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Lagos Resumes Road Repairs

Kunle Awosiyan

Lagos State deputy governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat has stayed so long in the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure to know the politics of fixing the roads and other infrastructure in the state.

He was the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure under Governor Babatunde Fashola and since he became the deputy governor since 2019, he had been supervising the ministry.

However, Echonews gathered that the deputy governor did not really enjoy the loyalty of the former Special Adviser to governor Sanwo-Olu on works and Infrastructure, Engr. Aramide Adeyoye and this really affected the implementation of many projects proposed by the deputy governor for the ministry in the last few years.

Of course, Adeyoye's loyalty must first be to Sanwo-Olu who appointed her but she went overboard creating a wide bridge between the deputy who supervises works and Infrastructure and the governor who approves the implementation of the projects in the ministry.

It is glaring that many of the roads in Lagos are in bad shape currently. The incessant rains had destroyed some of the roads that were built about two years ago.

During the screening of the now new commissioners and Special Advisers by the state House of Assembly, the assembly rejected 17 of the Sanwo-Olu's nominees, including Adeyoye, the then special adviser for works and Infrastructure.

Its reason for rejecting



Adeyoye was due to her poor performance at the screening. The lawmakers said that she lacked the grasp of the assignment before her.

Investigation revealed that she was the clog in the wheels in the mutual relationship between the governor and the deputy, as a result, the roads had continued to deteriorate. After the intervention of the state Governance Advisory Committee, Sanwo-Olu represented the list of the nominees but the assembly still rejected Adeyoye and replaced her with Engr. Adekunle Olayinka, whom investigation showed was a close ally of the deputy governor and would be able to work with him to fix many bad roads.

While presenting the appropriation bill to the assembly last year, Sanwo-Olu said that his administration had allocated 27.3% of the budget for modern infrastructure, amounting to N482.86bn. In February 2023, the

former State Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget. Mr. Samuel Egube said that the government was committed to Integrated Transport Infrastructure, which will materialize into the birth of the fully functional light rail (Red-Blue) system, the first of its kind by a sub-national Government in Africa and the 37km Fourth Mainland Bridge will be felt by the citizens of the State.

Egube highlighted the infrastructure Budget captures in the budget as follows: Construction of the second phase of the blue line from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko, Completion of 8 Stadia across the 5 IBILE divisions of Lagos State, to facilitate youth development, engagement and community sports.

The completion of the Opebi Link bridge to Maryland that will improve significantly travel time and alternative route options the axis,

Rehabilitation/Upgrading of Phase II Eti-Osa – Lekki-Epe Expressway Project from Eleko T-Junction – Abraham Adesanya among others. These were what the 2023 budget captured but then many roads had gone so bad that Lagosians have started to raise the alarm and calling on the state government to do repair it.

Some of the roads are federal roads as observed by our correspondent and the most popular among them is the Third Mainland Bridge.

A long stretch of the bridge from Ilaje area towards University of Lagos waterfront had deteriorated so badly that vehicles have to always slow down to navigate the potholes on the bridge.

As a result, there is always heavy traffic from Alapere Bus Stop at Ketu to the Third Mainland Bridge. It has increased commuters travel time and the cost of transportation.

In spite of the huge budget for roads, a source said that the governor listened more to the former special adviser than the deputy governor who is the chief supervisor of the ministry of works and infrastructure.

Residents lament over the bad state of roads along Lekki-Epe axis. A resident, Mr. Philip Akume who lives in Lakwe told Echonews that it took him about four hours everyday to move from home to Victoria Island everyday and that he spent about N3000 on transport each day.

A resident of Isolo, Mary Oni told Echonews how difficult it had been to travel from Isolo to Oshodi since the state government began the repair of Iyana Isolo to Jakande Road.

As she puts it, "The buses going to Ejigbo from Oshodi don't pass through Iyana Isolo anymore, they take the inner streets from Aswani, very bad road to come out at Osolo

Palace.

Echonews observed that the road around Aswani area was filled with stones so that vehicle could pass through." It is a long journey on bad road," Oni said.

Meanwhile the Lagos State House of Assembly has resolved to invite officials of government in relation to the poor state of roads across the State.

This was as many of the lawmakers, during plenary bemoaned the condition of roads in their various constituencies. They also sought the declaration of an emergency on roads by the state government.

Those invited include the Special Adviser to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Olayinka, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry and other concerned officials.

Also invited are the head and related officials of the Public Works Corporation (PWC).

Lagos Resumes Road Repairs

Deputy Speaker Mojisola Meranda, who presided over the House on behalf of Mudashiru Obasa, expressed deep concern over the deteriorating state of roads in the state.

Hon. Meranda, while supporting the declaration of an emergency on roads, said the problem affects every part of Lagos with some of the roads almost becoming inaccessible.

According to her, it has become imperative to prioritise quality and maintenance of roads by adopting modern approaches to construction.

Earlier Hon. David Setonji, Deputy Chief Whip of the House who raised the issue under 'Matter of Urgent Public Importance', observed that less than a year after some roads are fixed, they deteriorate.

Hon. Setonji, who represents Badagry Constituency 1, called for an investigation into this challenge.

Hon. Gbolahan Yishawu representing Eti-Osa Constituency 2, attributed the problem of the roads



L-R: Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Dr. Obafemi Hamzat

in the state primarily to flooding and improper channelisation of water.

He suggested the implementation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to assist in road maintenance just as he emphasised the need for sufficient budgetary allocations to support road infrastructure.

On his part, Hon. Desmond Elliot highlighted the importance of maintaining proper

drainage systems to prevent road damage. He also called for the completion of abandoned road projects.

In his contribution, Hon. Fatai Mojeed expressed concern over the significant time commuters spend on the roads, resulting in major inconveniences.

Decrying the manhour motorists spend on the Lekki-Epe Expressway daily as a result of construction work, he suggested that the executive arm

of the Lagos government write the federal government regarding the state of federal roads in Lagos.

Hon. Mojeed also mentioned how the poor condition of the roads affects children's access to education in some areas.

Hon. Kehinde Joseph called for the invitation of the General Manager of the Lagos State Public Works Corporation to appear before the House to provide

explanations.

Hon. Abiodun Tobun said failed portions of some roads resulted from delays in fixing small potholes by officials responsible. While highlighting the issue of delayed funding of the Public Works Corporation, he suggested punishment for officials who approve substandard projects. Other lawmakers, who spoke, agreed on the need for the concerned officials of government to be invited for explanation on the issue as well as what they are doing to salvage the situation.

Meanwhile a lawmaker from Ikorodu Constituency II, Hon. Aro Moshood Abiodun has forged a strategic partnership with the Lagos State Public Works Corporation (LSPWC) to repair some of the bad roads in his constituency.

He told Echonews that the collaboration was aimed at grading of Ire One road, Agunfe, and the launch of palliative on

Ijede, Igbopa, and Ewu-Owa roads.

The palliative efforts will further extend to critical areas, including Emily Junction, Macaulay Junction, Community Grammar School Junction, the continuation of Ijede Road, Abule Eko Igbopa Road, and Banjoko area.

"I think the noise being made by the lawmakers now is to call the governor to order to release funds and not play politics to the detriment of the roads," a source said. Reacting, Olayinka promised that the government would ensure the completion of all projects and repair bad ones.

On the bad federal roads in Lagos, he said that the state government would collaborate with the Federal Government to ensure the rehabilitation of some of the roads, including the Ikorodu-Itokin Road considering its connectivity to many towns and villages in that axis.



RT. Hon Mudashiru Obasa



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As a proactive step to enhance the faculty of government's personnel towards ensuring the safety of lives and facilities in the event of a fire emergency, the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service has commenced the year 2023 Evacuation Drill across the state's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs). Speaking at a press briefing held on Monday at the Office's Headquarters in Alausa Ikeja, the Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Hon. Olugbenga Oyerinde explained that the exercise themed: "Mitigating Fire Risk through Fire Prevention", is designed to enlighten and raise awareness among the Lagos State Government workforce about fire prevention and protection. The Commissioner while highlighting the significance of the initiative stated that the important exercise is aimed at practising evacuation procedures, testing fire safety equipment and promoting awareness of fire safety measures among employees.

"People's immediate actions in the event of a fire outbreak and other related emergencies are very important in avoiding casualties", she maintained. Hon. Olugbenga emphasised that the occasion will serve as a platform for an aggressive campaign against attacks on firefighters and false alarms, bridging the gap between firefighters and the public which according to him is crucial for safeguarding significant government investments in public order and safety. In her remark, the Director of the Agency, Mrs. Margaret Adeseye stated that the fire prevention/evacuation drill as an annual programme extends beyond the MDAs, stressing that it is also a grassroots campaign

Lagos Govt Begins 2023 Fire Evacuation Drill Across MDAs

designed to expand the fire safety net for the public across local governments, major markets, fuel depots/tanker terminals, sawmills, major motor parks, and public assemblies including religious centres and shopping malls.

Pointing out that the exercise provides opportunities for participants to gain insights into various types of basic firefighting equipment and methods for handling fire extinguishers, the Director stated that they will also

learn how to assess the effectiveness of these tools and understand their critical importance in homes, workplaces, and other settings.

"Basic but important preventive measures, such as switching off and unplugging unused

electrical appliances when leaving home for the office, are also part of the discussion. These simple actions can significantly reduce the risk of electrical fires and contribute to the overall fire safety", the Director added.

Revealing that the Agency

between January to October this year has received 1,327 fire emergency calls and 154 Rescue calls, Adeseye confirmed that interventions on these emergencies have led to the Agency saving about 9.728 Billion worth of properties. With this signifying increase in fire outbreaks, there is a need to create more awareness. The Director also noted that there is a need to change the misconception that the Agency is more reactive (Firefighting) than proactive (Fire Prevention), adding that the best fire is the one prevented.

The briefing also had in attendance the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Mr. Sesan Ogundeko, Management Staff of the Agency and other emergency personnel.



Omotoso Reaffirms Govt's Commitment To Red Line Rail Project

Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso today reiterated the unwavering commitment of the Administration of Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to commission the highly-awaited Red Line Rail project before the end of the year.

Mr. Omotoso made this known in an interview granted to Lagos Traffic Radio during a visit to key agencies under the Ministry of Information and Strategy such as Lagos Traffic Radio, Lagos Printing Corporation and the Lagos State Record and Archives Bureau, on Monday, October 30th, 2023.

He said the Red Rail Line project spanning Oyingbo to Agbado, is poised to bring about a transformative change in



public transportation in Lagos. It promises to provide commuters with an efficient and less chaotic travel experience. This development represents a significant stride toward fulfilling Governor Sanwo-Olu's commitment to enhance the quality of life for Lagos State residents. According to him, as part of the preparations for the grand commissioning of the Red Rail Line, Governor Sanwo-Olu will inaugurate the Yaba flyover on Thursday, November 3rd,

2023. He noted that the flyover at Ikeja has also been completed and awaiting handover by the contractor.

Omotoso also revealed that all ongoing projects carried over into the second term in office will be completed and many more unveiled. He stressed that the second term of Mr. Governor will witness unprecedented delivery of dividends of democracy in areas of the State, urging residents to shun vandalism by taking

ownership of projects delivered by the State Government.

On the activities of Transport Union members collecting check-off dues from commercial drivers, the Commissioner said union dues are to be collected only within the confines of their motor parks and not at every bus stop. He promised that the government would continue to engage with union leaders to ensure that their members do the right thing.

Mr. Omotoso decried the continued crossing of major roads and highways by residents instead of making use of the pedestrian bridges provided by the State Government to ensure public safety. He noted that it was dangerous to cross the expressways as many lives have been lost to such unwise adventures.

