with environmental regulations for a sustainable and cleaner Lagos.

Responding, the Principal Manager, Health Safety and Environment (NPA), Mr. Emeka Uchendu expressed the commitment of NPA to working closely with LASEPA to implement environmentally friendly practices that would promote the growth of a sustainable environment in the emerging smart city of Lagos.

He disclosed that NPA had embarked on some initiatives to further promote the growth of a clean and sustainable environment in the State, urging the State Government to intensify efforts in its various advocacy programmes including market sanitation, tree planting, flood-free Lagos, emission

control, reduction in the use of non-biodegradable elements among other initiatives.

The meeting concluded positively with the two parties jointly agreeing to nine-point workable resolutions including common communication channels between LASEPA and NPA to bridge the communication gap; Joint quarterly meetings between the two agencies, Inclusion of LASEPA's representative in agencies committee meetings, Inclusion of LASEPA officials in Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) meetings, Jointly conducted surveillance operations along waterways, Joint stakeholders engagement and awareness campaigns, collaboration on the use of LASEPA ISO Certificated Laboratory for analysis, data sharing for environmental audit report as well as collaboration to allow NPA staff access LASEPA laboratory for knowledge sharing.

# LSACA Organises HIV/AIDS Annual Operation Development Plan Workshop

Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA), in collaboration with the Local Health System Sustainability Project (LHSS), recently organised a dynamic two-day Annual Operational Development Plan Workshop.

The primary objective of the workshop was to develop a comprehensive Annual Operational Plan that will serve as a roadmap for monitoring and



evaluating the implementation of the 2021-2026 State HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, aligned with the National Strategic

Framework. The strategic initiative aims to assess the effectiveness of the State's HIV/AIDS response and ensure

the efficient utilization of the Agency's limited resources for targeted programmes.

In her opening remarks at the event held in

Lagos, the Chief Executive Officer, LSACA, Dr. Folake Animashaun emphasised that the Annual Operational Plan goes beyond mere documentation as it's a vital tool for facilitating the rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the State's progress in combating HIV/AIDS.

The CEO underscored the state's unwavering commitment to maximising the impact of every endeavour within the HIV/AIDS

response framework. Animashaun also appreciated the esteemed stakeholders' steadfast support and dedication to achieving the global HIV and AIDS targets set for the State. The workshop brought together diverse participants, including Implementing Partners, Line Ministries, and Networks, fostering collaboration, innovation, and collective efforts toward the goal of eradicating new HIV infections by 2030.

# Special Adviser Seeks Stakeholders' Compliance With Anti-Money Laundering Campaign ... Highlights Importance of Adherence to Regulations at EFCC Workshop

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare has emphasised the critical need for compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorism Financing (CTF) regulations within the real estate sector.

She expressed this view while speaking at a two-day workshop organised by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), themed: "Developing Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Compliance Culture in the Real Estate Sector", in Lagos, recently.

The Special Adviser, who was represented by the Director, Monitoring and Compliance Department, LASRERA, Mrs. Tope Akinbola underscored Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's unwavering commitment to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in the real estate sector in the State.

Odunuga-Bakare stated that the increasing rate of reported fraudulent practices and cases received by LASRERA signals a pressing need for vigilance and adherence to the regulatory framework. She stressed the significance of complying with both domestic and international laws governing Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism to maintain the integrity of the real estate market.

The LASRERA Boss equally emphasised the importance of collaborative efforts among stakeholders, including government agencies, law enforcement bodies, civil society organisations, and the private sector, in combating corruption within the real estate sector.

She commended the EFCC for organising the timely workshop, providing a platform for constructive dialogue and knowledge exchange, just as she expressed gratitude to



the Zonal Commander of Lagos State and other EFCC officials for their collaboration with LASRERA in ensuring

the integrity of the real estate sector in the state.

The workshop served

as an opportunity for participants to develop strategies to enhance AML/CFT compliance culture within the real

estate sector, fostering a collective resolve to uphold principles of honesty, transparency, and accountability.

Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has inducted 201 students drawn from 20 schools in Education District Six into the Kings and Queens Club.

Speaking at the induction ceremony held on Wednesday at the Eko Boys Grammar School, Mushin, the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende said the purpose of the initiative was to ensure that boys and girls serve as peer educators in the fight against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Lagos.

While urging them to speak out and report any case of domestic or sexual violence in their community, Ogunlende said the initiative was in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, particularly youth engagement and social inclusion.

Similarly, the Lawmaker representing Lagos Island Constituency I, in the House of Assembly, Princess Omolara Olumegbon said the programme was aimed at reiterating the State government's zero tolerance for all forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and addressing the grappling issues of violence that individuals and communities are faced with.

Hon. Olumegbon urged the students to continue to strive for excellence and champion a world free of all forms of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and to see themselves as ambassadors and change agents in society.

Earlier in her remarks, the Executive Secretary of DSVA, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi said the initiative was aimed at creating a sustainable social structure in educational institutions that would help debunk sociocultural misconceptions and promote empowered femininity to bring about behavioural and attitudinal change in the minds of young girls in Lagos State.

Vivour-Adeniyi said the initiative would also help to constitute an alliance of trained young girls and boys in schools who would serve as peer educators and advocates of positive femininity and masculinity.

She said the club which has exposed the girls and boys to increased knowledge of Gender-Based Violence would enable them to question dominant norms that promote gender inequities as well as challenge myths and misconceptions about violence.

Vivour-Adeniyi said empowering and inaugurating the students into the King's Club and Queen's Club Initiative was expedient as children are amongst the statistics of victims who mostly fall prey to paedophiles and forms of abuse.

The Managing Director, Lagos Bus Service Limited (LBSL), Mr. Idowu Ogunlana and the GM of Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), Mrs. Adebisi Adelabu, who both serve as Mentors, presented Certificates and IDs to the students while another mentor, Mr. Olaonipekun Kazeem gave

# DSVA Inducts Students Into Queens, Kings Club



the Charge to the students at the event.

A student of Euba Senior Secondary School, Babayomi Abraham, whilst recounting what he

had learnt during the six-week programme, urged his peers to remember to demonstrate Grit, Tenacity and Resilience as these are critical attributes for them as

they sojourn into adulthood. Meanwhile, after taking the Pledge of Allegiance, the students from Education District VI were

subsequently inducted into the club and awarded certificates and identity cards to validate their induction into the Kings and Queens Clubs.

## APC Belgium Chapter Supports Aged People With N.6m Cash Palliative

In light of the current economic situation in the country, the All Progressives Congress, Belgium Chapter, has launched an initiative tagged "Patriotism and Diaspora Challenge," aimed at reaching out to the aged and the needy.

The initiative is spearheaded by Hon. Said Salawu SMS who is the General Secretary of the party in Belgium.

On Saturday 9th March 2024, the APC Belgium Chapter distributed cash to the residents of Adegboyega Street, Ilupeju, Onipanu Lagos.

The palliative cut across all tribes of senior citizens of 70 years and above. The cash palliative of 0.6 million naira was distributed to the aged residents.

