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PVCs: More Lagos Voters Pick Cards

By Rasaq Adebayo

Following the extension of the PVC collection day, more registered voters have started picking their permanent voter's cards (PVC) from the newly decentralized ward centres in Lagos.

As at the time of going to press, report from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) officials in Alimosho Local Government Area (LGA) indicated that 70 per cent of the total number of PVCs have been collected.

Similarly, Mushin, Agege and Oshodi-Isolo reported 70 per cent collection while Ikorodu is trailing behind with 55 per cent. The increase in collection is due to various means put in place by INEC and Lagos State government to remove obstacles for the voters to collect their PVCs.

For instance, the Commission decentralised the exercise to the ward level to bring the exercise closer to people. First, it decentralised the collection centers by taking the PVCs to the various electoral Wards in each local government area.

The major problem with this especially in Lagos is that many political Wards created for each LCDA were not recognised by the INEC. For instance, in Ejigbo LCDA, only one ward was recognised so that all the voters in Ejigbo had just only one center to collect their PVCs - Ejigbo is recognised as a Ward in Oshodi-Isolo LG which the federal government recognises.

The Commission devolved PVC collection to 245 electoral wards across Lagos State. Initially, the collection of PVC was done only in 20 LGAs where the offices of the Commission area.

The ward-level exercise was carried out between January 6 and 15, 2023, during which all registered voters who were yet to collect the PVCs were encouraged to use the opportunity of the decentralisation of the exercise to wards to do so.

After the 15th of January 2023 deadline, the exercise was taken back to the local government offices of the Commission where all eligible and valid registrants could then collect their PVCs between 9.00am and 3.00pm daily, including Saturdays and Sundays until January 22, 2023 when the collection is scheduled to end before the election on February 25.

The revert of the collection to the local government offices of INEC has again led to increasing number of voters queuing daily for their PVCs, while many still complain that they could not get their PVCs.

To further ameliorate the difficulty after



Lagos Voters displaying their PVCs

the exercise was reverted to the local government offices of the Commission, the cards were being given in bulk to be distributed in each ward.

On its own part, the Lagos State government declared free public holiday to give the civil servants opportunity to get their cards.

The APC-led government in Lagos State declared four-day holiday from Tuesday, January 24 to Friday, January 27 for the workers to go and collect their PVCs. The workers were given different day based on their level to be off at work to be opportune to get their PVCs.

Apart from this, each political party in the State mobilised people to the collection centers to assist people in getting their PVCs.

Aside these, there are still challenges of information particularly for voters who have been migrated from old overloaded polling unit (PU) to the newly created one. As part of its preparations for the 2023 general elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), in June 2021, announced the creation of additional 56,872 polling units (PUs) in the country.

INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu had said the electoral body converted former voting points and voting point settlements into polling units.

Ranking highest in the state-by-state distribution was Lagos State with 4,861 PUs. Prior to the creation of the new PUs, the state boasted of 8,464 PUs spread across its 20 local government areas (LGAs). Following the increment, the total number of PUs in the state has now risen to 13,325.

A breakdown of the distribution by LGAs in

Lagos shows that Alimosho, the biggest and most populous LGA in the state, got additional 844 PUs, followed by Eti-Osa LGA with 430 PUs, while Ifako and Oshodi LGAs were allocated 426 and 380 PUs, respectively.

Other LGAs like Ikorodu and Ikeja were given 352 and 302 PUs, respectively. However, Epe LGA got the lowest number of additional PUs—28.

Originally, the Commission urged the voters to apply to move from their old PUs to the new ones.

However, this was too slow and people refused to apply to migrate to the new PU, the Commission took the decision to automatically use their addresses on their slips to move them to the new PUs closer to their residences.

The challenge is that many voters still do not know that they have been moved from their original PU to the newly created one. Meanwhile, the Commission has promised to resolve this challenge by publishing the voters' names alongside their new PUs in the voters registered to be placed at PUs across the State before the election date.

ECHONEWS gathered that the new list will be made public two weeks before the election date, urging the voters to check for their new names at the new PUs close to them.

According to the INEC's time table, the collection of the PVCs was supposed to close nationwide yesterday after it had earlier been extended. However, it was further extended for another one week till February 5, 2023 due to outcry and low number of collection so far recorded in some areas.

At the collection centres where the

collection process is said to be frustrated, voters expressed disappointment as they could not get their cards.

Some said they are fed up of the exercise and tired of going for the collection despite the one week extension.

Some of the new registrants complained that they could not find their cards at the INEC office.

The complainants said their card may not have been printed yet by the Commission.

It was said that all those who applied for replacement of lost, damaged, or defaced PVCs could get their PVCs. The same thing applied to those who registered prior to the 2019 general elections and are yet to collect their cards.

"I went to the collection center, I was in a long queue for two days still I could not get my PVC. I'm tired of the exercise and I have concluded that I will not go there again, let them hold the card. It means I won't be able to vote during the coming elections," a resident of Ojota, Tayo Raji complained.

"I had determined to vote this time around but it seems the INEC is deliberately making the process difficult to frustrate many people out the elections. I went to the center, I was asked to go to cyber café to go and print my slip. I did so but to my surprise, they said they could not find my cards. So may other people who registered last year complained the same thing in my area here. We know our candidates but they want to disenfranchise us," another residents of Ifako-Ijaiye complained to ECHONEWS.

With this, it was said that some residents may be disenfranchised to participate in the forthcoming general elections.

