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Echonews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

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Monday 28th September - Sunday 4th October 2020

EXCEL COLLEGE: JSS3, SSS3 RESUME TOMORROW, OTHERS OCT 19

PG.2



Residents praise Sokunle for fixing 9 roads

PG.7

**NURTW denies
role in death of
LNSC officer**

PG.2

**Boy, 18 allegedly
drugs, rapes 15
year old**

PG.2

**Street Sweepers
demand road caution
sign posts**

PG.7

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Excel College: JSS3, SSS3 resume tomorrow, others Oct 19

By Abolaji Adebayo

Final year junior and senior students of troubled Excel College will resume tomorrow Tuesday as the management begins building temporary classes to accommodate 492 students expected to resume on Monday, October 19, this year.

To ease ongoing examinations of science subjects, the school has struck a deal with neighbouring Ronik College to share laboratory facilities while other papers will be taken at a building formerly used for boarding if the National Examinations Council approve. The management announced these measures last Saturday at a meeting with parents on its building that collapsed Saturday September 19, this year.

To replace the collapsed structure, the school is waiting for the results of on-going investigations by the Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning whose officials have taken away samples that may explain why the building fell.

The measures were backed by the parents, who in a sympathetic show of solidarity resolved to tax themselves to support the management's revival plan.

The director, Dr. Dele Oke told Echonews the measures were

taken to avoid putting parents through the ordeal of searching for new schools for wards midway into the school year and throwing 77 teaching and administrative staff into the pool of jobless citizens.

He said teaching and learning would be done online following the school curricula with well prepared time tables during the three-week period.

He said: "I thank the staff and all parents. The first day it happened I cried, when the commissioner spoke to us again I cried. We are pleading for a little bit of patience and in three weeks time by God's grace, we should have all the children back to school.

"Another thing I want to promise is that our temporary structure will present a better learning experience and the students will be able to sit well. Our founder already said that we are going to be using audiovisuals full time and as God will have it, last year we completed our computer acquisition skill for all our teachers, so all teachers in the school have laptops.

"All teachers are also told that after each class, all students notes should be dropped at the school portal and any student that does not complete his or her note will be known through the portal. We are also trying to get more buses for transport."



Lady K. O. Oke

On how soon the reconstruction of the school would be, Oke said they were working on it, stating that the school is ready to partner with the government and private organisation to raise the funds to rebuild the school.

Debunking the allegations of a few ex-students that the building had been shaking for a long time, the proprietress, Mrs. K. Oke explained that holopot was used in constructing each floor adding that the foundation and all materials used in building the school were certified by the government.

Narrating her experience, Mrs. Oke who retired from the Lagos



Dr. Bamidele Oke

State Civil Service 25 years ago, said: "It was not expected. We were all in school on Wednesday because we come to school every day to plan for the resumption of the students. We had a meeting in the school on Thursday. It was on Friday we noticed cracks on the wall. Then, the Director sent a message to the parents immediately that the resumption would be rescheduled due to the crack noticed on the wall because the parents were to initially bring their children to school on Sunday to resume on Monday last week.

"We invited building engineers immediately that Friday, they

came and promised to come back on Saturday to assess what could have caused the crack. The Director also called another structural engineer who also promised to come on the same Saturday. The three people who came on Saturday entered but were directed by divine spirit to come out of the building. It was not later than five minutes after they came out that the building collapsed. So, God was really on our side to have saved every soul who might have been inside the building.

"That building was supposed to be for commercial activities but through prayer, I was directed to use it for school and that was

why we converted it to school so, the foundation and the structure were solid.

"When the incident happened, the Lagos State Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako came here and took sample of the wall for test. They have also carried out integrity test on the other buildings used for the boarders as the governor ordered that every 3-storey building in this community be subjected to integrity test. I really appreciate the community, the parents and all others who stood by us. We shall come back better by His grace."

Speaking on the association's effort to get the school back, the PTA chairman, Mr. Ndubuisi Udeagu said they have been planning and working along with the management, giving them moral and logistic support.

Based on the good standards and quality education provided by the school as testified to by some parents, Udeagu urged the parents not to lose focus, appealing to them to retain their children in the school.

