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applauds **PG. 7**
Sokunle over
streets' upgrade

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competitions in
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Echoneews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

The Best Free Weekly Community Newspaper in Nigeria

Free

Monday 27th July - Sunday 2nd August 2020

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pay, demand new
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SANWO-OLU TO LAUNCH OSHODI-ABULE-EGBA BRT AUGUST **PG. 2**



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu making his speech during an inspection recently.

**Ejigbo councilors list
achievements in three years** **PG. 6**



348 days after, Police still searching for missing children **PG. 2**

Sanwo-Olu to launch Oshodi-Abule-Egba BRT August

All hands are on deck to ensure the take-off of the Oshodi-Abule-Egba Bus Rapid Transit route by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu next month.

This follows the completion of the works including 11 pedestrian bridges, two bus terminals at Iyana-Ipaja and Abule-Egba along the 13.68 median route as originally advertised by the Lagos State Metropolitan Authority in January 2017.

The route has enabled LAMATA to expand the BRT routes in Lagos from 33.5 kilometres to 47.18 kilometres. Other BRT routes in Lagos include Mile 2, Amuwo-Odofin to CMS, Lagos Island, (22 km) and Mike 12 to Ikorodu, (13.5km)

Another impetus for the take-off is the successful negotiation of the N20.2 billion custom duties charged by the Nigerian Ports Authority for the processing of 570 of the 820 buses procured by the former administration of Governor Akinwunmi Ambode for the Lagos Bus Reform Project.

In a rare achievement of diplomacy and financial ingenuity, Governor Sanwo-Olu engaged contacts at the Presidency to make a good case for the release of the buses to avoid depletion in



Oshodi-Abule-BRT

value if left at the ports and gain economic value from ease of business if they are injected into the state's transport management system.

Although the buses were released early June, their deployment was left to LAMATA to resolve.

ECHONEWS learnt that the 570 buses were distributed among five transportation companies including the state-owned Lagos Bus Services Limited (LBSL), Primero, TJ Motors and TSL.

Governor Sanwo-Olu had

directed that not less than 200 buses be deployed to the Oshodi-BRT route when he inspected the facilities in January this year.

The directive is to ensure that no depot or terminal on the route lacks buses at any time to convey over 60,000 passengers estimated on the route daily.

Unlike earlier BRT schemes when a company was given monopoly of the routes, ECHONEWS learnt that LAMATA will experiment with at least three transport firms on

the Oshodi-Abule-Egba route. These include TJ Motors, TSL and Primero. For Primero may be winning Oshodi-Abule-Egba slot to lose its monopoly on the Ikorodu-Mile 12 route, impeccable sources have hinted.

To ensure that the companies make gains, the government recently approved increases in transport fares.

Although the buses include high capacity and medium capacity units, ECHONEWS learnt that the high capacity buses are to be deployed to the

route.

The buses, by COVID-19 regulations of the Lagos State government, are allowed to take no fewer than 42 persons per day.

The three companies are expected to deploy 200 buses which would move 42 persons per trip. With 200 buses running seven trips per day, no fewer than 58,800 passengers will use their services daily.

This is expected to reduce congestion on the route and improve traffic flow.

To persuade users of private

vehicles to switch, the vehicles are fitted with camera, USB ports to charge phones, television for entertainment and special seats for persons with physical challenges and the aged.

Another economic spin-off is the opportunity for jobs for drivers, cleaners, mechanics, and engineers.

Conceived by the Akinwunmi Ambode administration as part of the Lagos Bus Reform Project, the procurement of 820 vehicles was meant to entice the private sector to buy into the vision of supplying 5,000 medium and high capacity buses to move commuters in metropolitan Lagos and pressurise yellow buses to move into the semi-urban and rural areas.

The project includes the construction and upgrade of transportation depots and terminals such as the Oshodi Transport Interchange, the Yaba, Oyingbo and TBS terminals.

Determined to add value and ensure the returns on investment for the massive investment of tax payers funds, Governor Sanwo-Olu declared, on assumption of office, that the focus of his administration would be the completion of on-going projects.

348 days after, Police still searching for missing children

By Damilola Kushimo and Olusola Okewole

Today, Monday July 27, 2020 makes 348 days since two four-year-old children, Raphael Ogunwale and Godwin Mbachu disappeared from their parents' residence at 10, Oluwakemi Street, Ilesamaja, Isolo LCDA while playing in the compound. Their fathers are worried by the efforts of the security operatives to unravel the mystery and the slow pace of court proceedings trying the seven suspects arrested in connection with the case.

Their hope of getting the needed help from the police was dashed recently when a suspect, Mrs. Folashade Bello was allegedly released.

Oluwaseun Ogunwale, father of Raphael Ogunwale believes that the police have not carried out much investigation on their missing children.

For instance, he explained that the Divisional Police Officer for Ilesamaja, SP Olusegun Friday asked him to sign an undertaking not to bother a suspect, Mrs. Folashade Bello after he reported her as a suspect.

According to Ogunwale, the lady in question aroused suspicion

because she disappeared from her apartment since the incident happened and refused to communicate with other neighbours only to return recently to pack her things.

In the same vein, the guardian of another child, Victoria Gbadudu, who was reported missing at the same time in Jakande Estate, Ejigbo, Mrs. Victoria Enababor, has equally alleged that the police has abandoned her ward's case.

She said the police always told her that they have not got any information about the child's whereabouts.

Mrs. Enababor explained to ECHONEWS that the only one suspect she has in mind from the onset, which is the mother of the child, could not be located any longer since she was not arrested for investigation.

In December 2019, ECHONEWS reported that no fewer than six cases of missing children were reported at various police stations in Oshodi-Isolo between January and November 2019, as four children were declared missing in Ejigbo and two in Isolo.

It was gathered that out of the six reported cases, three children were found while the case of two children were taken to court.

Earlier in August 2019, ECHONEWS reported that a 9-

year-old schoolboy, Isaac Yaqub, who was living with his parents at Block 166 at the Low Cost Housing Estate, Jakande, Ejigbo was playing in the neighbourhood around 5.00pm but did not return home. The incident happened on Thursday, August 8, 2019.