Less than a month to the presidential election, the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Isolo and Ejigbo LCDAs has set up its team of street campaigners across the 58 zones it created in the two LCDAs as the countdown to the 2023 elections gets intensely underway. The inauguration ceremony was held at the Multi-purpose Hall of Isolo Council Secretariat. While addressing the party members, Campaign Director General and Executive Chairman, Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsuru Oloyede Bello (OBE) charged them to put in their best in this new assignment as he urged them to justify the party's confidence. He sensitised them on their duties especially as it has to do with documentation and

Isolo, Ejigbo APC sets up street campaigners

By Motolani AbdulGafar

subtle approach of prospective voters. Oloyede assured that provision will be made for logistics while warning against complacency as due diligence won't be compromised. The Campaign Council Grand Patron, Chief Henry Oladele Ajomale, expressed joy at the judgment of the Osun State Governorship Election tribunal which upturned the victory of PDP in the state. Chief Ajomale congratulated the women for being worthy of the task before them as he emphasised on the



Campaigners with Council chairmen and party leaders

support for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Women Affairs Director, Chief (Mrs.) Modupe

Oseghale charged the Street Campaigners to give their all and use the resources at their disposal

judiciously.

Her views were corroborated by Isolo council chairman,

Olasoju Adebayo who advised the women to go to the field and prove their mettle.

We'll deliver 30,000 votes for APC in Isolo - AGT

A socio-political organisation, Asiwaju Grasroot Talk, has pledged to deliver 30,000 votes for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Isolo LCDA. The pledge was made by the Political Coordinator of the Group, Mr. Kayode Talabi who spoke to ECHONEWS at the sideline of a political evangelical seminar held for residents and electorate in Isolo recently. Talabi explained that the group's main target is to ensure that Lagos delivers bulk votes for Tinubu's anticipated success at the poll as well as other APC candidates in the State. He added that AGT's effort is to complement other machineries the party has set in place to achieve its five million vote target for Tinubu out of the possible seven million.



Mr. Kayode Talabi, AGT Political Coordinator, Isolo LCDA

Asked how to achieve the figure, Talabi said the group has no fewer than 1000 canvassers in Isolo LCDA and each canvasser is expected to mobilise at least 30 voters to each of the 339 polling units in Isolo LCDA. He said: "AGT's main target is to increase the election result in Lagos State. To awaken active voters in Lagos State. Our main target is to boost the number of

votes in Lagos State so that we can be bold enough to compete with others in other regions. "From the calculation now, AGT has no fewer than 1000 canvassers in Isolo LCDA and each voters is expected to bring 30 voters to their polling unit and if you look at that figure it gives you 30,000 votes. So AGT is promising Lagos State 30,000 votes."

Youth group rolls out plans for 2023

A youth group in Low Cost Housing Estate, Isolo, Estate Youth Parliament (EYP) has rolled out their plan for the year while seeking philanthropists' intervention for proper productivity. The president of the group, Yusuf Adeyemi said the group plans to introduce academic quizzes and debate to boost the academic standard of residents in the council area.

He said visitation to elderly people's homes and General Hospitals would be conducted to disburse palliatives as they intend to show some love to the old and weak. Adeyemi added that previously organised programmes like free medical care, marathon exercise, and community games among others would be developed as they want to reach the standard of the international level.

He highlighted that previous demands from the government such as street lighting, and primary school reconstruction among others would be revisited to ensure approval from appropriate authorities. To ensure the productivity of all scheduled programmes for the year, the group appealed to philanthropists and government for support for the group to achieve its goals.



Low Cost Housing Estate, Isolo, Estate Youth

APC leader charges members to get PVC

By Motola AbdulGafar

A party leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government, Prince Ajele Abayomi (Ikomdina), has charged all the party members to make sure they have their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs) to show they are real members of the party. According to him, a loyal member must have his PVC and abide by all regulations

of the party. In a meeting with party members recently, Ikomdina requested an individual to present their PVCs to show their commitment. He said all members should have collected their PVCs by now and carried out other necessary activities assigned by the party. He canvassed that all flag bearers of the party are worth propagating for as the party has never for once presented an inefficient leader for the masses.



Prince Ajele Abayomi (Ikomdina)

PDP: S'Court dismisses Awesu's appeal

By Saheed Afolabi

Supreme Court has dismissed an appeal brought before it by Hon. AbdulAzzez Adekunle Awesu, a federal constituency aspirant for the Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) in Ikorodu. The verdict cleared the way for Hon. Abdulkareem Shittu's candidacy in the forthcoming House of Representatives election for Ikorodu federal constituency.

The Supreme Court also awarded N1 million in favour of Hon. Shittu against Hon. Awesu. This brings the total sum awarded against Mr Awesu to N1.5 million having previously had a cost of N500,000 awarded

against him at the Court of Appeal. The PDP as a party was also ordered to pay Hon. Shittu the sum of N5 million as a punitive cost for bringing an earlier appeal against him at the Court of Appeal.



Hassan seeks cordial relationship with armed force

By Motola AbdulGafar

The chairman of Oriade LCDA, Hon. Ramotalai Hassan has appealed for a synergy between the armed forces and other security agencies in the council area. Hassan made the call following the appointment of new Commanding Officer at the Ojo Military Cantonment, Major R. A. Aniaku. She stated that cooperation between them will help in maintaining law and order as she seeks stability in the council. Hassan pleaded to Aniaku to also take note of the security

measures put in place for the upcoming election due to its major event of the day. She promised to continue to ensure stability and community prosperity in the council.