According to Salawu, helping others is like a seed; when it grows, it brings out the beauty. He said that the real beauty is underneath, which is the root which grows wider.

"When it forms a tree, it becomes a shed for you in this world and thereafter; so let's help, where we can," he stated. According to Salawu, helping

others is like a seed; when it grows, it brings out the beauty. He said that the real beauty is underneath, which is the root which grows wider.

"When it forms a tree, it becomes a shed for you in this world and thereafter; so let's help, where we can," he stated.

In his words, the team leader in Nigeria, Rasheed Obe the funds coming into the country from the Diaspora is huge, if 40 percent of Nigerians abroad can emulate and act like this, it will ease the pressure of poverty in the land.

To Hon. Gbenga Idowu, other members abroad should emulate Salawu's gesture so that what Asiwaju Bola Tinubu is preaching will be known to everybody.

"We want peace, we want self sufficiency. let us come together to help each other so that Nigeria can be a better place. Another APC member, Mr. Odugu Sunday further advised that activities like this should not be left in the hands of Nigerians abroad alone, that those at home with resources should follow suit.



Hon. Salawu SMS



# Female Gender is Becoming More Successful -Alogba

The Chief Judge of Lagos State, Hon. Justice Justice Kazeem Alogba, has noted that the female gender is becoming more successful and advancing in the legal profession.

He said this during the just concluded 'Call to the Bar' in Abuja, where he received into the Nigerian Bar, the Overall Best Student of the Year from the Nigerian Law School (NLS) for this year, one Lawal Aminat Odunayo, a young woman.

He said she also emerged as the Best Promising Student of the Year as well as the Best Female Student in Civil Litigation.

Meanwhile, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has charged women judges to identify obstacles that hinder women's advancement and strategies and collaborate on how to overcome them. He urged them to carve out a future where women in the legal profession would stand on equal footing with their male counterparts.



Sanwo-Olu gave the charge while addressing the First South-West Zonal Workshop of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) with the theme: "Breaking Leadership Barriers for Women in Legal Profession".

The Governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, expressed joy that Nigerian women judges compete favourably and effectively with their counterparts globally in the dispensation of their sacred duties as

members of the hallowed inner bar. He celebrated the women judges, particularly those in the South West of Nigeria.

Mr. Governor also commended the Justice of the Supreme Court, Hon. Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun for sustaining the platform for women judges to confer and build a structure that would sustain the legal instrument of the state and the country.

"Your dedication and commitment to advancing women's leadership in the legal profession are truly commendable and I am confident that this

conference will provide robust solutions and forge new and workable strategies to bring about lasting and tangible change that you have constantly desired and would live forever in our lives", he said.

Earlier in her address, Justice Kekere-Ekun, who is the President of NAWJN, remarked that there is still much work to be done notwithstanding that the country has come a long way in terms of women achieving leadership positions in the legal profession.

Justice Kekere-Ekun noted that there are still many challenges inhibiting women from

reaching the zenith of their careers which she listed to include domestic impediments, difficulties in maintaining a work/life balance, lack of support in the home, working conditions that are not favourable to women, such as frequent postings of women with young families, gender bias - the belief that certain positions are more suited to the male gender and lack of mentorship programmes, to name a few.

She pointed out that women have been exceptionally blessed by God with innate skills and the ability to multitask, which can enhance and support nation-building.

She said that the International Association of Women Judges had partnered with Co-Impact, a philanthropic collaborative fund to develop and implement a multi-year programme to enable, support and promote sustainable leadership pathways for women in leadership in the Global South.

She also revealed that the association is also working with affiliate Associations in five countries (Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico and the Philippines) to address and work out strategies to overcome the barriers confronting women in leadership in the profession, adding that the initiative is called Women In Leadership In Law (WILIL).

She said it was for this reason that the executives of NAWJN decided to hold workshops in the six geo-political zones of the country to beam a spotlight on these challenges and to also proffer solutions that are uniquely suited to our environment.

She hoped that the series of workshops would provide a roadmap that would lead to the enhancement of women in leadership in the Judiciary and other fields of endeavour, which is expected to positively impact high-level decision-making and overall best practices within the profession.

# Over 650,000 Residents Benefit From Free Eye Intervention

Lagos State Government has revealed that over 650,000 residents have benefited from free eye interventions through the State Ministry of Health's blindness prevention programme. Special Adviser to the Governor on Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Kemi Ogunyemi, made this known during an awareness and sensitisation walk on Wednesday held within the Alausa Secretariat community to commemorate the Y2024 World Glaucoma Week Celebration in Lagos State. She stated that 270,000 residents received free eyeglasses from the State Government, while over 30,000 underwent free surgeries.

"Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that affect the optic nerve, leading



to irreversible loss of vision without prior warning. To date, the blindness prevention programme has reached over 650,000 people in various communities in the state. Out of these, 270,000 benefited from free eyeglasses, while over 30,000

underwent free eye surgeries to restore their vision", she said

Dr. Ogunyemi further explained that the Y2024 World Glaucoma Week Celebration, themed: "Uniting for a Glaucoma Free World", aligns with the present administration's commitment to the

prevention of avoidable blindness, stressing that the State Government has provided primary eye care services within the community, including screening, eye health education, free treatment for minor eye conditions, and a referral system to secondary eye units.

She added that the State Government has equipped 11 General Hospitals in Lagos Island, Ikorodu, Gbagada, Ajeromi, Isolo, Badagry, Orile Agege, Epe, Ijede, Ifako-Ijaiye, and Alimosho, with facilities to investigate and manage cataract, glaucoma, and other common eye conditions.

Highlighting the commitment of the present administration to reduce the prevalence of blindness in Lagos State, the Special Adviser noted that the week-long activities, which are scheduled to be held from March 10th to 16th, include free eye screening for market women within the premises of Police Barracks Alausa.

She commended all

relevant stakeholders who have always supported the State Government in the commemoration of the World Glaucoma Week celebration.

Earlier, the Director, Medical Administration, Training and Programmes in the Ministry of Health, Dr. Funmilayo Shokunbi urged all residents, especially those above the age of 40, to check the condition of their eyes regularly, at least once a year, to ensure good eye health.

"It is important that you get screened regularly. Learn about Glaucoma, read, and ask questions about it, and more importantly, as you pass the second and third decade of your life, make sure you go to the hospital and consult your doctor at least once a year", she emphasised..

# Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program

Empowering the citizens of Ibeju-Lekki to Overcome the current economic challenges while fostering economic growth in Nigeria through collaboration with state and federal authorities.



## OVERVIEW

The Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program aims to alleviate the impact of the current challenges in the economy on its citizens by providing targeted support in key areas.

Through this program, the local government will offer relief measures to ease the burden on households, ensuring a positive impact on the well-being of its residents, particularly the needy, while continuing to collaborate with state and federal authorities to foster overall economic growth in Nigeria.



## FOCUS SECTORS



HEALTH

- Free basic drugs at our Public Health Centres.
- Free medical tests for blood pressure and blood sugar.
- Medical Financial Assistant for vulnerable families through a new fund called Medical Support Fund.