He was declared missing but was later found alive and unhurt the following day in Ketu area of Lagos State. His dramatic appearance at the police station in Ketu where he reported that he could not find his way home raised eyebrows on how he got to the place from Ejigbo.

On August 9, 2019, the day Yaqub was found, another 4-year old girl, Victoria Gbadudu who was living with her father's sister in the Low Cost Housing Estate, Jakande, Ejigbo was reported to have mysteriously disappeared from her residence at Flat 5, Block 200, Jakande Estate, Oke-Afa Ejigbo, leaving her guardian, Mrs. Victoria Enababor in perpetual grief.

The case was reported at police stations but up till the moment, her whereabouts are still unknown as both the family and the police have not been able to get any hint about her existence. On Wednesday, August 14, 2019, two four-year old kids, Mbachu Godwin and Raphael Ogunwale who were living with

their parents at No.10, Oluwakemi Street, Ilesamaja in Isolo LCDA were also declared missing.

Police later charged two suspects - a barber operating within the community who was identified as Christian and his friend with the children, John Chizom - at the Magistrate Court, Oyingbo for allegedly organising the kidnap.

According to one of the fathers of the missing children, Mr. Oluwaseun Ogunwale, the other five suspects called him on phone and started demanding money to help find out the children.

He said those five people were traced through their phone numbers and tracked by the police and that they were all charged to court as suspects as well.

The suspects were first tried at the court on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 but the case was adjourned as they were asked to re-appear at the court on November 19, 2019 for further questioning.

On November 19, the court could not sit as the presiding magistrate was not available hence, the court sitting was again adjourned till Wednesday, December 10.

In a recent chat with ECHONEWS, Ogunwale said:

"It has not been easy for the family since then, most times his friends ask me 'Daddy Raphael, when is Raphael coming back?'"

Everyday, I miss him. In fact, when he clocked 5 on Friday, May 22nd, I celebrated his birthday with his friends; I bought things for them. The other boy will soon be five years too. The situation is so heartbreaking for the families.

"I have this dominant belief that the children are still alive and that I will still see them I just hope it won't be longer and that is why I am appealing to the police and state government to do more on this investigation. It has not been easy for us as families since the boys got missing."

Meanwhile, ECHONEWS gathered that the two suspects earlier charged to court are still in police custody as the case was adjourned indefinitely when the lockdown started.

Reacting to the issue, the Divisional Police Officer for Ejigbo, DSP Olabisi Okuwobi said the police have not stopped in investigations into the cases of missing children.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bala Elkana, who also spoke to ECHONEWS on phone said investigation is still ongoing, stating that the police have continued searching for the missing children.

On the case of those children missing in Ilesamaja, Isolo area, he said: "Suspects have been charged to court and the case is ongoing. We have declared the kids missing. Our operatives are still searching for the missing kids."

He therefore stated that the police command would investigate the issue of the new suspect claimed to have been released by Ilesamaja DPO.

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Osolo Way residents raise alarm over missing barricades

Damilola Kushimo

Residents and road users along Osolo Way, Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have raised alarm over the missing barricades to aid road users from entering potholes expressing the fear that the repairs may never happen. ECHONEWS reported, last

week, that barricade such as red tape and signposts that read "Caution: Men at work; Keep Left." "Men at work; slow down," were put around the spoilt portions of the road, but no repair has been carried out on the accident-causing crack. A roadside vulcanizer working on the curb who simply identified himself as Saheed informed that scavengers - the

abokis who hunt for condemn irons, have been caught on many occasions trying to steal the signposts put around the spots. He said no accident has been caused by the barricaded spots though, they have increased traffic congestion on the expressway, especially in the morning and at the closing hours in the evening.

"Seeing the signposts and the red tapes tied around the spoilt spots, we felt eased, thinking that repair work would begin immediately but nothing has been done on the road since about three weeks ago. Some Abokis have been caught in the act of stealing the irons. "Though, for like two weeks now no accident has happened and that's because of the red tape

and the tyres we put around the spot, I can say that a hell of traffic congestion occurs here always especially in the morning and evening time." It was noted that the damaged portions of the road have gone deeper and spread to cover almost half of the two-way expressway, causing heavy traffic congestion.

Ishagatedo residents commend Shammeh over projects

Damilola Kushimo

The people of Ishagatedo in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have commended the local council Chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye (Shammeh) for executing developmental projects in the community.

In a letter of appreciation addressed to the council chairman, the community under the aegis of Ishagatedo Governing Council led by High Chief Rasak Owodeyi and Ishagatedo Youth Progressive Union (YPU), said they noted the commitment of the council boss to the development and progress of the community.

They listed the total reconstruction of Baale/Olokun Street fitted with solar-powered street light and the construction of Adebajo Street as part of the developmental projects executed in the community.

Other projects as contained in the letter include desilting of drainages across the community as well as construction of drain from Ile Ibadan Compound to Iboro Quarters which has helped in solving the annual problem of flood in the area.

While also commending the council boss for distributing food relief packages to members of the community during the COVID-19 lockdown, the community however appealed to Olaleye to make sure he completes other on-going projects in the community before his tenure ends next year.

Covid-19 frustrated AEI 2020 annual quiz competition- Organizer

Damilola Kushimo

One of the organisers of the annual Academic Excellence Initiative (AEI) quiz competition, Mr. Yusuf Abiola, has revealed that plans had already been made to hold 8th edition of the competition and award ceremony but could not be executed due to outbreak of Covid-19.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, Abiola appealed to students and other key players in the educational sector who have been looking forward to this year's edition to bear with the organisers and look forward to the event next year.

According to him, it is not expected that such ceremony would be held while the schools are still under lock and key and gathering of people of more than 20 is still not allowed.

He advised them to continue observing all precautions against contracting coronavirus and play their roles in the fight against the virus.

"Pending the time the pandemic is defeated, I will advise the students to continue studying at home via the online platforms and concentrate more on their textbooks and workbooks with assistance from their parents and guardians."

Isolo scribe laments impact of COVID-19 on council's performance

Damilola Kushimo

The Secretary to the Local Government (SLG), Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Emmanuel Olojede has explained how Covid-19 pandemic affected the internally generated revenue (IGR) of the council, limiting the local government's ability to execute some projects.