The security agencies, he noted, are clearing the State of street urchins and hoodlums and the government will encourage them to step it up to further bring peace to the state. He said, a situation where motorists were harassed and robbed by Area boys because their vehicle broke down or they were trapped in traffic was not acceptable and must be stamped out.

Earlier, at the Lagos State Record and Archives Bureau, Omotoso charged the management to explore innovative ways to enhance their services, particularly for tourists visiting the State. He urged them to reach out to royal families, relations of astute politicians and people of historical relevance to seek artefacts and documents that might be of value to the bureau.

Lagos Govt Restates Commitment To Public Service Reform

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has restated his administration's commitment to building a professional public service that can confront the challenges of modern governance and administration in an emerging, dynamic and rapidly growing smart city. The Governor, speaking at the Y2023 Public Service Ideas Day and Award Ceremony held recently at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, confirmed that he remains a strong supporter of a viable public service workforce that can drive the policies and programmes of the present administration.

While pointing out that any government desirable to make positive change in the lives of the citizenry must have a motivated and creative workforce, the Governor revealed that the primary objective of the State's Public Service Ideas Day is to project great and creative solutions that would add value and impactful good governance. According to Sanwo-Olu who was represented by the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, "It is crucial for government to embrace and cultivate a culture of Innovation across all sectors. Lagos State Government is already known to be at the forefront in Nigeria and still looking for avenues to do more". "It is pertinent to state that, innovation in the public sector is not just about technological advancement. It is about finding creative solutions to complex problems, improving public services and fostering a more efficient and responsive government". he emphasised.

The Governor Sanwo-Olu noted further that collaboration is vital in driving innovation to break down the silos that exist within Ministries,

Departments and Agencies and foster a culture of teamwork and knowledge-sharing.

Revealing that innovation in the Lagos State Public Service is not just a buzzword, he said it is a tool to unlock the full potential of public servants and create an enabling environment for creativity, encouraging collaboration, leveraging technology and providing strong leadership. Speaking in his capacity as the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, who recommended an improved reward for the winner of the Ideas Day competition, revealed that such outstanding achievement deserves to be rewarded with automatic promotion to the next grade level. Charging public servants to stimulate their minds creatively and embrace critical thinking, the Head of Service encouraged Public Servants to continue to cooperate with the Office of Transformation Creativity and Innovation (OTCI), as the internal consultant for the State on creativity promotion.

In her remark, the Director-General, Office of OTCI, Mrs. Toyin Anjous-Ademuyiwa disclosed that having realised the critical place of Innovation and Creativity in the life of any human organisation, the government is creating an enabling environment for creative solutions to solving critical and emerging challenges.

While confirming that the Y2023 Public Service Ideas Day Competition has five great ideas competitively projecting for government acceptance and implementation in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda, she added that the last five finalists are the best from the screening of over one hundred ideas presented by public servants in various cadre

and different MDAs for the year.

She noted that OTCI as an Agency of Government known for driving Creativity and Innovation has a mandate to drive service charter, corporate planning process, human resource management and citizens relations management.

The State Public Service Ideas Day is a step in the direction to sensitise the entire staff of the public service to the new expectations.

After a keenly contested competition, Temitope Kayode, a lawyer (staff) of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, emerged overall winner for this year's Ideas Day competition.

The competition also featured a panel discussion by renowned scholars on



"Growth Mindset: The Paradigm Shift", and Awards were presented to nine Transformational Leaders in the State Public Sector.

The awardees include Permanent Secretary Ministry of Housing, Engr. Abdulhafiz Gbolahan Toriola; MD/CEO Orile

Agege General Hospital, Dr. Sola Pitan; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Mr. Segun Ogbeye; MD/CEO LASUTH, Prof. Tokunbo Fabanwo; General Manager, Lagos State Drivers Institute, Mrs. Fusat Abike Tihamiyu and MD/CEO, Ifako Ijaiye General Hospital, Dr.

Mustapha.

Others are the MD/CEO of Gbagada General Hospital, Dr. Olusegun Babafemi; MD/CEO of Onikan General Hospital, Dr. Madewa Adebajo and Permanent Secretary of Lands Bureau, Mr. Kamal Owodunni Olowoshago.

We Are Committed To Food Availability-Sanwo-Olu's Aide

The Special Adviser on Rural Development to the Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Nurudeen Yekinni 'Lanre-Agbaje has expressed the determination of the present administration to ensure the consistent availability of food to the residents of Lagos through various agricultural support programmes.

Dr. Agbaje made this known while leading the management of the Centre for Rural Development (CERUD) on a knowledge-sharing tour of Erikorodo Farm Estate in Ikorodu.

The Special Adviser, who harped on the need to strengthen CERUD for increased capacity to contribute to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda, explained that investments in the food value chain will boost agricultural productivity by providing



farmers with better access to resources, technology, and markets, ultimately increasing agricultural output.

According to him, the push towards the attainment of sustainable development goals, particularly Goal 1 (No Poverty), Goal 2 (Zero Hunger), and Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), underscores the administration's commitment to addressing

fundamental issues related to food security in the State. Speaking on the significance of the tour, Dr. Agbaje confirmed that the knowledge acquired from the visit with the farming models will be adopted by CERUD to enhance her productivity and provide innovative training models for farmers and other critical rural stakeholders.

Revealing that the Centre will be developed to serve

as a tourist attraction for qualitative agricultural research for both local and international researchers, the Special Adviser emphasised the need for the State to invest in critical infrastructure that would support the mechanism for adequate food production. The Special Adviser was accompanied on the visit by the Director/CEO, CERUD, Mr. Stephen Adeniji and other staff of CERUD.

Tourism Commissioner Urges NANTA To Promote Local Culture

By Kunle Awosiyun

Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka has enjoined members of the National Association of Nigerian Travel Agencies (NANTA), to support the State Government by promoting its Tourism sector as a top destination for tourists. The Commissioner, who gave the charge recently when executive members of the Association paid a courtesy visit to her office at Alausa, Ikeja, opined that the association should be focused on projecting local tourism and culture to the world

through its members. Benson-Awoyinka reminded the delegation of the need to be deliberate in their storytelling by positively projecting the rich tourism potentials of Nigeria and Lagos State to the outside world, stressing that Tourism is an industry that thrives on the good impression created before the international community. The Special Adviser on Tourism, Mr. Idris Aregbe thanked the members for helping to move Lagos forward, particularly through its efforts in promoting the State as a top destination for tourists. He maintained that

there is a need to increase the level of awareness of what Lagos has to offer in the area of tourism attractions to attract more visitors to the State.

The Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Toyin Atekoja stated that the Ministry intends to improve its collaboration with the association on how to improve the Lagos Tourism sector in line with the vision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration for Lagos State.

On his part, the Chief Executive Officer, Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture, Mr. Idowu Johnson said Lagos's greatest assets



are not its infrastructures, but its unique culture and heritage. He added that there is a need for a concerted effort by all and sundry to promote tourism through our culture including arts, music and social

activities among others.

The Financial Secretary of NANTA, Mr. Yinka Ladipo remarked that the association is passionate about Lagos State which is why they want to hold

their next AGM in Lagos. He added that the members also intend to make Mr. Governor, the Chief Host at the event in recognition of his laudable achievements in the State.

The Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, has assured Lagos State Pensioners that the Government is doing everything possible to meet their requests. He gave the assurance today while addressing Pensioners at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa who gathered under the aegis of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (Lagos State Chapter branch) to demonstrate against non-implementation of their demands. Whilst stating that the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu is passionate about the welfare of Pensioners, Mr. Ayantayo disclosed that the Governor was out of the country and assured them that their demands would be forwarded to him for his consideration and approval as soon as he returns from his trip. He stated that Pensioners would start seeing the

Commissioner Assures Pensioners of Govt's Commitment To Welfare

result of the positive steps being taken by the State Government in the coming weeks and therefore pleaded for their understanding in the resolution of the matter. Ayantayo said that a meeting of stakeholders, which included himself, the Head of Service, Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Office, representatives from the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Director-General and other representatives from the Lagos State Pensions Commission as well as Chairman and members of the Nigeria Labour Congress was held yesterday where they deliberated on the matter. In his words, "We agreed to meet on 17th November, 2023 when Mr. Governor would have returned to get a briefing



and proffer a solution to the request made by the Pensioners". He expressed sincere commitment towards ensuring the welfare of the Senior Citizens of the State declaring that the State Government would not push Pensioners' matters

aside".

Some of the Pensioners' demands include strict compliance with the constitutional provisions that Pensions be reviewed every five years or whenever the salaries of workers are increased. That consequential

adjustment on Pension is done following the consequential adjustment of 2019 and the payment of a living minimum wage of N50,000 for Pensioners in Lagos State.

Other demands include the Payment of backlog of gratuities and pension

arrears; Recognition of members of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners; Provision of utility bus and payment of N25,000 palliatives to Pensioners amongst others.

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LAWMA, Sterling Bank Partner On WasteBanc Initiative

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has partnered with Sterling Bank Plc and PAKAM Technology, on the launch of the WasteBanc initiative, aimed at promoting the culture of recycling to tackle the challenge of waste management across the state.

In his speech at the event which took place at Sterling Bank's Head Office, Marina, Lagos Island, the Managing Director/CEO of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin lauded the bank for the initiative, noting that the programme would make a huge impact on the waste management value chain, by addressing most prevalent challenges. He said the purpose of

technology was to solve problems, urging residents to imbibe the tenets of recycling, espoused by the 3Rs, by reducing, reusing and recycling their waste materials, adding that the practice would help tackle the challenge of waste resurgence in the metropolis.

Earlier in his address, the Managing Director/CEO of Sterling Bank, Mr. Abubakar Suleiman, noted that the launch of the WasteBanc initiative was based on the principle of alternative banking, which entailed placing value on waste and getting people to see the inherent economic benefits, for the enthronement of a clean environment.

He noted that the bank, in the past 14 years,



had partnered with the Lagos State Government and other states across the federation, by supporting their waste management

programmes, adding that the WasteBanc initiative was about using technology to create a business model that would create

wealth for the people. Project Manager, WasteBanc, Mr. Omoseni Ademowo, demonstrated how residents could

download the app on the Google Play store or IOS, to schedule a pickup of the recyclable materials.

DSVA Engages Residents of Ojo Community on SGBV Advocacy

The Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA) has continued its community advocacy on Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) with the enlightenment of residents of Ojo Local

Government on Monday.

The Executive Secretary of DSVA, Mrs. Titilola Vivour Adeniyi, in her address at the event, averred that the State government remains unrelenting in its zero-tolerance stance

against the SGBV and also committed to ensuring that culprits are made to face the full wrath of the Law. Vivour-Adeniyi, who was represented at the campaign by the Head of the Community Engagement Department, Mr.

Damilare Adewusi, informed the gathering that the Agency is working towards the attainment of its mandate in line with the THEMES Plus agenda of the State government.

While emphasising

that reporting cases was mandatory to all under strict confidentiality, she explained that the various forms of abuse which include physical, emotional and sexual are not to be taken with levity as perpetrators should be made to face justice.

The Executive Secretary differentiated between rape/defilement and the grave consequences of both, which is life imprisonment. According to her, sexual violence has gone beyond sex without consent, it also includes inserting any object in any part of the private parts of the victims.

She encouraged participants to report any form of abuse through the toll-free

number – 08000333333 of the Agency.

Adetoun Odumbo, a representative of the Agency, also sensitised the people on the support services available which include empowerment, rescue operations, medical assistance, counselling and shelter.

The Chairman of Ojo LG, Hon. Rasulu Olusola Idowu, represented by his wife, Mrs. Abimbola Akinola Idowu, appreciated the Lagos State Government for the initiative, noting that SGBV is a collective responsibility and the essence of the initiative is to create a safe environment for everyone.



