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# Echoneews

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

A publication of Echoneews Newspapers Limited

Monday 4th April - Sunday 10th April 2022



# LAGOS GOVT TAKES OVER PARKS

LASU gets educational material from CBN

New EkEDC MD, Sanda pledges enhanced performance

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# Lagos Govt takes over parks

The control of motor parks in Lagos State may be devolved as the state government is planning to set up park committee in each local government, ECHONEWS has gathered. This will follow the provision of the fourth schedule of the constitution which empowers the local government to establish and maintain motor parks. Though the state government has taken over motor parks across the state from the members of the National Union of Transport Workers (NUTRW), it is yet to commence operation.

The decision to take over the parks from the Union was informed by the crisis in the union which led to the suspension of its chairman, Lagos Chapter, Alhaji Misiliu Akinsanya popularly known as MC Oluomo.

The National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) had suspended Akinsanya indefinitely over alleged misconduct, insubordination, and inciting members of the state chapter against the apex body.

The development follows a query sent to the NURTW boss in Lagos over alleged meddlesomeness in union matters, as well as protest staged by his supporters during which they accused the union at national level of unnecessarily interfering in state affairs.

It was gathered that the national body of the union had, therefore, directed the state chairman to immediately hand over the mantle of leadership to his deputy and release all property belonging to the transport body in his possession to the state secretary, in a bid to avoid any leadership vacuum in the state.

According to the national body, the decision to suspend MC Oluomo, as contained in a letter sent to him, is aimed at preventing possible breakdown of law and order after it came to its notice that he was already inciting members against the national body and the union, "an act that is completely against NURTW constitution," the national body maintained.

The letter, dated March 9, 2022, stated that it resolved to suspend MC Oluomo after it became obvious that MC Oluomo was not apologetic over his actions even after he was directed to explain reasons for embarking on such.

The national body, in a letter signed by its General Secretary, Kabiru Yau, read in part: "This is to convey to you that in line with Article 42 section 5, subsection I, II, III, IV, V, and VIII of the union's constitution, you have been placed on indefinite suspension from office as State Chairman of Lagos State Council of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) with effect from March 9th, 2021.

"Your suspension is sequel to sustained acts of insubordination and gross misconduct coupled with your clandestine plans to instigate crisis and unleash mayhem on any branch or branch of the union in Lagos state that



Alh. Musiliu Ayinde (MC Oluomo)

refuses to obey your order or instructions not to accept directives from the national headquarters of the Union.

"Your orchestrated plan to attack branches that may disobey your orders aforesaid will ultimately endanger public peace and order in Lagos State. It is also very likely to threaten and/or affect the lives and property of the peace-loving people of Lagos State, particularly those doing their legitimate businesses within motor parks.

"It is on record that you were earlier issued with queries on 25th of February 2022 and 3rd of March, 2022 respectively in which you were directed to explain the circumstances surrounding your untoward actions and to also show cause why disciplinary actions should not be taken against you for such acts of insubordination. You bluntly neglected/refuse to respond to the second query, while your response to the first query was unsatisfactory."

In reaction, Akinsanya announced the breaking away of Lagos branch from the national body, asking the state government to take over pending when the issue would be resolved.

Akinsanya, in a statement released afterwards, urged Lagos State Government to take over the running of the affairs of the Union with the Constitution of a Park Management Committee for Motor Garages and parks in the state, to ensure peace and tranquillity, pending the determination of the matter in the interest of the good people of Lagos State.

The State Government thereafter announced the suspension of the activities of the union from motor parks with immediate effect following the intractable crisis that has rocked it in recent times.

The state Commissioner for Information

and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, in a statement, announced the suspension order on behalf of the state government.

The statement read in part: "Lagos State Government has been watching closely events in the NURTW.

"There have been claims and counterclaims over the control of the union.

"The Government has a duty to ensure the safety of lives and property of all Lagosians and visitors. Therefore, there is an urgent need to douse the unnecessary tension generated by the leadership tussle in the NURTW and protect the citizenry from the likely fallout of the situation.

"After considering the provisions of the law, the Government hereby suspends the activities of NURTW, which must cease to operate in all parks and garages in Lagos State.

"The Government will set up a Committee to immediately take control of the parks and garages. Members of the committee will be key stakeholders in the sector."

However, despite the suspension of activities of the union in the state, members of the union have continued to issue tickets to commercial bus operators across motor parks and garages in the state.

Our correspondent, who went round the city, observed that the members of the union still collect money from commercial motorists though they are not in their uniform.

It was gathered that the union members do not comply with the suspension order as they force sales of tickets on bus drivers in their usual manner.

They operate in mufti selling tickets to commercial bus drivers at different locations of the state including Oshodi, Ojota, Ikeja, Egbeda, Ikotun, Mile-2, among others.

Meanwhile, the suspended union chairman has denied ordering the sales of tickets as claimed by some union members who said they were directed by the chairman to sell the tickets pending the creation of an ad-hoc committee which will subsequently, oversee the affairs of the union.

Earlier, a statement had gone viral purportedly issued by MC Oluomo, backing the sales of tickets.

The statement, purportedly signed by MC Oluomo, reads: "In furtherance with the directive of the Lagos State Chairman, Musiliu Ayinde Akinsanya of our great Union, this is to formally inform all NURTW Chairmen and entire members of the union to operate your day to day union activities at various motor parks and garages accordingly and disregard any Policemen parading themselves to disrupt your union operations."

But in a counter-statement, Oluomo denied authorisation of sales, saying: "My attention has been drawn to a purported news going round on social media of me authorising the sales of tickets. I have never authorised the sale of union tickets. The sales of Lagos State tickets issued are being sold at all the parks and garages across the state.

"I am a law-abiding citizen. I cannot stop the sales of government tickets; I don't even have such powers. Please disregard the mix-up."

In another development, it was rumoured that the State Government appointed MC Oluomo as the head of the Parks Committee, the statement which was immediately refuted by the government. While citizens are wondering why the government is still delaying the setting up of committee to take over the parks, a source at the Lagos State Parking Authority told ECHONEWS that the committee would soon be inaugurated.

The source said the government is putting things in order in accordance with the law to set up committees in each local government.

According to the fourth schedule of the constitution, some of the main functions of local government are: establishment, maintenance and regulation of slaughter houses, slaughter slabs, markets, motor parks and public conveniences; and construction and maintenance of roads, streets, streetlights, drains, and other public highways, parks, gardens, open spaces, or such public facilities as may be prescribed from time to time by the House of Assembly or a State.

Based on these, the Lagos State House of Assembly has urged the Lagos State Parking Authority (LSPA) to immediately begin the full implementation of the state's parking policy.

The Chairman, House Committee on Transportation, Temitope Adewale, said the full implementation of the parking policies would reduce traffic congestion and ensure improved road safety in the state.

He noted that there is law and policy already on parks, emphasising that implementing the policy would address indiscriminate parking of commercial vehicles along major roads in the metropolis.

He said: "The Lagos State Parking Policy has been designed to decongest traffic and address climate change challenges.

"The policy which is created under the Transportation Reform Law was to create job opportunities and generate revenue for the state through issuance of parking tickets to defaulters.

