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NIN/Meter Validation: Ikeja Electric Succumbs, Extends Deadline

Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos residents who are yet to link their National Identification Number, NIN with their prepaid meters under the Ikeja Electric can breathe a sigh of relief following the extension of the deadline by the distribution company. A customer service executive for the Ojodu undertaking office of Ikeja Electric, Mr. Samson Okunola told Echonews that the company was forced to extend the deadline, which earlier expired on November 15 due to numerous issues encountered by customers during the validation.

He said, "It has been extended by one more month. Our customers should learn now that any time they link their NIN they should wait for a few minutes before approaching our POS vendors to load their meters. They should note that after they had linked, their first recharge should be from POS vendor and not online so that they can get the KCT 1 and KCT 2 to upgrade."

The recent linking of the National Identity Number, NIN, with pre-paid meter by customers of the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company has thrown many customers of the Ikeja Electric in darkness.

Many of the customers who had successfully done the linking and those who failed to do it within the stipulate period could not recharge their prepaid meter and presently living without electricity supply.



Ikeja Electric engineer at work

The distribution company had announced the integration of the NIN with prepaid meter a few months ago with the deadline of November 1. Many of its customers could not migrate at the deadline, which made the company to extend the deadline by two weeks, November 15 to be precise.

Despite the extension, there are millions of customers who are yet to link the NIN and for those who had done it, they find it difficult to buy the energy.

Echonews gathered that for every customer that had successfully linked the NIN with the prepaid meter and set to buy electricity power, three tokens containing 20 digits each would be sent to him or her.

The tokens are configuration Token; Reset Token and Prepaid Token and a customer wanting to

buy energy must load these 60 digits number according configuration, resetting and prepaid order to achieve results.

However, for many of the customers who buy via banks apps, it has been a difficult exercise. Those who spoke to Echonews said that the bank application had always popped up invalidation, which they described as frustrating and making it impossible for them to reload their meter.

A good example of the frustrated customer is Mr. Godwin Ebiye who resident at Sparklight Estate, Isheri North, Lagos. He said that he linked his NIN about four weeks ago but he could not reload his meter and that he had visited Ikeja Electric undertaking office at Ojodu but the customer service officer told him to keep on trying.

In Ojodu, Magodo, Alausa, Oregon and some other areas under Ikeja Electric, the story from the customers are the same.

The leadership of some Community Development Associations whose residents fall under Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company have pleaded for more extension of deadline for the linkage of their National Identity Number with prepaid meter.

At their monthly meetings, some of which Echonews correspondents attended, the CDA chairmen said that many of the residents found it difficult to link the NIN because their members had no valid NIN.

At Bemil Residents Association, the chairman Mr. Rotimi Tijani said that 70 per cent of his members had not linked their

NIN with pre-paid meter because they lacked adequate education on how to go about it.

He said that the association had invited the Ikeja Electric Business manager, Ojodu Undertaking to visit the community and sensitise the residents.

To a customer, Mr. Mathew Adewole at Oremeta street, Ojodu Ikeja, only the landlord has been given the authority to link the meter with NIN, adding, "I don't think our landlord has NIN. He died a few years ago. The son who manages this house is a tailor who does not care about NIN at all."

To Mr. Gbolade Adekoyejo who resides at Magodo Phase 1, Shangisha Area of Lagos, almost every resident in the estate had linked their NIN with pre-paid

meter.

"We got the link as soon as the campaign began. It was posted on the estate platform and you know, many of those who stay here are elite, they don't want anything that will disrupt regular power supply. I think almost if not all of them had done it. I did mine a few days ago," he said.

Adekoyejo said that the only issue in Magodo is that some customers only received one token from the bank app instead of three, making it difficult to recharge the prepaid meter.

Reacting, a customer service executive, Ikeja Electric, Ojodu Undertaking office, Mr. Samson Okunola told our correspondent that linking many of his customers with their pre-paid meter had been a bit difficult because some of them would have to revalidate the NIN.

NIN/Meter Validation: Ikeja Electric Succumbs, Extends Deadline

Okunola said that all Customer Service Officers working with Ikeja Electric had been on the field at the meeting of various Community Development Associations to sensitise their customers on why they should register for NIN and link it with their prepaid meter.

"It is necessary because they will not be able to recharge their pre-paid meter after November 15, 2023."

According to him, the former deadline was November 1 but due to NIN issues and some other hiccups, the company in conjunction with the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission extended by two weeks.

However, he said that no customer who had linked his NIN with the prepaid meter should have problem buying energy. He advised that customers should patronize agents if they find it difficult to get tokens through their bank applications.

For customers with incorrect NINs, our correspondent gathered that the numbers were generated at some private outlets for those who could not visit the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) office in their areas.

Recall that in a bid to broaden its reach and expedite the registration process, the NIMC collaborated with 170 private firms, more than 30 state governments, and public institutions.

But many citizens who registered through some Front-End Partners (FEPs) were allegedly extorted as shown by the current meter linkage that they were not been duly registered. They are currently being subjected to a revalidation process to link their meter. Even when the INMC



NIMC DG, Mrs. Abisoye Coker-Odusote

has said that the NIN is free, the cost varies from one outlet to another as they collect between N2000 and N3000 from residents.

The current revalidation, which ordinary was not part of the arrangement has become a new burden to the resident as the outlet now charge N1000 for it.

In July before he finally bowed out of office the Director-General of NIMC, Aliyu Aziz, revealed that over 101 million Nigerians have successfully registered for their NINs. Notably, women account for 44% of the total number of registrants.

He said that through the concerted efforts of the NIMC and its dedicated workforce, 90% of adults aged 15 years and above had been successfully captured in the NIN database.

The remaining individuals are primarily children who are currently in hospitals or attending schools, and they will be registered at their earliest convenience.

It will be recalled that NIMC established 5,500 active enrolment centres across the

nation, ensuring widespread coverage of the enrolment activities, even in remote areas and communities.

It also deployed over 15,000 registration devices nationwide, enhancing the efficiency and expediency of the registration process, yet citizens are still complaining bitterly of not being able to register.

Reacting to this anomaly, the current acting Director General of NIMC, Mrs. Abisoye Coker-Odusote had called on Nigerians to report instances of harassment or extortion during the National Identification Number (NIN) enrollment process to the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) by visiting one of its locations.

Coker-Odusote, said "NIMC has been made aware of specific reports involving some Front End Partners (FEPs) who were allegedly extorting money from members of the public for NIN enrollment. Even as they are currently being subjected to a revalidation process.



Ikeja Electric Undertaking office

You can reach out to our official channels, including our website, social media platforms, or our helpline, to report such incidents. Your reports will help us ensure that the NIN enrollment process remains free and accessible to all Nigerians."

Coker-Odusote added that the commission remained committed to providing a secured and universally recognised identity management system for Nigeria. She said that NIMC would not tolerate any act of extortion or harassment of citizens in enrolment centres. "We want to

strongly condemn and address such unlawful activities. It is crucial to emphasise that these actions are not only unethical but also illegal. "We have a zero-tolerance policy for such misconduct; anyone found engaged in such activities will face the full force of the law," she said.

Meanwhile, the Business Manager Ojodu undertaking for Ikeja Electric, who simply identified himself as Mr. Bright told our correspondent via mobile said that it was true that many customers were complaining about their

inability to update their prepaid meters before the November deadline as stipulated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

Following a NERC countdown alert to remind users of the scheduled TID Rollover Upgrade, Nigerians lamented how cumbersome the process had been due to technical hitches. However, the Ikeja Electric had succumbed to the protest of the customers as it had now extended the roll-over exercise by another one month.



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Well-being of Citizens Remains Paramount To Govt-Omotoso

Lagos State Government has emphasised that the well-being of citizens remains paramount in implementing the THEMES Plus Agenda of the present administration.

The state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso stated this while speaking on the MiTV Summit interview programme, adding that the State Government didn't wait for the Federal Government to announce palliatives and other measures to cushion the effects of the removal of the fuel subsidy before Governor Sanwo-Olu swung into action.

"What Mr. Governor first did was to announce a programme called 'Food Package' and before that, he slashed transport fares by 50 % on BRT buses, LagFerry Boats and on the Blue Rail Line with immediate effect", he said.

Omotoso further said that Mr. Governor also introduced medical palliatives for all expectant Mothers in General Hospitals across the State by removing fees for normal deliveries or c-sections, which is still in effect to date. However, he noted the slash in transportation fares has



... Reiterates Commitment to Timely Delivery of Projects

recently been reduced from 50% to 25% due to the high price of fuel.

Shedding more light on the Food Package programme for the less privileged, Omotoso explained that the State Government was able to ensure that the palliative reached the needy by making use of the data collected by the Lagos State Office of Disabilities Affairs, Community Development Associations as well as Christian and Muslim Community Associations. The present administration aims to ensure the food package distribution programme has been extended to about 500,000 households since the programme commenced some weeks ago.

He said, "Additionally,

the State Government is constructing a Food and Logistics Hub in Ketu and when completed, it is going to be the biggest food and logistics hub in Africa, which will be able to feed Five Million Lagosians in three months".

Speaking on the recent graduation ceremony for students at the Lagos State Vocational Centres, Omotoso said when the figure of those who just graduated is added to that of previous years, it would amount to 21000 people who have learned at least a skill from the State Vocational Centres free of charge. In addition, all graduating students got equipment for start-ups while the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund is also supporting them with grants.

On the ongoing

infrastructure projects across the State, the Commissioner stated that the Yaba and Oyingbo overpass Bridges have been commissioned while some others would also soon be commissioned among the numerous ongoing projects embarked upon by the present administration across the State. "As I speak, some of the Educational projects already delivered include the ones in Eti-Osa, Agege, Betland Schools and the Elemoro 18 Classroom school specially built for people living with disabilities with standard sick days among others.

Excitedly, Omotoso also spoke about the Red Line Rail which started on the 15th of October 2021 under the administration of

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Blue Line Rail which was started by his predecessors but completed in record time by Mr. Governor. According to him, the Ikeja Overpass will be commissioned soon, after which the Red Line Rail will also be commissioned by the end of this year.

He also touched on the ground-breaking ceremony of the Film City—a clear message to the world that the Lagos State Government is ready to support Nollywood. He said, "Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has done well by supporting the creative industry and opening it up to thousands of people who are interested in film editing, acting, script writing and all areas of film in the sector. The Film City would stand as replacement of the one at Oregun which was destroyed during the #EndSARS protest".

Regarding, the Fourth Mainland Bridge, the Commissioner noted that it is one of the iconic projects that the Sanwo-Olu/Hamzat administration plans to execute and it is going on according to plan because a contractor has been chosen to build the 37 kilometres bridge

starting from Abraham Adesanya to Ikorodu and bursting out at Lagos-Ibadan Expressway around The Redeemed Christian Church of God.

In the same vein, Omotoso said the ongoing seven-storey Massey Children's Hospital being built at Adeniji-Adele is going to be the largest hospital in West Africa and health workers will be trained to be skillful personnel as the Government intends to make available all necessary and important equipment.

The Commissioner said Mr. Governor has already met with the State Security Council to ensure effective collaboration among security agencies so that residents will be provided with adequate security as the yuletide approaches.

Omotoso, therefore, encouraged indigents to continually support the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu because he means well for them, saying "Mr. Governor has shown capacity and ability to take Lagos to greater heights that we are all aiming for because Lagos city is home to the black man, home of commerce and home of financial ability, so people should continue to pay their taxes regularly for the betterment of the state", he averred.