"What we have is a collapsed building, the knowledge, quality and standard of education in Excel College has not collapsed rather, the school is bringing new ideas and innovation to teaching," he said

NURTW denies role in death of LNSC officer

By Abolaji Adebayo

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) has exonerated itself from the accident in which an officer of the Lagos Neighborhood Safety Corps (LNSC), Ejigbo branch, Chika Nsude, was killed by a hit-and-run Yellow bus (LT). The incident, which occurred on Monday last week at Iyana Ejigbo, according to eyewitnesses, was caused by an official of Union of Road Transport Workers who chased after the driver of a yellow bus to enforce payment of his union levy.

The driver, who was trying to

evade the levy took one way and ran over the officer of the LNSC who was on his way to his duty post crushing him to death.

The deceased was said to be on his way to his duty post when the incident happened at about 1:30pm on Monday.

But punching holes in this narrative, Alhaji Femi Olowu who chairs the NURTW in Ejigbo LCDA said none of the union's workers was at the scene when the incident happened.

He equally disregarded the report that the bus was one of their buses in Ejigbo.

Olowu, who wondered why the hit and run driver was not arrested when he committed the offence by the security officer

presentsaid it has been difficult to investigate the identity of the culprit because no one has come up with the name of the driver or the number of the vehicle.

"At that point where the accident occurred, no union worker could have been there collecting money. If truly it was a union member chasing the driver, some people would identify the union member and would have told us. The accident happened in the day time not in the night. We don't condone any act of indiscipline in the union.

The person who confirmed the accident to me said she could not ascertain the number plate nor identify the driver. She explained that the bus came out

from Mechanic village and sped off to take one way. The reason for taking one way by the driver is still not known as we always warn our members and the drivers against taking one way. It is hard for us to search for the escaped driver since we don't have any hint on his identity but we are on the look out for him and gathering information about him as instructed by the police," he explained.

Meanwhile, the Ejigbo DPO, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi told ECHONEWS that she and her team have commenced manhunt for the fleeing driver, promising that he shall be brought to book.

Boy, 18 allegedly drugs, rapes 15 year old

By Saheed Afolabi

Police operatives of Ejigbo Police Divisional Station have arrested 18-year old boy Pelumi Oloyide for, allegedly, raping a 15-year old girl. ECHONEWS gathered that the incident happened at an undisclosed hotel at Jakande Estate, Ejigbo. The suspect, who resides at Uriel Adegbenro Street, Egan area of Igando, was said to have gone to the victim's house in Ilepo area of Ejigbo to install a prepaid meter. He later took advantage of the victim when she went to get the code number of the meter at Jakande Estate. According to the police, Oloyide lured her into a hotel, drugged her drink and then raped

her. "The girl slept off and when she woke up, she discovered that she was raped. She then informed her parents about what had happened to her." The matter was reported to the Police at Ejigbo Division and the DPO, CSP Olabisi Okuwobi, ordered for the arrest of the suspect. He was eventually tracked and arrested at Igando. During interrogation, the suspect admitted that he actually drugged and raped the victim but was done under the influence of drugs. He revealed that he took 400mg of Tramadol everyday without the knowledge of his parents. He pleaded for forgiveness but the police source said he would be charged to court for the alleged offence.

PTA urges LASUBEB to speed up school fence repair

By Damilola Kushimo

The Parents Teachers Association (PTA) of Kusoru Primary School, Ilasamaja has appealed to the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB) to hasten the re-building of the school's broken fences to make the environment conducive for learning.

The chairperson, Mrs. Rose Umukoro, made the appeal to adequately prepare the school for resumption.

Umukoro, who noted that the repair has been unduly delayed, emphasised that it is necessary to guarantee the safety of the pupils especially the new intakes who have been registered.

ECHONEWS reported earlier this month that the Education Secretary (ES), Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area, Barr. Femi Ogunwusi confirmed the awareness of LASUBEB about the collapsed fences of the complex that houses Kusoru Primary School and other three

schools, revealing the plans by the Board to rebuild the fences before school resumption.

The fences were damaged by the heavy rains in February and July this year.

Meanwhile, ECHONEWS gathered that due to its current state, persons suspected to be hoodlums have turned the school to venue for meetings. Besides, some residents dispose and burn their refuse there.

When our correspondent visited the school during the weekend,

there was no sign of preparation for resumption as the fallen fences had not been mended while the premises was bushy.

