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EndSARS Violence; Govt counts losses

By Ladapo Kolade

Reggae band Mighty Diamonds' produced their hit song, Weeping and Wailing and Burning and Gnashing of teeth in the album, Right Time in 1976. It was as if they had Lagos of October 22, 2020 on their mind.

The zonal head of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASMA) in zone 7 headquartered in Ejigbo, Olokodana was still writing his report of the incident for onward despatch to the office of the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation when ECHONEWS called on him on Sunday.

His official vehicle was burnt along with 26 others belonging to LASTMA and other agencies sharing the yard in the fateful Tuesday wanton destruction.

"I left the vehicle in the premises because the situation on the road was tense and made my way home. The next morning (Tuesday), everything was calm in the morning. Suddenly, the hoodlums came."

After they left, Olokodana counted his losses: three cars that he personally arrested were burnt.

Also razed were the towing vehicles and a new low bed tow truck to keep the roads free of illegal parking and take abandoned vehicles off the streets.

Other agencies which shared in the loss include the Vehicle Inspection Service and the Lagos State Vocational centre.

ECHONEWS could not reach the zonal heads at the time of this report.

Many civil servants are still shocked how the premises of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area became the target of the arsonists.

Seven vehicles, including buses recently bought and donated to the Nigeria Police but awaiting additional fittings, were burnt.

Also, the revenue buses were burnt and the windows of the patrol car of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Corps were



smashed.

The burnt vehicles might have been saved if the plan of the local government to partner with the state by building a fire service while the state government supplies the truck had worked.

There wasn't enough water to save the vehicles from petrol-induced carnage.

Although the attackers were repelled at the newly-upgraded Divisional Police headquarters of Ejigbo on Ifoshi Street, no one could save the local government's Multi-purpose Centre which houses the marriage registry, meeting halls and training centres as attackers vandalised and looted the properties.

Ejigbo LCDA chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello Obe, said intelligence sources had alerted of a possible attack on the premises two days earlier as hoodlums began to exploit the EndSARS protest to break into shops and vandalise government buildings.

With the police out of the streets due to the EndSARS, Obe mobilised youths to keep vigil from Sunday. However, with the calm experienced in the city till Wednesday morning, he allowed them to

go.

He did not expect that shootings which reportedly took place in faraway Lekki would reverberate in his area. By the time he mobilised the youths to resist the attack, much harm had been done.

To worsen the situation, the attackers moved to the police station, threatening to burn it down. It took the intervention of youths belonging to the Oodua Peoples Congress to

save the station.

It was indeed a Black WEDNESDAY for the police in Isolo LCDA and Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area.

The police station at Ilasamaja in Isolo LCDA and both the station and barracks at Makinde in Oshodi-Isolo LGA were vandalised and burnt.

In Ilasamaja, the clash between the police and the

attackers led to the death of two policemen and four attackers.

A similar action was planned for Shogunle police station but local youths came to its rescue and chased away the vandals.

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse-Ariyo and the Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu visited Makinde station and the

barracks.

Both promised to persuade the state government to come to the aid of the victims.

A witness alleged that the police could not repel the attack because the armoury of the station was removed few minutes to the attack.

Meanwhile, the residents of Ilasamaja have provided a temporary facility for the police pending return to normalcy.

#EndSARS Violence: Idimogu calls for peace

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Member representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Sir. (Dr.) Jude Idimogu, has commiserated with the victims of the violence that trailed shootings at EndSARS protest, regretting that the protest which started well was later hijacked by thugs who unleashed mayhem on the general public.

Idimogu, who noted with dismay the wanton destruction of public and private assets, condemned the act of the hoodlums who turned the protest to violence and looting.

He extended his profound

sympathy to the Ejigbo LCDA Executive Chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) over the burning of vehicles and damage to properties at the council secretariat.

"I also sympathise with all my constituents that were affected in one way or the other during the violence, which includes Private and Government owned assets that were destroyed by the hoodlums - Ilasamaja Police station, LASTMA office, Imakinyo Police Post and others," he said.

He therefore urged the good people of his constituency to remain calm and be law-abiding, saying everything is being put in place to ensure the safety of all the constituents.



Hon. Sir. (Dr.) Jude Idimogu

Court sentences 2 to 9 months imprisonment for stealing tyres

By Damilola Kushimo

An Isolo Magistrate Court has sentenced two men to nine months imprisonment each for stealing six truck tyres valued at N450,000.