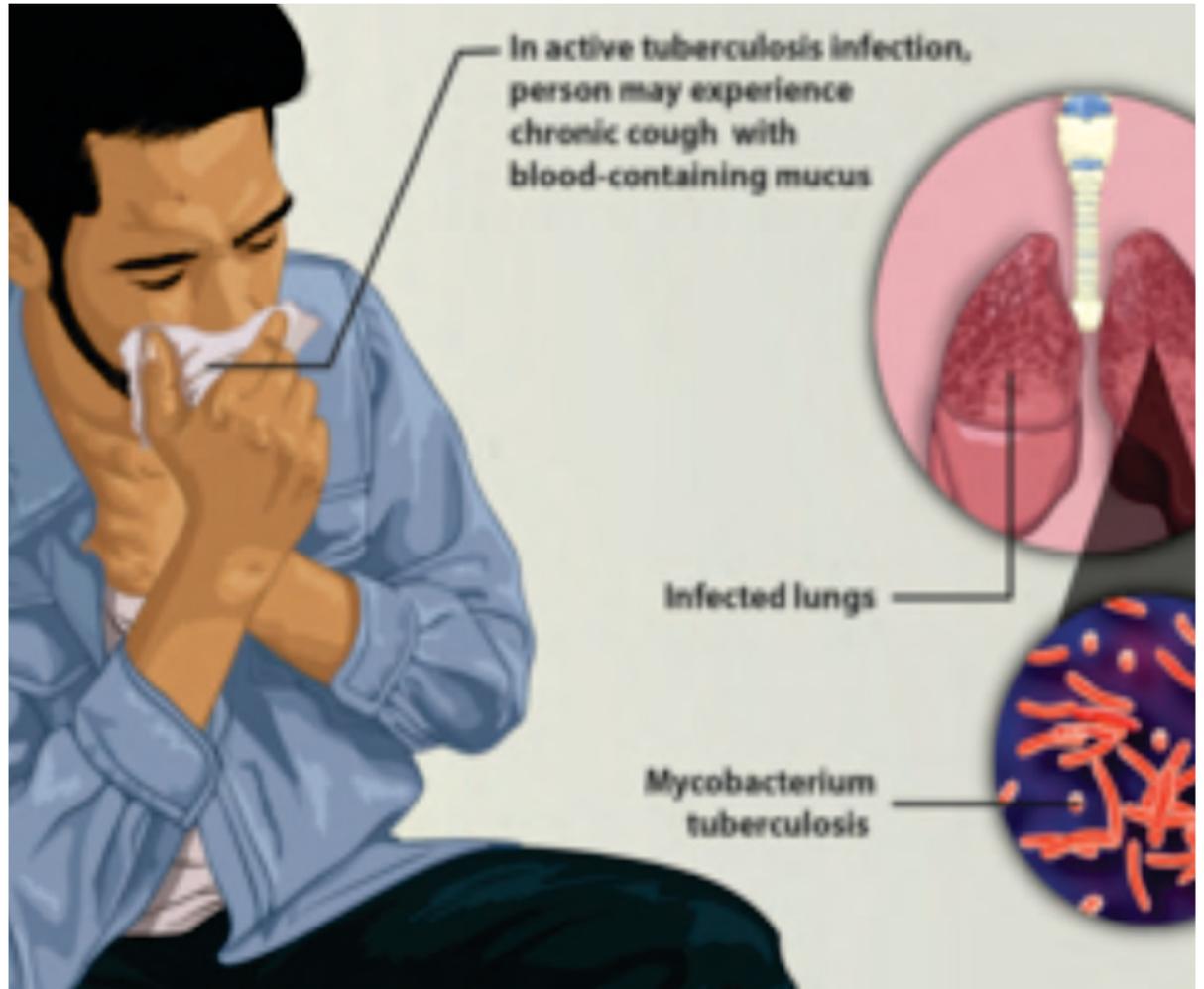
"Hence, there should not be any contention over the steps being taken by the state government following the crisis currently rocking the union."

# Medical experts caution residents on dangers of tuberculosis

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Medical experts in Orile - Agege General Hospital have enlightened residents on the dangers of contracting tuberculosis. The enlightenment was made to create an awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB). The medical experts noted that their commitment towards fighting the disease is to step up their efforts to end the global TB pandemic. They orientated that their action in line with this year's tuberculosis celebration themed: 'Invest to End TB. Save Lives', conveys the urgent need to invest resources to ramp the fight against TB and achieve the

commitments to end the pandemic. According to them, the disease is preventable as well as curable but insisting that, considering all its health conditions, preventing the disease is better than curing it. It was prescribed that covering the mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, washing the hands after passing through the process, ensuring adequately ventilated environment, avoiding face-to-face contact as much as possible if infected already, are certain measures residents must take to fight the disease. They advised residents to take advantage of the free services rendered by the government in checking their health status as the test and treatment is free.



## Residents receive free health in Agege

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A Non-Governmental Organisation, Beulah World Initiative (BWI) has offered free medical outreach to residents of Mangoro and Dopemu communities respectively. No fewer than 80 people including children benefited from the health mission held at Ajakaiye Street, Onipetesi Estate Mangoro. The services administered by the team of doctors included medical check up, eye test treatment, free reading glasses, deworming for children, adults clothing for the needy as well as health talks. The visioner of the initiative, Mrs. Chi Chi Ononiwu revealed that the aim was to influence the society

through community impact via social responsibility. According to her, the organisation which has been in existence for years from records has reached out to over 59 communities in Lagos State including Makoko, Mushin, Igando and even Ogun state. She noted that all volunteers are of the idea of taking responsibility for social transformation and restoring the sanity of every community. According to Ononiwu, the organisation has, by extension of its service, organised skill acquisition programmes to the rural dwellers as the grassroots is the basis of society development. Commending the efforts of BWI, a beneficiary, Mrs.

Esther Benjamin appreciated the initiative, saying it was a good development happening in Mangoro as the health of the masses is important. In the same vein, Mr. Isioma Agbabo, another beneficiary, noted that the initiative has helped in revealing the health status of every individual without stress as it was made available at their doorstep.



Medical officers at work

## 2023: Aspirant rolls out agenda

The All Progressives Congress (APC) aspirant of the Federal House of Representatives, Agege Constituency II, Hon. Temiloluwa Olatunji has promised Agege youths, employment opportunities if elected. Olatunji noted that his prior aim

of aspiring for the post is to elevate Agege Constituency II to a higher level by empowering the youths who are the ones to become leaders in a couple of years. He informed that his means of empowerment would be different as he would not just disburse monetary value but

would rather train every individual on desired skills before helping them to establish themselves while doing a thorough follow up to be assured of the intended development. Olatunji also promised to strictly reduce the level of insecurity in Agege as the most

pressing issue of the community is the recurrent reports of crime. He said his leadership would reach out to partner with able security bodies. He, also revealed that he will continue to live in Agege after election in order to get exposed to the needs of his community as he would be serving them wholeheartedly.

# IGR: Obe urges residents to cooperate with revenue officers

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Ejigbo LCDA have been urged to collaborate with revenue officers while on duty.

The council chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) revealed that for proper recognition and acceptability, a new customized uniform has been designed for revenue officers for the credibility of each officer.

Obe informed that a feedback machinery has

been made available to the public for them to relate with the council on any discrepancy they experience while relating with the revenue officers.

He, therefore, appealed to the residents to cooperate with the officers by paying their taxes, rates and other related matters to enhance the development of the community.

He said that the generated income is part of the financial aid the council uses in executing projects needed in the community.



Revenue officers in their new uniform

The new revenue officers customized shirt is a combination of navy blue and Lagos State Government badge with the inscription of "REVENUE OFFICER" scribbled at the back.

# Olasoju, Penckers School announce plans, prizes for second edition of Quranic competition

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Chairman of Isolo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Otunba Adebayo Olasoju, has through his Ilerioluwa Organisation in conjunction with Penckers School announced plans for the second edition of its annual Quranic competition.

According to Olasoju, the competition which was first held last year is organised to immortalise the late daughter of Fuji maestro, King Wasiu Ayinde Marshal; Alhaja Wasilat Ayinde Marshal.

He said the competition is opened to students of Quran between the ages of 10 and 20 years.

The first category is for those in the age bracket of 10 to 15 and their area of concentration will be Suratul Ahqaaf and Suratul Naas while the second category is for those between age 16 and 20 as they will be tested base on their



Organizers and one of the winners of the first edition of the Quranic competition.

memorisation of the entire Quran.

With registration concluded, the screening date has been set for Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd of April with the semi final scheduled to come up on Saturday, April 9 and the grand finale on Saturday, April 16, 2022, at Penckers School, Isolo.

It is gathered that the winner in the first category will go home with the sum of N500,000 cash prize with N2million worth of scholarship in Penckers Schools while the first and second runners-up will get N250,000 and N150,000 respectively with N2million worth of scholarship in the school.

The sum of N1million, N500,000 and N250,000 have been earmarked for the winner, first and second runners-up in the second category respectively.

It was also announced that lots of consolation prizes such as computer sets, television sets, fridges and others would be given to other participants.