EDUCATION

- #50,000 Bursary for Students of higher institutions of learning.
- School Fees Support for newly admitted students into higher institutions of learning.
- Free forms for students writing WAEC and GCE.

## FOCUS SECTORS



HOUSEHOLD

- Community Market to subsidize some of food items.



AGRICULTURE

- Ibeju Lekki Out-grower Scheme for Cassava and Plantain farming to boost food production.



MSME

- #30 million Traders Loans to be disbursed over a period of 6 months.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE

01

Provide support to cushion the effect of economic hardship.

02

To provide immediate support.

03

Support to help families with basic household needs.

04

Support SMEs through credit.

05

Provide medical Relief.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Ibeju Lekki Local Government Economic Relief Program is a strategic and compassionate response to the current economic challenges in our country. This initiative not only strengthens our local economy and improves public perception but also positions Ibeju Lekki as a beacon of resilience and sustainable development.

Through this, we seize the opportunity to uplift people, reduce poverty, and create a stronger, more stable environment. Together, we can embrace a future where citizens thrive, the community flourishes, and Ibeju Lekki becomes a model of progress for the nation.

# THANK YOU



The Police have apprehended one Mukailu Mohammed for an alleged theft of flour worth N3 million. Mohammed was arraigned before Magistrate OlatundeAdefope of the Yaba Chief Magistrates' Court for the alleged offences. Accused of stealing bags of flour worth N3.6m from Golden Penny Flour Mill, Apapa, Lagos, the accused, one of the company drivers, was entrusted with a truck carrying 600 50 kilogrammes bags of flour for delivery to a customer in Agbara, Ogun State. However, he carted away with 120 bags, valued at N3,606,790.40 and

# Police Arrest Truck Driver For Stealing Flour Worth N3m

By Felix Kuyinu

abandoned the truck at the Golden Transport Company on the Oworoshoki Expressway, in Gbagada area of Lagos. Following the report, a team of detectives was assigned to investigate the case. They attempted to apprehend the defendant at his registered residence but met his absence. A court order was subsequently obtained to trace the defendant's phone, which revealed his location in Plateau



State. In addition, a court order was procured to freeze the defendant's bank account. With the

cooperation of the bank, the defendant's details were retrieved, facilitating his apprehension which occurred on February 7,

2024. The Commissioner of Police for Plateau State, Hassan Yabanet, directed the detectives to the Divisional Police Office where the defendant was detained. He was subsequently transferred to the Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba, for interrogation. Prosecutor Haruna Magaji informed the court that the defendant committed the alleged offences on August 9, 2023, hence, contravening Sections

411 and 280 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015. He informed the court that the bank statement and the police report were evidence that the defendant committed the alleged offences. The defendant pleaded not guilty to the two charges levelled against him. Magistrate Adefope ordered that bail of N500,000 should be paid and two sureties must be provided with evidence of residing in Lagos State. The case was adjourned to April 17, 2024.

## Man Rapes, Infects Minor, Bags 20-year Jail Term

Justice Ismail Ijelu has sentenced one Dennis Okubiat to 20 years imprisonment for raping a 12-year-old girl, causing her urinary incontinence. Okubiat was arraigned at the Lagos State High Court in Ikeja on Wednesday. Justice Ismail Ijelu held that the victim testified saying, "I went for evangelism and, in the process, went to check on him [Okubiat] who had not been coming to church after our pastor said we should visit members who had not been seen in church for some time. "I respected him as an elder of the church and went to check on him and then helped his wash plates and clean his house. "After I was done, he

offered me Garri and groundnut to drink, and I slept off. When I woke up, I saw a white substance in my private part, and I woke him up and asked him what happened to me; he said if I told anybody, he would kill me. On number of times she was a victim of the act, the victim said, "He did it several times for three months, and on September 6, 2021, he came to my house and said we should do it; I said I don't know what you have been doing to me, so he started shouting and calling me to come and do it; that was how our neighbours heard and caught him. The victim felt sensational movement in

her body after the incident saying, "After he raped me, whenever I sit down, my private part is always itching me, and it makes me look like a mad girl in the street. When I wake up in the morning, I'm always wet, but during the day, I can control myself. "This never happened to me before Okubiat raped me; I always woke up by myself at night to urinate, but after the rape, I'm not able to control myself, especially at night." In an allocutus, Okubiat said the victim came to his house because her mother was working in a hotel and she abandoned the victim and her other siblings, and that he used to give

the victim and her sisters food whenever they said they were hungry. He also testified that he had known the victim's family since the time they came into the community. A nurse, OluchiNwoke-Okoi, a staff of the Women At Risk Foundation, testified as witness. She said that the victim was brought to their office on September 14, 2021, by her relatives on account of the sexual defilement. According to Nwoke-Okoi, the victim said that she was molested several times in June, July, and August and September 2021. In addition, the medical

practitioner further told the court that, "The victim was examined by Dr. YejideOkungbaye, while I witnessed the examination, and the medical report was issued to the police that referred the case to my organisation. "In the report that there were mild bruises around the urethra of the vagina. "There was redness in the labia; the hymen membrane was not intact, and with that report on the vagina, we found that there was blunt force penetration," she said. Justice Ijelu in his judgment held that the court accepts the entirety of the victim's evidence as it corroborates with that of the medical report. He said the prosecution led by the state counsel

Babatunde Sunmonu proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt. "I accept the entirety of this evidence, and the defence tried to discredit it," the judge said. "The court finds that this piece of evidence by PW 2 (victim) unequivocally proved the ingredients of the offence of defilement. "The act of Okubiat was premeditated, the victim was vulnerable, and he took advantage of her. "The court finds that the act of the convict harmed the victim as it has caused her extreme psychological impact and social impact," the judge said. "Okubiat is hereby sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment, to run from the day he was arrested and remanded,"

# Former Lagos Assembly Speaker Lauds Legislative Achievements

By Felix Kuyinu



Hon, Adeyemi Ikuforiji

One-time Speaker at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Adeyemi Ikuforiji, has commended the legislative arm in the state for being lawmaking pace-setters in ensuring democratic growth. Ikuforiji extolled the Assembly for standing out and never been a

rubber stamp since the inception of the fourth republic.

The erstwhile Speaker made the commendation on the sideline of the executive and legislature parley held in Lagos.

He said that the state's Assembly is poised in forming synergy with the executive arm in

rendering democratic targets planned by the administration.

Ikuforiji, who also acclaimed the Assembly's adherence to the principle of checks and balances and separation of powers as enshrined in the constitution said, "This question of rubber stamp is probably not a Lagos

question.

"All along, from the very beginning, the Lagos House has always stood out, even from the very beginning of this dispensation.

"At the beginning of the fourth republic, we had a governor who himself had been a legislator, and he's a democrat.

"This is in person of President Bola Tinubu;

no one will find Tinubu wanting when it comes to democratic practices, which is the hallmark of our political party as well, so Lagos State house can not and will never be a rubber stamp of any executive," he said.

