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# Lagos' Weather Swing Raises Flu Rate

By Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State Government has always been proactive especially in the health sector. The responses of successive administrations to outbreak of diseases and pandemics have to a larger extent measured up to world standard.

From Governor Babatunde Fashola's performance in the outbreak of Ebola in 2014 to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's containment of COVID-19 pandemic, Lagos government has shown capacity in this sector.

As a matter of fact, Hollywood had to visit Nigeria to shoot 93 Days to immortalise the heroes of Ebola and document the role played by the government.

The state has always been conscious of any outbreak. However, there is a mild bug that is currently flying around in Lagos in the last few days, possibly a result of unstable weather in the state.

Echonews observes that more residents now visit public and private hospitals to check their state of health.

A random sampling of some hospitals shows a slight increase in the number of patients battling with Influenza. Our correspondent was at Folarin Coker Staff Clinic, Lagos State Secretariat where a few patients told him that they had not been feeling fine since the weather sharply changed a few weeks ago.

The weather is cooler. A nurse at the clinic told Echonews that more patients visited the clinic more for malaria treatment than they



Dr. Fahimot Faduyile, a practising Paediatrician and Managing Director, Daffodil Pediatrics & Family Medicine Forest Park, Georgia United States

did last week, adding that the condition might due to stress or exposure to mosquito bite.

She said, "I think we have about 10 daily since Monday and it wasn't like that before. We advise them to take their medicine."

The nurse who will not like her name to be mentioned told Echonews that some of the patients had running nose and felt feverish with cold.

A patient, who simply identified herself as Tolu and works in the Ministry of Justice said she had been battling with flu for three days. "I don't open my windows anymore. I need some heat," she said

At the Yaba College of Technology Health Centre, our correspondent gathered that at least three students visit the place within one hour interval instead of one

student in the last few days.

A student, Ayomide Olakunle said he was diagnosed with Malaria and was asked to go back home after the health centre had treated him. He also said that two of his friends developed cold and catarrh three days before and had since returned home.

Speaking to our correspondent on what may have led to increase rate of Flu at this period Dr. Fahimot Faduyile, a practising Paediatrician and Managing Director, Daffodil Pediatrics & Family Medicine Forest Park, Georgia United States

said that cold weather is highly associated with high incidence and prevalence of respiratory infection such as common cold and flu due to increased transmission of respiratory viruses.

According to her, the

influenza virus survives more in cooler temperature and be able to infect more people.

She says that cold temperature can lead to the decline in the immune response elicited by cell in the nasal cavity to virus, which explains why many people are more susceptible to upper respiratory infection in cooler temperature.

"In a cooler environment, people spend more time indoor and they are more likely to breathe the same air with someone with flu, thus contacting it.

A doctor at Yabatech Health Centre who spoke in anonymity said the health condition of some students could have resulted from mosquito bite at their hostels, as he advised parents to provide mosquito nets for their children.

Asked if flu could arise from the swing in Lagos

weather lately, the doctor was reluctant to attribute it to weather condition.

However a new research from a team of Florida State University scientists has shown that rapid weather variability as a result of climate change could increase the risk of a flu epidemic in some highly populated regions in the late 21st century.

The research was published in the journal of Environmental Research Letters by Zhaohua Wu, an associate professor in the Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science and scientist with the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies.

It looks at historical data to see how significant weather swings in the autumn months affect flu season in highly populated regions of

northern-mid latitudes of the world. They specifically looked at the United States, mainland China, Italy and France.

Using surface air temperatures from Jan. 1, 1997 to Feb. 28, 2018, researchers analyzed weather patterns and average temperatures over 7,729 days. Simultaneously, they conducted statistical analysis on influenza data sets from the four countries over the same time period.

Previous research suggested low temperatures and humidity in the winter create a favorable environment for transmitting the flu virus.

The Centers for Disease Control reported 186 children's deaths during the 2017-2018 season. The previous high was 171 during the 2012-2013 season.

# Lagos' Weather Swing Raises Flu Rate



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During the 2017-2018 flu season, scientists found that the extreme fluctuations in weather during the autumn months essentially kick-started the flu, building a patient population early in the season that snowballed in densely populated areas given the contagious nature of the virus.

"The historical flu data from different parts of the world showed that the spread of flu epidemic has been more closely tied to rapid weather variability, implying that the lapsed human immune system in winter caused by rapidly changing weather makes a person more susceptible to flu virus," Wu said. The issue going

forward, scientists noted, is that rapid weather variability is common in warming climates. Having a better understanding of those weather patterns may be key to determining the severity of any future flu season threat. If these climate models are correct, there is an anticipation of increased flu risk in highly populated areas under this scenario.

"The autumn rapid weather variability and its characteristic change in a warming climate may serve not only as a skillful predictor for spread of flu in the following season but also a good estimator of future flu risk," Wu said. "Including this factor in flu spread models may lead to significantly improved predictions of flu epidemic."

Wu said he and his team are continuing to pursue this line of research with the ultimate goal of creating a model that incorporates both traditional flu indicators on the health and medicine side with environmental factors such as weather patterns.

Going by this study, our correspondent censured Lagos temperature on Thursday and Friday using AccuWeather.com and gathered that the temperature had dropped from normal 34 to 29 degree centigrade.

According to the AccuWeather forecast, the air at 29 degree is generally acceptable for most individuals. However, sensitive groups may experience

minor to moderate symptoms from long-term exposure.

It says all raw air quality data and information as obtained from Plume Laboratory shows the air quality maps are as real-time as possible and are displayed as soon as practical upon transmission, including current index, forecast, daily and hourly air quality data.

Using standards and guidelines developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), among other scientific studies by Plume Laboratory, the air quality data and information is subject to change at any time. However in the last few weeks of precipitation and attendant coolness, AccuWeather posits

that at the current temperature of about 29 degree centigrade, there are concentration of fine particle matter in the air with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers that can enter the lungs and bloodstream, resulting in serious health issues.

It says that the most severe impacts are on the lungs and heart.

"Exposure can result in coughing or difficulty breathing, aggravated asthma, and the development of chronic respiratory disease.

According to the forecast, the 2.5 micrometers of particle can be deposited in airways, resulting in health issues. Exposure can result in eye and throat irritation, coughing or difficulty breathing, and aggravated asthma. More frequent

and excessive exposure can result in more serious health effects. AccuWeather noted that Lagos, being a highly congested and industrial produces high volume of Carbon Monoxide, which when inhaled at high levels can cause headache, nausea, dizziness, and vomiting. "Repeated long-term exposure can lead to heart disease", it said.

Reacting to this, the Lagos State Ministry of Health said that it had no records of increasing rate of Flu and that Yabatech management never alerted the state of any health issue.

The Director of Public Affairs unit of the ministry, Mr. Tunbosun Ogunbanwo said that he would let Echonews know in case there is any report on Influenza.



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# Lagos Universal Basic Education Board Monitors 2023 Placement

To ensure hitch-free conduct of the year 2023 Placement Test by Continuous Assessment Scores (CAS) at designated Schools' Centres, officials of the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), monitored the annual transition Examination for Primary Six Pupils of Public and Private Schools across the State.

The Board Secretary of LASUBEB, Mr. Hakeem Lamidi, who led the monitoring team, expressed satisfaction with the conduct of the exercise, stating that the examination is being held simultaneously in 405 centres across the State.

During the monitoring of some centres in Surulere LGA, he noted that the State is committed to ensuring that no child is left behind in accessing quality basic education, adding that every child in the transition class in Primary Schools is eligible to write the examination irrespective of their background and status. He averred that questions are transmitted into Braille versions for applicants with visual impairment while support is provided to other physically challenged pupils, so as to cater to as many learners as possible.

Lamidi also commended the State Examination Board for the strategy applied in ensuring a seamless exercise, adding that the environment was

made conducive for pupils to concentrate on their test.

The centres monitored include: Immaculate Heart Comprehensive Junior High School, Kosofe, New Era Junior and Senior Secondary School, Surulere, Pacelli School for the Blind and Partially Sighted Children, Lagos Progressive Junior Secondary School and Alapere Comprehensive Junior and Senior High School. Other Board members and Officers of the Board equally monitored the exercise across all 20 LGAs.



Lagos school pupils during examination

Two men, Babatunde Olatunji, 37; and Tunde Afolabi, 41 have been remanded in police custody for stealing from an accident casualty along Lagos-Badagry expressway.

The two men will remain in police cell pending their payment of N200,000 bail each, Magistrate T. A. Popoola has said.

The men were arraigned in a Magistrates' Court in Badagry, Lagos State for allegedly stealing N34,350 from dead victims of an accident along Lagos-Badagry expressway.

The police charged Babatunde Olatunji, 37; and Tunde Afolabi, 41, whose residential addresses were not provided with conspiracy and theft.

They pleaded not guilty. The Prosecution Counsel, Insp Ayodele Adeosun, told the court that the defendants committed the offence on July 9, at about 11 a.m., at the Muhammadu Buhari

## For Stealing From The Dead Body, Court Remands Two Men

Bus Stop, on the Lagos-Badagry expressway, Age-Mowo, Lagos.

Adeosun said the defendants stole N34,350 from victims of an accident that claimed the life of 18 passengers on the

Lagos-Badagry expressway.

The police said that the defendants were apprehended by the people at the scene of the accident and handed over to the police for prosecution.

The offence, he said, contravened the provisions of sections 411 and 287 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015.

Magistrate T. A. Popoola admitted the defendants to bail in the

sum of N200,000 each with two sureties in like sum.

Popoola ordered that the sureties must be gainfully employed.

He adjourned the case until Aug. 21, for mention.



# Don't Expose Your Children To Sexual Abuse, LASPPPA Tells Construction Site Workers

By Kunle Awosiyun

The General Manager, Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike has advised construction site workers to prioritise the living condition of their children and desist from exposing them to risk around construction sites. Osinaike gave the advice during an enforcement exercise with some of the Authority Supervising Directors and Officials of the Monitoring and Compliance Unit, and the District offices at Eti-Osa, Lekki and environs. The General Manager frowned at construction site workers who live with their children on sites, saying that such children are often at

risk of sexual abuse; increased risk of social exclusion; deprived access to healthcare and education. He urged all labourers who live close to construction sites, to ensure adequate protection of their wards from all forms of exploitation that can harm children's welfare. While maintaining that children are entitled to special protection and assistance because of their vulnerability, Tpl. Osinaike opined that construction site workers should put the children in the care of family members who live in a better environment instead of taking them along to different sites whenever they move from one place of work to another.

The Director of



Child labour at construction site

Monitoring and Compliance Unit, Tpl. Iyiola Olarinde said all children have the right to a better

standard of living that will assist in their physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

He said every child and communities, deserves a childhood free from violence and in all its fullness, surrounded by protective families to thrive as other children.

The First Lady of Lagos State, Dr. (Mrs.) Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu has called on residents, especially those working at motor parks to desist from patronizing local herb sellers. She gave the advice as she challenged her personal aides, security personnel, civil servants and other staff attached to her office to be ambassadors on "Misuse or Illicit Use of Drugs" by educating members of society on the dangers inherent in drug-related abuses. The wife of the Governor gave the charge during an in-house training organised by the Office of the First Lady held at Lagos Banquet Hall, Alausa, Ikeja, with the theme: "Misuse or Illicit Use of Drugs Among the People". Speaking on how to curb

## Untimely Death: Sanwo-Olu's Wife Tells Lagos Residents To Stop Patronising Local Herb Sellers

untimely death resulting from illicit and misuse of drugs, the First Lady urged Lagosians to desist from patronising unregistered drug sellers, especially hawkers of traditional medicine at motor parks, saying that the danger of patronising unregulated or unregistered drug sellers could be deadly. She, however, advised traditional medicine practitioners to invest in the packaging of their local and indigenous medicine by obtaining necessary approvals from the government such that their traditional medicine can be exported to other countries. Mrs. Sanwo-Olu stated that it is essential for the staff of the office to

propagate the message of adhering to Doctors' prescriptions and the importance of always seeking medical advice within their sphere of influence to reduce the incidences of abuse and misuse of drugs among the populace. She said: "The Office of the First Lady always plays a lead role in the campaign against several social and societal ills, including campaigns against drug abuse and its misuse. In order to internalise this message, the Office considered it necessary to train its workforce to further educate and enlighten the citizens. Mrs. Grace Olanegan, one of the Facilitators at the training, while delivering a



A street herb seller

lecture on the topic: "Misuse or Illicit Use of Drugs among People", disclosed that more than seven million people suffer from illicit drug abuse in Nigeria, adding that one out of four death cases can be attributed to alcohol, tobacco and illicit prescription of drug usage.