The convicts, Ibrahim Isah (26) and Ridwan Adeyemo (30), were charged with two count charges bothering on theft, the crimes punishable under sections 411 and 287 Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015.

Having found them guilty of the offences, the preceding Magistrate, O. A Akhohia, pronounced nine months imprisonment on each of the criminals.

According to the prosecutor, Inspector Oje Uagbale, the convicts had earlier committed similar crimes

before being caught in the process on Tuesday, September, 29, 2020.

"They are both employees (driver and motorboy) of a company. They had earlier stolen some tyres of the truck that belong to the company where they always park the truck. The company however alerted the security to be on the watch. On that fateful day, they were trying to remove some tyres again when the security alerted the company's manager and they were caught on the spot before being handed over to the police at Ago Police Divisional Headquarters."

The convicts pleaded guilty to one of the charges, explaining that they resorted to such an act due to their delayed salary.



Community may provide temporary place for Ilasamaja police station

By Damilola Kushimo

Stakeholders in Ilasamaja are considering a location in the Ilasamaja market as temporary facility to enable the policemen of Ilasamaja Station continue their duties. The station was burnt Tuesday by attackers who hijacked the EndSARS protests.

During the violent attack on the police station, two police officers and four protesters were killed as the two parties clashed.

Reacting to the brutal

incident, the councillor representing Ilasamaja Ward, Hon. Akeem Adeyemi (Alarape), strongly condemned the destruction of the police facilities and commiserated with the families of the police officers and protesters who lost their lives.

He urged the state government to rebuild the police station to protect the residents from threats.

"Well, the damages have been done already. No doubt, the hoodlums hijacked the protest from the elites because I am very sure

Ilasamaja protesters wouldn't have carried out such destruction.

"We are appealing to the government to quickly help fix the police station to avoid other criminal activities that may arise due to the absence of a police station in the community. Police station is indispensable in our community and I would like to emphasize that the police station was too small to accommodate the number of officers expected in the station.

"There would be a meeting soon that would involve the

Baale, PCRC and other stakeholders, where the ongoing construction of a new police station at Ilasamaja market would be discussed extensively. Perhaps, the razed police station could be relocated," Adeyemi explained.

Also speaking, Assistant General Secretary, Isolo CDC and Chairman, Ogo Oluwa Kitan CDA, Hon. Mukaila Atilola condemned the heartbreaking incident in strong terms but confirmed that no other property was lost during the incident.

He, however, affirmed that



Hon. Akeem Adeyemi

the community leaders are temporary building for the working rapidly to provide a police officers.

Sport fans excited over reopening of contact sports

By Saheed Afolabi

Football fans in Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo have expressed joy over the reopening of contact sports, which allows football to resume at the all levels.

The Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Covid-19 has last week announced the reopening contact sports which include football and basketball.

The PTF noted that the high recovery rate of Covid-19

patients and reduced number of daily reported cases of Covid-19 infection led to the reopening of contact sports but warned that fans would not be allowed into the venues of the sport especially a measure to curtail the spread of the virus.

Reacting to the news, the

Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Paul Fregene said that it was a long awaited expectation.

A grassroots football coach, Azeez Mustapha of Ghetto Light FC, said he was elated as he has waited tirelessly for the reopening of contact sports.

"I put up a post on social media platforms as soon I got

the information and all football enthusiasts on my list echoed the views of many of us. They are happy and I am happy," he said.

Ms Success FC coach, Musbahu Oseni, said: "Yes, I am so excited that we can now have access to do what we know how to do best and speak the language we know how to speak better. We are grateful to those who made

this happen such as federal government, ministry of youth and sport development and the media."

Unstoppable FC coach, Yemi Fortune, said: "I feel so excited, now we can continue with our football business and programmes. Though there is a set back, with God on our side and with actions, we are going to recover gradually all we lost due to

lockdown caused by the global spread of covid 19."

Diadem Stallion FC coach, Ayodeji Adebayo, said: "The football community is excited as some pending competitions would commence and we shall resume back to training as well."

Coach Christopher Ogar said it is a big relief for the whole football family.

Former DPO depllores attack, thanks residents for defending legacy

By Abolaji Adebayo

Handing over to her successor last week, former Divisional Police Officer for Ejigbo, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi appreciated the co-operation received from all stakeholders and thanked God that the newly upgraded police station she facilitated was not destroyed by those who attacked the station following the EndSARS protests.

