

Community relieved over reconstruction of Imakiyo police post

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Divorce cases rise worries mediators

Abolaji Adebayo

“I and my younger brother suffered for more than 30 years wandering about without getting our bearing in life due to lack of parental care. Our mother divorced our father in our tender age. We suffered for it despite the fact that both of them are alive.

“I wrote WAEC nine times, GCE seven times and JAMB seven time before I could secure admission into higher institution. Whatever might have happened to cause their separation, we seriously suffered for it. And we do not forgive them.”

This is Bro. AbdulHakeem Adeoti, a counsellor, going down the memory lane to dissuade a young couple seeking divorce from going ahead at the weekend.

Despite the fact that the couple's eight year old marriage produced a daughter, worsening marital relations led the husband to give his wife the end of September to pack out.

His reasons: distrust, lack of respect, absence of love and infidelity.

Her reason: inability to satisfy and meet her needs.

Once again, Adeoti took another slice of his life: he said they should keep their marriage to take care of the child and revive their love. Using his marriage, he said though married for nine years, he is yet to have a child.

Adeoti is one out of hundreds of marriage counsellors struggling daily to heal broken marriages and protect the family as the basic unit of the community. The reasons for divorce can be as serious as economic survival and petty as time spent making love.

This played out in a recent divorce case when the wife, a mother of four announced she was walking out of the 10-year relationship because



her husband stayed too long on her during mating.

An Islamic non-governmental organisation, Muslims For Family Development and Advancement Initiative (MUSFADA) which runs a counselling session for couples waded into the matter to settle the case.

The founder of the organisation, Dr (Mrs) Maryam Akinbode, said the society is getting worse due to high level of divorce among the new generation couples.

According to her, no less than 50 cases of divorce (both official and unofficial) are recorded daily in Lagos State.

The figures for the country are daunting.

According to a report in 2018, separation rates in Nigeria recorded a 14 percent increase. The present statistics mirror a rather negative trend.

Also, in a 2019 report titled 'Deciphering the high rate of Divorce in Nigeria', Kano State alone had over 1

million registered divorcees. More so, in a news report, it was learnt that a visit to the Social Development Secretariat, Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) revealed that a total of 20 to 30 cases of divorce are reported at one of the offices daily.

Furthermore, records at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court showed that over 2,000 divorce cases were filed between the year 2019 and February 2020, with an average of 30 cases being entertained every day, even as the Court is trying hard to reconcile couples through arbitration panels.

Findings further revealed that the figure is higher at the Customary Courts, the Alkali and the Sharia Customary Courts within the FCT.

Dr Akinbode noted that there are more unofficial divorce than official ones, going through court process.

The reason, according to her, may be due to the long process of filing divorce in court and the cost involved.

It was gathered that depending on the court and the lawyer involved, the cost of filing divorce in Nigeria courts may be between N250,000 and N600,000.

ECHONEWS gathered that Customary Court at the local government has jurisdiction to hear only divorce case of traditional marriage or Nikkai (Islamic marriage); only High Court can divorce couples whose marriage is bound by Act - those who went to registry.

Incompatibility and intolerance of couples are identified as the main reasons for the rapid increase in divorce.

In his commentary printed in the Nigerian Catholic Reporter, Ukoma Andrew, the priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, located in Lagos, attributed the high rate of divorce in the country to western influence on families, greed, and negative impacts of Nigeria's dwindling economy.

He stated with great regret that the basic foundation of marriage has almost been

destroyed, and consequently, many couples no longer have respect for the institution of marriage.

He said: "Marriage is no longer seen as a sacrament whereby a man and a woman are married for life. The injunction that they will remain married till death does them part no longer means much to a Westerner. Unfortunately, they are trying to impose that on Africans, and particularly Nigerians. Today, people marry for the wrong reasons either because the bride or groom is from a rich home or is rich." Of course, such an opinion has a right to exist; however, there are other points of view and theories with a broad index of rationality and objectivity.

According to psychologists, the path to solving a problem should always begin with its acceptance. But, as for the real problem with reducing the number of official marriage cancellations, it can hardly be entirely solved since the very mention of conflicts within a family or a

married couple has long been considered a strict social taboo.