In her words, "According to the WHO, more than 50% of all medicines worldwide are prescribed, dispensed, or sold inappropriately and 50% of patients fail to take them correctly". She noted that some of these drugs when misused can affect the brain,

causing several illnesses including organ damage, stressing that drug abuse is rapidly becoming a global pandemic and national problem that needs to be urgently addressed by collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, as it kills and destroys an individual's life.

# ENDSARS Ruins: Lagos Govt Lauds Access Bank For Rebuilding VIS Office

The Lagos State Government has applauded Access Bank Plc for rebuilding the Vehicle Inspection Service Office burnt by hoodlums during the #EndSARS protest in 2020.

Speaking at the commissioning of the facility at the Headquarters of the Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) at Ojodu, Berger, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Engr. Abdulhafiz Toriola said the commitment and dedication exhibited by Access Bank Plc towards the reconstruction of the VIS Annex Office complex as part of its Employee Volunteering Scheme exemplifies the essence of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He said the partnership has not only brought about the restoration of

a crucial Government asset but has also rekindled hope in the hearts of Lagosians, adding that Access Bank's partnership with the State Government is a shining example of how the Government and corporate entities can synergize to holistically address societal challenges and make a positive impact in the society.

The Permanent Secretary further stressed that the facility will further enhance the productivity and efficiency of VIS, assuring that the State Government will put it to judicious use by taking full ownership and providing the necessary maintenance and protection it deserves. He commended the VIS Officers for their resilience all through the rebuilding process and further seek more collaboration from other

corporate organisations, noting that the State Government is committed and open to a strategic partnership that will reshape the State.

Earlier on, the Director, Vehicle Inspection Service in Lagos State, Engr. Akin-George Fashola appreciated the Bank for its benevolence and unwavering support towards the rebuilding of the edifice.

"As we recall the events that transpired during the #EndSARS protest in the Year 2020, it is evident that our resolve was put to the test. The unfortunate incident that resulted in the destruction of our office premises by hoodlums left us grappling with the loss. However, today, we stand tall as a testament to the indomitable spirit of unity and support that defines our dear State". "In the wake of the devastation, Access

Bank stepped forward as a shining example for emulation by other corporate organisations, exemplifying their dedication to community development and nation-building", he added.

Handing over the project to the State Government, the Executive Director of Access Bank, Mrs. Iyabo Soji-Okusanya stated that the main objective of the bank is to always give back to the society through community service. She said the reconstruction of the facility commenced in the year 2020 shortly after it was razed by hoodlums.

Okusanya thanked the VIS Directorate for the seamless support the Bank received during the rebuilding process while assuring of more similar collaborations in future.

## LASCON Fulfills One of Prerequisites To Run HND Programme



Student nurses

The inauguration of a governing council to oversee the activities of the Lagos State College of Nursing (LASCON) by the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has raised the chances of the college to run Higher National Diploma.

The National Board of Technical Education has denied the institution the power to run nursing education at HND level until it satisfies all the condition, including the formation of a governing council.

Commending the government for inaugurating the council, the Provost of LASCON, Mrs. Oyefunso Orenuga expressed gratitude to the State Governor recalled that the constitution of the Governing Council members for the College is one of the prerequisites for the accreditation to run the Higher National Diploma (HND) and the Public Health Nursing (PHN) programmes in the College.

Orenuga who spoke at the first meeting of the council thanked the Chairman of the council Prof. Olaide Bamidele Edet, and other members for taking up the huge responsibility of taking the College to a greater height, promised that the Council will always get the maximum cooperation from the workforce.

The recently appointed

seven-member Governing Council by the Lagos State Governor has Prof. Olaide Bamidele Edet, who is the Deputy Dean, Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences at the University of Calabar and also a product of the Lagos School of Nursing, Awolowo Road.

At the meeting, Edet sought the cooperation of all members of staff to work with the council as a team during their tenure to achieve the goals and objectives set for the College, just as she thanked them for their dedication and commitment.

Dr. Bola Ofi, the Head of the Nursing Programme at Lagos State University College of Medicine, who is also a member of the Governing Council, applauded the Provost for the continuous upgrade and maintenance of the College infrastructure since its relocation from Awolowo Road, Ikoyi to the Igando Campus.

The seven members of the Governing Council are Prof. Olaide Bamidele Edet (Chairman); Dr. Bola Ofi, Member; Mrs. Dorcas Shonibare, Member; Dr. Funmi Shokunbi (Rep. MoH) Member; Mrs. Oluwakemi Salau (Rep. OSAE) Member; Comrade Olurotimi Awojide (Rep. NNAMN) Member and Mrs. Oyefunso Orenuga (Provost, LASCON).



A refurbished and computerized VIO office, Ojodu



# Infant Mortality Rate: Data Shows Lagos Has 39 Per Cent Per 1000 Live Births

Available data has indicated that Lagos has an infant mortality rate of 39 per cent per 1,000 live births monthly, with preterm complications significantly accounting for the high mortality.

The wife of the state governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu said this at the presentation to first set of beneficiaries of her Multi-Birth Assistance Programme (JMAP).

During the week, the state first lady through an NGO, Jumejilo Multi-Birth Assistance Programme (JMAP initiated a support package that will aid successful deliveries, provide assistance for multi-birth families and expand access to quality healthcare for low-income families.

While presenting the cheque and gifts to the first set of beneficiaries of the JMAP Programme, the Governor's wife described the initiative as a dream come true that was conceived in 2021.

The NGO, JMAP, a brainchild of the First Lady was conceived to complement the output of other existing initiatives and support systems in the Lagos State health sector for parents of High Order Multiple (HOM) pregnancies, adding that JMAP Programme will alleviate medical complications, mortalities and disorders associated with multiple births, including premature delivery, preeclampsia and irregular foetal growth, among others.

She said: "The JMAP intervention was initiated in 2021 by my Office against the background of the rising rate of multiple births in the State and the neonatal mortality associated with High Order Multiple (HOM) pregnancies among low-

income families.

"Available data indicates that Lagos has an infant mortality rate of 39 per cent per 1,000 live births monthly, with preterm complications significantly accounting for the high mortality."

While referencing a quote by Owen Arthur, a former Prime Minister of Barbadian "For he who has health has hope; and he who has hope, has everything", the First Lady noted that the quote vividly captures the essence of her intervention through the NGO which seeks to extend hope to families that truly need help.

The First Lady revealed that the support for multiple-birth parents and infants will come in form of socio-economic support, constant enlightenment, empowerment, social inclusion and a welfare support system.

Speaking on the modalities for the Jumejilo

Multi-Birth Assistance Programme, the wife of the Governor stated that the beneficiaries will also enjoy postnatal care that will run for a 12-month cycle during which the multi-birth households will undergo social empowerment, health education and economic sustainability programmes, in addition to follow-up social and welfare engagements as the babies develop.

In her words: "Potential JMAP beneficiaries must be below 60 years, while their socio-economic status (in respect of annual income) must not be more than N250,000 per household. Prospective beneficiaries must also have Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) Cards as proof of residential status with utility bills of at least 12 months; they must be an expectant or current multiple-birth mother with triplets or

more that are between ages 0 and 5 years."

She clarified that the JMAP Programme has not been set up as a conventional NGO giving monetary assistance to the public, explaining that the financial support to be made available to the beneficiaries will only be provided specifically as sustenance for multi-birth parents in line with the objective of the Programme.

The Governor's wife also used the event to invite like-minds, public-spirited individuals and corporate organizations to support her vision of giving hope to families that need help, assuring that initiative will be sustained as a platform to make a positive difference in our society.

In her remark, the Wife of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat revealed that the life impacting initiative has brought to light the motherly instinct of the First Lady, Dr. Mrs.

Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu in ensuring that numerous challenges associated with multiple births are mitigated through this applauding Jumejilo initiative.

"Given the extensive evidence that twins and other multiple births worldwide are associated with a substantial higher risk of maternal and perinatal mortality and morbidity, this initiative will further strengthen the window of opportunities and would be of immense assistance to multiple birth parents", she emphasized.

While congratulating all awardees, beneficiaries and stakeholders of the noble programme, the Deputy Governor's wife, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat enjoined members of the press to give this launch the widest publicity expected.

One of the excited recipients, Mr. Tunde Ilufoye, a father of triplets

said he was overwhelmed with the huge support received from the NGO powered by the First Lady and promised to spread the good news and the government's intervention in supporting parents with multiple births.

As part of the launch and award presentation segment of the programme, two multiple birth mothers – one with quadruplets and another with triplets – went home with JMAP Babies Awards which among other gift items, including cash and assorted baby items.

The event had in attendance the Secretary to the State Government, Barr. Abimbola Salu-Hudeyin, Body of Permanent Secretaries, Top Government Functionaries, Non-Governmental Organisations, Civil Service Organisations, Corporate Bodies, beneficiaries of the initiative among others.



New born baby

# Lagos Govt Intensifies Efforts on Building Badagry Sea Port

Lagos State Government has reiterated its commitment to building a new sea port in Badagry as parts of its efforts to decongest Apapa port and also to increase the Internally Generated Revenue of the state. The State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu said this when the Acting Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi paid him a courtesy visit at the Lagos House, Marina. He said that the government had plan to construct Badagry Port as an additional port to the existing Apapa, Tincan Island, and Lekki ports, Governor and that whole idea is to build strategic infrastructure for the citizens.

He said, "Lekki is on the Eastern part and Badagry on the Western part so that we can decongest Apapa and Tincan which we have stretched beyond their capacities. We need to think forward and I am happy that investors are putting the funding together and all the approvals are being sorted so that in two years, we might also have a brand new port. These are some of the things that will ensure that things can move in and out and we can begin to compete with some of the nice ports we see around the world so that we can improve the revenue earning of government and be able to do any other things." Meanwhile the governor said the Lagos State Government would continue to partner with the Nigeria Customs Service to ensure turnaround for the ports in the State to be globally competitive and make Lagos a top destination for West African countries. The Governor also restated his government's

commitment to construct a new port in the Badagry axis of the State to decongest Apapa and Tincan Island ports and bring in more investors into the State, noting that the State Government is already in touch with a contractor for the construction of the Badagry Port. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday when the Acting Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi paid him a courtesy visit at the Lagos House, Marina.

He said: "I want to assure you that Lagos and Lagosians will continue to give you hospitality; a place of comfort and a willing environment where business can thrive, where officers can do their work without fear or favour, and where service can be rendered to our citizens, your customers, and the international community at large. "We will continue to work together. And because of where we are as a country and the need to increase our export, foreign currency and ensure that we are not

a mono-product country that relies only on oil, we will encourage our manufacturers to export so that they can drive more foreign direct investment and foreign currency that can help to improve our currency." Speaking earlier, the Acting Comptroller-General, of Nigeria Customs Service, Mr. Adewale Adeniyi, who lauded the giant strides of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration, said Lagos as the economic nerve center of Nigeria, generates 70 to 75 percent of Custom revenue in the country.

He pledged to work assiduously to ensure smuggling becomes a thing of the past in Nigeria to boost Made in Nigeria products and improve the economy of the country. "Lagos is very strategic to our operations. It is the heartbeat of Customs operations. For us to be able to excel at our full potential, we need a peaceful working environment. I want to assure Governor that as responsible officers and agencies of government, we will live up to our civic responsibilities and more

importantly, we will operate within the framework of the law. "We will be law abiding in our operations. We have followed your (Governor Sanwo-Olu) serious attempt to make Lagos a SMART City and a good working place for all Lagosians, some of us inclusive. We followed the progress you have made. The least we can do as a responsible agency of government is to complement your efforts in terms of sustainable development," he said.

## Alaba Demolition: Lagos Technical Committee Seeks Support, Understanding of Traders

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Distressed building at Alaba Market marked for demolition

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# Circular Economy: Netherlands Set To Provide Needed Knowledge and Capacity For Lagos

The government of Netherlands has promised to provide the knowledge and capacity needed to build the circular economic model for Lagos State Government to kick start the new project.

The Consular General of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Mr. Michael Deelen said this at the unveiling of the initiative at a conference organised by the State Government in collaboration with Circular Economy Innovation Partnership (CEIP) and African Circular Economy Network.