According to him, some of the capital projects lined up for execution suffered due to persistent drop in the council's revenue ever since the outbreak

of the coronavirus pandemic, adding that the same reason accounted for slow pace at which the ongoing projects were being done.

He emphasized that money was the major factor apart from the rain delaying commencement of other proposed projects for 2020 fiscal year.

He said the effects of covid-19 lockdown on businesses and companies led to low revenue the council could generate during the pandemic to fund its lined up projects, explaining that the council's workforce has also been reduced as workers from

level 12 downward were asked not to come to work.

He noted that despite the fact that the workforce has been reduced, the recurrent expenditure was not reduced while the capital expenditure suffered.

He explained that the council had to review its 2020 budget downward to suit the current economic situation when it realised that its initial approved budget could not be realised.

However, he assured that the current administration led by the council chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye would

complete all the ongoing projects within the council areas despite the financial challenge.

His words: "Just like other areas, COVID-19 has caused a lot of problems with the revenue of the council being adversely affected. We have so many companies that have since locked up. We have some companies that can't afford to operate on daily basis and on the part of the local government, majority of the staff that are supposed to be on revenue drive; level 12 downward are still at home. As it is, the local government is not finding it easy

struggling with the economic crisis just as majority of all the companies are not finding the situation easy and it is not easy to start knocking on their doors."

"It really affected the fortune of the local council just like other councils and even the state and the federation as a whole. With this situation, a review of the budget became important. Some projects may be affected like some road projects we have in the offing, but the chairman is working on the ongoing projects to ensure that they are completed."

LSPWC fills potholes along Cele-Pako Road

Personnel of Lagos State Public Works Corporation (LSPWC) have begun repair works on potholes and mild cracks on the road along Cele Express down to Pako Bridge in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA).

The project engineer who does not want his name in press said the work which began last weekend would take some times to be completed depending on the weather.

According to him, asphalt is not rain friendly which is the reason the work might take longer time. He noted: "Like today it drizzled earlier and we had to take a break. However, we hope to complete the repairs soon." He therefore sought the cooperation of the road users

Damilola Kushimo

while the work continues.

At the time of filing this report during the weekend, the work has been completed to the front of Isolo Divisional Police Station and would move to Ibeh Road for similar operation immediately after completing Cele-Pako Road.

At the completion of the repairs, the two roads will join the list of other seven roads in the locality that have recently been repaired which include Mushin Road from Iyana Isolo to Pako, Godwin Omonua Road to Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Osolo Way from Aye Bus Stop to 7 and 8.



Construction work in progress

Covid-19: CAN decries further delay of churches reopening

The Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Rev. Babafemi Ajibola has again decried the continuous lockdown of churches, stating that churches need to reconvene to offer congregational supplication to God against the coronavirus.

Ajibola made this known while backing up the position of the national chairman, Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle who emphasised that the continuous prohibition of religious activities is no longer justifiable.

His words: "In the light of the rising cases of the virus everyday, Senate reconvenes and meet, sit on chairs as we do in churches, House of Reps with more than 300 members sitting together and meeting every time, market places are opened,

government secretariats are opened, other several offices are opened for their businesses, yet churches are not allowed to open, they don't even want to see churches open for one day. This is a gimmick, they have another plan against the churches." Asked whether the over 700

churches in the locality that span across six districts are prepared should government allow religious activities to start, he said the churches were ready to observe all precautions.

"They once told us that for churches to open, we must enforce social distances, provide

sanitizers at church entrance, disinfect church premises. All these we have agreed, yet churches remain locked down. Government has failed to realise that Jesus is the answer to all situation and until churches congregate, this virus will not cease."

"Church members are tired sitting at home, watching television on Sunday morning. Bible says 'do not forsake the assembly of yourselves together'," he responded.

The federal government has banned religious gathering since March in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun State as a measure to curtail spread of Covid-19.

Foreign university honours DPO Fracess

Damilola Kushimo

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Aswani Police Division, Isolo LCDA, CSP Oyin Fracess has been honored with a Doctorate Degree by the European American University Commonwealth of Dominica African Regional Operation.

According to report, she was one of the recipients of Doctorate of Arts Honorary Award by the

international institution during an event that took place recently at NECA House, Hakeem Balogun Way, Central Business District, Alausa Ikeja, Lagos.

While presenting the award, the coordinator of the institution in Nigeria, Dr. J. C. Egbuta said the DPO bagged the honorary award based on her contribution to the socio-economic, political welfare of the people in the society. The DPO, who expressed her

profound gratitude for the award, said her selfless contribution to the social welfare of the people in the society was encouraged by her desire to raise the standard of humanity.

She said the recognition by the international institution will further encourage her to do more.

CSP Oyin Fracess was posted to Aswani Division on August 19, 2019 having previously served in

the same capacity in Okota Division and as the Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) of Isolo Division.

She is notable in the community for being proactive in tackling all forms of security challenges as well as for her generosity.

She recently organised series of sensitisation programmes about the coronavirus in Isolo and gave out stimulus packages to over 1,000 beneficiaries across Aswani Division, Okota and Area F Police Barracks, Ikeja.

We're sure of victory at Lagos City League - Ysdron FC

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chief Coach of Ysdron Sport FC, Ayodeji Adebayo has boasted that his club would emerge the champion during this year's Lagos City League. The league was ongoing before the outbreak of Covid-19 which forced the government to shut down all sport activities as a measure against the spread of the virus. Speaking with ECHONEWS, Adebayo explained that the league would continue from where it was stopped, saying his team only needed to win a game to qualify for the final. He added that if they qualify for the final, his club is sure of the cup having a formidable team to face any other club. He said: "Of course we have to start from where we stopped and the league leader is just four points above us. We have

an outstanding game to play. If we win the outstanding game, then it will just be a point that will be separating us from the table toppers who I'm sure are still going to drop points. I am sure Ysdron Sport FC will emerge champion of the league because of how structured our club is." Adebayo, who described how formidable his team is, added: "Before Covid-19 forced us to go on break, I had built a formidable team that shook the Lagos City League. We are still formidable because our players are still training individually and we will be back stronger and better." The Lagos city league is expected to resume when the government gives the order for resumption of sporting activities. Ysdron Sport FC is placed 3rd on the league table and still has some matches to play before the competition ends.