Ikuforiji, while recalling his time as a speaker said, "Legislature had its way, had its right and

always did it as they deemed fit, and the executive was also fully supported by the legislature.

"With such balance, which also played out with the Legislative Assembly before I came on, it would always prevent the legislature from being a rubber stamp.

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# Somolu Council Boss Assures Residents Of Ounje Eko



The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has reassured residents of the arrival of the 'Ounje Eko' initiative at the heart of Somolu at Agunbiade

Primary School, this initiative heralds the advent of the Lagos State Discount Market, conveniently accessible to locals. The council boss disclosed successful

discussions with key stakeholders, including Commissioner of Agriculture, Mrs. Abisola Olusanya, and Lagos State Ministry officials overseeing Governor Babajide

Olusola Sanwo-Olu's 25% discounted market for food items. This initiative aligns with the state's commitment to providing accessible and affordable food options, aiming to alleviate the

current hardship faced by Nigerians.

“Residents are encouraged to seize this opportunity, ensuring access to essential food items while fostering community

engagement and support.”

With 'Ounje Eko' poised to launch in Somolu, the Lagos Business hub community anticipates an upsurge in food security and economic prosperity.

# Adebajo Completes Mosan Okunola LCDA New Secretariat Complex

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman Mosan Okunola LCDA, Princess Olabisi Adebajo has recently finished constructing a new two-story building to improve administrative services for the council. This building will house offices for the Chairman, Vice

Chairman, Secretary to the Local Government, Council Manager, Council Treasurer, Council Engineer, and a conference room for the Chairman. The building will accommodate various departments such as environment and

health services, Abisco ICT center, public affairs unit, ICT unit, agriculture and social services unit, admin/human resources unit, and the ICT control room. Additionally, supervisors for civic engagement,

agriculture and social services, special duties, education and library services, information and communications technology, health, wealth creation, information, budget and planning, women and poverty alleviation, and the special adviser on

boundary adjustments will also have offices in the new building. The recently constructed secretariat building now includes a new car park facility with a capacity to accommodate at least 50 cars simultaneously. "The building will not

only boost administrative duties of the council, it will boost the morale of Mosan Okunola LCDA constituents, stakeholders, council staff members and public office holders" Mr Femi Olasehinde APC Secretary Mosan Okunola LCDA submits.

# 6000 Residents Benefit From Ikosi-Isheri Food and Cash Support

Kehinde Adeleye

Residents of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area flocked to the council premises to participate in the massive distribution of food items and cash support by the chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, drawing an enormous crowd for the monthly food palliatives and cash support.



The goal of the March edition of the monthly program "Ramadan and Lent Palliatives Intervention" was to support local Christians and Muslims during these important times of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and spiritual purification.

In her speech, Princess Bada praised the residents of Ikosi Isheri LCDA for their unparalleled cooperation, unwavering support, and fervent prayers in propelling the organization to new heights. She also expressed gratitude to the Executive, Legislative Arm, and Management Team of the LCDA.

The Chairman of the Ikosi-Isheri LCDA

heaped praise on both the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, for their persistent efforts to improve the current state of the people's economy.

After the program, the delighted recipients went home with a meal of rice, garri, and beans along with financial assistance. They also sang praises of Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada's leadership, saying that since her appointment as Executive Chairman, she has never ceased to care for her people, living up to her motto, "My

heart is where my community is."

The program was particularly unique because it coincided with the times of prayer and fasting for both Christian and Muslim faithful. Regardless of their religious views and convictions, the Mayoress pleaded with everyone to regard themselves as one. "God willing," she reassured the inhabitants, "this exercise will continue each month."

The idea of today's event, she continued, showed the value of solidarity, peace, compassion, and proactive governance in combating food poverty and helping the vulnerables—even in the face of the present economic downturn.

## Lagos Lawmaker, Saheed, Leads Committee To IBILE Holdings

Kehinde Adeleye

The Member Representing Kosofe Constituency II at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mr. Femi Saheed and some members of Lagos State House of Assembly recently visited Ibile Holdings Limited as part of their oversight duties to monitor the state's investments.

IBILE Holdings was created by the Lagos State Government in 1989 to boost the economy and provide benefits for residents.

The committee's visit aimed to strategize on ways to make the investments profitable and strengthen partnerships to achieve state goals, as reported on the television programme 'The Lawmaker' on Lagos Television.

"We are paying this visit to most of our investments in Lagos to showcase the quantum of investment that has gone into some of these companies and make sure we establish synergy with some of these agencies so that the government and its citizens will start seeing the reason why Lagos State has investment in



holding company" Hon Saheed said.

The legislator also stated that with effective cooperation in place, there should be no obstacles for state residents when it comes to traveling within the state.

"We honourable members of the House of Assembly under the leadership of Rt Hon Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa are here to see how state companies are being managed for the viability and interest of Lagos residents.

For instance, offering LAGRIDE and the Lagos Bus Service (LAGBUS). Individuals shouldn't have to suffer while trying to move themselves. The member argued, "We need to come up with a solution and work together to improve transportation for a lot of people."

Mr. Oluwatobilola Lawal, the Group Managing Director of

Ibile Holdings Limited, announced that this was the first delegation he had ever received in his capacity as GMD. He thanked the committee and praised them for being very professional and helpful.

"This is my first time receiving members of the House. They are wonderful people full of professionals, very friendly and came with helping hands.

We talked about how to increase our assets, collaborate, and create synergy.

There used to be concern that the House would try to meddle in the business's operations. I am now, however, more educated.

Mr. Lawal said, "I would like to thank the Honorable Speaker, the Committee Chairman, and other members for making me feel at home."

## 6,000 Bags of Food Distributed To Vulnerable Residents of Agboyi-Ketu

Kehinde Adeleye

Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area, led by Mr. Dele Oshinowo, has launched a new social intervention program aimed at assisting vulnerable residents.

The initiative will distribute food packages at twelve locations, with each person receiving a 10kg bag of either rice, beans, or garri.

The Supervisor of Agriculture, Social Services, and Community Affairs, Mr. Seyi Ikuejuyone highlighted that the goal is to bring joy to residents, particularly the elderly, widows, and those with special needs. The Vice Chairman, Mrs. Folake Kayode mentioned that by monitoring the distribution across the centers, they were aiming to make sure all residents feel the unique governance approach being implemented by their leader.

She also mentioned that the LCDA will reveal more significant programs to further enhance the welfare and wellbeing of their residents.

"The present administration in Agboyi-Ketu LCDA is one that connotes good governance in all ramifications, while the good works of Mayor Dele Oshinowo has placed our beloved LCDA in the doing good map, it is important for

the positive approach to be sustained"

"While this present exercise will cater for 6,000 households, let me reiterate that the intervention exercise will hold regularly to meet the demands of our people in this trying phase of our nation"

Numerous residents from the twelve centers praised Mayor Dele Oshinowo for his innovative approach in improving the LCDA through the effective distribution of food items.