Sanwo-Olu Commends NBCC Role In Nigeria-Britain Economic Relations



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described the Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce as a pillar of strength, fostering economic partnerships and creating opportunities for growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Governor made this known at the celebration of the 2023 Presidential Inauguration dinner of the Nigerian-British

Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) held recently in Lagos.

Represented by Commissioner for Commerce,

Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, Sanwo-Olu stated that the Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce

has a pivotal role to play in shaping the economic landscape of Nigeria and Britain.

His words: "The Chamber must continue to foster an environment that encourages investment, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. Its commitment to ethical business practices, corporate social responsibility, and environmental sustainability will not only benefit our economies but also contribute to the well-being of our citizens."

Speaking on the recently held Lord's Mayor Show, Mr. Governor maintained that his administration took a major step to deepen economic ties with the British private sector with its historic participation at the

recently concluded Show in London and the landing of the Lagos International Financial Centre, also in the city of London.

"Our participation at this show which is the first by any African city provided us a unique opportunity to engage with the UK's private sector and business community where we reiterated the fact that Lagos is open for business and more investments. We are confident that we can continue to count on the collaboration and support of the NBCC as we strive to consolidate our efforts to achieve the desire of making Lagos the most preferred destination for local and foreign investments in Africa," he said.

While congratulating the new President of the

Chamber, Mr. Ray Alley, the Governor charged members to embrace the digital era, leveraging technology to connect businesses, streamline processes, and create new avenues for trade, saying "The world is more interconnected than ever, and it is our responsibility to harness this connectivity for the greater good".

"In the ever-evolving landscape of global commerce, it is imperative that we embrace innovation, adaptability, and inclusivity. The challenges we face are dynamic, but they are also opportunities for growth and transformation. As we move forward, let us be guided by a spirit of collaboration, recognising that our collective strength lies in our unity," he said.

“Lagos Poised To Transform Rural Communities To Semi-Urban Centres”



The Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on Rural Development, Dr. Nurudeen Yekini Lanre-Agbaje, has expressed the readiness of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration to transform rural communities in the state into semi-urban centres.

He disclosed this at a training programme organised for the youths and farmers in Epe by

the Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), hinting that Governor Sanwo-Olu is very passionate about

transforming the lives of rural community dwellers to make them enjoy similar amenities being enjoyed by urban

dwellers to reduce rural-urban drifts, improve socio-economic activities and well-being of rural

communities and equally promote social inclusiveness in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the State Government.

Lanre-Agbaje charged the participants to utilise the knowledge gained at the training to expand their businesses by leveraging modern methods and technology for increased yield to improve the welfare and livelihood of the beneficiaries.

Speaking further on the purpose of the training programme, the Director/CEO, Centre for Rural Development (CERUD), Mr. Stephen Adeniji pointed out the staggering shortage between the demand and supply of fish in Nigeria.

He revealed that about 3.4 million metric tonnes of fish are

required for consumption, while about 37% is locally produced leading to a huge foreign exchange deficit in the national economy. He therefore charged the participants to use the opportunity of the training to increase their fish production to reduce poverty, create employment and contribute to the reduction in the scarcity of foreign exchange.

Responding, the participants thanked Mr. Governor for his love and support to the people at the grassroots through several live-transforming interventions.

They also promised to make use of the knowledge and experience gained at the training to improve their fish production and contribute to the growth of the economy of Lagos State.

Lagos Govt Commends Healthcare Workers On Service Delivery



Lagos State Head of Service, Mr, Bode Agoro has commended Medical Officers in the State Health Sector for their dedication, commitment and diligence to service delivery, just as he

assured them of the continued support of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to the healthcare sector, particularly the primary healthcare system.

Agoro gave the commendation in his

address at the closing ceremony of a two-day retreat organised by the Lagos Health District I for its officers with the theme, “Building Our Team Towards Improving Quality Care in Our Facilities” held recently

at Amber Residence, GRA, Ikeja.

He said the renewed commitment of the present administration in ensuring effective and efficient management of the primary health care system in Lagos State

necessitated the establishment of the primary health care districts across the divisions of Lagos State in line with the intent to provide more access to primary health care for residents of the State.

The HOS stressed further that the present administration shall continually train and retrain its workforce to improve their knowledge and enhance their service delivery, adding that Governor Sanwo-Olu is passionate about improving the capability of all staff.

Earlier in her remarks, the Permanent Secretary, Health District II, Dr. ((Mrs) Lajide Oludayo, noted that the training was organised to ensure that the participants understand the overall goal of delivering improved and sustainable health care to the residents in Lagos health district II, as part of the efforts towards achieving universal health care.

She added that the major focus is to develop a sustainable primary health care system, where the disease burden is reduced to the barest minimum and quality of life is enhanced.

Sanwo-Olu's Aide Urges Residents To Embrace Primary Healthcare Centres



... As Lagos Health District I Launches Extensive Health Awareness Campaign

Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Health, Mrs. Kemi Ogunyemi has emphasised the importance of residents utilising primary healthcare centres (PHCs) across the State for their fundamental healthcare needs. Speaking at the Flag-Off Ceremony of the District-Wide Health Awareness and Sensitization Campaign organised by the Lagos State Health District I held at the Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu PHC

in Orile-Agege LCDA, Mrs. Ogunyemi highlighted the crucial role of PHCs as the foundation of community healthcare services. "Primary healthcare is the cornerstone of our health services" Mrs. Ogunyemi stressed, emphasising its role in providing comprehensive healthcare and the Governor Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to ensuring healthcare access for all Lagos

residents.

In advocating for PHCs as preventive hubs, Mrs. Ogunyemi encouraged individuals to consider these centres as their first choice for healthcare needs before turning to higher-level hospitals. Acknowledging challenges like brain drain in the healthcare sector, Mrs. Ogunyemi reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing these issues through recruitment and training programmes.

Ogunyemi reiterated that the community's well-being is the top priority, assuring access to essential healthcare needs through primary health centres to support long and healthy lives for residents.

Earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health for District I, Dr. Olufunmilayo Bankole highlighted the importance of the district-wide health awareness and sensitization campaign, noting that the programme designed to raise awareness about critical health issues and promote preventive health as well as the Ilera-Eko Health Scheme, an insurance package aimed at offering affordable comprehensive healthcare to residents of Lagos.

Dr. Bankole detailed the screening programmes spanning 20 primary health care centres, stressing the significance of preventive health

measures and the advanced services available at these centres.

"This three-day event, from 27th to 29th November 2023, offers free screenings for various conditions such as blood pressure, blood sugar, cervical cancer, and eye issues across Agege, Alimosho, and Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Areas", Dr. Bankole said.

She opined that the recent inauguration of health districts was to rejuvenate primary healthcare services in Lagos State, signalling the government's commitment to improving healthcare at grassroots levels.

Addressing community concerns, Dr. Bankole announced the establishment of the Lagos Health District I office and encouraged residents to engage with the office for any primary healthcare service or challenges.

Dr. Bankole emphasised preventive healthcare and ongoing vaccination

programmes for children under five years old and the HPV vaccination exercise for teenage girls, saying "We aim for health and wellness for all people".

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Orile-Agege LCDA, Hon. Johnson Babatunde assured the community of his administration's commitment to health. He highlighted plans to establish additional PHCs and praised the success of the 'Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme.'

Encouraging residents to utilise the health services under Lagos State's Health Scheme coverage, the Chairman highlighted its affordability and positive impact on community well-being.

Babatunde also celebrated the commissioning of the Claudiana Ibijoke Primary Health Care Centre, citing its immediate impact on facilitating successful childbirth in the area since its commissioning.

Sanwo-Olu's Second Term'll Prioritise More Developmental Projects-Omotoso

The Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso has stated that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration plans to prioritise more developmental projects across the State during its second term.

Speaking on a national television Continental, Omotoso described Lagos as a victim of its success, noting that the influx of people to the State has affected its infrastructure and this has put a lot of pressure on the state to improve and build more developmental projects at a faster pace to remain the "Centre of Excellence".

In his words, "Lagos State is the fastest growing economy in the world with a population of about 25 million. Lagos has 10 times the population of New York and Los Angeles and bigger

than that of some African countries combined", he said.

"The Smart City project in the State is ongoing through the installation of cameras in all parts of the State. This is in addition to the provision of the 6000km fibre optic cables to improve access to functional, efficient and affordable internet services with a focus on connecting all schools in the State to the internet. Also, the introduction of digital cameras by the State Traffic Radio has helped place Lagos as a smart city".

Speaking on transportation and traffic management, the Commissioner spoke about the intermodal transportation system in the State and also asserted that the Sanwo-Olu administration has built 500 bridges, rehabilitated and

commissioned 940 roads and provided 21 Lagos ferries on the waterways with 14 more Lag Ferries to be injected into the system soon.

Omotoso submitted that the fast electric Blue Line Rail from Marina to Mile 2 is running smoothly and takes 70 trips per day which has reduced the travel time of commuters drastically. He further explained that the second phase of the Blue Rail project from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko has started while the Red Line Rail project is nearing completion and its test run would begin immediately after commissioning.

"The Red Line Rail project is the regular train that would share a rail line with the Nigerian Rail Corporation (NRC) and would convey commuters from Agbado to Oyingbo with 13 Stations located in Agbado, Iju, Agege, Ikeja, MMIA International, MMIA Domestic, Oshodi,

Prioritise More Developmental



Mushin, Iddo, Yaba, Ebute Metta, Ebute Ero and Oyingbo. The overpass bridges in Oyingbo and Yaba have been commissioned and that of Ikeja would soon be commissioned for use by the general public", he stated.

The Commissioner reiterated that Lagos State is made up of a young mobile population who are strong in the area of tech, entertainment and creativity which has made Lagos an economic hub that attracts investors to the country and the State. He revealed that Lagos is the first African State to be invited to the London Mayor's Show and this enabled Mr. Governor, who is the Chairman of

International Financial Cycle, to meet with foreign investors where he discussed the Lekki-Epe International Airport, Omu Creek, the Fourth Mainland Bridge, the Lagos State Food and Logistics projects and the need for them to invest in the State.

On Taxation and Internal Generated Revenue in the State, Omotoso averred that Lagos is not doing well as it ought to do in the area of tax collection. "The tax ratio of Lagos is the lowest in the world and there are 6 million active taxpayers with 4.5 million real taxpayers and these are people that get their taxes deducted from their salaries," he said.

He further explained that the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service is not trying to increase taxes but to expand the tax net so that taxes can be collected from citizens who are yet to be captured.

Regarding the issue of building collapse in Lagos State, the Commissioner said the incident has gone down and 90 per cent of the buildings that have been brought down by the State Government are illegal structures and buildings constructed on drainage channels.

He emphasised the need for people to get the right documents and building permits from government agencies such as Lagos State Physical Planning Authority (LASPPA) and Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) saddled with the responsibility before embarking on any construction. This, according to him, would help to monitor and reduce the spate of building collapse in the State.

