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Upshot of APC Primaries: Riverine Communities Threaten To Boycott LG Election

By Kunle Awosiyan

Residents in the riverine communities of Lagos state have cried out over alleged disfranchisement by the All Progressives Congress at the recent primaries for local government and local council development areas in the state.

Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission, LASIEC has said that the election would take place on July 12.

However, the recent primaries held at the party secretariat ACME Road, Ogba threw up series of protests where party members and supporters of some chairmanship aspirants alleged imposition by the party leadership.

The results of the recent All Progressives Congress primaries, according to a group from riverine communities had not favoured the residents and aspirants from the areas who thought that they are being alienated from the scheme of things.

The residents who spoke through a civil society organisation, the Coalition for Equity at the Grassroots (CEG) said that the ruling All Progressives Congress has failed to look in the direction of aspirants from the areas but instead had allegedly imposed unpopular candidates on them.

Calling on the state Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and President Bola Tinubu to come to their aid, the group issued a press statement signed by its Executive Secretary, Adele Abiola alleging manipulation and outright impunity by the leadership of the party in the state at the last primaries.

The statement reads in part, "There are councils where the riverine communities have been turned to spectators in the sharing of political offices even though they have always delivered during elections and a local government areas where the best and most popular aspirants are blatantly denied clearance by the screening committee.

Such local governments like Ajeromi Ifelodun, Alimosho, Eti-Osa, Lagos Island, Ikeja, Amuwo Odofin, Lagos Mainland, Apapa, Agege and Ojo among others where there are residents who live on water are being denied the leadership role."

The statement alleged that the party leadership put their favoured candidates on the people even when such candidates are not popular nor possess the requisite qualifications.

The statement threatened that APC supporters from the riverine might not participate in the July 2 election over the alleged imposition of candidate on them.



Ogala

The group alleged that their preferred aspirants were screened out of the race by the Babatunde Ogala's led primary election committee to allow the party impose candidates on the people.

Reacting to the allegation through the list of screened aspirants by the APC screening committee, Ogala said that the screening was transparent.

The committee said that there were specifics factors considered during the screening and those who bought forms were screened and the qualified ones were recommended for approval.

According to the committee, 35 aspirants were disaccredited over certificate forgery, PVC issues and other irregularities in their resumes.

The party made over N183 million from female aspirants contesting for chairmanship position alone. The list shows that 61 women took part in the screening exercise, generating a total of N183m in funds raised from women aspirants alone.

The committee said that no one is imposing a candidate on any local government or local council development area, adding that screening test was conducted to confirm the eligibility of the contestants ahead of the July 12 polls.

" 35 of the 432 aspirants failed to meet with the prerequisite for the council poll primaries," the committee said.

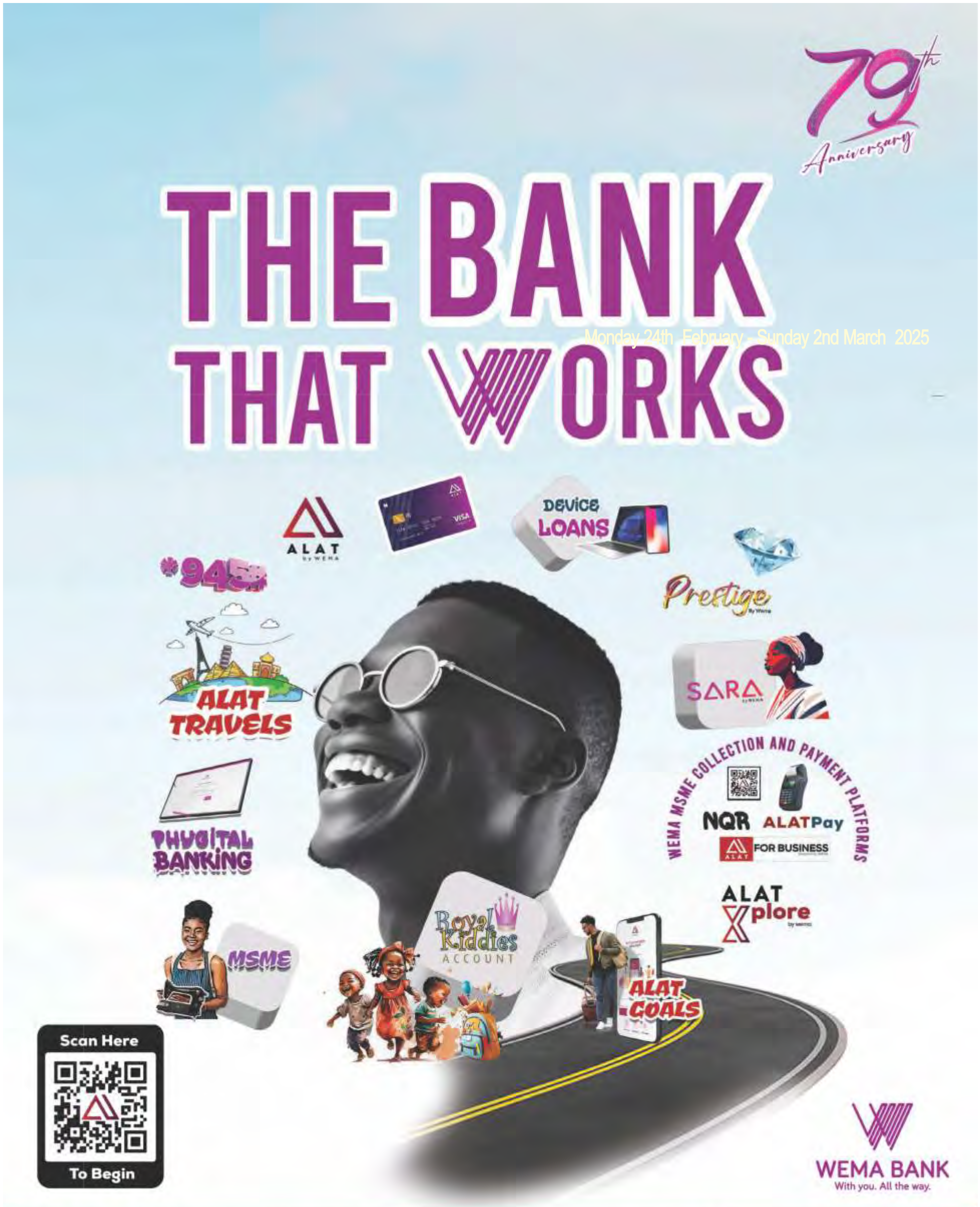


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Upshot of APC Primaries: Riverine Communities Threaten To Boycott LG Election

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Lagos APC Chairman, Cornelius Ojelabi

The screening committee said that 30 male and five females from Agege Local Government area, including the son of the Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, Abduiganiyu Obasa, were advised to step down from contesting for the Chairmanship position due to irregularities.

Others disqualified include: Shodiya Folorunsho and Kayode Akintono of Agbado Oke Odo LCDA whose disqualification reasons remains unknown as at publication time.

Lukman Oluwa in Ajeromi-Ifelodun LG was uncleared over PVC issues alongside a low performance of 48% during the screening exercise. In like terms, Kazeem Razaq in same local government, who had 37% was disqualified due to same reasons as well as Oyenusi Julius at Apapa-Iganmu LG who had 58%.

Morufu Ijora in the same council was also uncleared having amassed a low 54. Others, Olufemi Bamidele, Adebisi Adewole, and Adeboboye Fadairi who all had a low 49, 34 and 50 percentage performance respectively. Ojora Adejore in the community was also uncleared over a lowly 57%

Akran Adeyemo in Badagry Central LG was disaccredited over a 46% performance. In Badagry LCDA, Oladiran Fowowe got disqualified due to no submission of documents which include party membership card, PVC alongside a shoddy 54% screening performance. Olukayode Isola was uncleared due to a falsified Secondary School certificate alongside a lowly 54% screening performance.

In Eti-Osa East LG, Joshua Abodunrin was disaccredited over his meagre 57% performance. Ogunbo Samed was disqualified based on petition even after his acceptable 68% performance. In Eti-Osa West LG, Balogun Ademola was ruled out due to his low 49% performance and no presentation of PVC.

In Ifelodun LCDA, Ojora Fuad and Victor Odigie were both disqualified due to a poor 49 and 43 percentage performance respectively.

A female aspirant in Ikosi Isheri LCDA, Olodungbebe Queen was uncleared over a below performance of 51%. Another female, Gbadamosi Bolanle, in Imota LCDA withdrew from the screening exercise.

In Lagos Island LG, Folami Olatunji, Lwas disaccredited for unclear reasons as well as Adeniyi Aderemi who had 50% rated performance.

In Lagos Mainland Central, Idowu Thomas has 45% percent performance and thereafter ruled out alongside Opeoluwa Ajose who ammased 40%. Also in the community, Gbadegesin Oladapo didn't take part in the screening exercise and was disqualified. Oshodi Olatunde, was disqualified due to unknown reasons..

In Ojo LG, Giwandson Mudirat, a female aspirant, withdrew from being screened.

Durosinmi Adesokan had 54% performance and was ruled out. Also in the community, Taiwo Adeleye was disqualified due to his submission of fake PVC while Arubiewe Samson's disqualification remains unclear.

Sanmi Adebola in Olorunda LCDA was not accredited over unknown reasons. Moses Olabisi was absent, while I'm Surulere and Yaba LG, Oshodi Bashir and Adetuga Femi respect were both sidelined due to no submission of PVC.

Ojora Falilat Adejore from Apapa Local Government was unsuccessful in her screening due to scoring below average with 57% performance.

Gbadamosi O. Bolanle from Mushin LGA, Sanni Adebola from Olorunda LCDA, Olodungbebe Queen from Ikosi-Isheri LCDAwere not cleared by the screening committee.

Those who wish to contest the outcome of the primaries were told to submit petitions to the Appeal Committee between May 12 and 13.

Echonews learnt that the committee led by the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN), had since concluded its work as all the aggrieved people now await the reports.

Building Collapse: LSMTL Extends Security To Newer Communities

The General Manager of the Lagos State Materials Testing Laboratory Agency (LSTML), Engr. Olayinka Abdul, has charged Non-Technical Consultants (NTC) of the Agency to ensure that no community is left behind in the quest to avert building disaster through issuance of test notices for buildings' investigations across Lagos State.

Engr. Abdul made this charge at a scheduled meeting held on Monday with the NTC members, as part of efforts to overcome challenges posed by newer development across the state. "Your expertise in community engagement, advocacy, and stakeholders' management has been pivotal in advancing the LSMTL's projects. However, I want you to consider it as a priority that no community is left behind in issuing test notices to avert building collapse due to past negligence".

While calling for proactive measures in combating unapproved structures in riverine communities, the General Manager informed that "Lagos State is evolving at an unprecedented rate and growth and it must not exclude those in the hard-to-reach settlements like the riverine communities which recent survey reveals have newer structural projects which are inadvertently disrupting ideal construction processes, even as they do not observe all building codes of the State".