Ayodeji Adebayo, Coach of Ysdron Sport FC

Grassroots sport competitions in Oshodi-Isolo LG

By Saheed Afolabi

Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area including Isolo and Ejigbo LCDAs have proven to be havens of standard and quality sport facilities to host and stage sport competitions. There are various sport competitions organised either by individuals, group, organisation or government held annually across the local government area with full security. These competitions serve as an avenue for talented youngsters in and outside the shores of Oshodi-Isolo to showcase their talents and for

the organisers to shop for gifted players.

The various annual competitions are:

CY UNITY CUP: This is a football tournament which is organised annually by Cyprian Ukpai in Oshodi. This tournament has at least 64 participating teams annually divided into 16 groups which consist of 4 teams in each group. The competition always start by September and ends by mid December with the final been played at Air Force Base in Oshodi.

OLOKE SOCCER FEST: This competition is also known as the 'Elders Competition' because of the age limit for a

player to participate in the competition. A player must be 40 years above because the organizers believe it is a way of bringing back legends to the beautiful game of football. The competition is usually organised between mid November and late December. All matches are played at Owoseni Primary School, Oshodi.

JOGO TALENT HUNT is a competition which is based on giving youngsters the platform to showcase their hidden talents to the world. The competition takes place at Ogundele Primary School, Oshodi. It normally starts in May and ends in June every

year. But due to Covid-19 pandemic, the competition could not hold this year.

GABSON FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT: This competition has its roots in Isolo. It is a six aside competition where all matches are played at LBIC Estate, Isolo. The competition has been holding since 2011.

OLOKE BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP: Also known as **FRAJAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP**, the competition gives boxers at the grassroots a competitive platform to compete against other boxers depending on the category a boxer falls under.

EJIGBO MANAGEMENT

CUP birthed in 2019. The Ejigbo Mini Stadium plays host to all its matches, it is a 16-team member competition which is divided into four groups and each group comprises four teams. The competition starts in October and the final is played in December.

JK ESTATE UNITY CUP: This competition is also known as **CARNIVAL CUP**. It is played by only the representatives of each zone in the estate. Any team outside the estate is not allowed to participate in the tournament. The competition is usually held in the month of December.

We support our players with monthly pay - Oshodi-Isolo LG

The Special Adviser to the Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government on Youth and Sport, Hon. Saheed Animashahun told ECHONEWS that the local government has been contributing to the development of grassroots sports by forming a team of talented youngsters who are paid monthly by the local government to sustain them.

Animashaun disclosed that the monthly stipend given to the players is to discourage them from engaging in social vices.

"We have a team, which was gathered by assembling the youths from the nooks and crannies of Oshodi to represent the local government at any major sport competition in Lagos state. The local government also takes care of them by paying them monthly. The coaching staff and backroom staff also receive salaries monthly," he said.

Grassroots sport competitions: Our aim is to take youths out of social vices - sponsors

By Saheed Afolabi

The sponsors of grassroots sport competitions who are mainly individuals told ECHONEWS that their aim for sponsoring competitions at the grassroots is to take the youths off the streets and discourage them from engaging in social vices. They said they painstakingly fund the competitions annually to put smiles on the faces of the youths by engaging them in sport

activities and taking them away from crime and drugs.

MEET THE SPONSORS Fatai Tijani, popularly known as Oloke, a resident of Oshodi, has been sponsoring sport competitions at the grassroots for over five years in Oshodi. The competitions he sponsors are named after him such as Oloke Soccer Fest and Oloke Boxing Championship which hold annually at Owoseni Primary School and Jalisco Stadium, Oshodi.

While speaking with

ECHONEWS, Oloke said: "I sponsor grassroots competitions to take the youths off the street by engaging them with sports."

Another prominent sponsor of sport events at the grassroots is Oluwasegun Owolabi popularly known as Jogo who also lives in Oshodi.

Aside owning a club at the grassroots, he also sponsors Jogo talent hunt competition which has been held yearly for the past three years.

Jogo told ECHONEWS that

he sponsors grassroots sport competition because of the love he has for football and to give the youths a platform to showcase their talents.

He said: "The reason I sponsor sport competitions at the grassroots is to give the talented youths a platform to showcase their talents because they need someone to motivate them and it's also a way of giving back to the community."

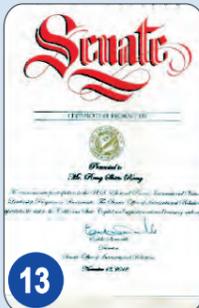
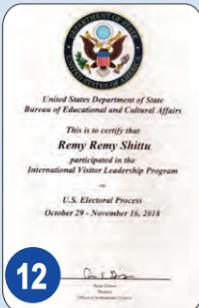
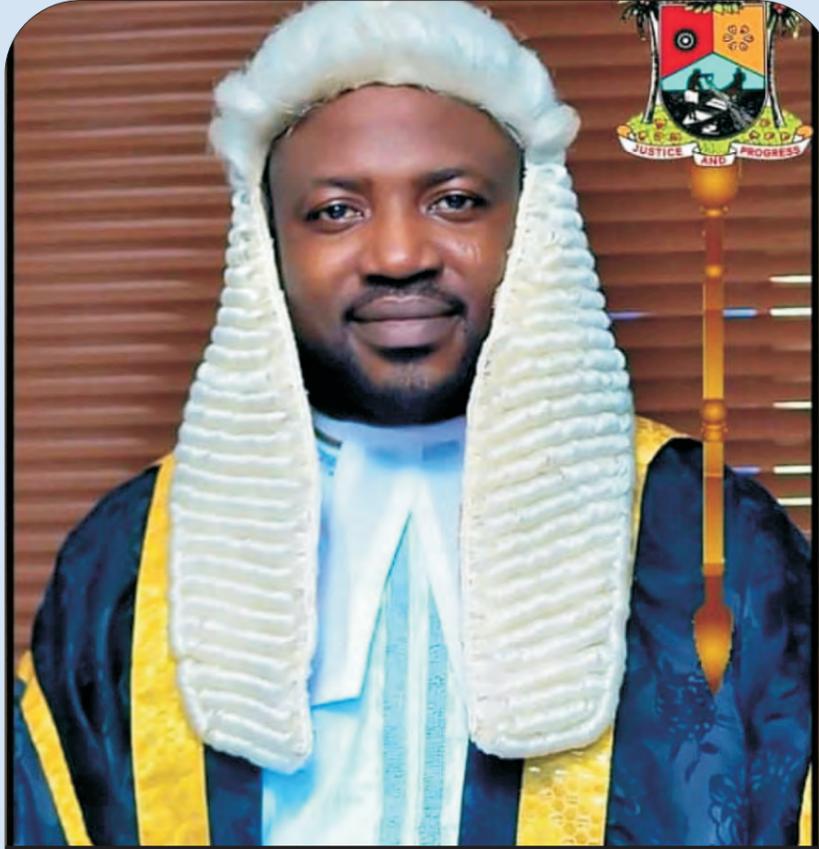
Cyprian Ukpai sponsors the annual CY Unity Cup which has gained popularity among

