

FREE GCE FORMS TOP COUNCILS EDUCATION POLICY



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Free GCE forms top councils education policy

Chairmen of local governments and local council development areas in Lagos State are sponsoring more school leavers to re-take the General Certificate of Education, GCE Ordinary Level examinations.

Credits in five subjects at the examinations are required by higher institutions to admit to study for tertiary courses.

An Echonews investigation, initially set to discover how many councils fulfilled their constitutional obligations to fund primary education found out that most chairmen paid more attention to sponsoring students seeking to sit for the GCE than the capital projects that building and renovating schools entail.

The exceptions include Ejigbo LCDA, which flagged off registration of pupils to be admitted to its newest primary school, Ilamoshe Primary School recently; Bariga LCDA, which is building new blocks of classrooms at Igbehinadun and Adaranijo primary schools; Orile-Agege, which has built blocks of classrooms in 10 schools-Orile Agege, Saka Tinubu, Shiloh, Ladoje, IfeOluwa, Yewa, Araromi, Sacred Cherubum & Seraphim, Tabon Tabon and Ideal primary schools.

Others are Ijede which is building two blocks of six classrooms, toilets, perimeter fencing and computer centre for the pupils of Igbe-Ogunro Community Model Primary School; Ibeju-Lekki which built a block of six classrooms and a new administrative block for the Orimedu Community Primary School and Apapa which is rebuilding blocks of classrooms at Ijora Primary School in addition to tube wells and 27 new toilets in LadyLark primary school.

Also on the list is Eti-Osa



Hon. Essien distributes GCE form to indigent students

which built new blocks of classrooms at Ikota and Itedo primary schools; and Ibeju-Lekki which is building perimeter fences of Iberekodo and Labora primary schools.

Agboyi - Ketu built a block of nine classrooms at Alapere Primary School, a block of six classrooms at Irepodun Primary School and renovated Pastor Adegboyega Primary School. All of them were completed with excellent garbing of the school building with chairs and tables, an ICT center, conducive staff rooms, lavatory and a convenient library.

At Oriade, the council fixed a block six classrooms at the Local Authority School, Ibeshe.

Compared to the more expensive capital expenditure of classrooms, most councils opt for free GCE forms because they are cheaper and address the immediate needs of young school leavers.

According to Echonews

interviews with information officers of local governments across the state, the roll call of councils which sponsored beneficiaries in the last two years and the figures include Ifelodun, 1,000; Badagry, 1,000; Oshodi, 400; Kosofe, 300; Ejigbo, 250; Iru/Victoria Island, 250; Surulere, 200; Igbogbo-Baiyeku, 200; Iba, 200; Oriade, 200; Ikosi-Ejinrin, 200; and Ikorodu North, 200.

At N25,000 per form, the councils have committed huge sums to provide a brighter future for the youth. In addition, councils are providing school uniforms, chairs, desks and writing materials.

With the rising population in Lagos State, stakeholders are worried about insufficient schools to accommodate the persistent increase in the population of school-age children in the local government areas across the State.

Lagos is Africa's most populous city and its education system faces all of

the challenges of the fast-growing, vital mega city. Lagos State has the largest and strongest private sector in the country and this is obviously an area of strength and great potential to the state.

This is equally applicable to the education sector, where up to 60% of students attend private schools. While this reduces the task of the State Government in providing education for millions of children, it, however, presents major challenges both in public and private schools as, these children should benefit from quality education that prepares them to be strong, self-reliant, dynamic, democratic, egalitarian and full of bright opportunity for the society.

Although there are many challenges facing the state's basic education sector, there has been an improvement in the provision of infrastructure and equipment, library facilities, and staff capacity development lately.

Consequently, there is a gradual improvement in the performance of students in examinations. Also, the commitment and support of parents and the community have contributed to this improved performance.

As of December 2022, there were 1,075 public primary schools spread across the 20 LGs and 37 LCDAs in the state. And since 2019, according to LASUBEB, the population of primary school pupils in Lagos has been increasing by more than 30% annually.

When they were sworn in by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on July 27, 2021, the 20 Local Government and 37 Local Council Development Area (LCDA) chairmen made promises to be committed to the development of their various council areas in infrastructure, health, education, security, and other. Half time into the four year tenure, it is time for the residents to score their helmsmen.