LSHA Committee Pays Working Visit to Ministry of Health, Health Agencies

...Restates Commitment to the Attainment of UHC

In a significant move aimed at strengthening the delivery of qualitative and efficient health services to residents of Lagos State, the newly constituted Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Health Services and Primary Health Care has expressed its commitment to work with the Lagos State Ministry of Health towards improving access to affordable healthcare services and attainment of universal health coverage.

Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Lawal Aina Musbau who led other members and the secretariat of the committee on working visit to the Ministry of Health today, assured the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi and top management staff of the Ministry, of the Committee's cooperation, collaboration and support towards implementing laudable health policies, programmes and projects of the State Government that will improve wellbeing of citizens.

Speaking during an interactive session between members of the committee and leadership of the Ministry of Health held at the Conference Room of the Ministry, Hon. Musibau stated that the Lagos State House of Assembly recognizes the prime place of universal health coverage in improving access to health care services, thus prompting the need for stakeholders'



collaboration to achieve the all-important goal.

He said: "Lagos State House of Assembly led by Rt. Hon. Mudasiru Obasa recognizes the importance of the attainment of universal healthcare coverage in the state, and it is determined to give maximum support to the Ministry of Health in the provision of efficient, equitable, affordable, qualitative and sustainable health care services to the nooks and crannies of the state.

Explaining the purpose of the visit, the lawmaker stated that the familiarization visit and interactive meeting with the leadership of the Ministry of Health was aimed establishing harmonious working relationship between the committee, the Ministry and other

health agencies, adding that the meeting would afford members of the committee a firsthand knowledge of the challenges in the State health sector.

"The purpose of the visit is to acquaint members of the newly constituted committee with the activities of the Ministry and also establish harmonious working relationship between the committee and the Ministry of Health. We want to know where the Ministry as well as other health agencies are situated, and know some of your challenges", He said.

Hon. Musibau explained further that the Committee will also be visiting all health agencies and parastatals under the Ministry of Health, noting that the visit of

the committee is part of the oversight function of the legislative arm of government, reiterating that the administration of the 10th assembly will work hand in hand with the members of the health sector to ensure a smooth and effective health care service delivery.

"I promise you that this administration of the 10th assembly, under the leadership of Rt. Honorable Obasa, we try to assist you, and you feel free to share your challenges and ideas with the committee". He said.

Earlier, Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi who welcomed the members of the Committee to the Ministry explained that the Ministry of Health is the nerve center of the State health sector where all health related

activities in the state are coordinated, adding that the health family is an extremely large one with about 400 public health facilities with about 20,000 employees across all agencies and health Care facilities.

"We are the Ministry of Health for Lagos State, which means that our business is not just public health facilities, but it is every medical facility in Lagos State of which we have about 400 public health facilities with about 20,000 employees, 4000 private health facilities and over 10,000 alternative medicine practitioners in the state", He said.

While briefing the committee on the activities of the Ministry, the Commissioner stated that one of the main functions of the

Ministry of health is to see how the state can achieve Universal Health Coverage where every citizen can gain access to a basic minimum package of health care delivery.

"Lagos State Government through the Ministry of Health is putting in place strategies to ensure a social justice system is operated in the state whereby the rich and the affluent can somehow cover the cost of health care for our indigent population. So, we are in the process of transforming the health sector". He said.

He however assured that the Health family will always work hand in hand with the house committee on health to achieve set goals of the Health and Environment mandate of the THEMES PLUS agenda of the Governor Sanwo-Olu led administration.

The other members of the newly constituted house committee include; Hon Ogunleye Gbolahan, Hon. Olumoh Lukmon, Hon Akinsanya Ayinde Nureni, Hon. Lawal-Olumegebon Omolara, Hon Oluwa Subur, and the Secretary to the committee, Mr. Omotayo Ahmed.

On hand to receive Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Health were the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health who was represented by the Director, Medical Administration, Training and Programs, Dr. Funmilayo Shokunbi as well as Directors and Heads of Unit in the Ministry of

FITCC Trade Expo: Lagos Makes Case For Investment Opportunities

Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi was part of the Lagos State Government delegation at the Fidelity International Trade & Creative Connect (FITCC) Trade Expo organised by Fidelity Bank Plc at the George R. Brown Convention Centre, Houston, Texas in the United States of America.

The Lagos State Government delegation led by the Secretary to State Government, Barrister Abimbola Salau-Hundeyin, also included the Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and the MD/CEO Lagos Building Investment Company PLC, Mr. Oluwatobiloba Lawal. Speaking at the event, Prof. Akin Abayomi highlighted the investment opportunities in the health sector of Nigeria's commercial nerve centre, Lagos State, stressing that the State Government hopes to leverage a Public-Private Partnership strategy to improve the provision of qualitative and efficient health service delivery to a growing population of Lagos residents.

He noted that opportunities abound in the production, training and capacity building for human resources for health; health service regulation; health financing and health insurance, as well as specialist health service provision.



While highlighting population, improved health infrastructure, good governance structure, and health regulations as some of the State's health sector prospects for growth, the Commissioner declared that Lagos is open and ready for foreign direct investment that offers a win-win situation for the Government, residents of Lagos State and investors.

Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem and the MD/CEO of Lagos Building Investment Company PLC, Mr. Oluwatobiloba Lawal also made presentations on "What Makes Lagos an Investment Delight".

Welcome address, keynote and goodwill addresses were presented by the MD/CEO, Fidelity Bank Plc, Mrs. Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe; President & Chairman of the Board of

Directors African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Professor Benedict Oramah; Secretary to the Lagos State

Government, Barrister Abimbola Salau-Hundeyin and Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States of America, Dr. Uzoma

Emenike.

The Fidelity International Trade and Creative Connect (FITCC) serves as a platform for

collaborations and partnerships amongst global businesses in the non-oil export sector, to build structures for emerging shifts in trade and building global supply-chain networks.

It is also geared towards bringing together the powerhouses operating in the commodity, service, creative, fashion and fintech sectors in Nigeria, Houston Texas and the wider American market, to promote Nigeria's Non-Oil Exports and facilitate integrations to global supply-chain networks via partnerships, co-creation opportunities and foreign direct investments.

COURT

Brace Up For New Challenge, Pedro Tells Law Officers

Lagos Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN) has charged Law Officers in the Office of the Administrator-General and Public Trustee (AGPT) to brace up for change and challenges

towards achieving effective and efficient service delivery in the administration of justice in the State.

Pedro gave the charge on Friday during the courtesy by the Management Staff of the AGPT, just as he expressed his heartfelt gratitude to

the team led by the Administrator-General and Public Trustee, Mr. Olajide Oduyebo.

He stressed that the Administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is committed to promoting easy and seamless access to

justice for the citizens of Lagos State.

He, therefore, called on everyone to support the State Government in achieving all set goals and objectives as encapsulated in the THEMES Plus Agenda.



Refuse To Do The Crappo Thing

By Toye Oladinni

It's hard to stay humble when Zadie Smith is nervous to interview you and David Foster Wallace once named you the most exciting voice in American Fiction, but George Saunders manages to do it. Sending out emails to literary agents has made me something of a 'Specialist in Failure' (as José Mourinho once called rival manager Arsène Wenger), so you can only imagine my surprise when the MacArthur Fellowship and Booker Prize winner replied to my sheepish email in the affirmative.

George Saunders's latest book, *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain*, focuses on seven short stories from four iconic Russian authors — Chekhov, Tolstoy, Turgenev and Gogol. The stories are reproduced in full, and each is followed by an essay showing the reader what can be learned about short fiction from them, along with a more ponderous 'Afterthought' section. For the first essay, Saunders even includes a play-by-play, interrupting periodically to check in with us. It feels like reading through someone else's glasses. To Saunders, these are not just short stories — he calls them 'fastidiously constructed scale models of the world' and describes them as though they were

snow globes, crafted perfectly to illustrate elusive truths. But while the end result may be beautiful, the process seldom is. Writing holds the promise of the sweet nectar of praise, but at its heart it is difficult, repetitive work, even more so when taken on as a profession rather than a hobby. As a result, the writer is perhaps the rare creature that is more compelling in reality than in theory. Many an Oxford student has opined sadly that reading their passion as a degree has drained it of all magic and replaced it with tedium, after only a few years of study. How then, does George remain so passionate after decades? What does writing look like, through a veteran's eyes?

Saunders has been teaching Creative Writing for more than 20 years at Syracuse, the same program where he received his M.A. in 1988 and met his wife, getting engaged to her in only three weeks. With a history like that you might expect him to be a romantic in all spheres of life, but he takes a very practical approach to his writing. Trying to build a bridge between Saunders's early working life in science and technology and his present career, I asked whether — in the same way that some theorise about mathematics, as Robert Matthews has for the BBC Science Focus magazine — writers



create or discover their style over the course of their lifetimes. He replied: 'one thing I've learned over my years of writing is to not spend too much energy occupying theoretical positions but rather to approach such questions with this pragmatic thought in mind: "Which answer will allow me to be my most productive self? "'. He prefers to think of his craft as a process of discovery, but this was consciously an answer to a limited question. His approach to questions of plot, structure and character in *A Swim in a Pond* is firmly orientated towards results; practicalities are prioritised over abstractions. For Saunders, the moment of writing is always the focus. As he grew more comfortable in his craft, he chose to eschew questions

around what type of writer he would end up being — questions he finds to be 'gigantic buzz-killers', anyway. Saunders puts it simply: 'it's sort of like being a person. Do we, at eighteen or whenever, "decide" to be a certain way? We might, but then life generally comes along and upends all that, and, 40 years down the line, you look back and, of course, you were a certain sort of person, but that person accreted over those thousands of decision points in that life.'

Saunders leans into this process of accretion, never adhering to the mythology around easy creative genius (even as someone who has received a "genius grant" himself). That's not to say that he is not gushing with praise about the unique skills of Chekhov

and Tolstoy, both of whom he places into a special category of creative prowess that poor saps like us can only hope to one day emulate. But he is always encouraging, believing firmly that an author's practice evolves over the course of their lives, that it is something that comes with an intentional, tedious honing of their skills. With this tedium has come patience: Saunders is like the best English teacher you never had, charitable to a fault towards the flaws of both reader and his chosen author. In fact, in our interview, he saves his only negative words for his past self — 'I was fine with the idea of finding a distinctive style (and was desperate to do so actually), but I just couldn't seem to do it.'

A wide-eyed 28-year-old Saunders was first accepted

into the Syracuse workshop with a charismatic and sprawling piece of work. He then fell back into trying to write "serious, realist" work like Hemingway and Carver, losing, in the process, the magic and charisma which brought him there in the first place. Saunders only surfaced from this faux-Hemingway hypnosis years after graduating, as he worked as a technical writer while publishing short stories on the side. He is desperate for us not to make the same mistakes. The Singers, a Turgenev tale about a pub singing competition between a man with a technically flawless yet soulless voice and one with an imperfect but beautifully inflected one, is included in his book 'to suggest ... how little choice we have about what kind of writer we'll turn out to be.' The story is full of narrative digression, and rigid segments of description and action awkwardly bolted on to one another like a cut and shut Ford Focus. And yet, it is still deeply moving. In one of the book's most illuminating essays, Saunders shows that the structure of the story itself may be Turgenev's acknowledgement that while his style of writing might have been technically imperfect, it was the only one he had. The seams show, but we love them anyway.

Refuse To Do The Crappo Thing

In comparison, Tolstoy is the consummate craftsman. Both of his chosen short stories, 'Master and Man' and 'Alyosha the Pot', seem effortlessly composed and warm. One concerns a ruthless capitalist, the other perhaps the arch-pushover of Russian literature. Together, they show Tolstoy's range of home truths, his ability to look with piercing empathy at all levels of society, and his structural brilliance. But I saw danger behind this perfection, too, having recently read 'Fiction and the Age of Lies' by Colin Burrow, an essay examining — and in great part justifying — the historical fear of the author as the double of the liar, where the author is seducer, the Don Juan, able to pour syrupy sweet nothings into the reader's ears. I wanted to know from Saunders whether he was worried about the implications of fostering the ability to tell plausible untruths, even as the Trump era ends and the phrase 'post-truth era' (but not the state-of-affairs it articulates) dies a quiet death in American political discourse.