# Isolo Council Boss Flags Off Alagbeji Primary Health Centre

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area, Mr. Olasaju Adebayo, has taken the World Health Organization's recommendation for a Primary Health Care Centre in each geographical ward of developing countries seriously. Recently, the newly built PHC in Alagbeji Ward was opened,

equipped with modern tools and staffed with trained professionals. Since its opening on 9th of February the facility has been seeing a significant number of residents benefiting from the integrated health services provided daily. Similarly, the leadership of Olasaju Adebayo planned another health event at the council office for the residents of Isolo

council area, providing free diagnosis and treatment for health issues like Hypertension, Diabetes, typhoid/malaria, to mark the inauguration of the health facility. Echonews correspondent shared their firsthand experience witnessing how the facility has positively affected the health needs of the

people, fulfilling the promise made by the council mayor during the election campaign. The achievement has received praise not only from those who have utilized the facility for medical reasons but also from prominent members of the community. "I am happy that we now have a functional PHC in Alagbeji ward. We won't have to go to Isolo or

Ajao Estate to access basic health services. Special thanks to the council chairman for this development," remarked a patient, Motunrayo Ayeni. "One of what we've yearned over the years was a functional PHC in Alagbeji ward because of the stress we incur in accessing health facilities at other wards. I'm delighted that the chairman match words

with action by establishing a PHC in our ward. This is quite commendable. Kudos to him. I enjoyed the health service at the facility," said another patient, Morenikeji Alani. Like other PHCs across the council area, Alagbeji PHC provides primary health services Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm.

# Kazeem Empowers 250 Residents in Ikorodu West LCDA

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a bid to empower the residents of Ikorodu West LCDA, Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem has launched the SKO Cash Empowerment Initiative, providing cash support to 250 individuals in the community.

The initiative aims to provide residents with the resources they need to address their various needs, including obtaining food supplies and meeting other essential requirements.

Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem Olanrewaju, the Executive Chairman of Ikorodu

West LCDA, demonstrated his commitment to the community during the launch of the cash initiative program.

The program commenced on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, with the successful distribution of cash gifts to selected residents from wards A, B, and E.

During the launch event, Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem presented a motorbike to Mr. Sunday, also known as Cemetery, and a mortuary to empower deserving individuals to make meaningful contributions to the community.

Emphasizing the



careful selection process, Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem highlighted that beneficiaries were chosen from various segments of the community, including religious bodies, CDC/CDAs, youth, market associations, and the traditional ruler. Acknowledging the collaborative effort required for community development, Hon. Sulaimon Kazeem appealed for the cooperation, prayers, and patience of the community members. He urged everyone to unite during the holy month, fostering peace, harmony, unity, and empathy, in alignment with the spirit of both Lent and Ramadan.

# Ramadan: Bada Leads Food Distribution Initiative in Ikosi-Isheri LCDA

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Under the leadership of Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada, the Mayoress of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, residents observing the holy month of Ramadan and Lent received food palliatives and cash tokens.

The initiative, aimed at alleviating the burden on families during these sacred periods, reflects the commitment of the local government to ensuring access to nutritious meals for all. Addressing the audience, Mayoress Samiat expressed gratitude to God and highlighted the values of compassion, solidarity, and mutual support that define Ikosi-Isheri LCDA.

Recognizing the significance of Ramadan and Lent for the Muslim and Christian communities respectively, she emphasized the importance of providing support to those in need during these religiously significant times.

The food palliatives distributed by the administration symbolize hope, compassion, and unity, according to Princess Samiat Bada. She reassured the community of the administration's unwavering commitment to supporting and uplifting those in need, particularly during times of economic hardship and religious



observance. Princess Samiat Bada also highlighted President Tinubu's plans to introduce a

scheme providing financial support to individuals, urging residents to register for NIN and LASSRA to

benefit from the initiative. Additionally, she commended Governor Sanwo-Olu's 'Ounje Eko' initiative, which aims to

reduce the cost of food items by 25 percent, thereby easing the financial burden on residents.

Encouraging residents to embrace the spirit of giving and empathy during Ramadan and Lent, Mayoress Samiat stressed the importance of unity and solidarity within the community. By supporting one another through acts of kindness, they can overcome challenges and create a brighter future for all.

The beneficiaries of the food distribution initiative applauded Mayoress Samiat's efforts in bringing relief to the people of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA. They expressed gratitude for her tireless work and the positive impact it has had on their lives.

# Ounje EKO: Ojodu LCDA To Provide Free Transportation, Security

Kehinde Adeleye



**T**he Lagos State Government's "Food Discounts Market Programme" is receiving further support from the Olusegun Odunmbaku administration in

Ojodu LCDA, which is offering locals logistics and security. Recognizing the value of making sure that the purchase of subsidized food goods to vulnerable households is carried out effectively and safely.

Ojodu LCDA will supply cars to drive residents from different parts of the LCDA to the sales location at Ojodu Grammar School at no cost.

Furthermore, Ojodu LCDA will supply the required security

guards to guarantee that the subsidised food purchase procedure runs effectively and incident-free.

The free buses are positioned at Powerline (Oke-Ira), Modupe(Oke-Ira), Agidingbi, Akiode,

Oluwole Estate(Ogba), Community Bus Stop(Oke-Ira), Second Junction (Oke-Ira) Shogunro Estate(Ogba) and Ojodu Berger. By supporting with logistics and security aspects of the "Food

Discounts Market Programme"\* , Ojodu LCDA aims to contribute to the overall success of the initiative by Lagos State Government as it would make a positive impact on the lives of its residents.

# Eredo LCDA Presents 500KVA Transformers To Odogbawojo, Odogbonle

By Mohammed Adekola

Eredo LCDA continues to prioritize community development and welfare. The LCDA made significant strides by presenting two 500KVA transformers to the Odogbawojo and Odogbonle communities, a testament to their commitment to improving infrastructure and



the overall growth and development of the LCDA, urging all stakeholders to work together to safeguard the new transformers from vandalism and ensure uninterrupted power supply.

"The people's call for enhanced electricity services has not fallen on deaf ears," stated Chairman. "We recognize the significance of a reliable power supply in driving progress and prosperity, and we are committed to meeting the needs of our communities."

The development sparked a wave of gratitude and excitement among community members, who expressed their appreciation through songs and applause, praising the chairman for his proactive approach to development. This was particularly noticeable when the transformers were delivered and handed

over to the communities.

The swift action taken by Eredo LCDA excited His Royal Majesty, Oba Adeniyi Adelani of Odogbawojo, who commended Akinloye for the timely assistance provided to the communities. "We are grateful for the council's swift response to our electricity needs," said Oba Adelani. "This gesture reinforces our partnership in ensuring a better quality of life for our people."

Similarly, High Chief Sikiru Adebayo Shanu, Baale of the Odogbonle community, expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the council of elders and youth. "We extend our sincere appreciation to Hon. Akinloye for fulfilling his promise within a remarkably short time frame," stated Chief Shanu. "This collaborative effort exemplifies the unity and dedication driving positive change in Eredo LCDA."