Deelen congratulated Lagos for being the first sub-national to embark on a circular economic project, noting that it was time for Nigeria to have a change of perspective and expectations.

Deelen, represented by Deputy Consular General, Ms. Leone Van der Stijl, observed that the climate change had been projected to become more severe and would hit a point where the planet's ecosystem would no longer replenish the resources being used up. The envoy said: "With 70 percent of Nigeria's population under the age of 30, the possibility of climate change tainting their future is exponentially higher. This simply means there will be more people living with more scarcity in the future from the scarcity we are creating today.

"It makes sense to replace the current linear model of grab, use and dump to a circular model of feeding recycled materials back into the system. The Netherlands is willing to provide the knowledge and capacity needed to build the circular economic model," he said.

Speaking at the event, the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu said

that his government is shifting to an innovative and sustainable consumption model aimed at saving the future generations of resource scarcity. The launch of Circular Economy Hotspot in Lagos on Wednesday pioneered the transformation of the current production order towards regeneration and sustainability.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu who formally unveiled the initiative said that circular economy is aimed at engendering a new pattern of production and consumption involving producing, repairing and recycling of used materials. Circular economy is based on regeneration of products for continuing production in a sustainable and environmentally-friendly manner.

(Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, deputy, Obafemi Hamzat and other dignitaries at the unveiling of circular economy)

Sanwo-Olu said the idea was critical to the future of Nigeria, noting that circular economy would proffer a programmatic approach to addressing global economic crises occasioned by pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Lagos, the Governor said, made the move in championing the initiative to create new wealth for the youths in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), while also generating more jobs, as additional innovative production ideas and extra manpower would be required to keep the regenerated materials in the loop for a long time.

The Governor said: "The Circular Economy Hotspot 2023 is of utmost importance, not only for Lagos and Nigeria, but for the entire sub-Saharan Africa. This speaks to my administration's core principle of encouraging



Governor Sanwo-olu (left) with Netherlands Deputy Consular General, Ms. Leone Van der Stijl (far right)

citizens engagements and partnerships in our bid to sustain a resilient socio-economic development for Lagos. Developing countries like ours, which have contributed the least to global warming, are facing the worst impacts of climate change. We are also at a disadvantage in accessing resources and strategies needed to fight climate change and adapt to its impact.

"To save the future generations of resource scarcity, efforts must be committed to ensuring that resources are reused again in order to minimise waste. Our linear approach to delivering public goods and services is being re-evaluated and the principles of Circular Economy shall be adopted fully. In a city like Lagos, we believe that this initiative will create more jobs, because additional innovative production ideas will be needed and extra manpower required to keep materials in the loop for a long time."

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the State's journey to circular economy began three years ago when Lagos brought stakeholders together on a roundtable to discuss options towards a resourceful and waste-free economy. He said a

technical working group on "Circular Lagos" was set up in 2021 to coordinate and facilitate the development of the initiative, while supporting and monitoring project implementation.

The Governor said the State followed up the effort with the establishment of an interactive, web-based citizens' engagement dashboard designed to measure implementation. Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration's commitment to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth through the encouragement of sustainable consumption and production patterns. He said: "This event is coming at no better time, especially as the nation continues the process to free up its limited resources and optimally channel it towards addressing the different socio-economic needs of the citizens. The commercial activities that abound in Lagos, along with its major link to international businesses, has made the State a beacon of prosperity, attracting a constant influx of people which translates to a growth in population.

"The attendant pressure

on our limited resources therefore requires a deliberate shift from materialisation to dematerialisation. We believe that it is by these indices and more that Lagos will be adjudged for compliance with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8, 9 and 12 on promotion of inclusive growth and building a resilient infrastructure." CEIP co-chairman, Mr. Bolaji Akinboro, said the concept of circular economy would allow the State to construct a new cycle of material use and save the future generations from scarcity. By the development, Akinboro said Lagos had set the pace for a new model of economy which would set new trends and standards in sustainability.

"Adoption of a circular economy will lay the foundation for big businesses operating in Lagos to key into the new economic trend," he said. Consular General of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Mr. Michael Deelen, congratulated Lagos for being the first sub-national to embark on a circular economic project, noting that it was time for Nigeria to have a change of perspective and expectations.

Deelen, represented by Deputy Consular General, Ms. Leone Van der Stijl, observed that the climate change had been projected to become more severe and would hit a point where the planet's ecosystem would no longer replenish the resources being used up.

The envoy said: "With 70 percent of Nigeria's population under the age of 30, the possibility of climate change tainting their future is exponentially higher. This simply means there will be more people living with more scarcity in the future from the scarcity we are creating today.

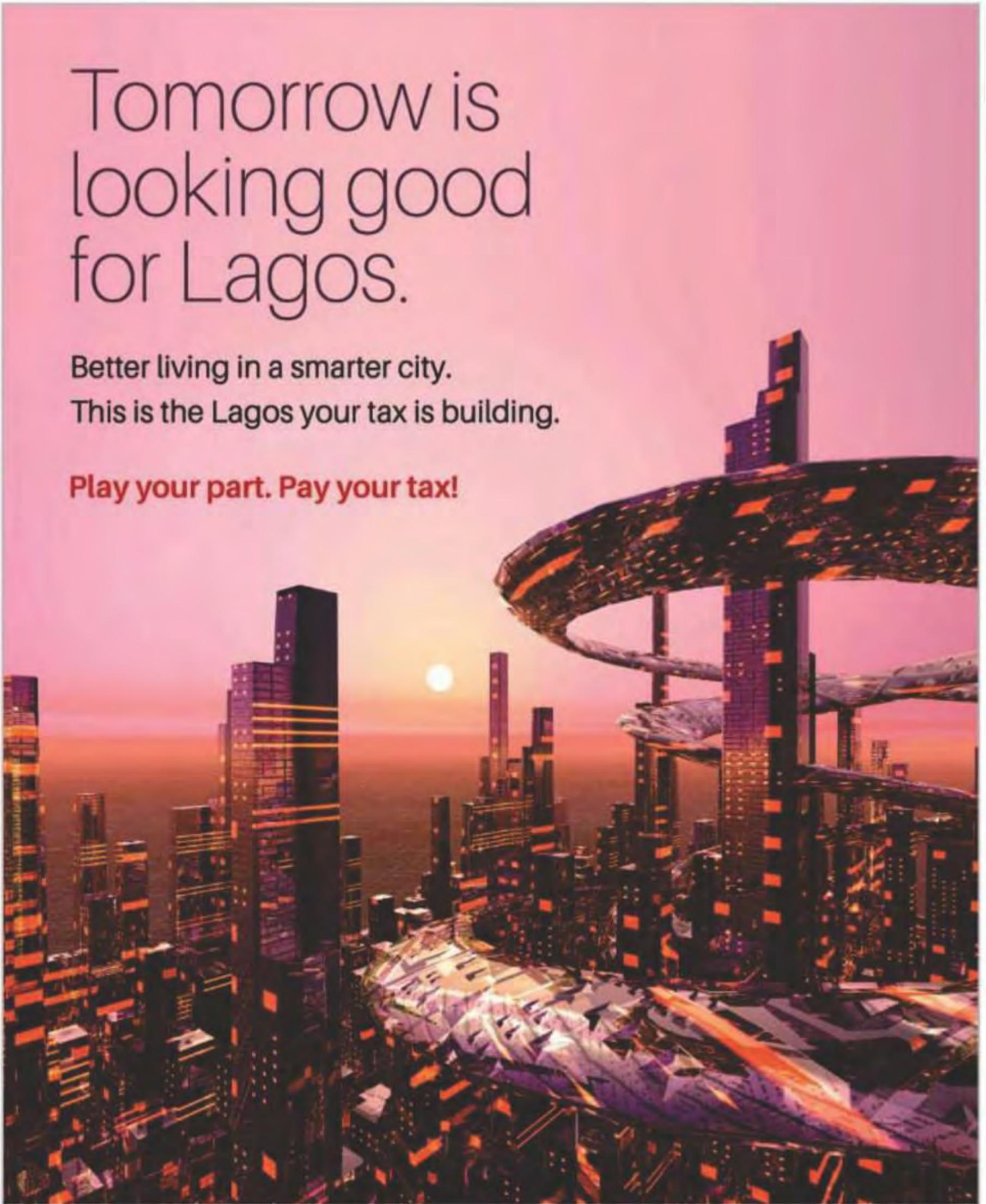
"It makes sense to replace the current linear model of grab, use and dump to a circular model of feeding recycled materials back into the system. The Netherlands is willing to provide the knowledge and capacity needed to build the circular economic model."

At the event, Lagos State Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Netherlands Circular Hotspot on technical cooperation and knowledge exchange towards accelerating the implementation of policies that will promote circular economy.

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## HEROES & HEROINES OF LAGOS

# Christopher Sapara Williams

Chief Christopher Alexander Sapara Williams CMG (14 July 1855 – 15 March 1915) was the first indigenous Nigerian lawyer, called to the English bar on 17 November 1879. In addition to his legal practice, he came to play an influential role in the politics of Nigeria during the colonial era. He held the chieftaincy title of the *Lodifi* of Ilesha. Williams was born on 14 July 1855. He was of Ilesha origin, but was born in Sierra Leone. He studied the Law in London at the Inner Temple, and was called to the English bar on 17 November 1879. Returning from the United Kingdom, he began practising law in Lagos Colony on 13 January 1888. He had an unmatched reputation as an advocate, and had intimate knowledge of unwritten customary law. He enrolled in the Nigerian Bar Association on 30 January 1888, and was Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association from 1900 to 1915. Although Williams was the first indigenous Nigerian to formally qualify as a lawyer, he was not the only one to practice the law. Due to the shortage of qualified lawyers, until 1913 it was common for non-lawyers with basic education and some knowledge of English law to be appointed to practice as attorneys. Political career Williams was nominated to the Legislative Council, serving as a member from October 1901 until his death in 1915. In 1903, there was a crisis over the payment of the tolls that were collected from traders by native rulers, although Europeans were

exempted. The alternative was to replace the tolls by a subsidy. Governor William MacGregor requested views from Williams, Charles Joseph George and Obadiah Johnson as indigenous opinion leaders. All were in favour of retaining the tolls to avoid upsetting the rulers. In 1903, Governor MacGregor nominated Williams for a knighthood, but his recommendation was turned down. In 1904 Williams moved that "the present boundary between the Colony and Protectorate of Southern Nigeria and the Protectorate of Northern Nigeria be re-adjusted by bringing the southern portion into Southern Nigeria, so that the entire tribes of the Yoruba-speaking people should be under one and the same administration". Sir Frederick Lugard had opposed this proposal on the grounds of administrative convenience, and the eventual decision largely followed his beliefs. The principle applied was to group people who were at roughly the same political and social level into one province rather than to try to align the provinces with ethnic boundaries. [In 1905, Williams visited England. While there, he made several suggestions to the Colonial Office for changes to imperial policy. These included establishing a teachers training college in Lagos, and having more continuity of policy by the governors of the colony. [Sapara Williams challenged the Seditious Offences Ordinances of 1909, which suppressed press criticism of the government. He pointed out that "freedom of the Press is the great Palladium of



British liberty ... Sedition is a thing incompatible with the character of the Yoruba people, and has no place in their constitution ... Hyper-sensitive officials may come tomorrow who will see sedition in every criticism and crime in every mass meeting". Despite his plea, the bill became law. Williams encouraged Herbert Macauley to convene an inaugural meeting of the Lagos Auxiliary of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society on 30 August 1910, which gave

Macauley a platform for producing popular opposition to colonial practices. When Northern and Southern Nigeria were united in 1914, the new legislative council was headed by the Governor, and consisted of seven British officials, two British non-officials and two Nigerians, one of whom was Williams. He died on 15 March 1915. Beliefs Williams' views on development of the colony included close association with European ideas and institutions, and

he was against thoughtless and nonconstructive criticism of the administration. However, although Williams in many ways accepted European concepts and values, in October 1896 he sponsored an Egungun dance, a traditional ceremony. Moves such as this by one of the leaders of the Ekitis in Lagos were welcomed by the traditional rulers of the Yoruba. Williams once said: "A lawyer lives for the direction of his people and the advancement of the cause of his country". [

# Crown Charity Trust plans to raise N72m for school construction, renovation

...As Founder, Adebayo, Wife Bag Chieftaincy Titles

Rasaq Adebayo



The Founder/CEO, Crown Charity Trust (CCT), Sefiu Adebayo Mufutau

A non-governmental organization (NGO), Crown Charity Trust (CCT) has disclosed the plan to spend a total of N72 million to construct, renovate and equip three public schools in Iwo LGA, Oluwa LGA, and Ayedire LGA in Osun State.