Commenting on the situation of the school, Umukoro said: "We want SUBEB and the authority of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) to come to our aid and see what can be done to make the school environment secure and safe for the pupils as they resume soon.

"The grasses have over grown, the broken fences have exposed the school to unimaginable

security threats. As the PTA we would have taken all these upon ourselves but most of us are financially constrained as many households are still trying to make headway from the adverse effect of the pandemic on our means of livelihood.

"The PTA has been so impactful in the school on several occasions. Prior to the pandemic, I took it upon myself to wash the school toilets but this time around we need more than the cleaning of toilets to make the school and its premises

more conducive ahead of resumption. No hand washing equipment is available for the pupils, the school compound is yet to be fumigated and also the fallen fences are yet to be rebuilt.

"The children's lives will be at stake without the fences being mended and other needful being put in place. We hope the Board hears our voice through this medium and speeds up its plan while the council complements the efforts."

Bar tankers, trucks to protect Moshalashi Street-residents

By Damilola Kushimo

Residents of Moshalashi Street, Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have appealed to the local council authority to restrict big commercial vehicles and trucks from plying the road in order to last long.

The newly constructed road is among the long list of projects lined up for commissioning by the council chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye, to commemorate the ceremony of

his third year in office scheduled for the second week of October.

A barber on the street, Mr. Fatai Funsho (aka Phyzco), explained that residents and business owners on the street have already taken ownership of the road promoting maintenance culture.

He, however, emphasised the need by the government to restrict big commercial vehicles and trucks from accessing the road.

"First, let me use this medium to appreciate our council

chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye for not failing to deliver on his promise; he promised to construct the road and now we have it. It is a development we've agitated for and its reality has brought about a great ease on vehicular movements and improvement on business activities. I've been here for more than 16 years and I can tell you that since this road was completed our businesses have recorded boom.

"I will only like to appeal to the council authority to ensure that trucks and big commercial

vehicles that can damage the road sooner be restricted. That is the only time our efforts in maintaining and protecting the road can be successful. We also hope for more speed breakers to further discourage road users from being reckless in whatever way while driving."

Corroborating the appeal, the CDA chairman, Mr. Rasak Adekambi, who described the road project as "a great development" in his community, also appealed to the council boss to take up the uncompleted Panada Road - a



Moshalashi Street Isolo

project partly done by the former state governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode, emphasising that the road is a

strategic route for the diversion of traffic from the narrowed and congestion-prone Mushin/Isolo Road.

How OPC tamed 'one million boys' in Isolo - Sotomakanaki

By Damilola Kushimo

One of the commandants of Aare Gani Adams' faction of Oodua People's Congress (OPC) in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Saheed Orulebaja popularly known as Sotomakanaki, has explained how the security outfit played an important role in tackling the invasion of the infamous group known as "One million Boys" during the lockdown.

Orulebaja disclosed that OPC apprehended not less than seven suspected members of the cult groups in the community through full surveillance, working with the police of Isolo Divisional Police Station.

He said after conquering the group, the security body still sustains its surveillance in the community to ensure peace in

the local council area at all times.

He listed other efforts of the security outfit in keeping the community peace to include the arrest of members of another dreaded cult groups such as 'One minute Boys' and Eiye fraternities terrorising the community.

He recalled how the two cult

groups engaged in supremacy rival clash early this year, inflicting injuries on the residents and vandalising properties including the Chief Imam's car.

"We intervened in the clash and apprehended the alleged cult members and handed them over to the police.

"During the time of the 'one

million boys' we were proactive in our preparation having heard about their activities in other areas about how they formalised their invasion by writing letters to announce their coming and all that. We were summoned to a meeting by the Osolo of Isolo, Oba Kabiru Alani Agbabiaka who charged us to beef up the

security in the community by complementing the efforts of the police.

"All members of OPC including my dogs immediately swung into action and ensured that the menace was kept at bay here in Isolo community. We were able to apprehend about seven of them and handed them to police."

The OPC boss therefore appealed to parents and guardians in the community to keep close eyes on their children and ensure that morals and discipline are instilled in them, adding that they should be kept busy with life-impacting activities to prevent them from joining cult groups.

Lawyers urge short adjournment to dispense quick justice

By Damilola Kushimo

As the judiciary resumes full operation, lawyers in Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have urged the magistrates to give short adjournment dates on cases to hasten judgement on the backlog of cases.