## Tobun Distributes UTME Printouts To 500 Students

By Mohammed Adekola

Hon. Abiodun Tobun, representing Epe Constituency I in the Lagos State House of Assembly, brought hope and motivation to 500 students in the area. The event, organized to distribute UTME/JAMB printouts, transformed into a fortress of counselling and inspiration, leaving a lasting impact on both privileged and less-privileged students.

Led by consummate leaders such as Epe LG Vice-Chairman; Hon. Sikiru Owolomoshe, International Cooperative Alliance (ICA Africa) President, High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola; Education District IV TG/PS, Prince Segun Osinaike; Lekki Coastal Chairman, Comrade Wasiu Ayeola; Epe LGA APC Chairman, Hon. Toyin Gbadamosi; and Hon. Abiodun Tobun himself, the atmosphere was charged with wisdom and encouragement. Stories of triumph over adversity, as told by the treasures of wisdom who graced the event, resonated deeply with the students, igniting a renewed sense of resilience and dedication to their academic pursuits.

Hon. Tobun emphasized the importance of education as the foundation for a brighter future. He urged the students to steer clear of negative influences and distractions, particularly



cultism and prostitution, emphasizing the need to focus on their studies and avoid activities that could jeopardize their prospects.

"We have done our best for you, it is now left for you to seize the golden opportunity for your future," Tobun stated, highlighting the forum's commitment to supporting exceptional students throughout their academic journey.

The event not only witnessed the presentation of a sewing machine to a student who had acquired tailoring skills, but it also heralded the surprise announcement of the sponsorship of 20 youth to Government Technical College, a testament to Hon. Tobun's commitment to empowerment and skill development.

High Chief Oriyomi Ayeola, commended Hon. Tobun's initiative, stating that such acts of kindness could significantly reduce poverty levels in the country. He urged the beneficiaries to cherish the opportunity presented to them and

strive for excellence in their endeavours.

The epochal event was plunged into a debate on the strict adherence to disciplinary measures at the tutorial centre, focusing on late-coming and other related issues. In his usual style, Hon. Tobun, the Chairman, House Committee of Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives, reiterated his commitment to allow the entrenchment of discipline by the education committee, stressing that the students must strive to complete their chores and join the tutorial class at the stipulated time.

The gathering was not just about distributing UTME forms but about instilling hope, providing guidance, and empowering the youth of Epe to reach their full potential. Hon. Abiodun Tobun's philanthropic drive and dedication to education have set a commendable example, inspiring a generation of future leaders to dream big and work hard towards achieving their goals.

livelihoods.

During the presentation ceremony, Akinloye addressed the pressing need for upgraded electricity infrastructure in both communities, acknowledging the residents' long-standing desire for improved services. He emphasized the crucial role electricity plays in

## Lekki LCDA Distributes Food Items To 500 Nursing Mothers

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairperson of Lekki LCDA Mrs. Ramat Bola Kasali, and wife of the Chairman, spearheaded the distribution of "Nutri Mama" packages to over 500 nursing mothers and pregnant women.

The "Nutri Mama" program provides immediate relief and empowers mothers with the knowledge and resources they need for a healthier and brighter future for their families in Lekki LCDA.

The initiative, aimed at providing essential support and palliatives amidst the challenges caused by the fuel subsidy removal, turned into a memorable occasion as one of the beneficiaries, an expectant mother, joyfully welcomed a healthy baby and boy at Lekki Primary Health Care Center (PHC).

The unexpected but delightful moment occurred during the distribution ceremony, showcasing the real impact and significance of programs like "Nutri Mama" in uplifting and supporting mothers during pregnancy and early motherhood.

Speaking on the significance of the program and its



numerous benefits to households in the LCDA, Chairperson Ramat Bola Kasali emphasized the importance of going the extra mile to cater to the needs of expectant and nursing mothers. She stated, "Organizing the 'Nutri Mama' program is not just about distributing welfare packages; it's about ensuring the well-being and safety of our mothers and their children. Every mother deserves access to quality healthcare, nutritious food, and essential supplies, especially during such challenging times."

Echonews highlighted the holistic approach of the program, which not only provides tangible support like food items, baby essentials, and healthcare products but also focuses on educating and empowering mothers. "We are not just giving out packages; we are providing education on child care, antenatal

care, and immunization because the health and development of our children are paramount," she added.

The "Nutri Mama" package, distributed to registered beneficiaries armed with their antenatal or immunization cards for access, includes staple food items such as rice, beans, garri, Semovita, and Indomie, along with baby care essentials like Nutribon, Pampers, and tissue papers.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the beneficiaries, expressed gratitude to Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali, the Chairman of Lekki LCDA, for his continuous support and commitment to the community's welfare. "We appreciate the unwavering support of Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali and his dedication to giving back to our community. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our mothers and children," she concluded.

# Why I Procured Patrol Van For Police-Onilude

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has explained the reasons why a patrol van was procured for the Nigeria Police in Badagry.

The council boss said the patrol vehicle was procured to allow the security officers carry out their assignment with ease and to also encourage them to keep the community safe.

He disclosed that the donation of the patrol



## Badagry Council Boss Urges Immigration To Stop Influx Of Foreigners

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude has charged the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) to stop the numbers of foreigners that troop into Nigeria daily from the border.

While hosting the newly posted Comptroller of Lagos Seaport and Marine Command of the NIS at his office, Onilude revealed he's aware of the border challenges faced by the NIS but they must act now to secure the border lines.

He said the LG and the NIS will collaborate together on ending the menace and security challenge while educating the residents on how to how they operate.

"I extend heartiest congratulations to you on your new appointment and also welcome you to Badagry. "Badagry is a border community both on land and also via the sea and Lagoon. I am aware of the challenges inherent in the Badagry-Seme axis for your men especially differentiating between Nigerians and our neighbours across the border.



"The time we are now calls for vigilance and tact. Hence we must find the means to continue to collaborate in sensitizing or educating our people on some grey areas about your operation and every other possible way that can make your assignment easy."

Onilude also commended men of the Nigeria Immigration for their commitment and the professional approach in discharging their duties while charging the new comptroller to expedite

action on stemming the tide of influx of foreigners through the border.

The Comptroller of Lagos Seaport And Marine Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), CIS Olutayo Dada appreciated Onilude for the warm welcome. Dada said the NIS is poised to sanitize and protect the waterways against any nefarious activities. He assured the council boss that his men will robustly marshal professionalism and synergy in discharging their duties.

van will further deepen the relationship between the police and the local government authorities in ensuring the safety of lives and properties.

"We procured this vehicle because we understand that security personnel needs incentives to carry out their duties. And to encourage the police to continue to do more in

keeping us safe, we must also do the all we can to support them.

"This will further cement the relationship between the Police, the people and this administration in protecting lives and properties."

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Badagry police station,

CSP Folajinmi Agosile commended the council chairman for being a visionary leader who is interested in improving the security architecture of the local government.

Agosile assured the council boss of the continued dedication of the Nigerian police in safeguarding lives and properties.