Innovation Is Critical In Achieving Sustainable Empowerment of Women-Commissioner



Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem has described innovation as a critical tool for achieving sustainable empowerment of women and a very important factor for individuals and organisations to adapt and overcome challenges thrown up from time to time in a rapidly changing world. Ambrose-Medebem stated this at the annual Exquisite Ladies of the Year, ELOY Awards and Conference held recently in Lagos while speaking on the topic: "Importance of Being Innovative to Sustain Women Empowerment." In her keynote address, the Commissioner noted that when we talk about

being innovative to sustain women's empowerment, we speak to how we can deploy new strategies, ways, or methods to strongly drive various women's engagements, thus consolidating on streaks of impressive achievements already recorded by women in the economic, political, social and community spheres. She said: "Innovation fosters growth and organisational advancement, innovation is key to staying afloat in today's highly competitive world. Thus, growth through innovation ultimately leads to higher productivity, and higher productivity brings about increased resources, which is a vital weapon of

empowerment. Through innovation, more resources and freedom can be secured for women to make decisions, build confidence and act in their best interests. Interestingly, innovation also helps women to stay ahead of the competition in their chosen field of endeavour, and being open to innovation can allow them to take advantage of new technologies. "Innovation can also strengthen the campaign for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls for sustainable development. Transformative technology means inclusivity in education and in other spaces where women are still under-represented. When women are living

safe, fulfilled and productive lives, they can reach their full potential, contribute their skills and expertise to the workforce and they can raise healthier and happier children". According to her, the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is doing a lot to empower women so that they can contribute to their communities and nation, in line with its T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Development Agenda. "The Sanwo-Olu administration has been very active in promoting local businesses and their products by facilitating access to finance and market for entrepreneurs. For instance, the MCCTI continues to organise

the MSMEs Exclusive Trade Fair, among several other activities, to expose the products of MSMEs and assist them in gaining access to a bigger market. The Ministry also organised the Maiden Management Capacity Building for MSME Operators in Agribusiness (E-COMAGBUS). Our women can take advantage of these platforms to boost their businesses and by extension, their economic status", she said. The Commissioner further noted that women should focus their attention on being innovative in all they do and impress upon the audience that the most essential factor in successful innovation is an innovation that

thrives on a culture that is never satisfied with being good enough, that embraces risk in the quest for being better and that accepts temporary setbacks as an inevitable part of the process. She said in addition to economic benefits, enhancing women's safe and equal access to innovation offers immense opportunities to address development and humanitarian challenges and spark creative solutions that meet women's needs and promote their empowerment. She also said that by improving women's social status, increasing their confidence, and allowing them to explore creativity and problem-solving, innovations can give women the capacity to help pull forward other women working their way up behind them.

16 Days of Activism : Govt Tasks Experts on SGBV Violence

Kehinde Adeleye

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Mrs. Cecelia Bolaji Dada has charged Sexual and Gender-Based Violence experts across various organisations to intensify campaigns in curbing the increasing menace of violence against women and girls in Lagos State.

Speaking during a Walk procession organised by the Ministry, in collaboration with USAID and other women-focused NGOs, to commemorate the 16 days of Activism, themed: "Invest to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls", Dada reiterated that November 25 marked the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which ends with the International Human Rights Day on December 10th.

In her words, "As a leader, and woman, gender equality and women's empowerment are causes that are near and dear to me, for they are priorities for the Lagos State Government and



Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu as well, who has made gender equity and equality, a cornerstone of his Administration, with a first-ever national strategy to advance the rights and empowerment of women and girls."

She further explained that the Ministry has established a call toll line "767" centres for victims of SGBV to enable them to make complaints during emergencies, adding that domestic help desks are located in the 57 Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas to enhance easy reach for survivors in addressing issues of SGBV.

She averred that the recuperating homes for

the rehabilitation of survivors will soon be ready with available facilities to ensure that they become financially stable by acquiring skills at the Skills Acquisition Centre within such homes.

Dada said the Ministry had embarked on continuous sensitization programmes to educate women and girls on their rights through past organised advocacy and sensitization programmes on ways to curb SGBV for students in Tertiary Institutions, Religious Leaders, Market Leaders, Community Leaders and Marriage Registrars because such will help to communicate the State Government's policies on SGBV to residents in their areas.

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reach for survivors in addressing issues of SGBV.

She averred that the recuperating homes for the rehabilitation of survivors will soon be ready with available facilities to ensure that they become financially stable by acquiring skills at the Skills Acquisition Centre within such homes.

Dada said the Ministry had embarked on continuous sensitization programmes to educate women and girls on their rights through past organised advocacy and sensitization programmes on ways to curb SGBV for students in Tertiary Institutions, Religious Leaders, Market Leaders, Community Leaders and Marriage Registrars because such will help to communicate the State Government's policies on SGBV to residents in their areas.

My Father's Legacies Extend Beyond Policies and Programmes-Seyi Jakande

Vice-chairman, Odiolowo/Ojuwoye Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Seyi Jakande, Son of the former Lagos State Governor, Alhaji Lateef Jakande has said that his father's legacies extend beyond policies and programmes.

He said this when fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy visited the residence of the late governor, adding, "My father's legacy extends beyond policies and programmes; it resides in the hearts of the people he served. His eloquence and empathy brought solace to the afflicted and sparked inspiration in the hearts of people."

The Fellows engaged in an interactive discussion with Hon. Seyi Jakande, who explained the challenges and triumphs that defined the former Governor's tenure.

Fellows of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) were at Jakande's residence to explore the historical legacy and political landscape that shaped his leadership journey.

During the visit, Alhaja Abimbola Jakande, the widow of the late icon, led the Fellows on a tour of the facility to explore the former governor's memorabilia and archives, guiding them through a visual journey of political milestones and community initiatives, while also sharing cherished memories of her late husband's commitment to public service and the enduring impact of his policies on the community.

Thereafter, Fellows of the Academy attended the Fifth Edition of the Annual Lateef Jakande Lecture series on Housing, which sought to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to take an unvarnished look at transforming the housing industry into a workable programme that benefits Lagos

Residents and Nigeria as a whole.

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai described the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande as an icon, astute politician and a role model.

He said: "Among his many sterling achievements, is his indelible legacy in the provision of mass housing in Lagos, which has been our guiding light and we are committed to maintaining his vision towards making Lagos a haven for its residents".

The Executive Secretary of LJLA, Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade stated that the Learning visit not only provided historical context but also instilled a sense of civic duty, inspiring the Fellows to imbibe the legacy of leadership and service.



LASCOCO Inaugurates Cooperative E-Commerce Platform



The Lagos State Cooperative College has commenced the use of its e-commerce platform known as Lascoco Mart for registered Cooperative Societies members for ease of business transactions.

The launch of the online shopping platform, which took place at the College Training Hall, Oko-Iba, Agege, Lagos and attended by many stakeholders in Cooperative Business activities, is available

o n www.lascocomart.com.

While speaking at the event, the Provost of the Lagos State Cooperative College, Mr. Akorede Ojumu said that the e-commerce initiative was another milestone actualization of the College's mandates and purpose of providing technical and other support for the thriving growth and sustenance of

cooperative business activities in the State and the country at large.

Ojumu added that the website was a Cooperative Society-specific ecosystem that is accessible only to cooperative members whose societies have registered on the platform to transact commercial activities.

He enjoined Cooperative Societies in the State to avail themselves of this unique opportunity by enrolling on this bespoke platform that meets industry standard compliance of consumers' data protection.

Lascoco Mart is an online cooperative marketplace created with the cooperative business ideology, philosophy and principles to give Cooperators a competitive advantage and provide a convenient shopping platform for members to acquire a wide range of consumer items.

Lagos Assembly Evaluates Road Development Across LG, LCDAs

By Felix Kuyinu

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have begun an evaluation of roads in the state to ascertain their current conditions and ensuring motorable roads for the users.

The lawmakers expressed their dissatisfaction with the conditions of deplorable roads in the state noting that the glitches have to be fixed to ensure good transportation system in the metropolis.

The members stated that the decision is one taken after a deliberation with the speaker of the House, Honorable Mudashiru Obasa having seen the need to examine the road challenges and come up with recommendations in reaching the target.

Chairman of the House



Committee on Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Desmond Elliott, said that the Speaker and the House are concerned about the conditions of the roads in the state, stating that some are washed away a few months or years after they are built.

Elliott stressed that the tour of roads is about

ensuring longevity and forestalling the havocs created by the rains.

"More rains might be coming next year, so we are working to ensure the roads are safe, accessible to residents and durable for the benefit of mankind, he opined.

"We are also looking at collaborative efforts

among the tiers of government. At the end of the exercise, we should be able to give a more concrete report regarding good roads, the not-so-good ones and make presentations to the House for a solution."

The lawmaker revealed that members of the house under the

directive of the Speaker have had a teamtalk with the Senate and House of Representatives Committee of Works and presented documents which would be helpful in fixing the federal roads in Lagos.

"The meeting was fruitful and we are hopeful. We will not stop but make sure all our roads, whether federal, state or local, are fixed. We will work to ensure that Lagos roads are second to none," he added.

Elliott also hinted on the past unwelcomed performances by the road building contractors who failed to carry out their duties responsibly, stating necessary sanctions should await any individual caught in the act.

Femi Saheed, a member of the

Committee said the assessment of the roads would help the House to ascertain the level of involvement of the federal, state and local governments in the projects noting that the quest for reaching the feat requires a holistic and symbiotic relationship among these tiers of government.

Reacting to the deliberation among the members of the House, the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure, Adekunle Olayinka, said that the ministry would take another look at areas where the committee expressed dissatisfaction with the level of work.

He praised the Assembly for the tour and promised that government would continue to do its best to meet the challenges of road infrastructure in the state.

Lagos Assembly Poll: INEC Presents Certificate of Return To Sulaimon

By Felix Kuyinu

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has presented a certificate of return to Hon. Rauf Sulaimon having been announced winner of the March 18 election of the Amuwo Odofin Constituency 2 House of Assembly. Hon. Sulaimon of the All-Progressives Congress was declared winner by the Court of Appeal. Receiving his certificate at the INEC office, Yaba, he said: "Nothing but prayers has made this a possibility. I am happy that I got justice. It is a good thing to vent your grievances about an election in court, and we have got back our victory.

"I will continue to do what my constituents want, and my commitment is to make my people happy.

Sulaimon sought for the liaising of contestants from the opposition party to join him in building and moving the constituency forward and promised to continue to support the cause of giving to the people the dividends of democracy.

The lawmaker pledged to be dedicated to the welfare of the people while also stating that he is keen in providing good representation for them.

He noted that he would



continue to visit the people where they live and feel their pulses in all

his intervention programmes in the constituency.

Suleimon said that he would provide representation to all

constituents regardless of political affiliations and faith, urging his constituents to retain their confidence and trust in him as he is set to begin his second coming.

INEC's Resident Electoral Commissioner, Prof. Ayobami Salami, while presenting the certificate urged the legislator to contribute his quota to the development of his constituency and Nigeria as a whole.

Congratulating him, prayed God to grant the winner "wisdom to do what is right.

The Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos on November 17 dismissed Labour Party flagbearer, Olukayode Doherty and declared Sulaimon as winner of the election.

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EFCC procecutes Couple over N2.7bn Fraud

Kuyinu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned a couple at a court in Lagos for swindling to the tune of N2.7m.

The accused : Oriyomi Idowu and Ruth Idowu, arraigned at the Special Offences Court in Ikeja on Tuesday were charged on counts bordering on obtaining money by false pretenses, money laundering, stealing, retention of stolen property and forgery.

According to the commission, the suspects were arraigned alongside : Food



Commodity Processing Enterprise, Bonway Food Processing Company Limited, Samee Idowu Company Limited and

Farmex Integrated Companies Limited, which all belong to Ruth Idowu.

One of the counts reads, "Ruth Sameeha Idowu, aka Loiry Ventures, Oriyomi Kabeer Idowu, aka Yocli Ventures, Food Commodity Processing Enterprise, Bonway Food Processing Company Ltd, Samee Idowu Company Limited, Farmex Integrated Companies Limited, sometime in 2023 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court, converted the sum of

N10,000,000 to purchase a GLK Benz, purchase sum derived from converting the sum of N500,000,000 belonging to Creditpro Business Support Services with the aim of disguising the illegal origin of the funds."