Okuwobi, who will resume as the Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Police Trust Fund (NPTF), Abuja this week handed over to the new DPO, CSP Akinsola Ogunwale.

She thanked God for safeguarding the station, especially the block of offices she laboured to secure for the station saying she was happy that despite the crisis, no police officer was injured. "I really thank God that none of the officers in the station was injured. I thank God that all I laboured for to make the station a befitting one was also protected. It would have been my greatest sorrow if the station was tampered by the hoodlums because we just commissioned the newly built offices and the renovated ones some weeks ago. But I thank God for His protection."

"I also appreciate the cooperation and support given to by the leaders of the community especially the LCDA chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello in combating the criminals in the community. With their support, I, together with my team, was able to reduce criminal activities in the community to the barest minimum. I pray my successor could sustain the feat achieved while I was in office.

"I'm appealing to the community leaders to extend the support given to me to my successor to sustain what we have achieved in term of security in the community."

She also commended the members of Oodua People's Congress (OPC) for helping the police in discharging their duty.

She specifically lauded the OPC members for "surprisingly coming to the station last week when the hoodlums wanted to attack the station in solidarity, saying they did not want anybody to attack the station. "Indeed, they have done wonderfully well and I appreciate them. I believe they will not desist from the act to further make Ejigbo more crime-free.

Okuwobi served first as Divisional Crime officer before her elevation to the onerous task of becoming Officer in charge (OC) at Ejigbo Division.

During her two years stint, she brought down the level of criminal activities by working with the community and networking with stakeholders.

Even cultists reported themselves and denounced cultism just as the local council as well as residents gave her their full

Her biggest achievement is the new ultra modern architectural masterpiece of the Nigeria Police station Ejigbo Division which was supported by Grooming



CSP Olabisi Okuwobi

Limited, the local government and other good spirited individuals.

It was inaugurated by the Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu recently.

On the crime scene, her record includes the arrest of some members of the gang of rapists who killed 11 year old Favour. She vows to continue to work towards that even in her new posting.

Other achievements include the arrest of bank robbers with their motorcycle and English made pistol, arrest of kidnappers, arrest of cultists with their arms, busting of baby factory and

homosexuals.

"I also will miss my policemen whose support and loyalty made all these achievements to happen. Honestly, I love them dearly," she stated.

Party youth leader calls for calm

By Abolaji Adebayo

The youth leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Jide Ogunmefun, has urged the youths to avoid violence and other acts that could lead to the breakdown of law and order.

Speaking to ECHONEWS on the recent violence that led to burning of houses and damage to properties, Ogunmefun said youths protesting for an end to police

brutality and violence against citizens should be separated from those burning and looting properties of public and private persons.

He said: "We cannot deny that the last few days have changed the trajectory of our nation and Nigeria would never be the same again. I am very certain that we are approaching a new beginning where no one (young and old) would be stopped, questioned or brutalized for no other reason other than the way he or she is dressed or perceived. The young people of Nigeria have

successfully put an end to all forms of Police brutality and the nation as a whole is the beneficiary."

He said the gains recorded in the last few days are laudable and should not be devalued by the infiltrators who found their ways into the protest and turned an otherwise peaceful protest into an orgy of violence and destruction.

"We cannot afford to destroy the less than sufficient infrastructures we have as a form of protest against government, no one cuts off his nose to spite his face."



babajide ogunmefun

Makinde charred, residents panic, fear attacks

By Edith Igbokwe

Concerned residents of Mafoluku, Oshodi have expressed panic over the looming insecurity following the destruction of Makinde Police station by the hoodlums who allegedly hijacked the peaceful EndSARS protest across the state.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO), CSP Francis Ebhuoma, who was full of pity for the community, said after the burning of the station, the residents might be helpless in terms of security as there would be no police to rescue them when they are attacked. According to him, the rebuilding of the station may not be as fast as they would have expected due to the high rate of destruction

across the state.

He however appealed to the angry youths to be calm, saying the destruction of police stations and killing of police officers would not solve the situation at hand.

The chairman of Agbelekale Olaiya Community Development Association (CDA) Mafoluku, Alhaji Sikiru Adegbelemi, also expressed fears over the vandalization, regretting losing the only security outfit in the community to the attack.

However, the youths in Shogunle area made effort to prevent the hoodlums from destroying the Shogunle Police Station and other government properties in their locality.