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Lagos Inaugurates Essential Medicines List For Prevalent Health Conditions

By Kunle Awosiyani

Lagos State Government has reviewed, updated and launched new editions of the Lagos State Essential Medicines List (LEML) to help with the treatment of various medical conditions prevalent in the State and cater for basic healthcare needs of adults and children.

The launched LEML, which includes the third edition of the essential medicines list for adults and the first edition of the essential medicines list for children, consists of essential medicines for the management and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health services, mental health care, and emergency care.

Speaking at the official launch of the LEML to healthcare stakeholders in the State held at the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Alausa-Ikeja, the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Dr. Olusegun Ogboye explained that the new editions of LEML will satisfy the priority healthcare needs of the population.

He added that new essential medicines lists were reviewed and developed with due regard to disease prevalence, public health relevance, evidence of efficacy and safety, and comparative cost-effectiveness which are intended to be



available in the State health systems at all times, in appropriate dosage forms and assured quality.

Ogboye, who was represented by the Director of Medical Administration, Training and Programmes in the State Ministry of Health, Dr. Funmilayo Shokunbi further explained that the review, development and launch of the State essential medicines list which was done in collaboration with the Smile for Mothers Programme, will provide a platform for policymakers, healthcare providers, public health programme managers and implementing partners to determine and prioritise the medicine needs of Lagos State for the improvement of health outcomes.

The Permanent Secretary, who noted that the State essential medicines list was last reviewed in the year 2012, disclosed that the ever-changing health needs of Lagos State necessitated the review and upgrade of the adult list into a third edition and the development of the first edition for children list to meet the growing health needs of the State.

While officially unveiling the documents, Ogboye stated that the development of the lists involved a rigorous evaluation and an evidence-based analysis which was carried out in collaboration with a diverse range of healthcare experts who provided insights in line with the working of the Year 2020 National

Essential Medicines List (NEML).

He, however, assured that the State Government remains committed to ensuring it achieves the Universal Health Coverage goal, stressing that the State Government will not relent in putting in place policies, programmes and projects geared towards the provision of qualitative and sustainable healthcare delivery to achieve the UHC goal.

Earlier, the Director, Pharmaceutical Services, Lagos State Ministry of Health, Pharm. Oyebisi Omolambe noted that the review, upgrade and launch of the State essential medicine list is geared towards meeting the SDG goal 3.8, which seeks to achieve access to quality essential

healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

She appreciated the 'Smiles for Mothers Programme' and other relevant stakeholders who collaborated with the State Government in the realization of the comprehensive State essential medicines list, noting that the Lagos State government remains open to more productive collaborations geared towards strengthening the health system and improving health outcomes for the citizenry.

Speaking in the same vein, the State Lead, 'Smile for Mothers Programme', Dr. Damilola Oyedele restated the commitment to support governments

at the Federal and State levels in the reduction of maternal mortality and morbidity through partnerships that will create opportunities for the introduction of innovations that will positively impact health care delivery.

"We also want to use this opportunity to restate our commitment to supporting the Lagos State Government and the Government of Nigeria to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. We wish to continue to partner with the government to make policy changes to support the introduction of innovations and continue building the capacity of healthcare workers towards the goal of avoiding the death of women who are bringing life to the world", she said.

Lagos Unveils LAGFERRY'S E-Fleet Surveillance System

By Kunle Awosiyan

As part of deliberate efforts by the administration of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu in fulfilling its T. H. E. M. E. S PLUS Agenda to ensure sustainable water transportation service as a reliable mode of transportation, in the matrix of Multi-Modal Public Transportation Systems of Rail, Road and Water, the Lagos State Government is adopting technology-driven water transportation with the unveiling of the Lagos Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) Electronic Fleet (E-Fleet) Surveillance System.

According to LAGFERRY's Managing Director, Hon. Abdoulbaq Ladi Balogun, the system was conceptualised to drive home the innovative dexterity of the present administration and justifies the steady investments by the State Government to make life abundantly meaningful for residents of Lagos State. This is one of the hallmarks of the resilience of the smart, megacity which Lagos typifies. He said, "The E-Fleet Surveillance System,

known as E-Fleet, is a functional real-time technology that tracks ferries and provides vital information, including the location, speed, condition and surrounding environment of the boats. This information will enable LAGFERRY to monitor and manage the operations of its fleet effectively 24/7, ensure passenger safety and confidence through installed tracking cameras, leading to improve ridership and help in the management of fuel to achieve maximum value".