Hon. Ramotalai Hassan

APC reps candidate urges party loyalists to shun distractive strategies

By Motola AbdulGafar

The House of Representatives candidate in Amuwo-Odofin Federal Constituency under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Prince Lanre Sanusi, has urged party loyalists to overlook false stories about the party either at the grassroots level or at the National level. He said such news is used to test their determination to

support the party which will distract them from doing the needful before the election date. He cited the instance of political arguments over an itching topic which will be used to delay a party member from remembering to get the Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) not to talk of encouraging others to do. Sanusi, therefore, urged them to be calm, focused and sensitize others to prepare for the elections.



Prince Lanre Sanusi

Kasali urges students to excel

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The chairman of Lekki LCDA, Hon. Bamidele Kasali under his Right for Bright Kids (RBK) initiative has enlightened students in the council on the right mindset they ought to hold to excel in their academics. He said the initiative is for both students and parents/guardians to make them have a unified mindset towards education. Speaking on behalf of the council chairman, the Supervisor for Education, Hon. Akeem Adekoya noted that the priority of educational development and enhancement has been one of the important projects Kasali has been paying attention to since he assumed office. He said the chairman would continue to put in

efforts in developing the council's education sector among its peers. He revealed that the initiative is set to find common grounds for key stakeholders in education (government, parents, teachers and students) for the advancement of skill-based education. He added that it organised sensitisation, awareness and re-orientation programme for parents, teachers and students. According to him, the initiative also identifies the best brains through objective procedures and collaborates with significant others for scholarship placement. "We also organise programmes and activities that will attract students into STEM education, see to psychological well-being and adjustment of parent-



Students at the sensitization programme

teachers-students in Lekki LCDA," he said.

He appealed to all take the initiative seriously efforts of the council in all concerned stakeholders to and work towards the sectors.

Residents appeal for road construction

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government have appealed to the government for the construction of Abijo area in the council. The road is said to be in very bad shape since it has been neglected for so many years. They claimed the road is supposed to be constructed following the construction of Bogije's inner roads in the council area which was facilitates by member House of Representatives, Hin. Fatai Mojeed. The road under construction is scheduled to be completed within 12 months. Meanwhile, the residents emphasised that Abijo is also due for construction and should be taken up by the government.

Following the presentation of the 2023 appropriation bill of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, the legislative arm has said it will soon embarke on review of the budget before being passed. The budget tagged: "Budget of Economic Development and Sustainability" was presented to the House by the council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa. Wgile receiving the proposed budget, the council lader, Hon. Mojeed Olayinka said the legislature will ensure proper scrutiny of the budget to continue to aid community progress. He commended the chairman for his efforts towards portraying good leadership since the inception of his administration. Olayinka further promised the council boss that they would

Council legislature to commence 2023 budget review



Ibeju-Lekki Legislative and Executive Arm in a group picture

continue to fulfil their mandate both at the wards they represent

and at the council level to synergize with the executive body.

The appropriation bill is expected to be passed into sooner to

give the government opportunity to execute the laid down projects.



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CDC sensitises residents on PVC collection

By Edith Obioma

Community Development Committee (CDC) of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government has pulled residents to collect Permanent Voter's card (PVCs) during their two days sensitisation on PVC. The CDC chairman, Pastor Samuel Opajobi stated that the exercise was to facilitate means of getting a large percentage of PVCs to the rightful owners to increase the number of votes in the LGA in the coming elections.

One of the residents in Alagbole area of ward F, Mr. Moses expressed a great relief to have

collected his PVC through the help of the sensitisation.

He explained that the exercise has motivated a lot of people who are not willing to leave their homes for the PVC collection.

The community leaders took up the responsibility of telling residents the PVC distribution sites of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) across the seven wards for easy collection.

Part of the areas visited was the Mechanic Village site at Obawole and artisans were urged to go for their PVC collection to avoid disenfranchisement due to lack of voting card.



Ifako-ijaiye CDC sensitizes residents on PVC collection

Two revenue workers get chairman's commendation

By Edith Obioma

Two Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government revenue staff members, Mr. Abiodun Bamidele and Mr. Anreti Owolabi have been commended by the chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat, for their excellent performance.

Hamzat expressed a great delight at the work rate of the two revenue officers who were deployed from Iju and Ogba revenue area offices.

He appreciated their efforts towards improving the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the local government.

He charged them to surpass the achievements of the last year by making new marks in 2023.

He assured them that



Hamzat commends Revenue staff effort on IGR



his administration will support by creating conducive environment, adequate work tools needed to carry out effective and

efficient work. He appealed to revenue staff to cooperate with him to reduce the leakages in the revenue collection

process. On behalf of the revenue staff, the two commended revenue officers appreciated the chairman for

ensuring conducive atmosphere that will allow them meet the expectation of the administration. They assured the

chairman of their readiness to improve the Local Government (IGR) to support the revenue drive of the chairman

Benson pledges support for National Open University

By Saheed Afolabi

The Member of the House of Representatives in Ikorodu constituency, Hon. Jimi Benson, has pledged to support the National Open University with a teaching complex. He made the pledge during a discussion with delegates from the institution on the plan to open a model study centre in Ikorodu. The institution's team had met with the legislator to seek his assistance to strengthen the academic body as it extends its

teaching arm to the waterbed region.