# Animashaun canvasses for unity among APC members

By Abolaji Adebayo

The chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Saheed Animashaun, has pledged to work hard to bring all factions of the party in his LG to the main

fold. He made the promise at the APC Peace meeting held at Owoseni Primary School after he was confirmed as the Oshodi-Isolo LG party chairman at the recently concluded APC convention. Speaking at the peace meeting,

the Apex leader of the party, Pa. Joseph Olabintan, urged all members to join hands to take the party to the promised land. He also promised to work with the party chairman and other party hierarchies to ensure unity within the party in the local government.

Members at the meeting urged the new LGA party chairman to appeal to other members to promote unity in the party. He was welcomed with great cheers from the teeming members of the party who trooped out to attend the meeting.

# ... donates bus to CDC, NULGE

The Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Hon. Monsurudeen Bello (Obe) has donated a bus to the Community Development Committee (CDC) in recognition of its efforts toward community development.

The council boss donated the bus to commemorate Love Day Celebration organised by the CDC. Obe said the committee tried hard during the Covid-19 pandemic period to make sure the residents get welfare packages, saying it deserves the gift.

He emphasized that he donated the bus to both CDC and NULGE to acknowledge their efforts particularly during the pandemic period as they helped in extending council's palliative across the community.

and appealed to them not to relent so that the people of Ejigbo would feel the impact of the government. He urged the CDC to make the celebration an annual event to keep sharing love among the residents.

Responding, the CDC Chairman, Prince Jelili Atiku, who acknowledged the gift from the council boss, promised that the

committee will continue to support the government in all ways.

According to him, the celebration is used to gather energy within the community in synergising and supporting the council for development.

He noted that the body ensures the wellbeing of residents which is one of the reasons it keeps encouraging Community Love Day celebration.

Atiku applauded the commitment of the council chairman and the fulfilment of his promise to donate a bus to the committee while describing him as a symbol of a working government who knows the essence of community development.

He encouraged all members to keep growing as the essence of the provision of a new CDC bus is to ensure easy accessibility of assigned areas to execute their duties.

The celebration witnessed the recognition and award of twelve philanthropists in the community and the launching of the CDC 2022 calendar.

# Isolo Rotaract Club President organises free medical tests for residents

By Abolaji Adebayo

level, high blood pressure, and Basic Mass Index (BMI) among others.

The incoming Imagine Rotary President of Rotaract Club of Isolo, Rotaractor Fausiyat Orunsolu has disclosed the impetus behind organising free medical outreach and donation of clothes to the less privileged in Isolo community to commemorate her 25th birthday.

According to her, the humanitarian project tagged C.F 25 Project 1.0 was another way to add value to humanity and inspire others to follow suit, saying the quality of life is measured by the amount of impact made.

She explained that commemorating her 25th birthday in such a manner was not difficult to explore, stating that humanitarian service means the world to her and she is ready to go all out and explore every possible avenue to add value to mankind.

She said over 50 residents of the community enjoyed free access to medical consultations and basic check-ups which include sugar

She added that some less privileged children were also given clothes.

"Humanitarian service means the world to me as I derive great pleasure and sense of achievement from any welfare programme I organise or take part in. Organising such programme to commemorate my 25th birthday is my way of supporting the less privilege in a low-income community in line with the first three sustainable developmental goals (of the club) which focuses on eradicating poverty, hunger and promoting good health and well-being."

She informed that the programme will be held annually.

She expressed her appreciation to Mdoc Healthcare for partnering with her on the project and Osolo of Isolo, Oba Kabiru Agbabiaka for his support.

Mrs. Saidat Lawal, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, commended Orunsolu for the humanitarian gesture.



Medical personnel attending a beneficiary at the program.

# Lawmaker suggests bi-partisan approach to tackling insecurity

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lawmaker representing Alimosho Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Kehinde Joseph, has called on Federal Government to diversify its approach to tackling insecurity in Nigeria.

Joseph urged the government to desist from politicising the insecurity challenge in the country.

In an instance, he described the security infraction at the airport in Kaduna as a worrisome situation for the country. The Lawmaker said it

was time to take decisive action to save the country.

In his words: "It is not a time for us to begin to lay blame. It is not a time to begin to be partisan. It is not a time to begin to point accusing fingers. It is a time for the leadership of this country to rally each and every one of us to begin to come to the same page and be on the same page.

"It is saddening that we can have a security breach to a point of infraction in the airport.

"We seem to be involved in so many political activities as of present but there are critical issues affecting the lives of Nigerians. We seem to be

involved in 2023.

"If our roads are not safe, if our rails are not safe and if our airport which is the beginning point if our airways are not safe, it calls for us to suspend anything political and to begin to address the critical needs of Nigerians.

"If we don't have Nigeria, we might not be having the elections. If we don't better the lives of the people we are seeking to govern, then we would have failed totally. My concern today is a call for all of us, all leaders to come together in a bipartisan approach to find a solution to this insecurity problems."

The Chairman House

Committee on Agriculture stressed that a bi-partisan approach is what is required to tackle the spate of insecurity in the country.

"My call is that every one of us from the executive to the legislature, from the Federal to the State, to the Local Government, to the district heads, is to come together to proffer solutions and provide security for Nigerians which is the primary objective of government.

"It is a point for us to call on Mr. President and each and every one of us to drop our party divides to seek for one thing which is solution," he said.



Hon. Kehinde Joseph

The Lawmaker representing Alimosho Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Kehinde Joseph has said the low turnout of intending voters in the ongoing voters' registration in Lagos State is worrisome.

He called on constituents to use the opportunity of the fourth quarter of the stress-

## Joseph dissatisfied with low turn-out at PVC registration centres

free exercise by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to get registered to be able partake in the forthcoming 2023 general elections.

Enlightening residents on the importance of active participation in the electoral

processes, the lawmaker stated that participation strengthens the nation's democracy.

According to him, lack of voter education, participation and registration has led to widespread political apathy and low voters turnout

which has the impact of undermining the legitimacy of democracy.

"It is important for the constituents to take advantage of the fourth quarter of the registration and simplicity of the process as provided by INEC. There's a provision for registration,

revalidation, update and correction of information on the INEC portal," he said.

Joseph added that constituents can also engage in polling unit transfer and replacement of PVC on the portal.

Constituents are, however, advised to visit the INEC

portal on <https://cvr.inecnigeria.org> or visit the INEC offices in Alimosho Federal Constituency.

**Akinsanya appreciates ANTP, NGO over Award**

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Igando-Ikotun LCDA, Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya, has expressed his profound appreciation for the latest award he was bestowed with.

The council boss who was honoured by the Association of Nigerian Theatre Practitioners (ANTP) and Fabulous Care Foundation in recognition of his outstanding and remarkable performance in the council disclosed that the honour was a challenge for him to do more for the community.

He said the award would be a constant reminder for him that his community continues to repose their confidence in his administration, noting that it will make him thrive to do better.

He, therefore, encouraged both organisations and the general public to continue to strive towards achieving success in their specialisation.

## We'll focus more on health, education, security - Igando-Ikotun LCDA

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Igando Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya, has promised that the local council would focus more on health, education and security in the year 2022, saying the sectors got the lion's share of the 2022 budget.

He made this promise while presenting a proposed budget of N1.8bn to the legislative arm for approval, adding that priority is also given to women and youth empowerment for even

development.

He said the revival of the legislative system in the council was to ensure transparency and inclusiveness in the administration of the local government.

Akinsanya said the N1.8bn budget was prepared with the input of demands from various wards under the local government. According to him, the budget is going to be funded with local government allocation from the Federal Government as well as the internally Generated Revenue of the council.



Hon. Lasisi Akinsanya

# Council strives to increase IGR

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa has appealed to the residents of the LG to promptly pay their levies to generate the required revenue for the government. Enlightening marketers in the council, Olowa said that the revenue generated, together with federal government allocation, is

used to carryout projects in the community. He applauded the traders support so far, saying they hold an important existence in the wellbeing of the masses. He further assured of his commitment to reciprocate trader's goodwill by making the markets more conducive for business activities. At present, Idi-Orogbo market also known as Kara, Eleko market, Magbon Alade market and Akodo market have so far been covered.