He stated that some

schools in Lagos State have also been targeted for renovation by the NGO.

In a statement signed by CCT Secretary General, Babatunde Azeez, the founder and CEO of the organisation, Sefiu Adebayo Mufutau

(Crown), said the project "Operation Help A Nigerian Pupil with a Better Learning Environment" is phase one of the many projects lined up for execution by the NGO, saying it would be extended to other parts of the country.

Adebayo, a Nigerian-born UK-based entrepreneur, who has been selected to be conferred with a chieftaincy title of Bobakeye of Egberun land, Ile-Ife Osun State by His Royal Majesty, Oba Adedokun Okero Ademiluyi (Akinmoyero 1), the Okero of Egberun land, said the NGO will launch a fundraising for the execution of the project. Crown Charity Trust is an NGO duly registered with CAC in Nigeria and

this platform has been reaching out to the less privileged Nigerians in cash and kind. Currently, we have two undergraduates in the university who are beneficiaries of our 'CCT Students Scholarship'. The organisation has produced a graduate who is currently working in the labour market.

The NGO has been supporting education, entrepreneurship, aging people, and the indigent in Nigeria for almost a decade. We have been paying for WAEC examinations for a number of students who required help under the group Iwo Descendants Coalition (IDC). The largesse is not limited to Iwo indigenous youths, it is extended

to others across the country.

Now we are planning to raise a sum of N72 million to construct and renovate and provide chairs, tables & some learning materials to some schools in Osun State this year while we are also giving a full 5-year scholarship to another beneficiary who is studying Nursing in the university.

The fundraising and the scholarship will be announced on the coronation day coming up on 26th August 2023 at Cristal Heritage Hall, Paraking Ile-Ife, Osun State. We will also use the coronation event to raise funds for the project "Operation Help A Nigerian Pupil with a Better Learning Environment".

Having noticed his effort towards

supporting the needy in Nigeria through his NGO, the monarch, HRM, Oba Adedokun Evans Okero Ademiluyi (Akinmoyero 1) Okero of Egberun land, has confirmed the plan to confer chieftaincy titles of Bobakeye and Yeye Bobakeye of Egberun land, Ile-Ife on Sefiu Adebayo Mufutau and his wife, Mrs. Adetoun Mufutau.

The coronation is scheduled to hold on 26th August 2023 at Cristal Heritage Hall, Paraking Ile-Ife, Osun State.

Dignitaries expected at the event include His Imperial Majesty, Oba (Dr.) Abdurashied Adewale Akanbi (Ilufemiloye 1), Oluwo of Iwo land, m; Senator (Dr.) Akogun Lere Oyewumi (SFRN), Hon. Mudasiru Lukmon Kayode, and a host of others.

## Ojelabi Lauds Bamidele Over Infrastructural Development

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC) party chairman, Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi has commended the chairman of Surulere LG, Hon Yusuf Bamidele for his infrastructural development in the local government. Bamidele has recently celebrated his second year in office with the opening of some projects which include roads and a mini stadium.

Speaking, Pastor Ojelabi said he was impressed with the projects he has seen so far which included a mini stadium, the total revamp, and the upgrade of the Surulere

LG to a world-class edifice.

"I'm impressed with the number of projects have seen in Surulere LG today and it shows that the chairman is ready to move the party forward and impact positively the community.

"Building a mini stadium with indoor sports hall is a laudable project in the community and this will further spur all other council chairmen in Lagos State to deliver on their mandate to the people."

The APC state party chairman however pleaded with the people of Surulere LG

to come out en masse and vote for the party's candidate at the by-election for the vacant House of Representatives seat.

"I want to urge the people of Surulere to be compassionate to their local government chairman and vote for the candidate of the APC at the by-election coming up for the vacant House of Representatives seat. This is the time to show appreciation to Chief of Staff to Nigeria President, Femi Gbajabamila that you appreciate what he has done to Surulere by voting for the APC massively during the forthcoming by-election."

## Bamidele Renews Promise On Empowerment Programmes

By Saheed Afolabi



The Chairman of Surulere LG, Hon. Yusuf Bamidele has renewed his promise of empowerment for the youths and women in the council area, emphasising that his administration will continue to empower the residents. He said this during the celebration of his two years in office as he listed the projects he has been able to execute in the last two years. He disclosed that his administration had to improve the local

government IGR when he assumed office by doubling it to meet up with other pressing issues before the local government.

"When we came in on board, we increased the Internally Generated Revenue from N100 million naira to about N350 million naira annually so that we could meet some of our obligations and we had to provide some incentives to the revenue staff by

offering them five percent of what they can get every month to motivate them," he said.

He added: "We renovated the Surulere LG because since it has been constructed years ago, it has never been upgraded or renovated and we took it upon ourselves to renovate the local government to World class standard that we will be proud of."

"We distributed deep freezers, sewing machines, industrial machines, grinding machines and so many other things which includes cash beneficiaries to the people of Surulere LG so that they can be independent and can feed their families."

"We will ensure the empowerment program will be a monthly event so that plenty of people can benefit from it."

He stated that the beneficiaries applied for the category of empowerment programme that suited them online and they were chosen randomly.

# LASG Sensitises Local Govt Staff On Information Management

By Edith Igbokwe



Local Government Service Commission in Mosan-Okunola

The Permanent Secretary, Establishment and Training of Local Government Service Commission, Mrs. Bibilomo Olushekun has urged the staff

members of Mosan-Okunola LCDA to learn how to manage information and report timely when posted to new LGs/LCDAs. She made the appeal during a visit to the

local council last week. Olushekun also urged the council to organise in-house Junior Staff Training for effective delivery.

She appealed to staff to ensure they undergo the training assigned to them.

The Lagos State Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) Chairman, Hon. Kamal Bayewu stated that the Commission's statutory function is to ensure that workers' welfare is not compromised.

He commended the council authority over the newly built administrative building of the LCDA, stating that it will provide a conducive working environment when commissioned and also yield positive performance by the

staff.

On behalf of the LCDA chairman, Princess Olabisi Adebajo, the Vice Chairman, Hon. Dayo Osinowo

appealed for improved Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) from the department to encourage the chairman on more welfare packages.

The Council Manager, Mrs. Fola Hamzat appreciated the Commission's visit while assuring the sustainability of staff's welfare packages.

## Egbe-Idimu LCDA Chairman Promises More Developmental Projects

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman, Egbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kunle Sanyaolu (KSO) has promised to do more developmental projects for residents as he celebrated two years in office.

He promised that his administration will build and rehabilitate more roads and ignite entertainment potential in the coming years.

He said he would pay maximum attention to the yearnings of the people, especially the issues of the elderly one, the widows, the youths, and the people living with disabilities. He assured them of propagating human rights protection and sustainable development in the council area.

He also pledged to pursue an increase in community cohesion and civic identity

through participation in social, political, and cultural activities, to provide adequate safety and effective security of lives and properties.

The council boss appreciated the entire community saying: "You committed yourselves and the future of this great LCDA into my hands and the huge responsibility of serving you and I want to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve and the clear support, encouragement you have shown me and my team in the last two years.

"I remain totally committed to serving you as we join hands together to achieve our mission for our LCDA. "I have also been driven by the promises I made during my inauguration, where I promised to run a government of all-inclusive.

"I call on both young and old, once again, to join me in that dream and vision where hard work and diligence will

lead to great rewards for all."

The chairman listed the achievements of his administration in the last 730 days including fixing about 20 roads across all the five wards in the LCDA, empowerment/skills acquisition programmes, adequate staff welfare, and total beautification of all the offices to make the work more comfortable for staff.

Others, according to him, are regular peace and security meetings, smooth relationships between the government and Community Development Associations (CDAs), and the Community Development Committee (CDC) annual fiesta for children with numerous gift items.

He noted that his administration also provided prompt medical attention and a series of medical outreach among others.

## Beneficiaries Hail Foundation Over Free Medical Service

By Edith Igbokwe

The residents of Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have given kudos to Taiwo Adebisi Foundation for the free medical outreach programme.

The Foundation, last week, organised a medical outreach for the indigent resident of the council area during which children with various ailments were tested and treated.

According to the organiser, the gesture was to help the parents who could not afford the medical bill in the hospital to have access to medical checkups

and medication for their children.

At the programme held at Kilometre 5, LASU-Iba Expressway, Igando, the beneficiaries were properly screened and tested for blood pressure, sugar level, malaria, drugs, and deworming.

The Lagos State Ministry of Health also did free TB screening for the beneficiaries during the outreach.

Other services include free medical and mental consultation, while malaria drugs were given to the children who were in

need.

Commending the Foundation over the gesture, parents of the beneficiary children said the feature has helped them by giving them the opportunity to treat their children with malaria symptoms.

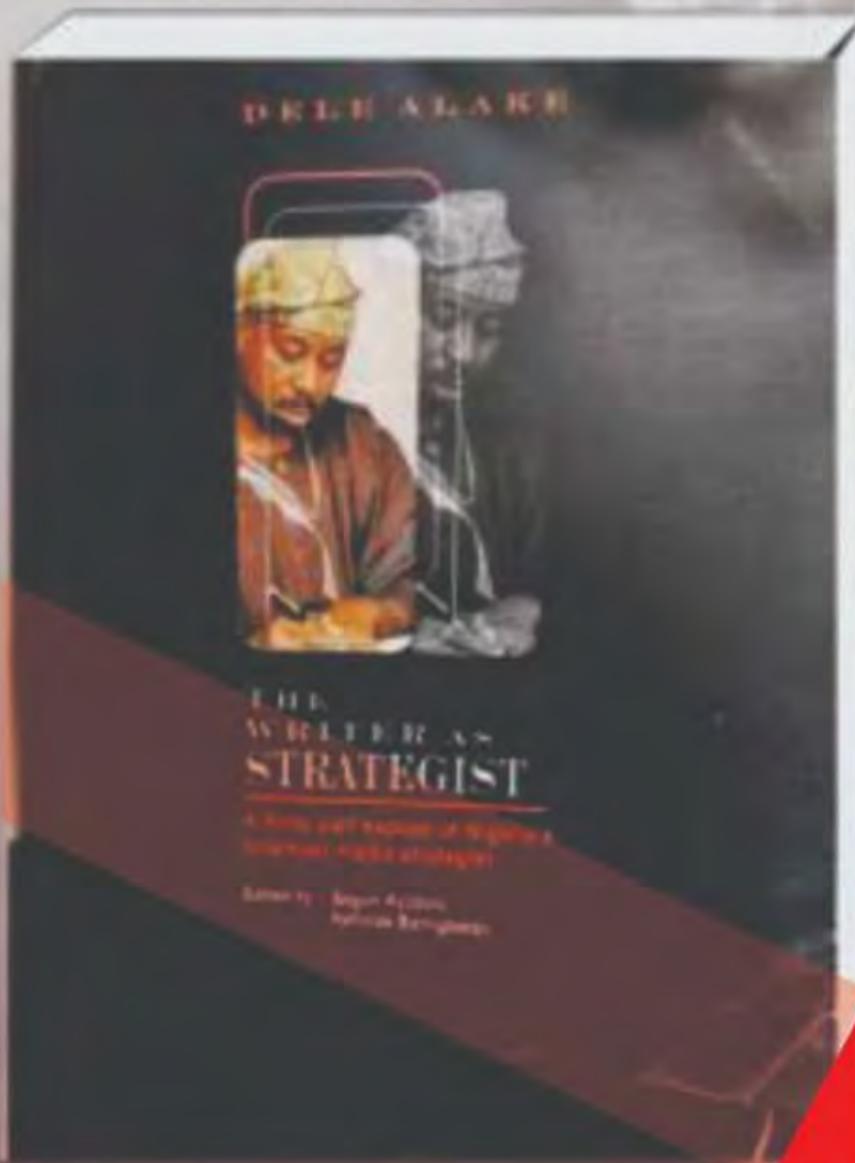
They commended the benefactor for saving many parents who lack the fund to give their wards proper medical care.