The meeting was held at the constituency office of the lawmaker, which was also graced by the Adeboluwa of Igbo Kingdom, HRM, Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali and the chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, Hon. Sulaimon Olanrewaju.

The pioneer director of the University, Ikorodu Model study centre, Prof. Ajibola Saheed Oluwatoyin remarked that NOUN is coming to Ikorodu because most of its registered students in the mainland

are showing up from Ikorodu axis, which became a spurring factor to expand.

Explaining the essence of meeting with Benson, Prof. Oluwatoyin, a professor of Applied Mathematics and also the immediate past NOUN Dean Faculty of Sciences, said the need for scholarship arouse due to learners who lack foundational funds.

"Presently, we have three study centres (at Obalende, Victoria Island and Apapa study centre) in Lagos State, Ikorodu, being a household name is due for

a teaching annex.

"We're establishing Ikorodu model study centre to reduce the cost of transportation incurred by students coming to study with us on the mainland."

Distinguishing his institutional mode of studying, he explained the effectiveness of NOUN's open and distant learning, adding that the institution eliminates the bottleneck of passing JAMB.

He further noted that with over 100 study centres in Nigeria, the institution correlates the same valid educational standards.



Hon. Jimi Benson

Mushin LG kicks off second round of polio vaccine

By Saheed Afolabi

As an effort to curtail the spreading of variant poliovirus strains, the authority of Mushin LG has kicked off the second phase of immunization against polio among children in Mushin.

The council partnered with Lagos State Primary Health Care Board and other health agencies.

The council chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, appealed to mothers on the need to always make their children available for immunization against polio and other life threatening diseases.

He explained the reason for the exercise and the implication of non compliance, saying the immunization is free for all children between 0 month and five years.

"The Novel Oral Polio Immunization is a rapid response to curtail and prevent the spread of polio virus circulating variant discovered in the excretory samples found

in one of the canals around Mushin, which is an indication and revelation of the prevalence of polio virus within the metropolis. As a result, the Local Government Authority in partnership with the State Primary Health Care Board, National Primary Health Care Board and World Health Organization are jointly carrying out this powerful measure to prevent the spread from the carrier to other children living around Mushin and its environs.

"The exercise is targeted at vaccinating all children between the ages of 0-5years, with 2 drops of the oral Polio vaccine regardless of their previous vaccination status, to prevent poliomyelitis that may result in paralysis of limbs or death.

"During this period, vaccination team will visit residential homes, schools, churches, mosques, gated estates, and all public places where children who fall within the age bracket will be found."

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Primary Health Care Board, Dr. Ibrahim Mustapha, solicited for the support and cooperation of parents, community leaders, and religious leaders throughout the exercise. He also hinted that the routine immunization services will be available at the Primary Health Centre during the campaign.

Also speaking, the Supervisor for Health, Hon. Femi Nuga thanked the chairman for his constant support for the



The chairman of Mushin LG, Hon Emmanuel Bamigboye middle during the polio vaccine immunization

health department.

He also appreciated all the partners who

contributed in ensuring that Mushin is healthy.

He appealed to parents

to always make their children available for all immunizations.

Bamigboye sensitises teachers, parents to vote APC

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye, has canvassed the teachers and parents to vote for All Progressives Congress (APC).

He appealed to them during a meeting between the APC campaign team in the local government and teacher and parents in

Mushin.

The meeting, which was facilitated by the Executive Secretary of Mushin Local Government Education Authority, Princess Olufemi Akinlode, had the Nigeria Union teachers (NUT), Parents Teachers Forum and Campaign Committee of the All Progressives Congress, with the two candidates in Mushin Constituency 02 in

attendance.

Speaking at the two meetings held in different locations, Bamigboye called on the teachers and parents to vote massively for the continuation of good works initiated by the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who he referred as "Mr. Sellable".

Full of confidence, the council boss highlighted the numerous



Bamigboye speaking with journalists

developmental projects aimed at transforming the state into a mega city.

Kosofe presents ₦3.8B budget to legislative arm

By Edith Obioma

The chairman of Kosofe LG, Barr. Moyosore Ogunlewe, has presented the council's 2023 Budget to be passed by the legislature. The appropriation bill was pegged at ₦3,828,702,174, expected to be funded by internally generated revenue, value added tax, allocation from the federal government, and other grants from the state government. Speaking, Ogunlewe said his administration is more committed to implementing projects and programmes that will have meaningful impact on lives of the populace. He emphasised that individual and communities would be provided with necessary facilities, infrastructures

and conducive environment that will make them utilise their full potentials and capabilities.

He commended the legislative arm for their efforts and uncommon support given to the executive arm.

He further appreciated the work undertaken by the council staff as well as the party leaders, CDC, CDA and all the NGOs to move the council forward.

The council leader, Hon. Idowu Oluloro thanked the chairman and his team for their jobs in the community.

He pledged to look at the budget, scrutinize it for necessary correct before being passed by the House.

He, therefore, appealed for meticulous implementation of the budget.



Kosofe N 3.8B budget presentation

Ogunlewe commends staff as 10 retires

By Edith Obioma

The chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Barr. Moyosore Ogunlewe has commended the management and staff of the council for their contributions towards the success recorded last year as he sent forth retirees. No fewer than 10 staff members retired from the council services after attaining retirement age. The retirees include Adeyemi Taofeek, Adewuyi Mosunmola, Adetayo Modupeola, Balogun Isiaka, Popoola Moriamo, Akinmolayan Victoria, Olaniyi Abayomi, Olajide Oluremi, Ashaka Suzan and Adebayo Ojo. Ogunlewe commended

the retirees for their contributions to the growth and development of the local government area.