The lawyers, who commended the judiciary for swinging into full operation after several months of skeletal operations due to lockdown, explained that

short adjournment dates would make judgement fast on the cases that accumulated during the lockdown.

One of the lawyers, Barrister Henry Enemchukwu, who spoke to ECHONEWS, said: "We are happy about this development, it shows that some people have been working underground to ensure that the judiciary starts again. I will advise that whatever has to be done should be hastened because clients are

complaining that matters are being held on. One of my clients has been on eviction process for a year and we are yet to arrive at a definite judgement in the case.

"Although the pandemic is a global issue, our judiciary is resuming late, the government should have come up with something better to ensure that justice is not delayed because the court is the last hope of the common man.

"About how the backlog of

cases can be handled, I believe that justice isn't about how long it takes to get it but ensuring that justice is achieved at the very end. I expect the judges to work normally, to ensure that they arrive at justice even if it will take time, it'll worth it, I don't think they should be in a hurry to arrive at any judgement just that I'll advise that short adjournment dates be given to cases so that the cases can close on time."

Also, Barrister Habeebulahi

Boladale who also saw the full resumption as a development corroborated the appeal of Enemchukwu but commended the judiciary for putting up measures to curb the contraction of the virus in the court as he explained that provisions have been made for everyone to wash and sanitize their hands before entering the court premises as he believed that social distancing will be enforced in the courtrooms.

How we are battling flood in Ejigbo- Obe

By Abolaji Adebayo

Desilting drains, building culverts and sensitising residents on flood control being used by the Ejigbo Local Council Development Area to combat incessant flooding are yielding results, says its chairman, Hon. Monsuru Bello Obe.

In an exclusive interview with Echonews, Hon. Obe said the recent tour of flood-prone communities by the Community Development Committee following flood alert of the Lagos State Ministry of Environment led to the discovery of infractions that could expose them to the floods and prompted the council to construct drains and desilt.

To sustain compliance, the

council has also embarked on sensitisation programme, educating the residents on what to do to control flood, asking those in the highly prone area to vacate their residence in case of heavy torrents.

Commenting on the preparations by the government and communities, the Ashamu Bucknor CDA Chairman, Mr. Toyin Saka said: "As per the flood, the community has done everything humanly possible to reduce the effects of the devastation on the community but as you're quite aware, no community can provide the infrastructures for curtailing flood.

"Drains have been continuously constructed by landlords with a view to providing easy routes for



Hon. Monsuru Obe

the flood to the canal whenever it rains.

"My only observation on the self help projects - gutters and culverts, is that every landlord or

CDA has been constructing

without the LCDA specifications which at times makes the self help insignificant in serving the purpose they are meant for.

"The LCDA put up some palliatives in December 2019 by

desilting Fasehun bridge canal which has not been de-silted for years.

"The state government eventually came with the needed equipment to desilt the canal which has been a major cause for easy discharge of flood which unfortunately had been backslashing but with the close to five months of de-silting, the canal has been massively cleared of dumps and refuse and the canal can no longer be a stumbling block in the movement of flood from the community to other adjoining canals."

One of the residents of Taiwo Fayemi community, who spoke to ECHONEWS, claimed that the community is one of the highly flood prone areas in

Ejigbo, saying the effort to curb flood in the community has not been solid enough, saying although the government has been responding to their plight.

He said: "The flood in Fayemi has not been totally controlled. Fayemi Street is most affected while the effort to curb it is only desilting of the Fayemi Street down to Docas/Idimu Road which was done with donations by the residents.

"The issue of Street alignment is also affecting Taiwo Street and attention of the council authority has been drawn to it. The council authority has been responding to community challenges and we appreciate the council chairman for being proactive in solving people's challenge."

Echonews holds parley with estate agent

By Abolaji Adebayo

Estate agents held a meeting with the management of Echonews Newspapers Limited on Friday with a resolution to partner with the community newspaper in advertising their vacancies to the public.

The meeting, which took place at No 14, Folawewo was chaired by the vice chairman, Hon Jacob Ogunbe.

Addressing the members of Estate Rent and Commission Agents Association of Nigeria (ERCAAN) Ejigbo chapter, the Chief Executive Officer of Echonews Newspapers Limited, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan said the newspaper was set up as the platform for providing intelligence needed by members of the public to make decisions and a marketplace for the exchange of goods and services.

