

### **LAGOS SCHOOLS ADMISSION:**

# MORE PUPILS RUSH FOR FEWER SPACES



Hon. Wahab Alawiye-King

FG launches poverty eradication programme in Lagos **PG.14**

Education's one of our cardinal objectives — Sanwo-Olu



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Police restore peace in Mile 12 after cult clash **PG.11**

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How police rescued suspected child trafficker from mob **PG. 12**

# Lagos Schools Admission: More Pupils Rush for Fewer Spaces

By Motolani AbdulGafar

**P**ressure on spaces in public primary and secondary schools in Lagos State is not likely to ease going by the experience of parents and school administrators in the current admission season.

The state implements the 6-3-3-4 system under which a child spends six sessions moving from primary 1 to six in primary school, three years each in junior and secondary school and four years in a tertiary institution.

This session's admission process began with the announcement that the Lagos State Common Entrance and placement test for students seeking secondary education in the public schools will hold on Saturday, July 23, 2022.

The results were out in August, this year paving the way for parents and guardians to embark on the next phase: getting their wards into the state's 350 junior secondary schools.

Parents whose children passed the National Common Entrance Examination and could afford to pay the mandatory N25,000 fees applied for places in five model colleges run by the government.

The period also opened the window for parents wishing to transfer their wards to second year in junior secondary schools or first year in senior secondary schools.

For this purpose, JSS2 candidates were asked to submit their second and third term results and SS1 candidates advised to submit JSS3 first and second term results

The rule also requires the tax clearance certificate, copy of treasury receipts on payment of N5,000 for forms.

With the announcement of Monday, September 5 as the resumption date, all seems set for the 2022/23 session of three terms.

The first term is expected to end on Thursday October 21, 2022 making a total of 68 days. The students will spend 59 days in schools in the second term, expected to run from January 9 to April 6, 2023. They will resume for the third term on April 25 and close on July 21, this year.

For pupils with technical orientation, the state's vocational examination board is where to go.

Parents are trying to maximise the opportunities to put their children in the best of the available schools.

But many are disturbed by the conditions of the schools.

The story of overcrowded public schools in Lagos State begins with the government's commitment to put over 2million out of school children through the educational system to deliver the high literacy needed to function in Africa's fifth largest economy.

Hon. Wahab Alawiye-King, chairman of the Lagos State State Universal Basic Education Board,



Hon. Wahab Alawiye-King making his speech

concluded a school enrollment campaign last month with an appeal to parents to register their children to learn.

He made the appeal against the backdrop of figures which bother parents. 2022 figures are not available partly because the Annual Public Schools Census published by the Ministry of Education is yet to leave the press.

However, as at 2019, there were 62,399 pupils in classes 1 to 3 in public primary schools. The figures of the other levels are kindergarten/nursery, 65,133; primary 4 to 6, 84,916; Junior Secondary Schools, 101,897; Senior Secondary Schools, 46,676.

These pupils use 10,085 classrooms in 350 junior and 322 senior secondary schools to receive knowledge. The result is that there aren't enough classrooms to accommodate them.

Yet new schools are not being established to cope. Between 2015 and 2019, data sourced from the Annual Public Schools Census 2019 indicate that only one school was added as the state began with 1,014 schools in 2015 and closed with 1,015 schools in 2019.

This inadequacy seems to be causing more pupils to drop out of school. According to data of the Lagos State government, enrolment in secondary schools opened with 248,339 in 2015 and closed in 2019 with 234,611 implying that 13,728 dropped out over the five-year period.

A visit to some Senior and Junior schools in Oshodi-Isolo, Ojokoro and Ikeja areas of the state indicated the situation.

Class size is critical to learning and teaching,

according to experts. Teachers in government schools in Nigeria routinely work (minus extra lesson) six hours daily.

The Head of Department, Educational Foundations, University of Lagos, Professor Ngozi Osarenren, said it would be difficult for effective learning and teaching to take place in an overcrowded classroom.

So, lack of space coupled with the overwork for the teachers make gaining entrance into schools especially in Lagos cumbersome.

A former English Language teacher at the Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education (AOCOED), Otto\ljanikin, Lagos State, Mr Francis Jegede, said no teacher could perform magic if the condition is not conducive because teaching and learning is a feedback mechanism from teacher to students and vice versa.

According to him, part of the learning process is for teachers to ensure that learning has actually taken place after a teaching session.

"Teaching is not all about dishing out information. It is a two-way communication between the teacher and the student. A teacher must be able to identify students according to their abilities to assimilate in order to further help those who may be deficient in one area or the other and this can only be effective in schools with reasonable sizes of students to classes," he emphasised.

But where all these are lacking, he added, there would be problems and the problems would manifest in the science laboratories, libraries, dormitories, and even in toilets.

Interestingly, some Lagos public school teachers

opened up on this. They disclosed on the condition of anonymity that they only give their students home work to fulfil all righteousness because they would not bother to mark many of their scripts, much less assess their performances for possible corrections. One of them, a female, said: "I cannot kill myself. How many scripts will I mark when I'm not a machine? I have more than 85 students in one class and we have eight arms, which means, I have about 680 students in all to attend to almost every day."

The implication of this scenario for this particular teacher is that spending only five minutes with a student per day on paperwork (outside the actual teaching hours) will take four hours and seven minutes per week out of her schedules. While it takes only a very passionate and hardworking teacher to sacrifice such valuable time, the quality of the learning that is expected to take place within such a time frame will be very minimal.

"That is why what I do in most cases is to ask the students to exchange their scripts among themselves and mark, or I don't bother at all. It is only during examination that I know marking of scripts is a must for score grading," the teacher added.

She also shared a recent experience which was occasioned by the huge student population in her school. "I ran into a male student who came to empty his bowel in the teachers' toilet because the students' toilets were all occupied at the time. Although I warned him against using the teachers' toilet again no matter the level of his discomfort, I knew in my mind that the shortage of toilets caused his action."

# Lagos Schools Admission: More Pupils Rush for Fewer Spaces

It was gathered that the infrastructure is too small to accommodate the large number of students who seek admission. This has continued to restrict admission quota in the public schools in Lagos, make the process a tough competition.

A community health expert at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to the press, said students in congested classrooms, like in every other crowded place, are prone to respiratory and other infectious diseases like tuberculosis and skin rashes.

According to the medical personnel, overcrowded environment reduces the quality of air individuals breathe by limiting the availability of oxygen and also increases the chances of body contact and these can badly affect an individual's health.

Huge classroom population contributes to the lack of discipline displayed by students of public schools.

It makes proper monitoring of their movements and other activities difficult for teachers.

Although the government makes class attendance mandatory for every student, it was gathered that most schools don't mark students register every day any longer. They do so once cumulatively, on a weekly basis. Little wonder then why many students are still on the streets or at best hanging around school premises at 9.00 or 9.30 a.m., while some don't even report in school at all, whereas their first lesson begins officially at 8.15 a.m.

"That is why a moderate classroom is desirable," Professor Osarenren, emphasised.

The Data Centre of UNESCO Institute for Statistics, in its 2008 report, stated that of all the 189 countries around the world, Nigeria was among the four that had the most overcrowded classrooms in its secondary schools. Other countries in this category were Pakistan, Eritrea and Malawi.

The actual number of students recommended by UNESCO for a single classroom is between 30 and 35 and any classroom that has an extra student is considered to be overcrowded and not good for learning and teaching.

A former Nigeria's Representative to UNESCO and Emeritus Professor at the University of Ibadan, Michael Omolewa, shed more light on the global agency's position on benchmark. He said a small classroom would give learners the opportunity to be reached at the individual level by their teachers, who would monitor their performance in both learning and character development.

Through that, he added, teachers would quickly identify the challenges posed by learning, as slow learners could be encouraged to catch up with the school work without negatively affecting the performance of more capable learners.

"And we can only achieve this in a moderate classroom," the professor of education history insisted.

But in Lagos (with over 20 million population, according to the state census), only in private schools does this recommendation seem to have a meaning. Even in private schools, findings have shown that the situation is not a way of compliance to the directive but because of their fewer enrolments when compared to public schools and the economic hardship which compelled many parents to move their children to public schools where they pay almost nothing.

The former chairman of the National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS), Lagos State chapter, Alhaji Akande Kamaldeen, confirmed this assertion.

He said hardly could any private school, as of today in the state, boast 30 students in a class.

"This is an unfortunate scenario as we cannot help the situation because we will have to pay salaries, rent, utility charges and various forms of levies to the government," he stressed.

Before now in the state, many parents preferred sending their children to private

primary schools for reasons ranging from quality teaching to closeness to homes (as public schools are always located far away) and later, to public secondary and tertiary schools as they grew older.

Meanwhile, a parent, Mr. Gafar Olafimihan who enrolled his ward to Eko Junior Grammar School, Ilasamaja, told ECHONEWS that the process was seamless.

"The processing wasn't as stressful as we thought it would be and I think that was because we got it right from the beginning. While registering for the common entrance exam, we chose public school as our preferred choice for his secondary education and as it seems now, he will be resuming with them.

"What we have to do is to tender tax clearance and perfect some processing. It's not stressful, the previous rigmarole that characterizes the process has been eliminated."

However, ECHONEWS gathered that the complication arises when students are transiting from Junior Secondary to Senior Secondary level.