The council boss, who was represented at the occasion by his Vice-chairman Mr. Oluwole Sosanya, noted that hard working, dedication, loyalty and support that the management and staff gave the administration in the preceding year was responsible for the unprecedented achievements recorded.

He, therefore, assured serving staff members of his administration's continuous support, stressing that their welfare would be uppermost in the agenda.

"I thank all the NULGE executives led by Prince Ade Orababa, the management, staff and non-pensionable staffs for their dedication, maturity, sincerity, loyalty, perseverance, and the

total support you've given to me and my team in the last one year and few months we've assumed office.

"Our success, so far, was possible because of all the people here. I can say it

anywhere that Kosofe Local Government is the best.

"Continue to believe in our administration and in our staff, many of whom have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"With that spirit, we can make 2023 a year of accomplishment and truly build a life of dignity for the people.

"I promise to meet up with your demands and make your welfare paramount."



Kosofe staff retirees

LASU refutes fake admission news

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The management of Lagos State University (LASU) has discarded the viral news that their 2022/2023 admission list would be based on biological selection. The assumed fake news was said to have been propagated and signed by an unidentified Dafav Consults (DAFAV OF LASU, LASU_ISLAND) which the university claimed to be unknown. According to the information on its official website, the

institution claimed that it would on no account admit students based on their parents or lecturer's connection with the institution while reiterating that the institution is only based on merit.

"It was noted that the social media platform in which the news was disseminated is unrecognised as its aim is only to mislead parents/guardian.

"An assurance has been made for the University's credibility while noting that all admitted students would be based on their individual efforts and nothing else."



Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, VC LASU

Artisans promise high vote counts for APC

The Lagos State Council of Tradesman and Artisans (LASCOTA) in Ojo Local Government, has promised to deliver high vote counts for the All Progressives Congress (APC) during the coming general elections. According to them, the party has contributed tremendously towards the development of all members which cannot be neglected. Speaking, the chairman of the association, Mr. Bashir Yusuf, noted that all members have full faith in the candidacy of APC, saying they are well set for the February 25 and March 11 elections respectively.

He added that unlike oppositions who argue with APC loyalists now and then, they are set to rather use their votes to voice their opinion.

Yusuf revealed that they have campaigned for the candidacy of the flag bearers to their members and the response so far shows

that they all are on the same page of political interest.

He appreciated the efforts of the council chairman, Hon. Rosulu Idowu while urging all flag bearers to continue to fulfil their mandate as their scorecard is what would speak for them in society.



Photo combination of LASCOTA campaign assurance in Ojo Local Government

Monarch supports flag bearer's candidacy

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Baale of Iraland in Ojo Local Government, Chief Shuaib Ariyo has presented a campaign souvenir in support of the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate.

The souvenir includes fliers, calendars, caps, among other campaign materials as well as cash.

Ariyo said his donation is on behalf of the Ariyo family chieftaincy in support of the APC Lagos House of Assembly candidate in Ojo Constituency I, Hon. Olusegun Ege for his campaign. He said the illustrious family had supported



Chief Shuaib Ariyo while presenting campaign support to Ege

Ege whom he described as a man of the people worthy of assigning community obligations.

He urged the residents to trust his family's judgement, saying they would on no account support

anyone that would not be favourable towards the development of the council.

He assured Ege of their support while encouraging him to be prayerful and continue to achieve greater things.

Wives of police officers drum support for Kuye's re-election

By Edith Igbokwe

Wives of the police officers at Pedro Police Baracks have drummed support for the re-election of member of the House of Representatives in Somolu constituency, Hon. Aliu Kuye. To express their support, they organised campaign rally in the constituency to sensitize the electorate to vote for the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for his second term.

They commended his efforts towards their needs while requesting for more assistance if he wins his second term bid. Appreciating the gesture, Kuye reiterated on how he used his influence at the National



Wives of police officers campaign for Hon. Kuye second term bid

Assembly to push the payment of new salary structures for the police to be equal to other armed forces in Nigeria.

He noted that the police welfare package that was endorsed by President

Muhammadu Buhari was personally sponsored by him.

He further urged the wives of police to seize the opportunity of proximity of the constituency office to register and collect

forms for their wards. He emphasised that he does not only give out forms, he also usually pay school fees for students when they gain admission into universities or other higher institutions.

APC Lagos State House of Assembly candidate for Somolu constituency II, Hon. Samuel Apata appealed to the wives of the police officers to vote him and all the APC candidates in the coming elections.

He promised to follow the steps of Hon. Kuye in carrying out projects that the women have demanded when they vote for him and the party candidates.

Over 200 members of Voice of Widows benefitted from the welfare package organised by the group at Somolu Local Government. According to the Coordinator of the group who doubles as the Supervisory Councillor for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) in Somolu, Hon. Alhaja Adetutu Surakat said the gathering of the widows was to make their voices heard by the government. She said the programme was put together to help women who have lost

Widows appeal for govt's intervention

By Edith Igbokwe

their husbands, and ensure that members are well taken care of on regular basis.

She explained that the group seized the opportunity to sensitise women ahead of the 2023 general elections about the new voting pattern so as to make their votes count.

"We're also making a passionate appeal to the government to give us 10 per cent out 35 per cent allocated for women to go widows.

"It will not only make life more meaningful to them, it will also give them a sense of belonging."