Engr. Abdul advocated the adoption of professionalism through wearing the branded uniforms by the Agency and, further still, the use of assigned building codes in aligning with the revamped design of the Agency to adequately protect the Lagos residents against mishap caused by building collapse.

She averred that meeting up the task of serving notices is not only a call to action, but, a moral obligation at ensuring that proper investigations are conducted on all structures in averting building disasters, through use of the restructured test notices for safety especially to old buildings.

Engr Abdul reiterated, "Lagos State has zero tolerance for mediocrity that induces building collapse, hence, greatness lies in its diversity, from its bustling city scrapes to tranquil waterways, no project should be left unchecked as they are all part of Lagos' cultural and economic fabric. Be ambassadors of the mandate in averting disasters by doing your jobs conscientiously".

The highlight of the forum was the re-designation of some NTC members to riverine settlements within Amuwo-Odofin to Badagry axis of the State.



Lagos Empowers Public Servants as Champions of Change

The Lagos State Office of Transformation, Creativity, and Innovation (OTCI) has empowered public servants to become catalysts for progress through its intensive Growth Mindset Development and Reform Programme.

Speaking at the "Train-the-Trainers" workshop, held recently at the Public Service Staff Development Centre (PSSDC) in Magodo, the Director-General of the OTCI, Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa, emphasised that reform represents a fundamental shift in policy and structure. She highlighted that the meticulously designed training aims to instil a growth mindset among participants.

Underscoring the critical roles of reform, transparency, and innovation in addressing prevailing socio-economic and political challenges, Anjous-Ademuyiwa stated that upon completion of the programme, participants will emerge as influential advocates for growth mindset development. They will be equipped to drive positive change and cultivate an environment of continuous learning and advancement within their respective organisations.

She further revealed that participants will gain valuable insights into the pivotal role of champions in spearheading positive change and effectively navigating obstacles. The programme also emphasised the significance of unwavering professionalism, accountability, and a strong sense of responsibility within public service.

The Director-General stressed that reform is not merely an option but a vital catalyst for growth and development, unlocking new avenues for progress and acknowledging the ever-evolving nature of the modern landscape.

In a similar vein, Mrs. Omololu, Head of Creativity and Innovation at OTCI, elaborated on the concept of mindset, explaining that for public servants to achieve transformational service, they must cultivate qualities such as flexibility, self-development, and perseverance which are hallmarks of a growth mindset.

Attendees at the event explored practical strategies for identifying and leveraging their inherent work strengths to foster continuous personal development. The training also addressed crucial aspects of administrative reforms, the impact of low-level corruption, and the imperative of embracing lifelong learning.

This initiative engaged 59 meticulously selected officers, focusing on the significance of reforms, the necessity of advocating for these changes, and the role of each officer as a reform champion, regardless of their specific Ministry, Department, or Agency (MDA).

From a pool of 167 candidates who underwent a rigorous screening process in December 2024, the 59 innovative and skilled officers were chosen based on their forward-thinking abilities.

The programme is strategically designed to empower participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to drive meaningful transformational change, moving beyond routine interactions towards impactful and lasting contributions to the state.



Sanwo-Olu Commissions Two "Greater Lagos" Housing Projects

•LBIC adds 442 new homes to bridge housing shortfall

A parcel of land in Obele-Oniwala community in Lawanson area of Surulere, which was previously used as a dumpsite, has now fully transformed to luxurious residential complex.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu turned around what appeared to be an eyesore in the community, overhauling the site to deliver a new set of decent homes for residents.

The Governor, on Monday, unveiled two housing projects delivered through Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) by Lagos Building Investment Company (LBIC) Plc. He commissioned 21 blocks of 378 apartment units in Obele-Oniwala — a development built on 3.7 hectares, comprising sets of one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three bedroom flats.

Sanwo-Olu also inaugurated the 64-unit development of four-bedroom maisonette built on 7,000sq metres in Olaleye New Town Estate in Iponri axis of Costain, bringing the number of housing projects delivered by his administration to 22 schemes.

Both projects, christened "Greater Lagos Apartments", were built by LBIC in partnership with two private developers — Megamound Investment Limited and Crown Exquisite Homes and Property Limited.

Unveiling the projects, Sanwo-Olu said the housing project did not only transform the landscape of their host communities, but also highlighted the fulfillment of the residents' expectations towards regeneration of their communities.

The Governor said both projects reflected his administration's steadfast dedication to improving people's living standards by offering modern, affordable and sustainable housing solutions for the State's growing population.

He said: "Today, we are witnessing the realisation of part of that housing vision with the delivery of 378-unit and 64-unit apartments in Obele-Oniwala, Surulere and Olaleye New Town Estate, Iponri, which resulted from a strategic partnership between LBIC and private developers.

"These projects have done more than just provide homes; they have generated hundreds of jobs, empowered local businesses, and contributed to the lively economy of Surulere and Iponri. We have incorporated green spaces and sustainable practices to ensure the developments are not only environmentally friendly but also future-ready."

Sanwo-Olu said the two projects modeled the "Greater Lagos" housing template envisioned in his administration's development agenda, noting that the construction details focused on affordability and inclusiveness.

The Governor disclosed that more of similar projects were at various stages of construction across the State, promising that no community would be overlooked.

He said: "Our administration is committed to nurturing innovative partnerships and investing in infrastructure that empowers our people and strengthens our communities. I also invite more collaboration from the private sector in providing more housing solutions for the people of Lagos.

"With the opening of these new homes, we are unlocking new opportunities, fresh starts, and a brighter future for everyone. Let us continue to collaboratively create not just houses, but homes and communities where every Lagosian can thrive."

Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Maruf Akindeju-Fatai, said the development further demonstrated the commitment of the Sanwo-Olu administration towards ensuring residents lived in decent environments, noting that the housing units were designed and finished with eco-friendly and sustainable materials.

The Commissioner said the Governor's efforts in bridging housing deficits in Lagos would not go unnoticed, commending Sanwo-Olu for sustaining investment in State's housing sector.

LBIC Managing Director, Mr. Olusola Faleye, noted that the housing delivery marked a new era of hope, stability and opportunity for the benefitting families.

He said: "These partnerships underscore a critical truth: when the public and private sectors collaborate with mutual respect and shared vision, great things happen. I commend the Management of Megamound Investment Limited and Crown Exquisite Homes and Property Limited for their professionalism and dedication. Both projects meet the high standards and expectations of the State Government and residents."





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Lagos Tasks Stakeholders On Inclusive National Development Policy

Lagos State Government has tasked stakeholders on the development of inclusive national policy to address challenges confronting Nigeria and set the nation on the path of speedy economic recovery and growth.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Folashade Bada Ambrose made the call today at the opening of a four-day 16th Meeting of the National Council on Industry, Trade and Investment organised by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment with the theme: "Accelerating Diversification by Leveraging Industry, Trade and Investment for Shared Prosperity", and hosted by Lagos State Government.

Speaking at the meeting, Folashade Ambrose stated that the theme speaks directly to the urgent realities confronting our national economy, as it is no longer a rhetorical imperative to diversify, but a question of existential urgency.

Her words: "The lessons from oil price volatility, global supply chain disruptions, pandemics, and conflicts reinforce the need to embed resilience and flexibility into the very fabric of our economic planning. This National Council Meeting must, therefore, not be seen as another procedural engagement. It is a call to arms - a forum to recommit, recalibrate, and reimagine the Nigerian economy."

Reiterating the readiness of Lagos to champion that cause, Ambrose affirmed that the State, under the visionary leadership of Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, has boldly stepped forward to actualise a new industrial growth paradigm, through the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Development Agenda, by deliberately positioning industry, commerce, and investment as pivotal levers for development.

"Our strategy is rooted in two far-reaching frameworks: The Lagos State Industrial Policy (LSIP) 2025–2030, which redefines industrialisation as a deliberate, inclusive, and technologically driven enterprise focused on local value addition, manufacturing excellence, and green industrial growth; and the Lagos State Development Plan (LSDP) 2052, which envisions a globally competitive megacity anchored on sustainability, knowledge, innovation, and equity. Through these instruments, we have articulated and begun implementing transformative reforms to reposition Lagos as the pre-eminent subnational economy in Sub-Saharan Africa," she said.

The Commissioner stated that Lagos is not just playing host by reclaiming its historic trade identity through deliberate policies and infrastructure, it is once again playing leadership – a leadership rooted in vision, defined by strategy, driven by innovation, and anchored on a firm belief in inclusive and sustainable prosperity.

"It is fitting that we gather here in a city that is both the historical cradle of commerce and the frontier of 21st-century industrialisation in Africa."

Declaring the meeting opened, Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Ambassador Nura Abba Rimi, described the council as a testament to the collective commitment to reposition Nigeria's economic landscape in a manner that ensures sustainable development, inclusivity and global competitiveness.

"Manufacturing remains the backbone of industrialisation. By strengthening cluster-based development, fostering synergy among value chain actors and removing infrastructural bottlenecks, we can build globally competitive hubs that create jobs and increase export capacity", he said.

Ambassador Nura harped on the need to harness technology for digital trade facilitation and ease of doing business, along with expanding access to finance for sustainable investments and diversified economic growth.

Keynote Speaker/Founder and Chief Consultant, B. Adedipe Associates Limited, Dr. Biodun Adedipe described Nigeria's economy as growing but not at the pace expected to drive phenomenal impact, while the growth is exclusive of critical sectors.

"Nigeria does not need to produce and master every production; it only needs to develop labour-intensive sectors and build a competitive local economy that can attract investors by ensuring it is inclusive. The government needs to facilitate and incentivise businesses, as people respond to incentives. It should also identify industries that are solving critical production challenges for the nation, go after them and support them to overcome their challenges, while our financial institutions should also do proper project financing to derisk projects," he said.

While emphasising the need to patronise locally produced goods to strengthen the economy, Dr. Adedipe identified Lagos State as a working model in promoting development as the State not only initiated programmes, it also ensures diligent execution thus democratising credit by making it available, accessible and affordable.



'Uphold Meritocracy,- Sanwo-Olu Tells Newly Constituted Civil Service Commission

- Governor appoints five statutory commission's members from each Lagos Division

Lagos State public service ushered in a new era of service delivery, as Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu constituted and swore in new members into the State's Civil Service Commission.

A retired Permanent Secretary and an indigene of Lagos Island, Mrs. Boladele Dapo-Thomas, was appointed by the Governor to chair the statutory body pivotal to preservation of professionalism in the civil service.

The five-member commission was constituted, on Tuesday, at ceremony held in the State House, Alausa.

Each member was nominated from each of the five traditional divisions of Lagos. Other members of the Commission are Mr. Fatai Olalekan Lasisi, Mr. Lateef Yahaya Olawale, Mr. Afolabi Olatunji Sobowale and Mr. Rufus Adekoya Adedapo.

Inaugurating the commission, Sanwo-Olu noted that the ceremony demonstrated the commitment of the State Government to uphold the principles of integrity, fairness, and efficiency essential to the efficiency of Lagos civil service and the progress of the State.