Meanwhile, they urged other philanthropists to demonstrate compassion by saving lives in any area possible to help the less privileged in the community.



Sanyaolu promise more good roads to Egbe-Idimu Residents

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## Rehabilitate Our Roads In Apapa-Iganmu, Residents Appeal To Govt

By Edith Igbokwe

Residents of Agbebi Street Marine Beach, Apapa-Iganmu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have appealed to the council chairman, Mrs. Funmilayo Muhammed



Ongoing Agbebi street rehabilitation

to extend road rehabilitation to their community.

It was said that the majority of the roads in the community are in bad shape and need the government's intervention.

While commending the council boss on the ongoing rehabilitation of some roads in the council area, the road

users noted that they will soon enjoy a smooth transportation system as soon as the rehabilitation is completed.

They requested that more roads should be rehabilitated to ease stress and traffic gridlock.

According to the chairman, street rehabilitation was

embarked upon to ameliorate the pains of residents and commuters in Apapa-Iganmu LCDA, making the roads accessible.

She appealed to the residents and commuters to exercise patience with her administration, promising that more roads would be rehabilitated.

## Govt Administers New Polio Vaccine To Infants In Apapa LG

By Edith Igbokwe



Polio Vaccine exercise

In a move to combat polio in the community, Apapa Local Government in collaboration with the Lagos State Primary Healthcare Board has organised an immunization exercise. This was done in commemoration of the 2023 Oral Polio Vaccine.

COPV2 is novel oral

poliomyelitis (polio) vaccine type 2 developed to address the evolving risk of circulating Poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2).

The Polio vaccine is said to be safe, free, and effective.

The objective is to give two drops of the Novel Oral Polio vaccine to all children aged 0 to 5 years irrespective of

their previous immunization status.

During administration, a supplement was administered orally to children aged 6 months to 5 years, while deworming tablets were given to children aged 1 year to 5 years.

According to the organisers, the vaccination exercise is to boost the immunity of the target group against the circulating poliovirus.

The residents of the council area took advantage to get their children vaccinated against the dreaded disease.

Meanwhile, residents have been urged to cooperate with government officials in this exercise by making their children available to eradicate other forms of Circulating Poliovirus (CVPV2) currently in some specific areas of the State.

## Apapa LG Chairman, Senbanjo Seeks New Monarch's Cooperation

By Edith Igbokwe



Apapa LG crew and Oba Amore III

The Chairman of Apapa Local Government, Hon. Adejumo Senbanjo has solicited the support of the newly installed traditional ruler of Apapa kingdom, Oba Moroof Oluwa, Amore III to take Apapa to a greater height. Senbanjo visited the monarch with her team

to strengthen the relationship between the executive and the traditional institution. Responding, the monarch took time to reminisce on the historical past, present struggle, and future course of action.

He emphasised that his domain cuts across three local government areas including, Apapa, Amuwo-

odofin, and Ajeromi-Ifeodun.

He also pleaded that the chairman and her team cooperate and work with him for the progress and development of the Apapa local government area.

The Council Manager, Mrs. Mosunmola Otaiku-Okoka appreciated the King and his cabinet in council as she prayed for lasting peace in the domain.

## Afinni Assures Lagos Island Residents Solution To Flooding

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State House of Assembly member representing Lagos Island constituency II, Hon. Lanre Afinni has assured the residents of Lagos Island LG that the issue of flooding will soon be a thing of the past.

Afinni has joined his counterparts and ad-hoc

committee members of the Lagos House of Assembly set up by Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa to address the issue of flooding across the state on an assessment tour of major flood-prone areas within Lagos Island.

The delegation was led by the Majority leader of the Lagos

State House of Assembly, Hon. Noheem Adam.

Also present were Hon. Omolara Oyekan-Olumegebon, and Hon. Olumoh.

The leadership of the local government, led by Hon. Prince Rosul Eshilokun, who represented the council chairman, Prince Tijani Adetoyese Olusi, Mayor Muibi

Alade Folawiyo, Chairman Lagos Island East LCDA and other local government executive members.

Afinni commended the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly for setting up a committee to address flood issues within the Lagos Metropolis.

He disclosed that the

purpose of having the ad hoc committee is to provide viable solution to the problems of flooding across the state.

He stated that there will be construction of a new 1.0- or 1.2-kilometer diversion from the front of Ilubirin Housing Estate that will take the body of water into the Lagoon, adding that

the State, through the Ministry of Environment, has secured three high-capacity pumps to make this possible.

He, therefore, charged Lagos Island residents that all hands must be on deck to ensure a flood-free and hygienic environment in the local government by embarking on proper drainage maintenance for effective and efficient flood control and a sustainable solid waste management system.

# Ifako-Ijaiye Executive Council Members Commend Chairman

Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Council members have appreciated the chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat for the records achieved within two years of his administration while appreciating him for allowing them to work with him. According to them, it has been a privilege to be called upon to serve the people of Ifako-Ijaiye alongside the chairman. The cabinet crew stated that they can confidently look back and be grateful for the

potential unlocked and what the past 7306 days have been under Hamzat's administration. They disclosed that over the last two years, the administration can boast of impactful people-oriented programmes and initiatives that cut across youth/women empowerment, Education, Sports, Health, Security, Entertainment, Skill Acquisition, Job Creation, Social Welfare, and Infrastructures. They noted that the

chairman is still challenged to continue to do more. They stated that they remain grateful and committed to the chairman for finding them worthy to serve under his administration. They said they were motivated and super confident of achieving success for the administration in line with the blueprint of the UAH-H.E.E.D.S Agenda. "We assure the good people of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government that we will continue to roll

out more deliverables for the benefit of our people across the board. "Once again, we members of the Ifako-Ijaiye Executive Council congratulate the Executive Chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat (UAH), and the Vice Chairman, Hon. Mrs. Oluwatoyin Akerele on what has been an amazing journey so far and an incredible milestone."



Prince Usman Hamzat stewardship Commendation.

## Isahaga Market Leaders, Ifako-Ijaiye LG Chairman Deliberate On Market Issues

By Edith Igbokwe



Isahaga Market Leaders visit to Hamzat

The Iyaloja-General of Ifako-Ijaiye, Chief Mrs. Doyin Coker-Ogunbiyi has led market leaders to the local council Chairman's office to deliberate on some issues concerning the running of the market. Isahaga Market leadership and issues of mutual socio-economic benefits were

extensively discussed. The market leadership appreciated the council authority while seeking more assistance from the council chairman. Responding, the chairman stated that the council is mindful of the situation of the market like every other market in the local

government. He assured that the council will continue to do its best in discharging core mandates and values to the people of Ifako-Ijaiye. The leaders of the Isahaga Market Community; Iyaloja and Babaloja attended the peacekeeping deliberation.

## Ikeja Electric Signs MoU With OEMs To Supply Customised Cables

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Ikeja Electric Plc has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with two Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Kabelmetal Nigeria Plc and Nigerchin Limited, for the supply of customised electricity cables for its network. The MoU will ensure that quality materials are provided to the company in its franchise state to allow for the effective distribution of electricity. Speaking during the formal signing at the company's corporate headquarters in Ikeja, Lagos, the chief executive of Ikeja Electric, Mrs. Folake Soetan, expressed her excitement over the efforts of the companies in realising the laudable feat, saying that it was a step in the right direction. She said the development would assist Ikeja Electric in the areas of steady



energy growth as the prompt and regular supply of cables and associated materials, adding that it would help the company to clear faults and deliver faster on ongoing projects that require the same. Soetan stated that as a customer-centric organisation, Ikeja Electronic would not rest on its oars but would continue to ensure excellent service delivery to its esteemed customers. According to her, the strategic partnership with Kabelmetal Nig Limited and Nigerchin Limited is the first of its kind in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI), where manufacturers would enter into a

commitment to supply customised cables to a power distribution company. She stated that the agreement would no doubt go a long way in ensuring a mutually beneficial relationship and deeper business engagements between Ikeja Electric and the two companies. The Managing Director of Kabelmetal Nig Limited, Mr. Eric Waldner, and Mr. Sunil Kumar, the General Manager of Nigerchin Limited, in their remarks, expressed optimism over the signing of the agreement, noting that it was the first time they were going into such agreement with a disco, while also assuring Ikeja Electric of full support and collaboration in prompt delivery of the materials.

# Abila Charges Newly Deployed NSCDC Leader To Exceed Predecessor

By Edith Igbokwe



NSDC team with Iba chairman

The newly deployed Divisional Officer of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Ojo Division, Chief Superintendent of Corps (CSC) Roseline David has been charged to perform excellently to exceed the achievements of her predecessor. Iba LCDA Chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril charged the new CSC to do more than her predecessor as she and her team paid a courtesy visit to the council. He commended the efforts of the NSCDC and its teamwork at the grassroots as he appealed to them to continue discharging their duties in the community selflessly. Responding, Mrs. David assured the

chairman that she would put in all necessary efforts to discharge the duty more than expected. Members of the visiting team include the Deputy Superintendent of Corps (DSC), Mary Awe, Officer-In-Charge of Iba; Babalola Kunle, Provost Ojo, Adeleke Omolara and Iba Operation Officers, Jimoh Falilat, Emmanuel Blessing, Avoseh Funmilayo.

# Abila To Empower For 50 Youths After Training

By Edith Igbokwe



Beneficiaries of Iba skill acquisition forms.

The Chairman of Iba LCDA, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) has promised to promise to empower the youths who are successful in the second edition of his skill acquisition programme. No fewer than 50 youths (both males and females) across Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) have been enrolled for the training ongoing at the council. The free vocational training, which commenced on Tuesday, July 25, is scheduled to run for some weeks at the Lagos State Government Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) Skills Acquisition and Vocational Centre located at Iba LCDA Secretariat. The council chairman reiterated that successful students will be empowered upon completion. He further urged beneficiaries to add

commitment to the skills acquired for more benefit to themselves and society. He assured them that his administration will provide developmental programmes with the necessary skills needed to survive and to be of positive value to society. "Whatever you achieve through intensive, persistent, and intelligent practices will forever be useful to you as you progress in life. I wish you good luck as you commence your programme."

# Oladapo to Abila: Provide Solar, Renewable Energy In PHCs

By Edith Igbokwe

The newly deployed Permanent Secretary of Primary Health Centre (PHC) District 5 in Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Dr. Asiyanbi Oladapo, has urged the council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril to adopt solar and renewable energy as a source of power supply at all the PHCs to foster smooth running of activities and optimum health care services. Oladapo said this as he

expressed his readiness to work and synergise with the council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril to improve primary healthcare in the council area. He said he would collaborate with the chairman to improve the quality of health in line with the Governor's THEMES Agenda and vision to increase productivity in the health sector across the State. Responding, Abila appreciated the recommendations and promised to carry out all within the shortest period. He noted that some of the needs are already in plans before the visit.



Newly Deployed PS PHC with Iba chairman

# Rotary Club Of Ikeja Appoints Ibe As New President

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Rotary Club of Ikeja has appointed Emeka Ibe as the 56th President. During the investiture held at the Oranmiyan Hall, Lagos Airport Hotel, Obafemi

Awolowo Way, Ikeja, the new board of Directors for the 2023/2024 Rotary year was inducted. The club also presented honorary membership as well as bestowing awards of recognition for

commitment to humanitarian services to eminent personalities including the Chairman of Ikeja Local Government, Hon. (Engr.) Mo-jeed Alabi Balogun, Chief Executive Officer, Tenece Holding Limited, Chief

Kingsley Eze, former Managing Director of First Bank Merchant Bank, Chief (Dr.) Chilo Offiah, former General Manager of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Barrister (Dr.) David Ogbodo, Dr. Jeff Nnamani, and

Wells Advisor, Exxon Mobil Limited, Prince Okenna Afa-mefuna. Other awardees are Chief (Engr.) George Taiyese, Chief Executive Officer, Rapid Check Diagnostics and

Wellness Lim-ited, Dr. Chijioke Onyia, Chief Executive Officer, Active Edge Technology Limited, Chief George Agu, Chief Executive Officer, Norlic Technology Lim-ited, Chief (Sir)Laz Okolie, and Benji Ofungwu.

# Badagry West LG Boss Frowns At Illegal Mining

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Hon. Gbenu Joseph has directed that all miners within Badagry West, a coastal area in Lagos, should stop work to avoid future environmental disasters.