The defendants pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them.

Following the Counsel for Ruth Idowu, Gabriel Onwubuya, seeking for a bail for his client, the prosecution counsel, Bilikisu Buhari, prayed the court for a trial date and the remand of the

defendants at a Correctional Facility.

Buhari prayed the court to dock the defendants in the EFCC custody and also sought a short adjournment for the hearing and determination of the bail application.

Justice Mojisola Dada stated that there was no bail application for Oriyomi Idowu. She Consequently adjourned the matter till December 15, 2023 and ordered that the defendants be remanded at the Correctional Centre pending hearing and determination of their bail applications

Father, Son Sue NDLEA over Intimidation, Harassment

BY Felix Kuyinu

A 75 year-old man and son have sued the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Federal High Court in Lagos for alleged invasion of their home, intimidation and molestation.

The complainants : Taiwo Alli and son, Hamid Alli filed a fundamental rights suit marked FHC/L/CS/2017/23 through their lawyer, Eytayo Abiodun, against the agency seeking an order in restraining further victimization pending the determination of the application.

The plaintiffs listed the agency's Chairman, Head of Lagos Zonal Command, Adetula Oluwarotimi Lawal (NDLEA Bariga Outpost); and two NDLEA personnel, simply identified as Adekunle and Edward as the 1st to 4th Respondents in the suit.

A 16 - paragraph affidavit deposed to by Taiwo Alli (1st Applicant), before Justice Ambrose Allagoa stated that on June 6, 2023, his son Hamid Alli (2nd applicant) drove his friend to the airport to catch her flight to the US. The father told the court that his son returned home at about 5.30am to find the gate of the home he resides with his father open, with the lock broken.

The first applicant continued by revealing that his brother's car, which was parked in the compound, was missing and he immediately reported the matter at the Anthony Police Station.

"The police tracked the car an hour later to where it was parked

outside the NDLEA's Outpost office in Gbagada, Lagos, the father told the court.

"The police went in and were told that the car was flagged down in Ikeja and the occupant refused to park, fled and abandoned the vehicle. They allegedly claimed illicit drugs were found in it".

He alleged that the applicants also raided an apartment in the building belonging to his US-based brother and carted away property therein, saying drugs were found there.

Furthermore, the NDLEA officials were allegedly to have visited the 1st applicant's place of work and siezed his son's international passport, identity card, land documents, and other documents belonging to his other children.

He claimed that N5.5 million was extorted from him, adding that they were being asked to pay an additional N30 million if he wants to have his house back and documents of his property in Lekki, noting that the happenings subjected his family living in fear.

Consequently, the Applicants are seeking for the following reliefs:

"A declaration that the incessant invitation, threat of arrest, interrogation, harassment, intimidation and planned detention of the applicant, on the subject matter by the 1st to 4th Respondents in order to forcefully make the applicants admit that the product found in my house which are basically things being used for butchery business and cool room compressor are illicit substance, is not only oppressive, illegal and a flagrant

breach of the Applicant's Constitutionally guaranteed rights.

"A declaration that the unlawful occupation of the 1st applicant's house by the NDLEA officials and their family's house at 4 Bode Oluwo, Mende Maryland Lagos covered by Certificate of Occupancy registered as no 96 page 96 in Volume 1990AG at the Lagos Land Registry, Alausa is oppressive, harassing, intimidating and an unwarranted breach of the applicant's fundamental rights to private, liberty, and right to compulsory acquisition of property as same is a product of the applicant's 50 years of hard work of butchery.

"An Order specifically restraining the respondents, their servants agents or any person(s) howsoever described from further act of flagrant abuse and violation of applicants fundamental rights through unlawful occupation of the 1st Applicant's property and unlawful intention to arrest the 2nd applicant".

The Application are also praying the court for an award of N50 million as damages against the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Respondents jointly and alternatively for the alleged unlawful and needless breach of the applicant's right to private life, liberty, and dignity and for invading and unlawfully-occupying the house of the 1st applicant with their families " and driving the car taken from the compound for their personal use, that all their belongings taking from both apartments be returned.

Justice Allagoa fixed hearing of the Application till December 4, 2023.

Lagos Court Jails American For Illegal Possession of Firearms

BY Felix Kuyinu



The Lagos Federal High Court has sentenced an American, Donn Perkins to six months imprisonment for unlawful importation and possession of firearms.

Justice Abimbola Awogboro convicted the accused to be docked for six months following his plea having admitted being guilty of the charges.

The offender was first arraigned before the court on May 25, on a four-count charge bordering on unlawful importation of the prohibited firearms by the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS).

The prosecutor, Mrs. Kehinde Ayeni, had told the court that the self-acclaimed Marine Officer was arrested with the firearms in February 2023 at the Tin-can Island, Apapa, Lagos.

Some of the arms and ammunition found with him at the time of arrest were; one piece of 5.56mm AK47, styled rifle (Tavor) serial No. 1452 with three magazines and one drum, one piece of Ak-47 .62mm variant serial No: 9335724 with four magazines, Ruger magnum .357 Revolver with serial No. 17819337, Ruger 380 pistol with serial no; 79047837 and XD 45 pistol with serial No. BY558431 and two magazines.

Others include; a total

of 1,064 rounds of 5.56mm live ammunition, 119 rounds of 357mm live ammunition, 62 rounds of .32mm automatic ammunition, 29 rounds of 9mm live ammunition, 25 rounds of AK47 7.62mm special live ammunition, 39 rounds of 22mm live ammunition, 47 rounds of 45mm automatic live ammunition, 1 round of .40mm live ammunition and 54 rounds of .380mm Ruger live ammunition.

As revealed by the prosecutor, the arms and ammunition were concealed in a 1x20ft container No: TGHU0S010362 and illegally brought into the country through Tin-Can Island.

The prosecutor also told the court that the offence committed contravened sections 18 and 19 of the Firearms Act, Cap F28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 (As amended), and punishable under section 27 (1) (a) (iii) of the same Act.

Following series of saga on his bail application by his lawyer and the prosecutor, the court ordered for accelerated hearing of the matter and remanded him in prison custody.

Following the defendant's guilty plea to the charge, the prosecutor urged the court to convict and

sentence him owing to his plea, coupled with the exhibits tendered in accordance to section 356(e) of the Administration of the Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015.

However, defence lawyer, Dr. Sheriff Adesanya, urged the court to be lenient with his client, having pleaded guilty to the charge without wasting the time of the court.

Adesanya said that the convict has pleaded guilty to the offence of not declaring his firearms, there by not wasting the time of the court.

"I humbly submit that the convict is a 38 year-old US citizen, who decided to trace his root back to Nigeria and he was misguided. While ignorant of law is not an excuse. In fact, he is a US Marine, who procured required permit to have these firearms.

"His failure to declare the weapons has made him to lose his family, as his wife is now filing a divorce due to this charge.

While begging the court for leniency said: the defendant said "I just want to use the weapons to protect myself and my family, that is how we were trained in US.

"I came in last year spent three weeks, then, I came back this year. I just don't know how to go about it in getting it registered.

"I plead with the court to show me mercy, I don't have any negative intent, and if I have, may God strike me dead. I just bring it in to protect myself and my family."

In sentencing, Justice Awogboro after weighing all the submissions made by parties and citing plethora of legal authorities, sentenced the convict to six months imprisonment.

The judge held that the period of the jail-term commences from the date the convict was arrested.

Igando-Ikotun Begins Drainage Construction at Fagbile Estate

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area Mr. Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde, has embarked on drainage construction in Fagbile Isheri Osun; at a point connecting other communities in the council area.

Ultimately, a long-lasting solution is found for the Fagbile road, which has been repaired numerous times in the past but keeps collapsing because there is no drainage system.

It attempts to prevent the area's recurring flooding and the resulting damage to the



roads.

Currently, the project is in its first phase, which entails building the drainage systems, and its second phase consists of leveling the road grade.

Echo news reports that the project has the potential to benefit everyone in the area as

it will reduce damages caused by flooding, transportation-related expenditures and ease movement for commuters across the area.

The Chairman's proactive approach to tackling the challenges posed by the drainage system is garnering

support from the local community.

Residents and stakeholders are expressing their appreciation for the government's responsiveness to their concerns and the efforts being made to create a cleaner and more efficient living environment.

Obadore Primary Healthcare Centre Gets Borehole

Kehinde Adeleye



Igando-Ikotun LCDA Flags Off Free Medical Care

By Edith Igbokwe



The Chairman, Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA) Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya, has flagged off Ilera Eko one-year free medical health plan for the vulnerable in the community and advised beneficiaries to adhere to the doctors medical instructions given.

The medical care centres include, Egan Town and Isheri Osun Primary Health Centres (PHCs).

Some of the medical tests carried out include malaria, tuberculosis screening, high blood pressure, HIV, sugar level.

Akinsanya appreciated

the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for ensuring that Lagosians are exposed to sound health care. He advised beneficiaries to adhere to all instructions given to them by the health team of the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA).

Akinsanya along side other principal officers of the council proceeded to the different sections of the LASHMA team for a tour and participated in the medical tests.

In the same vein, the Eko Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA) team was available

with their mobile laboratory van to support the free Ilera Eko Health plan.

Igando-Ikotun Medical Officer of HHealth (MOH), Dr. Mrs. Uti-Momah, spoke extensively on the programme, adding that the health plan is beneficial to every family in Lagos State.

She noted that the target of the one-day registration was to get five hundred vulnerable people registered for the health plan, and so far, it has been a huge success.

She appreciated the Executive Chairman for his contributions towards the health plan registration.

The Chairman of Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area, Mr. Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde has sunk a borehole in Obadore Primary Healthcare Centre in fulfilment of his electioneering campaign and promises to the people. To mitigate the impact of water scarcity in the area, a capacity storage tank and a borehole were sunk in key locations.

Akinsanya expressed gratitude to the career officers and political

functionaries for their unwavering support and collaboration during his administration.

According to the council helmsman, "During my ward-to-ward tour, I gave a promise that the health centre that was appalling will be attended to, with the provision of water facility. And here we are today, with a borehole in fulfilment of my promise".

Thus, he restated that his government will keep up its efforts to guarantee that the benefits of democracy

reach every corner of the council district.

"I am so happy because this health centre was in a terrible condition but today as he promised during his ward-to-ward tour to Abalabi, he has turned the health centre to a magnificent edifice and not only that with modern borehole to cap it up, what a man of integrity is our chairman" the Community leaders stated.

The Obadore Baale, thanked the Chairman for his gesture and assured him that the community would make good use of water.

Igando- Ikotun LCDA Graduates 250 In Skills Acquisition

By Edith Igbokwe



No fewer than 250 students have graduated from free skills acquisition programme organised by Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA). The vocational training

undertaken at the training centre include, fashion designing, hat making, bead stringing, catering, hairdressing, cosmetology, leather bag making, computer training, and shoe

making, among others. The council chairman, Comrade Lasisi Akinsanya encouraged the graduates to utilise the opportunity of the skill acquisition programme as they set out to showcase the

knowledge they have acquired. He explained that as part of the poverty alleviation strategies, the council provided the opportunity for young people to enhance their socio-economic well-being through vocational skills acquisition.

He noted that the council will be empowering another set of youths to improve the Small and Medium Scale Businesses in society. The Vice-Chairman, Mojisola Badmus stated that the ceremony marked the beginning of a new

phase of life for the graduates who have remained dedicated throughout their training period. She added that it is remarkable to know that women's empowerment has been at the front burner of the council's administration.