Speaking further on the significance of the E-Fleet Surveillance System, he averred that it is a milestone in the State Government's drive towards a sustainable and efficient water transportation system that is in line with its goal to reduce traffic congestion on our roads and promote a multi-modal transportation system.

"As water Transportation is gradually becoming a culture among Lagosians, the adoption of technology-driven water transportation is a significant step in our efforts to

modernise our transportation system. This is expected to provide a more convenient and safer mode of transportation for residents and visitors to the city, reduce road traffic congestion, harvest reliable data, contribute to the overall economic growth of the state and ensure sustainable water transportation system as the next frontier for Lagos Economy", he stated.

While informing that the E-Fleet System will enhance safety control, ensure speedy response to emergencies and reinforce the passengers' confidence in water transportation. Balogun explained that the adoption of the technology will undoubtedly strengthen its Agency's capacity to deliver on its mandate.

The Managing Director maintained that the E-Fleet Surveillance System, is a robust technology which provides data on water traffic, boats performance, weather conditions, and other important information. It has its control centre at the Agency's Operation

Base at Mile 2 Terminal and is being constantly monitored by trained and competent professionals to underscore the commitment of the government to establish the industry's standards in providing conducive environment for private sector investments.

LAGFERRY, which Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu relaunched its commercial operations in February 2020 from Badore Terminal in Eti-Osa Local Government, has been steadily growing its fleet of watercraft to improve the water transportation infrastructure in Lagos.

With the adoption of the milestone E-Fleet Surveillance System, the first of its kind by any Ferry Operator in sub-saharan Africa, LAGFERRY is well-positioned to provide safe, reliable and efficient water transportation services to millions of people in Lagos and strive to achieve the Traffic Management and Transportation pillar of development as enshrined in the T. H. E. M. E. S PLUS Agenda.

Lagos OEQA Receives ZDouble ISO Certifications

... First Government Educational Agency in Africa to Receive Both

By Kunle Awosiyan

The Lagos State Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA) has become the first government educational regulatory agency in Africa to receive both ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 21001:2018 certifications, setting the record for the first State Educational Agency in Nigeria to receive an ISO certification.

The ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 21001:2018 certifications are for "The Services of Regulating Pre-Tertiary Education in Lagos State through Inspection, Monitoring, Assessment and Providing Assurance of Good Quality Educational Services Related to Teaching and Learning". Sharing the outstanding achievement on Wednesday, the Director-General, Lagos State Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), Mrs. Abiola Seriki-Ayeni noted that the certifications show the important strides the agency has taken in revolutionising the education sector in Africa. "We have curated learning outcomes to inspire intellectual growth for our students and our quest for excellence has made us the first government educational agency in Africa to receive both prestigious ISO certifications. It is a truly historic achievement for us", she noted.

She further stated that the obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification validated the agency's exceptional quality in regulating pre-tertiary education in Lagos State while the ISO 21001:2018 reinforces the dedication to student-centeredness and good

quality educational services.

She pointed out that these accomplishments mark extraordinary firsts for Nigeria and Africa, highlighting the agency's unwavering commitment to bolstering educational standards and transforming educational landscapes.

The DG also re-emphasised the commitment of the agency to pursue excellence in its mandate, noting that this recognition will inspire it to continue pushing boundaries, making groundbreaking strides, and reshaping the education system for each learner's betterment.

She stated that the State Government places a high premium on quality education which is why education forms a major pillar in the development agenda of the Administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. She also appreciated the State Government for investing so much in the education sector by providing infrastructure which has brought much improvement and development in teaching and learning in schools. Seriki-Ayeni further sought the support of stakeholders in achieving its mandate and building on its immense achievements.

"With your support, we will empower our students with the best education and equip them with the necessary skills to excel. Let us rejoice in these achievements and set our sights on the journey ahead, towards an educational revolution that will create lasting impact", she enthused.



Sanwo-Olu's Cabinet: CAN, Lagos Muslims, Ikorodu Division Disagree

By Kunle Awosiyan

In two days between Monday and Tuesday last week, the Lagos

State House of Assembly screened 39 nominees sent by the state Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for confirmation as members of the state Executive Council.