Lagosians despite having its roots in Oshodi.

The CY Unity Cup has been on for over a decade in the grassroots and it is nicknamed the grassroots 'World Cup' by fans.

The Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) is the only local government chairman who sponsors the annual JK Estate Unity Cup. The competition is played among the residents of Jakande Estates.

An Account of My Stewardship 3 Years in Office



1. Hon. Remi Shittu with Counterparts at Jackson (Hinds County) in Mississippi, US
2. With Congressman Jamie Raskin who represents Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives
3. Hon. Remi Shittu Speaking at The Lagos State House of Assembly COVID-19 Briefing
4. Stimulus packages meant for the residents during COVID-19 pandemic
5. Presentation of Stimulus package to the indigents in Isolo LCDA
6. Mentorship Programme for Central High School, Okota, Isolo held in 2019
7. Caption: Palliative on Mukandasi Street, Ago-Palace Way, Isolo
8. Hon. Remi Shittu with Senator Hillman Terome Frazier at Mississippi State Senate, 2018 in US
9. Hon Remy Shittu Remy with The Mayor of Thurrock Council, Terry Piccolo in Thurrock Council, Essex, UK in 2019.
10. Remi Shittu Presentation of Backpack containing educational materials to 120 students of Ajumoni Senior Grammar School, Okota, Isolo
11. GCE/JAMB presentation to resident students in Isolo LCDA
12. Certificate of Recognition By Senate of State of California
13. Certificate of Participation in The International Visitor Leadership Program being given By The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, 2018
14. Budget presentation at Isolo LCDA
15. Presentation of Trophy to The best student in Spelling Bee Organised by Hon. Remi Shittu on 2018 Children's Day where he hosted 1,200 pupils (Primary & Junior Secondary Sch.)
16. Presentation of Cash Empowerment to resident Student Miss. Kwentua

CDA, councillor commend Obe for re-building culverts

By Olushola Okewole

The Community Development Association and the councillor representing Aigbaka Ward, Hon. Surajudeen Muritala, have applauded the Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Monsuru Bello (Obe) for re-building culverts in four communities within a week.

Commending the council boss, the CDA chairman, Kila area, Mr. Taiwo Owolabi said the timely response to the cry of the community to reconstruct the culvert at Kila Junction linking Adekoroye and Falana made them happy.

His words: "We thank the Chairman, Hon. Monsuru Oloyede Obe, for his quick intervention on the construction of the culvert at the Kila Junction linking Adekoroye and Falana.. All the



The reconstruction of Abuna junction Culvert

CDAs within the community appreciate this prompt response to our call on this important junction to the community.

We are using this opportunity to remind him about his

promise on the rehabilitation of Adekoroye Oyekunle to One-ale road. We trust him that he would keep to his promise."

The councillor representing Aigbaka Ward, Hon. Surajudeen Muritala, who also

expressed his gratitude to the council chairman, said he has to commend the chairman for responding to his call to attend to the culvert at Abuna Junction which had been in bad shape for a long time.

PSP promises to extend service to inner Bucknor community

By Olushola Okewole

In response to the yearnings of the residents of section of Bucknor community in Ejigbo local council area for the services of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), the Private Sector Participant (PSP) operating in the community has promised to upgrade its

operation by extending its service to the areas yet to be covered.

The company's Managing Director, Mr. Oriowo Adetokun, while speaking with ECHONEWS said the company is ready to honour the request by the community.

The residents of Ashamu Estate and Promise Land had, through the Chairman of the Coalition of

Bucknor CDAs, Mr. Toyin Saka, called on the PSP to extend its service to the parts of the community.

The communities, which are closer to the canal, stated that they were in need of waste mismanagement operator to control indiscriminate waste disposal and keep the environment clean.

Adetokun, said he would personally try to locate the communities and see what his company needs to do.

He noted that the communities might have been excluded from their service because of roads which make it difficult for their trucks to access the communities.

Ejigbo councilors list achievements in three years

By Olushola Okewole

Regular public hearings to get citizens' input to laws, appropriating the yearly budgets and performing oversight functions on budget implementation are a few of the numerous achievements listed by the councilors representing the six wards in Ejigbo LCDA as they clock three years on the saddle.

Others include enacting bye-laws, holding empowerment programmes including the distribution of materials for self-employment, provision of feeding items during the onset of COVID-19 pandemic and sponsorship of training for applicants.

Speaking on their behalf, the Leader of the Legislative Arm, Honourable Councillor Lanre Akinbowale said all the councilors representing the six wards in Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) were inaugurated on July 26, 2017 and mandated by law to vet, debate and approve the council's budget and ensure its implementation. He said they were also to serve as the bridge between the wards and the Council, advise the



L-R: Hon. Surajudeen Muritala, Hon. Shonde Adebola Tajudeen, Hon. Grace Nwankwo-Okere, Hon. Omoniye Ismail, Hon. Olanrewaju Akinbowale, Hon. Shitta-Bay Rotimi

chairman on the development of the wards and undertake oversight functions and visitations.