Dr Akinbode, a retired teacher, also identified family's influence as major factor contributing to high rate of divorce.

She noted that divorces in Nigeria are hardly ever discussed in public.

"Family members are often reluctant to admit that a marriage is in trouble since a person who initiates divorce is still not accepted in society. In fact, even the idea of divorce is considered a taboo and unfit for public discourse."

While the court and some NGOs trying to mend some falling marriages, there are several crucial grounds for divorce in Nigeria, and they are based on unacceptable behaviour from a spouse and bad habits, which can have negative consequences.

A few examples of such factors include infidelity, anti-social behaviour, drunkenness, and criminal convictions as stipulated by law.

PCRC seeks more support from govt on security

By Abolaji Adebayo

The Police Community Relations Committee (PCRC) of Ago-Okota Police Division has appealed to the authority of Isolo LCDA for more support to enhance the security in the community. The chairman of the committee, Alhaji Musbau Alebiosu, said though the council under the chairmanship of Otunba Adebayo Olasoju has been doing great in terms of infrastructure and security, there is need to do more. Alebiosu noted that the new council chairman has just assumed office and has

shown that he would work harder. He said, based on Hon. Olasoju's track record in road construction in a short time, the PCRC encouraged him with an award. Meanwhile, Alebiosu said the community is expecting more from the council, emphasising on the need to boost the security of lives and properties. He promised that the committee would continue to play its intermediary role between the police and the community as he appealed for more logistics support for his division to perform better. His words: "We've seen infrastructural development

going on in Isolo LCDA. That is what we've all been looking forward to. He's been trying in the security sector as well because there have been series of engagements with stakeholders on how to make the security architecture of the council area more formidable. "The council boss needs to be encouraged and that's what we've done with the award and that's even in addition to our effectiveness in our responsibility to the community as PCRC executives and individuals. We will keep supporting the governments and synergise with them in the area of security."



Alagbeji PHC: Adebisi Omotola may withdraw lawsuit against Isolo LCDA, others

By Abolaji Adebayo

With the day of the next hearing getting closer, there are strong indications that the residents of Adebisi Omotola may withdraw their lawsuit against Isolo LCDA to give way for the conversion of the controversial Shopping Complex on their street to a Primary Healthcare Centre, Echonews has learnt. This development is coming following a

meeting between the council boss, Otunba Adebayo Olasoju and the residents association as well as the Chairman of Alagbeji CDA, Alhaji Yemi Sogunle, last week. The meeting, according to the council boss became important to formally communicate the council's decision over the controversial business centre to the residents and seek their cooperation. As earlier reported by Echonews, the lawsuit was filed against the council during the



The controversial shopping complex

administration of the immediate past council boss, who had hurriedly built the complex in the twilight of his administration, to contest the ownership of the piece of land the shopping complex was built on and also to question the legality of citing a shopping complex in their area.



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OIERL: FC Brave force Brenner Sport to a stalemate

By Saheed Afolabi

It was a fruitful match and a great encounter between two attacking sides as Ejigbo based side, Brenner Sport took on FC Brave based in Ilasamaja in an epic match at Jakande Estate, Oke-Afa Ejigbo mini stadium.

The game ended in a 1-1 draw which Moses Sunday scored for Brenner Sport while Sesan Ghazail equalised for FC Brave.

The game produced highlights of great youngsters at the grassroots who showed exceptional skills.

Playing at their home ground, Brenner Sport's understanding of the field gave them the lead in the 22nd minute through Moses Sunday.

FC Brave settled into the



Brenner Sport VS FC Brave

match after the goal conceded but they were not able to get a goal in the first 45 minutes of play.

Brenner Sport dominated

proceedings of the game but they failed to add to their tally in the second half, thereby, they gave FC Brave more room to get a goal in the

game.

The pressure applied by FC Brave finally paid off as Sesan Ghazail equalized for his team as they fought for a

point in the final stage of the game.

FC Brave were able to get a point against Brenner Sport as the game ended 1-1.