Speaking to ECHONEWS, the principal of AMCA private school at Igando/Isuti Close, Mr Faesol Thanni said students in public schools face some challenges as many of them sometimes encounter issues like name misplacement which can be sometimes troublesome for parents as their children might not be fully settled in a class after the resumption.

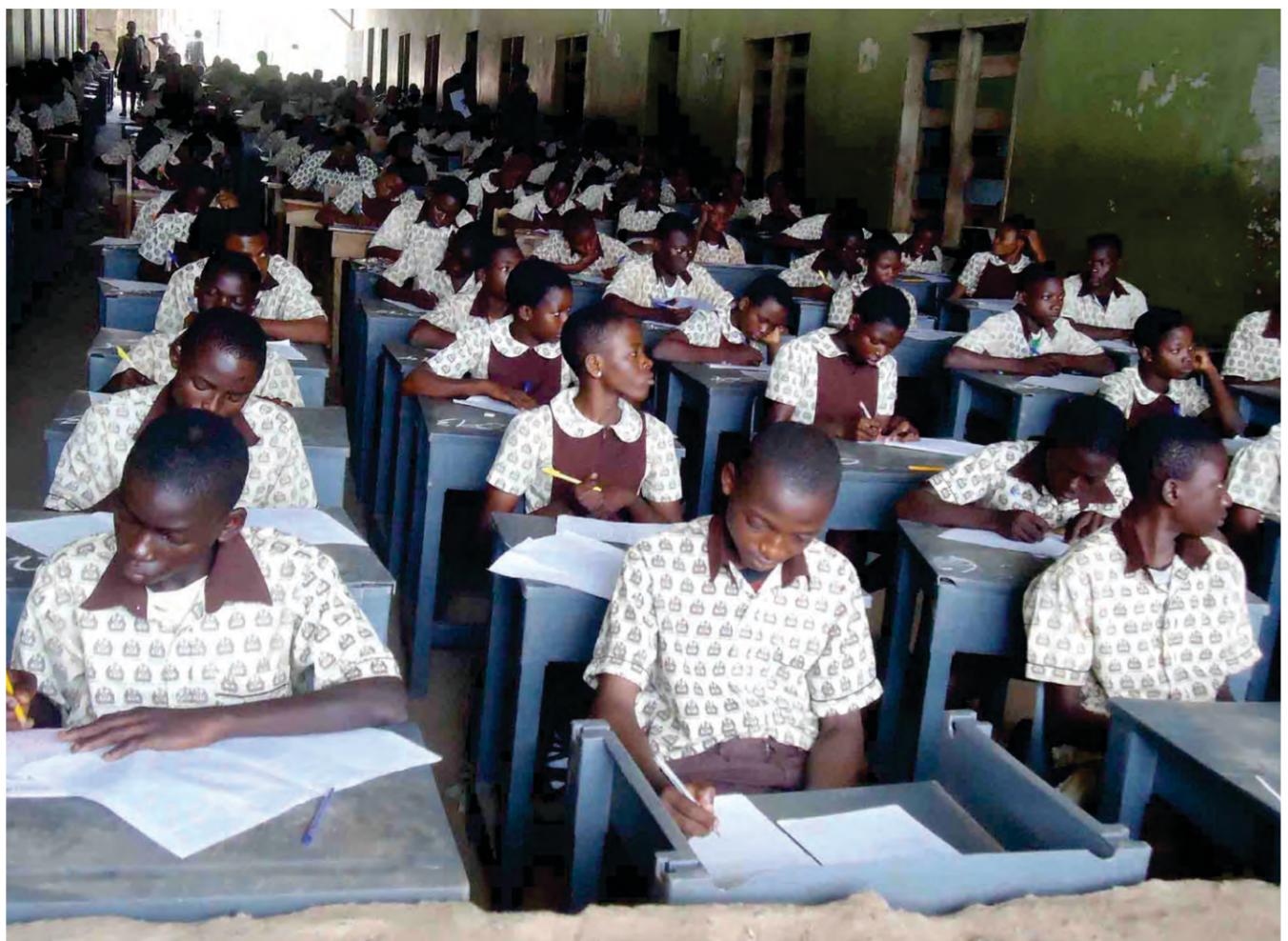
Thanni, therefore, noted that in rare cases some students might be delayed concerning their failure in the Junior Secondary School West African Examination Council's evaluation as most schools indulge in malpractices without considering the children's future.

Meanwhile, the state and local governments have been expanding the infrastructure to accommodate the increasing population of students in Lagos State. An example is the new primary school built by the Ejigbo LCDA, while renovation of other schools are going on across the state.

The state government has also embraced private schools as partners in providing education.

Commissioner for Education, Folasade Adefisayo announced that as at 2020, the number of private schools registered in Lagos State moved from 729 in 2019 to 1,660 even though there are over 20,000 illegal schools.

"Despite the fact that the number of schools in Lagos, especially in the private sector has increased tremendously, the yawning gap between demand and supply clearly shows that more schools are needed to meet our educational target. We need more private schools to come on board for us to be able to cater to the ever increasing educational needs of a fast growing metropolis like Lagos."



A Lagos State Public School



The chairman of National Union of Road Transport Workers, Amuwo Odofin Branch C', Prince Ajele Abeyi Abayomi (Ikomodina) has facilitated the rehabilitation of a 1.7 km road reconstruction in Mile 2, Amuwo-Odofin Local Government.

The road project was awarded by Grimaldil PTML shipping company to Monterosa construction Limited.

The full stretch of the road rehabilitation upon completion will link Otto Wharf, Berger Suya, Kirikiri, Tin-Can, and Apapa corridors and also provide easy access to avoid motorists taking one way against the traffic rule in Lagos state.

Recall that Abayomi had earlier visited the Grimaldil PTML authority to lament the deplorable state of the road while urging the multinational shipping company to consider

## NURTW facilitates road rehabilitation in Amuwo-Odofin

By Motolani AbdulGafar

its rehabilitation for the community.

Commenting, the Managing Director, Grimaldil PTML Terminal, Lagos, Nigeria, Ascanio Russo assured the LASPGM chairman, Amuwo Odofin branch C' that the project will be executed in earnest as part of its corporate social responsibility.

The Monterosa Construction Limited, which handles Grimaldi PTML infrastructure activities have commenced Mile 2 alternative route, Lagos-Badagry Expressway.



### LAMATA sensitises LASPGM officials on transport procedures

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Representatives from Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) have enlightened officials of Lagos State Park and Garages Management (LASPGM) on train station awareness in Mile 2 and various means of managing transportation crisis to reduce the accident rate and retain a decent atmosphere for road users.

LAMATA's Director, Rail Transportation, Engr. Olanakanmi Okusaga said the train station will commence operation soon while noting that they needed to inform transportation stakeholders and unveiled the plan to re-develop the area.

According to him, the "first phase of the blue rail-line project running from Mile- 2 to Marina axis will commence operation by December this year with urban renewal project.

Meanwhile, LASGPM Chairman branch A' Comrade Raji Kazeem (Student) with other stakeholders have expressed their concerns over the development of the rail station.

They urged LAMATA and State Government to consider them in whatever plans they have in remodeling the area for transportation development.

Both parties centred on remodeling intra-modal transportation and commencement of railway operation as LAMATA advised them to be cautious and ensure safety while driving on road.

## Rail transit nears completion in Amuwo-Odofin

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Blue Line Rail Mass Transits is almost fully constructed in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government.

The 27-Kilometres Rail transit has heightened the hope of commuters over its construction as the last track beam of the rail track was launched earlier this month.

The first phase of the Blue Line traverses from Mile 2 to Marina.

Recall that this Lagos Blue

line rail mass transit was commenced in 2012 by the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

The Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu urged the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) and the contractor to the December deadline for the Blue Line project's completion.

In his words: "We are not just making promises; people are beginning to see for themselves that all the milestones and the difficult

tasks we are meant to achieve to ensure operation of the Blue Line are being achieved. The Marina terminal for the Blue Line, will be completed within two-and-half months. I am restating here that we will formally complete this Blue Line before December 31, 2022."

The Blue Line, which traverses between Mile 2 and Marina, will be operated on Electric Motor Unit (EMU); the 37-kilometre Red Line, from Agbado to

Ebute Metta, will operate on Automotive Gas Oil (AGO). Sanwo-Olu said the construction of the second phase of the Blue Line project would commence after the start of the operation, which would extend the rail project from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko He said Blue Line stations would be built at Festac, Alakija, Trade Fair, Volkswagen, LASU and Okokomaiko.

The governor disclosed that talks were being held with the Ogun State Government

for a possible extension of the rail line to Agbara.

He said: "The second phase of the Blue Line project will be an easy infrastructure to develop because the marked alignment for stations and tracks are largely at the grid level. While we are at this, the Red Line is also on the way. This is a start-and-end project for our administration, with about seven stations concurrently being built. This will redefine mass transportation in Lagos."

The Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC) has stated that physical toll collection by agents of the Lagos State Government adds to traffic gridlock on the port access road.

Speaking during an enlarged Presidential Port Standing Task Team (PPSTT) meeting and an update on the second phase of operation free the port corridor along Apapa-Tin-Can-Coconut-Berger yard – Mile2-Orile-Ijora Sifax, the executive secretary of the council, Emmanuel Jime, urged the Lagos State Government to automate its toll collection processes.

The Shippers' Council boss, however, commended the presidential port task team's officers for clearing the port access road which was filled with shanties,

## NSC tells LASG to deploy digital means on Apapa toll collection

allowing extortion.