The Governor said the appointment of members reflected the confidence in their ability to lead the civil service toward excellence, urging the appointees to honour the trust with dedication and wisdom.

He said: "As leaders of the Civil Service Commission, you bear the responsibility of ensuring that Lagos civil service operates with discipline and meritocracy. Your decisions will affect the quality of public services that millions of Lagosians depend on daily for quality services in different areas of life, ranging from education and healthcare to security and infrastructure.

"I urge you to lead with transparency, to foster innovation, and to create opportunities for growth within the civil service. Above all, you must be accountable to the people you serve, putting their interests above all else. While you are being entrusted with responsibility to carry out the challenging tasks, you must remember the solemn duty placed on your shoulders."

Congratulating members of the commission for approval of their nominations, Sanwo-Olu expressed confidence that the State's civil service would continue to be a beacon of excellence and catalyst for positive change.

He said the commission should employ innovation, integrity, and efficiency to drive its activities and make Lagos public service the best model in the country.

Head of Service, Mr. Bose Agoro, who read the citations of the nominees, said the Sanwo-Olu administration's ability to always put round pegs in a hole had set the State's civil service on the path of numerous accomplishments which made it the most vibrant public service among the sub national.

"Lagos has always ensured highest standard of excellence is upheld in the service delivery of our public service. I am confident that the expertise and experiences of these new members of the Civil Service Commission will go a long way in bringing valuable insights that will continue to shape establishment policies in our public service," Agoro said.

Giving a note of assurance on behalf of the commission members, Mrs. Dapo-Thomas thanked the Governor for the confidence reposed in them to serve the State at the level.

She said: "I would like to assure the Governor that we will put everything we have within our capacity to push the vision of this administration forward and make the State's civil service a competent workforce. Our core values will be key into the agenda of the Governor."



Lagos Empowers Public Servants as Champions of Change

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She further revealed that participants will gain valuable insights into the pivotal role of champions in spearheading positive change and effectively navigating obstacles. The programme also emphasised the significance of unwavering professionalism, accountability, and a strong sense of responsibility within public service.

The Director-General stressed that reform is not merely an option but a vital catalyst for growth and development, unlocking new avenues for progress and acknowledging the ever-evolving nature of the modern landscape.

In a similar vein, Mrs. Omololu, Head of Creativity and Innovation at OTCI, elaborated on the concept of mindset, explaining that for public servants to achieve transformational service, they must cultivate qualities such as flexibility, self-development, and perseverance which are hallmarks of a growth mindset.

Attendees at the event explored practical strategies for identifying and leveraging their inherent work strengths to foster continuous personal development. The training also addressed crucial aspects of



Benson- Awoyinka Receives Best Commissioner Award



Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka was honoured with the Best Commissioner of the Year Award at the 21st Edition of the Excellence Recognition Awards held on Sunday at Etal Hotels and Halls, Oregun, Ikeja.

Representing the Commissioner at the event was the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Mr. Olanrewaju Bajulaiye, who was accompanied by senior management staff.

While receiving the award on behalf of Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka, Mr. Bajulaiye praised her visionary leadership and transformational impact in the Ministry within a short period. He described her tenure as a period of remarkable dedication and achievement in the advancement of tourism, arts, and culture in Lagos State.

Bajulaiye commended the organisers of the award, led by Mayor Akinpelu, for their unwavering commitment to recognising excellence across various sectors in Lagos State. "This platform continues to be a strong testament to the consistency of excellence and a celebration of industry trailblazers," he stated.

The Permanent Secretary emphasised that tourism and culture are pivotal in driving inclusive and sustainable development. He highlighted how the sector creates opportunities for youth engagement and has positioned Lagos as a premier destination for cultural tourism on the global map.

Pure Water Sachets, Pet Bottles Not Included In Ban on Single Use Plastics-Commissioner



Tokunboh Wahab

The Lagos State Government has again clarified that its statewide ban on Single Use Plastics (SUPs) which its enforcement comes into effect on July 1 does not include pet bottles, water sachets and nylon carrier bags of more than 40 micron thickness.

The latest clarification was made on Tuesday by the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab while reacting to deliberate viral misrepresentations by some people that the ban involves all categories of Single Use Plastics.

According to the Commissioner, the position of the State Government has not changed that only single use plastics consisting of styrofoam food packs and all forms of polystyrene cups (disposal cups) are banned.

"Other items banned in the single use plastics category are plastic straws, plastic cutlery and all single use carrier bags and nylons that have less than 40 micron thickness", he stated.

He added that as part of moves to demonstrate the state's seriousness, it has already inaugurated the newly created Plastic Waste Management Fund which is a collaborative effort between the State Government, the Producers and the Producers Responsibility Organisations (PROs)

The plastics waste management fund will be financed by contributions from producers and major importers and will be jointly managed to address plastic waste challenges in the state.

Wahab reiterated the determination of the state government to go ahead with the enforcement of the ban on July 1 after the expiration of a moratorium of 18 months which it had given since the announcement of the intention to effect the ban in January 2024.

#AGreaterLagosRising

#LASG

Ministry of Tourism Celebrates "My Father's Shadow" at 2025 Cannes Festival

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, joined global creatives at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival in France to celebrate the international premiere of 'My Father's Shadow', a groundbreaking Nigerian film that underscores the power of storytelling and cross-cultural collaboration.

Directed by British-Nigerian filmmaker Akinola Davies Jr., My Father's Shadow made history as the first Nigerian-set fiction film to be selected for the prestigious Un Certain Regard section of the festival.

Born in London to Nigerian parents, Davies, alongside his brother and co-writer, Wale Davies, crafted a deeply resonant narrative exploring themes of family, fatherhood, nationhood, and identity, bridging experiences from both Nigeria and the UK. "This film is a testament to the power of collaboration. It's ultimately about family, about nationhood and fatherhood. It means so much to our community back home in Nigeria, and across the continent, to be premiering at such a prestigious festival", Davies shared.

The film's success is bolstered by a robust network of creative partners, including Element Pictures, Fatherland, BBC, BFI, MUBI, Match Factory, Fremantle, and Le Pec - showcasing how international collaboration can elevate African narratives on the global stage.

Benson-Awoyinka's presence at Cannes underscores Lagos State's unwavering commitment to nurturing the creative industries and promoting Nigerian talent on world-renowned platforms.

Lagos Seeks Strategic Partnerships To Tackle Coastal Erosion

… Intervention To Cost Over Three Trillion Naira

As part of proactive measures to address the growing threat of coastal erosion in Lagos State, the Commissioner for Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Hon. Ekundayo Alebiosu, has announced plans to further scale up the deployment of Groyne technology, a proven coastal defence system along the State's vulnerable shoreline.

The Commissioner made this known today during the 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press centre, Secretariat, Alausa, revealing that he recently embarked on a strategic working visit to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, alongside the Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Lolade Aina and others, to explore international best practices and forge partnerships for sustainable coastal management.

According to Alebiosu, Groyne is a rigid hydraulic structure built from an ocean shore or riverbank that interrupts water flow and limits the movement of sediment. The technology has been effectively used to arrest coastal erosion and stabilise beaches in several parts of the world, including the Netherlands.

His words: "Though Lagos State has already begun implementing this technology, the sheer scale of the challenge to stretch the usage along the 180 km stretch of shoreline presents a significant financial burden. It costs a huge amount to construct a single groyne, and with a targeted 180 km coastal stretch, the projected cost exceeds N3 trillion, a figure that makes it clear that strategic collaboration is required.

“This is not just a Lagos problem, it is a national environmental and economic challenge. If we are serious about preserving our shoreline, preventing further erosion, and protecting coastal communities, then a robust partnership with the Federal Government and the private sector is not just desirable, it is necessary”, he added.

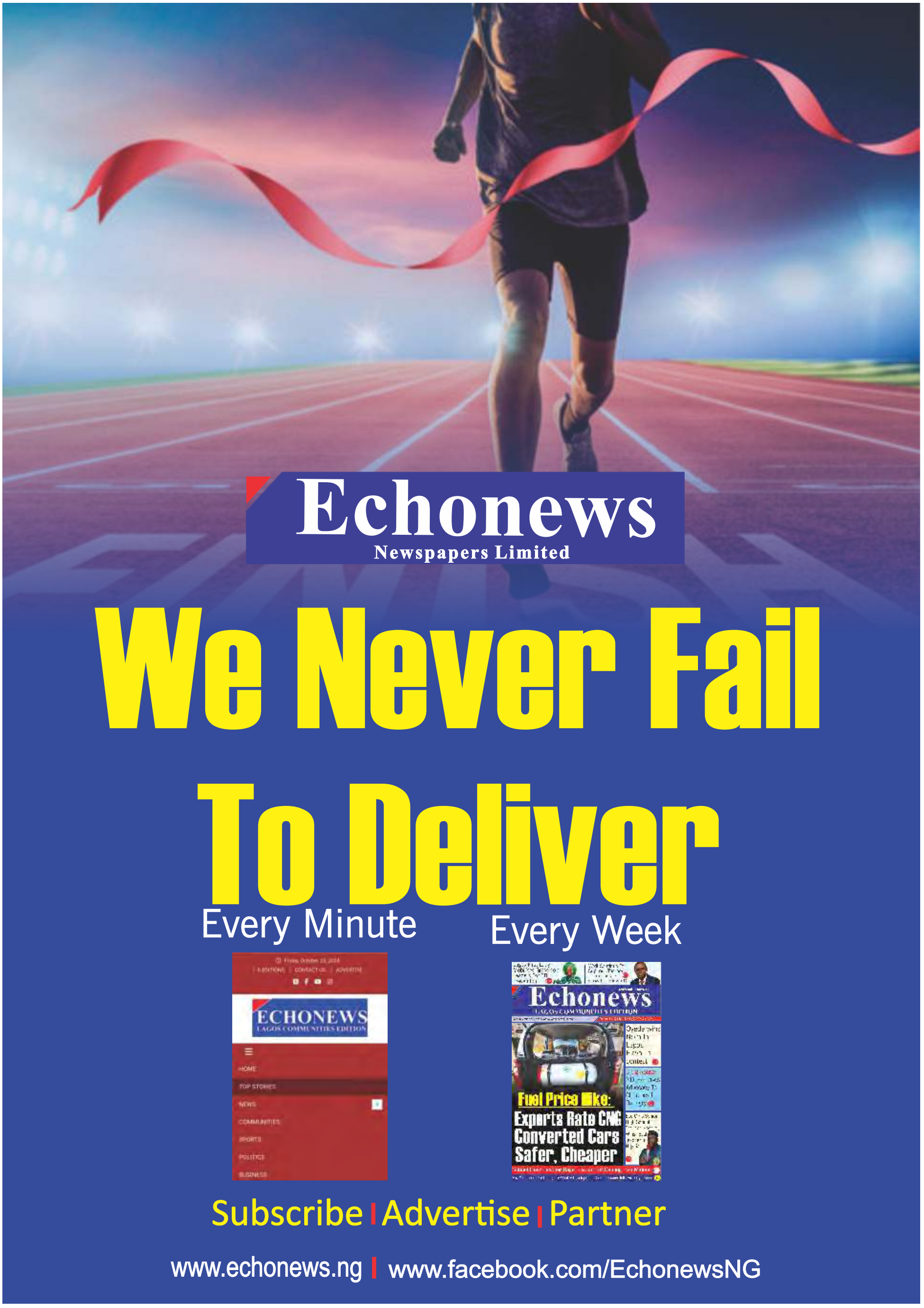
The Commissioner described the Netherlands, renowned for its pioneering coastal engineering solutions, as a perfect case study for the State Government delegation. The Dutch model, which integrates groynes, sand nourishment, and nature-based solutions, provided insights into how sustainable and economically viable approaches can be adapted to suit local conditions in Lagos.