MSSA invitational tournament will be beneficial to the club – Adeyinka

By Saheed Afolabi

The co-founder of Maiden Star Sport Academy (MSSA), Sharon Adeyinka disclosed to ECHONEWS that the purpose of organising the MSSA tournament is to develop players skills, playing positions, and the opportunity of interacting with different players from different teams.

Adeyinka added that the competition will give the players the necessary confidence, excitement and courage to up their game.

"The invitational tournament is beneficial to MSSA as a club because it improves development of their skills. It promotes parental participation and team bonding. It shows how well MSSA players adjusts between matches. How well players play in different positions and under different situations on the pitch. The tournament also provides our players with added confidence, encouragement and excitement. They get the chance to play other teams. They Interact with different players from other teams.

Also, being in a competitive sport provide players with the opportunity to compete. Which often encourages young players to train harder and to play better. Also, their skills can be measure against other clubs. It's also beneficial because it provides exposure for MSSA players and other teams. You never know who might attend, see or hear about the team or players. Finally, in tournaments the winning team and most valuable players win awards and trophies. Which many players feel honored to have. Overall, the invitational tournament will provide MSSA with added physical and mental abilities, with excitement, experience, dedication, motivation and encouragement. Which all will positively affect their future development."

Gabriel ready to help Arsenal achieve great things

By Saheed Afolabi

Gabriel has been a towering presence at the heart of their defence, helping secure clean sheets against norwich and burnley - after which mikel arteta described him as "a player with an incredible future" - then shackling harry kane on sunday.

Gabriel has been a towering presence at the heart of their defence, helping secure clean sheets against Norwich and Burnley - after which Mikel Arteta described him as "a player with an incredible future" - then shackling Harry Kane on Sunday.

He started brightly, winning three consecutive Arsenal player of the month awards, but the side's form soon dipped and so did his.

A Covid diagnosis sent him into isolation over the Christmas period. He was in and out of the team in the second half of the campaign. It was a year of learning," says Gabriel, leaning back in his chair on the indoor training pitch at Arsenal's London Colney headquarters. "Of course, the team had a

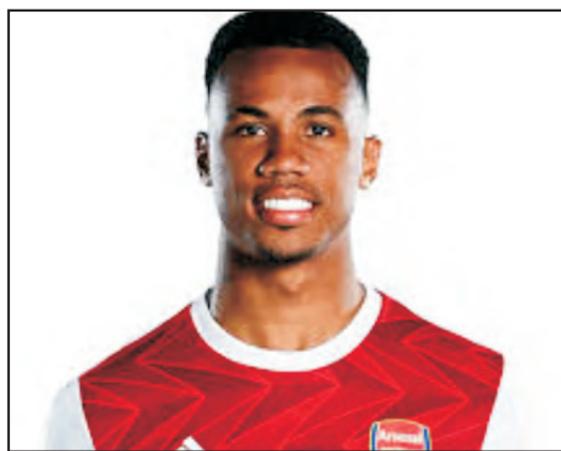
bad run, but I started well and overall I think it was a good year for me. I learned a lot of things and I'm a more mature player this year. I know the league better as well."

It helps, too, that communication has become easier. Gabriel has chosen to conduct this interview in his native Portuguese but he has developed an improved understanding of English.

"I think, more than anything

on the pitch, the language was the biggest difficulty for me in terms of adapting," he says. "There are a lot of players here who speak French, Portuguese and Spanish but in this country, you have to speak English and that was tough for me.

"My English still isn't perfect," Gabriel adds, after a pause, "but it's definitely a lot better than it was and that's helping me a lot."



Gabriel

Ronald Koeman fed up with defending himself

By Saheed Afolabi

Under-pressure Barcelona manager Ronald Koeman says he is "fed up" with having to defend himself.

Reports say the Dutchman is on the brink of being sacked after Barca lost their first two Champions League games and are struggling in La Liga.

"The president [Joan Laporta] was here but I haven't seen him because we were preparing for tomorrow's game.

"I am still here, but I have eyes and ears and a lot of things filter through.

"I am fed up of having to defend myself. It makes no sense.