Though he said he recognized the need for the state government to increase revenue to meet current economic and social challenges.

He, however, advised the deployment of technology in the state to enhance ease of doing business and to make the road free of encumbrances.

"We recognize the government's resolve to raise revenue, whether the state or local government. This is important and we needed to recognize that the purpose of the task team was to clear the port corridor of traffic because if we don't do this, we won't be able to get efficiency and economies of scale. It

has been shown that if we have efficiency, the port and government will make more money.

"But, in raising revenue, it has to be done in such a way that ease of doing business is not affected. This is 21st century; we can collect revenue and deploy technology. We appeal to the government because the method used in collecting toll on the road is outdated; we can find more ideal way of doing that without impeding traffic."

However, the Lagos State Government has introduced another method for the Lagos State Park and Gardens and the Apapa Local Government officials to collect toll in order to ease the gridlock on the port

access road

Representing the government, one of the directors in the Ministry of Transportation, Olayinka Sakiru, said residents of Apapa had abandoned the port city due to heavy traffic it suffered in the past. He, however, commended the port standing task team to have cleared the port access road of traffic gridlock which he said had increased the ease of doing business at the nation's seaports.

"We are also concerned about the toll collection, the (park management) should have another mode of collection instead of being on the road. We will work on that because we know hawking and

collection of tolls add to gridlock. We are working on it. Many residents have run away from Apapa because of the gridlock; we have noticed the success of the task team."

The coordinator, Port Standing Task Team (PSTT), Moses Fadipe, said the Port access roads were cleared of encumbrances in 32 days.

Fadipe also lamented on the activities of transport unions and local government officials that collect tolls on the access road as well impede free flow of traffic.

"This is a journey we started on the 14th April 2022, with a distance of 2.6km where we have about 26 extortion points. The road seemed like a nightmare when we started,

but no matter how the problem is, if there is co-operation the problem is surmount.

"Before our operation, the roads were turned into indiscriminate parking lots, mechanic workshops and refuse dumps. We did a lot of education before enforcement and we cleared all encumbrances in 32 days."

He, however, bemoaned attack on members of the task team,

"We have seen several attacks on the task team, physical and forceful attacks. For instance, we have an officer that was attacked and has been in the hospital for over two weeks. We thank God he's alive and not dead," he concluded.



# Epe residents commend LASG for supporting Kayo-Kayo festival

Indigenes of Epe have commended the Lagos State Government for supporting the annual "Kayo-kayo" festival.

Speaking at the grand finale of the week-long event, Hon. Wale Raji, representing Epe Constituency at the Federal House of Representatives, congratulated the people of Epe and the State for the memorable annual "Kayo-kayo" festival.

Raji applauded the organizing committee for the creative initiatives introduced to the festival on annual basis, noting that it has become part of the history of Lagos.

His words: "I am happy that the essence of this festival has been retained and it has afforded all of us the opportunity to eat and dine together in unity. I will continue to give the people of Epe an unprecedented and qualitative representation in the best way possible and I am grateful to them for their immeasurable

By [Motola AbdulGafar](#)

support so far".

Disclosing that the first secondary school at Odo-Temu Community in Epe will begin academic activities in September 2022, having received approval from the State Government, he gave an assurance that he would continue to provide the necessary support to develop the Epe community.

Also speaking, another indigene of Epe and Executive Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area, Mr. Sesan Abdulahi, acknowledged that the State Government has been part and parcel of the cultural development of Epe, adding that the influx of visitors,

tourists, investors and the presence of top government officials at the celebration of the "Kayo-kayo" festival signalled Epe as a tourist destination in Lagos and Nigeria.

He also envisaged that the festival would grow the Epe economy, urging the state government to invest massively in publicizing the festival to the world at large.

A member of the organizing committee and director with the State Ministry of Justice, Mr. Bayo Salu, also praised Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for supporting and promoting the festival as well as selecting Epe Division as one of the six pilot areas for the Community-Based Tourism (CBT) initiative.



Kayo-Kayo festival

## Concerned resident launches new community-based security outfit in Epe

By [Motola AbdulGafar](#)

The bid to make the society a safe place for the people to live, the community is leaving no stone unturned as they are fully ready to help in the protection of lives and property.

This made Mr. Akinloye Akinwale and his team established Epe United Security Forum which was launched on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at Wastab Road, Odomola, Epe, Lagos State.

According to the National Coordinator of the USF, Mr. Akinloye Maruf, the agency is a duly registered private security outfit which has been working tirelessly with other security agencies in Epe to provide maximum security and support for the residents of the community. He said: "The security outfit

has recorded a lot of achievements since it commenced operations in Epe and its environs.

"We got the approval of the Ibeju-Lekki Local Government to begin full operations in the axis as well.

"In collaboration with the Nigeria Police, 11 suspected kidnappers were apprehended in Iji. They are those terrorizing the people of Iji and Igbodu communities.

"Suspected shops robbers were also arrested in Odomola and they had since been handed over to the police," he confirmed.

Akinloye added that his group has also recovered stolen vehicles and tricycles from the hoodlums in the area.

He boasted that the outfit has done so much within the time of operations in Epe division.

He appreciated the former member of the Federal House Representatives in Epe Constituency, Hon. Bola Gbabijo for his support and contribution to the actualization of the USF goals.

During the goodwill

messages, the Commander of the NSCDC, Epe Division, Dr. Abayo Tajudeen; the FRSC Official, Mr. O. S. Akinleye; the representative of the IDPIL Commander, High Chief Adewunmi Ogunsanya; representative of Hon. Gbabijo; Otunba

Kunle Onadeko; Onyabo Commander, Chief Rafiu Onilegboro; amongst others dished out some security tips to the members of the USF.

They also pointed out that security is everybody's business, saying more

cooperation and support are highly needed from the members of the public.

Thereafter, the motorcycle donated to the group was commissioned to commemorate the launching.

Immediately after the vote of thanks, the event-train shifted to the new office of the body in Odomola; as all the local security outfits present staged a beautiful parade at the office located along the Epe - Ibeju- Ode Expressway.



The new security outfit



# Council applauds NGO's contribution to education

By Saheed Afolabi

Lekki LCDA has applauded the philanthropical act of a non-governmental organization, PEPC Foundation in the area. The foundation was reported to have awarded public school pupils with "Back-to-school" materials that consist of bags, stationaries among other necessary items needed in class. The council chairman, Hon. Rasaki Kasali said their contribution has aided the council as it also works

towards improving the standard of the education system in the council. He said that there are various challenges confronting the education system of the council and the council has taken it upon itself to revitalize necessities in that aspect. He urged capable philanthropists to also support and complement the council towards mitigating the challenges. Kasali promised to continue to collaborate with credible NGOs as their activities can complement the vision of his administration.



Hon. Rasaki Kasali awarding student a "Back-to-school" package

## NGO donates library to public school

By Saheed Afolabi

A non-governmental organisation in Lekki LCDA, Yeshua's Arm, has set up a well-furnished library in RCM School, Lekki Town. Recall that ECHONEWS reported that the NGO had earlier constructed a standard playground in the school which serves the purpose of improving pupils' social skills, mind frame and imagination. A representative of the NGO Ruth Adekoya (real name withheld) said the NGO aim at focusing on children's fundamental rights to protection and education as their level requires rapt attention given to them while caring for them. In partnership with the local government, she said the establishment is a response to primary school pupils that are not measuring up to the expected standard in their reading ability. She said that they hope that the establishment would instil a reading culture in the students for a better foundation to be laid. Adekoya further noted that the library has been filled with appropriate books with age classification with pictorial illustrations for assimilation purposes.

Lagos State Commandant Vigilante Groups, Alhaji Tajudeen Opeyemi has charged officials at Ibeju-Lekki Vigilante Group to synergize with other paramilitary groups in curbing criminality and other crime-related issues in the council. He said their cooperation would create a wide range of networking where information dissemination would be faster as they tend to notify one another when issues arise.

## Vigilante group urged to synergize with other security agencies

By Saheed Afolabi

Opeyemi stressed his view while advising the newly inaugurated commander in the area, Alhaji Jimoh AbdulFatai Agboola that his

appointment was due to his scorecards as he contributed immensely to security matters in the community. He cautioned him to keep up with his selfless personality as others will begin to look up to him as a role model in

handling activities and making judgements on issues. Opeyemi further noted that a bill has been forwarded to President Muhammad Buhari by the Senate for him to allow Vigilante Groups to carry

ammunition to fight crime in the country. He said as a versatile crime fighter, he should also ensure unity and peace among his members as this would help him in carrying out his duties assiduously.

## Residents call for govt's intervention on perceived danger

By Saheed Afolabi

Residents of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area have appealed to the local government to intervene in the construction of an assumed unauthorized building effected at the seashore. ECHONEWS observed that the building was erected on a part at the popular Eleko beach with the name tag "Otunba" as it is popularly referred to. Frequent visitors claimed Otunba was used for relaxation by casual visitors in the community. However, a Facebook blogger, Ibeju Lekki Decide, has taken to his social media page to notify appropriate authorities to oversee the demolition of the building.

Some followers who are conversant with the blog's discussions and residents of the area noted that the building has no solid foundation and is prone to demolition during high vicissitudes of the sea or on heavy rain. Godday Obinye writes: "Please leave the house because one night the beach will take over it. It has happened in many places like Karamu beach." While Adebanjo Adewale Ajiwe wrote: "I think the Local Government committees should officially observe the point there." They urged the government to take proactive measures to reduce the risk of unforeseen circumstances in the area.