Saunders reassured me. He told me that, for a good fiction writer, the 'aim is always, ultimately, truth'. It's hard to believe now — so full of sympathy is his work — but Saunders was an

Ayn Rand acolyte in his youth. No longer: he described the Russian-American writer to me as a 'persuasive, energetic stylist ... papering over defects in her worldview. The view she is trying to sell us on is actually flawed, and she's hiding it with sleight of hand.' Rand embodies the early modern nightmare that the novel was simply a bundle of artful lies bound together. Tolstoy on the other hand, has something deeper to his writing. For all his powers to articulate plausible fantasies, Saunders believes that his genius came from an ability to produce 'higher order truths', truths that can only be unveiled 'in the dreamlike,

exaggerated universe that is an invented story'. He was introduced to many of these writers for the first time at Syracuse as a student. In turn, part of the book's allure is the feeling of being a student in Saunders's class. He shares anecdotes from the workshop, and leans in close to whisper writerly advice. We must 'refuse to do the crappo thing', never take the easy way out, he says, and develop characters tending 'toward variation, against stasis'. He passes on structural advice from 'movie producer and all-around mensch' Stuart Cornfeld, one of the minds behind *Tropic Thunder*. It feels like a peek into a distinguished

culture of its own, consistently producing some of America's greatest literary voices. Notably, none of the writers he has chosen for *A Swim in the Pond* are personally embedded into the university system as teachers. Has the retreat of authors into the academy, then, changed the way that writing is thought of, and practised? When I asked him to weigh in on this, the eternal discourse on Creative Writing MFAs, he was firm but fair. 'I think not as much as people often seem to want to believe.' He gave an intimidating list of recently published Syracuse graduates to push back against the notion that these workshops are

factories 'cranking out identical writers', but did admit that the system runs the risk of 'becoming insular', particularly as the marketplace becomes more and more hostile to young writers. For a system that has had such a major impact on American literary culture, the modern MFA has yet to enter its hundredth year. And in a climate where so many educational institutions are being forced to consider what it is that they truly provide, the future of the MFA is as open as anything else. Saunders seems like he is in it for the long haul, though, and not simply for the sake of his students. 'Teaching constantly

reminds the teacher that talent is eternal; every generation is gifted, in its own way, and in such a way as to serve its own, new concerns.' Many people of all ages have grown more comfortable seeing the western world as being in a state of inexorable decline, but for Saunders, the energy of his students provides hope. 'That's a good thing to be reminded of, as a person gets older — a good hedge against the old "Oh, Lord, everything has fallen into decadence" mindset that can set in with age.' TOYE OLADINNI is an English finalist at Balliol College. He believes he can fly, once the travel bans have lifted.



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Ikorodu APC Mourns Party Leader, Tella

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The All Progressives Congress (APC) community in Ikorodu has mourned the sudden demise of Mr. Babatunde Tella, a highly respected

chieftain of the party in the Ikorodu West Local Council Development Area of Ikorodu Division.

Babatunde Tella,

affectionately known as 'Asiri,' was not just an active and influential politician, but a figure deeply embedded in the local political landscape.

Mr. Tella had been battling illness and was receiving medical care before his return home on a Sunday, indicating a recovery in progress.

However, a shocking twist occurred when an individual, whose identity is currently withheld, allegedly sent messages suggesting Tella's demise.

This sudden and mysterious turn of events has prompted a wave of suspicion within the community. Many have expressed concerns about the circumstances

surrounding his death, raising doubts about the naturalness of his passing.

Furthermore, the individual responsible for the alarming messages, who had reportedly been acting suspiciously towards Mr. Tella in the days leading up to this incident, has been taken into police custody along with an associate.

As news of the tragic event spread, individuals from various corners of the political spectrum and community leaders have come forward to express their shock and condolences.

Mr. Sunmi Odesanya, the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos

on DAWN & Southwest Integration, and a close friend of the late Babatunde Tella, was deeply affected by the news. He conveyed his emotions with a simple statement: "I am in shock over Tella's death."

Otunba Lawson, the APC Chairman of Ikorodu West LGA, also lamented the loss and referred to Mr. Tella's passing as the fall of an "Iroko tree." He further stated, "It saddened my heart to hear the news of your sudden departure," expressing the collective sorrow that enveloped the party.

Adding to the tributes, Chairman of Ikorodu West LCDA, Otunba (Hon.) Sulaimon Kazeem Olanrewaju, described the loss as a "rude

shock" and extended his sympathies to the family of the deceased.

He urged patience and cooperation with the ongoing police investigation to uncover the truth behind the mysterious death.

As the APC community mourns the untimely loss of a prominent leader, they seek solace in the memories of Babatunde Tella's unrelenting dedication, boldness, and courageous spirit.

This tragedy leaves a void that will be difficult to fill, not only in the hearts of those who knew and respected him but also in the political landscape of Ikorodu.

The legacy of 'Asiri' will forever linger in the hearts of those he touched and inspired during his lifetime.

Ikorodu Celebrates 2023 Agemo Festival

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Agemo/Eyibi festival, a cherished tradition in Igbogbo, has once again graced the community with its cultural significance and vibrant celebrations in 2023.

Commencing on a solemn note on Sunday, the event has continued to captivate the hearts and minds of locals and visitors alike.

The Igbogbo Night Market served as the stage for a remarkable display by the Agemo masquerades on Tuesday, drawing a substantial crowd. Among the attendees were the distinguished Adeboruwa of Igbogbo, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Barr.) Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, who, along with his esteemed chiefs and the sons and daughters of Igbogbo, added regal splendor to the festivities.

The market square was

abuzz with energy as hundreds of residents joined in the celebration, creating a vibrant tapestry of cultural unity.

It was not just the adults who partook in the festivities; the younger generation had their moment as well. Youth and children organized into different groups, embarking on a lively procession while singing traditional songs.

The infectious rhythm was provided by local drums that resonated through the square, elevating the festive spirit.

The highlight of the day came when six Agemo masquerades took center stage, delivering electrifying and spectacular performances that left the audience enthralled.

Among these awe-inspiring masquerades were Felewa, Mole

Iwagun, Mole Isheri, and Ajefote, each bringing a unique essence to the celebration. The crowd was left yearning for more, entranced by the artistry and tradition on display.

As the night fell, the younger generation took the reins, closing off the Oba Molaja/Igbogbo Night Market/Club 24/Ipakodo - Igbogbo junction for an exuberant carnival that stretched into the late hours.

The residents were treated to a musical feast provided by a contracted Disc Jockey (DJ), ensuring that the festivities continued well into the night.

The Agemo/Eyibi festival is an annual and highly anticipated event in Igbogbo. It commenced with the 'Ituworu' ceremony on Sunday, where female participants uprooted specific plants, marking the beginning of the festivities.

On the following day, indigenes congregated to witness the rituals associated with Eleku, a deity of immense importance, at the 'Ipeti' shrine. The festival, with its rich tapestry of traditions and vibrant celebrations, is set to continue in Igbogbo, embracing the hearts and souls of the community until the grand culmination on Sunday.



Ikorodu Federal Lawmaker, Benson, Reveals Projects

By Nurudeen Adebayo



Federal Lawmaker representing Ikorodu constituency, Babajimi Benson has revealed his surprise projects for constituents, which include the reconstruction of the Igbogbo/Offin/Oreta Road.

This project has been included in the 2023 Supplementary Budget proposal, with an allocation of N2.176bn. The Federal Executive

Council approved this supplementary budget, prioritizing the security of Nigerians, with a significant allocation of N476.543bn for defence.

Additionally, the Ministry of Works received N300 billion, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security was allocated N200 billion.

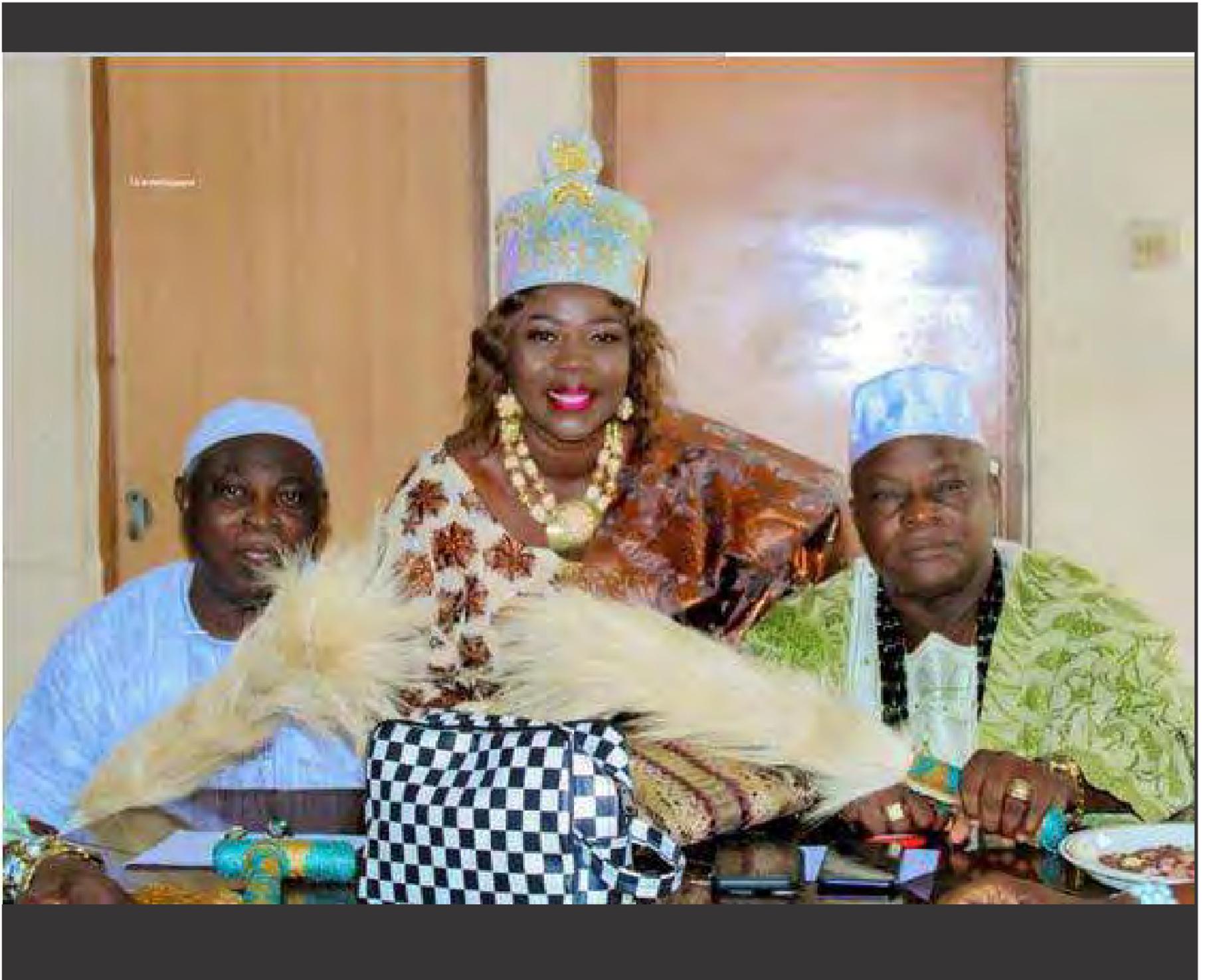
Rep. Benson confirmed this development, stating that the project would commence once

the President signs the supplementary budget into law and procurement is completed.