When asked about challenges faced so far in office as the legislative arm of the council, Akinbowale said they faced the first challenge when they assumed office as they were all first timers with little experience and had to rely on the training they had a day to the induction.

According to him, the second challenge is that people do not have the knowledge of the office of the councilors, they do not know the functions of the councilors different from those of the executive arm as many people accuse them of not fixing roads in the community and all that, which, he said, are not the main functions of the legislative arm but those of the executive. He further stated they faced

financial challenge, explaining that there was lack of fund to aid developmental projects in the LCDA.

To increase the federal allocation, he noted that the allocation from the state government is not enough, pleading with the Federal House of Representatives and the Senate to harmonise the 37 local council to bring about deserved development at the grassroots.

Private school teachers invest in petty trades to survive COVID-19

By Olushola Okewole

As lockdown on schools continues, the private school teachers have revealed how they struggle to survive without salaries.

Some of them who spoke to ECHONEWS said they have to take up petty trading and home lessons as means of survival.

While their counterparts in public schools receive their salaries monthly, the private school teachers have not received any salary since March when the government shut down schools as a measure to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Echoneews learnt that while a few affected teachers are investing in trades food items such as crayfish, palm oil, cow skin, dried fish and other edibles, others take the advantage of social media to sell clothing materials or run dried fish or run home lessons.

While awaiting the reopening of schools, the teachers appealed to the government to support them with palliatives.

Speaking, Mrs. Christiana Ojediran, teacher at New Jerusalem City Baptist School, Ejigbo, said she has been living on God's grace with palliatives from the school, Church and parents.

The mother of two added that she has now turned to a trader, selling crayfish and palm oil for little income to keep body and soul.

She therefore called on the government to support them with little capital to aid their small businesses.

Mrs. Sopehin of Beulafield Schools, Ejigbo, said she had to take up home lesson to gather some money since nobody was ready to help.

She disclosed that the school proprietress did her best as she paid the salary till April.

Also speaking, Miss Oluwaseun Ogundiran, a teacher at Al-ghaffar school, Ejigbo, said she has been engaging in part time POS work for survival and also home lessons as nothing is coming from the school again after march salary.

Miss Christina Adegoke of Groombase school, Ejigbo, said: "It is well! It has been God. There is no money we have just been managing."

"The last salary was in March and since then everything has been managing because I can no more sell the small chops I usually sold in school and church since both have been closed down. I'm just managing with some home lessons I'm doing."

Ejigbo Digital Art Library/Tech Hub begins free training for 1200 residents

By Olushola Okewole

Ejigbo Digital Art Library/Tech Hub has commenced free digital skill training for residents in Ejigbo LCDA as it set to train 1,200 people in 10 months.

According to the organisation, 20 participants would be trained in two months under the project.

Mr. Adetunwase Adenle, an Art Educationist and a 4x Guinness World Records holder, the lead facilitator for the Ejigbo Digital Art Library situated at Iyana Isheri bus stop, Jakande Estate, Ejigbo, explained that the training which will last till April, 2021 has started since June 22, this year.

He said the first batch of the students has graduated while another two batches who commenced theirs on July 21, this year are currently undergoing the training in the morning and afternoon sessions.

According to him, the programme tagged "Unlock Your Digital Art Potential" is targeted at every category of people across the local council area.

He said registration forms were sent to all the six wards through the Education

department of Ejigbo LCDA for the residents across all wards to benefit from the project.

He informed Echoneews that the classes will henceforth be divided into three sessions with morning class to be focused on children, afternoon for teenagers and evening for the adults.

He said: "The vision is to give 1,200 people in Ejigbo LCDA 100 per cent free digital education and inclusion to upskill our people as the world is moving digital. We can only contribute our own little effort as a give back to our society to prepare people for business in Ejigbo amidst Covid-19 pandemic and financial crunch."

"The training touches on various areas and packages where participants can learn so many digital skills for free, help participants upskill their businesses using technology, promote digital inclusion in our community."

"And most of all is the creation of a tech hub where young people can all come together to learn, exchange ideas, increase productivity, work together on projects and create a sustainable technology development environment for the residents of Ejigbo LCDA."

Community applauds Sokunle over streets' upgrade

By Edith Igbokwe

Oshodi Community Development Association (CDA) has expressed gratitude to the Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Oshodi-Isolo constituency 1, Hon. Hakeem Sokunle for facilitating repair of some streets in the community. Sokunle had promised during his campaign to influence the state government to reconstruct the roads if re-elected. In fulfilling his electoral promise, the lawmaker has facilitated the reconstruction of the streets including Ishola-Daniel, Adejumobi and Ago-

ljaiye in Oshodi by the state government.

Though yet to be officially commissioned, the project has been completed and is ready for use.

Speaking on behalf of the community, the CDA chairman, Oladipupo Sulaimon-Lawal, said the execution of the project showed how trustworthy and committed the lawmaker is to his constituency.

Sulaimon-Lawal explained that the community collectively expressed sincere appreciation to the state government and Sokunle to have remembered and fulfilled the promise to community.

The reconstructed roads have

served as alternative routes for motorists to avoid traffic jam at Afariogun major road.

The reconstruction was complemented with streetlights to illuminate the streets at night and serve as security to prevent hoodlums from perpetrating their nefarious activities in the community.

Also to complement the effort of the government, the community mounted speed breaks on the streets to control over speeding which could cause accidents.

Expressing their joy as they enjoy the roads, the residents said the project has also prevented the community from flood.

Pay up your debts to serve you better, PSP appeals to customers

By Damilola Kushimo

The Private Sector Participant (PSP) operator in charge of Apena area of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA); Sarobol Nigeria Limited has appealed to its customers in the community to clear their outstanding bills to enjoy better service from the company.

The company's Managing Director, Mr. Segun Fasuhanmi, said despite rendering their service as and when due, some customers in the community were still owing the company, saying refusal to pay for their service would not encourage them to continue giving better service to the community.

According to him, some of the residents have not been paying their bills promptly, emphasising that their

customers should clear their outstanding bills if they want better service.

He thanked customers who pay regularly commending them as good examples.