He said the decision was taken after extensive deliberation at an exco-meeting.

"Let me also put it on record that the ongoing mining work under the Gbaji Bridge should be distanced from the bridge to avoid collapse of the bridge.

"The Gbaji bridge is the only bridge linking the over 99 communities in Badagry West to the cities of Lagos and Nigeria, including the neighbouring countries, hence needed to be jealously

protected.

"I am using this medium to call on all the environmental stakeholders to put a check on the life-threatening activities of the miners.

"No miner should come to the coastal area anymore."

Joseph said with what is happening in other countries like Ghana and the Republic of Benin where people are being displaced from

their houses and injured by falling coconut trees because of floods caused by mining activities, he would not open his eyes and let his people be destroyed.

He, however, advised that miners in the area should have a paradigm shift by investing in crop plantation that will yield profit rather than resort to mining, which is causing soil pollution and affecting farming in the area



Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Hon Gbenu Henugbe

## Rep Whigan Collaborates With LASU, LASUED On Job, Admission For Constituents

By Saheed Afolabi



Honorable Member of Federal House of Representatives, representing Badagry Sesi Whigan

The Member, House of Representatives, Badagry Federal Constituency, Hon. Prince Sesi Whigan embarked on a courtesy visit to the two main higher institutions in Badagry Division - Lagos State University (LASU) and Lagos State University of Education (LASUED).

Whigan said the essence of the visit was to familiarise himself with the university authorities to foster synergies aimed at improving job and admission opportunities for the indigenous people of Badagry Federal Constituency.

"I aim to see how I could collaborate with the universities and explore areas of mutual interest, particularly job opportunities and student admission for Badagry residents, as well as how best I can be of assistance to the university as a federal lawmaker hence, exploring ways to help both universities

develop further," he said.

The Federal Character Commissioner representing Lagos State at the Commission in Abuja, Hon. Abdulwasii Kayode Bawa-Allah, commended Whigan for his proactive steps.

"Two weeks after Whigan was sworn in, he visited my office to find out a few things and how best the interest of the good people of Badagry whom he represents can be protected."

The LASU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, congratulated the lawmaker, commending him for having a perfect agenda for his people, noting that he has started on a very good note.

The VC, who spoke through the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Adenike Boyo, said: "Although it is never enough, Badagry has

the highest number of non-academic job opportunities at LASU and in terms of students' admission, LASU has always considered the indigenes first to be a state university."

She, therefore, promised that the university would continue to prioritise the state while respecting the rights of other non-indigenous students.

The DVC (Academic), Prof. Olufunsho Omobitan, and the Registrar, Mr. Emmanuel Fanu, both confirmed the VC's claims.

In his words, Fanu noted that no member of the House of Representatives from Badagry had ever visited the university to foster a mutual relationship, adding that he was proud of Hon. Whigan as a 'Badagrian'.

He claimed that the lawmaker was off to a good start and that he was certain that his election to represent Badagry in the National Assembly was the right decision.

At the Lagos State University of Education (LASUED), Oto-Ijanikin, Whigan and his team were received by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Biliki Lafiaji-Okunneye.

In her welcome address, she praised Whigan for his competent representation at the National Assembly in a very short period, saying it is proof of a better future for Badagry.

She stated that she has been a long-time supporter of the lawmaker following the socioeconomic development projects he has undertaken in the Badagry corridor.

Prof. Lafiaji-Okunneye expressed her determination to do her best, as a native of Lagos State herself, to ensure

indigenes of the state get what they deserve, particularly in terms of student admission and job opportunities at the university.

She expressed hope that Whigan will elevate Badagry to a position of pride among other federal constituencies in the nation.

The VC LASUED urged the lawmaker to always intervene on behalf of the university when necessary, particularly when the federal government is involved.

She specifically mentioned the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) as an area in which the university may require the assistance of a National Assembly lawmaker. She went on to say that such an intervention for the varsity would have a huge impact on the school's development.

In response, the VC for welcoming him and his team to the university and for her innovative ideas in leading the institution to greatness.

He promised to do his best in the National Assembly and through other relevant government agencies to ensure LASUED receives what is due to it, adding that he would be ready to support the university at any time.

He urged the institution's authority to continue considering the people of Badagry Federal Constituency in terms of student admission and job opportunities.

During his university tour, Prince Sesi paid a royal visit to His Royal Highness, Oloto of Oto-Awori, Oba Josiah Olanrewaju Aina, in his palace.

"Anybody caught, the law will take its course," he affirmed

The chairman said he was aware that the lawmaker representing Badagry Constituency 1 in Lagos House of Assembly, Hon Bonu Solomon, had raised

his voice on this particular issue on the floor of the House against this menace.

"I believe strongly that our competent and proactive legislators under Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa will do justice," he stated.

## Foundation To Organise Skill Acquisition Training For Youths

By Saheed Afolabi

The founder of RAK Development Foundation, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende has tasked Badagry youths to take advantage of the free skill acquisition training programme that he has set to embark on.

The Foundation is organising a 2-month skill development training on bag making, bar soap making, and photography.

According to Ogunlende, the training will be free and will

start in August till September between 10 am to 3 pm, every Monday to Wednesday.

He said: "The training is free of charge and all materials will be provided. Participants will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training. The training is open to young people between 14 to 45 years who are interested in learning new skills and starting their own businesses.

"The training will be led by experienced instructors and will cover all aspects of the three courses."



RAK Development Foundation boss, Mr Mobolaji Ogunlende

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# Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA Seeks Public Inputs To Security Bill

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Hon Sesan Daini

The Chairman of Igbogbo Baiyeku Local Council Development Area, Bldr. Sesan Daini and the legislative arm of the council have

organised a public hearing on the harmonization Bill of the Local Security Joint Task Force. Held on July 27, 2023,

at the Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali Multipurpose Hall in Igbogbo, the public hearing was an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the bill and make suggestions for improvement. Billed to consolidate the efforts of the various security agencies in the area to improve the security situation, the Chairman, during the hearing, explained that he and his team were committed to ensuring the safety and security of the residents of the area.

The event was well-attended as various stakeholders, including traditional rulers, community leaders,

and representatives of various interest groups made their presence felt, as the public hearing was an opportunity for stakeholders to contribute to the development of the bill and ensure that it reflects the needs of the community.

According to Daini, the Local Security Joint Task Force was created to address the security challenges in Igbogbo Baiyeku Local Council Development Area, and the harmonization bill, once passed, is

aimed to streamline the activities of the task force and ensure that there is no duplication of efforts.

Explaining that every feedback received during the public hearing will be used to improve the Bill before it is passed into law, the chairman expressed his appreciation to the stakeholders for their participation and assured them that their feedback would be taken into consideration.

The Local Security Joint Task Force was

established in response to the rising cases of crime in the area, including kidnapping, robbery, and cultism.

"Since its inception, the task force has been working to improve the security situation in the area through various initiatives, including community policing and intelligence gathering.

"The harmonization bill is expected to provide a legal framework for the activities of the task force and ensure that there is accountability in the use of resources," he started.

## Do Not Take Laws Into Your Hands - Oba Kasali Urges Ikorodu Residents

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Adeboruwa of the Igbogbo Kingdom, Oba Abdul Semiu Orimadegun Kasali, has urged the residents of Ikorodu not to take laws into their hands while dealing with criminalities or infringement on their rights.

He gave the warning at a Statewide Free Legal Consultation to ensure free access to justice, organised by the Lagos State Government.

The initiative, held at the Palace of the Adeboruwa of Igbogbo Kingdom was to sensitise the residents of Ikorodu on their basic human rights and the appropriate agencies to contact when there is an infringement on their rights as residents of the community.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the programme, Lagos Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Titilayo Shitta-Bey-Jeje stated that the free legal clinic was in accordance with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's T.H.E.M.E.S, and the agenda to ensure free access to legal services by residents of Lagos State.

"The Joint Free Legal is to ensure that people are aware of their fundamental human rights as residents of Lagos State and to ensure that everyone has access to justice," she said.

Shitta Bey-JeJe stressed that the legal clinic would be held in

different communities across the State to take legal consultation closer to the people while promoting peace and harmony among its citizens.

In attendance at the programme were Lawyers and Staff of MoJ; Olori of Igbogbo, Olori Sekinat Omolara Kasali; Baale Igbelaa-ra, Alhaji Chief Abdul Razak Banjoko; Iyalode of Igbogbo, Chief Karimot Ojikutu; Vice Chairman Igbogbo-Bayeku LCDA, Hon. Okedina Maja Nutaina; CDC Chairman Igbogbo-Bayeku, Mr. Adelakun Abayomi; DCO Igbogbo, SP Akintoye Saidat and other notable traditional rulers and residents of Ikorodu community.

## Collapsed Building: Council Chairman Calls for Strict Adherence To Building Regulation

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, Hon. Sulaimon Olanrewaju, has called for strict adherence to building regulations following the building collapse which claimed the lives of two children at 25, Alao Street, by Olainukan Bus Stop, Isawo in Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of Ikorodu Division.

The two young lads, aged 7 and 9, were claimed to have been trapped when the fence of the neighbouring house fell on their building.

The Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), has, however, sealed off the affected buildings for more assessment.

The chairman, who was accompanied by the Majority Leader, Ikorodu West

Legislative arm, Hon. Abimbola Owomilowomi; and the General Secretary of Ikorodu West Community Development Committee (CDC), Mr. Sunday, warned residents against contravening the state's building guidelines, to ensure that houses built are good for habitation. He charged the

Council's Department of Works and Housing and the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) to ensure that the government's guidelines are strictly adhered to in the building of houses.

While sympathising with the bereaved family, the council boss prayed that God will give them succour, and the fortitude to bear the irreplaceable loss.



## Why We Celebrated Dr. Oshinlaja Over Doctoral Degree - Igbogbo Youths

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Youths in Igbogbo have disclosed the reason why they celebrated one of the newest scholars who just attained their doctoral degrees at Cardiff University, Cardiff, United Kingdom last Wednesday, Dr. Nurudeen Alowonle Oshinlaja.

They organised a party in celebration of his feat with a special dinner in Igbogbo during the weekend.

The dinner, organised by

the Lekan Aroyewun Project (LeAP), a political, developmental, and community development body which Dr. Oshinlaja is its Director-General, was well-attended by wife, children, and family of the celebrants, as well as prominent youths, representatives of youth groups and the Chairman of the Igbogbo-Bayeku LCDA, Builder Sesan Daini.

At the event held at the Colour Party House, along Igbe Road,

Oreyo, Igbogbo, Oshinlaja, who was also a former President of Igbogbo Students' Union (ISU), was presented with an award of outstanding achievement, in recognition of his academic feat and positively propagating the Igbogbo Kingdom to the world.

The immediate past President, Igbogbo Youth Coalition (IYC) and a chieftain of the LeAP, Gbenga Odunniyi, who spoke on behalf of the platform at the dinner, explained the concept

behind the celebrations, stating that Oshinlaja is not the first to get a doctoral degree, but the group is celebrating him because he is exceptional.

"We have been celebrating Nuru, and today organising this dinner as part of his doctoral degree celebration, not because he is the first Igbogbo son to attain such height in his academic career, but because he is an exceptional personality.

"He has been exceptional since his primary school through secondary school days. Even in his university days, he was the overall best in UNILAG. He has been an honoured personality since his childhood.

"For this consistency and for achieving this lofty feat, I don't think that it's too much to celebrate him in our little way. This is our way of saying that he is our person and worthy of our person. By the time he gets his professorship, it will be a big celebration

we are going to include our revered royal father, the Alaiyeluwa, and other important personalities in Igbogbo, in celebrating him.

"He is a person that people are looking up to, even those older than him. People always say that he's gentle, but don't mistake that, because during our childhood days at Itun - Aboosan, those that know him are aware that he is calm but he doesn't let go of anything that he believes in. That is a common trait with Aboosan people," he explained.



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## Kosofe LG Takes Proactive Measures to Reduce Flooding

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Ajayi street at Kosofe Ig

The Chairman of Kosofe Local Government, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe, has initiated a comprehensive de-silting exercise to clear critical drainage systems.

Among the streets recently deposited is Ajayi Street to show the Chairman's commitment to ensuring a clean and safe environment for the residents.

In response to the complaints made by

residents concerning the worsening conditions in Aina Ajayi Street and other flood-prone areas, the council chairman assured them of swift action to address the situation.