Explaining that having a shelter over one's head is a basic need of every person, he commended the association for assisting thousands of people to acquire homes through their services.

He said estate rents and commission agents work

hand in hand with community newspapers all over the world in facilitating home ownership.

"All over the world, estate rents and commission companies partner with community newspapers. While the agents identify the vacancies, the newspapers take the information to the general public," he said.

Bamigbetan said he came to the meeting to solicit for the use of Echonews as a reputable medium for making the public aware of their services.

He said Echonews prints 5,000 copies weekly and distributes the print edition to 30 stands in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area, including Isolo and Ejigbo LCDA free.

It also publishes an online edition to over 200,000 whatsapp lines weekly in addition to its website.

He said the three platforms will be used to give mileage to their advertisements.

Replying, the vice chairman, Hon. Ogunbe thanked the publisher for visiting them to explain the advantages of advertising in the medium adding that they will embrace the initiative.

Also present at the meeting were Kola Omoloye, Balogun



Echonews Publisher, front row second left, with agents

Jimoh, Osho Mathein, Alaska Raji, Owaseyi Temidayo, Timothy Alli and

Adeola Wahab. Others were Daibow Davidson, Taiwo Omileye,

Alh. S. O. Raimi, Akintonde, Adegbeyega Salami,

Engr Segun Abayomi, Tanimora Sanni AP Olatunde, Owotale and Oliver Aluka

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House charges contractor rehabilitating Ewenla Road on quality job

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman, House Committee on Infrastructure and Works in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area, Hon. Azeez Jaiyeola has charged

the contractor handling the rehabilitation of Ewenla Road to deliver quality job. Jaiyeola, who led other councillors on the inspection of the ongoing road rehabilitation, told the contractor to ensure

standards is well maintained for the road to stand the quality test of time. The committee expressed its satisfaction over the work so far done on the road, emphasising that the quality of the project must be upheld

till the last stage of the project. Meanwhile, the committee commended the council chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse Ariyoh for his relentless efforts in providing solutions to the problem of

infrastructure deficit within the council area. The councillors reiterated their commitment to the continued provision of adequate representation for the development of the community at large.

The committee therefore charged the residents across the council area to remain responsible and keep supporting the government for a better community to be achieved.

Residents commend Sokunle for fixing 9 roads

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents of Oshodi-Isolo constituency 1 were full of encomiums to their representative at Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Hakeem Sokunle as he commissioned nine roads in the constituency recently. The roads, including Oludegun Avenue, Bello, Raliatu, Ishola Daniel, St. Paul, Oyegoke Ago Ijaiye, Adejumbi and Adesanya Streets rehabilitated by the state government as facilitated by the lawmaker, were commissioned amidst fanfare organised by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of God's Favour Entertainment, Pastor Segun Gbenro. Speaking during the commissioning, the lawmaker said he prioritised the rehabilitation of the roads being the ones mostly mentioned during a community stakeholders' meeting he had in the

constituency last year. While appreciating the fanfare organised to commemorate the commissioning, Sokunle promised to facilitate more projects as demanded by the constituents. He said: "Last year, a stakeholders' meeting was held at the council and part of the areas that were mentioned were the ones we've rehabilitated. "So, this year's stakeholders' meeting will come up soon, those projects you've mentioned here and the ones that will be talked about in the meeting will be noted and forwarded to the government for execution. By God's grace, we will touch other areas and sectors as well." Commending the lawmaker, the Treasurer of Agbelekale-Olaiya-Adesanya Community Development Association (CDA), Prince Samuel Adegboyega, said most of the roads especially Adesanya Street had suffered total



Hon. Akeem Shokunle

neglect in the past, saying the lawmaker had done well by facilitating the development. "We so much appreciate these projects, as facilitated by our lawmaker. The roads have suffered neglect over the years. This road in particular was first tarred in 1993 by the Chairman of the defunct

Mushin Local Government, Hon. Kehinde Aina. We are convinced our lawmaker will do more by facilitating greater development to the constituency and we hope other political office holders will emulate him," he said. Considering the economical value the development would add to

businesses in the areas, Mrs. Mutiat Adeeko, who runs a beer parlour on one of the streets, affirmed that the recent development would boost her business and other businesses in the community. Gbenro, the organiser of the fanfare, who doubles as the Chairman of Performing Musician Association of Nigeria (PMAN) Oshodi Chapter, said: "The programme was organised to appreciate the lawmaker that God has sent to rehabilitate almost eleven streets in Mafoluku Oshodi. If this is the way other honourables have been doing, it would have been better and that's why we organised the programme. "We hope this (what he has done) motivates and encourages other political officeholders. We were glad that the stakeholders' meeting was held back then, we hope it will be regular."