He said: "We constantly re-equip ourselves in order to maintain the high standard of service we render to the community and that is why we are appealing for the support and cooperation of our clients in order to keep up with the standard and even serve them better. Those that are paying, I will appeal to them to keep up.

And those who are not consistent with their payment, it will be our delight to see that they become consistent with their payment; this will greatly encourage us.

"We understand that this is a trying time for each and every one of us especially the local entrepreneurs, as the ravaging coronavirus has affected many

businesses. That is why it is important that we complement governments' efforts in the fight against the deadly virus by keeping our environment clean. We need to patronise the PSP operators and observe all precautions against the virus and be prayerful to God."

Meanwhile, the company has promised the residents of Sijuola Street and Ifeanyi Mgbolu to clear the illegal dumpsite free of charge to ensure the community is safe from outbreak of diseases.

The residents have started commending the company while waiting for the exercise to take place.

The councillor representing Apena Ward, Hon. Remy Shittu Remy further appealed to residents to desist from indiscriminate waste disposal while discouraging them from patronising cart pushers.

Farmers lament impact of COVID-19 on agric

By Olushola Okewole

The Chairman, Farmer's Association, Ejigbo LCDA, Alhaji Tajudeen Sanni (Labule), has disclosed that coronavirus pandemic has affected the farming process this year as movements were barred during the lockdown. According to them, some of the farmers who live in Lagos and cultivate farmlands far away in other states could not get to their farms when the interstate movement was restricted. He noted that they could not go to farm when they were

supposed to during the lockdown, saying the little maize available in the market is a product from farmers who are in the village closer to their farms.

Explaining the system of farming by the farmers living in the urban areas, Labule said since there is no availability of farmland in the council area, the farmers normally go to the village to get land for cultivation during each farming season to plant and harvest.

He however stated that their plan this year was frustrated as Covid-19 pandemic stalled

every move.

Labule added that apart from Covid-19, the major challenges faced by the farmers include funds to secure lands for planting, caterpillars for clearing, and security to guard the farms.

He said the government has earlier promised them grants but yet to receive any as he believed the economy has been affected by the lockdown.

He informed that some of the crops to be expected by August are tomatoes, okra, cassava among others.

Chief Akeju recounts experiences as he clocks 74

By Edith Igbokwe

One time inaugural secretary of Alliance for Democracy (AD) between 1999 and 2003 and active member of All Progressives Congress (APC) council of elders in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Chief Femi Akeju, 74 years on Tuesday July 21, this year.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, Chief Akeju said he has first of all thank God for the journey so far.

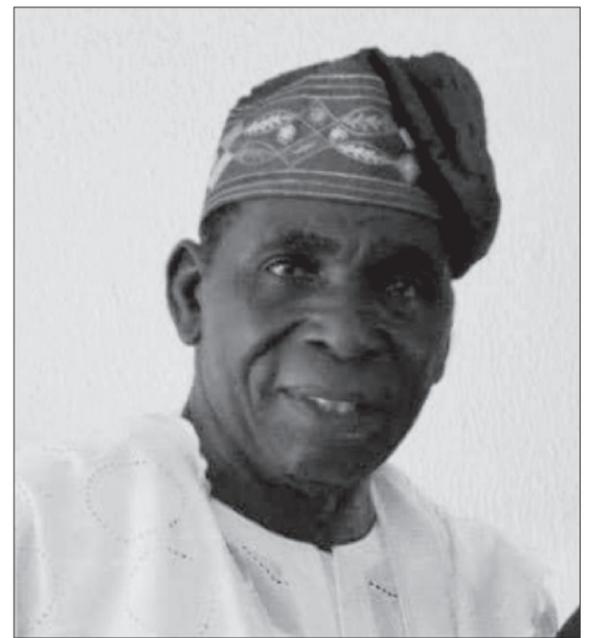
He disclosed that he deliberately deprived himself all kinds of ceremony to mark his birthday but decided to only pray and thank God for the gift of life and good health that he is opportune to enjoy at 74 years. His words: "I did not intend to celebrate my birthday, it is my children who blew me on the social media and people started calling to congratulate me. I have celebrated 40, 50, 60, and even 70 in elaborate way, I have decided to celebrate the rest given years of my life at 5 year intervals. I clocked 74 this year and I am waiting to celebrate next year when I will turn 75 by the grace

of God."

As politics is concerned, the celebrator said he plays the role of an adviser to the politicians at the grassroots in Oshodi-Isolo LG being a member of the elders council in APC party after playing active roles in politics years back. Chief Akeju said he now relaxes with the TV programme

shows such as Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) and Journalist Hangout.

He appreciated all well wishers for their calls and messages to wish him a happy birthday, praying that God will keep everyone to witness many more years in good health.



Chief Akeju

80 barbers to benefit from LSACA sterilising kits

By Edith Igbokwe

No fewer than 80 barbers and cosmetologists who are members of Lagos State Barbers, Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association (LABHCA) in Oshodi-Isolo LGA have applied for the sterilising kits provided by Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) to enhance HIV/AIDS as well as COVID-19 prevention control while rendering services.

Explaining the procedure for application, the LASBA chairman in Oshodi, Mr. Jamiu Ayinla, said each branch of the association across Oshodi-Isolo LGA was asked to submit the list of its members to LSACA to ascertain the number of members..

He said one of the requirements for barbers to qualify for the kits is possession of valid identity card of LASBA which is renewable yearly with N1,000. He said the distribution of the

kits would commence as soon as the lists of the members have been compiled and verified, adding that the equipment would be distributed in batches.

He therefore appealed to the members to always observe government directives as measures to curb spread of coronavirus by placing hand wash sink and sanitizer at the entrance of their shops regularly and wearing face masks while working.

IKEDC customers pay, demand new transformer

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents and business owners at Dosumu, Mafoluku Oshodi have requested for immediate replacement of their damaged transformer which has been taken away by Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) since February, this year.

The affected customers lamented that they have been subjected to total darkness while many businesses have been affected despite the fact that they have contributed towards the purchase of a new one.

It was gathered that some tenants have been relocating to other areas with constant

power supply, thinking that the new transformer may not be installed as many cables have equally been stolen.

Areas involved include Dosumu, Sumonu, Salako and Shamura Streets.