Picture of Otunba building at Eleko beach



# Ifako-Ijaiye LCDA organizes 8-month free healthcare service for residents

By Edith Obioma

The chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government, Prince Usman Hamzat, has set eight months period to provide free healthcare service for the residents of the council area. The council boss said no fewer than 20,000 residents would be captured on the scheme as he inaugurated a free Grassroots Health Outreach programme last week.

During the first week of the outreach, the programme was held in strategic areas including churches, mosques and community centres. Hamzat noted that about 512 residents were attended to in the first week at various religious houses in the community.

"We are offering free

healthcare services through the council medical team to religious houses and 512 people have been captured so far."

The programme was held at Iju Ogundimu Street, Oba Ogundimu Palace, Iju Central Mosque, Iju Ishaga, Dynamic Faith Bible Church, 21 Iju Ogundimu Road.

According to him, the target is to capture as many as possible as the initiative was birthed to celebrate his one year in office in partnership with Ifako-Ijaiye Community Advocates Volunteer alongside other strategic partners from the health sector.

The services offered include blood system diagnosis with blood donation, Oxygen and Temperature check NLS Radiographic check for general body system and HIV Test.

He added that free medical supplements Ilera Eko Health Insurance Scheme Quantum covers blood pressure check, Covid-19 vaccination and immunization of children from 0 month to four years.

The second week of the medical outreach was held at No 8, Ashabi Taiwo Street Obawole Istijabat Central Mashabi, Taiwo Street Obawole and Pillar of Faith Assembly Church Olushesi Bus Stop, Iju Ishaga

The council boss informed that the team will give weekly updates on strategic locations where the medical outreach would take place subsequently.

The chairman, however, urged the residents to take good advantages of the healthcare programme, admonishing them to make themselves available to benefit from the programme.



The members of the Executive Council of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government have presented a giant picture frame to the council chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat in recognition of his outstanding performance within his first year in office.

The Vice Chairman, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Awoniyi-Akerele, appreciated the chairman for being attentive to the the executive members.

She said that the team was pleased with the outstanding performance of the chairman, which he recorded within the first year in office as well as believing in their capability. While a team player.

He praised Ppresenting the frame, the Secretary to the Local Government, Hon. Fasusi, described the Chairman as an achiever and ince Hamzat for allowing them to blossom

## Council ExcOs fete chairman with gift for 'excellent' performance

By Edith Obioma

under his leadership.

Receiving the gift, the chairman thanked the exco members for their kind gesture, support and cooperation in the past one year.

He reiterated that despite coming from different political backgrounds, they have been able to work together as a team to achieve the laudable goals during his administration.

Hamzat described his exco members as the best in Lagos State and assured that the people of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area would continue to reap the dividends of democracy with the continued support of his team.



Ifako Ijaiye chairman, Usman Hamzat



# NBA commends LASG on performance

By Edith Igbokwe

At the Annual General Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), the State government hosted a 'Showcase Session' to enumerate impacts of Governor Babajide Sanwo-

Olu's administration. It was geared to sensitize Lagos residents on its achievements. The event was hosted by the Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Moyosore Onigbanjo (SAN) in which some of the state's officials

gave account of their stewardship in the last three and half years. Onigbanjo said the showcase session presented an opportunity for the state's handlers to highlight some of the achievements of Sanwo-Olu's administration.

He said the presentations, which covered climate change, healthcare, infrastructure development and land management in Lagos as well as emergency management and security, were designed to educate lawyers and informed them there was more than the

state was doing beyond what they see. The commissioner said a lot of projects and programmes would come to fruition in the nearest future to ensure Lagosians enjoy the dividends of democracy as well as good governance. Other speakers at the

section included the commissioner for environment and water resources, Tunji Bello, the commissioner for health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, the special adviser to the governor on works and infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyeye.

## FG launches poverty eradication programme in Lagos

By Edith Igbokwe

Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on Education Intervention, Fela Bank-Olemoh and Lagos State Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folashade Adefisayo have disclosed that the federal government is aimed at lifting 10 million Nigerians out of poverty by 2030 as it launched the programme at Alausa, Ikeja.

It was revealed that seven states including Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Gombe would be in the pilot scheme with 15,000 people to be empowered in each state.

Speaking at the launching in Lagos, Bank-Olemoh said: "Project Technical-Maximum, tagged: T-MAX, aims to equip about 10 million Nigerians by 2030 with Technical and Vocational skills they need to be economically independent.

"At the end of this programme, Starter Packs will be given to the top participants in each state based on participants' assessment rankings. These Starter Packs will set selected beneficiaries off in their respective acquired skills.

"For this pilot phase of the project, which spans from August – December 2022, a total number of 15,000 individuals will be trained across seven states: Lagos, Ogun, Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Nasarawa and Gombe.

"Some of the skills that will be deployed include Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Tiling and Stone Work, Solar Installation, Welding and Fabrication, Plumbing and Fittings, Domestic Electrical Wiring and Installation, Furniture Works, Beauty Care and Cosmetology, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Repairs and Automobile."

## FAAN MD, Yadudu commends FG on terminal projects

By Edith Igbokwe

The Managing Director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Ikeja, Capt. Rabiul Yadudu has praised the government for its promise to finish all ongoing projects.

Yadudu gave the praise leading the inspection of the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed round the terminal's cutting-edge amenities.

The Federal Government has revealed that the newly completed Terminal Two of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport in Lagos can process 14 million passengers per annum. Speaking about the terminal's amenities, the minister claimed that it was a completely new experience, particularly in terms of design,

comfort, complimentary trolley service, hotel and premium lounges, amiable customer service, and free WiFi. "I must confess it was an exhilarating experience comparable to what obtains anywhere in the world."

The new terminal contains seven passenger boarding

bridges and 60 check-in booths, 16 departure desks, 28 arrival desks, and five belts for luggage retrieval.

There are eight security checkpoints, an eye-based lie detection machine, and a fully automated security control room with CCTV.

He said the new terminal was

created to enhance, not replace, Terminal One.

"That is why we were told that you could check in at one terminal and board at the other, so there is a handshake between the two terminals.

"It was the first terminal added to the original terminal since it was built some 40 years ago.

"The Terminal Two project started in 2013 and was completed by the present administration in 2022 under a bilateral agreement with the People's Republic of China." He further revealed that the new facility had generated over 10,000 chances for direct and indirect employment.



Lagos International Airport

## Okada Ban: Operators appeal to Sanwo-Olu to reverse order

By Edith Igbokwe

Commercial motorcycle riders, popularly known as Okada riders have appealed to the Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to reverse the order on Okada ban. They made the appeal during a peaceful protest, demanding a change-of-mind on the Okada ban order that kicked off on September 1.

In their hundreds, they stormed the Lagos House, Ikeja in peaceful protest, asking the governor to reverse the ban he placed on Okada activities in

four additional Local Governments (LGs) and six Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

They said it did not come at the right time considering the poor state of the nation's economy. They noted that if the ban order is sustained, crime rate could increase as many could be forced into it due to lack of legitimate alternative to sourcing for income to feed their families. The protesters gathered at the gate leading to the Lagos State House of Assembly Complex with police officers on duty around the place, claiming that the decision of the government on

the ban in the affected areas as they projected could lead to a total ban in the entire state by December.

Comrade Adeleke Adegboyega (Big Boss) Zone S Chairman in charge of Kosofe said they came to plead with the Governor to reconsider the ban on Okada because the present situation in the country did not support the decision.

Adegboyega said with the latest ban, more than 20,000 Okada riders would be affected, noting that on average, an operator had a minimum of 10 family members he had to cater for, wondering what would become

of such person's fate thereafter. "We are pleading with the government to have a rethink on the ban, those who are doing legitimate business would not commit crimes, we are not criminals.

"Government should not allow people to go into crime due to the ban of okada which is their source of livelihood.

"Crimes are not committed with okada alone, look at the issue of the train attack in Kaduna, they were not committed by those who are legitimately engaged in the okada business.

"I beg the government to see what they can do. On our part, we

are doing our best possible to sanitize our members. The situation is not good now to impose a ban on Okada business in the state."

Comrade Azeez Ayorinde, Chairman, Zone H called on the governor to come to their rescue, noting that banning Okada business in the state would have a ripple effect.

According to him, it is not only the riders that will be affected, those who deal in spare parts, the mechanics, the food sellers, among others would also suffer for lack of patronages as there is no employment anywhere for now.



# ICCI elects new president

Motolani AgbudGafar

Ikorodu Chamber Of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), has elected Sir (Chief) R. O. Shoderu as its new president to lead the body.

In his remarks, Chief Shoderu expressed pleasure having the privilege to be handed the baton of leadership of the chamber as newly elected president.

Acknowledging the effort of the immediate past president, Prof (Emeritus) Kunle Ade Wahab, among which is the successful hosting of the first Trade Fair by the Chamber in 2021 and his unrelenting efforts to ensure that the Chamber acquires a government-allocated plot of land in Ikorodu, an essential condition for a befitting

Chamber House, Shoderu stated that the objective of his new leadership will capitalize on the blueprint founded by its predecessor.

He said: "Our new administration will continue to build on the existing foundation, but also take on new directions in terms of expanding the membership strength of the Chamber as well as its financial base.