# 60 women get empowerment skills in Ibeju-Lekki

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The authority of Lekki LCDA has concluded plan to set up task force to enforce traffic control on major roads prone to gridlocks. The resolution to set up the task force was reached during a meeting between the local council and other stakeholders to address the traffic gridlock caused by Pinnacle and NUPENG operations. At the meeting, it was agreed that a task force that will collaborate with the police,

FRSC, Pinnacle Oil and Gas, and NUPENG, in monitoring and controlling the trucks be set up. It was also agreed that some of the trucks would be moved away from the roadsides into virgin lands and open fields. The gathering also concluded to eliminate double parking on the roads and that drivers should park appropriately; to sensitise and put measures in place that will ensure people are not smoking in certain areas around the trucks. The council said it will sensitise and ensure that

people are not burning bushes in certain areas, stating that some of the resolutions have already been enforced while others will follow in due time. "The organisations involved were cooperative and showed willingness to abate the situation." Having heard the grievances of the people, the council held that the situation can be a case study to allow the council to manage the situation better when the refinery will eventually be in full operation.

# Association appeals to govt to protect citizens from land grabbers

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The African Bar Association (AFBA) has appealed to the state government to protect citizens against the recurrent illegal activities of land grabbers in Oke-Ogun Museyo community along the Ibeju-Lekki axis of the state. The president of the association, Mr. Hannibal Uwaifo, urged the

government to holistically look at the development along the Ibeju-Lekki axis of the state. According to Uwaifo, the government must be proactive in protecting indigenes, stating that the land (Oke-Ogun Museyo community) may have been acquired by the government but may have not been committed. "If the government acquires land under the law, it's for public purposes. A government cannot

acquire land and then give it to private individuals to build private estates; that would be wrong in law. So, we assume it's for public purposes. We assume that everybody should be treated equally, and in that case, we believe that the government should now consider the settlers first and foremost in dealing with those lands," he said. The AFBA president equally urged the State House of Assembly to

intervene more than ever before and appealed to the state government not to make more people homeless in Lagos. "They have already submitted an application for regularisation; their application should be speedily attended to and granted," said Uwaifo, as he called for equity and fairness on the part of the government. Adedeji Adeagbo, chairman of the Community Development

Association (CDA), Oke-Ogun Museyo, said the community applied for regularisation about three months ago. "We are yet to get a response from the government since we made our regularisation application. But, what we have noticed is that the activities of security operatives that used to terrorise us and that of the land grabbers have reduced." Recall that members of the Oke-Ogun Museyo Community recently

held a peaceful protest at Government House, Alausa, where it was stated that the community, which is home to over 2000 people, is being gradually taken over by a private real estate company which, according to them, claim to be working on behalf of the state government and, therefore, appealed to Governor Sanwo-Olu to intervene in the ongoing demolition of houses by a real estate company.

The National Youth Council of Nigeria, Epe Branch has given kudos to two of them who emerged overall best students at the last convocation of the Lagos State University (LASU). The body stated that the duo have made the community proud. The Coordinator of the body, Comrade Ladele Ismail Oluwaseyi, in his congratulatory message to the duo emphasised that the need to celebrate the academic excellence of this two people cannot be over expressed. He mentioned further that the scholars have indeed proved to the world that Epe Division has all it takes to continually represent the Nation at the Global stage. He said: "Recently, our good people of Epe Division witnessed another historical landmark as two of our best brains Mr. Olowu Benjamin who studied Mechanical Engineering and Mr. Ogunkoya Adekunle from the School of Transport were both awarded best graduating students in the undergraduate and postgraduate categories with a CGPA of 4.57/5.00 and 5.00/5.00 respectively at the 25th convocation ceremony of the Lagos State University, Ojo.

# NYCN congratulates LASU best graduating students

By Saheed Afolabi

"It is indeed worthy to say the duo have placed themselves high amidst their peers with these accomplishments that will continually showcase the value

our people in Epe." Speaking further, he stated that the milestone achieved will no doubt be a source of motivation for the people and as well a better means to reposition youths of the Division for greater and enviable opportunities.

In the same vein, he congratulated Mr. Busari Shamsideen Olalekan, the best postgraduate student from the Department of Finance with a CGPA of 4.55, as well as Mr. Busari Hayatullah Taiwo and Miss Rasak Rukayat, the best graduating students in the School

of Transport and Logistics and the Faculty of Arts with CGPA of 4.33 and 4.53 respectively. He wished the graduates and the postgraduate students greater success in the future, noting that they will reap the fruit of their labours at all times.

Ladele stated that the youths of Epe will not rest on their oars in ensuring significant development is achieved through steadfastness, stating that amidst all challenges "we will continue to be resilient at all times."

# Islamic clerics sue for peace

By Saheed Afolabi

An Islamic Cleric and Chief Imam of Oke-Iposu Ratibi Mosque, Alhaji Imam Abdul Hafees Awesu has called on Muslims in Epe division and environs to drop acts that could threaten the peaceful co-existence with other religions in the area and urged them to engage in acts that would bring progress and development in the area. Awesu said this at the installation of the Chief Imam of First Epe Central Mosque, Okebalogun, Sheikh Sadallah Abdul Rahman Aliru as the Grand Chief Imam and President-General, League of Imams and Alfas, Epe Division. He said the turbaning ceremony

was moved from the venue earlier announced to give peace a chance and to prevent security breakdown based on the advice of the government and security agents. "As law-abiding citizens, we changed the venue to the First Epe Central Mosque because of the ongoing annual Kilajolu masquerade festival by the Ijebu-Epe community," he explained. Awesu also highlighted the five criteria considered by the State

Government in the selection of the Grand Chief Imam in the State. While performing the turbaning, the President General, League of Imams and Alfas, Yorubaland, Edo and Delta, Sheikh Jamiu Keulere noted that Imam Sadallah deserved the position because of his vast Islamic knowledge and had made tremendous contributions towards the development of Islam in Epe and environs. He implored the Muslim community in the division to support and cooperate with him

to achieve the religious task he is saddled with. He prayed to Allah to bless the position and give him the knowledge and wisdom to unite the ummah. "Today's turbaning ceremony of Imam Sadallah is ordained by Allah, he deserved the honour. I, therefore, seek your unceasing support and prayers for him for a successful tenure," he said. The Otun Seriki of Epe Kingdom, High Chief Musliudeen Odedeogboro advised the new Chief Imam to work cooperatively with other Chief Imams and Ulamas in the division so that

peace, progress and development could be achieved. The Noeeb Imam of First Epe Central Mosque, Sheikh Shefiu Tukuru commended the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, his deputy, Dr Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat and the entire cabinet for their swift intervention and commitment in maintaining law and order in the state. He expressed his appreciation to all well-wishers who contributed in no small way to enthrone peace and tranquillity in the division and for honouring the ceremony.

# Task Force nabs fraud gang in Ikeja

By Edith Igbokwe

Operatives of the Lagos State Taskforce have arrested three members of a fraud syndicate who operates in Ikeja, Egbeda and Igando parts of Lagos.

The three suspected members of the gang, two male and one female are Bola Tony, 38; Eddie Okoro, 48, and Tochi Ikeji, 40.

They were arrested on Friday at Ikeja Under Bridge when the trio were identified by one of their victims who saw them driving in traffic and drew the attention of

Task Force officers stationed around the Bridge to them.

The victim, who craved anonymity was said to have been accosted by the gang the previous day and was dispossessed of the sum of N20,000 under the guise of purchasing prayer materials to be used in neutralising a purported charm laced to a fake sum of money in the boot of the gang's vehicle.

Speaking on the arrest of the suspects, the Chairman of the Agency, CSP Shola Jejeloye disclosed that the suspects were known for lurking in the shadows,

searching for innocent victims to prey on.

He said though the technique adopted by the gang was outdated, people still fall victim.

"The three of them set out in their vehicle searching for victims as passengers. The driver do starts up a conversation about a large sum of money belonging to the female accomplice in the car who poses as a passenger and then she claims she stole the money from her diabolic husband who is out to destroy her.