## Onilude Assures Military Of Support In Fighting Crime

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of the safety of lives and Badagry LG, Olusegun Onilude

has assured the military "Let me foremost of his shop in fighting your appointment and crime in the community. congratulate you on your appointment and

The council boss revealed also welcome you to the this during a visit by the beautiful and peaceful newly posted Badagry local commanding officer of the government. Like your 15 Field Engineer predecessors, I am very Regiment Badagry, Col S certain that you will Lawan to the LG enjoy your stay here. secretariat.

Onilude congratulated the the tenacity, selfless military officer on his sacrifices and recent post while commitment to commending the work restoring and done by the military in maintaining law, peace, restoring peace in order and security in Badagry.

He however said all hands various part of the must be on deck to ensure country. We are in a time when we must do

everything humanly possible to secure lives and properties. And I assure you can count on the support of my administration always."

Lt. Col. Lawan stated that growth and development is only possible when there is peace, order and security of lives and properties.

He said he is committed to preserving the mutual relationship between his men and the host communities and also assured the council boss that his men will act professionally in discharging their duties.

# Bola Omodele Foundation Continues to Feed Muslim Ummahs Iftar

Kehinde Adeleye



The Convener of Agege during Ramadan to show support for the Muslim community in the area. This initiative has been ongoing since the start of this year's Ramadan fasting to assist those

in need. The Iftar Feeding program which is being taken to various Communities across Agege today March 20, 2024 makes it 10days. The foundation

recently organized a feeding exercise in different communities in Agege as part of its ongoing efforts to give back to society. This program, which

specifically targets the vulnerable population, will continue throughout the month of Ramadan. The iftar event on the 10th day of Ramadan was held in the

Oyinlola/Adebambo area of Agege and was organized by Ekundayo Onilude, a media practitioner from Agege who is also a member of the foundation.



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# Portable Reveals Heartbreaking Story of Mother's Burial

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Controversial Nigerian singer, Portable, has shared a touching revelation about his past, disclosing that he lost his mother at the tender age of thirteen and recently had to rebury her due to land issues.

In a poignant video shared online, the singer showcased the new burial site where he laid his mother to rest, explaining that she passed away when he was just thirteen years old. Portable recounted how he was unable to see her body when she died.

The emotional disclosure continued as Portable revealed that

he had to exhume his mother's body and reinter her on another piece of land because the original burial site had been sold.

Following the heartfelt revelation, netizens took to social media to express their mixed reactions to Portable's story.

One user, Big psticks, commented, "Today portable go do like werey tomorrow e go act like better person," highlighting the singer's unpredictable behavior.

Another user, SUGAR, expressed disbelief at Portable's emotional display, stating, "Portable is so unstable, can't believe he wants to make me

cry."

However, amidst the skepticism, some users commended Portable for his actions, with Peace Jibson praising, "Sometimes this portable go just act like a good and responsible person. Good job bro."

Ayomilekan offered words of blessing, writing, "Mama will be happy and bless you now," while Dirmax acknowledged, "Omo portable really has sense tbh."

Meanwhile, NaijaEyes remarked on Portable's reputation for unconventional behavior, stating, "Portable and his unusual doings."



## Nigerian Gospel Minister, Sunday, Ties Knot with Jamaican Fiancée

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Nigerian gospel minister, Theophilus Sunday, is joyously celebrated as he officially marries his Jamaican fiancée, Ashlee White.

The couple's union was legally recognized after completing their civil wedding in January, as revealed by Bella Naija Weddings on Instagram.

Theophilus Sunday had announced his engagement to Ashlee White, a Jamaican lawyer and real estate agent based in the United States, on March 19, sparking excitement among fans and well-wishers.

Sharing a photo of the newlyweds, Bella Naija

Weddings captioned the post, "Legally Mr and Mrs! The lovebirds completed their civil wedding back in January of this year. We are super excited! #SailingtoSunday."

The news of their legal union prompted an outpouring of congratulatory messages from netizens, with many expressing their joy and excitement for the couple.

Among the comments, user rotimicalebs exclaimed, "I'm the next in line for this miracle," while sandypreneur pointed out, "He married her since January legally. She is his wife already." However, some users, like queen\_soniahenry,



offered words of caution, stating, "Naija men hustle pass women, always looking for anywhere soft. If una like be managing with them, they will never

manage you when they want to marry."

Others, like kitanb, expressed gratitude for the introduction to Theophilus Sunday's wife, saying, "Thank God for his wife o, I for

no know am cause I didn't know him before now. Congratulations to him."

The union between Theophilus Sunday and Ashlee White

marks a significant milestone in their journey together, as they embark on the adventure of married life amid widespread support and well-wishes from their fans and followers.

# Nollywood Star, Emeka Ike , Welcomes Baby Girl on His Birthday

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Nollywood actor Emeka Ike has a reason to celebrate as he welcomes a baby girl on his birthday, marking a double blessing for the renowned actor. Sharing the heartwarming news on his Instagram page, Emeka Ike revealed the joyous arrival of his newborn daughter, Chidera Comfort Thando Ike. In a series of photos shared with his followers, Emeka is seen beaming with happiness alongside his wife and their precious newborn. In his caption, the actor expressed gratitude to the Almighty for blessing them with their bundle of joy, emphasizing the significance of the moment. He reflected on the loss of his mother, Comfort Okwuchi Ike, and how the arrival of baby Chidera has filled the void left by her passing, bringing comfort and joy to

their family. Emeka Ike extended heartfelt appreciation to his wife for her strength and perseverance throughout the pregnancy journey, acknowledging her role in bringing their daughter into the world. The actor's announcement garnered an outpouring of congratulatory messages and well wishes from fans and followers, who joined in celebrating the double blessing bestowed upon Emeka Ike and his family.

# Nigerian Celebrity, Bobrisky, Shares Journey to Womanhood

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Popular Nigerian transwoman and social media personality, Bobrisky, has taken to his online platform to share evidence of his transition into womanhood, expressing happiness with the progress of his journey. In a recent Instagram post, Bobrisky shared a photo of himself endorsing a cosmetic product, accompanied by a heartfelt message detailing his journey. He expressed gratitude for the smooth transition, emphasizing that he had not encountered any health issues during the process. In the Instagram

caption, Bobrisky thanked his medical team both in Nigeria and abroad for their assistance in facilitating his transition into femininity. He specifically acknowledged their professionalism and dedication to ensuring his well-being throughout the journey. Additionally, Bobrisky extended appreciation to a skincare brand, @blemiviv\_skincare, for their role in maintaining his appearance and enhancing his transition experience. He encouraged his followers to check out the skincare products

offered by the brand. Sharing his journey openly with his online community, Bobrisky's post reflects his commitment to authenticity and transparency regarding his transition. Through his platform, he continues to inspire and empower others who may be navigating similar experiences. Bobrisky's candidness about his transition journey serves as a testament to the evolving landscape of gender identity and acceptance in Nigerian society, sparking conversations and promoting inclusivity.



# The Beauty of Anikulapo; Rise of The Spectre

By Kunle Awosiyani

The suspense in these series is predictable after the reincarnation of Saro but the introduction of Bashorun creates a lovable scene and character I would love to see in every picture.