Unlike the senate screening of President Bola Tinubu's nominees that attracted great media attention, the Lagos Assembly made silent noise about the screening of Sanwo-Olu's nominees.

However, concerned residents and stakeholders made loud noise against and for the list sent to the assembly.

Prior to the screening, a group of business and political elite with the name Ikorodu Division Apex Leaders published in the Punch Newspaper of August 7, 2023 a petition against the governor, pointing out his lopsided appointment in the list sent to the house of assembly.

Signed by the former state deputy governor, Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, the group comprising 60 members called on the governor to urgently increase the numbers of the division on the list.

The petition with the title, "Ikorodu Division Demand Equity, Fairness and Justice" the group demanded for three slots in the list of nominees forwarded to the assembly.

The group pleaded for the stoppage of an alleged discrimination against people of the Ikorodu Division by the government of Sanwo-Olu as it emphasized on less inclusion of its

people in the inauguration committee that ushered in the governor for the second term.

It demanded utmost respect for political leaders of the Ikorodu from the governor as it called on Sanwo-Olu to do the needful about the list.

However, Echonews gathered that the governor had considered the demands of the elite and would be sending a second list to include candidates from Ikorodu Division.

But the noise from Ikorodu has barely subsided when the Lagos Muslims hit the road to protest against the list as it file a petition to the lawmakers over Sanwo-Olu's commissioners list. This group comprises heads of various Islamic Organisations and scholars under the umbrella of the Lagos Muslim Community.

(One of the petitions published by Ikorodu leaders)

The group describe (Assembly Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa)

and the list of commissioner designates as official marginalisation of the Muslim community in Lagos.

According to them, the commissioners list released by Governor Sanwo-Olu has eight Muslims, and 31 Christians.

In the petition, submitted to the assembly and titled, "Discrimination against Muslims in the Nomination of Commissioners" the President, Muslim Community of Lagos State, Prof. Tajudeen .G.O. Gbadamosi, reads, "We are here today to express our grievance



Gov Babajide Sanwo-Olu

and dissatisfaction against the blatant disregard for justice, equity and fairness in the proposed Lagos State' Executive cabinet as contained in the list of commissioners submitted by Governor Sanwo-Olu to this honorable House for your screening and confirmation.

"As you are aware, the list is a classic case of discrimination and religious bigotry, as it has 31 nominees who are of the Christian faith and only eight (8) nominees who are Muslims. This is not a new development, especially since Governor Sanwo-Olu assumed leadership of this State, as a matter of fact, it is has been elevated to a level of official state policy to deny Muslims their deserved positions under the Sanwo-Olu administration.

"For instance, in 2019, when Mr. Sanwo-Olu became governor, he appointed 14 Special Advisers, and only one

(1) among them was a Muslim. Again, his State Executive Council, which had 43 members, only 14 were Muslims, and the remaining 29 were Christians.

"Also, of the 23 commissioners, 10 were Muslims and 13 of them Christians. Only 15 Muslims, with 35 Christians, made up the body of 50 Permanent Secretaries in his first term. These are just a few among numerous ways in which the Sanwo-Olu administration deny Muslims in this state their rightful place and number in leadership."

The petition further reads, "The Rt. Hon. Speaker and honorable members, we want you to note that this list from Governor Sanwo-Olu violates the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria particularly Section 14(4) and is further strengthened by section 192(2) both stating as follows.

"The composition of the Government of a State, a

local government council, or any of the agencies of such Government or council, and the conduct of the affairs of the Government or council or such agencies shall be carried out in such manner as to recognise the diversity of the people within its area of authority and the need to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the peoples of the Federation."

"192(2) Any appointment to the office of Commissioner of the Government of a State shall, if the nomination of any person to such office is confirmed by the House of Assembly of the State, be made by the Governor of that State and in making any such appointment the Governor shall conform with the provisions of section 14(4) of this Constitution."

It reads, "With due respect Governor Sanwo-Olu's list clearly violates these provisions of the Constitution and we accordingly call upon

this honorable House not to endorse any action that violates our national grundnorm, especially one which equally violates good conscience and natural justice.