He assured that the project would receive top priority and additional funding in the 2024 budget.

This initiative is welcome news for the thousands of residents who have been suffering due to the deplorable state of the Igbogbo/Offin/Oreta Road, as it promises to significantly improve their social and economic well-being.

Erelu of Orile-Agege Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Kehinde Adeleye

The Iyalaja of Orile-Agege, Mrs Bola Orelaru has celebrated the 30th years of installation as Erelu of Orile-Agege kingdom by the Late Alaiyeluwa Oba Saani Arewa Komolafe.

Echo news gathered that the prestigious title of Orile-Agege was bestowed on Chief, Mrs. Bola 30 years ago by the Late Monarch on October 30th, 1993. Chief Mrs Bola Orelaru is an award winning market leader,

philanthropist, community leader, grassroots politician, teacher, business woman and mother to many. She has impacted lives and developed many in the cause of giving back to her Community. She's a true definition of

Selfless Service to humanity. A recipient of many awards and titles within and outside of Orile-Agege Kingdom. She was conferred with the Chieftaincy title of Erelu of Orile-Agege Kingdom in appreciation of her numerous

contributions to the development of Orile-Agege Kingdom and its environs in particular, all the markets in Orile-Agege Lcda and others.

Market men and women association of Orile-Agege Local Council Development

Area has joined families, friends and associates to celebrate their leader, the Iyalaja General of Orile-Agege Lcda, Chief Mrs Bola Orelaru as she clocks 30 Years as the Erelu of Orile-Agege Kingdom.

Egbe -Idimu LCDA Promises NOA Continuous Support

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman, Egbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Kunle Olowoapejo has assured the council's continuous support to National Orientation Agency (NOA). Olowoapejo made the statement during the

visit of the Lagos State Director of (NOA), Alhaji Tukur Mustapha to the council secretariat. He noted that the support will be in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Mustapha commended the council Chairman, for

his cooperation and support. He emphasized that the agency's mission is to promote the Hope agenda at the grassroots level. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between the Agency and Local Governments to achieve their primary objectives.

He then urged Nigerians to support the economy by embracing locally-made products. The meeting was well attended by the cabinet members of the council, from the Vice-Chairman, Hon. Adebisi Mutiu to Council Manager, Mr. Omotayo Shakirudeen, and the entire management staff.



(Egbe-Idimu on a round table with NOA Agency)

Olowoapejo Urges Residents To Patronise Locally-Made Products

By Edith Igbokwe



Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Egbe-Idimu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Mr. Kunle Sanyaolu Olowoapejo has urged residents in the community and Nigerians at large to support the economy by embracing locally-made products. The Chairman said products will help conserve the nation's foreign reserve and strengthen the nation currency thereby making the country financially healthy and self-dependent. He made this known

during the State Director of the National Orientation Agency's (NOA) visit to the Area Council. The chairman assured

continuous support for the agency in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed. The Acting Director of NOA in his speech emphasized their mission which is to promote the HOPE agenda at the grassroots level. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between the agency and Local Governments to achieve their primary objectives. The National Orientation Agency (NOA) director further commended the Council Chairman, Hon Kunle Sanyaolu Olowoapejo FPA for his cooperation and support.

Igando-Ikotun, CDC, NPC Join To Deliver Child/Mother Programme

By Edith Igbokwe

The National Population Commission (NPC) has teamed up with Igando-Ikotun Local Council Development Area (LCDA). Community Development Committee (CDC) to capture the birth registration of children within the LCDA.

The capturing exercise took place in all over the seven (7) wards of the Igando-Ikotun LCDA.

The CDC Chairman, Pastor Ojo Samuel received the LCDA's (NPC) Comptroller, Mrs. Adekolu Olamide, at the CDC office in the council secretariat.

During the visit, the NPC Comptroller intimated to the CDC Chairman that officials of the Commission are all over the seven (7) wards of Igando-Ikotun LCDA to capture the birth registration of children within the LCDA.

She stated that the children covered would have their information saved on the



(NPC , CDC Join to deliver child, mother programme)

Commission's database, and no alterations or changes could be made to it.

She also notified that parents would be issued with printed birth certificates at a future date when it is ready.

She disclosed that the National Population Commission will undertake a programme in November 2023 on Maternal Death (death during child/children's delivery/birth).

The slated date for the programme is Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th

November 2023, at Divine Choice Ministry, Apa-Ola Street, off Community Road, Ijgun.

Other venues include, Brotherhood of the Cross and Stars, Ark of Salvation, Adetoro Famuyiwa Street, Ikotun, and The Planet Hotel and Suite, Atoke Olusanya Street, off Modina Road, Igando.

The CDC Chairman promised to synergise and cooperate with the National Population Commission to ensure the success of the proposed programme.

LASWA Takes Over Ijon Ferry Terminal

By Edith Igbokwe

Ijon-Ayobo Ferry Terminal in Camp Davis, Alimosho Local Government has been officially handed over to Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) by Lagos State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.

The handover ceremony marked a significant milestone in the efforts to enhance transportation infrastructure in Lagos State.

With the terminal now under the management of LASWA, the general public can look forward to improved waterway transportation services.

Reports disclosed that the terminal is yet to be opened for operations, LASWA and the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure are working diligently to finalize all necessary preparations.

The public will be promptly notified when the terminal is ready to serve commuters.

The newly inaugurated ferry terminal boasts excellent road connectivity, ensuring easy access for commuters.

According to reports, the ferry features a secure floating pontoon, prioritizing passenger safety during boarding and disembarking.

In addition, the terminal provides ample space for a convenient park and ride system, making it even more convenient for users and travelers.



Gbenu Urges Students To Shun Social Vices, Focus On Education

By Saheed Afolabi



(The chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph presenting a free GCE forms to a beneficiary)

The chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Gbenu Joseph has urged students to shun social vices and direct their focus on educational excellence. The council boss advised Badagry youths who derives pleasure in the stipends they get through menial jobs they do at the border to look beyond now and go for advance knowledge. "I advise you all as young individuals not

to be carried away by the stipends they earn doing some menial jobs on the border line, saying education is the best legacy," he said.

He advised the student to face their studies and be determined to be successful. While presenting the forms, Gbenu advised the students to remain focused, ensure they study hard, and come out with excellent results. Gbenu said that the GCE presentation is a

routine exercise for the local government that is done annually.

"It is our own way of giving back to society, hence encouraging the less privileged parents who could not afford to purchase the GCE forms and the students too.

"If you have education, you've gotten everything.

"School life is just for sometime, don't use the little period in school to destroy your future after making it to the university."

The Chairman advised the student to avoid bad

gang, smoking, and other forms of peer pressure.

The council chairman further revealed that he has constituted a committee to coordinate bursary disbursement for Badagry West students in tertiary institutions. According to one of the beneficiaries, Mary Wusu, she said this is the first time she will be receiving such benefit from the government and she will do her best to come out in flying colours, noting that it is

the best way to encourage the government to do more.

Another beneficiary, Yusuf Rasheed stated, it would have been difficult for him to write the GCE examination this year if not for the chairman. He pray that God will continue to bless and give him wisdom to lead better. Supervisor for Education, Princess Nutayi Remilekun further expressed her appreciation to the chairman for his commitment towards

education development in the area, noting that aside from the free GCE forms distribution, Gbenu has constructed school buildings across the whole primary school in Badagry West except for that of Seme alone. He has also distributed free exercise books to students. Badagry West LCDA Education HOD, Mrs Ganiyat Lamina said that a total number of one hundred (100) students benefited from this year's free GCE forms.

LASG inaugurates new CDAC as Amusat re-elected chairman ...urges members on development of State

Lagos State Government has charged the new members to be more committed to the development of the State as it inaugurated a newly constituted Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC).

The inauguration came after the election took place at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Rural Development' Dr. Nurudeen Agbaje whilst congratulating winners of the election, urged the newly elected Chairman, Alhaji Azeez Amusat, and other members of the State Community Advisory Council to consolidate efforts with the State Government in ensuring that development and peaceful co-existence reach the grassroots during their administration. Amusat was re-elected with a total vote of 106 to beat his opponent, Mr. Adesgun Olatunde who had 3 votes.

He explained that the recently concluded election is a proof that free and fair election where candidates of the people can have



their say and their way is possible.

The Special Adviser also charged the newly elected officers to work together to build strong, prosperous, and progressive communities, that would become the bedrock of the Lagos of our dreams.

Dr. Agbaje equally used the opportunity to appreciate the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, saying he has put in place structures that engender development at the grassroots and has

given recognition to Community Development Associations and Committees in the State and the restoration of the Office of Rural Development to the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development.

He added that Governor Sanwo-Olu's decision is a pointer to the fact that Mr Governor is very interested in the development of the grassroots communities across the State.



The Special Adviser however advised the Council to be committed to the new assignment without looking at any personal gain or benefit, as the job is a voluntary service to our State.

Similarly, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa while giving her welcome address commended the contestants and delegates for their

commitment to Making Lagos State a 21st Century Economy.

"What we are witnessing today, with the election is another demonstration of our collective efforts through sacrifices of engaging in community development which is geared towards sustaining our dear State as Centre of Excellence," she said.

Bolarinwa added that one of the greatest achievements one can ever have is to

truly serve people.

She used the opportunity to salute members of the CDAs and CDCs, who have been putting themselves forward through their commitment and dedication to the development of the communities around them.

"It is indeed taking Lagos to an enviable level," she added.

At the election, Alhaji Azeez Amusat emerged as the Chairman with a total vote of 106 against his opponent, Mr. Adesgun Olatunde who had 3 votes. Pastor Opajobi Samuel emerged as the Vice Chairman with a total vote of 103 against his opponent, Mr. Alli Moruf Ajanni, who had 3 votes, other vacant offices were ratified as the contestants were unopposed.

It would be recalled that the Governor in August 2023 approved the dissolution of the last Executive Committee of the Council along with the Community Development Council (CDCs)/Community Development Associations (CDAs) across the 20 Local Government Areas and the 37 Local Council Development Areas, after holding the office for two years with the expiration of their tenure in 2019.



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Madam Beckley Lived A Remarkable Life - Children

Children of late Madam Iyabode Beckley had said that their mother lived a remarkable and exemplary life with love and kindness. One of the children and the Secretary to the Government of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, Paul Fregene said this at the thanksgiving service for the late grandmother last Sunday.

Late Madam Beckley (Mama) died on the 29th of August 2023, at the age of 107, and was buried the following day, on the 30th of August. The SLG and his family held the thanksgiving service at the Cathedral Church of St. Jude, Ebute Meta, Lagos.

The Officiating Minister, Reverend Olukayode Dada, described Mama as one who lived an exemplary life worthy of emulation. He further preached about love and encouraged people to love one another.

On his part, the SLG described his late grandmother as a woman who lived a remarkable and significant life. He added that Mama was a woman of unwavering principle who was known for her strong moral compass.

The Executive Chairman of Ejigbo LCDA, Alh. Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello (OBE), described Mama as an epitome of humility and

uprightness, who was industrious and an achiever. He added that she invested greatly in the life of her children, grandchildren and other people who crossed her path.

The late Iyabode Beckley's life was a remarkable journey that began in the heart of Abeokuta, within the warm embrace of the Beckley family. Born to the loving parents, Pa Daniel and Madam Dahunsi Beckley, in the close-knit community of Ile Ake, she was destined for a life of significance.