He emphasised that the Lagos State Government is actively pursuing a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework to finance and implement large-scale groyne deployment and coastal protection infrastructure.

"This initiative also aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration's broader agenda to secure lives, protect public and private assets, and unlock the economic potential of Lagos' vast waterfronts. We cannot afford to delay. Entire communities are at risk, and if left unchecked, the consequences of coastal erosion could be devastating, not only to the environment but also to livelihoods and investments across our coastal zones”, he said.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to working with international partners, federal agencies, and private investors to deliver long-term, climate-resilient solutions that will preserve the waterfronts for Lagosians.





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School Teacher Sentenced To Jail For Raping 9-Year-Old Pupil

By Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos Special Offences Court in Ikeja has sentenced a 35-year-old school teacher, Anthony Okey, to life imprisonment for contravening the Child Right Law by raping his 9-yer-old student.

While delivering the judgement at the court yesterday, the Presiding Judge, Abiola Soladoye, ruled that the prosecution was able to discharge the burden of truth that Antony, a music teacher, is culpable of the one count charge of defilement imposed on him by the Police.

The state counsel, Abimbola Abolade, who said that the offence contravenes Section 137 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2015 presented two prosecution witnesses, the victim and Investigative Police Officer in the case, who told the court that findings presented a cogent evidence of the convict penetrating the survivor with his penis.

Abolade said that the offender, who committed the offence on September 6, 2022, at the school premises in Agege, called the minor to a secluded music room and began showing her nude pictures.

The prosecutor added that after committing the sexual assault, the transgressor threatened the victim, stating that he was a cultist and would kill her if she dares tell anyone.

The court judge said that the convict's allocutus didn't hold waters.She added that Anthony was a pathological liar, stating that a teacher should be an examplary model who should not be having a ln unlawful sexual intercourse with his pupil.

He said, ' The defendant is a soulless man without any iota of shame. The survivor recognised the man in the box as her music teacher who defiled her more than two times in the music room.

"The evidence of the survivor was lucid, cogent, unequivocal and compelling and the denial of the convict did not hold water.

“To the mind of this court, the denial of the defendant is a form to distance himself from the crime. The convict is a pathological liar whose evidence is an afterthought and I do not believe him at all.

“The testimony of the investigative police officer, IPO I, was corroborated by the testimony of the survivor when she said that the mother of the girl noticed her reluctant to go to school and she later confessed to her mother what the convict had been doing to her.

“The IPO said that the mother of the survivor reported the case to the police. Statement of the nominal complainant was admitted into evidence.”

"The defendant is sentenced to life imprisonment. His name should be registered in the Lagos State Sexual Offences Register.

The judge also advised school owners to recruit teachers with high moral standards to teach in their schools to avoid a dent in their institutions.

“Furthermore, all stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice must form a strong collaboration in combating sexual violence offences to protect the dignity, mental health, physical and psychological trauma of survivors in such cases,” Soladoye said.



Lagos Expresses Concern Over Prison Congestion

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Government has disclosed that no fewer than 9,097 inmates are on remand at correctional centers in the state, causing an overload at the facilities.

The state government stated that the number which was disclosed by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice Criminal Information System (LCIS) is an 106% increase above the capacity in the five correctional centers in the area which have been stipulated to accommodate 4,087 persons.

As gathered, 2,976 inmates are at the Ikoyi Prisons as against the 800 capacity. At the Kirikiri medium prison, 3,925 inmates instead of 1,700, Kirikiri Maximum prison 1,645 instead of 1,056, and the Female prison 211 instead of 200. In Badagry correctional center which is meant for 320 inmates, 298 prisoners are been remanded.

The stats which are reported quarterly disclosed that forty inmates are been harboured for one to nine years in the without being taken to court, alongside 56 per cent of the of them not having legal representation and 17 of them being juveniles.

During a Ministerial Briefing held at the state Secretariat in Alausa, Ikeja, the state's Attorney General, Femi Pedro, SAN, said that to correct the situation, the state government will further expand non-custodial measures which will include community service sentencing.

"In this regard, we have supervised the community service of 10,120 offenders across 18 locations, thereby reducing congestion and enabling restorative justice", Pedro said.

"We arrested, arraigned and secured convictions for 71,023 offenders for minor offences ranging from traffic violations to street trading and vandalism. This has had a measurable impact in deterring miscreants and preserving order across Lagos."



Lagos Records 3,215 Children Sexual Abuse Cases In 2024

By Felix Kuyinu

The Lagos State Government has disclosed that a total of 3,215 children have been subjected to different forms of sexual and domestic abuse in the year 2024.

The state, through its Domestic Sexual and Violence Agency (DSVA) disclosed that the worrying statistics culminated following reports of different forms of abuse ranging from sexual assault, emotional abuse alongside other domestic violence cases totaling 9,279.

The DSVA informed that the assault aimed at the children from January to December 2024, accounted for over 3215 cases while 6064 were of adult victims. The agency relayed that 2708 of the children's cases were from relatives or known persons, while 250 of them where with strangers.

The agency's Executive Director, Titilola Viviour-Adeniyi, on Wednesday, said that the executive arm is working tremendously to ensure that the unlawful act is alleviated and making sure that perpetrators are made to face the wrath of the law.

Viviour-Adeniyi said that the agency is liasing with the Ministry of Education and the Office of Education Quality Assurance to sensitize the children on the necessities in making sure they keep away from becoming victims of the prohibited act.

“We have developed a curriculum for our Kings and Queens Club where we teach children about sexual and reproductive rights and sexual and gender-based violence," the agency's head said.

“We speak to them about gender equality because we know that if we get it right from that level, these children will grow up knowing that gender equality is something that should not be feared but embraced. When a boy knows his role and a girl knows hers, that imbalance is reduced in adulthood.

"The core mandate of the DSVA is the full implementation of the Child Protection Policy, which was created through an Executive Order in December 2016.

“Our approach is not just remedial but also preventive. We ensure that child-centred institutions, especially schools, have clear procedures to prevent GBV and respond appropriately when it occurs."

She hammered on the importance of involving the parents in the fight against abuse on children.

"The family remains the foundation of a child's protection. and she to that fact, we have embarked on various Parents' Association conferences," Viviour-Adeniyi said.

"Last year, we decided to leverage technology through our Safeguarding and Child Protection Online Learning Platform where we introduced a free online course for parents.

“Over 13,000 parents have taken that course. The aim is to build their capacity to engage their children on child rights, abuse, body autonomy, grooming, and the steps to take if abuse occurs,” she said.



Ikorodu LG Empowers 10 Women with ₦50,000 Each

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Ikorodu Local Government empowered ten women with financial grants of 50,000 each to help cushion the effects of economic hardship.

The beneficiaries widows, single mothers, and other vulnerable women received the support during an empowerment programme held at the council secretariat to mark the 43rd birthday of Alhaja Rashidat Bello, Special Adviser to the Chairman on Women Affairs and APC Woman Leader in Ikorodu Division.

Alhaja Bello personally presented the cash grants, describing the gesture as a show of empathy and solidarity with struggling women in the community.

Executive Chairman of Ikorodu Local Government, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, said the women were selected after a thorough need assessment. He emphasized the council's commitment to inclusive and impactful policies that benefit the most vulnerable.

"This is more than a birthday celebration; it is about compassion and responsibility. These women need urgent support," he said.

One of the beneficiaries, Ms. Anna, expressed gratitude, saying the grant would help her revive her small business.

APC LG Primaries: Sola Osolana Slams Egunjobi's Malicious Statement

Kehinde Adeleye

One of the All Progressives Congress (APC) chairmanship aspirants in Agege Local Government, Hon. Sola Osolana, has rebuked the outgoing Local Government Chairman, Ganiyu Egunjobi, over a recent comment.

Osolana addressed the statement made by Egunjobi, as reported in a circulated news article, in which he referred to the philanthropist-turned-politician as a non-resident and United Kingdom resident.

The fallout between the two politicians occurred during the chairmanship and councillorship primaries of the APC in Agege and Orile Agege LCDA, leading up to the upcoming council polls in the state scheduled for July 12, 2025.

Osolana, reaffirming his dedication to serving the local community, asserted that he would not be deterred by Egunjobi's malicious remarks.

Egunjobi said, "Those making this false claims are sore losers; and for years ostracised themselves from APC and our communities.

"To put it in context, the likes of MD of Nigerian Railway Corporation, Kayode Opeifa, ex-House of Representatives member, Dr Samuel Adejare, and three-time House of Assembly member, Oluyinka Ogundimu have moved out of Agege for years in terms of residence and are not involved in the activities of the party in both councils.

"In the same boat is Biodun Ogunji, a chairmanship aspirant in Agege who lives in the UK with his family but weeks back came down to Nigeria for the purpose of his aspiration.

"Same thing with his fellow-failed aspirant, Bukola Sofidiya, aka Gidado, a US-based Agege politician and Sola Osolana who is based in the UK and was the chairmanship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in Agege in the last council election in the state.

"It is a general knowledge that the leadership of the party in the state in their wisdom adopted consensus or delegate voting for the primaries with party local government excos as the voters.

"In Agege and Orile-Agege, excos members were constituted about four years ago when the aforementioned persons distanced themselves from the party in both council areas and its activities; as well as stayed away from our dear communities.

"In that context, it's only people with limited education and obscurity of positions that would consider themselves as contenders and not pretenders in the just concluded primaries."

In his reaction, Osolana lambasted Ganiyu Egunjobi for putting such malicious statement.

" Let me put the record straight amidst of Ganiyu Egunjobi's false statement. I am a resident of Agege who has chains of businesses in the Council Area for many years. I challenge any politician who has more businesses in Agege Local Government than I do. While many politicians are afraid of putting their businesses here, I have many residents as employees and they are performing well for themselves and the organisations.

"I challenge the High Chief(Ganiyu Egunjobi) to let me and him take a walk around Agege without any security and let the media cover the event, it is then he will know if Sola Osolana is UK based or rooted in the community.