"The argument that Muslims have more elected officials in Lagos State in preposterous. This is even more so at a time when all the Six (6) Governors of the southwest are Christians and we the Muslims do not complain about this, because we recognise that they contested for offices and won.

"Why must Muslims in Lagos State always beg and fight for their constitutional rights especially since Mr Sanwo-olu became Governor? We recall with utmost sadness really, that until the Supreme Court ruled in favour of hijab for our school girls, successive Lagos Governments, never felt it should endeavor to align with the global best practice of accepting hijab in addition to abiding with the rule of law.

Sanwo-Olu's Cabinet: CAN, Lagos Muslims, Ikorodu Division Disagree



RT. Hon Mudashiru Obasa

“The historic pro-hijab judgement was delivered in March 2022 and globally acknowledged. However, Governor Sanwo-Olu's government in its peculiar idiosyncrasy chose to ignore this until a year later, after ceaseless pressure was mounted by well-meaning individuals.” “We the Muslims of, and in Lagos State wish to categorically state that the entire leadership of the Muslim Community of Lagos State representing various Muslim organizations, unequivocally and unanimously reject the list of commissioner-designates of Governor Sanwo-Olu and we demand a reversal and review to reflect 60% in favour of Muslims in a fresh list.

“We call on the Lagos State House of Assembly to reject the list as similarly done in the Niger State House of Assembly, where a noticeably minority

Christian population demanded a reversal of the list of commissioners to reflect fairness and equity to them.

“We also call on you and the House of Assembly to impress on the government the need to respect the diversity of the state's population and to appoint a more representative cabinet. We believe that this is essential for the future stability and prosperity of Lagos State.”

However, the Christian Association of Nigeria swiftly reacted to the Muslims as it rose to Sanwo-Olu's defence on cabinet nominees list and dismissed complaints by the Muslims.

While the screening was about to start on Monday, CAN organized a press conference where it condemned the Muslims agitation and threw its weight behind Sanwo-Olu. Speaking at the

conference, the Lagos State Chairman of CAN, Rt. Rev. Dr Stephen 'Tunde Victor Adegbite, endorsed the list.

He said. “As you are aware, consequent upon the list of 39 cabinet nominees of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu which was sent to the Lagos State House of Assembly on Friday, 28th July, 2023 for screening and confirmation, a coalition of over 30 Muslim groups under the aegis of Joint Muslims Forum (JMF), rejected the proposed cabinet nominees list. They hinged their dissatisfaction on the fact that, out of the 39 cabinet nominees, only 8 are Muslims with the rest as Christians. This came about a week after another Muslim rights advocacy group, Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), had condemned the cabinet nominees list

describing it as illegal, adding that it failed to be fair to the Muslim population in the state.

“We would like to make abundantly clear, that these remarks and actions are not only distasteful and way out of line; they are deeply condescending and we refuse to accept any form of faith and religious-based bullying behaviour neither would any semblance of such under whatever guise be tolerated. It would not be an exaggeration to say Lagos has enjoyed immense peace and prosperity over these years because the managers of its affairs amongst many other key elements have worked tirelessly to insulate the state from any form of religious intolerance or anything close to it. It is imperative to remind the purveyors of these unfortunate divisive rhetoric and

toxic narratives, that, the success story of Lagos which today is regarded as a model of a place where people have lived like family and still live as such despite belonging to different faith, creed, beliefs and ethnic backgrounds is a function of respect and commitment to the principles of peaceful coexistence and not for lack of divergent opinion or perspectives on issues that concerns us all including political views and others related to it.

“As provided for in our laws, it is within the purview of Mr. Governor, after relevant consultations and objective considerations to put forward a list of cabinet nominees whose choice as expected should be based purely on merit, competence, capacity and sufficient capabilities to deliver on the set goals and objectives of the government and not on their faith or religious affiliations. For any group, organisation or persons to now turn such list of political nominees into a religious or faith based conversation is uncharitable and should be condemned in its entirety.”

He added that “It is on record, that some members of the Christian community like myself and other good people of faith supported and worked for the victory of the much attacked muslim-muslim ticket of President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON. This was not done for any personal gain but out of conviction of what

they could do to transform the fortunes of our country, a pathway that is slowly but firmly being charted. Religion or faith was not on the front burner while doing this but a corporate interest that we are certain will be rewarded with good governance and dividends of democracy. Similarly, in electing the current Speaker of the State House of Assembly (leader of the Legislature) and the appointment of the present Chief Judge of the State (the head of the Judiciary), no member of the Christian community demanded that faith or religion should be a criteria rather, competence and their ranking was used.