"They now engage the innocent passenger in the scheme of getting

to share the purported amount and the third passenger would suggest a pastor who has the ability to neutralise whatever spiritual curse that has been placed on the large sum of money.

"When they get to the location of the pastor, the extortion begins, the victim is compelled to part with hug sum of money and this scheme could last for weeks," he explained. One of them confessed to have swindled the latest victim of N25,000 and also claimed that the highest amount of money he ever made was N250,000 which was unevenly split among all gang

members.

The female suspect, Bola Tony confessed joining the gang three weeks ago, stating that she got only N2,500 out of the N25,000 bounties.

"I was introduced to this gang by the leader of another gang, Tony, who wanted me to join his gang but unfortunately his squad has been completed.

"I didn't make a dime throughout the three weeks of working except for the N25,000 made yesterday which has landed us in trouble today."

CSP Jejeloye urged Lagosians to be

watchful and observant, especially when in unregistered and unmarked commercial vehicles as it is one of the major tools criminals use in perpetrating their crimes.

"Once conversations concerning illicit dealing over money commence in such a vehicle, please alert immediately and draw the attention of any law enforcement agent around."

He warned all criminal elements in the metropolis to turn over a new leaf or risk being arrested and prosecuted, reiterating that fraudsters would be flushed out of the community.

## How we nabbed drug syndicate at MMIA - NDLEA

By Edith Igbokwe

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, has explained how it arrested a fleeing drug kingpin, Yunana Fidelis, heading a syndicate operating at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA, Ikeja Lagos and six other members of his gang.

NDLEA spokesman, Femi Babafemi, in a statement said the Lagos airport drug syndicate was behind the smuggling of 1,584,000 tablets of Tramadol seized on Tuesday 15th March by NDLEA operatives in collaboration with Aviation Security (AVSEC) and Customs service personnel at the airport.

The seizure includes 17 cartons of 250mg Tramadol branded as "Tamra" weighing 669.70kg and five

cartons of 225mg Tramadol under the brand name "Royal" with a gross weight of 217.15kg.

According to Babafemi the psychotropic substance, which was imported into the country from Pakistan was smuggled through the airport tarmac using one of the vehicles of the Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) and was intercepted at the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Personnel Yard.

Two suspects, Ofijeh John Mowa, a SAHCO driver and Nyam Gazu Alex, a security guard with the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO) were initially arrested in connection with the seizure.

He disclosed that further investigations by NDLEA operatives led to the arrest of five other persons involved in the crime including the

ringleader, Yunana Fidelis who fled Lagos to Kaduna the moment their lid was blown open.

Others include, Adesanwo Temitope; Owoseni Taiwo Temidayo; Fasoranti Shola and Bamigbade Jonathan.

Yunana Fidelis who is also a staff of NACHO had escaped and fled to Kaduna after depositing N19,800,000 cash with a BDC operator to be paid later into his bank account.

After tracking him for days in Kaduna, on Friday 25th Fidelis relocated to Abuja where he was eventually arrested by NDLEA operatives at 7pm on Sunday 27th March while he was trying to collect N1, 000, 000 cash from an undercover agent who posed as a BDC operator.

"In addition to recovering the cash Fidelis deposited with the BDC

operator in Lagos, the agency had also placed a post no debit order on his identified bank accounts," he explained.

Babafemi also disclosed that a professional methamphetamine (Mkpuru Mmiri) cook, Reuben Bekweri, 34, was arrested in Owerri while trying to distribute a kilogram of the illicit drug he cooked and packaged in seven nylon sachets in the Irete Area of Imo State capital on Saturday 26th March.

He said in Ado Ekiti, narcotic officers on Monday 28th March also arrested a 42-year-old lawyer, Mr. Mayowa Oluwanisomo, in Zone 4, Embassy Island, Mofere area of the Ekiti State capital following credible intelligence that he deals in psychotropic substances.

"A total of 11, 570 tablets of Tramadol weighing 7.3kilograms

were recovered from him when his residence was searched. He admitted ownership of the drug exhibits, adding that he graduated from Ekiti State University, Ado Ekiti and Abuja campus of the Nigerian Law School in 2016," he said.

Chairman/Chief Executive of

NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (rtd) commended the officers and men of MMIA, Imo and Ekiti State Commands for sustaining the offensive action against drug cartels in their respective areas of responsibility.

## LASPEMA calls for residents involvement in planning.

By Edith Igbokwe

The General Manager, Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Agency (LASPEMA), Tpl. Daisi Oso, has urged the leadership of Chief Anthony Enahoro Estate Residents Association, WEMCO Road, Ogba and Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) Medium Housing Estate, Agege to support government's initiative and planning on setbacks.

The General Manager made the call during a stakeholders' meeting with the residents towards achieving a common objective of how to manage setbacks and incidental open spaces adjoining the estates. He emphasised the need to correct the misuse of the spaces before it gets out of hand.

He noted that the setbacks and its lapses in the state are under immense pressure due to massive influx of people from other states and neighbouring countries.

Oso disclosed that it has led to an increase in spending by the state

government on infrastructural facilities to beautify urban spaces in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda of the state governor.

He, however, stated that it has become imperative to hold an engagement forum to decide on how best to manage the lapses on ground.

He said he has been making efforts to regulate setbacks and incidental open spaces across the state for effective urban planning through collaboration with stakeholders who may have better recommendations, suggestions to enhance the effective management of the setbacks and effects.

The Chairman of the (LSDPC) Medium Housing Estate, Agege, Mr. Dapo Daramola responded that the leadership of the Estate was elated to have such an engagement with the government agency and noted that it was the first time the government agency would be using a bottom-top approach in planning. He then assured that Housing Estate would cooperate and support the agency on the laudable initiative.

## New EkEDC MD, Sanda pledges enhanced performance

By Edith Igbokwe

The newly appointed Managing Director of Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC), Tinuade Sanda has pledged to improve the company's customer satisfaction index.

A statement by the company stated that Sanda, the first female MD, will lead the next phase of the company's growth by aggressively reducing aggregate technical, commercial and collection losses.

With her appointment, Sanda

becomes the first female MD of the company since its establishment.

She took over from Adeoye Fadeyibi, who was at the helm of affairs for four years.

According to a statement issued by the company, Sanda joined EKEDC in 2013 as the chief treasury and taxation officer.

She is said to have risen through the ranks to become the chief accounting officer where she contributed to the company's growth by implementing revenue generation initiatives and overseeing critical projects.



Tinuade Sanda

# Bada donates ambulance, buses to council staff

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Mrs. Samiat Bada, has donated three utility buses to council staff, legislative arm and the healthcare centre.

The utility vehicles include Toyota Coaster Bus, a fully equipped ambulance, and a bus to the legislative arm. According to her, the buses were procured to enhance oversight functions of the councillors, ease staff movement and improve healthcare sector.

Bada said the council embarked on the initiative in fulfilment of her campaign promises to the community and the council staff.

She said that for the community, tarring and rehabilitation of roads and other social amenities are ongoing.

She noted that the staff members are behind her success story and that there was a need to make them

happy by putting an end to the sufferings faced by some staff members who live in Ikorodu and its environs due to the peculiar and chaotic traffic situation within Ikorodu and its environs.

She stressed that the gesture would, to an extent, assist in reducing the hardship faced by the workers.

Bada adjudged Ikosi-Isheri PHC as one of the best in Lagos State, as it provides day and night services such as baby deliveries and other health care services.

She reiterated that the donation of the ambulance for emergency purposes is a demonstration of the high premium and love her administration placed on people's lives.

The council boss said adequate arrangement for the maintenance has been put in place, urging the council staff and legislators to make good use of the buses.

The Council leader, Hon. Yunusa Salami, who received the bus on behalf of the councillors, appreciated the Chairman, describing the



The donated buses

gesture as a positive development for the legislative arm, noting that it would assist them in carrying out their oversight functions and other collective assignments more

effectively.

The Medical Health Officer (MOH) of Ikosi-Isheri Primary Health Centre, Dr. Owoyele Abdulwasii, described the ambulance donation as one of the giant strides that Bada's

led Administration has made.