"We will continue to work closely with other members of the organized Private Sector of Nigeria (OPSN) i.e the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), the Nigerian Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), and the Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI) to ensure that the Private Sector speaks with one voice and is

focused on the sustenance of economic growth and development in our country.

"I and other members of the exco will be fair to all our members in the course of discharging our responsibilities, working assiduously and in close cooperation with our past Presidents for the progress of the Chamber and the general good and benefits of its entire membership.

"Furthermore, our programmes and activities will strengthen, reflect, promote our professionalism through education, training, Trade Fairs, Economic Summits, Business Luncheon Business Researches, Entrepreneurial Programmes with resources maintained.

"We will as well continue our commitment to represent all business stakeholders in

Ikorodu Division and encourage membership and representation regardless of class or size of Business."

Seeking the support of the past presidents and the entire membership for his new leadership to perform, Shoderu noted that the success of ICCI largely depends on a total collective commitment to its goals, cooperation and solidarity.

"We also look forward to enhancing the bonds of alliance with various groups and harnessing opportunities in the areas of Business to Business, Business to Government, among others," he added.

In attendance, Mrs Stella Igbekele Akonde, State coordinator, NACCIMA business women group (NAWORG) applauded ICCI for observing a smooth leadership transition.

"ICCI is the city compartment for the NACCIMA movement and we're here to experience the changes made, knowing the role they play strategically to foster our growth.

"We are very happy to see that the new acting ICCI's Director General, Mrs Adelaja Kehinde, the ICCI coordinator, Alhaja Zainab Alogba and also the first female elected vice-president, Mrs Adeola Rotinwa are all women, which means the platform is giving room for women to take active roles to effect changes in our system.

"While we're looking forward to better rebranding and projection of this new era of ICCI leadership, we cannot forget the effort of their predecessors for laying the groundwork, it's a congratulations that's extended to all."

Adelaja Kehinde Omolade,

new acting DG of ICCI pledged that the giant steps and sacrifices of its predecessors will not be taken for granted.

She said: "To cash in on the effort of our former leaders, we've started a rebranding in our chamber to make all our activities and engagement more visible to the entire Ikorodu Division, we're set to come to the limelight.

"Where there is a will, there is always a way and we're set to make a difference this time around not only in Ikorodu but in all of Lagos State. Not to forget that our official website is coming up, it's about pursuing all courses to a logical conclusion.

"More publicity will be given to our programmes, expanding our network reach and also we'll ensure the chamber parleys with different functions not only ours."

## Benson donates transformer to Selewu community

Motolani AgbudGafar

The member of the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Babajimi Benson, has donated a brand new 500KVA transformer to Selewu town in Igbogbo Baiyeku LCDA.

The federal lawmaker commissioned the brand new 500KVA transformer which he donated to the Community as part of his leadership empowerment undertaking.

A touch down which brought renewed confidence and enthusiasm to the interior axis of the local community development area occurred barely two weeks after the national legislator distributed financial and business aid to his constituents.

Thanking the entire community leadership and residents for the warm reception given to him, the lawmaker explained that it takes patience and tenacity to realize adequate results in

governance.

According to him, the brand new 500KVA transformer enlists the roster of over 30 other transformers his administration has donated across different communities in Ikorodu division, expanding that the provision is focused on the growth of the LCDA for the benefit of artisans, residents, business owners and the entire people.

"As leaders, we always try to ensure that no matter the situation, our people get the best and live in a suitable and conducive environment that will keep them at ease with their facet of life.

"My position on development is clear, this transformer, others presented before now and more to come are for our people.

"Selewu, I've never seen any CDA like this, your consistency, a show of love and gratitude is second to none, that's why this electrification project is carried out to appreciate your

support and steadfastness," he said.

To further uplift the spirit of dwellers, Benson asserted that he has inquired from the council about the Selewu community road ratio, affirming his intention to facilitate thoroughfare construction.

Speaking before receiving the federal lawmaker, Mr Atoyebi Akinpelu, Teachers' quarter Selewu (exclusive) CDA chairman, said the journey to earn a new transformer started in 2015 when the community began having electricity challenges.

Atoyebi explained: "The transformer that was serving us was overpopulated by people which makes the light regularly down, that was how the need to obtain a new one came about.

"In that uncertain state, we reached out to Hon Jimi Benson to come to our aid, he implored us to exercise patience which we did because we understood that



Hon Babajimi Benson commissioning the 500KVA transformer he donated to Selewu community in Ikorodu

as a federal legislator, he has a lot of responsibility and duties to fulfil."

Atoyebi explained that they got the green light of Benson's commitment to the project in 2021 when he sent an inspection team to the community, which saw the

provision of a new transformer three months after.

"He followed through the installation process, ensuring everything goes smoothly, that is why today, we're celebrating him for staying true to his word and providing for us the dividend of democracy.

"Our children can now have access to good power supplies, business owners as well will thrive better, even some residents who intended to relocate has already changed their mind due to this support we have received from 'JB'," Atoyebi added.



# Arobieke advocates constant dialogue between councils, communities

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Commissioner for Wealth Creation and Employment, Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke has urged council chairmen to ensure constant engagements with the communities in getting feedbacks and yearnings from the people.

Arobieke made the statement at the quarterly Town Hall Meeting organised by Agboyi-Ketu Local Government Development Area (LCDA) in partnership with Lagos Talks 91.3FM.

The theme of the meeting was "Politics as a Catalyst for Change: Bridging the Gap between the governed and the government."

Arobieke noted that getting feedbacks from the residents at the grassroots would further bring

governance closer to the people.

She said the residents also have a major role to play by holding their leaders accountable in ensuring they enjoy good governance.

The commissioner urged the youths to participate in politics and actively get involved in the nation building.

She reiterated that joining politics would avail youths the opportunity to become active voices in decision making process rather than showing nonchalance towards nation building.

She charged the Nigerian youths to wake up to their responsibilities and get involved in politics, if they want to see positive changes in the country, stating that the future of the nation depends on them.

"Non-commitment of the youths in the political process will make them be at the receiving end of actions

taken by those in public offices.

"I am here to charge the youths that the success and the future of this country depends on them and much is expected from them than what they are offering presently.

"They should be a politician with dignity, pride and sanity, that is the hallmark. Just be a politician that is ready to contribute positively, not one that is after money or paraphernalia of office but one that is ready to deliver and serve the society."

Speaking during the questions and answers session, Agbooyi Ketu (LCDA) Chairman, Mr. Dele Oshinowo said his administration was working assiduously to ensure that the meagre resources at his disposal was judiciously put into use.

Oshinowo explained that the meagre

resources would be used for the progress of humanity and development of the capital projects in the area.

He lamented that the resources are limited and not enough to solve all problems facing the development of the council.

He, however, announced that construction works would begin on Irawo Road in the LCDA before the end of the year as he highlighted several achievements of his administration and empowerment programmes that have benefited the youths in the area.

The lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency II, Mr. Femi Saheed lamented that citizens are still experiencing poverty despite the country's several mineral resources.

A member of the Kosofe political class, Mr. Abayomi Olusanya, lauded



Yetunde Arobieke

the initiative and disclosed that the meeting will ensure residents are better informed on critical matters that affect effective governance.

Olusanya expressed that the meeting would go a long way in ensuring harmony and productive relationship between Agboyi-Ketu

residents and the council leadership. The Managing Director, Megalectrics, the owner of 91.3FM, Mr. Chris Uboji, noted that the town hall meeting was conceived as an opportunity for citizens and politicians to speak about issues that are affecting the country.

# NNPP tasks LG on security measures

By Edith Igbokwe

The leadership of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) in Kosofe Local Government Area has charged the Local Council Authority to put up measures

to address the incessant crisis in the council area.

The party condemned constant cult attacks, killings and reprisals by different cult groups in the community, saying the government needs to be up and doing to stem the tide.

In a statement issued in reaction to the frightening development, signed by the NNPP candidate for Kosofe II Constituency at the Lagos State House of Assembly, Comrade Babajide Bakare, the party put the blame on those holding political power

in the constituency.

The party particularly pointed to the recent attack on the Chairman of the National Union of the Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Sulaimon Onaolapo (Ariku) in Mile 12 area.

It also referred to crisis

rocking Alapere, Agboyi Road, Church Street, Demurin, Ojota and Ogudu areas of Kosofe in the last two months, stating that series of attacks had also taken place.

NNPP noted that all the anti-social activities and the

menace of cult groups have constantly thrown the area into panic and tension, with the resultant loss of lives, time, resources and business revenue.

The party stated that lack of political will to stop the crisis by the ruling governments in the area was a glaring sign of leadership failure which cannot be allowed to continue for the sake of peace and well-being of residents of the area.

"We, hereby, call on the heads of the diverse security agencies to please provide vigilant leadership and watch to fill the vacuum in order to maintain peace and order across the length and breadth of Kosofe.

"We also use this opportunity to appeal to residents of the area for the understanding, patience and calm in the face of the present crises as we all get ready to use the ballot to make the necessary changes for good governance to take place," Bakare said.

## Abiodun Martin's supporters jettison AMM, align with ROT group

By Edith Igbokwe

The political supporters of Ikosi Isheri Local Council Development Area Vice Chairman, Hon. Abiodun Aina Martin (AAM), have pulled away from her to join the Lawmaker representing Kosofe Federal Constituency, Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye (ROT) group wing of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

AAM supporters recently stormed the residence of the lawmaker at Magodo to pledge total support and loyalty to the parliamentarian fondly called the Promise Keeper.