“Today, the 3 serving Distinguished Senators representing the 3 Senatorial Districts of the State in the 10th Senate are Muslims. It is a fact, that those who voted for them include members of the Christian community in their constituencies. Religion or faith wasn't a basis for their choice. In addition to this, over 60 per cent of the 24 members elected into the 10th House of Representatives from Lagos are Muslims. Same can be said of the 40 member Lagos State House of Assembly. And during their swearing-in, there was no demand that unless an equal number of members are Christians, they must not be sworn-in as prescribed by law. One then wonders why the list of cabinet nominees should be subjected to issues of religion and faith when the Christian community has never and would never such mundane demands.

Sanwo-Olu's Cabinet: CAN, Lagos Muslims, Ikorodu Division Disagree

"We hereby urge the Lagos State House of Assembly to peacefully continue the constitutional process of screening and confirmation of the nominees which they started yesterday, Sunday 13th August, 2023 and not give ears to or be swayed in anyway by the incongruous and unsavoury demands by this group of persons. We also plead with well-meaning citizens of the state to kindly

disregard any call that is capable of igniting religious emotions and sentiments. We promise to continue to pray and support our governments at all levels including our state for them to meet the yearnings and expectations of the citizenry that voted them into power without any religious bias but that believe and trust that they can deliver."

Recall that governor Sanwo-Olu sent the list

of 39 nominees of his proposed cabinet members to the Lagos State House of Assembly for ratification in July.

According to the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Gboyega Akosile the list consists 30 percent women, while others are youths, technocrats, and politicians. Some members of the governor's cabinet during his first term in office made the list, while several others

were dropped.

Among the former cabinet members who made the list are former Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso; his Budget and Economic Planning counterpart, Mr. Sam Egube; ex-Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi; ex-Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Aramide Adeyooye; and his Education counterpart,

Tokunbo Wahab.

Meanwhile, A 12-man Ad-hoc Committee recently set up by the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, has concluded the screening of cabinet nominees sent to the House by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The exercise which lasted between Sunday and Wednesday night saw the committee members screening 39 nominees to ascertain their capacities and preparedness for the job if eventually confirmed.

Speaking at the end of the exercise, its Chairman, Hon. Mojeed Fatai, described the screening as a successful exercise saying the members asked questions that obtained responses that would help with the right recommendations.

"Today, the 16th day of August, 2023 marks the closing day of the assignment given to us by the House to screen the Governor's nominees.

"Each day, we have spent over ten hours questioning the nominees for the position of commissioners and special advisers for the Lagos State Governor's cabinet," Hon. Fatai, who is the Chief Whip of the House, said.

The Committee chairman said a report would be submitted to the larger House immediately for further action.

"I stated at the beginning of this exercise that each nominee would be treated fairly and I am

happy to say that we delivered.

"The exercise was given live coverage so that people can see it from any part of the world," he said.

The Deputy Majority Leader of the House, Hon. Adedamola Richard Kasunmu, also confirmed that the task of the committee was done.

"At this point, let me express that the committee does not have the power to confirm or reject any nominee.

"I wish all of them success and remind them of their promises if confirmed," he said.

The nominees include Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, Hon. Layode Ibrahim, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, Dr. Jide Babatunde, Mr. Rotimi Ogunwuyi, Mr. Gbenga Oyerinde, Mr. Lawal Pedro SAN, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende, Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu and Engr. Aramide Adeyoye.

Others are Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, Mr. Mosopefolu George, Mr. Abdulkabir Ogungbo, Engr. Abiola Olowu, Dr. Adegunle Olayinka, Mr. Idris Aregbe, Mr. Yakub Adedayo Alebiosu, Hon. Bola Olumegbon, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih-Awokoya, Prof. Akin Abayomi, Ms. Barakat Bakare, Mr. Kayode Bolaji-Roberts, Mr. Seun Osiyemi, Mr. Moruf Akinderu Fatai, Mr. Gbenga Omotosho, Engr. Olalere Odusote, Dr. Rotimi Fashola, Mrs. Bolaji Cecilia Dada, Mr. Tunbosun Alake, Dr. Dolapo Fasawe, Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo, Ms. Abisola Ruth Olusanya, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose, Dr. Olumide Oluyinka, Mr. Yomi Oluyomi, Mr. Sam Egube, Mr. Olalekan Fatodu and Mrs. Solape Hammond.