As life unfolded, Iyabode's path led her to the bustling city of Lagos. She later relocated to the family house on Osolake by Ibadan Street in Ebute Metta East. It was in this vibrant urban landscape that she honed her skills as a trader. Iyabode possessed an unwavering love for business, and it was this passion that fueled her entrepreneurial spirit. In the early 1960s, she embarked on a journey to the northern regions of Nigeria, carrying palm oil and bean cakes. Her ventures were met with success, and they laid the foundation for her reputation as a shrewd businesswoman.

Ultimately, Iyabode found her true calling and settled in the bustling neighborhood of Agege. It was here that she established



herself as a renowned seller of moimoi, earning her the affectionate title of "Iya Olole." Her moimoi became a beloved staple for the locals, a testament to her culinary expertise.

Later in life, as she neared her ninetieth birthday, Iyabode made a profound decision to embrace Christianity. She chose to give her life to Jesus Christ, and it was a decision that filled her heart with peace and contentment. The local priest would visit her regularly to administer communion, a spiritual connection that brought solace to her soul.

Iyabode Beckley was a woman of unwavering principles. She held no grudges, harbored no animosities, and was known for her



strong moral compass. Her life was a testament to the values of simplicity, as she never indulged in frivolities. She abstained from bathing with hot water, choosing instead to live a life of modesty and frugality. In the rich Yoruba tradition, she was affectionately known by the Oríkì: "Arà aké majo Omo ajo gberu

Ma jó gbè ko rú lósin Èkó kì sìnì Yan Sun ree òyàmi"

Iyabode Beckley's legacy endures, a testament to a life filled with resilience, faith, and a commitment to her principles. As a woman of unwavering spirit, she held no grudges, harboured no animosities, and was

known for her strong moral compass. Her life was a testament to the value of simplicity.

As she neared her ninetieth birthday, Late Madam Beckley made a profound decision to embrace Christianity by giving her life to Jesus Christ. A decision which filled her heart with peace and contentment.



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Pupils Bill By Epe Federal Lawmaker, Raji, Passes Third Reading

By Mohammed Adekola



The three bills sponsored by a federal lawmaker, Epe Constituency, Mr. Wale Raji have scaled first reading at the house of representatives. The bills came up for first reading during plenary on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. The first of the three bills is the Nigerian Security

and Civil Defence Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.768). The bill is aimed at providing security services for school children/students. If the bill becomes law, it will charge the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) with a new

responsibility of securing students in schools. Rep. Raji introduced the bill amid threats of kidnapping to schoolchildren in some parts of Nigeria. The second bill sponsored by the lawmaker is the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act

(Amendment) Bill, 2023 (HB.769). The bill is aimed at removing spouses of office holders from the list of persons required to declare assets. The third and last bill, which scaled through first reading on the House floor on Tuesday, is the Constitution of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2023 (HB.770). If this bill becomes law, it will mandate agencies of both federal and state government to submit an audited financial statement within a prescribed timeframe. This bill is aimed at addressing concerns that many government agencies don't audit their accounts or submit their financial statements. In the 2016 annual report of the Auditor-General for the Federation (AuGF), the former AuGF, Mr Anthony Ayine, disclosed that a total of 65 agencies of government had never submitted their financial statements for audit purposes in line with the provisions of Financial Regulations 321. The audit report said

that despite the provisions of Financial Regulation 321(v), which enjoined the chief executive officers of statutory corporations to submit both the audited accounts and management report to the AuGF not later than May 31 of the following year of account, many of them never obeyed that provision. For instance, the report stated 323 agencies defaulted in 2016, while 2015 and 2014 had 215 and 148 defaulters. In the 2018 audit report of the AuGF, Ayine revealed that as at April 2018, 109 Agencies had not submitted their audited financial statements beyond 2013, 76 Agencies last submitted for the 2010 financial year while 65 Agencies had never submitted any account since inception.

Odo-Egiri Gets New King After 43 Years of Struggle

By Mohammed Adekola



Oba Musiliu of Odo Egiri has expressed his heartfelt gratitude as Lagos Government finally approved the king after 43 years of struggle to get one. Aladepekun of Odo-Egiri Kingdom in Eredo

LCDA of Epe Division of Lagos State, HRM Oba Musiliu Abiola Oliwo (Gbadewolu1), expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwoolu, for ending 43 years struggle of

getting a king for the ancient kingdom. Oba Musiliu in his words said "I want to avail myself the opportunity provided by this medium to express my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Governor, Babajide

Olusola Sanwoolu, and his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat for approving Obaship status for Odo-Egiri, after 43 years of unsuccessful efforts. Previous administrations in this state failed to do this,

added that He and the entire people of his community are very grateful to them and saying a big thank you to them, not forgetting the House of Reps Member also the representative in the Lagos House of Assembly, Hon. Sylvester Oluwadahunsi Ogunkelu Hon. WASTAB Tunwase and host of others, which time cannot permit to mention now" He said. In his speech, he requested for Health Centre and befitting palace for his kingdom, noting that the foundation of the community market, has been laid on Wednesday, as the community's have decided to provide the market by themselves.

APC Apex-Leader in Epe Constituency II, Hon. Wasiu Odeyemi, popular known as WASTAB, led other indigenes of Odo-Egiri in a Coronation's Celebration Rally, round the length and breadth of the community, also expressed delight over the upgrading of the Baale of the community to an Obaship status, which he revealed was long over due. "We thank God Almighty, because this journey began 43 years ago. Odo- Egiri is one of the communities that have been in existence right from the very old Epe Division in 1962, traditional heads in Epe Division, including that of Odo Egiri, were approved as Baales, except Alara of Ilara Kingdom, who was already an Oba" He stated.

Ejinrin Film City: Epe Traditional, Political Leaders Laud Sanwo-Olu

By Mohammed Adekola



The traditional and political leaders in the Epe Division have commended the establishment of the Lagos Film City in Ejinrin, Lagos State.

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, joined other leaders to break ground for the project, which is expected to cost at least \$100 million.

In a display of unity and

shared vision, a chorus of voices from diverse backgrounds rallied together at the groundbreaking ceremony, underscoring the project's significance and potential to reshape the cinematic landscape of Lagos and Nigeria.

HRM Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun, Oloja of Epe and Chairman of the Epe

Divisional Council of Obas, hailed the Lagos State government for the project's initiation.

He emphasised that the film city was not exclusively for Lagos State but a national treasure, with the capacity to benefit the whole of Nigeria and even other West African countries.

Oba Animashaun viewed this development as a

welcome initiative that would usher in prosperity, much like it has in Europe and Asia.

He envisioned the Lagos Film City as a source of joy for Ejinrin and conveyed appreciation to Sanwo-Olu and all the stakeholders.

Similarly HRM Oba Olufolarin Olukayode Ogunsanwo, the Alara of Ilara Kingdom, stated that the Lagos Film City will boost the economic fortunes of Epe Division, Lagos and Nigeria at large.

HRM Oba Nelson Obayomi Aderemi Ogunlari, Ogundalu 1st, the Olowu of Owu Ikosi Kingdom, celebrated the project as a welcome development that signifies Lagos' growth and a chance for local artists to create meaningful films.

He conveyed his gratitude to Sanwo-Olu and encouraged further development in the region, including the completion of a timber sawmill at Owu-Ikosi.

Oba Ogunlari extended his hopes that Ejinrin would be linked to the

proposed new airport and concluded with a heartfelt prayer for the governor.

Also, Olori Fatima Mojisola Balogun, the wife of the Elejinrin of Ejinrin Kingdom, expresses joy and happiness, describing the project as an answered prayer.

"Today is a day of joy and happiness for me, the king, the community, Epe division, Lagos State, and the whole of Nigeria. I'm so happy because God has answered our prayers in Epe and Nigeria," Olori Balogun said. She emphasised the film city's transformative potential and its ability to bring development not only to Ejinrin but also to Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole.

Olori Balogun expressed her gratitude to her husband, the Kabiyesi of Ejinrin Kingdom, and commended Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwoolu for his dedication to the

project.

On his part, Hon. Sylvester Ogunkelu, popularly known as Sketel, a member representing Epe Constituency 2 in the Lagos State House of Assembly and Chairman of the House Committee on Physical Planning and Urban Development, affirmed the governor's commitment to massive development within Epe Constituency 2.

He highlighted the transformative nature of the film city and the empowerment it would offer to local residents.

Ogunkelu acknowledged the crucial role of infrastructural projects, like the development of the jetty in Ikosi Ejinrin, in supporting the Lagos Film City and enhancing local communities.

This confluence of voices, reflecting diverse perspectives and shared optimism, underscored the historic significance of the Lagos Film City's groundbreaking ceremony, setting the stage for a brighter cinematic future in Lagos and Nigeria.

NDLEA Decorates Epe LGA Boss, Animashaun, As Ambassador

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The Chairman of Epe Local Government Area, Surah Animashaun, received a delegation of from the NDLEA marine command, led by the Commander of Narcotics, Ahom Paul T.

The highlight of the visit was the formal conferral and decoration of Animashaun as an Ambassador of the NDLEA, recognizing her dedicated commitment to addressing the pressing issues of drug-related challenges in the region.

Following a brief tour of the area, the conversations shifted towards a crucial objective – the potential extension of the NDLEA's operational base to Epe and its adjoining regions, encompassing

Ikorodu and Badagry.

This proposed expansion is aimed at combatting the rampant issues of drug smuggling, peddling, and consumption that have cast a shadow over these communities.

In response to this proposal, the Chairman expressed her elation and wholehearted support for the NDLEA's decision to assist in addressing the menace of drug trafficking and abuse that has been plaguing the community.

She promised to provide extensive support underscores the urgency and importance of this mission.

Furthermore, she astutely suggested enlisting the aid of indigenous security

personnel from the local community to act as guides for the NDLEA's marine operations.

This collaborative approach emphasizes the significance of involving the local community in the fight against drug-related issues.

As a symbol of unity and community support, the delegation made a visit to the majestic palace of the paramount ruler of Epe land, Oba Kamorudeen Ishola Animashaun.

During this visit, the Kabiyesi expressed his pleasure and enthusiasm regarding the initiative.

In a gracious gesture, he offered his unwavering support to the team and pledged to use his influence and abilities to ensure the creation of a safe, drug-free, and crime-free community for the benefit of all residents.

Ibeju Lekki LGA: Beneficiaries of Official Vehicles Promise Better Performance

By Edith Igbokwe



(Presentation of Ibeju Lekki official vehicles to Beneficiaries.)

Twelve Supervisors and Special Advisers of Ibeju Lekki Local Government have commended the council chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa as they received official vehicles for effective duty discharge. Beneficiaries appreciated the gifts and promised to give

their best and to cooperate with the chairman for the success of the administration. Olowa presented 2013 Toyota Camry series Official Vehicles to 12 Supervisors and Special Advisers of

the Council. He advised the beneficiaries to put the vehicles to good use and for the sake of humanity they have called serve. He urged beneficiaries to put in their best in their various fields to

achieve results that will speak for itself. He noted live up to the expectation required in their duty discharge, responsibility and effectively serve the people they represent as stipulated by the Law.

Olowa Receives State Govt Commendation Letter

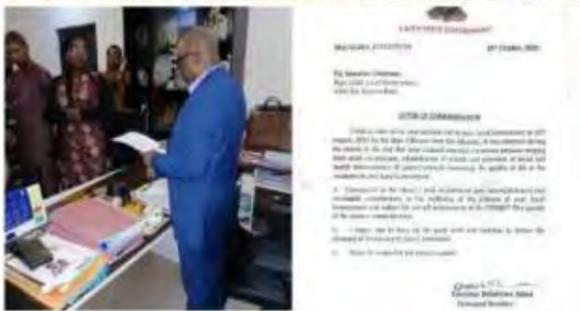
By Edith Igbokwe

The chairman, Ibeju-Lekki Local Government, Engr. Abdullahi Olowa has added another feather to his cap as he gained State commendation. Lagos State Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development's Commendation letter attests to his huge landmark achievements within 28 months in office.