Mrs. Ajisafe Omobolanle, who spoke on behalf of the AAM members, dissociated themselves from Abiodun Martin's, who recently switched to the Executive Chairman of Ikosi Isheri LCDA Princess Samiat Bada and Hon. Adekunle Soname camp.

During the special meeting, Agunsoye, Hon. Seyi Odufowokan, and other notable ROT group members received the new members.

It was gathered that Martin was once one of the staunch supporters of Agunsoye before she later dumped him to align with other group.



Abiodun Martins



# Olokun Festival: LASG promises to support culture, heritage

By Edith Igbokwe

The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Barr. Femi Martins, has stated that the need to preserve the state's rich cultural heritage and festivals engendered the state government's support for the Y2022 Olokun Festival.

Martins, who spoke during the Olokun Festival held at the Monarch Event Centre, Lekki Lagos, commended the convener of the festival, Yeye Lara Fashola-Fanimokun, for the new and continuous touch of innovation added to the annual event, especially the participation of tourists and cultural enthusiasts from different countries of the world.

He explained that culture and heritage occupy a prime place in the State's Tourism Master Plan recently presented to tourism stakeholders by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, assuring that Lagos is committed to supporting every initiative directed towards the preservation of its cultural heritage.

Also speaking, Yeye Fashola-Fanimokun informed participants that the festival aimed to celebrate Yoruba rich cultural and spiritual heritage, pointing out that it is also a celebration of the Yoruba deity of great wealth and economic growth. While commending the efforts of the present administration at improving the tourism sector, the Convener advised parents to always identify and cherish their culture as well as tradition while inculcating the same patriotic spirit in their children.



Picture showing the cultural heritage

## Police restore peace in Mile 12 after cult clash

By Edith Igbokwe

The Lagos State Police Command said it has restored peace in Mile 12 area after the mayhem caused by cult members. The cult members were said to have engaged in a supremacy battle over a motor park around the Mile 12 area which resulted in exchange of gunfire between the warring cult gangs.

During the clash, a top official of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Sulaimon Onaolapo aka Arikuyeri was killed. The police spokesperson in Lagos, Benjamin Hundeyin confirmed the tragic incident. Meanwhile, he said normalcy has been restored by security operatives.

"One person died but normalcy has been restored. Police are on the ground," Hundeyin said. It was gathered that some officials of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) were deployed to restore normalcy in the community.

It would be recalled that the state government dissolved the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and gave control of the operations of commercial vehicle operators to a 25-man committee, which led to the emergence of Ariku as the chairman of the Motor Park under Mile 12 Bridge.

It was gathered that the victim was reportedly shot by suspected cult members and matcheted to death while his body was dumped on the highway.

The incident paralyzed commercial activities, causing chaos in the neighborhood.

To avoid being caught up in the chaos that followed, traders hastily closed their stores and departed.

## Education's one of our cardinal objectives –Sanwo-Olu

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has declared that education is one of the cardinal objectives of his administration given its high budgetary allocation, noting that in the last three and a half years the state government had embarked on massive infrastructural development in public schools and the implementation of over 1000 initiatives in the education sector.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke virtually at the opening ceremony of the Y2022 Lagos Education Summit held at the Eko Convention Centre, Eko Hotels and Suites with the theme: "Creating a Sustainable Fit-for-Purpose Education Model", acknowledged the works of the State Ministry of Education and other related agencies in improving the State's education system.

He said: "Due to our strategic intervention, our students have improved tremendously in their WAEC examinations. Teachers Welfare is also critical and I am happy with our modest success, including the EKO-EXCEL programme which is achieving numerous goals. At the end of the Summit, a real conversation about

the fit-for-purpose education model would have been achieved."

In her opening remarks, the Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo noted that Lagos State is the sixth largest economy in Africa and cannot be ignored as an essential player on the global scale. She explained that the Lagos State Education Summit is important because some of the outcomes would contribute to the process of proffering solutions to the well-known problems in the sector, noting that the Lagos State 30-Year

Development Plan would provide the drive for the T.H.E.M.E.S. Development Agenda of which education is a focal point. She said: "Lagos is about the audacity to dream, the audacity to imagine things and make them happen. Nigeria has the largest number of out-of-school children among other key performance indicators. Hence, enormous work must be done to systematically improve and enhance our education sector for the sake of the children and future generations."

Vice-Chancellor, Pan Atlantic University, Professor Enase Okonedo, stated that knowledge-based education is no longer adequate and non-traditional ways of learning should be employed, saying: "We need to invest in education as it goes beyond knowledge and also encapsulates character and training of the mind." Stakeholders at the Summit agreed that in order to achieve a radiant Fit-for-Purpose education model, there must be synergy among critical stakeholders in the education sector.



Gov Sanwo-Olu

## Three in court for allegedly forging signature

By Saheed Afolabi

Three men, Godwin Etim, Anthony Agada and Mark Aliu, aged 50, 54 and 38 years respectively, have been arraigned in court for allegedly forging the signature of a deponent.

They appeared on Tuesday before a Yaba Magistrate Court for the alleged offence.

The defendants were arraigned on a two-count charges of conspiracy and forgery. They, however, pleaded not guilty.

The prosecutor, ASP Rita Momah, told the court that the defendants committed the offences on December 13, 2021 at Lagos State High Court Registry.

She alleged that the defendants forged the signature of one Mr. Olufemi Emeya, a deponent to an affidavit.

She said the alleged offences contravened Sections 365 and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

In her ruling, the Chief Magistrate, Adeola



Olatunbosun, granted them three defendants and bail of N5 million with two adjourned the case till sureties each in like sum to the September 28 for mention.



# How police rescued suspected child trafficker from mob

By Saheed Afolabi

Police operatives attached to Surulere Division rescued a 22-year-old, Ayomide Fawehinmi from angry mob for allegedly stealing a child at the Empire in the local government area of Lagos State.

While the suspect was rescued, he was arrested after a distress call was received from members of the community about the mob action.

The State Police Spokesman, SP Benjamin Hundeyin, noted that preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect had lured a 15-year-old boy from his mother's shop.

"He was taking him to an unknown destination before he was accosted by a neighbour who raised the alarm," said Hundeyin.

The suspect was also accused of dispossessing the boy of an Itele android phone to cut off communication with his mother.

"While the boy had been rescued unhurt and the phone recovered, the investigation is ongoing to establish the full extent of the suspect's culpability," the police spokesman emphasised.

He added that the suspect would be arraigned "contingent on the outcome of the investigation."

Meanwhile, the State Commissioner of Police, Abiodun Alabi, commended residents of the state for always alerting the authorities promptly to suspicious persons/happenings.

This is as Alabi sternly cautioned members of the public to desist from jungle justice, adding that it is a crime in itself.



# Bamigboye gives financial assistance to residents

By Saheed Afolabi

Barely a week after giving out financial support to the widows, aged and senior citizens in Mushin Local Government, Area, the council chairman, Hon. Emmanuel Bamigboye has again gifted financial support to another set of people in the community to tackle some of their personal financial challenges.

Bamigboye said the gesture will continue till the end of his tenure.

He noted that those who have applied for support from the

local government have been settled.

The beneficiaries who included petty traders, people with health challenges, apprentices, people indebted of house rents and other needs were given the financial support to assist them.

The chairman advised them to utilize the funds for the purpose of what they mentioned as their challenges in the applications submitted.

The beneficiaries thanked the chairman for the support as they prayed for him to succeed in his second term and future endeavours.



A beneficiary with hon Bamigboye

# Council inspects drain de-listing after rain

By Saheed Afolabi

Following the heavy rain that fell last week, Mushin LG authority has ordered the team working with the council chairman to inspect and monitor the de-listing of drains across the council area.

The team including the former councillor and supervisor for Works and Infrastructure, Hon. Funmi Peters; the Chief Press Secretary to the Chairman,

Mr. Eytayo Ijaoribe; APC chairman for Ward J, Mr. Ayo Oduekun; Alhaji Muyideen Azeez; community leaders and youth representatives went round Labinjo and Idiro axis to monitor the level of success achieved with the de-listing of drainage channels after the heavy rainfall of August 26 and 27, 2022.

They were on tour to ensure free flow of water without hindrance.

They said they observed that there was no flooding as all the drainage channels

ran freely without any impediment.

The residents commended the council authority over the exercise, saying it has delivered them from the devastating and destructive flood that always threatened their lives and properties whenever it rained.