" Instead of Egunjobi to review his poor performance as Local Government chairman, he is busy putting out untrue statement against amiable individuals in the community.

" On employment opportunities, I challenge him (Ganiyu Egunjobi) to name how many jobs or businesses he has established in Agege using his private funds during his 8 year tenure. I have established business in Agege where the High chief(Agege Local Government Chairman) had benefited before he became the Chairman and even hosted him and all APC delegates that voted for him during the APC primaries in 2017, " Osolana said.

The Businessman turned politician later added that his foundation, Sola Osolana Foundation, has contributed meaningfully to the growth of Agege and Orile Agege.

He said, "Over the past 10 years and still ongoing, I have funded several empowerment programme for Agege women and youths; Educational scholarships for tertiary institution students, financial encouragement for Inter-House sports competitions for both Primary and Secondary schools in Agege and Orile Agege LCDA."

“Mind you, I am actively engaged with all these without recourse to Public funds. "





Oba AbdulRasaq Akanni Joins Epe Council of Obas

By Mohammed Adekola



The Orijeru of Igbooye Kingdom, Oba AbdulRasaq Akanni Musa, has been formally inducted into Epe Council of Obas and Chiefs.

The investiture ceremony took place during the recent council's general meeting held at the Epe Local Government Secretariat, on Wednesday 21st Of May.

The investiture is historic as it is exactly one year after the kingdom formally presented Prince AbdulRasaq Akanni Musa to the esteemed Council of Obas and Chiefs for their endorsement, as part of the initial process leading to the eventual installation and presentation of the staff of office by the State Government.

The meeting of the Epe Council of Obas and Chiefs was presided over by the Chairman, Oba Kamorudeen Animashaun, the Oloja of Epe.

Oba Animashaun warmly welcomed Oba Musa into the fold of traditional rulers within the division.

He offered words of encouragement and fervent prayers, wishing him a successful and impactful reign as the Orijeru of Igbooye Kingdom.

Oba Musa hosted a brief but symbolic reception at the Orijeru Palace, where he met with key stakeholders of Igbooye Kingdom, including the Igbooye Council of Baales.

During the gathering, the Orijeru made a major announcement regarding the appointment of traditional chiefs who will serve as pillars of traditional governance and cultural stewardship within the kingdom.

The appointed chiefs include Chief AbdulBariu Olugbenga Quadri as Olisa, Chief Moruff Oluwadare as Egbo, Chief Rufus Adedipe as Aare, Chief Yinka Oguntimehin as Balogun, Chief Rasaq Sanni as Otun, Chief Oluranti Adebanjo as Eleku, Chief Adegbenro Otunnowo as Oluti, Chief (Mrs) Silifatu Amadasun as Iyalode, and Mrs Olusola Odusanya-Omotoso as Erelu.

Musa highlighted that the selection process was guided by the kingdom's cultural traditions and official declaration, ensuring that all ruling houses and quarters were fairly represented.

Justice Alogba Inaugurates New Court House In Orugbo Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba, has inaugurates a new courthouse in Orugbo area of Epe Local Government.

Justice Alogba emphasized that the establishment of the court marks a milestone in bringing justice closer to the grassroots, allowing residents easier access to legal remedies and dispute resolution.

Alogba noted the presence of a functional judicial facility will not only serve the legal needs of the people but also act as a catalyst for economic growth and investor confidence in the area. “Access to justice is fundamental for any thriving society. With this court now operational, litigants will no longer need to travel long distances to seek justice. This development will encourage business growth, as the rule of law is a key enabler of investment,”.

Justice Alogba used the opportunity to call on the state government to rehabilitate the Orugbo road, which he described as crucial to sustaining the benefits of the new court and emphasize that improved road infrastructure would facilitate easier movement for court users and enhance the general well-being of residents.

Oba Adewale M. Abdul (Olofin Ajaye), expressed deep gratitude to the Chief Judge and the Lagos State Government, noted that the establishment of the court fulfills a major promise he made upon his ascension to the throne six years ago.

“This is a dream come true for our community,” Oba Abdul said. “We are grateful for this landmark achievement which will ensure peace, order, and progress. It is a testament to the government's commitment to inclusive development.”

Residents of Orugbo and surrounding areas turned out in numbers to witness the ceremony, marking what many called a “new dawn” in local governance, justice, and development.

The new court is expected to begin full operations in the coming weeks.



Anomo Remembers Wife One Year After

By Mohammed Adekola

Akogun Wale Raji Anomo mark's first anniversary of the passing of his wife, Mrs. Akanke Sijuade Anomo. The tribute, shared on Wednesday 21st of May, is not just a reflection of a year gone by its a soul-laid-bare remembrance of a woman whose impact continues to shape the lives she left behind.

"Today marks one year since you left this world, Sijuade, my Akanke, my heart's quiet strength," the tribute begins, a line that immediately sets the tone for what unfolds as a tender yet significant reflection of love, loss, and the search for healing.

Since her passing, Akogun Anomo writes of a life altered in its deepest essence, mornings that begin with silence, homes filled with absence, and days carried under the weight of invisible grief. The words carry the weight of a man still learning how to live with a part of him missing.

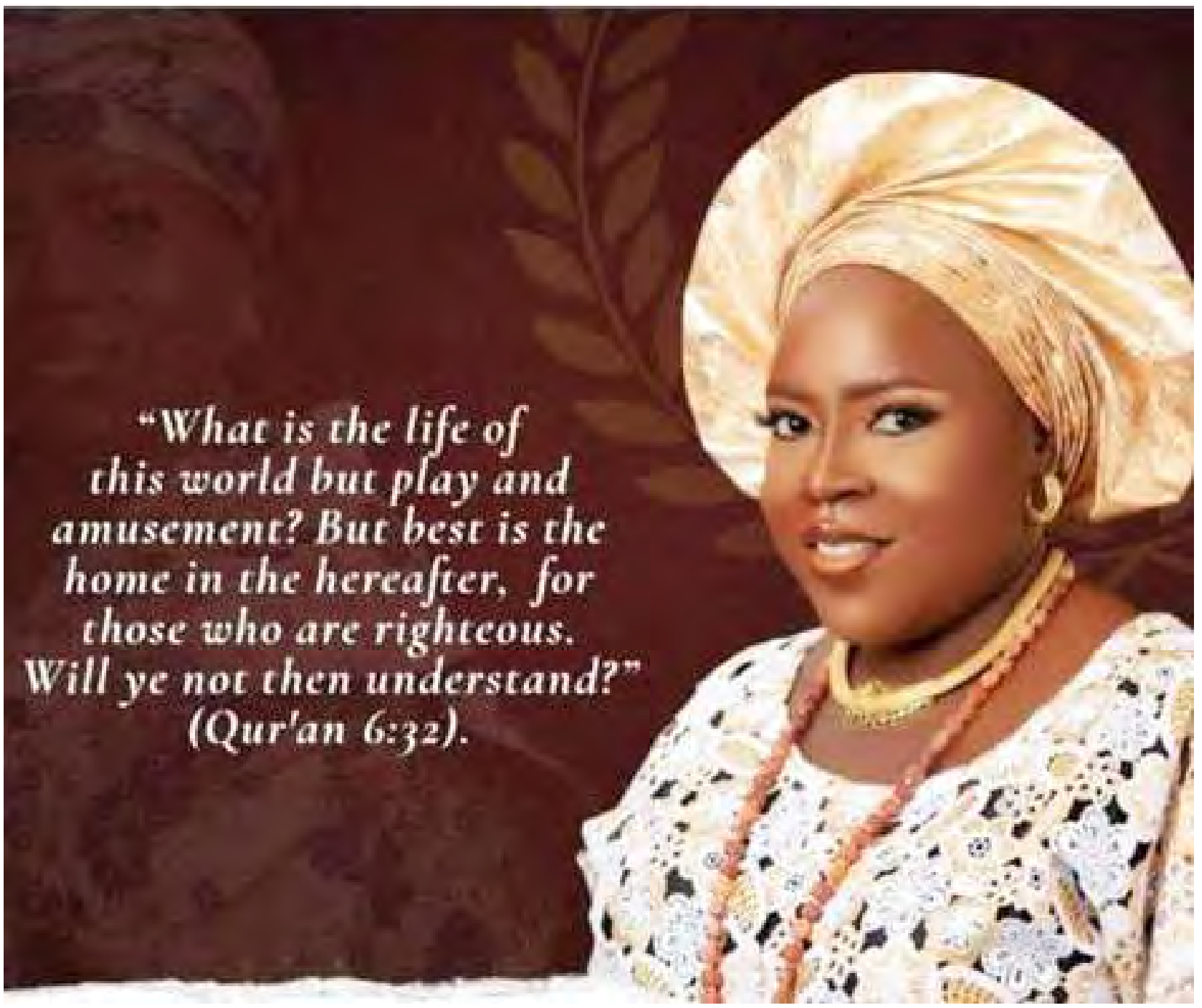
"You were more than a wife," he writes. "My friend, my anchor, my counselor, my soft place to fall when the world grew heavy." His description of Akanke is not built on grandiosity, but on the quiet, steady strength she offered the kind of love that does not announce itself but wraps around a family like a shield.

Akogun reveals a private vulnerability. "I wear my strength in public," he confesses, "but behind closed doors, I am still searching for pieces of me that only existed when I was with you." His grief is not concealed behind platitudes. It is honest, raw, and deeply human.

Throughout the tribute, Akanke's legacy shines through not in monuments or fanfare, but in the values she lived by and passed on. A devoted mother, a spiritual pillar, and a quiet force of wisdom, her influence lives on in the children she raised and in the man who now walks with her memory.

"I see your reflection in their smiles, mannerisms, and strength," he writes, addressing their children. "They are the legacy of your love, and I promise to continue raising them with the values you held so dear."

The tribute closes in solemn prayer. "May Allah continue to envelop you in mercy and light. May your grave be a garden of peace. May you dwell among the righteous and be granted Al-Jannah Firdaus.



LASG Launches Aquaculture Centre In Epe

By Mohammed Adekola

Lagos State government has launched an aquaculture centre to revolutionise the sector by boosting fish production, create jobs, and enhance food security in the state and beyond.

The Lagos Aquaculture Centre for Excellence (LACE) initiative a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) between the Lagos State government and Dula Agro-Services Limited, located on 35 hectares of land in Igbonla, Epe, is designed to serve as production facility for fish fingerlings, processing, and as an off-take facility for all fish farmers in Lagos. It is expected to be commissioned in the third quarter of 2026,

With a projected capacity of about 50 million fish fingerlings yearly, the centre will equally supply 5,000 small holder farms, significantly contributing to the state's food security.

The key features of the centre are a 50-million fish fingerlings hatchery; 24,000-tonne feed mill, and a 20,000-tonne fish processing centre, considered as the first of its kind not only in Lagos but the country at large.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Abisola Olusanya, revealed that the aquaculture centre will serve as an off-taker for fish farmers in the state, added that the facility will also handle processing, upward distribution and marketing for fish production.