Olowa and other top officials of the Local Government received the visitors from the Ministry that recounted some of the strides of the present administration. Olowa attributed the success so far to the collective efforts of all the cabinet members and the people of the Local Government Area. He applauded the Local Government Chieftaincy and Rural Development Ministry for their doggedness in ensuring transparency and accountability. The head of the team,

Mr. Ogunjobi explained that Ibeju-Lekki LG got the commendation letter due to the impressive performance witnessed during an unscheduled visit to the Council Area to check the level of development the delivered to its people. He noted that the move became necessary because of the need for accountability in governance at the grassroots.

The Ministry, Mr. Ogunjobi categorised Olowa as one of the most performing council Chairman in the State. Having presented array of laudable social Infrastructural and Environmental related projects and programmes completed and ongoing by the Local Government. The Ministry assured the Chairman to expect more accolades and prizes coming to compensate good Governance.



Hundreds of Girls Get HPV Immunization In Ibeju-Lekki

By Edith Igbokwe



(HPV Immunization in Ibeju Lekki)

Elemoro Junior High School has served as the flag off venue for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Immunization Programme at Ibeju Lekki Local Government. The programme that targeted girls between the ages of nine to fourteen years was flagged off by the chairman, Ibeju Lekki

Local Government, Hon. Abdullahi Olowa. At the occasion, the Chairman was represented by Supervisor for Health, Hon. Tajudeen Oniwonlu affirmed that indeed the menace of cervical cancer is recently becoming rampant in young girls and women in the society.

He applauded Lagos State Government in collaboration with the World Health Organization for the step taken for introducing the Human Papilloma Virus Programme in the state. Hon. Olowa implored parents and guardians to submit their wards/children for the life saving vaccine at designated centers such as hospitals, health centres, schools, churches, mosques, market and other posts for future protection from cervical cancer. According to the programme, the Human Papilloma Virus is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the society. As it is spread through sexual intercourse and the infection can be passed to another even when they have no signs of the symptoms yet.

Ibeju-Lekki Council Chairman Inspects Ongoing Projects

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area, Abdullahi Sesan Olowa, members of his cabinet, and top civil servants visited some project sites to assess the level of work done by the various contractors. The team visited LG Primary School, Akodo, Community Town Hall, Orofun, Primary Health Care Centre, Orimedu, RCM Primary School, Iberekodo and the Primary Health Care Centre, Solu Alade.

At Akodo, the team inspected the massive construction of perimeter fence. The project will also include the complete renovation of the existing classrooms, provision of school furniture, and remodelling of a community building within the school for other uses of the students. At Orofun, the team inspected the abandoned community town hall which construction started from the previous

administration. Please recall that the current administration mobilized the contractor for the roofing phase. The Chairman has now directs the works department to return to site and ensure the completion of the project in progress. On the team tour was also at Orimedu PHC, where a total renovation of the PHC has commenced. At Iberikodo Primary School, the team

inspected the perimeter fence construction and directed the contractor to increase the height of the fence for better security. He directed that the toilets and the classrooms should be renovated by the contractor. Finally, the team arrived at Solu Alade town where they inspected the ongoing renovation and perimeter fences construction of Solu Alade PHC..



Bamigboye Urges Parents To Rise Up Against Cervical Cancer

By Saheed Afolabi



(The chairman of Mushin LG, Emmanuel Bamigboye monitoring the cervical cancer vaccine event)

The chairman of Mushin Local Government (LG), Emmanuel Bamigboye has urged parents to rise up against cervical cancer among children. As part of government's efforts to control the persistent mortality rate caused by cervical cancer among women in Nigeria, Mushin Local Government has joined in the campaign

towards protecting and securing the future of our young girls against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which is known to cause at least 70% of cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine which was introduced into the Routine Immunization System by the Federal Government on 24th October, 2023, to prevent Cervical Cancer among over 7.7 million girls between

the ages of 9-14 years, was kicked off in Lagos by Wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr. (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo-olu at Surulere on Monday 30th October, 2023. During the flag off of the immunization in Mushin LG, held at Megbon Primary School, Bamigboye, appealed to parents to rise up against this deadly disease, which targets to shorten the life span of our young

girls and deny them of their blissful future. He also corrected the erroneous impression and falsehood being perpetrated against the vaccine. He cautioned the parents to discard such information as the vaccine has no health implication on the girl child. Being the third most common cancer and second most frequent cause of cancer deaths among women between the ages of 15 - 44 years, cervical cancer has killed 8,000 Nigerian women out of the 12,000 cases recorded in the year 2020. The vaccination exercise will be conducted on girls

between the ages of 9 to 14 years, at various locations across the communities. The chairman used the opportunity to appreciate Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu for his support towards grassroot development and other developmental projects aimed at making life better for the people of Lagos State. The council boss also used the opportunity to inform the guests of the massive medical mission coming up before end of the year and other laboratory equipment being purchased to conduct quick medical tests for patients at all the Primary Health centres

across Mushin. In his vote of thanks, the supervisor for health, Femi Nuga, appreciated the guests present at the flag off and advised them to keep enlightening members of the public on the importance of the vaccine to the girl child within the age bracket. The head of Mushin Local Government Education Authority (LGEA), Princess Olufemi Akinlude, traditional rulers, community leaders, religious leaders, parents, market leaders and members of the public, were all in attendance to watch the young girls being immunized against cervical cancer in Mushin.

Bamigboye Flags off Cervical Cancer Vaccination

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye has joined the campaign towards protecting and securing the future of young girls against Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), which is known to cause at least 70% of cervical cancer.

The move was as part of government's efforts to control the persistent mortality rate caused by cervical cancer among women in Mushin Local Government and the country at large.

The flag off of the immunization was held at Megbon Primary School, in Mushin Local Government with the Chairman of the council urging parents to take action against this fatal illness that threatens to take young girls' lives and rob them of a happy future.

He further dispelled the myth and misleading impression being perpetrated against the vaccine. He advised parents to ignore the information, saying that the vaccination has no negative effects on the girl child's health.

The HPV vaccine which was introduced into the Routine Immunization System by the Federal Government on 24th October, 2023, to prevent Cervical Cancer among over 7.7 million girls between the ages of 9-14 years, was kicked off in Lagos by Wife of the Executive Governor, Dr. (Mrs) Ibijoke Sanwo - Olu, at Surulere on Monday 30th October, 2023.

Being the third most common cancer and second most frequent cause of cancer deaths among women between the ages of 15 - 44 years, cervical cancer has killed 8,000 Nigerian women out of the 12,000 cases recorded in the year 2020.

The five - day mass

vaccination exercise which commenced on Monday 30th October will end on Friday 3rd November, 2023 and will be conducted on girls between the ages of 9 - 14 years, at various locations across the communities.

The Chairman also used the opportunity to thank Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu for his support towards grassroot development and other developmental projects aimed at making life better for the people of Lagos State.

The council boss also used the opportunity to inform the guests of the massive medical mission coming up before end of the year and other laboratory equipment being purchased to conduct quick medical tests for patients at all the Primary Health centres across Mushin.

Bamigboye Unveils Plans For School Projects

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin Local Government (LG), Emmanuel Bamigboye has unveiled his plans for schools across the communities in the LGA. The council chairman revealed the plans for the schools after inspecting the Megbon primary school and promised to fix the dilapidated buildings in the school. Bamigboye promised to rehabilitate primary schools across Mushin which will include the distribution of first aid boxes to all the schools. He outlined the planned distribution of thousands of exercise books to primary school students to ease the burden of



providing writing materials from their parents. Bamigboye also made it known that, school bags will also be distributed to the primary school students as part of his efforts in support the educational needs of

the residents who are finding it difficult as inflation of commodities rises astronomically. The council boss added that, most schools in Mushin will experience a total rehabilitation process in order to make learning attractive to the students.



Oshodi-Isolo LCDA Secretariat Gets Befitting Face Lift

Kehinde Adeleye

Oshodi- Isolo Local government secretariat has begun rehabilitation work on the entrance of the council under the administration of the council Chairman, Mr. Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede.

The renovation was to allow the free flow of vehicular movements in and out of the council and to give the council a more befitting look to all and sundry.

Echo news gathered

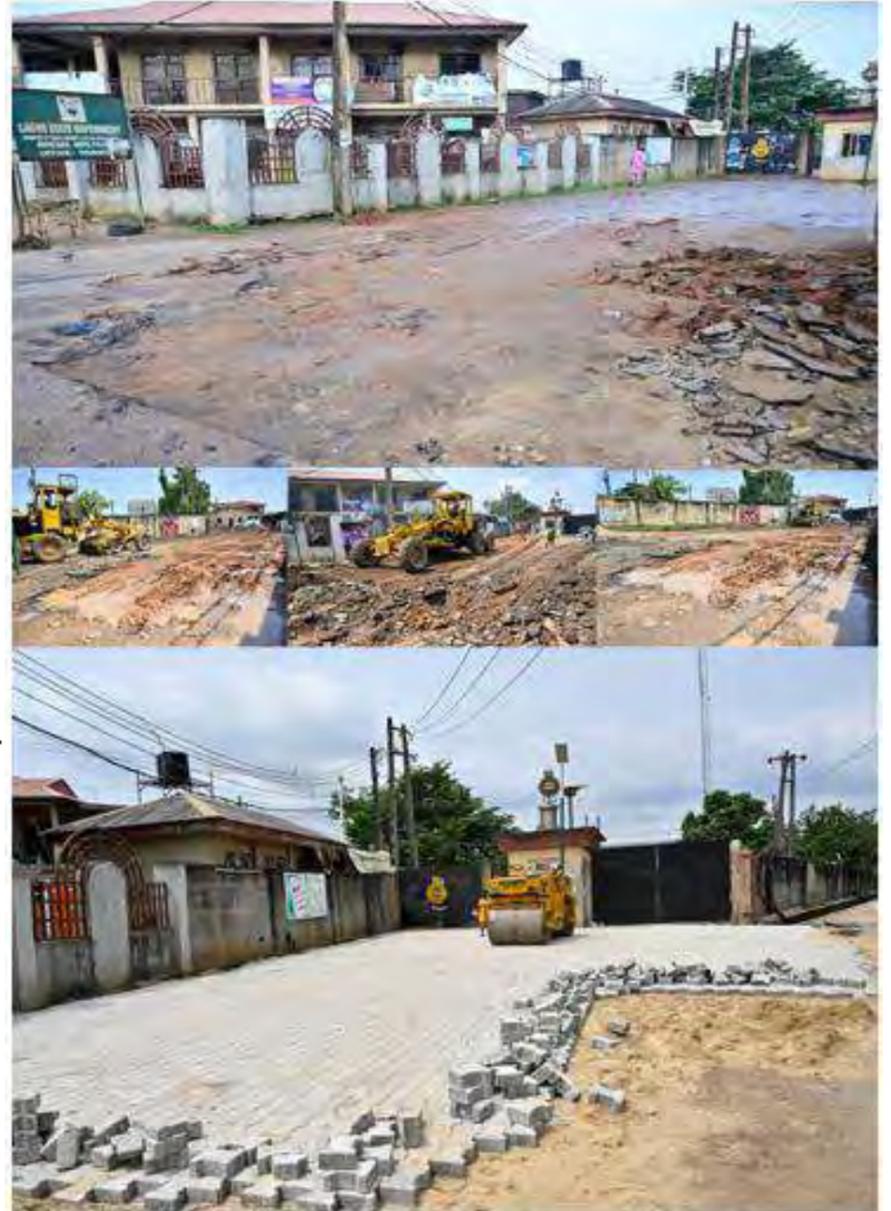
that the council secretariat entrance will be beautified with pavingstones

Oloyede, the council chair disclosed that the project is aimed at giving the local government Secretariat a facelift and making it easier to access.