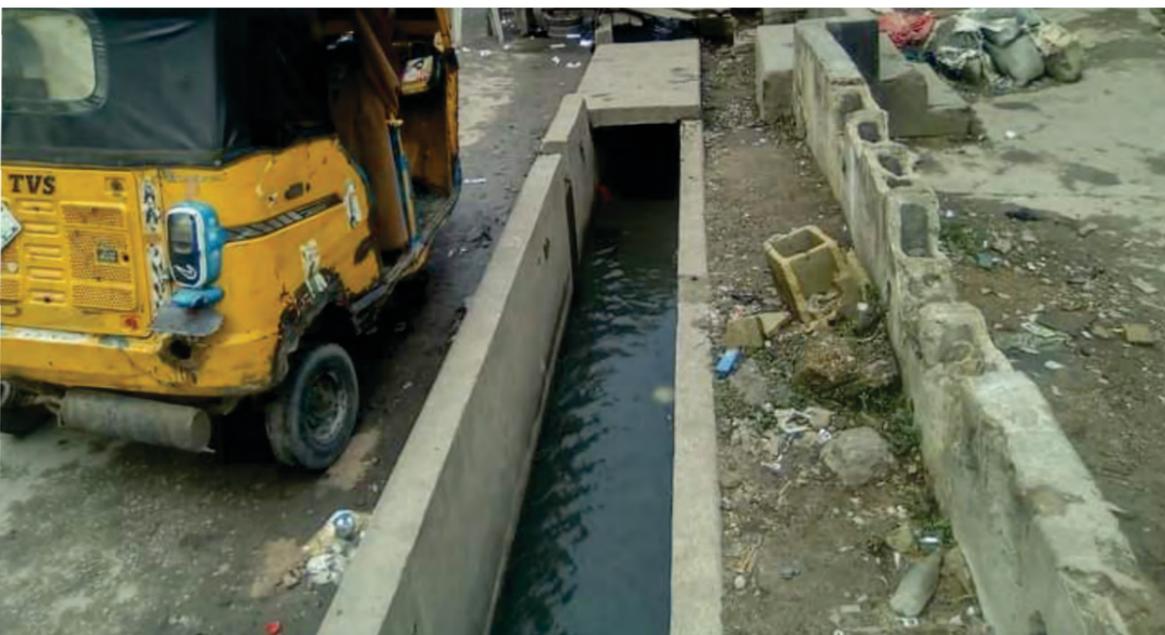
However, the team said it observed persistent dumping of refuse in the drainage channels despite series of warning by the council authority.

It reported that newly

dumped refuse was seen in the drainage channel at Labinjo Junction by Eko Boys High School.

The team called the attention of the community representatives to warn their residents as enforcement and prosecution against environmental abuse and nuisance would soon commence in the area.

They advised residents to desist from the unhealthy habit, reiterating that anyone caught in the act would be prosecuted.



# Gbajabiamila constructs fire service station in Coker-Aguda LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, has commenced the construction of a modern and international standard fire service station in Coker-Aguda Local Council Development Area.

The project is being constructed on a piece of land cut out from Jubilee Model Grammar School in Coker Community.

Speaking on the project, the chairman of Coker-Aguda LCDA, Hon. Rasaq Olamilekan, said it would enhance swift response to any safety and fire incident within and around Orile Iganmu, Coker and Aguda communities.

He said emergency response team will arrive in time compared to the response team coming from other distant Federal Fire Service stations.

Olamilekan said he was hopeful that the emergence of the new fire service station would lead to end of fire incident in Coker-Aguda LCDA due to the orientation and training sessions that would be organized for the residents by the state and federal fire service commands.

"This is a project that the people of Coker-Aguda LCDA and its environs have been yearning for due to its importance in the proactive and corrective action in the control of any fire or environmental incidents which may affect both residential, companies or government properties with its collaboration with other emergency team.

"The fire service station is expected to employ active youths within the local council area thereby reducing crime and unemployment rate in the local council.



# Peace restored in council as obas sign peace treaty

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Activities within Oto-Awori and Ijanikin Kingdom have been fully restored as both monarchies embrace peaceful coexistence and unity in the community. The leaders, Onijanikin of Ijanikin Kingdom, Oba Momodu Ashafa and his counterpart from Oto-Awori, Oba Josiah Ilemobade Aina had made public their reunion after the viral earthshaking event that took place within both communities. Both heads noted that the

people's coexistence is important to the growth of the community which is why they prefer peace to disunity. The communal war which erupted was not made public but eyewitnesses recorded that the clash led to a massive breakdown of law and order within the two communities. To resolve the issue, leaders within the Federal Constituency of Ojo Local Government assembled to tackle the issue. Residents from both communities were encouraged to begin their daily activities without worry in the area.



Pictures of Oba Momodu Ashafa and Oba Josiah Ilemobade

Iba LCDA gives indigent students free GCE form

By Motolani AbdulGafar

Indigent students in Iba LCDA have been awarded General Certificate Examination (GCE) forms to take part in the upcoming examination. The forms were said to have been disbursed to hundreds of indigent residents in the council. The council chairman, Hon. Yisa Jubril (Abila) disclosed that the disbursement was in a bid to boost the education standard of indigent residents at the grassroots. He appealed to the beneficiaries to study hard to excel in the examination. He said the council envisions that educational products from the area would become top adventures in any field of study they partake in, which is why he does not want to delimit the capability of the less privileged. Abila said the council wants to ensure that all circles are included in excellence as success is not restricted to identity or family background. He promised to continue to support the less privileged and as well contribute to the development of the education sector and beyond.

## Political leader envisions solution to party disunity

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The immediate past All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman in Iba LCDA, Barr. Tunde Lawal has envisioned nine solutions for political leaders in the party to resolve political disunity. According to him, party unity is very important in winning the upcoming election as electioneering has extended from the arbitrary rule of consensus nomination to a free and fair vote.

He boasted that as a leader who has experienced the transition of the All Progressives Congress from days back during the UPN, SDP, and AD eras, he has witnessed the ups and downs of the party which gives an accumulated experience to strategize on likely factors that would help intensify the level of unity in the party. He urged all leaders in Iba LCDA and beyond to adopt the use of the following in handling affairs of the party: "Ward and LGA General meetings should

continue. Elected officers and appointed Exco members must attend. "For a sense of belonging, the council should put in place the various committees disbanded and by so doing members outside will not feel neglected. The Council Chairman in conjunction with other stakeholders - The G13 should appoint party members as SSA (The so-called Abe Igi SSA). Polling units committee of ten members must be put in place and be effectively utilized for the election.

"The house is divided already the leadership must make efforts to reunite the followers. It is not possible for the candidate that just emerged to achieve this. There must be genuine reconciliation. Alternative opportunities where possible must be made available to the aspirants. "Aggrieved party members must be pacified. Elections are won or lost as a result of good or bad attitudes of party members to one another." He noted that all members have

the same progressive ideologies which ought to unify them. He further urged those who are in government either as a Councillor or Chairman be magnanimous to those who did not win the primary election as a member of one big family under the party's umbrella while encouraging them not to sideline them in the affairs of the party. He, therefore, prayed to Almighty God that money and energy spent by those who participated in the last primary elections be replenished.

Stakeholders of Agbokejoye Modern Market in Olorunda LCDA have appreciated the commitment of the council Chairman, Hon. Samson Olatunde (Samola) for reconstructing the Central Market in the area. According to them, the reconstruction was in line with his promise last year to demolish and reconstruct the market to a modern structure for a better enterprise. The Babaoja General of Olorunda LCDA, Alhaji Nurudeen Ashade said since 2004, right from its

## Stakeholders commend council over market reconstruction

By Motolani AbdulGafar

establishment, the sporadic change in structure that they have experienced within the short period of reconstruction has been an eye opener to all. He noted that the new structures have become a source of motivation to traders as they see themselves in a new light and strive to fit into the new development as the world evolves. The Iyalaja General of Agbokejoye Modern Market,

Alhaja Kuburat Okunade disclosed that the new development has extended the shops from Block A-M where 22 shops each exist in a block. The said in total, the market has been extended to 286 shops which allow residents to curb unemployment. The Babaoja General of Agbokejoye Modern Market, Mr Mojeed Ashafa said Samola in his new development extended the market space which makes it less congested unlike before. He added that there is a

provision of security agents, moderately built fences, street lights around the area and well-constructed buildings in the modern market which ensures traders' safety and boosts their trading activities as more customers visit the market. He commended Samola's means of fulfilling his promise while urging developers to accelerate their work as traders and customers are in full anticipation of the completion of the market.



Baba-Oja General If Olorunda LCDA, Alh. Nurudeen Ashad



# LASUSTECH partners NENIS Auto Care to train artisans in automotive industry

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), in partnership with NENIS Auto Care, has organized a 3-day in capacity building workshop titled 'Safe Automotive Works – 4Rs & U (Reduce, Repair, Reuse, Recycle and Upcycle)' for the artisans in automotive industry.

The schools said it was part of its contributions to human development through educational development and training

The programme held at the College of Agriculture (500-seater) Auditorium between Wednesday, August 31 and

September 2, 2022.

The Dean, College of Engineering, Engr. Muritala Adigun, who represented the Ag. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Oluremi Olaleye, appreciated NENIS Auto Care for holding the training in the university.

He assured the participants that the workshop would instill in them values that will help them in tackling safety challenges in the industry.

Speaking further, he urged the artisans to implement lessons learnt on the HSE (Health Safety and Environment) in order to make their work more efficient and profitable.

The CEO, NNENIS Auto Care, Engr. Oduwa Agboneni, who also doubles as the Project Coordinator, explained that the

idea of the workshop was to sharpen skills of artisans and students, introducing to them HSE lessons which is intended to strengthen the automotive industry and reduce work hazards to minimal level.

The company pledged to support and sensitize 1000 automotive workers and also train them in the next 18 months; train and certify 200 people on safety at work with a developed HSE curriculum.

It also promised to train 50 fresh graduates of LASUSTECH on safe automotive for two months both online and onsite courtesy of the University of the West of Scotland, London.

According to the company CEO, the company is also planning to set up a pilot automotive

museum in Ikorodu.