She said the intention of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is to make fish affordable for Lagosians with the Public-Private Partnership (PPP). "It's a partnership with the private sector, Dula Agro and the Lagos State Government. It's situated on 35 hectares of land. There's a road between the facility. You have about 12 hectares on this side, and about 23 hectares on the side of the road," she explained.

Olusanya noted that the project was also borne out of the fact that the state is surrounded by many fish farmers and young people who would like to upscale, but lack of off-takers is limiting their efforts. "They end up having to sell their fish with minimal margins or with no margins at all, and that can be very discouraging. So, facilities like this, where price can be agreed before production with efficient off-taker arrangements and signed MoUs, I believe it would help to bolster our fishing businesses."

She added that the project will position the state as a top exporter of quality fish, bolster food sustainability, and double food production.

The Chief Executive Officer of Dula Agro Services, Ifedolapo Atinmo, disclosed that the facility will host 10 ponds with water flowing from the Osun River. "Before we settled on this particular site, we worked closely with the Lagos Ministry of Agriculture and visited about seven different locations. We tested the water samples, which flows all the way from the Osun River, and found that it is quality and perfect for our fish production.

"Each of the 10 ponds will hold 72,000 fish, with a batch harvest capacity of an average of 60 to 65 tonnes. In terms of employment, this project should be able to produce about 250 direct jobs on our production side, while our feed mill processing unit will provide 150 jobs."

He noted that at full functioning capacity, the LACE can contribute N50m to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), adding that so far, the state has spent an average of N10b on the project.

The Chairman of the LACE board, Rotimi Erogbogbo, said the project speaks of Lagos' culture of wealth and sustainability creation. "The whole idea is to ensure that we can meet the fish requirements of Lagos State and indeed the entire country." He stressed that for a country with vast arable land and water bodies, Nigeria has no business importing 70 percent of its fish needs.

"This presents a great opportunity for our youths, entrepreneurs, and farmers in Lagos. The reason many youths run away from agriculture is because they didn't have good examples," he said.

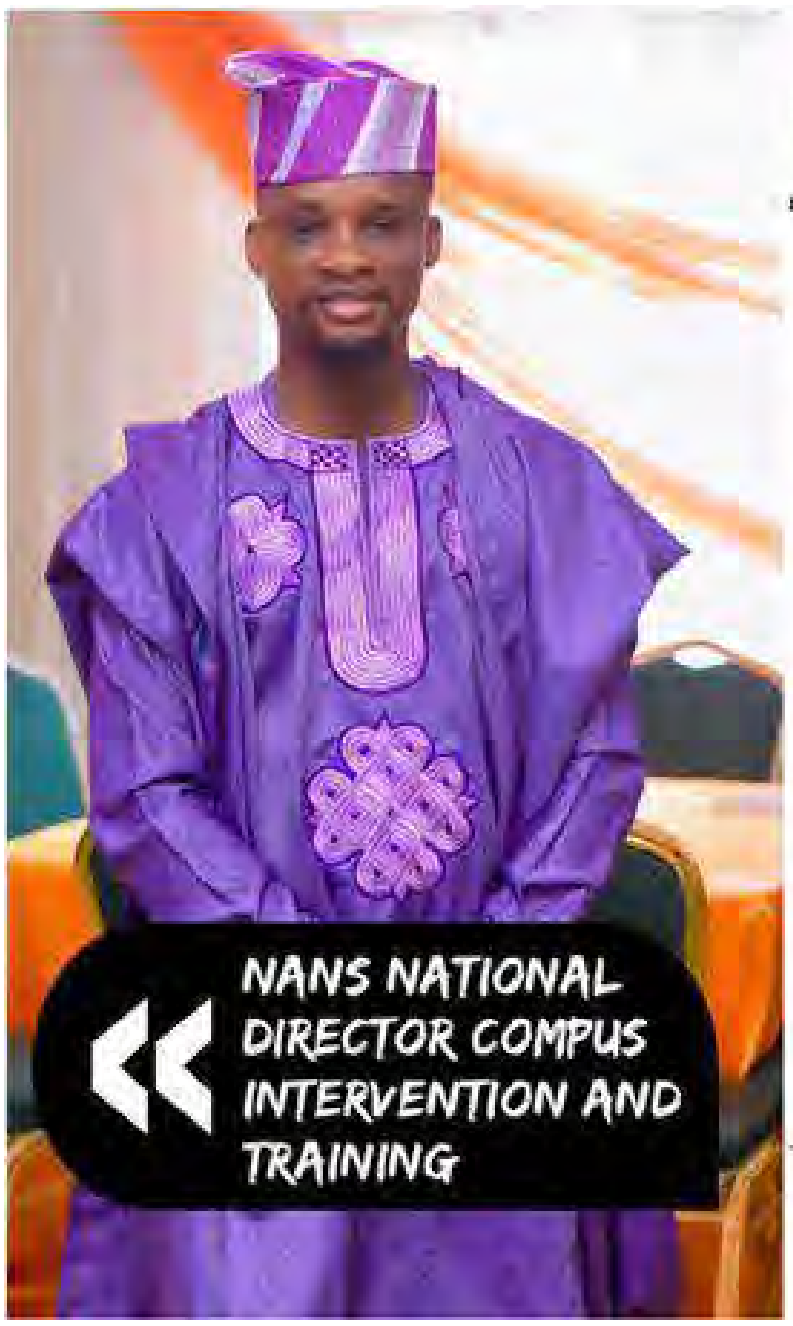


Surakat Muftaudeen Appointed NANS Director of Campus Intervention and Training

By Nurudeen Adebayo

NANS President, Comrade Olushola Ladoja, has appointed former Students' Union Government (SUG) President of Lagos State Polytechnic, Comrade Surakat Muftaudeen, as the Director of Campus Intervention and Training.

The appointment, announced in an official press release, is part of the national body's renewed commitment to student welfare, protection of rights, and the advancement of non-academic development across Nigerian campuses.





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Ref No: NANS/Ref/05/9 Date: 15/5/2025

Comr. Surakat Muftaudeen
The Last SUG President,
Lagos State Polytechnic
Now Lagos State University of
Science and Technology
(LASPOTECH now LASUSTECH)

Dear Comrade,

Appointment as Director of Campus Intervention and Training

I am pleased to formally convey to you the decision of the leadership of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) to appoint you as the Director of Campus Intervention and Training.

Your appointment is in recognition of your unwavering commitment to student welfare, your outstanding leadership track record, and your dedication to the ideals of NANS. As Director, you are expected to coordinate and implement strategic campus-based intervention and training programs that will enhance student engagement, development, and welfare across tertiary institutions.

This role demands high standards of discipline, responsibility, and innovation. We are confident in your capacity to deliver effectively and uphold the values and vision of NANS in all your engagements.

Please accept our congratulations on this well-deserved appointment. We look forward to your contributions to the advancement of Nigerian students nationwide.

Yours in the struggle,

Comr. Olushola Oladoja
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS (NANS)
ASSOCIATION NATIONALE DES ETUDIANTS NIGERIAN

SEC Building, University of Jos, Plateau State
olaoladoja@gmail.com

Reacting to the appointment, Comrade Surakat described the role as a platform to redefine student leadership and empowerment in line with 21st-century demands.

"Our goal is to prepare students for life beyond the certificate," he said. "This office will drive professional training, skills acquisition, symposiums, and other forms of capacity building to ensure holistic development for Nigerian students."

He emphasized that the directorate will work closely with stakeholders, institutions, and parastatals — including the Nigeria Police — to implement interventions that benefit students nationwide.

"We're open to innovation, ideas, and partnerships that can contribute to building a better future for students," Surakat added.

The appointment has received widespread commendation, especially from LASPOTECH students and alumni, who describe Surakat as a proactive leader with a clear passion for student progress.

Programs under the new directorate are expected to kick off soon, with a focus on inclusivity, skills development, and practical training for students across tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

SCAN Monthly Meeting Advocates for Improved Elderly Welfare

Kehinde Adeleye



The Ifako-Ijaiye branch of the Senior Citizens Association of Nigeria (SCAN) recently convened its monthly meeting at its Secretariat in UNA Church, 246 Iju Road, Ifako-Ijaiye, Lagos.

Held on the second Thursday of every month, these meetings provide an essential platform for elderly citizens to engage in meaningful discussions on national issues and strategize ways to improve the welfare of retired individuals who served the nation in public and private sectors during their active years.

Branch Chairman, Prince Olusegun Adedoja, commended members for their consistent participation and dedication to the Association's growth and success.

He encouraged eligible individuals aged 60 and above to join SCAN and take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Emphasizing the Association's commitment to advocating for enhanced government support for senior citizens, Prince Adedoja reassured members that SCAN would persist in championing policies that uphold the dignity and well-being of the elderly.

In addition to the important discussions, the meeting included a festive celebration for members with May birthdays, who were honoured and wished many more prosperous years ahead.

Isolo LCDA Partners with Miliki FM to Launch 'Bebe Nlo Ni Isolo'

Kehinde Adeleye

In a bid to strengthen community engagement and promote transparency, the Olasoju Adebayo-led administration in Isolo LCDA has joined forces with popular radio station Miliki 101.3 FM to introduce a dedicated programme titled 'Bebe Nlo Ni Isolo'.

The initiative, announced on Monday during the Council Chairman's appearance on the station's 'Koko Oro' programme, aims to improve communication between the council and its residents, while providing an additional platform for public feedback.

Olasoju attributed the choice of Miliki FM for this partnership to the station's high ranking among radio stations in the state.

The specific time slot for the programme will be announced later in the week.

Commenting on his recent success at the APC chairmanship primaries held on the second Saturday of this month, Olasoju described his victory as a reflection of the party leadership and members' confidence in his administration, citing his notable performance over the last four years as the basis for the party's renewed mandate.

"Good deeds are rewarded with good deeds and vice versa. My emergence as the party's chairmanship candidate underscores the fact that we have served the people diligently. The plan is to continue working till our very last day in office. As you may know, development has never stopped in Isolo LCDA, work is progressing steadily on Aswani/Emzor Road. Understanding its importance to Isolo's socio-economic activities, we sought and obtained the state government's approval to undertake the project. The paving stones are HFP-manufactured and the project is designed to meet high standards, complete with effective drainage channels and pedestrian walkways," Olasoju highlighted.

He also referenced similar developmental efforts in other areas of the council especially Ilasamaja, particularly on Ibadan Street, and reassured residents of his unwavering commitment to his social contract with them. The council boss specially commended the Council's Community Development Committee (CDC) for their effective monitoring of the projects and also hailed resident for their all-important sacrifices.

Olasoju emphasized that the ongoing development in Isolo is a collaborative effort involving federal, state, and local governments. He added that his administration is focused on constructing critical link roads to ease traffic on major routes and improve commuting for road users.

The council boss reiterated his vision for Isolo LCDA under his leadership, to become a model local council area, just as Lagos is considered a model state in Nigeria and Africa at large.