Dr. Owoyele explained that the PHC runs a 24-hour service with several referrals within and outside the council area. He stated that the council

chairman's intervention would help reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

"It will go a long way to improve the health profile of the community and the well-being of the people."

## Carew under supporters' pressure to contest for LAHA 2023

By Edith Igbokwe

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for the Kosofe Constituency 2020 Bye Election, Hon. Alebiosu Sikiru, who was recently honoured with an award of Most Outstanding Politician of the Year, has charged the youths to take active participation in politics. He said he has dedicated the award to the youths as

encouragement for them to emulate him and other good politicians.

Shortly after receiving the award, Sikiru expressed his appreciation to the event organisers for taking time to dig into his record of achievements to find him worthy of the special honour. He pointed out that he had successfully dug several boreholes, distributed foods, cows and grants to youth group and residents and

empowered his constituents, among others.

He, however, dedicated the award to Kosofe youths as he urged them to take advantage of politics to bring about change and a greater Kosofe in 2023.

"Finally, I would like to dedicate this award to all the youths of Kosofe as an invitation to come on board and join hands with people like me to make this Kosofe a better and greater one."

## Sikiru dedicates award to youths, charges them in active politics

By Edith Igbokwe

Supporters of the Chief Executive Officer of Farmcity, Lanre Carew have been piling pressure to contest for the Lagos House of Assembly in Kosofe Constituency 1 in 2023 as they have promise to purchase his interest forms for him should he indicate his interest, ECHONEWS has gathered. Carew was an aspirant in

2019 on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He was also the top contender for Kosofe Local Government Chairmanship during the 2021 primary election of the party. Though he emerged as the party's candidate at the last election, his election was annulled in favour of the incumbent Kosofe LG chairman, Hon. Moyosore Ogunlewe.

Carew later succumbed to party supremacy and left

Nigeria immediately after the controversial primary election to set up a business - Farmcity in the United Arab Emirates.

As gathered, Carew has returned to Nigeria after a long break and has since been under pressure to run for the Kosofe Constituency 1 State Assembly seat on the platform of the All Progressives Congress in 2023, though he has not declared his interest in running for office in 2023.

# Bamigbetan, Obe commend Iconic Events Centre

By Ladapo Kolade

**F**ormer Lagos State Commissioner for Information & Strategy, Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan and Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Hon. Monsuru Bello Obe have commended the management of Iconic Events Centre for the vision in locating a modern Events centre in the town.

Bamigbetan, addressing guests at the event said the events Centre has boosted the economy of the town by showing that people don't need to go to places such as Victoria Island or Ikeja to host their events in a modern centre.

He praised the couple behind the business, Mr and Mrs Kehinde Fakolujo for their commitment to high standards.

Also addressing the guests,



L-R: Mr and Mrs Kehinde Fakolujo, Hon. Monsurudeen Obe and Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan

the chairman of Ejigbo LCDA who cut the tape to formally open the centre for business assured the management of the patronage of the Local government.

He said the state government is already aware of the facility as the current commissioner for Information and strategy, Mr. Gbenga Onotoso

represented the Governor at the Echonews awards held at the in 2021.

He also extolled the virtues of Mr Kehinde Fakolujo whose unassuming character

encouraged him to develop a good relationship.

Dignitaries at the event include the chairman of the Ideal Nest Group , Mr. Olaleye, the executive

Committee of the Community Development

Committee led by its chairman, Mr Jelili Atiku and a businessman., Engr Marcus Adedini.

**F**ormer Commissioner for Information & Strategy and aspirant for the House of Representatives, Hon Kehinde Bamigbetan on Friday evening cut the tape to open the new Exclusive Hotels, Orioke, Ejigbo for business.

Bamigbetan praised the owner, Chief Ume Ugorji for his resilience, industry and vision for realising a dream he set out to achieve.

He urged the community to make use of the relaxation, exercise and sporting facilities to make the business survive.

Responding, Chief Ugorji thanked Bamigbetan and other dignitaries for attending the opening adding that it would encourage patronage.

Also present at the event was the councillor representing Ifoshi ward in the Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Hon. Grace Nwakwo-Okere,

## Exclusive Hotels opens for business



Hon. Grace Okere and Hon. Kehinde Bamigbetan

# 2022 NUGA: Two Gold medalists who publicly announced marriage proposal honoured

Two gold medalists, who publicly announced their marriage proposal at the just concluded 26th Nigeria University Games (NUGA) at the University of Lagos, have been honoured.

The student of Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, Sunday Ambule, had, during the games, openly proposed to his love, Sa'adatu Hashime, from the same university.

The Vice Chancellor of the UNILAG, Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, made this known on Saturday in his closing remark when he ushered the two love birds on stage to the admiration of the audience.

Speaking during the event, Ogundipe lauded both students for adding extra flavour to the excitement of the 26th NUGA games.

"The icing of this game is the athletes that proposed to one another, the man won gold, also the woman.

"This competition will ever remain fresh in the minds of the two intending couple and I will be happy to be the father of the

day whenever they are ready to tie the knot."

For Ambule, a student of Social Studies Education at ABU, he proposed to his love because it was a perfect time since they were both athletes competing in the tournament.

He said: "I chose the tournament because I met her through sports. She is an athlete like me. She is adorable and she fully understands me. She has been encouraging me a lot."

The lady of the moment, Hashime from the same department with Ambule, who could not contain her joy, disclosed that the day was one of her best moments.

"I feel so honoured and of course, one of my best moments ever. I was shocked when he proposed to me and when we were called on stage. We feel so honoured."

However, the University of Port Harcourt won the 26th NUGA with the host, UNILAG in second position and Nile University, Abuja, winning the third position.



Sunday Ambule and Sa'adatu Hashime

## UNILAG in total lockup

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Allied and Educational Institutions (NASU), University of Lagos (UNILAG) chapter have shut down electricity and water supply to the university, following the commencement of a two-week industrial action.

The strike began midnight of Sunday, March 27, joining the Academic Staff Union (ASUU) to cripple both academic and administrative activities in the university.

The decision to commence

the strike, according to the unions, followed the nonchalant attitude of government to their demands.

Addressing union members at the front of UNILAG Senate building, Chairman of SSANU, Comrade Showunmi Olushola, popularly known as Eko 4 Show, decried failure of government to review salaries and implement promotion arrears as well as non-payment and in some cases haphazard payment of retirees' benefits among others.

He also condemned the inconsistencies in the Integrated Payment Personnel System (IPPS),

saying the attendant problems remain unabated. After the congress, the union members stormed the service area housing Akoka Electricity Transmission Station to shut down power and water supply to the university.

Comrade Olushola, who was in company of his NASU counterpart, Comrade Aderibigbe Ayooluwa, said with the shutdown, nothing will work on campus as all offices are expected to be under lock and key.

He directed members of both unions to stay at home through out the period of the strike, saying, "No service is essential at this time, stay off campus, no concession

under any guise."

The union leaders further directed all security guards and drivers to comply with the strike action and remain at home while the union

moved from office to office, sending away their members who had resumed work.

They emphasised that if at the end of the two weeks, government does not respond, they will commence a total strike.

ASUU had on February 14, commenced a four-week

warning strike over failure of government to address their demands.

At the end of the four weeks, the strike was extended by another eight weeks. The National Association of Technologist had also last week commenced its own two-week warning strike.



Unilag

# LASU gets educational material from CBN

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The General Manager of the Lagos State Public Works Corporation Mr. Lateef Somide has said that the corporation is massively deploying its jet patchers to nip emerging potholes in the bud before they degenerate into major defects that may call for more resources to fix. He disclosed this during the inspection of a rigid pavement operation carried out along the LASU-Iba road. Somide promised that the government would continue to work to reduce potholes in order to make roads in the

state sustainably motorable. He noted that in places like the metropolis, the majority of potholes and sectional failures have disappeared due to the round-the-clock approach of the corporation to maintaining the roads. He added that the agency will also collaborate with other bodies such as LSPWC, the Ministry of Transportation, the various Local Governments and Local Council Development Authorities, community development associations and all relevant government agencies to improve the outlook of roads.



## Council chairman's wife sensitises residents on politics

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The wife of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mrs. Kehinde Ajala has charged the residents of the LCDA on their active participation in politics, urging them to come on board to move the state to a sustainable development.