Also speaking, a university staff and the Chairman, Advisory Board of NENIS Auto Care, Engr. Ademola Olorunfemi, applauded Engr. Agboneni for the feat.

He further advised the participants and guests to be committed to their efforts towards developing the automotive industry, saying it is valuable in the long run for everyone.

The Keynote Speaker, Engr. Margret Oguntala, the Deputy President of the Nigeria Society of Engineers, expressed joy as she congratulated the team on the laudable step taken to impact lives, while specifically thanking Engr. Agboneni for being a motivation to other female mechanical engineers in the

society.

She advised the participants to implement lessons learnt in the training, saying it will help improve their health, safety and environment, adding that the idea is to develop Lagos and Nigeria at large.

Present at the event were representatives from Association of Professional Women Engineers (APWEN), Nigeria Society of Engineers, (NSE), Nigeria Association of Technologists in Engineering (NATE), Nigerian Association of Engineering Craftsmen (NAEC), Nigerian Society of Engineering Technicians (NSET), Occupational Safety & Health Association of Nigeria (OSHA), Vulcanizers, Mechanics and Rewires in Ikorodu.

## Sanwo-Olu commends Olofo of Awori for donating lecture hall

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has commended the provision of a 250-seater lecture hall at the newly upgraded Lagos State University of Education (LASUED), Ijanikin, Badagry LCDA.

The donation was made by the Olofo of Oto-Awori Kingdom, Oba Josiah Aina, to mark his 15th Coronation anniversary ceremony in the community.

Sanwo-Olu said that the donation is worth recognition as the facility would be complementary to the buildings built on the campus by the state government before completion to aid schooling activities.

He said the ongoing erected buildings were part of the projects initiated after the school was upgraded from a College of Education to a University, by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

He encouraged capable philanthropists to emulate such acts as their deeds would contribute to the development of students and the education sector in all.

## IORMS visits LASUSTECH

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Lagos State University of Science and Technology Management played host to a team of the Institute of Operational Research and Management Science management on Wednesday, August 31, 2022 at the Council Chambers, Ikorodu Campus.

The team was led by the National President of the Institute, Prof. Kola Rasheed Ojikutu who stated that the purpose of the visit was to discuss the possibility of the prestigious University (LASUSTECH) hosting the 4th International Conference of the Institute.

Speaking further, the National President of the Institute who doubles as the Pro-Chancellor of the University, stated that hosting a Conference of this magnitude comes with its cost and responsibilities but he was confident that the Management of the University is equal to the task.

Responding, the LASUSTECH Ag. Vice Chancellor, Dr. Oluremi Nurudeen Olaleye appreciated the team for the visit and assured the Institute of the Institution's collaboration as well as her willingness to host the Conference slated to come up in the first quarter of 2023.

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Vice Chancellor of Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, has congratulated representatives and supervisors of the just concluded 2022 annual Millennium Ocean competition.

She said their excellence would strengthen the University's soaring global reputation and serve as a motivation for other students.

According to the report, the University was awarded the first position with a take-home prize worth \$5,000.

The challenge was reported to have been organized by Millenium Campus Network and Remmer Family Foundation.

Sponsors of the prize, MCN, is a global student network advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, while Remmer Family Foundation, based in Jacksonville, USA is a private charitable foundation committed to providing opportunities to make difference in communities.

The competition was won through

the presentation on the plastic revolution in Lagos State.

The Lagos Plastic Revolution (LPR) campaign, is a student movement aimed at reducing the menace of plastic litter ending up in Lagos waterways while taking the three campuses of the university as case studies.

It is expected that the plastics collected would be processed into paving stones for building construction.

LASU's application/campaign

tagged "Lagos Plastic Revolution" emerged best among applications received from over 200 Universities from 53 countries across the globe in the annual competition.

The award winners were Michael Adeyemi, Fareed Dawodu, Samuel Obadare, Rasheedat Adebola and Precious Onyeka Nkwor and were supervised by Dr. Hammed Ayofe and Dr. Kafayat Fakoya, both Associate Professors in the Department of Fisheries, LASU.



Picture of LASU representatives at 2022 annual Millennium Ocean competition

## Ocean Competition: LASU tops 200 universities from 53 countries

## LASUSTECH trains adjunct lecturers

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The management of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH) through the Human Capacity Development Centre (HCDC) has organized a day training for the adjunct lecturers at the College of Agriculture Auditorium, Ikorodu Campus.

The Ag. VC, Dr. Oluremi Olaleye who was represented by the Ag. Deputy VC Administration, Dr. Kolawole Godonu, in his address at the

opening ceremony applauded the HCDC for putting up such training which is aimed at equipping the adjunct lecturers with the necessary skills and knowledge required to excel on the tasks and responsibilities ahead of them.

According to him, after the training, the adjunct lecturers will have a good understanding of classroom management, how to set examination questions, checking and arrangement of students in the examination hall, invigilation and management of attendance

register.

In his remark, the Director, HCDC, Dr. Ibrahim Akosile appreciated the management as he assured that the papers to be presented will impact them as well as act as a guide in discharging their duties.

The papers presented included: Examination Misconduct and their Penalties by Dr. Adeniyi Micheal; The Art of Setting Questions and Drawing a Marking Guide by Mr. Ajayi Tailor; Setting of Multiple Questions by Dr. Akinyemi; Handling of OMR Sheet in the Exam

Hall by Mr. Abdulrasheed Abdullah; Marking: An Important Tool for Assessment by Dr. Onigemo Murisiku; Arrival of Invigilators and Collection of Examination Scripts by Engr. Tanimola Olanrewaju.

Also present at the event were the Director SPTS, Dr. Nurudeen Tajudeen, Director SPTSD, Mr. Musthapha Okunnu, Director Information & Public Relations, Mr. Lanre Kuye, Director Internal Quality Assurance, Mr. Abdullah Abdulrasheed, Engr. Tanimola Olanrewaju and others.



## The Nigeria U17 international was the highest goal scorer during the qualifiers preceding the FIFA Women U17 World Cup

By Saheed Afolabi

Head coach of Kazeem Eletu Football Club and Academy of Lagos, Bilal Sousdi has revealed his plans for the club in the new season. Eletu Football team recently finished its screening exercise at the Teslim Balogun stadium in preparation for the new season. The senior and academy teams have fully resumed training this week as part of preparation for the lined up

friendly matches in days to come. Sousdi while chatting with the press in Lagos said that his plan is to take the club to the next level and ensure that the team is formidable and better than last season. "My plan is to make the players better and get offers in Europe. I particularly believe so much in young players because they quickly take to correction. "Aside taking correction, the young players are good to market in Europe and I will do everything within my capacity to bring the best

out of the players and ensure that they are marketable in Europe and other part of the world," he said. The French coach also commended the just concluded screening exercise adding that he was satisfied with the commitment of the old and new players that took part in the exercise. He, however, stated that some outstanding players that attended the exercise were selected to be part of the Eletu family, ahead of the new season.



## SGH Sports Academy primary objective's to perform well at Fusion Football Championship - Temitayo Bakare

By Saheed Afolabi

SGH Sports Academy has proven to be serial champions of different grassroots competition as they have moved the club to an enviable height. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the founder and chairman of SGH Sports Academy, Temitayo Bakare said the club decided to participate in the Fusion Football Championship because of the reputation of the competition as it presents the club with an avenue to play competitive matches with the top clubs in Lagos State. "We decided to take up the challenge of participating in this year's Fusion Football Championship (FFC) firstly because of the growing reputation of the league as one of the most competitive and well organized private leagues in the country. This Championship presents our academy the avenue to go head to head with the crème de La crème of football in the state, thereby projecting this institution to the top of football rankings in the state, country

and the world at large." Talking about the benefits of the FFC, the erudite football administrator noted that, it will keep the players on a competitive level. "The first benefit is that it keeps us on a competitive level through the stretch of the season meaning our players can always be in the expected shape when opportunities come calling from home or

abroad. Another patent benefit of this championship is that it gives us the platform to announce Alimosho Federal Constituency, which we represent, as one of the best talent producing zones in the state and country at large." Bakare added that, the sole aim of SGH Sports Academy in the FFC is to perform well in all the matches and won't mind winning the FFC.

"Every team goes into championships with the aim of winning which is well laid out. However, being debutants, we're not placing ourselves under the obligation of winning immediately despite the undeniable fact that we're serial winners. Our primary objective is solely to perform at optimum best in every single game as well as finishing as best as possible."



## I appreciate God for being named the MVP of Lagos FA Cup - Opeyemi Ajakaiye

By Saheed Afolabi

Budding striker, Opeyemi Ajakaiye came tops in the just concluded Lagos FA Cup as she emerged the MVP of the women category. The FC Robo Queens striker was at her best in the Lagos FA Cup as her two goals in the final propel her team to victory. The national U17 goal poacher scored three goals in the tournament and got one assist in the final. Ajakaiye's prowess includes pace, dribbling ability, positioning skills, very good in the air and a great goal scorer, she can use both feet well. Speaking to ECHONEWS after the Lagos FA Cup final, Opeyemi Ajakaiye said that she's happy with the award as she hopes to step up her game as more eyes are already on her. "I never expected the MVP

award but I'm happy with it, I believe my performance at the Lagos FA Cup earned me the award. "My target now is to focus on the FIFA U17 Women World Cup holding in India later this year as we hope to win it."



Opeyemi Ajakaiye



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