The de-silting exercise was extended beyond Aina Ajayi Street to other critical areas including Adebayo Mokoulu Street, Anthony, Bush Street, Anthony, Ajayi Amina Street, Ifako, Diya Street, Ifako, Faramobi Ajike Street, Anthony,

Miyaki Street Oworo, Gafari Balogun Street.

The chairman said a swamp buggy he secured for annual canal clearance has played a significant role in preventing water from reaching threatening levels in flood-prone areas.

He, therefore urged the residents to play their part in maintaining a clean environment by avoiding indiscriminate waste

disposal.

He emphasised the importance of proper disposing of waste as he encouraged residents to cooperate with the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) officials in keeping the streets clean.

The residents lauded the council boss for his prompt response and commitment to improving the living conditions in their communities

## Praises As Late Mrs. Fausat Ojurayo Is Buried

By Nurudeen Adebayo

In a solemn gathering filled with prayers, reflection, and heartfelt emotions, the 8th-day Fidau prayers of Mrs. Fausat Ashabi Sadiku-were held at Oshogun, Alapere, area of Agboyi Ketu LCDA, Kosofe, Lagos.

The community came together to bid farewell to the 65-year-old, who tragically passed away after a fall while preparing for early Islamic prayer.

The Fidau prayer, held on Wednesday last week, is a significant event in Islamic traditions, regarded by many Muslims as mandatory and a part of the proper observance of Islamic rites.

It is conducted eight days after a person's passing and is attended by family members, relatives, friends, and colleagues of the deceased.

During the prayer session, attendees offered supplications for the departed soul and expressed their condolences to the grieving family she left

behind.

The Imam leading the prayer reminded the congregation about the inevitable nature of death, as Azrael, the angel of death, gives signs when the time is up for a person to depart from this world. The spiritual leader further emphasised the



Gathering at the 8th fidau prayer of Alhaja Fausat Ashab

importance of being prepared for the appointed time, as life on earth is transient, and death is an unavoidable reality. He encouraged everyone present to reflect on their mortality and strive to live a life of goodness and righteousness.

## Ogunlewe Makes Case For Global Cooperation On Public Health

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Chairman of Kosofe LG, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe has highlighted the importance of global cooperation and dedication to public health especially at the grassroots.

He said this following the 4-day oral polio immunization programme targeted at eradicating the circulating poliovirus among children between the ages of 0 and 5 years.

The campaign tagged "End Polio" took place at the Ogudu Primary Health Center, with

the support of the Lagos State Government and development partners including WHO, UNICEF, CHAI, and ROTARY, in a unified effort to eliminate polio from the region.

Speaking about the campaign, Ogunlewe noted that while significant progress has been made, complete eradication of polio remains a challenging task, particularly in remote areas where children are difficult to reach.

He emphasised the need for sustained vaccination efforts until the virus is entirely wiped out.

"The comprehensive vaccination drive was to provide two drops of the Novel Oral Polio vaccine to all children aged 0 to 5 years, regardless of their previous immunization status.

"This initiative will not

only boost the immunity of the targeted age group but also protect them from the debilitating effects of polio. In addition to the polio vaccine, children aged 6 months to 5 years also received essential Vitamin A supplements, and

those aged 1 to 5 years were given deworming tablets."

The programme was organised following a house-to-house polio outbreak response strategy across all communities in Kosofe Local Government Area.



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# New Area Commander Pledges Enhanced Security In Community

By Saheed Afolabi

As part of the mass redeployment and promotion going on in the security apparatus, the Nigeria Police has posted ACP Bamidele Awoniyi as the new Area Commander for Area "D" Police Command in Mushin, ACP Bamidele Awoniyi has pledged to improve the security of

the community by working with the local government authority. Awoniyi, who was deployed to Area "D" Command to replace ACP Abubakar Shika, pledged during a courtesy visit to the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye.

The DPO of Olosan Police Station, Supol Garba Oseni, said the new Area Commander was posted from the Nigeria Police Training School, Edo State to replace ACP Abubakar Shika who has been elevated. In his remark, Awoniyi, who introduced himself as a native of

Mopamoro Local Government Area of Kogi State, said he would need the cooperation of the Local Government authority to jointly provide adequate security for the entire people of Mushin. He assured the council boss of his commitment to maintaining peace and order across Mushin

Constituency. While receiving the new Area Commander and the plaque of commendation presented to him for his "Contribution and Development in Crime Prevention Strategy", on behalf of the former Area Commander (now DCP A. A Shika), the council boss introduced

all the political office holders in his cabinet to the new police boss and promised to provide total support for him and his men in the course of their duties. He expressed gratitude to the former Area Commander for helping to maintain peace in the entire Mushin community.

# HRA Youth Cup: Ajala Commends Organisers

By Saheed Afolabi



A collage of pictures of the chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon. Rasaq Ajala taking the official kickoff of the game, having official handshake and when presented with an award by the official Super Eagles mascot

As the Hon. Rasaq Ajala (HRA) Youth Cup entered its third edition with an exciting kickoff at Ilupeju Secondary School (ILUSEC) in Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA, the council chairman, Hon. Rasaq Ajala commended both the organisers and the participating teams. The tournament has drawn participation from 50 teams across the state, all vying for victory on the football field. Ajala expressed his appreciation for their efforts in making the competition possible and successful.

The council boss assured everyone of his unwavering support not only for football but also for various other sporting activities. Speaking about his recent appointment as the chairman of the Lagos State Principals'

Cup, the council boss revealed his plans to revitalise the competition. He emphasised that the competition would once again become a valuable platform for discovering and nurturing talents as it had been in the past.

Ajala said he would be committed to extending his government's support beyond football to encompass all sporting activities in the LCDA, stating that his administration would prioritise the promotion and development of sports in the council area. He stated further that he would encourage the growth of athletes and foster a vibrant sports culture.

"We are not going to concentrate our resources on football alone, we have been supporting other sports

like basketball, table tennis, and boxing games where several talents have been discovered and we will continue to do that.

"We believe sporting activities should be a veritable platform that we can use to get the youths engaged instead of using such energies on destructive things that will not benefit them and the larger society," he stressed.

He advised the competitors to have the spirit of sportsmanship where no one is a loser.

"I want to advise all the participants to have a sporting spirit.

"In any competition like this you will always have the winner... of course, there are no losers in a competition like this.

"All of you should come into the arena to do your utmost best to ensure you get the coveted trophy at the end of the day.

"For the fact that those who lose don't get it this time around does not mean they won't get in the subsequent edition, it should not be a do-or-die affair," he added.

He advised the supporters of both teams to exhibit a high degree of maturity while supporting their teams.

"To the supporters of all teams, I want to appeal to you to show a high degree of maturity in supporting your teams," he concluded.

In the opening match of the competition, the Ghetto Tigress defeated Young Ladies Achievers by 2 goals to 1 while the second match had the males category where

the defending champion, Ghetto Tigers walloped Tuto Atlanta 2 goals to 0 with the goals from Yakub Shamsu and Dare Owosheni.

The highlight of the event was the entertainment and

presentation of the award to the chairman by Babatunde Adeniran popularly known (LL COOL J) who gesticulated different postures of some notable football stars in Nigeria and internationally during half time of the

females' match.

While presenting the award to the chairman, Babatunde Adeniran stated that he decided to give the award to the council's Boss as a result of his support for the youths in the area of sporting activities.

# Ajala Cautions Residents On Water Stagnation

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Odiolowo-Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon. Rasaq Ajala has urged residents to avoid water stagnation as he conducted an inspection of the ongoing road reconstruction at Fafolu Street within the council area.

The reconstruction of the road, which connects Post Office Road to Agege Motor Road, has been in progress for the past few days.

During the inspection, Ajala observed that certain sections of the road were blocked by water due to permanent slabs placed on the drains in front of some buildings along the street.

He immediately engaged with the owners of the shops and offices responsible for the slabs, instructing them to remove the obstacles promptly.

"These slabs must be removed without delay to allow the water to flow freely into the drain. As you know, we are investing significant funds, amounting to millions, in this road



Hon Ajala

reconstruction project. It's crucial to avoid water stagnation on the road surface, as it can damage the asphalt and compromise the construction's quality," he said.

The council boss also took the opportunity to visit Mrs. Olaide Bamowo at 26, Anuluwapo Street in Idi-Oro, who lost her son, Gafar Yusuf, a twenty-two-year-old, during a recent raid by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in the Akala area on Wednesday night.

The chairman extended his heartfelt condolences to Mrs.

Bamowo, her family, and the entire community on their loss.

Meanwhile, Ajala pledged to communicate with the relevant agency to explore ways to prevent similar tragic incidents in the future, ensuring the safety of innocent members of the community during law enforcement operations.

With the chairman were his Vice, Hon. Seyi Jakande, leader of the legislative arm Hon. Rilwan Ola Ajenifuja, Secretary of the LCDA Hon. Mujeeb Ayinde Daramola, Majority Leader, Hon. Akinlabi Bamidele, Councilors representing wards A1 and 2, Hon. Ayobami Jegede and Hon. Adeosun Haruna and some aides of the chairman.

# LASUSTECH Moves To Prevent Anthrax In Lagos

Nurudeen Adebayo



Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya

In a bid to prevent the spread of Anthrax in Ikorodu environs and Lagos State at large, the College of Agriculture, Lagos State University of Science and Technology

(LASUSTECH) has organised a workshop to sensitise the public on the danger of the disease and how to prevent its spread in Nigeria. Anthrax is a disease that is contacted by human from animals. Speaking at the event,

the university Vice Chancellor, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya explained that Anthrax is not a new disease but has not been reported in Nigeria for years, stating that its re-emergence is a reminder that pathogens do not

respect national boundaries or require travel documents to move from one nation to another.

"Anthrax, a few weeks ago was reported in Northern Ghana and now reported in Niger State, Nigeria and perhaps all over Nigeria. We are a very dynamic and responsive University, holding this workshop is to deliver on one of our strategic initiatives of the IMPACT agenda, Town and Gown relationship in the spirit of an entrepreneurial orientation," he said. Speaking further the VC pointed out that the workshop has a two-fold objective to

sensitise the University community and the general public about the disease.

He encouraged other colleges to rise to the occasion and respond to national emergencies and build the brand of the University of excellence, adding that he hoped that the University community and wide community would be more informed and take actions to prevent the spread of Anthrax in Nigeria.

The guest speaker, Prof. Yetunde Kuyinu gave an insight into the Anthrax disease, causes, its signs on animals and humans, prevention as well as control measures

during an epidemic.

Kuyinu explained that the workshop fits to one health because it affects Animals and Humans.

"It is passed from contaminated soil to animals and then from animal to human," she said, explaining that the disease is present in most part of the world but common in Africa.

"Many animals are infected by the ingestion of contaminated food and water. Anthrax in human generally results from contact with infected animals and it could be through occupational exposure." She, therefore, warned the public to be careful with the animals they eat, encouraging them to boil and cook well before eating.

# We Need More Experts, Equipment At Ibeju-Lekki General Hospital - Magt

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The management of Ibeju-Lekki General Hospital, Akodohas appealed to the State government for more experts who can treat different ailments, especially radiographers and radiologists that can make use of the Hospital Laboratory equipment.

The Head of Admin in the hospital told the executive members of the Ibeju-Lekki People's Forum during their visit to the hospital.

The management also appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to complete the new building being constructed by his government to enhance the discharge of their duties.

Reporting their findings at the hospital, The Publicity Secretary of Ibeju-Lekki People's Forum, Prince Muh'Jamiu Olukoya, said: "The visitation was carried out on Tuesday, 25th of July, 2023. We



PRINCE EREANO

got to the Hospital as early as 11:10 am. We visited the Head of Admin's office to inform him about our visitation. He welcomed us and called the HOD MSSD, Mrs. Albakau Agbaje to lead us around.

"She showed us the new building being constructed by his Excellency, Governor

Babajide Olushola Sanwoolu's led Administration, that we should help the Hospital push for the quick completion.

"Mrs. Agbaje also took us to the containers donated by the Dangote Group of companies, and that the containers need to be refurbished so that the six of them can be useful for the Eyes

clinic, Hear clinic, Dental clinic, etc.

"Later, she handed us over to a Doctor, who took us to the Children's Ward. It was at that place we were able to interrogate some patients. One of them was a woman, who just gave birth with CS. She was from Lakowe, School Gate. She complained bitterly about a male Doctor

who came to attend to her overnight when she was bleeding seriously and left her unattended to and nakedly.