The residents also complained that social vices have increased in the affected streets as hoodlums take advantage of darkness to perpetrate their nefarious activities.

One of the business owners in the community, an electromechanical engineer, Engr. Adedhina Erinle, who works at 14, Dosumu Street, said he could not continue with his work since he depends much on power supply, claiming that the cost of

running generator is unbearable.

He lamented: "Each building has contributed N3,500 to secure a new transformer. We have equally paid our electricity bill up till December 2019 as requested by Ikeja Electric still, nothing has been heard from them. The power issue is really affecting because my business needs electricity to function and keep my customers but now I have been losing. I can no longer work as I am supposed to. The cost of running generator is too high.

"We appeal to Ikeja Electric to hasten its moves towards the replacement of the transformer to save our lives and business."

3 YEARS IN OFFICE: EJIGBO COUNCILLORS PRESENT SCORECARDS

In celebration of the 3rd year of the six councillors in office of the, the 4th legislative arm of Ejigbo LCDA from 2017-till date showcases the following as their individual and joint achievements:



L-R: Hon Surajudeen Muritala, Hon. Omoniye Ismail, Hon. Olanrewaju Akinbowale, Hon. Grace Nwankwo-Okere, Hon. Shitta-Bay Rotimi, Hon. Shonde Adebola Tajudeen



In celebration of the 3rd year of the six councillors in office of the, the 4th legislative arm of Ejigbo LCDA from 2017-till date showcases the following as their individual and joint achievements:

OVERSIGHTS FUNCTION TO ROADS REHABILITATION:

Moshalashi road, Rafiu Tijani road, Adebayo Oyalana, Dauda-ilo, NEPA Junction road, Kashimawo Alimi, etc. Others are:-All public primary schools in the LCDA-All Health Centres in the LCDA-Ejigbo Customary court-Otasumi Ejigbo LCDA Multipurpose hall (2018) when it was purchased, to inspect the project.

VISITATIONS TO:-

Ejigbo Police divisional headquarters (meet with the former DPO and officers)-Ashamu Police post, Bucknor

BYE-LAWS:-

Environmental Sanitation bye-law- Provision of Security personnel bye-law-Car wash regulations bill-Radio and Television licence bill-Establishment and regulations of Open Market bill-Regulations of street naming bill-Dry cleaning and laundry house bill- Provision of database bills

RESOLUTIONS:-

Repair of Ejigbo Police Patrol vehicle-Ejigbo LNSC and CDC (Introducing the neighborhood watch to the CDA, CDC for a mutual working relationship)-Legal Market resolution on ,NO MARKET at Jakande Estate gate-To stop nuisance constituted by Okada riders and Marwa(Tricycle) at Jakande gate,Iyana-Ejigbo,Power-line,Ile-iwe,and Bucknor by transformer.-Make fire service functional-Resolution that the executive should make resources available to the budget department for data captioning.- To allow legislative to sensitise their wards on Covid-19, approved by the executive.-On welfare for front line health workers in the LCDA.-To organise townhall community meeting

to get feedbacks from the community before budgets.-On In-house committee on revenue for budgets defense every year-To rename Otasumi Multipurpose hall after late Alhaji Nurudeen Obe,on his 23rd years emembrance.

VISITATION TO:

-Isolo LCDA-Oshodi-Isolo Local government-Epe LCDA-Surulere Local government-Somolu LCDA INVITATION:-HOD education and Supervisor-Legal officers-HOD Environment and Supervisor-Medical Officer of Health (MOH),after which ambulance was fixed-HRO-Council Manager-Revenue-Council Treasurer-HOD for works and Supervisor-SLG :to bring synergy between the legislative and the executive.-CDC executives

Some Of The Individual Achievement Of The Councillors.

Hon. Lanre Akinbowale (Councillor, Ilamoshe ward and council leader):- Giving 6 years scholarship to Odebumi Jeremiah, at Bola Ahmed Tinubu Pry school, Ejigbo.-Provision of 2.5kva generator to Abule-Igbira community to pump water from the community's bore hole.- Empowerment of 20 youths in Ilamoshe ward among others.-Donated 1,000 exercise books to Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu Primary School Dawuda Ilo Street, Ejigbo-Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Ilamoshe ward

Hon. Omoniye Ismail (Councillor, Deputy Leader, Oke-Afa ward)- Presentation of Free GCE Form to residents in Oke-Afa ward 2017-2019- Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Oke-Afa ward-Donation of public address system to Oke-afa landlord association.

Hon. Shitta-Bey Abdulfatai (Councillor, Ailegun ward):-Facilitated the

construction of Adebayo Oyalana road.- Distributed GCE form to students- Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Ailegun ward-Bought 15 form for skills acquisition for youths in his ward among others.-

Hon. Surajudeen Muritala (Councillor, Aigbaka ward):-Facilitated the reconstruction of culvert at Kila junction linking Adekoroye, Ejigbo-Facilitated the reconstruction of culvert at Kila junction linking Adekoroye, Ejigbo-Give GCE form to students from 2017-2019- Facilitated construction of Moshalashi -Ile ilwe Road- Contributed some amount to kamoru street to get electric poles among others.-Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Aigbaka ward

Hon. Grace Nwankwo Okere (Councillor, Ifoshi ward):-Refurbished Iyana-Ejigbo Police Stand- Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Ifoshi ward-Gave Jerusalem slot to Mrs Ft Adebayo in ifoshi ward-Distribution of exercise books and soft drinks to Ifoshi,Oba Moruf,Ago Adegboyega Ejigbo Model primary schools.-Donation of N500,000 to Ori-Oke Ifelodun CDA to purchase concrete poles.-Empowerment for 61 youths in her ward on make-up and gele,with seminar on how to manage their business with free certificate, feeding and clothing for the graduation among others.

Hon. Shonde Tajudeen Adebola (Councillor, Fadu ward): -Paid #350,000 to bring back Coker axis transformer.- Empowered 10youths on skills acquisition.-Facilitated transformer usage of Orole/lfesowapo CDA and payment of N1million debt on their bills by the government through the councillor among others.-Presentation of Covid-19 Stimulus package to residents in Fadu ward