Alimosho LGEA Commends Jelili's Effort On Education

By Edith Igbokwe



The Education Secretary, Alimosho Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Mrs. Airat Alamu has said that the efforts of the council Chairman, Mr. Sulaimon Jelili towards education development is visible. Mrs. Alamu made the stated following the educational Materials that the council chairman provided for all the primary schools in Alimosho LG. Educational Materials provided include, white marker boards and packs of markers to all

the primary Schools in Alimosho. She also appreciated the fact that Akowonjo Primary School fence, which was affected by road construction, has been reconstructed to ensure the safety of all pupils. Hon. Jelili made the presentation of the marker boards and packs of markers to all the Primary Schools in Alimosho. The community traditional rulers and other stakeholders witnessed the distribution of the items that took place at

the Local Government Secretariat, Akowonjo. Speaking at the event, the Council Boss advised the pupils to be dedicated to their studies as the Government will do its part to make learning easy for them. He added that the marker boards will henceforth, be used in all the classes to support the ones provided by the State Government. To demonstrate the use of the board, the Council Chairman taught the pupils just like it is done in the classroom.

Ijegin Community Primary School Gets New Water Facility

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman Igando ikotun Local Council Development Area, Mr. Akinsanya Lasisi Ayinde has inaugurated water projects in Ijegin Community Pry School today.

The admirable project was carried out in collaboration with the PepsiCo Foundation, which has given over 700 schoolchildren in Lagos State access to clean water and sanitary facilities. A 6,000-litre solar-powered borehole, renovated restrooms, and a newly built inclusive restroom block catering to female was unveiled. The Ijegin Community Pry School, located in the Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area of Lagos State, will accommodate more than 1000 pupils and staff.

The recently built inclusive restroom for women features

padbanks to help females manage their periods while in school, as well as three shower cubicles in each restroom. Because these life-changing services give children—especially girls—access to clean water, decent toilets, and basic hygiene, they can stay in school longer, which will enhance learning and attendance. WaterAid developed the ability of community members by educating more than 20 female local area mechanics and forming a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Committee (WASHCOM) to manage and maintain the new water facilities. This was done as part of the project's mission to enhance systems and institutions. Our children's health, education, and safety are at risk due to a lack of clean water and sanitary facilities. Human rights such as the right to water, sanitation, and education for children should not be violated or compromised. Youngsters should have

easy access to sustainable and clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, as well as a healthy learning environment. Inadequate WASH facilities might have a negative impact on student attendance and academic performance. Akinsanya said we are incredibly proud of our long-standing partnership with WaterAid and the transformative work taking place in our community to give access to the basic human right of clean, safe water. He commended school managers and teachers for the good care and positive impacts on their pupils. "We are here today to commission the borehole and toilets to accelerate development of in the school in all ramifications – social, and economic he said. "We believe that one of the things that can accelerate developments in Igando-Ikotun is education which is the fulcrum of all other things.



Construction of Ibeju-Lekki New Office Complex Gains Traction

By Mohammed Adekola.

The New Ibeju-Lekki Office Complex has reached a pivotal milestone with the commencement of block setting, floor partitioning, and preparation for the second-floor slab. This monumental project, under the vigilant eye of the Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government and his dedicated team, is poised to redefine government operations in the rapidly evolving industrial hub. The Chairman and his team provided an opportunity for an on-the-spot assessment of



the construction progress. The Chairman was visibly impressed with the current status, commended by the contractor for their commendable efforts and attention to detail.

Stressing the need for expeditious construction, he highlight the crucial role this complex plays in accommodating the burgeoning growth and development of industries and companies in the Ibeju-

Lekki axis.

The commencement of block setting and floor partitioning marks a crucial phase in the project's evolution, showcasing tangible progress that aligns with the visionary goals of the local government. With carpenters meticulously adding final touches to their work and preparations underway for the second-floor slab, the trajectory of the construction is on course for timely completion.

The Ibeju-Lekki Local Government envisions the New Office Complex not just as a physical structure but

as a symbol of transformative governance. As industries and companies continue to thrive in the region, this state-of-the-art complex is anticipated to serve as a central hub for administrative efficiency and public service accessibility.

The significance of this project extends beyond its physical dimensions, it represents a commitment to the changing dynamics of governance in the area. Olowa emphasis on expediting the construction process underscores the urgency of providing a functional and modern

administrative center that mirrors the pace of development in Ibeju-Lekki.

As block setting and floor partitioning progress, the community eagerly anticipates the unfolding of a landmark infrastructure that will not only meet the needs of the present but also serve as a catalyst for future growth and development. The New Office

Complex stands as a testament to the local government's dedication to fostering a conducive environment for both residents and businesses, solidifying its position as a key player in the region's transformation.

Epe, Eredo, Ikosi-Ejirin Councils Take Steps To Empower Women

By Mohammed Adekola



The two levels of government, state and local in Lagos state are leaving no stone unturned to see to the grassroots development.

The council chairman of Epe Local Government Princess Surah Animashaun with the chairpersons of Ikosi-Ejirin and Eredo LCDAs, Mrs Sijuade Akanke Anomo and Mrs Christiana Oyinloluwa Ismail respectively, hosted the Lagos State Council Chairmen's Wives Association (LASCWA) at the Epe Local Government Council Chamber.

The event, which was used as an avenue to empower women in the Epe Local Government Area of Lagos according to the chairperson of Ikosi Ejirin, Mrs. Sijuade Anomo, is in support of the administrations of

the council chairmen across the state.

"There is need to give back to the electorate who took their times to vote their husbands," she said.

The council chairman of Epe Local Government, Princess Surah Animashaun in her speech commended the frantic efforts of the chairpersons for giving the best to people.

She said, "As a woman I have no regrets in associating with you as you have all added values to the L G s / L D C A s administrations in the state.

"I want to use this medium to commend the chairpersons of Eredo and Ikosi-Ejirin LCDAs, Mrs. Ismail Oyinloluwa and Mrs. Sijuade Anomo for their frantic efforts in

making today's programme a huge success.

"Kudos also goes to Hon. Anomo and Engnr. Akinloye for their relentless efforts in putting smiles into the faces of the masses".

In his reaction, the chairman Ikosi Ejirin, Mr. Wale-Raji Anomo applauded the efforts of the chairpersons for adding values to their administrations adding that they should keep the good work rolling.

In his comment, Eredo Council Boss, Mr. Ismail Akinloye said the chairpersons have made them proud in all ramifications adding that good work should continued.

According to the president LASCWA, she appreciated the gestures of the three chairmen of Epe, Eredo and Ikosi-Ejirin for their support for the progress of the women folk.

She said "My sincere appreciation goes to the host chairmen for accepting us here. More importantly, the wives of the Chairmen of Eredo and Ikosi-Ejirin LCDAs. They have sincerely supported us immensely and we pray the Almighty to bless them the more".

"This efforts of theirs are aimed at supporting the administrations of their husbands".

Oladunjoye Scales Screening for NPC Job

By Mohammed Adekola



Barrister Saidat Oladunjoye, a nominee for a federal commissioner position, has successfully passed through the rigorous screening stage in Abuja. The news, which ignited a wave of congratulations from loyal All Progressive Congress (APC) supporters on social media, was officially confirmed on the evening of November

28th, 2023.

Nominated by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Barrister Oladunjoye brings a wealth of experience, having served as the APC Vice-Chairman of the Lagos East Senatorial District and holding two consecutive commissioner roles in the Lagos State Government's Education Ministry and Commerce, Industry, and Cooperatives.

Her impending role as a Federal Commissioner holds immense importance in steering the critical functions of the National Population Commission. With a background rooted in the governance hub of Lagos, Barrister Oladunjoye is poised to bring her expertise to the commission, enhancing its efficiency and impact. National Population Commission plays a pivotal role in Nigeria's growth by providing accurate demographic data. This information is crucial for informed policy-making, resource allocation, and development planning, making the NPC a cornerstone in the nation's progress.

As the anticipation builds for Barrister Oladunjoye's official appointment and swearing-in, the news resonates deeply with the party faithful and the public at large. The significance of this appointment extends beyond political lines, marking a key milestone in Nigeria's commitment to effective governance and data-driven decision-making.

Dairy Farm Wins 2023 Eloquence Cup Competition

Kehinde Adeleye

The Eloquence Cup, a senior secondary school public speaking competition, has been won by Dairy Farm Senior Secondary School Agege, Lagos. The school defeated the CMS Grammar School, the reigning champions. The cup is the official ultimate trophy prize for secondary schools' oratory competitions.

The competition, which was recently organized by the School of Eloquence in Lagos, featured two speakers from each of the following nine government-owned secondary schools: CMS Grammar School, Queens College, Kings College, Girls Senior Secondary School, Ikoyi, Falomo Senior High School, Ireti Senior Grammar School Ikoyi, Kuramo Senior



College, Victoria Island, Victoria Island Senior Secondary School, and Dairy Farm Senior Secondary School, Agege.

Students from nine secondary schools discussed the difficulties and repercussions of drug usage among young people in their speeches on the theme of "Drug Abuse and its

Impact on the Youths."

A number of speakers offered suggestions on how state and non-state actors may address the problem.

Student winners in the individual prize category included Jasmine Chris from Dairy Farm Senior Secondary School, Leopold Favour from CMS Grammar School, and Oke Abdulrahman

from Kings College Lagos. The three schools' combined cash rewards were N100,000, N75,000, and N150,000.

In his speech, Ubong Essien, the only certified speaking professional in West Africa, the school's founder, and organizer of the Eloquence Cup,

said that the 5th Eloquence Cup was being held in conjunction with the School of Eloquence to commemorate the institution's 17th anniversary and to honor the value of public speaking in the advancement of any country. Additionally, the institution is still dedicated to mainstreaming the study of effective public speaking among political and business leaders, celebrities and nobility, professionals in the workforce, and business owners.

He said that more than 50 schools in Lagos have been visited to provide public speaking instruction to kids since the company's 2015 introduction of its Catching Them Young campaign, which was aimed at

public senior secondary schools as part of its corporate social responsibility program and in 2024, the Eloquence Cup will become a national competition, with schools participating from Abuja, Port Harcourt, and other zones of the country.

He also praised the teachers of the various schools for their remarkable work in nurturing the students while reminding the audience that teachers affect eternity and that their reward should come to them while they are alive.

The special guests included a Member of the Board of the School of Eloquence, Mr. Oluseyi Sowemimo, SAN, Mrs. Feyisola Abiru, MD/CEO of H & Y Furniture, Mrs. Alake Rukayat Sanusi, Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Debt Management Office.

Ilera Eko Healthcare Scheme Sensitisation Begins In Agege

Kehinde Adeleye

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, marked the start of the Lagos State Health District 1 "District-Wide Sensitization and Awareness Campaign on Ilera Eko health scheme," which was attended by important stakeholders and notable guests.

The event, which was aimed at launching the Ilera Eko Health Insurance Program provided by Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) and also the opportunities in enrolling in this initiative by the Executive Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu had in attendance the Special Adviser to the Governor on Health; Mrs. Kemi Ogunyemi, Permanent Secretary

Lagos State Health District 1; Dr. Olufunmilayo Bankole, P.S. Lagos State Health Management Agency - Mrs. Emmanuella Zamba, the Chairman Orile Agege LCDA; Mr. Johnson Sunday Babatunde, Management team and Exco members, community stakeholders, staff and residents of Orile Agege.