He called on all national and spiritual leaders and other stakeholders to assuage people's fear about elections.

Mrs. Ajala advised residents to work as a team to make positive change in the 2023 elections.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary (ES) of Mushin Local Government Education Authority (LGEA), Princess Olufemi Akinlude emphasised the need to liberate, enlighten and improve youth participation in the electoral exercise.

She charged youths to wake up, get their Permanent Voter's Cards (PVCs), saying PVC is their right and voting power to effect the necessary changes of their choice in the governance.

The permanent Board Minister, Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (LASUBEB), Hon. Sherifat Adedoyin implored youths to translate the energy used on social media platforms to participate in politics.

She said the followers they pull on social media platforms should also be replicated in politics.

"Youths have done so well in entertainment industry, we need them to do the same in politics by letting their voices be heard. Enough of social media noise, take bold action to get involved in politics."

The state coordinator of Stakeholder Educational Initiative, PST. Aiyoola Olabunmi stated that all stakeholders in education should deploy efforts and resources available to impose better modes of teaching in schools to increase the groomed citizen's participation in governance.

She noted that the initiative targeted the entire nation but started from Lagos being a smart city.

## Lady goes dumb after visiting lover

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A lady with an undisclosed name, who suddenly became dumb when she visited her lover, has been released to her parents by the Iyana-Isashi Police Division after her affliction was confirmed to be from home. The lover had initially been accused of inflicting her with the illness and was arrested by the police. However, the suspected lover man was released after he was vindicated by the victim's parents.

The incident had created uproar among residents of the Iyana-Isashi community when the young lady was said to have suddenly become dumb after she visited a lover she met on Facebook in Lagos. It was learned that the young lady, who hails from Benue State but resides in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, became dumb after spending the night at her lover's place. Trouble, as gathered, started in the morning when the victim woke up, took a sachet of water and went outside to brush her teeth but suddenly

noticed that she had gone dumb. However, the spokesperson of Lagos State Police Command, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, said the suspect was arrested and later released when the victim's parents came to the station and revealed that it is a reoccurring spiritual attack afflicting the victim. Her parents insisted on taking the victim to their hometown in Benue State to find a remedy to the issue. After verifiable evidence that they are her parents, the victim was released to them.

## LASG fixes roads in Ojo

By Edith Igbokwe

The General Manager of the Lagos State Public Works Corporation Mr. Lateef Somide has said that the corporation is massively deploying its jet patchers to nip emerging potholes in the bud before they degenerate into major defects that may call for more resources to fix. He disclosed this during the inspection of a rigid pavement operation carried out along the LASU-Iba road. Somide promised that the government would continue to work to reduce potholes in order to make roads in the

state sustainably motorable. He noted that in places like the metropolis, the majority of potholes and sectional failures have disappeared due to the round-the-clock approach of the corporation to maintaining the roads. He added that the agency will also collaborate with other bodies such as LSPWC, the Ministry of Transportation, the various Local Governments and Local Council Development Authorities, community development associations and all relevant government agencies to improve the outlook of roads

## Red Line Project: LASG announces 4-month traffic diversion in Mushin

By Edith Igbokwe

The state government has announced the diversion of traffic at Ogunmokun Street and Kayode Street in Mushin for four months starting from Saturday, April 2 to July 20 for the first phase of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit

Red Line Project. Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Frederic Oladeinde made this known in a statement over the weekend. According to the Commissioner, the piling works will take a stretch of four months to allow the contractor achieve the desired results for the rail line.

He stated that alternative routes have been provided for road users to utilise during the course of the construction. Oladeinde said motorists on Kayode Street would be diverted to Jibowu to connect Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway to access Ogunmokun Street. He further stated that motorists on Ogunmokun Street would be

diverted to Agege Motor Road, Ilupeju Bypass, for road users to access Ikorodu Road. The commissioner assured that the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) would be deployed along the affected routes to manage traffic flow and minimise inconvenience. He also appealed to road users,

residents, especially motorists that ply these corridors to comply with the traffic directions and to support the execution of the project. Oladeinde said that the project was expected to achieve a seamless multi-modal transport system that would meet the transportation needs of a larger population.

# Osinbajo, Adebayo, Oyedepo, Okonkwo, others bid farewell to Rev Ezekiel

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo led many dignitaries who gathered at Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, last week to bid farewell to Rev. Obiora Ezekiel, the late founder and General Overseer of Christian Pentecostal Mission, who died some months ago.

Pastor Enoch Adebayo, General Overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God; Bishop David Oyedepo, General Overseer, Living Faith Worldwide, aka Winners Chapel; Bishop Wale Oke, President, Sword of the Lord Ministries, Ibadan, and Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN); Bishop Mike Okonkwo, General Overseer, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM); Rev. Uma Ukpai, founder of Uma Ukpai Evangelical Association (UUEA); Rev. Felix Omobude,

former PFN President and General Superintendent of Gospel Light International Ministries (New Covenant Gospel Church) and Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, wife of Lagos State Governor who represented her husband were also in attendance.

While Ukpai gave testimony of his friendship and worldwide evangelistic tours with Ezekiel, Okonkwo prayed for the family, Wale Oke prayed for the church he left behind. Adebayo delivered the funeral sermon, something he said he was doing for the third time since he became a pastor.

Adebayo who described late Ezekiel as "the bulldozer", a terror to demons while he was alive recalled how the man visited him at Mushin where he lived in a one-room apartment to encourage him after he was

made the G.O of RCCG. "This made us to be very close," he said.

Recounting Ezekiel's last days on earth, he said that when he visited the late cleric, the deceased was only able to respond to his good morning greeting.

"When I asked him, how are you?, he did not respond to my question. What would you like me to pray for you? No answer. But then he held my hand as if he was saying: 'are you seeing what I am seeing?' After I prayed for him, he left my hand. Two days later, I was told he has died."

Throwing a challenge to the audience, he urged them not to weep for Ezekiel but for themselves, saying the cleric had gone to be with the Lord. Warning members and leaders of the church not to take undue



Late Rev. Obiora Ezekiel

advantage of the founder's exit to foment trouble, he noted that "our work will be tried with fire." In her tribute to her late husband, Rev. Mercy Ezekiel

remarked that she has not only lost a confidant but a friend, a neighbour and "everything I have." When he was sick, she said, she prayed that he would

not die. But he was not happy and rebuked her for holding him back from going. His remains were later laid to rest at the church headquarters, Lagos.

## Nigeria's Centre of Judo Excellence is Lagos - Oshodi

By Saheed Afolabi

The President of the NJF, Dr Musa Oshodi (a 5 Dan judoka) has revealed that the federation deems it fit to add a new feather to the Lagos cap in the development of sport in Nigeria.

He made this revelation during during the closing ceremony of the recently concluded National Open Judo Trials in Lagos. To this end, he said the state will henceforth be called and addressed as Nigeria's Centre of Judo Excellence by the judo family in Nigeria and across the world.

Giving reasons the NJF bestowed on the state this new status, Oshodi recalled that "there could not have been a place for the renaissance of our sport than in Lagos; indisputably the Centre of Excellence, a land of aquatic

splendour. Lagos means different things to different people and institutions, but to judo, Lagos means everything, it is our cradle.

"Nigerian judo was mid-wived in Lagos by the Nigeria Police whose three young officers, Sabitu Giwa, Alex Dauda and David Machamp traveled to Japan in 1971 to acquire the knowledge of the oriental sport and subsequently returned to spread the message of the art.

"Since playing that historic role, Lagos has maintained an enviable position in our sport. The state has produced great judokas, seasoned coaches, erudite referees and top-notch administrators."

Oshodi said the state provided a conducive environment for the hosting of the just concluded National Trials at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in



Oshodi

Surulere, which the NJF used to select judokas who will be called to camp ahead of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games which will be staged from July 28 to August 8 in the United Kingdom.

"Coming to Lagos for the National Trials was a homecoming for us and for our sport. Expectedly, Lagos did not disappoint in the discharge of its hosting responsibility," he enthused.