The former Supervisory Councillor for Agric and Sports, currently the Apex Women leader, Hon. Chief Mrs. Bose Ogunlaja said the programme was a laudable initiative that has been expected in the local government and the state at large.

She noted that the widows need to be heard and assist them

in their burden.

She commended the National President of the group, Hajiya Safiya Ibrahim for organising such a programme for the widows.

"In fact, we're the happiest people today for being recognized and we appreciate the President of the organization for putting together this laudable initiative.

We also appreciate the Coordinator of the group at the local government level, Alhaja Hon. Adetutu

Surakat a good politician and mobilizer for bringing the project to the local government where widows are now benefitting.

Hon. Chief Mrs. Ogunlaja described the women folks as a well-organized set of people owing to their disciple and well-oriented status in society.

"No doubt about the fact that we're the greatest set of people God created. We're the mobilizing vehicle through which mobilization is been

done especially during elections.

"For instance, it's only women that can engage those women in Pudah and so many other areas where men cannot handle."

She urged the women folk to come out en-mass and vote for all the All Progressive Congress (APC) Presidential candidate, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Senator Tokunbo Abiru, Hon. Ademorin Kuye, Hon. Biodun Orekoya and Hon. Samuel Apata.

Stay glowing with tomato skin therapy

For a beautiful and healthy skin maintenance for women, Tomato provides you that excellent source of vitamin C, besides boosting your immune system, the vitamin C can also help stimulate collagen production.

According to research, Tomatoes contain vitamin C and other antioxidants that can help your skin diminish fine lines and protect skin cells from damage caused by ultraviolet (UV) rays exposure.

To have that fresh skin ever longed for, Cut a tomato into half, apply some honey on the surface, and rub gently onto your cleansed skin, leave it for 10-15 minutes, and later rinse with plain water, it gives smooth, glowing oil-free skin.

Do this regularly for oil-free smooth skin, is just one of the many ways you can use tomatoes on your skin.

Here are some other benefits of tomatoes when applied to the skin. You can either use tomato juice, mashed tomato, tomato pulp or make a face pack by infusing tomato with other ingredients that are good for the

skin.

As an anti tanning agent: Tomatoes are excellent to reverse tanned skin. Make your face pack by mixing two tablespoons of tomato pulp with a few drops of lemon juice and one teaspoon of curd. Mix well, and apply it to your face. Leave it for 15-20 minutes and wash with cold water.

Tomato reduces the risk of sunburns: Although tomatoes should not be a substitute for sunscreen, it contains the nutrient lycopene with antioxidant properties that has a photo-protective effect.

Other than applying tomatoes directly to the skin for their beauty properties, you could also increase tomatoes in your daily diet to increase the nutrient lycopene in your body.

Tomato controls acne: It is rich in Vitamin C, A, and K. Also, it is acidic, which helps maintain the skin's pH while deep cleansing your skin. Regular application of tomatoes on acne-prone skin can help prevent acne breakouts.

Helps tighten pores: When the pores open up, they attract a lot of

pollutants, including dirt, bacteria, etc. Tomato works as a natural ingredient to tighten the pores.

Use a few drops of lemon juice with a teaspoon of tomato juice. Mix well and apply on your face. Leave it for 5-10 minutes and rinse well. This will help tighten the skin pores.-

Tomato and papaya face pack:

This is an excellent face pack for preventing -early skin aging. It also helps to lighten scars and reduce pimples.

To use, mix two tablespoons of tomato pulp with two tablespoons of papaya. Make a thick paste and apply it to your skin. Leave it for 15 minutes to dry. Wash off and repeat this twice a week.

However, tomato contains acids, but these are mild on the skin, so you can use it safely even if you have sensitive skin.

Side Effects Of Applying Tomato On The Face

While tomatoes are good for skin, there can be some effects, especially if your skin is allergic or already wounded. Tomatoes are acidic, so too

much tomato can irritate your skin.

Stop using it immediately if you're experiencing irritation after applying tomato on your face.

If you experience any redness, peeling, or skin irritation after applying tomato, avoid using it and consult a dermatologist.

If you already have skin rashes, using tomatoes can cause a burning sensation.

As tomatoes contain citric acid, exposing yourself to the sun right after applying tomato, can cause an inflammatory reaction known as phytophotodermatitis.

This is characterized by redness and swelling, and blistering in some cases. Also, if you're planning to spend time outdoors in the sun, avoid using tomatoes the night before.

Tomatoes are loaded with antioxidants and vitamins, and when applied to the skin regularly, it has lots of benefits. However, tomato is acidic, so it should be used in moderation. Also, if there is any discomfort after using tomato, you should consult your dermatologist immediately.



Utility Sports crush Bethel Warriors

By Saheed Afolabi

Utility Sports FC got up to a flying start in their first competitive game of the year as they took Bethel Warriors to the cleaners 6-0.

Daniel Ohaleta grabbed a hat trick in the encounter followed by individual goals from Azeez Agboola, Kelvin Chukwukeme and Bernard Okor.

Azeez Agboola gave Utility Sports FC the lead in the 3rd minute to give them a comfortable start to the encounter.

Daniel Ohaleta opened his goal account in the 7th minute as the goal poacher

finished with a strong right foot.

Daniel Ohaleta double his advantage in the 15th minute to record Utility Sports 3rd goal of the game. Utility Sports FC ran riot and proved unstoppable as they added their 4th goal of the game through Kelvin Chukwukeme in the 32nd minute.