Looking ahead to the July 12 elections, Olasoju expressed optimism about a resounding victory. He pledged to consolidate his legacy of impactful governance by embarking on more road projects, healthcare initiatives, and human capital development programs as detailed in his #IsoloOfOurDreams blueprint.

Notable among those who called into the radio show were Gafar Olafimihan, Agbomabiwon, James, and Abiola, all of whom praised Olasoju's transparency and media accessibility, urging him to continue the good work in Isolo.



Olamide Named Billboard Global Power Player

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Billboard as one of its Global Power Players for 2025.

The honour highlights his leadership at YBNL Nation, the label behind some of Nigeria's most prominent contemporary music exports, including Asake and Fireboy DML.

Since founding YBNL over a decade ago, Olamide has transitioned from a chart-topping artist to a key figure behind the scenes, guiding new talent and shaping the direction of Afrobeats on the global stage. His work has contributed to the increasing international visibility of Nigerian music.

In 2024, YBNL released two major albums that helped define the year in African music. Asake's third studio album, Lungu Boy, was recently named the biggest album in Nigeria in 2024 by TurnTable Charts.

Known for its blend of streetwise rhythms and melodic experimentation, Lungu Boy consolidated Asake's place as one of the leading voices of the new Afrobeats generation.

Fireboy DML, another YBNL artist, followed up with adedamola, his fourth studio project.

The album has received critical acclaim, with industry observers praising its thematic depth and evolving sound, which reflects Fireboy's continued growth as a singer-songwriter.

Speaking to Billboard, Olamide emphasised the importance of global partnerships in YBNL's strategy.

"YBNL Nation has made significant strides in expanding our global footprint and solidifying our presence in key international markets," he said.

"Collaborations with international artists and producers have helped bridge the gap between Afrobeats and other genres, further establishing our label as a key player in the global music scene."

YBNL's growth has mirrored the broader expansion of Afrobeats beyond the African continent. With the genre gaining traction in Europe, North America, and Asia, labels like YBNL are playing a growing role in shaping its trajectory.

Olamide's recognition by Billboard not only acknowledges his personal achievements but also highlights the rising influence of African music executives in shaping the global soundscape.

As the genre continues to evolve, YBNL's story remains closely tied to its expansion and transformation.

BRS Studios Charts Bold Path for African Storytelling



By Nurudeen Adebayo

Following the global breakout of Tokunbo on Netflix—where it reached the Top 10 in over 50 countries and garnered over 5 million views within its first three days—BRS Studios is moving with renewed momentum.

The studio has unveiled a fresh 2025 slate featuring three new titles: Stitches, Iwa Akwa, and Dambe, each aimed at offering diverse, culturally resonant narratives that deepen the footprint of African cinema on the global stage.

Founded in 2024 through a collaboration between Blue Pictures, Ramsey Films, and Sozo Films, BRS Studios is helmed by a trio of industry veterans: Joy Efe Odiete, a leading distributor and cinema exhibitor; acclaimed actor and director Ramsey Nouah; and producer Chris Odeh.

Together, they bring decades of experience and a shared vision to tell African stories that are clear in purpose, authentic in voice, and wide in reach.

In partnership with MBO Capital, the studio's 2025 rollout marks a strategic leap forward, reinforcing its ambition to produce and distribute high-quality African films for both local and international audiences.

The goal is not only to entertain but also to elevate and redefine what African storytelling looks like on screen.

The first title in the lineup, Stitches, is directed by Shirley Frimpong Manso, one of West Africa's most respected filmmakers.

Set in Lagos, the film tells the story of a gifted fashion designer from a modest background whose rise into the city's elite social circles is entangled with emotional and personal reckonings.

Through themes of ambition, identity, and class, Stitches explores the cost of aspiration in a city that is as unforgiving as it is full of opportunity.

Next is Iwa Akwa, directed by Nollywood veteran Ernest Obi.

The film, a comedy-drama steeped in Igbo tradition, follows a mild-mannered university professor unexpectedly called to assume a royal position in his ancestral home after the sudden death of a crown prince.

Balancing family, heritage, and reluctant duty, the film uses humor and heart to examine what it means to belong.

Rounding out the slate is Dambe, a historical epic directed by Ramsey Nouah. Set in 11th-century Kano, the story centers on a young warrior-in-training immersed in the ancient martial art of Dambe boxing.

Against a backdrop of tradition, lineage, and combat, the film explores questions of strength, purpose, and cultural pride.

Reflecting on the studio's mission, co-founder and producer Chris Odeh explains: "BRS Studios was born out of a need to elevate African storytelling. These films are not just projects; they are a statement to the world that African cinema is limitless in scale, impact, and influence."

Creative Director Ramsey Nouah adds, "Storytelling is our legacy. With this slate, we are not just making movies; we are capturing the essence of Africa in its truest form—bold, vibrant, and deeply rooted in culture."

Joy Efe Odiete, Director of Partnerships and Distribution, underscores the role of collaboration and innovation. "Through strategic partnerships and innovative filmmaking, BRS Studios is setting a new benchmark for Nollywood. We are telling African stories at a global standard, and the world is watching."

With this slate, BRS Studios positions itself at the forefront of Nollywood's next chapter—where cultural depth meets global ambition. These films reflect not just stories but a movement: a commitment to shaping how Africa is seen and heard through the lens of its own storytellers.

BRS Studios Charts Bold Path for African Storytelling



By Nurudeen Adebayo

Following the global breakout of Tokunbo on Netflix—where it reached the Top 10 in over 50 countries and garnered over 5 million views within its first three days—BRS Studios is moving with renewed momentum.

The studio has unveiled a fresh 2025 slate featuring three new titles: Stitches, Iwa Akwa, and Dambe, each aimed at offering diverse, culturally resonant narratives that deepen the footprint of African cinema on the global stage.

Founded in 2024 through a collaboration between Blue Pictures, Ramsey Films, and Sozo Films, BRS Studios is helmed by a trio of industry veterans: Joy Efe Odiete, a leading distributor and cinema exhibitor; acclaimed actor and director Ramsey Nouah; and producer Chris Odeh.

Together, they bring decades of experience and a shared vision to tell African stories that are clear in purpose, authentic in voice, and wide in reach.

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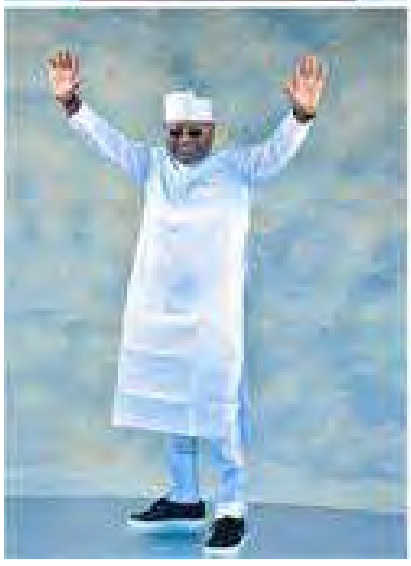
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LG Primaries: Oloyede Commends Stakeholders for Successful APC Primaries

Kehinde Adeleye











In a heartfelt display of gratitude, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, has once again extended his appreciation to all stakeholders who played a crucial role in ensuring the peaceful and harmonious conduct of the recent All Progressives Congress (APC) local government chairmanship and councilorship primaries.

Oloyede commended the maturity, sacrifice, and unity demonstrated by party leaders, co-aspirants, and members throughout the process, describing it as "a testament to the strength and resilience of the APC family in Oshodi-Isolo."

Oloyede began by acknowledging the guidance of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his son, Ambassador Seyi Tinubu, for their dedication to grassroots political development in the council area.

He also paid tribute to key party figures such as Prince Samuel Aina, Comrade Dele Ogunshaki, and Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh for their leadership and contributions to the successful outcome of the primaries.

“I must publicly acknowledge and deeply appreciate Hon. Bolaji Ariyoh for demonstrating rare leadership and genuine commitment to party unity. His decision to prioritize peace above personal ambition is one for the history books,” Oloyede stated.

The chairman also expressed appreciation to several other critical political figures and stakeholders for their roles in ensuring a smooth and credible process, including: Hon. (Dr.) Bashir Dawodu (MHR), Hon. Stephen Ogundipe (Member, Lagos State House of Assembly), Hon. Muruf Akinderu Fatai (Commissioner for Housing), Hon. Timothy Olabintan (Member, Southwest Development Commission), Hon. Daisi Osho, Hon. Olabanji Atewogboye, Hon. Sodiq Gbolagade, Hon. Hakeem Shogunle and Hon. Femi Mustapha.

He further extended appreciation to the traditional institution for their support and role in maintaining peace and order during the process. Notable among them are: Oba Shakirudeen Adeshina Kuti, the Elewu of Ewu Kingdom, HRM, Oba Adebayo Jimoh (Olu of Onimedu Nla,Mowe), High Chief (Dr.) Adedayo Thomas, (Baale of Mafoluku-Elemo), High Chief Rafiu Ajisegiri, (Baale of Shogunle), High Chief Muniru Obidairo (Baale of Shogunle-Oke), Chief Biliaminu Akinola (Regent of Oshodi), High Chief Sesan Ajanaku (Alakoso).

Additionally, Otunba Oloyede acknowledged the leadership of the party at the grassroots level, expressing gratitude to the LGA APC Chairman, Hon. Saheed Animashaun, all ward chairmen, and party executive officers for their dedication, cooperation, and organisational strength throughout the exercise.

He concluded by urging all stakeholders to continue working in unity and to remain committed to the party's vision of delivering good governance and development to the people of Oshodi-Isolo as we move forward to the general elections.

Awori TOPDASS Endorses Olasoju, Adeola's Re-Election Bid in Isolo LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye



The Awori Top Development Association (Awori TOPDASS), a prominent indigenous group in Isolo, has announced its full support for the re-election of Hon. Olasoju Adebayo as Chairman and Hon. Shakir Sadiq Adeola as Vice Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

This endorsement comes after Hon. Adeola's historic accomplishment as the first incumbent Vice Chairman of the council to secure a return ticket, following Olasoju's decisive victory in the All Progressives Congress (APC) chairmanship primaries.

Awori TOPDASS' backing acknowledges Olasoju and Adeola's exceptional performance over the past four years, emphasizing their impressive developmental strides across multiple sectors within the LCDA.

The association's support reflects the unified stance of the indigenous sons and daughters of Isolo, who collectively advocate for Olasoju and Adeola's continued leadership in the council area.








Kosofe LG Launches Drainage Desilting Project

Kehinde Adeleye

In an effort to combat flooding and maintain functional drainage systems during the rainy season, Kosofe Local Government has initiated a desilting and evacuation project for drainages and canals across various communities in the council area.

This initiative is part of the Kosofe Environmental Initiative, which aims to promote environmental sustainability and address environmental degradation.

The desilting activities, were being carried out simultaneously across all six wards of the local government, have already begun in over 15 communities.