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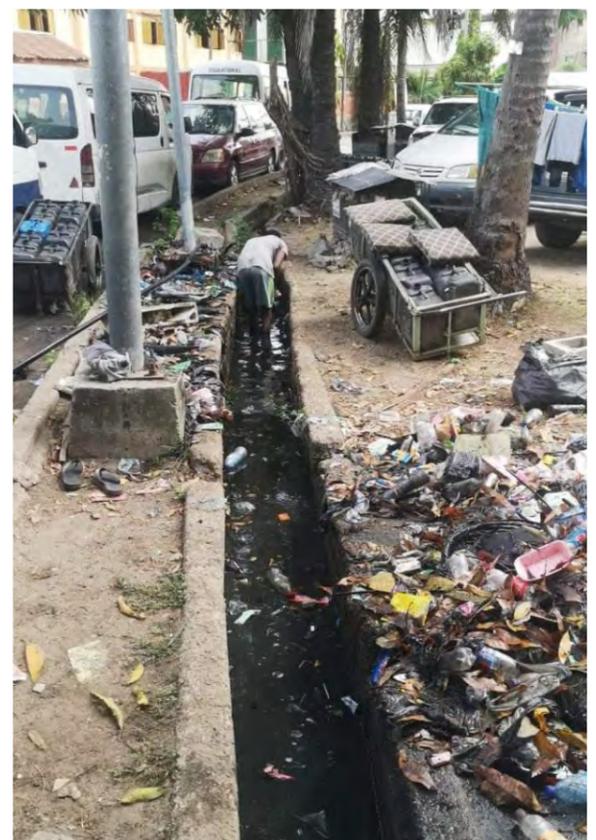
## Gbajabiamila drain clearance begins in Surulere

By Saheed Afolabi

The clearing of drains in Surulere, a project facilitated by the Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, has commences in 10 CDAs out of the total 58 in the Surulere Constituency I.

The 10 CDAs include Iponri Estate CDA, Itesiwaju CDA, Alaka Estate CDA, Moboluwaduro CDA and Mosafejo CDA. Others are Majahe CDA, Ifedapo CDA, Oorelope CDA, Ololade CDA and Toluwani CDA.

According to the Secretary General of the Surulere Community Development Committee, Alhaji Selim Alamutu, who is also a member of the Project Implementation Committee, the measuring and snapping of selected drains are still ongoing, while work on those completed has commenced. The Project Joint Committee



Desilting exercise in Surulere

are still working on the assessment and evaluation based on measurements and therefore, seek cooperation with the workers deployed to the various communities for optimum results.

# Qatar 2022: Painful not to be at the world cup - Troost-Ekong

By Saheed Afolabi

Super Eagles assistant captain and central back defender, William Troost-Ekong, has appealed to Nigerians to forgive the Super Eagles for a woeful display as they couldn't make it to the World Cup at the expense of Ghana.

The Watford defender spoke on behalf of the entire Super Eagles team, pleading with the fans that they share in their emotions and take responsibility for the team's inability to make it to the World Cup.

"To all Nigerians, on behalf of the team, we want to apologise for not securing the World Cup ticket.

"Despite giving it everything possible, it wasn't meant to be.

"First and foremost, as Nigerians, we share your emotions and we take our responsibility as a group.

"We sincerely thank the Nigerian fans for their overwhelming support, the NFF President who did everything possible to make the qualification happen and of course the Minister.

"A bitter pill to swallow but believe me we will be back better and stronger!"

The Super Eagles of Nigeria couldn't make it to the World Cup as Ghana ousted them through the away goal rule, the first leg ended goalless in Kumasi, Ghana, while the second leg ended 1-1 at Abuja.



Troost-Ekong

## Notayo's Cup to begin April 20

By Saheed Afolabi

The prestigious grassroots competition, Notayo's Cup, is set to commence on the April 20 after the draws of the competition was done recently at a section of Owosheni Primary School Sports facility.

The competition will see 32 teams slug it out to advance to each next stage of the competition before it will be narrowed down to the two last finalists teams, who will play to be crowned champions of the 2nd edition of the Cup.

All matches will be played at Jalisco mini stadium, Oshodi while the final will be played at



Cappa field, Nitel ground, Oshodi.

The competition is a knockout one where a team that wins advances to the next round.

SGH Sports Academy will play the opening game of the competition against Ambassador FC on April 20 by 1pm at Jalisco mini stadium, Oshodi.

The second game will be played

by Oshodi based team, Oloke FC and Lofty Skills SA from Ikorodu on the same day by 3pm at Jalisco mini stadium, Oshodi.

Other games are M22 FC vs Ultimate Warriors (22nd of April 11am), Fortune FA vs TCN FC (1pm, 22nd of April), Jogo FA vs Loveworld FA, FC Phoenix vs Agada United, Greatness FC vs Nakamura Strikers, MS Success FC vs Ghetto Tigers, Young Planners vs Utility Sport.

Others are Kendoo FC vs Emirates FC, Oba Dosumu FC vs HOP FA, Crusaders FC vs Unstoppable FA, Diadem Stallion vs Skylite FC, Adventist FC vs Shola FC, Brenner Sport vs Surulere Warriors, and Kings FC vs Success FC.

## Giannis Antetokounmpo becomes Milwaukee Bucks all time leading scorer

Giannis Antetokounmpo became the Milwaukee Bucks' all-time leading scorer as he helped his side edge past the Brooklyn Nets 120-119.

The Greek scored 44 points to take him past Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's tally of 14,211 points.

Antetokounmpo scored a three-pointer to tie the match and force overtime, before

sinking the tie-breaking free throws with three seconds remaining.

"I don't want to be the guy only that dunks and runs," the 27-year-old said.

"I'm changing the narrative."

Antetokounmpo also registered 14 rebounds and six assists as the Bucks claimed their 12th win in 15 games.

Jrue Holiday scored 19 points and Khris Middleton 16 for the

defending NBA champions.

Elsewhere, the Utah Jazz ended their five-game losing streak with a 122-109 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jordan Clarkson scored 19 points off the bench as the Jazz beat the Lakers for the first time in three meetings this season.

The Lakers have now lost five of their past six games and the 2020 champions are currently outside of the play-off places with six games of the regular season remaining.

## Standard Queens Championship debuts in Lagos

Four exceptional women teams came together to promote women football as they decided to have a 4 women football clubs league competition to put their women footballers in shape as the NWFL 2nd and 3rd tier league commences soon.

Nakamura FA, Papa Soccer Academy, Prince Kazeem Eletu Queens and Dannaz Ladies are the clubs participating in the 4 teams league.

Dannaz Ladies are presently top of the league table with 7 points from 3 matches, Papa Soccer Academy are 2nd with 2 points from 2 matches.

Prince Kazeem Eletu Queens have a point from 2 matches and are 3rd, while Nakamura Strikers have zero point after playing a match and have 2 games at hand.

Dannaz Ladies are scheduled to play at the NWFL Championship when it commences.

While Nakamura FA, Prince



Kazeem Eletu Queens and Papa Soccer Academy will be competing in the 3rd tier of NWFL, which is the NWFL Nationwide league set to commence later this month in Edo.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the organiser of the competition, Folashade Ekun stated that the reason behind the competition is to put the four teams in excellent form as they will be participating in the NWFL second and third tier leagues.

"We came up with this innovative idea in order to put the participating clubs in

great shape as they participate in the NWFL 2nd and 3rd tier in order to gain promotion to the elite NWFL Premiership.

"The tournament is also an avenue to promote women football because, so many people focus on the men and leaving the women behind, so our aim is to put women football on the spotlight.

"The competition will also serve as a competitive atmosphere for the players as they will be able to hone their skills and showcase their hidden talents to the World."



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Published by Echonews Newspapers Limited

21, Ona Iwa Mimo Street, Ori Oke Bus Stop, Ejigbo, Lagos. [www.echonews.ng](http://www.echonews.ng) Email: [echonews1111@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:echonews1111@yahoo.co.uk)

Managing Editor: Obe Rasheed Tel, 08025378799 Editor: Abolaji Adebayo, Tel: 07061193610. Circulation: Opeyemi Akinlade; Marketing executive: Tope Yussuf 07010496879