Clinical striker, Daniel Ohaleta proved his worth in the game as he completed his hat trick of the game in the 65th minute to dash the hopes of Bethel Warriors.

Bernard Okor scored Utility Sports FC 6th goal of the game in the 73rd minute with a cool finish.



Utility Sports

Brave Sport Management to sponsor coaches to NIS for certification

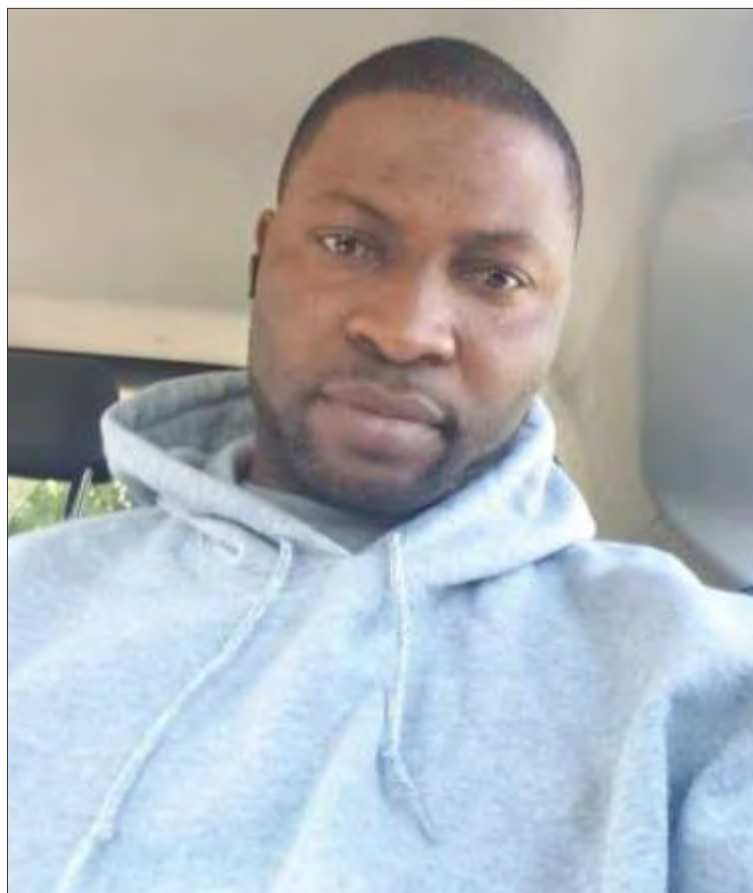
The chairman of Brave Sport Management, Babatunde Balogun has volunteered to sponsor grassroots coaches to National Institute of Sport (NIS) to have the requisite coaching certificate.

The NIS is a FIFA recognised coaching school which educates coaches in Nigeria about the game and also the technicalities of the game. The NIS certificate is a stepping stone to be eligible for the CAF coaching certificate.

Speaking exclusively to ECHONEWS, Balogun said it is his own way of giving back to the society and also giving the coaches the leverage to seek for job offers from professional league clubs.

"It's my way of giving back to the society through Brave Sport Management, I get to find out that, a lot of our coaches in the grassroots are not certified, which is not good for their development.

"So I took it upon myself to send coaches to NIS on six months intervals, that is, a coach will be sponsored to NIS every six months, with



Babatunde Balogun

that, I can reduce the number of uncertified coaches in the grassroots.

"The coaches in the grassroots have contributed a lot to the game and they need support to always encourage them to nurture and breed talented youngsters."

The football stakeholder highlights the benefits of

coaching certificate to Coaches as he pledge to continue to do more for grassroots coaches.

"The benefits of the NIS certificate is to give the coaches a platform to move up the ladder as they will be opened to a lot of offers from professional league clubs and also have a chance to be called up to coach the national team."

Zambia Coach reveals benefits of friendly game with Nigeria

The Zambian U20 side are scheduled to play a two legs friendly game against the Nigeria U20 side in preparation for the U20 AFCON.

The junior Chipolopolo are optimistic of getting positive results when they begin their West Africa tour.

The Zambian U20 assistant coach, Albert Mphande described the friendly games as very important to the team as he admitted it will be the first time they are playing against West Africa sides.

"We are really in need of these friendly games and for some of the boys, it will be their first time to play against West African teams," he said.

"It will give us some good position from where to start.

"I think in terms of readiness, physically we are about 75 per

cent, mentally we are almost there and we are about 65 per cent."

Mphande added that the purpose of the friendly games is to let the players abreast of the task ahead.

"As you know, this is not COSAFA, this is AFCON U20 we need to psych them to that high level."

The Zambian team will be playing a double header friendly against the Flying Eagles at the Moshood Abiola stadium, Abuja on the third and sixth of February respectively.

The Flying Eagles also are not leaving any stone unturned as they crushed Deluxe FC 6-0 in a recent friendly game at FIFA goal project, Abuja.

The U20 AFCON is scheduled to start on the 19th of February 2023 with host Egypt and Mozambique signalling the start of the tournament with the opening game.



Nigeria U20

Subair, Vanguard's Public Icon of the Year

By Kehinde Bamigbetan

For doubling the internally generated revenue of Lagos State during his tenure as the chairman of the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service, Vanguard Newspapers Limited has named Ayo Subair the public icon of the year at its annual Personality of the Year Awards.