A warm greeting was given by Mr. J.S. Babatunde, the Chairman of Orile Agege LCDA. He called on all parties involved in Orile Agege and the local populace to support the Governor's latest project, the Ilera Eko Scheme, which provides access to basic healthcare services at accredited hospitals, particularly

PHC in Lagos state, at a package cost of 40,000 for families and 8,500 for individuals.

Additionally, the Council Boss declared that 500 citizens would be freely registered in the Local Council Development Area (LCDA), with a fair distribution among the 53 Community Development Associations (CDAs).

He emphasized the importance of patronizing Primary Health Centers (PHCs) equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to address the healthcare needs of the residents.

Permanent Secretary Lagos State Health District 1; Dr. Olufunmilayo Bankole reiterated the goal of the event, which is aligning with Mr. Sanwo-Olu's 'THEMES



PLUS' agenda where health and environment is given priority. She emphasized the subsidized prices of 40,000 for a family of six and 8,500 for an individual caters for access to basic healthcare services annually.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Health; Mrs. Kemi Ogunyemi in her keynote address emphasized the vital

roles of Primary Health Centers as the bedrock of healthcare services in every community. She enumerated the major benefits which includes but not limited to, accessibility and affordability, advocating for the utilization of these centers to avoid the inconvenience of going outside the community or travelling long distances for medical attention and care.

Mr. Onakoya Adeniyi, Council Treasurer of Orile Agege LCDA, who gave the vote of thanks, poured encomiums on Lagos state representatives, district 1 family and all other attendees. The choice of Orile Agege, especially Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu PHC by state Government is an attestation to the fact that it is one-of the best in the District.

Kelani Wins Ikeja Golf Club Championship

Kehinde Adeleye



Amusu Kelani has defeated a field of 53 golfers to become the new Ikeja Golf Club champion in the championship final of the 2023 edition. The competition, which began on Monday, November 20, with staff and caddies, came to an end at the weekend.

The main competition for golfers with handicaps of 19 and above was held on Friday, while the competition for golfers with handicaps of 18 and below was held on Saturday.

The following days' events included veteran golfers on Tuesday, November 21, a competitive challenge by female golfers on Wednesday, November 22, a special kitty and

auction night on Thursday, and more.

With a remarkable 148 gross over two days, Kelani topped the list and entered the Club's history book of previous winners.

Alhaji Rasaki Muritala placed second with a score of 158 gross over two days, behind Fawze Talal, who ended in second place with a score of 154 gross over two days.

In response to his win, Kelani expressed gratitude to the Ikeja Golf Club's management committee and players for giving him the support and opportunity he needed to win the title.

"This victory means a lot to me and first of all I want appreciate the people that made it

possible for me to be able to participate in this year's championship because if I could not participate, then there is no way I would have won.

"Playing in this tournament, I knew I play good golf, but I became confident that I could win when almost everybody kept telling me that I was the best and that I can win. So I told myself, if everybody says I can win, why can't I believe in myself," Kelani said.

Speaking at the prize presentation ceremony which doubled as the club's 55th anniversary celebration, the Club's Captain, Sina Akinyemi, commended and congratulated the winners and all participants for a successful tournament.

He commended the past Captains of the Club for their immense contributions to the development of the Club and thanked all members of the club for their commitment and support for the ongoing landmark project, the Integrated Golf Range, which is poised to elevate the golfing experience in the Club. "The Ikeja Golf Club has witnessed transformative changes over the years and the Integrated Golf Range is set to build on that. We have started the project and with the support of every member of the golf club, we will complete it," Akinyemi added.

Also speaking, the President of the club, Mr Kehinde Philips, commended the Captain and the

organising committee for convening a successful tournament. "The 2023 championship is one of the most successful we have had in this Club. Successful in terms of attendance and the quality of vision they had for the tournament. I congratulate the captain and the organising committee for a job well done," he said.

In his congratulatory address, the President of the Nigeria Golf Federation, Otunba Segun Runsewe felicitated with the Ikeja Golf Club on its 55th anniversary and described it as one of the friendliest in the country.

He commended the

Captain and the organising committee for the visionary Integrated Golf Range project and pledged to donate N500,000 to support it. "A good golfing facility saves lives and reduces blood pressure," Runsewe noted.

The President also urged members of the club to support the leadership of the Club in their bid to ensure the completion of the project and assured them of the unwavering support of the Nigeria Golf Federation.

The competition was supported by ADL Solutions, 7 Up, Express Payment, Prime Metro and Golf View hotels, enhancing the prestige and excitement of the competition.

Ikosi-Isheri LCDA: Bada Presents N4.13bn 2024 Budget to Legislative

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Princess Samiat Abolanle Bada has Presented a budget with the total expenditure of N4,130,140,170.09, dubbed “Budget of Optimization for sustainable development” to the Legislative Arm of the LCDA. She called for cooperation and unity in accomplishing common goals as she recognized the crucial contributions that every arm of the government played in guiding

Ikosi-Isheri's progress. She conveyed her appreciation to the House Leader and councillors for their crucial counsel in developing the legislative framework that upholds the LCDA's mission. She conveyed her special gratitude to the committed management teams, whose hard work guarantees the smooth implementation of the appropriation bill. Princess Samiat concluded by stressing the value of the participation and wisdom of the community's

stakeholders. She said that their involvement is essential to making sure that the development projects match the actual requirements of the people that the LCDA serves. She implored the residents of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA to make their revenue payments. Emphasizing the importance of these payments, she assured that the funds will be used judiciously for various projects aimed at enhancing the development and well-being of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA. The Chairman read the breakdown of the

proposed Year 2024 Budget during the session with the Legislative Arm. The total expenditure for the budget is N4,130,140,170.09. On the revenue side, the budget includes N1,421,354,706.43 from Federal Allocation, N2,541,235,463.66 from Value Added Tax (VAT), N108,550,000.00 from Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), and N59,000,000.00 from State Coordinated Revenue. Moving on to the expenditure side, the budget allocates

N520,733,629.45 for Local Government Staff Salary, N497,560,015.60 for Teachers Salary, and N158,710,139.15 for Political Office Holder Allowances. Additionally, N284,722,024.32 is set aside for Total Pension Cost. The budget also includes N886,700,000.00 for Overhead Costs, N314,000,000.00 for Social Service Expenditure (Recurrent), Capital Expenditure N1,432,714,361.57, N35,000,000.00 has been allocated for

Social Service Expenditure (Capital). Personnel costs make up a significant portion, with a total of N1,461,725,808.52, the personnel costs represent 35% of the overall budget. Furthermore, the budget also includes overhead costs, which amount to N1,200,700,000.00. These costs, accounting for 29% of the total budget. Lastly, the capital expenditure for Ikosi Isheri LCDA has been set at N1,467,714,361.57, representing 36% of the budget.

Iba LCDA Plans For Safety, Security Ahead of Yuletide Season

By Edith Igbokwe



The chairman, Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Yisa Jubril has met with the DPOs of the four police stations within Iba LCDA ahead of the yuletide period. The stations include, Isashi, Okokomaiko, Adoff Iba & PPL Police Station. The meeting is aimed at collectively joining effort to stem the rising tide of robbery and criminal acts during the yuletide period. The Chairman promised to give all necessary support to the Security Agencies to keep the entire environment within Iba LCDA a danger free zone and to intensify more security efforts in the yuletide season. He noted that the protection of lives and properties of the entire inhabitants of the LCDA is paramount to his administration and that the needful will be done to protect the citizens. The meeting recorded the contributions of the chairman Yisa Jubril Hon. Adekanbi Taiwo - Secretary, Iba (LCDA), Mr. Micheal Babalola Iba Council Manager, SP Opeif D.P.O Adoff Police Station), CSP Segun Talabi - D.P.O Isashi Police Station, CSP Edidiong - D.P.O Okokomaiko Police Station and CSP Segun Ajao - D.P.O PPL Police Station)

Teleda Community Awaits Good Drainage System

Edith Igbokwe



The community of Teleda in Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has expressed joy as the council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril embarked on drainage construction in their environment. Jubril appealed to the Community Leaders to support the contractor and workers on sight as work commenced immediately. He took a site inspection on the ongoing project, accompanied by the Members of the Executive Cabinet, Legislators and the SSA's. Community Stakeholders deliberated with the chairman at the Open Space in Eleda Community, Iba New Town to sensitize the residents of the community to cooperate with the construction company. The Council Engineer, Whesu M.S addressed the gathering on the essence of the stakeholders meeting. Reactions were made by residents of the community and few questions were raised. The contractor responded to the questions raised by the residents as it's related to the project. He craved for the community members Cooperation and he promised to deliver the project at the stipulated time. The two sided drainages/ Culvert at Teleda Avenue, Off Challenge road, Iba New site covered 1,200 meters length, each side metering 600.

Out- Of - School Pupil Gets Lawmaker's Scholarship

Edith Igbokwe

Twelve Years Out-of-school child, Erinle Ademola has gotten a scholarship into Awori Junior College, Ojo sponsored by a member of Lagos State House of Assembly representing Ojo Constituency 01, Comrade Ege Adebisi for a brighter future. Adebisi urged the beneficiary to be determined, disciplined, committed, focused and to take his education seriously as it is the best legacy anyone can offer for a better society. He promised to monitor progress of the beneficiary and other beneficiaries from the Egeducation pilot scheme. The beneficiary was provided with essential school materials such as School Bag, Uniform, Tax Clearance, Sandals, Exercise Books and school file. Adebisi reaffirmed his promises to do more before and after the official unveiling of his program tagged Egeducation.



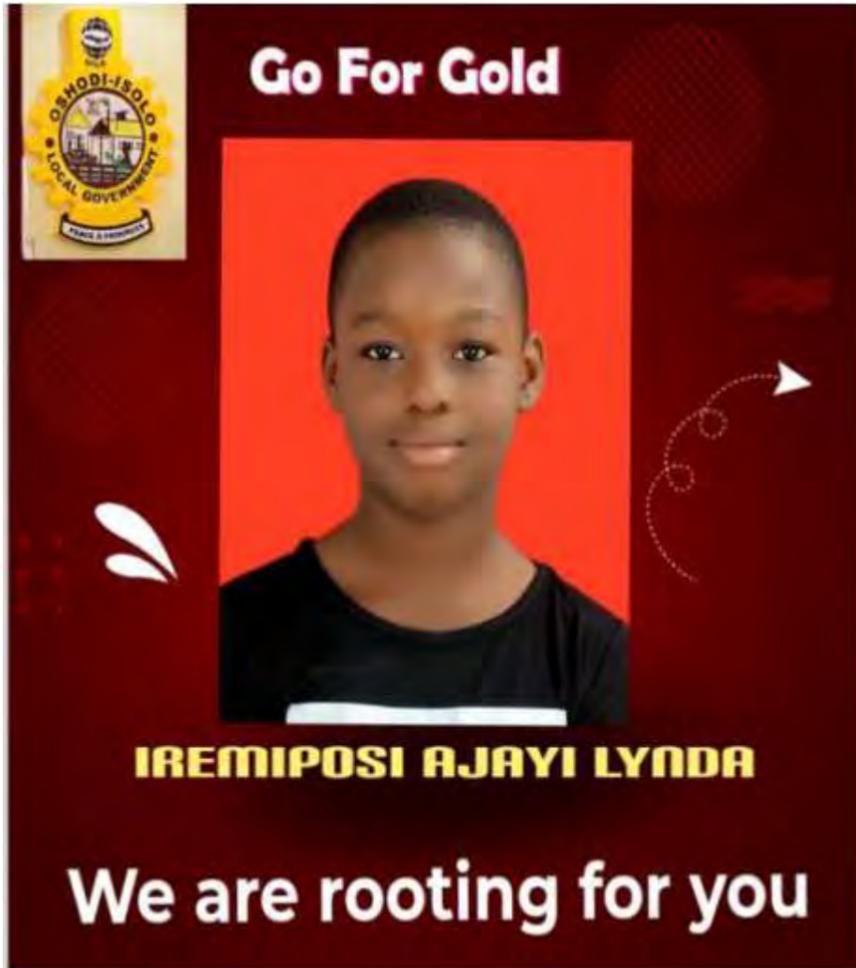
Oloyede Urges Spelling Bee Contestant, Iremiposi, To Win

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo local government, Otunba Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede has charged Miss Iremiposi Ajayi Lynda of Blessing Nursery and Primary School, Mafoluku to go for the gold in the Ayangbure Spelling Bee Competition.