He stressed that the entrance is the first point of contact to outsiders and there is a need to change it from the former dilapidated condition.

He said; "we have started rehabilitation

work on the entrance of our local government secretariat to make it motorable and appealing to visitors and outsiders, the entrance is their first point of contact and there is a need for us to change it. We will transform the outlook of the council to make it attractive to our people. This is just as we are not relenting in our efforts at giving a more befitting outlook to roads within our local government. We will not rest on our oars until the Oshodi of our dream is achieved."



Oshodi-Isolo Christian Pilgrims Hold Thanksgiving Service

Kehinde Adeleye



On November 1, 2023, the Oshodi Isolo local government group for the Christian pilgrimage had a thanksgiving service within the local government grounds' chapel. During the service, they expressed their gratitude to God for granting them journey mercies, Echo News Reports.

The party conveyed their joy and thanks to God for allowing them to travel safely after nearly becoming entangled in the Israel-Gaza conflict.

They also expressed gratitude to the Council Chairman for his efforts, generosity, and continuous attention to them during the trip.

Me. Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede, the Chairman of the local government, was represented by his Vice, Mrs. Modupe Badmus-Aregbe who oined them for the Thanksgiving service.

The council chairman through his Deputy expressed gratitude to God that the local

government was spared grief over the group of residents who went on the trip.

He begged them to pray more fervently for the prosperity of the state, the city administration, and the country at large.

Also present in the thanksgiving service includes; the Council Manager, Secretary to the local government, honourable councillors, Supervisors, staff members and well-wishers.

Insecurity: Oshodi-Isolo LG To Set Up Local Vigilante Group

Kehinde Adeleye

In order to create a peaceful and harmonious environment where sanctity of life will be protected and business will thrive unhindered, Oshodi-Isolo Local Government under the administration of Kehinde Almaroof Oloyede as Chairman is ready to setup a local vigilante group.

This will assist the security agencies in curbing the menace of cultism and cult clashes within the local government.

Echo news reports that on 24th, October 2023, the Chairman had received the United Youth of Mafoluku in his office, a move to fish out the bad apple among the youths causing mayhem in the community.

Our correspondent gathered that a youth walk was staged to sensitize the youth about effects of cultism and how it can

lead to their untimely death.

The Chairman made the intention to set up the vigilante group to combat insecurity in a commendation to the youth who had earlier staged a walk for a peaceful and united community.

The Oshodi Council Chair, via a press release made available by his media office, expressed happiness at the resolve of the youth to partner with the local government in putting perpetual end to the ugly tide of continuous cult clashes within the local government.

According to the council chairman, creating a vigilante group would be in addition to other security measures put in place by the local government. The vigilante group will be registered and will be well equipped with vehicles and other security gadgets to aid their smooth operations and make the local government safer.

He said; "I welcome the move by Mafoluku-Oshodi Youths and commend their walk towards enlightening the youth and eradicating the menace of cultism in our local government.

When I received their representatives in my office, I pledged our support to them, encouraged the move and gave them our total backing. I was particularly happy about the love and spirit of brotherhood that now exist amongst them. I reminded them that we are all brothers and Oshodi-Mafoluku is our home.

In continuation of the effort of our administration and in support of the walk aimed at sensitizing the youth, we shall set up a Local Government Vigilante Group which will be registered and will be equipped with vehicle and other security gadgets.

We shall continue in our efforts towards creating a peaceful environment where life and business can thrive."



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Poor Hygiene: Environmentalists Warns Lagos Island Markets

By Saheed Afolabi

The Lagos State ministry of environment has issued a warning to markets in Lagos Island Local Government (LG) to ensure the traders keep their markets clean always or face market closure.

Following the closure of some major market by the Lagos State Government on poor waste disposal practices and gross environmental sanitation offences, the Ministry of local government, chieftaincy affairs and rural development, led by the Director of Environment, Sanitarian Abolade

Akindele visited some markets in Lagos Island LG.

Akindele explained the importance of sanitation and fumigation for proper hygiene in the market places to the traders. He stated that the visit is important because most of the major markets visited by the state have been locked down on grounds of poor environmental sanitation, and penalties must be paid before the reopening, adding that marketers and their leaders need to be enlightened on the importance of cleanliness in the market place to avoid closure of more markets.

On the issue of certificate, they implored all the market leaders to make sure they have it, and those who already have theirs should renew it, because it might come handy for them to benefit from the government.

At the Oja Oba abattoir, Akindele appreciated the marketers for rebuilding their stalls, but complained about the absence of nets to prevent pest from perching on the meat they will sell to the community.

The Iya Oja of Maboreje market, Alhaja Jagun Agbaje appreciated the team for their time, stating



that they have a great relationship with LAWMA to clear their waste at every point in time and they have

made it a priority to fumigate the market quarterly.

The market leaders were given a week to

make adjustments where necessary including a general fumigation of all the markets.

Olusi Completes Moshalashi Road

The chairman of Lagos Island Local Government (LG), Prince Adetoyese Olusi has completed the construction of the Moshalashi street which was under construction few months ago.

Olusi said he's administration is putting all hands on deck to ensure infrastructural development are delivered to the residents of Lagos Island as he plans to fulfill his mandate to the people.

He revealed that construction is ongoing in some streets which will be completed soon.

The council chairman

appreciated the cooperation of residents and business owners for their indulgence during completion of projects.

"In the spirit of quality service delivery, and fulfilling on the mandate to the people in the area of infrastructural development, my administration is working assiduously to make Lagos Island a befitting place for all.

"Presently, work is ongoing at Agoro street with interlock stones, drainage work is in progress at Obun-Eko and Oju-olokun, while Moshalashi Street, Lagos Island has



Completed Moshalashi Road

been completed with interlock stones.

"We appreciate the

cooperation of shop owners and residents in these

areas thus far, and seek their indulgence as we

strive towards the timely completion of the projects."

Excitement as Onitire Gets Official Car on First Coronation Anniversary

Kehinde Adeleye



On Wednesday, 1st November 2023, excitement rent the air as the Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye presented an official car to His Royal Highness, Oba Tajudeen Ishola

Odubiyi, Onitire of Itire land at the Council Secretariat. Echo news gathered that the car gift was part of activities marking the first coronation anniversary of the Royal King to boost the celebration. According to reports, the vehicle was

presented to the king at the council premises. The King who was filled with joy prayed for the Council Chairman for the honour and gift. Echo news reports that some heads of department also received Sienna buses to boost their official operations in their

various departments. Those who were blessed with operational vehicles included; HOD Agriculture and Social Services - Mrs. Ronke Ogundiran, Internal Auditor - Mr. A.J Azeez, HOD Health & Medical Services - Dr. Kayode Odufuwa, HOD

Women Affairs & Poverty Alleviation - Mrs. Morenike Poroku and Clerk of the legislative Chamber - Mrs. Bukola Tijani. The management staff expressed their appreciation to the chairman and thanked him for motivating them with the unexpected

morale booster. The coronation anniversary which commenced on Monday 30th October, with various community activities including "Adire Day Celebration", will be rounded off, with a grand final finale on Sunday 5th November at the Itire community with funfair.

Lagos NPFL Commissioner, Kolapo Commends Kalli

By Saheed Afolabi

Lagos based Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) match commissioner, Doctor Kolapo has commended the chairman of the match commissioner

appointment committee, Alhaji Babagana Kalli for bringing innovative change to the league. Kolapo said the changes or innovation done by Alhaji Kalli will bring monumental improvement and development to the

NPFL. Doctor Kolapo added, the seminar, the retraining done to educate and enlightened the match commissioners really shaped them to be at par with their international colleagues. "If you watch a match the league from week one till now, you would

appreciate the fact that our match in the course of the game commissioners," he said "Some of us Alhaji Kalli for his commitment to the retraining recently growth and development of the league in the country." Kolade, who's also a medical practitioner lauded the NPFL body for passing through the storm to bring sanity into the NPFL.

Bet9ja Foundation Football Competition Set To Kickoff In Ejigbo

By Saheed Afolabi



The maiden edition of the Bet9ja Foundation Football Competition is set to kickoff in Ejigbo, Lagos. Tuesday, November Seven has

been fixed for the start of the competition geared towards exposing the young lads in the grassroots. Speaking to ECHONEWS, the organizer of the

championship and Super Agent of Bet9ja in Isolo, Okechukwu Ejimah said the purpose of the tournament is to provide a platform for youngsters to be

exposed. Ejimah popularly known as Okey, added that, FIFA licensed scouts will be around to monitor and single out the fantastic players of the tournament

who will be sponsored for trials in Europe. He revealed that, a link have been established with Jude Ighalo football club in Lagos so that some players career can go through

further enlightenment at the club. A total of 16 teams will participate in the tournament and over 300 players will trade tackles in the inaugural edition.

Sanwo-Olu: A Governor at work



By Gbenga Omotosho

When does a Governor sleep? No – I take that back; it’s wrongly framed. When does Mr Governor sleep? Sorry; I should be clearer and precise. When does Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu sleep? This is the question some of my professional colleagues have been asking me since last week. One observed that Mr Governor was at the Third West Africa Capital Market Conference at Eko Hotel early Wednesday. From there he moved to the opening of the magnificent Centre Point, a 20-storey edifice in Ikoyi, home of the rich and powerful that harbours what many experts have referred to as the most expensive real estate investments in Africa. Centre Point, owned by Famfa Oil, is the fourth tallest building in the Centre of Excellence. Sanwo-Olu’s presence was, of course, felt like a gentle wind blowing

from the nearby Bar Beach seaside. His usual sartorial elegance – he was decked out in a blue Oxford suit and a pair of Italian leather shoes – his beaming face and smart steps. A few minutes after speaking on how lucky Lagos has been in real estate and other key investments, he dashed off to the Central Mosque on Nnamdi Azikiwe Street in the heart of the city, downtown Lagos. “How did he remove his suit to appear in a white agbada at the mosque in just a few minutes?” “It’s part of the skills you learn on the job,” I told somebody who swore that Mr Governor must have gone back home to change his dress. Just a few minutes after leaving the mosque it was time to have a meeting with the Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr Tunji Alausa. The next day followed the same pattern – reception for M F M Basketballers, a



Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

meeting on LAGRIDE and other matters. Friday was also tedious, paving the way for some rest on Saturday. Rest? Not quite – no thanks to an army of visitors, many of them eminent personalities. “I need to rest. In fact, I haven’t eaten today,” said Mr Governor around 5.30 p.m. No food at 5.30p.m.? Yes. You learn that also. The job isn’t for the gluttonous. I had a few issues to discuss, but it’s

obviously no time for that. So, I left the State House a few minutes before 7p.m. Later that evening, the video of Mr Sanwo-Olu strutting down the runway – to the admiration of the excited audience - at a fashion show hit the social media. Sure he looks like a model – long legs, flat tummy, cherubic face, smart steps and more. But why the question; when does Mr Governor sleep? Simple. The picture of Mr Sanwo-

Olu, President and Chairman of African Import-Export Bank (Afreximbank) Prof Benedict Oramah and Access Bank Holdings CEO Herbert Wigwe signing a \$1.35b agreement for infrastructure at the 2nd Africcaribbean Trade and Investment Forum in Georgetown, Guyana on Tuesday hit the social media same day. It was splashed on the front pages of many newspapers on

Wednesday. Same day he was in Abuja, just a day before the opening of the Yaba-Ojuelegba bridge on Murtala Muhammed Way, part of the infrastructure built for the Red Line, which will run from Oyingbo to Agbado – before the end of this year. Back to the question – when does Mr Governor sleep? My answer? I really don’t know. Do you? • Omotoso is Commissioner for Information & Strategy, Lagos State



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