The son of Hubert Ogunde, the doyen of theatre, Owobo Ogunde, is a game changer in Kunle Afolayan's movie, Anikulapo series, "Rise of the Spectre".

Owobo's delivery, his sense of romance and handsomely beautiful face are louder than his voice. He picks his words, yet those words carry fire and love. No wonder Awarun would not let go, she falls for both his weakness and strength.

That is the making of many great men. They come with their weaknesses, which in many ways are their albatross. King David was great. King Solomon was great and Samson was but they all loved women to rub their backs.

I want to believe that Afolayan's choice of Anikulapo's casts are deliberate. He goes after beauty and character and makes us glue our eyes on the cleavages of the women and the biceps of the men in the movie.

Awarun, Sola Sobowale, is a blessed woman, Bimbo Ademoye is a beauty but then their characters are flawed personalities whose obsession for handsome men easily becloud their lives of industry.

They are hardworking, they know how to make money but then they lust after men who are handsome and can tell good lies. I can't blame them, handsome men are scarce.

For those who have not seen Titi Kuti in real life, he is a fine man. Adigun suffers for many sins he never committed. He was bitten by the snake, he died and was

raised by Saro to have a taste of second life. He must die again, now by the hands of Bashorun.

Kuti is handsomely created just like Kunle Remi, Saro and Gabriel Afolayan, Akin. Rhetorically, I have asked why didn't Afolayan use a typical Oyo actor or one who is fluent in Oyo for the role of Alaafin, somebody who can give us "Ijinle Yoruba"? Ogogo puts some "Eko" in his line, which for me is a No.

Taiwo Hassan's choice shows that Afolayan had chosen figure over language. Hassan, (Ogogo), whom to me is not deep in Yoruba language to act as Alaafin of Oyo is a No. He is better than many but there are those who can act that role better to depict Alaafin.

I have seen the late Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi speak and would have loved his replica in Anikulapo, this I did not see but a tall handsome Ogogo that is not poetic in his rendition neither did his words carry fire like that of Sango.

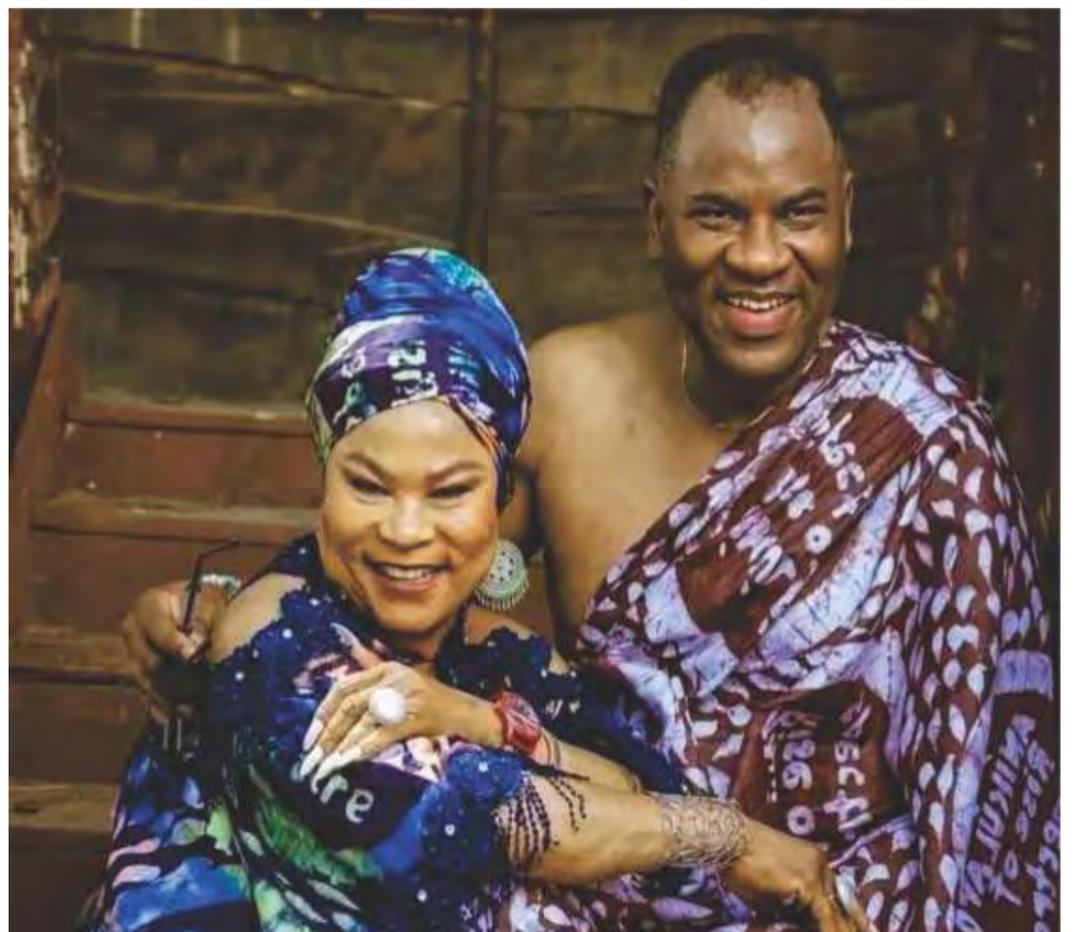
In Merlin, the 2008 epic English drama that opens the world of magic, English language is deliberately played up.

Anikulapo depicts the popular Yoruba's belief in "Irapada" however the language is not so deep but the tribal marks.

That a ghost can actually transform to a living being and do all that man can do, including sleeping with his wife or husband is a Yoruba myth.

It depicts three worlds of the living being, the living dead and the spectre. The living dead as seen in Kuranga the prince of Ede who was killed through thunderbolt and raised by one of the roaming Zombies.

Afolayan's idea is great, even though he has borrowed some ideas from the English Merlin, he wholly immersed the Yoruba tradition and beauty into the rise of the Spectre.



# Prince Kazeem Eletu Queens Emerge Champions Of Fausat Balogun Memorial Cup



**P**rince Kazeem Eletu Queens defended their crown to emerge the champions of the second edition of the Fausat Balogun Memorial Cup in Mushin. The Ikorodu based club defeated Papa

Soccer Academy 2-0 to lift the trophy in style in what was a befitting gift to their coach who announced the birth of his new born baby on the day of the final. The game was an exciting one and it took an early lead from

Eletu Queens through Ebum Akinola to go 1-0 up in the encounter. Papa Soccer Academy took control of the possession after going behind in the game but couldn't make use of the chances that came their way.

The second half was a bumpy ride between both sides and Eletu Queens took advantage of a defensive mixup from Papa Soccer Academy for Taiwo Oladunbawo to net the second goal of the day.

Papa Soccer Academy threw all what they have in their coven to score a goal in the game but their wastefulness in front of goal was a major hindrance to the club scoring a goal in the game. Zainab Kazeem won

the best goalkeeper of the tournament with her numerous saves and clean sheets. Omolara Odebode won the Most Valuable Player (MVP) and the highest goal scoring of the of the tournament.



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