The Council Boss who was thrilled to hear that she had qualified for the competition, urged her to go for the top spot, promising to celebrate her victory after it was all over.

The 10-year-old Iremiposi possesses and demonstrates the intelligence, tenacity, potential, and forward-thinking mentality that



are characteristic of an Oshodian, according to Mr. Oloyede.

He encouraged her to win the tournament, promising her the local administration would welcome her with open arms and moral support.

Oloyede further appreciated the young chap for being a shining star and a worthy example of the local government and the entire students therein.

He assured her that he and the entire people of Oshodi-Isolo local government are rooting for her as she flies the flag and represents the local government in the competition.

He said; "I received with great happiness the qualification of

Miss Iremiposi Ajayi Lynda to contest in the Ayangbure Spelling Bee Competition. Iremiposi is a perfect example of what our local government represents and a great future that awaits us. At a young age of 10, she has exhibited a great potential that will translate into a shining future. I appreciate her parents, Mr and Mrs Ajayi and the teachers/management of Blessing Nursery and Pry school for nurturing such great mind and brilliant soul.

As a government, we shall continue to support our students and the educational sector of our local government. I urge you to go for gold, I urge you to come out top, knowing that we are all solidly behind you. Wishing you the best."

Islamic Body Prays for Unity, Development of Oshodi

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo local government, Mr. Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede invited a group of Islamic body to pray for peace, growth and development of the local government and the prosperity of the residents.

During the week, the chairman of the council conducted prayers at the annual prayer session of the ASMUS group, an Islamic organization headed by Fadilat Sheikh Alh. Sirajudeen Ojulari.

At the annual prayer program held at the local government's Jalisco Mini Stadium, where the council solemnly prayed for the entire country, the chairman, represented by his cabinet members, who were led by the Chief of Staff, joined the marmot crowd in prayer.

In addition to their personal prayers, the attendees, decked out in a variety of white apparel, held the Quran and tesbir (a rosary) in



their hands. They also prayed for the progress of the nation, the state, local governments, and all public officials.

The chief of staff disclosed that "we are here today on the

instructions of the chairman of Oshodi-Isolo local government, Mr. Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede.

We are here to represent him and pray for the growth and

development of our dear local government, its residents and the country at large. We believe in God and we believe in the powers of prayers."

The council chair who

has continued to drive infrastructural projects across the various wards of the council prayed that the Almighty strengthen him to continue his projects

for the benefit of all; As he assured his administration will not rest its oars until dividend of democracy gets to every nook and cranny of the local government.

Also in attendance were the member, Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Mr. Olukayode Stephen Ogundipe, Supervisor for Agric, Mr. Balogun Agidi, Supervisor for Special Duties, Mr. Yusuf Adesanya, Supervisor for Chieftaincy, Mr. Abiodun Mamora, Supervisor for Civic Engagement, Mr. Obafemi Olalekan, Supervisor for Intergovernmental affairs, Mrs. Bose Agbabiaka, supervisor for Environment, Mr. Femi Ajayi and supervisor for Budget, Mr. Tobi Olabintan.

Others include Special Advisers on Works, Mr. Kehinde Adekunle, WAPA, Bashorun Feyishara, Media, Mr. Tobi Salako, Video and Photography, Mr. Ajayi Ogundipe, Clergymen and host of others.

Mushin Council Boss Pledges Free Healthcare Services

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government Area, Mr. Emmanuel Olarenwaju Bamigboye has promised to assist with free medical service and improve better healthcare services for all residents. The Chairman, represented by the Vice Chairman, Mr. Olatunosun Aruwe Haruna stated this during "A Day Orientation and

sensitization forum" with Traditional Rulers, Community leaders, corporate bodies, Market leaders, CDAs/CDC, Agencies, Stakeholders, Trade and Artisans, being organized at Mushin Secretariat. He welcomed the Permanent Secretary of Health (District VI), Dr. Abimbola Mabogunje to Mushin LGA and appreciated all invited Guests as he

emphasized on numerous achievements. He promised to intensify greater efforts in providing best educational system for students, empowerment programmes for women and youths, sustaining conducive environment, model markets, infrastructural/developmental projects, roads constructions and healthcare service with well equipped medical facilities in all PHCs in the

nooks and crannies of Mushin LGA. He urged the residents to continue supporting Government initiatives in providing high standard healthcare service and advised in maintaining of healthy environment during festive season. The Permanent Secretary of Health (District VI), Dr Abimbola Mabogunje sensitized on importance Human

Papilloma Virus (HPV) injections without side effects and urged all parents, residents, Community Leaders to encourage their female children to be immunize with Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and Polio vaccinations. Speaking at the event, the Leader of legislative house, Hon. Olamide Williams thanked the Permanent Secretary of Health (District VI), all guests and stakeholders

for gracing the occasion, while urging everyone to enlighten others by spreading the information across Mushin LGA and its environs. The programme was wrapped up with awards presentation to the best on Field teams that were extraordinary during the vaccination of Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) and token cash were taken home by the winners, courtesy of the Executive Chairman of Mushin LGA.

Teachers Commend Bamigboye For Provision Of Learning Materials, Bursary

By Saheed Afolabi



(A cross section of the learning materials and bursary dished out to students in Mushin by the council chairman, Emmanuel Bamigboye)

The just concluded distribution of First - Aid Boxes to primary schools across has generated reactions among head teachers, who applauded the chairman of Mushin Local Government, Emmanuel Bamigboye, for the brilliant initiative. Commending the chairman after the programme, Head Teachers of Primary Schools across Mushin appreciated him for the educational support package which

included Bursary award for students in Higher Institutions, free bags with Exercise Books and first aid boxes to all the primary schools across Mushin. Speaking after receiving the boxes, head teachers are grateful to the council boss for supporting the schools and children. Some of the educational support programmes of the chairman included, free school ride for pupils and students across Mushin, annual distribution of GCE forms for students and

youths in Mushin, annual distribution of UTME/JAMB forms for youths and students in Mushin, construction of benches and desks for pupils in primary schools, construction and renovation of classrooms and school fences across Mushin, and annual distribution of writing materials to pupils at the beginning of every session. Bamigboye has also promised to provide security for schools for safety of lives and properties in all primary schools across the Mushin.

Mushin LG Provides Educational Support Bundles To Pupils, Students

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye has provided a potent form of educational support palliative to indigent pupils in Mushin primary schools and students attending various higher institutions. He distributed bursary awards, free school bags containing exercise books, and first-aid boxes to all Mushin primary schools. The head of the council reaffirmed that "building the youth is tantamount to building the nation" when introducing the packages of educational support. He remarked

how happy it made him to see the kids, whom he described as future leaders, grinning. In order to lessen the stress that impoverished students face while pursuing their education, Bamigboye urged stakeholders and business organizations to work together with the government. The chairman highlighted some of his projects, which included building desks and benches for students in public primary schools, providing free UTME/JAMB forms, free school rides, free holiday coaching, and free GCE forms. He also pledged to provide security for schools that require it. Each of the 50 primary schools in Mushin Local Government received exercise books and bags

for a select group of disadvantaged students whose parents could not afford educational supplies. Additionally, each school received a free First-Aid Box filled with medical supplies to treat minor injuries received while the school was in session. The chairman finally expressed appreciation to the legislative arm, Executive members, Management and members of the Bursary committee, for the success of the programme. About 2,000 students from various primary schools received free backpacks and books as well as first-aid boxes, and over 300 students from higher education institutions benefited from the bursary award.



Commonwealth, FG open talks on deep sea mining

Profitable prospects for deep sea mining in Nigeria's coastal waters topped the presentation of the Commonwealth Secretariat to the Nigerian delegation led by Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr. Oladele Alake on a courtesy visit to the institution last week. In his determination to mobilize international assistance to position the solid minerals sector to compete globally, Alake requested to discuss matters of mineral development with the Commonwealth. Addressing the forum, Alake said President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has identified the solid minerals sector as a pillar of Nigeria's current efforts to diversify the economy. This policy, he

remarked, led the ministry to develop a Seven Point Agenda that includes the establishment of a solid minerals company, gathering of Big Data on mineral reserve to de-risk investments, improved security to keep the mines safe and socio-economic development of mining communities through effective community development agreements. He said the Commonwealth, as an institution that has developed expertise over many years, should support the Tinubu administration's efforts. Nigeria, a former British colony, is a member of the 54-member Commonwealth. Responding, the Senior Director, Trade, Oceans and Natural Resources Department, Paul Kautoke commended

the delegation for visiting the Commonwealth secretariat. He said Nigeria, as a coastal country, could explore the profitable prospects of extraction of deep sea minerals such as copper, cobalt, nickel, gold and rare earth elements. He noted that many Commonwealth countries in the Pacific region were making inroads in the seep sea mining subsector promising that the Commonwealth could assist to develop a policy for Nigeria. Also addressing the forum, Director, Natural Resources, Victor Kitange, Trade and Investment Adviser, Opeyemi Abebe, Economic Adviser, Trade, Ocean and Natural Resources, Daniel Wilder and Adviser, Ocean Governance Allison Swaddling spoke



about the progress achieved in deep sea mining expressing concerns that African countries were lagging behind. While Swaddling said there are online training programmes developed by the department, Abebe, who recalled working with the

Nigerian Investment Promotion Council to develop capacity offered to provide similar assistance to get Nigeria. Into deep sea mining. Replying, Alake said the discussion has brought a new dimension to mineral development and promised that the

ministry would study the dimension of deep sea mining in collaboration with other ministries and put together a country proposal for further consideration. Kehinde BAMIGBETAN Special Adviser to the Honorable Minister

2023 Lagos Kids Mini Marathon: 9mobile Partners St. Saviours School

By Rasaan Adebayo

Nigeria's foremost telecom service provider, 9mobile, has sponsored the Lagos Kids Mini Marathon in collaboration with St. Saviours School, to promote a culture of health and fitness among children. The Kids Mini Marathon, a run for charity, is a family event that inspires children to become more physically active from an early age. Parents also took part in the event as they ran, walked, and jogged with their children. The event held at the Banana Island children's playground witnessed a huge turnout of children aged 7-15 years, parents, guardians, and sports

enthusiasts who gathered to cheer the kids on. The marathon featured a dynamic array of activities catering to various fitness levels, including a 5km and 3km marathon, as well as shorter 1.5km and 1km fun walks. Beyond the physical challenges, it also hosted a health and wellness fair, providing a platform for children to engage and learn about essential aspects of well-being, including nutrition, exercise, and healthy habits. Speaking at the event, Ufuoma Dogun, Manager, Events and Sponsorship, at 9mobile, expressed excitement about the initiative, stating, "We are proud to be associated with the



Lagos Kids Mini Marathon by Saviour's School Ikoyi. Our sponsorship of this event is part of our commitment to instill the values of health and wellness among children. This event is a testament to our

dedication to promoting healthier lifestyle choices that will benefit our youths for years to come." Themed 'Active Kids Rock', every child emerged as a winner, receiving well-deserved medals, an array of

exciting gift items, and cash prizes for the standout performers of the day. The 5km race saw Olawepo Abdul Azeem claiming the top spot, with Isaac Sirigbe in second place, and Emmanuel Ewereoke

finishing in a commendable third position. The Director, School Sports, Lagos State, Dr. Mrs. Oluyomi Oluwasanmi, expressed enthusiasm and joy for being part of an initiative that underscored the fusion of education and sport. "We are happy and excited to be part of this initiative because at the Lagos State Sport Commission, we believe in the integration of education and sport. To the parents, thank you for instilling these values in your children. Exercise is mandatory and very important. So, let us make it a culture in our schools and at home. Lagos State Commission is ready to support always," she said.