Today is not the time, but one day I would like to talk all about what I think of all this."

However, the former Everton and Netherlands coach refused to answer a question about his relationship with Laporta, simply saying: "I am still here." Relations between the pair have been strained - bordering on toxic - since Laporta was elected as club president in March.

The Catalan side have been struggling with life after the departure of club legend Lionel Messi, losing 3-0 to Benfica in the Champions League in midweek and they are sixth in La Liga, five points behind leaders Real Madrid with a

game in hand after three draws in six games.

On Thursday, Spanish football expert Guillem Balague told BBC Sport it is "just a matter of time" before Koeman is sacked. "Timing is of the essence, not only to get rid of Koeman but also to get a plan in place," said Balague.

But Koeman, Barcelona's match-winner as a player in the 1992 European Cup final, wants to focus on Saturday's game.

"I am not the most important," he said. "A positive result is more important than one person. Everyone knows I am here out of love for the club. I came in a very complicated



Ronald Koeman

situation."

When asked by one journalist what had been his best and worst moment in charge at the club since arriving just over a year ago, Koeman replied: "The best moment? When I signed to become Barca coach. The worst moment? When Messi left."

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Community relieved over reconstruction of Imakyo police post

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Residents of Bucknor in Ejigbo LCDA are relieved that the police post vandalised during the EndSARS is undergoing a facelift almost a year after the incident.

The Bucknor police post, located directly opposite Sarah Fagboye entrance at Ashamu Estate Community, is one of the police stations destroyed by hoodlums during the EndSARS crisis last year.

The community has since been witnessing series of criminal activities due to absence of police to curb them.

Also undergoing repairs is the Imakyo police post on Dauda

Iloh street thus rebuilding the security of the area.

ECHONEWS gathered that individuals, organisations and communities were disallowed from fixing the damaged police station or post by the government.

However, the federal government recently approved the rehabilitation of Vandalised police posts, a source from Ejigbo Police Divisional Headquarters told ECHONEWS.

Some of the residents especially the traders who spoke to ECHONEWS narrated how they have been robbed and subjected to insecurity.

One of the Point of Sale (POS) operators in the community, Mrs Ganiyah, stated that the

repairs of the police post in the area would help maintain public order and enhance safety.

She said POS operators are usually the victims as they are incessantly robbed.

Mr Aruna Salami, said the community would benefit from faster response from the police during emergencies since the police officers would be closer to the residents now.

However, Salami urged the police to improve on their duties to gain back people's trust and community relations.

Corroborating Salami's advice to the police, a trader in the community, Tina lkechukwu, said community policing must be encouraged,



Imakyo Police Post

saying the efficiency of the police officers could not be fully guaranteed based on previous experiences.

A digital operator, Mr Shina Akinwale, added that the efficiency of the police officers can only be achieved

and trusted if only they could re-strategise on their operation.

Make elderly persons part of decision making, NGO urges govt

By Motolani AbdulGafar

A Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Centre for Happy Elderly People (CHEP) has urged the government to make the elderly persons part of decision making body as a way to make them happy.

The NGO emphasised that one of the ways to make the elderly ones happy is to make them part of decision making especially on matters that concern their affairs.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the founder of the NGO, Mrs Lilian Jeringho said there are basic factors residents and governments need to take into consideration to make the elderly ones relevant and happy in their communities.

According to her, apart from making them part of decision making body, the elders should be provided psycho-social needs such as freedom to relate with people, making recurrent visitation to avoid loneliness and keeping them active through exercise.

According to her, care of older



Elderly women playing ludo game

people extends the limit of concentrating on only their health status due to old age but an inclusion of how comfortable they are in the environment they find themselves.

Jeringho, a medical practitioner, said she established a nursing academy (CHEP Geriatric Human Resources Developmental Limited) where medical personnel are trained on how to

cater for the older people. She also affirmed the need for more exposure and participation of older people in the digital world, stating that their involvement in the technology will aid them to see

their ability to learn despite their age. She noted that involvement in technology would give them access to easily connect with family and friends from afar. She said the society should

encourage the elderly to contribute through volunteer work, sharing their experiences and knowledge, and participating in paid labour.