One of the petitions published by Ikorodu leaders



Enrolment! Enrolment!

Enrolment!

Ejigbo LCDA

**Hereby Invites Interested
Parents And Guardian**

To Register Thier

**Children / Wards At The Newly
Established Primary School**

At January 27th Road ,

In Ilamose Ward

Ejigbo LCDA

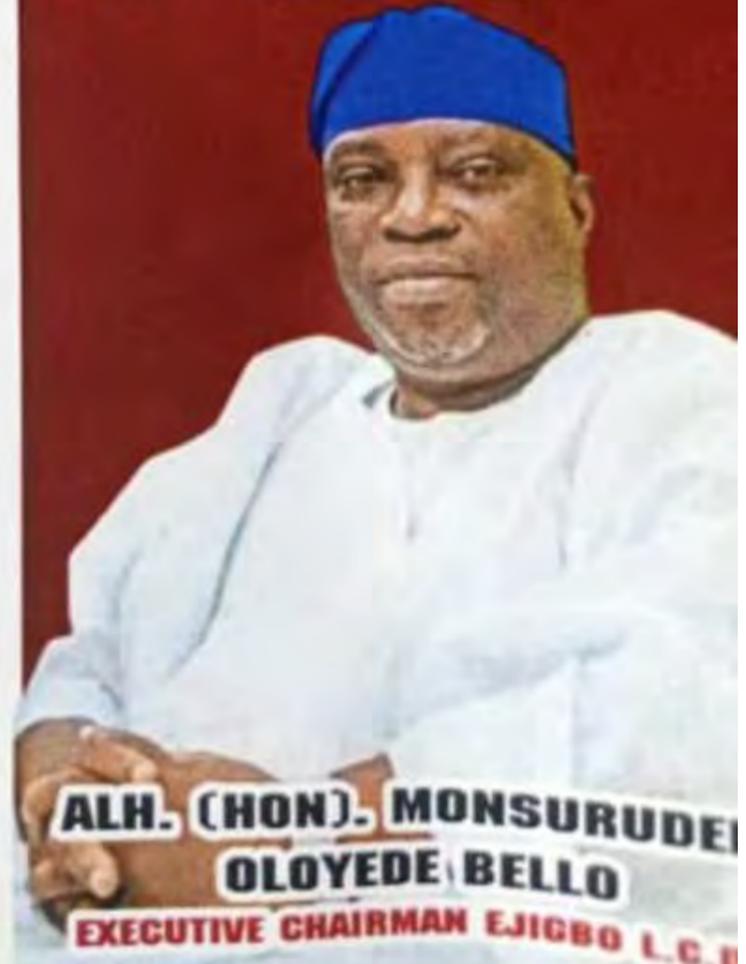
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080232609

Brace Up For The Current Socio-Economic Realities, Sanwo-Olu Tells Public Relations practitioners

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has called on Public Relations practitioners to brace up for the responsibilities that the current socio-economic realities have put on their shoulders.

He said this at the 17th International Public Relations Congress tagged, "Rebuilding Trust, Mutual Understanding and Harmony For National Development". held at Caesar's Luxury Hotel, Lekki.

The Governor implored Public Relations practitioners to develop strategies that will not only enable the citizens to trust and understand the government but to also make the needed sacrifice.

The Governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin' added that leaders must equally demonstrate

genuine and sincere commitment to the plight of the people by being accountable and transparent in the implementation process.

He said the theme of the Congress was apt given the current global challenges that are making the government take difficult and painful decisions necessary to reposition their economies on the part of sustainable growth.

Sanwo-Olu said, "One of the greatest challenges most governments and policymakers are indeed facing at this time is to secure the understanding and support of the citizenry, assuring them that the reforms that are being implemented will yield desired positive results"

He, therefore urged PR practitioners to deploy their expertise and



(Participants at the PPP summit)

experience in managing and shaping people's perspectives regarding government policies and programmes.