Some of the communities currently benefiting from the project include Awolowo Canal in Oworo, Oworo Road Phase II, Surulere Street in Oworo, Olabode Aluko Street in Oworo, Onabanjo Street in Oworo, Ireku Street in Oworo, Salawu Oriola Street in Oworo, Moshalashi Street in Ogudu, Dagunro Close in Ojota, Adeola Street in Medina Estate Ifako, Omoyele Pratt Glory Estate in Ifako, Alhaji Alli Owe Street in Oworo, Olanrewaju Street in Oworo, Ifateludo Street in Ifako, and Association Close in Ogudu, with more areas to follow.

To ensure the continued effectiveness of these efforts and prevent blockages in the drainage systems, residents are strongly advised to refrain from disposing of waste indiscriminately into the drainage channels.

APC LG Primaries: Obasa Seeks Unity and Tolerance Among Political Stakeholders



In anticipation of the July 12 local government elections in Lagos State, the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, has called for unity and tolerance among political stakeholders in Agege and Orile-Agege.

During a stakeholders' meeting held at Central Primary School in Agege, Obasa specifically addressed those who participated in the recently concluded chairmanship primaries, urging them to embrace the judgment of party leaders and accept the results with grace.

While acknowledging the qualifications of all aspirants, the Speaker emphasized the importance of adhering to due process in determining leadership positions. He reminded attendees that leadership opportunities are limited, encouraging all involved to respect and support the outcomes of the primaries.

"There is none of the aspirants that is not qualified," he said. "But we must understand that this is not a family inheritance—it is a political position governed by law and procedure, and only one person can occupy the seat at a time."

Obasa urged aspirants who were not successful to channel their disappointment constructively within the party and not allow frustration to escalate into conflict.

"I was once a victim like some of you," he added, "but it is important to keep our grievances within the party and move forward united."

"But you must learn to exercise patience and have confidence in the process. You must believe in the judgement of our leaders. Everybody is qualified to be a leader but all of us cannot be a leader. Learn to trust the party and its leaders. We must not fight them. If we want to appeal, let's start now."

He observed that the forthcoming local government polls is a litmus test on the 2027 general election reason all hands must be on deck to attain victory.

He added, "We must reach out to others. Let's make them understand the need to come back. If they didn't get it today, it will be their turn tomorrow. We must work together. We cannot do it alone. This isn't the ultimate. We are much interested in the 2027 election.

Kehinde Adeleye

But we will use this to measure what will happen in 2027. This isn't about the chairmanship and councillorship election; it goes beyond that. Our target is 2027. So, let's bring everybody out to vote.

"If we can increase the number of votes, we had in 2023 during this local poll then we can go to rest. We must bring everybody together and the journey starts now. We must learn to tolerate one another. We must intensify our efforts and reach out to members of the community to come out to vote."onfidence in the process. You must believe in the judgement of our leaders. Everybody is qualified to be a leader but all of us cannot be a leader. Learn to trust the party and its leaders. We must not fight them. If we want to appeal, let's start now."

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Mushin Residents Express Excitement Over Construction Of New Roads



Hon. Yinka Kaseem, also known as Esho Cares, the Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Mushin Constituency 2

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Mushin are elated over the construction of Ogun Street and Anjorin Street roads in the community.

The residents believe the construction of the Ogun Street and Anjorin Street roads is a welcome development. They extended their appreciation to Hon. Yinka Kaseem, also known as Esho Cares, the Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Mushin Constituency 2, for addressing their needs.

Mr. Saheed Anthony, a community stakeholder residing at 17 Anjorin Street, described the project as the most significant development in their area currently.

"We are happy that this kind of development is coming to our area, it has been a long time since such a thing happened, and we really appreciate our Honourable, Yinka Esho, who brought this to our area."

Hon. Kaseem explained that the road reconstruction was planned last year as a 2024 project, building on his past successes in facilitating road improvements within the constituency.

"We have facilitated several road projects in the past, like Ishaga Road and Akanro Street, we resurfaced the two roads, also Agege Motor Road by Oshodi Terminal 1 inward Mushin from the pedestrian bridge, we repaired and built drainage preventing it from flooding when it rains., all these were done through the Lagos State Public Works Corporation.

"The ongoing reconstruction of Ogun and Anjorin streets is my 2024 constituency project. The road in question is very strategic, but due to its dilapidated condition, most motorists dare to ply the road to link Itire road from Alasalatu area, so when completed, it will relieve the motorists from taking the long route."

Regarding maintenance, Mr. Anthony affirmed that residents would diligently maintain the road, ensuring it's not misused, as its completion will enhance the area's appearance.

Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA Launches Upgraded 24-Hour Primary Health Center

Kehinde Adeleye



The Ayobo-Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has made a significant stride in enhancing healthcare delivery for its residents with the commissioning of the upgraded Ishefun Primary Health Center.

The facility, now fully equipped and operational 24 hours a day, will bring quality healthcare services closer to the people of Ayobo-Ipaja and its environs.

Otunba Ladi Oluwaloni, Chairman of Ayobo-Ipaja LCDA, spearheaded the initiative, demonstrating his commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure in the area.

The commissioning ceremony, held on May 16th, 2025, was a testament to his efforts in ensuring round-the-clock medical services for the community.

During the event, Otunba Ladi Oluwaloni (OLO 1) thanked Lagos State Health District 1, healthcare professionals, and community members who contributed to the project's success.

The Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Health District 1, Dr. Olufumilayo Bankole, represented by Dr. Olukoya, emphasized the Lagos State Government's dedication to providing quality healthcare services across the state and urged residents to make use of the Primary Health Center's facilities and services.

The commissioning event featured a range of community-focused activities, include Community Sensitization: Educating residents on the importance of healthcare and the services available at the health center.

- Free Health Screenings: Blood pressure and sugar tests were conducted free of charge to promote preventive healthcare.

- Free Eye Care Services: Residents benefited from complimentary eye care services to address vision-related issues by collecting free eye glasses.

- Enrollment in Ilera-Eko Insurance Scheme: Vulnerable individuals were enrolled in the scheme at no cost, ensuring access to affordable healthcare.

- Free Drugs and Treatments: Medications and treatments were provided free of charge to those in need.

This milestone is expected to have a profound impact on the lives of residents by providing enhanced healthcare services and ensuring that medical care is accessible at all times. The event was well-attended by key stakeholders, including the Vice Chairman, Hon. Akinola Jimoh; the Secretary to the Local Government, Prince Rotimi Adeoye; EXCO members; and the management team led by Mr. Babatunde Saheed.

Otunba Oluwaloni administration remains committed to improving the quality of life for its residents through initiatives that address critical needs such as healthcare. The commissioning of the 24-hour Ishefun Primary Health Center is a testament to his commitment and a significant step towards building a healthier community.

National Sport Festival

2024 NSF: Joy Chima Thrilled Winning Bronze For Team Lagos

By Saheed Afolabi

Weightlifting star Joy Chima is exhilarated winning two bronze medals for Team Lagos at the 2024 National Sport Festival (NSF) in Ogun State.

Chima showed her experience and tenacity to clinch a podium finish on two occasions while showing her experience in the process.

She expressed excitement at her achievements for winning two medals for Team Lagos which she hopes will sustain her passion for the game.

Chime added that her next target is to win a gold medal at the next NSF in Enugu. She however believes it won't come easy but with constant trainings, she will be able to achieve.

"I'm so excited winning a medal for team Lagos and glory be to God I was able to win something tangible for Lagos State.

"By God's grace at the next edition I will be targeting gold. I will work hard towards it and I hope to testify about it at the next sport festival."



National Sport Festival

2024 NSF: Lagos Dart Boss Sets Medal Target

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of the Lagos State Dart Association (LSDA), Adegbenga Odofin has set a lofty target for the athletes participating in the Dart category of the National Sport Festival (NSF).

Odofin admitted Lagos State athletes competing in Dart at the 2024 Gateway Games have not been lucky compared to the previous sport festival held at Asaba.

He's optimistic more medals can still be won as some categories are yet to be completed or open for competitiveness.

"Going by precedence, all the athletes we took to the last Sport Festival won a medal but we have not been so lucky this time because we have won only one medal and hopefully we get to win more, we still have the mix doubles, singles and other categories to compete for.

"We assure Lagosians that we will win at least five medals in Dart."

Odofin lauded the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) for their contributions in developing Dart as a sport while he confesses that the sport lack enough infrastructures



National Sport Festival

2024 NSF: Team Lagos Wushu Kungfu Coach Explains Motives Behind High Gold Medals Win

By Saheed Afolabi



The coach of Lagos State Wushu Kungfu Association (LSWKA), Mathew David has explained the behind the scenes hard work that led to winning six gold medals at the 2024 Gateway Games in Ogun State.

Mathew said he has been training the athletes for over a year preparing them for the NSF with the right mindset, zeal and strength to face any opponent.

He instructed the athletes to chase knockout techniques which worked positively well for Team Lagos in the Wushu Kungfu category, while he acknowledges the athletes top performance which paved way for medals.

"Glory to God, I've been training this athletes for over a year plus even when the festival was postponed, I kept working because I know as a technician I have to keep working and training the athletes so that they will have the strength and zeal to withstand any other thing that will come.

"I told them that what they passed through in Asaba the last time should not repeat itself and they should go for knockout this time which has worked in our favor and you can see the Lagos fighters knocked out six states athletes while most were taken out through stretchers and this is to let you know the hard training I always give them.

"The athletes gave a good account of themselves, made names for themselves and did Lagos State proud."

The martial arts coach is certain the set target of ten gold medals in Wushu Kungfu is still achievable with the right concentration and discipline.

"We are hoping to win at least ten gold medals but we have won six gold medals for now.

"I want to appreciate the LSSC DG, who attends to our needs and makes sure we don't lack any finances in actualizing our dreams and set objectives.

National Sport Festival

2024 NSF: Team Lagos Weightlifting Gold Medalist, Emmanuel Aims High

By Saheed Afolabi



Team Lagos Weightlifting sensation, Tuesday Emmanuel is elated winning gold medals at the National Sport Festival in Ogun State.

The youngster believes he worked hard to get to where he's today and he isn't backing down in his quest to win gold medals at the international stage for Nigeria.

He admitted his national assignment experience gave him the edge above his other competitors who couldn't match his performance.

"Been a gold medalist, I'm so happy because I really prepared and work for it, so I'm very happy.

"Before coming to the National Sport Festival, I had it in mind to win a gold medal because I also represent Nigeria at weightlifting. So I worked towards it and I was able to achieve it.

"I won my first gold medal at the National Youth Games in 2018 and later won two additional gold medals making it three. At the last National Sport Festival in Delta State, I won three silver medals."

Emmanuel further added the medals would have a huge significant growth in his career while he remains resilient on excelling at the international stage.

"I think this is will positively have an impact in my career because before you get an invite to the national team, you must have won a medal at the National Sport Festival and this medal has brought positive impact in my career.

"I'm targeting to be at the next Olympics and Commonwealth Games and hopefully win a medal there."



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