MTN mPulse Spelling Bee: 20 Finalists Vie For N18m Prize

Twenty finalists will compete for N18 million prizes at the 2023 MTN mPulse Spelling Bee finale.

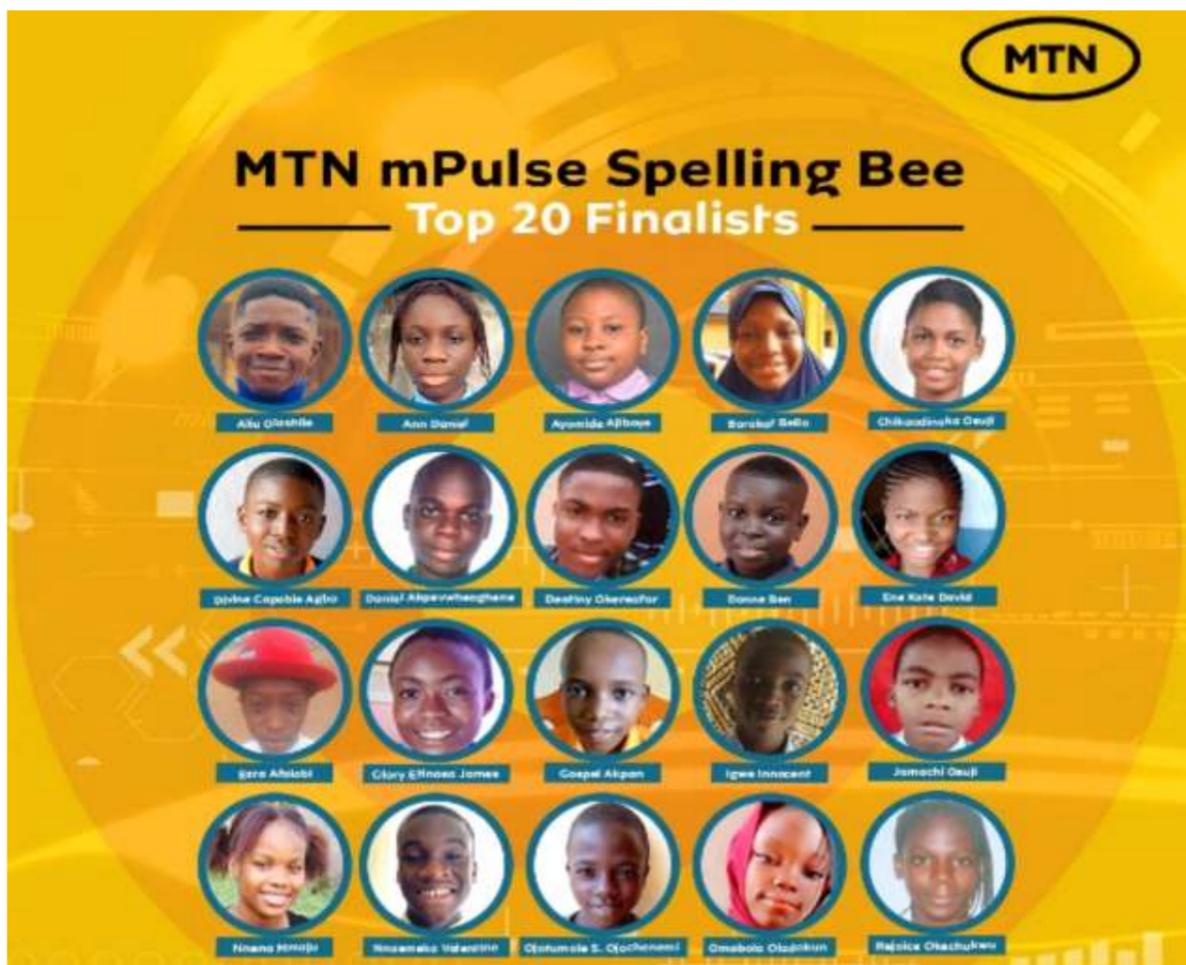
Following participation from over 12,000 contestants, the top 20 finalists are students between the ages of 9 and 15 from Nigerian primary and secondary schools.

The finalists will compete for prizes worth over N18 million, the opportunity to be the face of mPulse for a year, and the chance to be MTN Nigeria's CEO for a day.

Teachers of the top three contestants will also receive cash prizes, and the winning school will receive 10 laptops and 10 Hynet modems, as well as cutting-edge ICT devices from MTN. The finale, which will take place on December 2, 2023, at the MTN Plaza, Falomo, Ikoyi and will

be streamed live on the mPulse YouTube channel, will feature contestants, school representatives, teachers, and parents who will attend to cheer on their wards to victory where contestants are expected to spell words of varying difficulty at a higher level than in previous rounds.

The mPulse Spelling Bee Competition is an annual competition for students aged 9 to 15 in primary and secondary schools across Nigeria, with the goal of encouraging academic growth, and self-improvement, promoting healthy competition among peers, and utilising their full potential.



Glo Unveils Plan To Provide Additional 2,000 Sites

By Rasaq Adebayo

In commemoration of its 20 years of continuous operation in Nigeria, a leading telecommunications service provider, Globacom, has revealed its next plans for growth and enhanced services in Nigeria.

The company made this known at a press conference to commemorate its 20th anniversary in Lagos.

While presenting its achievements in the industry in the past 20 years, the company also presented its plans to further reposition the industry in the next 20 years.

According to the company, part of its achievements is making telecom services more

affordable for Nigerians by introducing per second billing while also crashing the price of phone gadgets.

"Glo has been at the forefront of revolutionary changes in the telecommunication sector in Nigeria. It crashed the cost of acquiring SIM cards in the country from about N25,000 to just about N200."

It further noted that prominent among the innovations Glo pioneered in Nigeria were Blackberry, Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS), Magic Plus, Glo Direct, Glo Fonepals, Africhat, Glo Mobile Internet, GloFleetmanager, M-Banking, and Glo Mobile Office.

"Glo was also the first to launch 2.5G, 3G, and 4G LTE networks.

It also singlehandedly built an international submarine cable, Glo 1 to connect West Africa directly to the United Kingdom and the rest of the world. It also connects 12 nations in the West African sub-region, including some of them that are landlocked.

"Glo1 is credited with crashing the cost of internet services and is today the preferred cable system by global OTT providers. It connects thousands of kilometres of national fibre to all parts of Nigeria.

"As we celebrate our achievements these past twenty years, we wish to acknowledge that Globacom's huge success is a result of the support of millions of Nigerians. We wish to thank them for their

love and patronage and for the unprecedented confidence they have consistently shown in the company," the telco stated.

Meanwhile, the company said it plans to expand its national footprints with additional 2,000 sites per year and expand its fibre connectivity in the country by 5,000km.

Speaking on the telco's next plans, the Chief Technology Officer, Remi Makinde, said the company has commenced the upgrade of its LTE sites with additional spectrum resources nationwide geared towards ensuring it always provides premium voice and high-speed data user experience.

He said: "Our national optic fiber and IP/MPLS backbone and metro

network is also currently being expanded with an additional 5,000Km from the current span of 14,000Km.

"Further Capacity Expansion of our Glo 1 submarine optical fiber infrastructure from Lagos-London is ongoing to accommodate our massive data growth for our direct interconnectivity with the likes of Google, YouTube, and Facebook, and other ISPs and corporate bodies across all sectors of the economy."

Promising to deliver increased customer satisfaction and efficiency, Remi also stated that Glo will further expand its footprint nationwide with an additional 2,000 sites per year.

He explained that the focus of its infrastructure expansion in 2024 will be more visible in the metro areas due to increased pressure on the bandwidth.

He, however, noted that the company remains committed to the National broadband plan and will continue to invest heavily in infrastructure reaching the unreached areas in the country.

Also speaking, the Head of Enterprise Marketing of Glo, Tega Agofure, restated the commitment of the brand to supporting SMEs.

According to him, Glo provides outsourcing services for customer care support for organisations, tailor-made data bundles, and lots of exciting offers for its consumers.

NWFL Premiership: Fouad Commends Dannaz Ladies' Resilience

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Lagos State Football Association (LSFA), Ogboni Fouad Oki demonstrated his unwavering commitment to supporting Lagos women's teams as he witnessed the Dannaz Ladies game against Nasarawa Amazons at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan. In what marked their inaugural encounter against the formidable Nasarawa Amazons, known for their roster of national team players and a coach from the under-20 team, Dannaz Ladies showcased resilience and determination on the field. Oki, who fulfilled his promise to offer full support to every team

in Lagos during his tenure, was present at the stadium to witness the match. Following the game, he addressed the players with words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of their effort. Oki expressed his satisfaction with the team's performance, stating, "You guys tried, and this is the kind of effort we are looking for. Don't be discouraged because you did not win, but know fully well that you have our support. When you go out there, display the courage of Lagos, which is a never-lose attitude, we always win." His encouraging words underline the ethos of Lagos football, a spirit that values resilience,

courage, and a winning mentality. The support from the Lagos State Football Association signals a positive step forward for local teams as they aim to make their mark in the competitive landscape of Nigerian women's football. Dannaz Ladies' ability to hold their own against a formidable opponent like Nasarawa Amazons is a testament to their potential and the impact of Oki's commitment to nurturing football talent in Lagos. As they continue their journey in the Nigeria Women's Football League, the encouragement from Chairman Oki serves as a rallying point for the team's continued growth and success on the field.



Lagos FA chairman, Ogboni Fouad Oki addressing Dannaz Ladies players at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan

Ghetto Tigers Ladies Emerge Champions of Oshodi Let's Play Championship

By Saheed Afolabi

Ghetto Tigers Ladies have emerged as the champions of the maiden edition of the Oshodi Let's Play Championship. The HRA Ladies defeated Wazbak Queens 12-11 in the penalty shootout after playing a 1-1 draw in regulation time. Wazbak Queens drew the first blood of the game with a good finish from Kabira Afolabi. Ghetto Tigers didn't relent as their effort was rewarded with an outstanding finish from Aishat Bolarinwa in the first half. The HRA Ladies had

more chances to seal off the game but converted them. Despite the game not finding a winner in regulation time, the game went straight to penalties shootout to decide the winner. Ghetto Tigers showed their supremacy and penalty skills in the shootout to come top 12-11 and ultimately win the first edition of the Oshodi Let's Play tournament in style. Head Coach Azeez Mustapha was named Best Coach of the Championship while goalkeeper Ifeoluwa Olufemi was awarded the Best Goalkeeper Award.



Ghetto Tigers Ladies Having a group photograph after winning the Oshodi Let's Play Championship



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