Street Sweepers demand road caution sign posts, regular salary payment

By Edith Igbokwe

The sweepers attached to Oshodi -Apapa Expressway have appealed to the state government to provide road sign posts for them to control vehicular high speed and avert accidents while on duty. The highway cleaners also appealed for regular payment of their salaries, stating that they were yet to receive their August salary. One of the sweepers who spoke on anonymity told ECHONEWS that the job exposes them to unforeseen accidents due to absence of sign posts to caution oncoming vehicles as some of them have been victims of such accidents while discharging their duty. The source narrated: "Last month, one of our members was hit by a vehicle while discharging her duty along Apakun Expressway. Though, she was taken care of by our coordinator who foot the hospital bill. We need to protect ourselves so that we can avert such happenings while on duty and that is why we are asking for the road caution sign posts for safety purpose." Other working tools demanded include brooms, rakes as well as waste paper bags to aid the effective discharge of their duty. On the issue of salary, the sweeper disclosed that the last salary they received was that of July 2020, appealing to the state government to look into their plight especially on the regular payment of their salaries to be able to cater for their family.

Bodunmat ventures gives 20 SMEs N50,000 each

By Edith Igbokwe

The management of Bodunmat ventures, a daily thrift organisation, said it has disbursed the sum of N1million to 50 Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) to support their businesses. According to the organisation, each beneficiary business owner who operates in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) received N50,000 to be refunded with little interest rate.

The fund was disbursed last weeks to the qualified business owners who run a contribution account with the company. The Managing Director of the organisation, Mr. Matthew Olubodun (Murphy), explained that the beneficiaries were those who have been keeping a good contribution account record with the organisation. He stated that the company does not tarry to grant the loan request of any customer who has a good record of repayment. He explained that the loan

would be paid back in bits, as the amount obtained is spread out for easy repayment either on daily or weekly basis according to the customer's choice. Olubodun therefore urged other business owners in Oshodi-Isolo environs to join the train of Bodunmat ventures contribution/lending programme to help their businesses grow. "The contribution aspect takes different format such as daily, weekly and monthly according to customer's choice and the fund saved can be retrieved at any time



Olubodun Matthew (aka) Murphy

needed either by hand or through transfer." He appreciated the business owners in Oshodi axis as he

encouraged them to maintain the daily thrift programme for easy source of funding their businesses.



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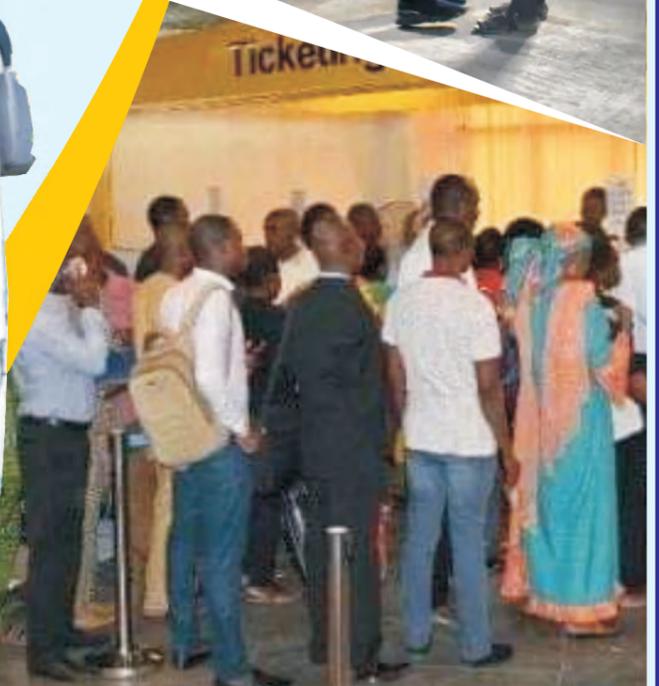
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