"Secondly, there was an emergency case of a little girl, from Igbekodo Town, Lekki LCDA, brought in in our present by her parents. She was admitted due to our intervention because the parents of the

little girl didn't have money on them. It was in the process that we noticed that the pharmacists denied them some medications and we sorted out the bills immediately so that they could help to bring the drugs. But surprisingly, the drugs they claimed were not in the hospital pharmacy; they were brought by a staff member in the hospital from an unknown place.

"Another one was the case of a three years old boy from Orofun Town, Ibeju-Lekki, who needed blood and drugs to survive. The total number of those critical condition indigent patients we attended to were four altogether as we paid some bills for them.

"After that, we went back to the Head of Admin, we fed him back. Then, he also told us some of the Hospital's challenges are lack of radiographers and radiologists that can make use of the Hospital Laboratory equipment. And also apologised on behalf of the staff members for their mistakes and pro



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2x2 inches	4,000	2x2 inches	3,200
3x2 inches	8,000	3x2 inches	7,000
4x2 inches	10,000	4x2 inches	9,600
5x2 inches	12,000	5x2 inches	5,600
6x2/ 4x2 inches	15,000	6x2/ 4x2 inches	12,000
6x3 inches	22,000	6x3 inches	17,000
6.5x3 inches	24,000	6.5x3 inches	19,000
7x2 inches	17,000	7x2 inches	13,600
7x3 inches	28,000	7x3 inches	22,400
7x4 inches	34,000	7x4 inches	27,200
8x2 inches	20,000	8x2 inches	16,000
8x3 inches	30,000	8x3 inches	24,000
8x4 inches	39,000	8x4 inches	31,200
8x5 inches	49,000	8x5 inches	39,200
9x2 inches	22,000	9x2 inches	17,600
9x3 inches	33,000	9x3 inches	26,400
9x4 inches	44,000	9x4 inches	35,200
9x5 inches	66,000	9x5 inches	52,800
9x6 inches	80,000	9x6 inches	64,000
10x3 inches	37,000	10x3 inches	29,600
10x4 inches	49,000	10x4 inches	39,200
10x5 inches	77,000	10x5 inches	61,600
10x6 inches	92,000	10x6 inches	73,600
11x5 inches	85,000	11x5 inches	68,000
11x6 inches	97,000	11x6 inches	77,600
14.5x3 inches	53,000	14.5x3 inches	42,400
14.5x4 inches	86,000	14.5x4 inches	68,800
14.5x5 inches	100,000	14.5x5 inches	82,400

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## VOTERS POWER

By Kehinde Bamigbetan

# The politics of Opeyemi Bamidele

**Congratulations to the Majority Leader of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, popularly known as MOB as he clocks 60.**



Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele

Congratulations to the Majority Leader of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, popularly known as MOB as he clocks 60. A week of activities which began with a book launch and lecture in Abuja and then a modest thanksgiving with the good people of Ekiti State climaxed on Sunday July 30 in Lagos. MOB's story confirms the saying that morning, indeed, prepares the ground for the day. As the legendary Ebenezer Obey once waxed lyrically, if a child is kicking ball around the neighbourhood, elders should let him be; it could be a sure signal that he would be a good footballer some day. We can adapt the saying to MOB as regards politics. If a university student is playing politics on campus, allow him. He may be the Majority Leader of the country's upper legislative chamber some day. MOB has been mobilising and getting people to elect him to represent them since 1984. I am a witness. Charged with a Messianic passion to create some version of God's kingdom on earth, Opeyemi's foray into students' unionism at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, had a praxis that was unsectarian, non-doctrinaire and clearly reformist. He belonged to a select group of campus progressives called Group 96, named after the room in Fajuyi Hall which was more or less their secretariat. Two other prominent leaders of the group, Hon. Sola Ebiseni and Mafo Ola John later played prominent roles in the politics of Ondo and Ekiti State respectively. Our paths crossed during the

Students' Union elections of Harmattan semester, 1984. He ran for the office of the Public Relations Officer, backed by the group and won. Without any group and largely naive of the groups' role in the polls, I ran a solo campaign for vice presidency but lost to Adeyeni Adenrele. However, the campus politicians took notice of my campaign and various groups tried to bring me under their wings. Ultimately, I worked with MOB on the Publicity Committee. I was more prominent in the squad, the sub-unit responsible for critical assignments. The working alliance of Group 96, Phoenix and Alliance of Progressive Students later sponsored me to the Students Representatives Council to fill seats declared vacant during the Rain Semester. As chairman of the Publicity Committee and Commander of the Squad, MOB demonstrated exemplary leadership qualities, especially democratic decision-making, speedy execution of overt and covert tasks and courage. The squad was technically responsible for the appropriate response of the Students Union to the merciless bombing of Tripoli by the United States government in 1985. Unlike today when American values have permeated the Nigerian radical movement, the anti-imperialist, revolutionary heritage of the students movement in our days was

as rabidly anti-American as it was anti-military. This later provided a great platform for his leadership of the National Association of Nigerian Students and the roles he took in the pro-democracy struggles for the revalidation of the June 12, 1993. The 1984/85 Students Union of the University of Ife also enabled MOB to cut his teeth in the art of stabilising governments. The 1984 executive had a rough take-off as the president, Lawal, was impeached. A new president and incidentally the first ever female president, Bimbo Bamidele was elected. Most of the executive members were green. Thus, the alliance relied on MOB in particular to use his political experience to keep the executive members on track. Many years later, in 2007, he would be called upon to play a similar role in the Fashola administration. There is no doubt that, although he gathered his rudimentary politicking skills first at Great Ife and later sharpened them at the University of Benin, they became very useful in winning the confidence of leaders of the pro-democracy movement when the opportunity came. A crucial factor of his politics is the mentorship of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Embarking on a political trajectory from a liberal, progressive and nationalistic vision of Nigerian politics, it was clear from the beginning

that Asiwaju required an alliance with the radical movement, particularly the students union, labour union and civil society to transcend the obvious organisational limitations of the South West's mythical political tendency that posed the greatest obstacle to his ascendancy. His preference for the Yar'adua Group was a conscious stretch of the handshake from the South West across the Rivers Niger and Benue to the North. By simultaneous equation, these forces had sharpened their nationalistic ideologies in the crucible of progressive struggles against the military and its crude, oppressive economic policies. Both interests embraced each other at the historic juncture of the June 12 struggles that ultimately gave birth to the Fourth Republic. Leading the NANS at this time positioned MOB fortuitously, enabling him to contribute his political experience and expertise in popular mobilisation. With his natural flexibility, MOB earned his rank among the emergent political class of Class 99 and the trust of his mentor. The evidence: By 2000, he was already the secretary of Group 9, the precursor of today's Governor's Advisory Council in Lagos State's power corridor, on account of his appointment as the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Political & Inter-Governmental

Relations; a position more politically influential than his administrative portfolio. His elevation as the Honourable Commissioner for Youth & Sports in 2003 and later became the Commissioner for Information & Strategy in 2007 are significant levels up the political ladder. But MOB was sagacious enough to see the need to replicate the Tinubu template across the South West: modern governance based on information communication technology, private sector financial instruments and massive intervention in public welfare and infrastructures. Relocating to his home state of Ekiti State in 2011, MOB secured the House of Representatives seat to begin a new wave of politics. According to Rev Tunji Adebisi of blessed memory, MOB contributed to the search for the political joker to reposition the Action Congress for gubernatorial victory in line with the existing power rotational system in the state produced the Fayemi administration. Four years after, MOB's belief that the administration did not really meet the mark and that he could offer a more vintage alternative led him on collision with his allies within the party and took him into the Labour Party. The defeat from that battle compelled a tactical retreat and the reconciliatory return to the fold where he has assumed fresh significance

as a power broker deserving his due. Since his return to the party, the team player in him has made tremendous progress by not just moving from the green to the red chamber; clinching the coveted position of the Majority Leader of the Senate last month is perhaps the surest index that he is fully back on the block. Indeed, when the history of the occupants of this seat is written, it would be said that a students union leader at the University of Ife at one time sat on the seat that his Vice Chancellor occupied. Professor Wande Abimbola who was our Vice Chancellor when MOB was the PRO was the Senate Majority Leader in the Third Republic of 1992/93. Yet, MOB is taking the office at a time his pedigree and original constituency place great demand on his convictions. The removal of the Fuel Subsidy and unification of the exchange rate by the Tinubu presidency have led to the clamour for social welfare policies to absorb the shocks. With the quick decision of the Presidency to send a bill for N500 billion intervention package to the National Assembly, the students, workers and civil society will be counting on Senator Bamidele to give voice to the voiceless majority and champion the quick passage of the bills that will bring succour to the common man. Happy birthday, MOB



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# Victor Boniface Reacts To Bayer Leverkusen Move

By Saheed Afolabi



Victor Boniface

**V**ictor Boniface has reacted to his move to German Bundesliga side, Bayer Leverkusen.

Boniface described his move to Leverkusen as a rare privilege after experiencing the atmosphere at the stadium.

The 23-year-old Nigerian forward disclosed that he wants to be part of the successes of Die Werkself (The Company's Eleven).

"The move to Leverkusen is a special opportunity I definitely wanted to take up. I've

already experienced the atmosphere here at the stadium, and back then, I was able to assess the possibilities at this club.

"This is a top club with a brilliant team. I'm really looking forward to playing football here, and I want to play my part in the future success of Bayer 04."

Boniface has penned a five years deal at Bayer Leverkusen that will run till June 2028.

Meanwhile, Bayer Leverkusen has revealed the reasons for signing Victor Boniface from Union St Gilloise.

Boniface completed his move to Leverkusen after completing his medicals over the weekend in Germany.

The Die Schwarzroten (The Black and Reds) confessed to having Boniface on their radar for a long time and attributed their interest to him through his direct duel, physicality, pace and technicality. The German side is optimistic, the 22-year old forward will add more quality to their squad and give them more options.

"Bayer 04 Leverkusen

have signed Nigerian Victor Boniface from top Belgian Club Royale Union Saint-Gilloise.

"The 22-year-old signed a contract with the Bundesliga club that runs until 30 June 2028 and will wear the number 22 shirt. We've had Victor Boniface on our radar for a long time.

"His performance in a direct duel then absolutely confirmed our positive assessment. Victor is a very present centre forward who is difficult to play and who poses a challenge for every defender just because of his physicality."

# Rasheedat Ajibade Reacts To Winning Copa De La Reina Trophy

By Saheed Afolabi



Rasheedat Ajibade with the Copa de la Reina trophy won with Athletic Madrid in Spain

**A**thletic Madrid star, Rasheedat Ajibade has reacted to winning the Copa de la Reina trophy in Spain. The Super Falcons playmaker led the Las Rojiblancas to win the Copa de la Reina trophy for the second time in

their history. Ajibade admitted the tournament was very tough as she gives glory to God for achieving the feat. She said the club had the aim of qualifying for the UEFA Champions League but since it did not

work out, they had to console themselves with the historical Copa de la Reina title. She said: "I feel grateful to God winning the Copa de la Reina in Spain, because it was a tough competition and also it was a tough season for us as a team.

"So I give glory to God that we were able to round up the season with a trophy because that's one way we could console ourselves and also encourage our fans that have been there in the good and bad times. "One of the aims we had for the season was to

qualify for the Champions League but it was a difficult one because every team is improving and we didn't really get our strides in the league. So we were able to compensate ourselves and fans with the Copa de la Reina trophy and I think it was really consoling for us." In another development, Ajibade has vowed to donate football kits to the grassroots annually. The Athletic Madrid player put smiles on the faces of some grassroots players by donating football boots to them to aid their promising career. She described the donation as an act of giving back to the grassroots club (Robo Queens) from where she started her career. "I think for me everything is to the

glory of God, it's not for me to take glory over anything I'm doing but it's just my passion to see that I come back to my grassroots club or my alma mater to give back.

"I know what it feels like to come from an environment that doesn't give you an advantage and how you struggle to get the basic needs to survive, it's really difficult so we do this for a reason to lift other people up."

The former Robo Queens midfielder expressed readiness to dole out football kits to the grassroots annually with the right support. Ajibade has engaged in series of philanthropic gesture in the past, some months ago, she gave ten less privilege students scholarship to advance their education.