One of the youths in the area, Oluwatosin Timothy said the youths made frantic efforts to prevent the hoodlums from



The remains of Makinde Police station

gaining entrance into the community.

According to him, the hoodlums were not residents of the community saying the majority of them who were armed were not known in the community.

"Immediately we got the

information that they were in the Arowojobe area coming for destruction, we closed all the entrance gates into Shogunle and they could not invade the community. We tried as much as we could to prevent them from destroying government's properties in

Shogunle.

"Though we had our own protest in the community, it was a peaceful, controlled protest without violence as we also support the struggle for the rights of the youths. We gathered at Shogunle bus-stop to protest

peacefully to make our own voice heard," he said.

NASCHO finally inaugurates new executives

By Edith Igbokwe

After waiting for so long period due to the lockdown buoyed by the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the Nigeria Association of Hairdressers/Cosmetologist (NASCHO), Oshodi chapter, has finally inaugurated its 21 newly-elected executive members to control the affairs of the association.

During the inauguration, the Lagos State NASCHO President, Mrs. Surat Abari who was represented by the Vice President, Mr. Mike Onyealu decorated the officers with their post badges after swearing to the oath of office.

He charged them to discharge their duties with the sense of patriotism, make unity their watchword and be prayerful to have a successful two-year tenure.

The outgoing chairperson of the association, Mrs. Comfort Akinkuowo, advised the new chairperson, Mrs. Bimpe Abimbola and other executive members to make good use of the office and work towards the growth of the association, saying whatever they do must be done in the interest of the association.

He therefore pledged to always give support when required to make the association grow, charging other members of the association to give the needed support.

CDA trains 100 students on vocations to mark third anniversary

By Edith Igbokwe

No fewer than 100 students benefited from the skills acquisition programme organised by Isokan Development Association (CDA) Charity, Oshodi in commemoration of its third anniversary.

The students, who were selected from Primary 4 to SSS 3 in public and private schools within the community, were trained on the latest educational model of learning as well as skills acquisition.

During the programme, the students acquired skills in Computer, Numeracy, Literacy and bottle craft work from 8am to 4pm according to their categories (primary/JSS/SSS) classes, held at Redeemed

Christian Church Auditorium along Afariogun Street.

This gesture has received wide accolades from the residents of the community as beneficiaries were drawn from the seven streets under the CDA.

Speaking, the the Special Adviser (SA) to Oshodi-Isolo LG chairman on Community Affairs, Mr. Ade Macathy, said the programme is one of the ways to develop the youths, saying if all the CDAs could emulate the initiative, there won't be hoodlums in Oshodi. He therefore commended the association for the gesture, promising to also keep supporting the young ones in his own capacity.

Admonishing the youths, the guest speaker, the proprietor of Gbolahan Comprehensive High School, Ajao Estate, Engr. Ajibola Lawal, encouraged the



Section of students that benefited from the Programme

students to emulate people like him who strived to be successful despite their backgrounds.

According to him, some of them who were born and bred in Oshodi struggled for survival due to the environment yet, recorded success in education as they now make the community proud that

something good could be achieved from the community.

The patroness, pillar of Isokan CDA, Chief Mrs. Aderonke Adeniji disclosed her full support for the success of the programme, making sure that all the participating students fully benefited from the programme.

The students were drilled by

the facilitator, Mr. Segun Ilori who took his time to explain the teachings in details for a clear understanding of the topics taught, advising them to be more focused on their studies to develop their careers and to be relevant in the society but, they should shun all forms of social vices for a better life style.

Local govt to deploy security guards to communities

By Edith Igbokwe

To curb criminal activities in communities, the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government is offering to deploy security guards to all communities willing to pay their salaries.

The offer was made during the meeting of the

Community Development Associations (CDAs) with the Community Development Committee (CDC).

According to the information, all CDAs without security guards should pick up a form, fill and submit to the council for a security guard to be deployed to such areas while the community with

existing security guards should list their names for proper training at the council. The forms are to be submitted by November ending.

Every concerned community is expected to be responsible for the salaries of security guards deployed to their areas.

Commending the local

government for the idea, the chairman of Oshodi Community Development Association (CDA), Nurani Lawal, said the government's intervention would hasten the issue of security in the local government area.

He stated that the move would reduce criminal activities in Oshodi, adding

that government involvement would formalise the process of security deployment and make it official.

Lawal further said that with the intervention of the council officials, there would be less difficulty in the collection of security bills from the residents to pay the security guards as and when due since they are involved in the process.

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