Meanwhile, a 75-year-old woman, Janet Bakare, a resident of Ejigbo who spoke to ECHONEWS, said the elderly ones really need the support of the residents and the government, noting that many of them do not have family members to cater for them.

She acknowledged the recent establishment of a new agency - National Senior Citizens Centre (NSCC), under the care of its Director General, Dr Emem Omokaro, which he said has been providing social welfare, healthcare needs and more to older persons in Nigeria.

Bakare appealed to the government to aid private establishments that are fully concerned with elderly care by providing free amenities and health care services for them among other common needs to help boost their contributions to social services.

Street sweepers urge residents to ignore cart pushers

By Edith Igbokwe

The Coordinator of Street Sweepers, Oshodi-Isolo LG chapter, Mrs. Ore-Ofe Tijani has urged residents against patronising cart pushers to save the environment from avoidable plague.

According to her, the growing trend of environmental decay in some parts of the local government area is caused by cart pushers who dump refuse indiscriminately in the community.

Tijani emphasised that despite series of cautions, people still patronise cart pushers.

As an advocate of cleaner environment, she appealed to concerned residents to always bag their wastes properly and give them to authorised PSP operators in their communities. She commended the PSS operators in the local government area for proper waste management.



A cart pusher at work

Parking PSP trucks on highways worsens traffic flow-Adebayo

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of Nigerian Automobile Technician Association (NATA), Ojota branch, Mr. Adeoti Adebayo has urged the Lagos State Government to warn PSP operators against indiscriminate parking of their trucks on the highways.

Citing the case of trucks wrongly parked on Okota Motor Way, he said the trucks are parked without proper check.

He noted that after offloading their wastes at the dump sites, many of them leave their trucks on the roads.

He explained that NATA has written to the Ministry of Environment about the issue demanding the evacuation of trucks.

Adebayo claimed that the parked trucks disturb the activities of their mechanic village and appealed to the state government to caution the PSP operators against indiscriminate parking on the highways.

Expect more classrooms, streetlights - Rep Dawodu

By Edith Igbokwe

Following the provision of classroom blocks and other educational materials for the pupils in his constituency, Federal House of Representatives member for Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Hon. Dr. Bashiru Dawodu has promised to facilitate more projects 10 more classrooms and 200 street light poles soon.

He said the 30 classrooms, furnitures, borehole water system, and solar lights delivered were the first phase of his his welfare support and capacity building of the



The school bus provided

constituency. On the way, according to him, are additional 10 classrooms to make the 40 classrooms he facilitated from Abuja.

He commended the Lagos State Government on various educational and welfare programmes geared toward improving the residents, pledging to continue to support the government in his constituency by facilitating programmes and projects.

Medical expert explains malaria in Covid-19 treatment

By Motolani AbdulGafar

As vaccination continues in Ejigbo, a medical doctor, Wasiu Adelodun has explained that the prevalence of malaria among symptoms of COVID-19 patients is one of the reasons for introducing malaria drugs into the treatment of the pandemic.

According to him, in the case of

treating malaria, a 2021 vaccine; RTS,S, with the brand name Mosquirix has been approved to prevent the disease.

Adelodun counselled that the vaccine treatment requires the intake of four injections with low efficacy.

He noted that people who grow up in a risk area do develop some level of immunity and are less likely to contract malaria as

they grow older meanwhile the disease can be contracted more than once by a patient.

He said malaria affects the skeletal muscle system leading to symptoms such as muscle aches, muscle contractures, muscle fatigue, muscle pain, and muscle weakness and can also cause parasitic coronary artery occlusion.

He said his essence of revealing the complexity of the disease is

a result of the nonchalant attitude of residents in keeping their environment clean and visiting health care centres after contacting the disease as they see it as a recurrent phenomenon that does not need fretting about.

He, therefore, urged residents to take the illness seriously as it can get worse very quickly and become fatal if not treated very quickly.





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Signed:
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Executive Chairman, Isolo LCDA



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May your days be long in excellent health.

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