The event, which was held on Friday at the prestigious Convention Hall of Eko Hotel and Suites, was chaired by the Chairman of Access Bank, Mrs. Ayo Awosika and witnessed by the chairman and founder of the national newspaper, Uncle Sam Amuka.

The citation written by Sunkanmi Akoni, the newspaper's correspondent who has covered Alausa, the seat of power in Lagos for over 15 years, described Subair as "the magic wand in Lagos tax revolution":

PRIOR to his appointment in 2016 under the administration of the immediate past Lagos State Governor, Akinwunmi Ambode, internally generated revenue, IGR, by the Lagos Internal Revenue Service, LIRS, hovered around N240 billion, but with his astute knowledge and experience in accounting and taxation, the Executive Chairman, Mr Ayodele Subair, has increased revenue generation to N427 billion, nearly doubling the initial revenue at the start of his tenure.

Subair turned over the fortunes of the revenue agency by implementing several measures to expand the tax net in terms of payers and items taxed. In 2019, he introduced an electronic tax returns system enabling many taxpayers to avoid the impediments that the bureaucratic process in tax



Ayo Subair, Chairman, LIRS

offices posed and pay their taxes in the convenience of their homes and offices.

To reduce tax evasion, he launched the whistleblower programme in 2022 urging members of the public, organizations and officials tasked with the assignment to expose and bring to justice cases of evasion, misconduct and illegal operations.

This voluntary system was strengthened internally by setting up a unit of intelligence officials to build a database and profile cases of big defaulters and ensure that the state does not lose its deserved share of their incomes.

And to bring the informal sector fully into the tax net, he launched the Ibile Hub,

a system that profiles economic actors operating without formal records by assisting them to pay taxes reflecting their income. This had been a hard nut for the LIRS to crack since inception. The 233 per cent increase in revenue collection achieved by the Hub initiative set Subair on a different pedestal as a taxation professional who knows his onions.

Subair has also been lucky with the fall of a few low-hanging fruits. First is the success of Lagos State in winning the long-drawn case for the implementation of the Hotel Occupancy and Restaurant Consumption Tax law which confirmed the right of the state to charge consumption

charges in hotels. Coming with the installation of automatic devices which enable the tax authorities to know the amount received by hotels and restaurants, it is destined to bring into the state's purse more revenue as the coverage expands.

Second is the adoption of the state-wide service charter by the LIRS in August 2021 awakening the staff to their responsibilities to the public, particularly the taxpayers and elevating management values to promote efficiency.

With these initiatives, watchers of Subair at the LIRS were not surprised that he was able to raise the state's internally generated revenue from

N240 billion he met to N427 billion today.

Before his current position, Subair made waves as the pioneering director of the Lagos State Lotteries Board demonstrating immense capacity from a 34-year career in accounting at top firms including Price Waterhouse. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the Metropolitan University of Manchester, United Kingdom and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Lagos.

He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, ICAN and a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, CITN.

The Minister for Entertainment adds another year

By Ladapo Kolade

When the pictures of her photo shoot got to social media, it turned and rolled many eyes. The voluptuous general manager of Evergreen Music was adding another. She left no one in doubt that she would paint the town red. Her costume for the occasion was radiantly red.

Giving the world of glamour something to talk about is rarely her route. She has spent much of her life since graduating from the University of Ibadan slipping her feet into the giant shoes of her father, Elder Femi Esho, Nigeria's foremost collector of Highlife Music.

A few years ago, she finally took over the business to enable her father to rest from

a passion that he turned to business.

There were fears, says, Akeem Busari, that the woman could do what a man had done. Those fears faded as she took the bull by the horns.

According to Busari: "When Bimbo Esho took over the reins of Evergreen Musical Company, from her retired father, Chief Femi Esho, skepticism was rife. However, like the sayings on the streets, 'Lion nor dey born goat', Bimbo Esho, has come out good and of course, proving the skeptics and cynics wrong, that she is a true chip off the old block.

More than mere rhetorics and vain-glorious remarks, she has continued to affirm her commitment to the protection and promotion of Nigerian musical legacy, for which her highly regarded father had

given his sweats and resources to keep alive."

Bimbo started very early by studying the maestros such as the

late Victor Olaiya and Sunny Ade. Her devotion to music and musicians made it easy for her to discuss their works and lifestyles.

As told by the writer, Wale Lawal, it was one such discussion on the Lijadu Sisters that led him to seek to know her.

Wale Lawal recalls the encounter: I

still remember the first time I read something about her. It was some couple of years ago. She was talking about the Lijadu Sisters, I think. I was awed by her knowledge, not just of the Lijadu sisters, but of the music of that era. The passion with which she spoke about the artists of the 70s and the 80s fascinated me. You could tell she had profound respect for these artists and what they represented in

our music/entertainment trajectory. Though she must've been quite young herself when the musicians she spoke so glowingly about were making waves, it was obvious she knew them pretty well. Every one of them. And she loved them to bits. And from the passion and affection with which she spoke about them, you could tell she wanted every one of us to love them too. Without a doubt, she succeeded.

I was intrigued by this seemingly shy but elegant-looking woman. It is not every day that you come across a lady in Naija today who is barely in her mid-forties (like she was then) and talking gleefully about artists of the 70s and 80s."

Sir Shina Peters affirms Lawal when he sent Bimbo a birthday message on the morning of January 25, this year.

He wrote: HBD to our dear sister a woman that all the people in the music industry respect and idol so much, our own Minister for entertainment in Nigeria May the LORD bless ur new age beyond your expectations.



Bimbo Esho