The President, Businesses Education

Examination Council, Mazi Mike Okereke in his welcome address, said the aim of the Congress is to update the skills of PR practitioners in order to effectively address

reputation management issues and challenges. The best practices he explained will further drive state policies and programmes,

including national development plans and strategies.

The three-day Congress has experienced and practical-oriented PR practitioners as faculties.

Climate Change: Lagos Govt Unfolds Plans To Mitigate Effect

In a bid to combat and mitigate the effects of climate change in Lagos State, the Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has restated his administration's commitment to working closely with experts, organisations, and the global community to ensure that the State remains at the forefront of climate action in the country.

Sanwo-Olu stated this today at the 10th Summit of the Association of Lagos State Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries (ALARHOSPS) with the theme "Climate Change: Man, Nature, and Threat to Life: Lagos State, a Case Study", held at the Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja.

Speaking through the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, the Governor noted that Lagos State, as a dynamic and vibrant hub, as well as a littoral State, faces unique challenges when it comes to climate change.

Also, the complex interplay between urban development, population growth, and environmental preservation demands innovative solutions and decisive action. According to Sanwo-Olu, the fight against climate change is a journey, not a destination, saying "While we have made significant progress, there is still much work to be done, since the challenges faced demand continuous innovation, collaboration and adaptation".

He urged stakeholders that include government agencies, civil society, the private sector and citizens to join hands in the critical endeavour of Climate change, as it knows no boundaries, and its impacts spare no one, adding that the power of collective action will help to create a sustainable and secure future for everyone and generations to come.

The Governor also stated that one of the cornerstones of his administration's approach to



combat the effect of climate change in Lagos has been the promotion of sustainable practices and policies across various sectors. He said the state has actively engaged in initiatives that encourage responsible waste management, reduce carbon emissions, and increase energy efficiency which is a major objective of the energy transition plan

For instance, in 2018, the State Government developed the climate action plan, which is targeted at ensuring that the state achieves net zero by 2050. In addition, the state was willing to build resilient infrastructure in all public

spectrums that will see an immediate response to climate threats, ensure that the state has resilient communities, and be able to protect the vulnerable groups in our society.

Besides, he stated that part of the 38 projects in the climate change plan is to build an 18 km embankment and sea walls which would protect over 2.7 million people, with 700,000 of whom are vulnerable populations, through more partnerships. He noted that his administration planned to attract low-cost public funding, and possible commercial investment to support its resilient journey.

In the realm of urban planning, the state has incorporated climate resilience into its development strategies through investments in flood control infrastructure, sustainable transportation systems, and green spaces underscoring its dedication to building a more climate-resilient Lagos that prioritises the well-being of residents.

Furthermore, understanding that education and awareness are key to driving change, the state has launched comprehensive campaigns to educate citizens about climate change and the roles they can play in addressing the issue, by fostering a sense of environmental responsibility and sustainability, we aim to create a groundswell of support for collective action.

In his remark, the Lagos State Head of Service, Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola said that Lagos is a beacon of proactive change; a model for responsible coexistence with its environment becoming a testament to the present administration's commitment to safeguarding life on earth.

He added that in combating the challenges of climate change in Lagos State, the administration of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu in the year 2020, unveiled a five years Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2020-2025 with the ultimate goal geared toward achieving a zero-carbon Lagos, with the expectation of transforming the State into emission-neutral city by 2050.

In his welcome address, the President of the Association of the Lagos State Retired Heads of Service and Permanent Secretaries (ALARHOSPS), Dr. Olufemi Olugbile stated that the summit arose as a mechanism for the association to fulfilling its mandate as a Think-Tank for the government and the good people of Lagos State.

Dr. Olufemi said, "It is my hope that the deliberations over the next couple of days will provide a useful guide on how we as a society navigate the terrain that we find ourselves in concerning this crucial matter, and that lives of our people will be assured, enhanced, and greatly enriched as a result of our collective effort".

Equip Yourself With Academic Tools, Lagos Permanent Secretary Tells LASUIS Graduands

The Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Housing, Mr. Olowosago Damilola has charged all the graduating students of Lagos State University International School (LASUIS) to equip themselves with academic toolbox. He gave the advice at the 5th Valedictory Service of the school in his paper "Navigating uncertainty; embracing the future with confidence and resilience".



(From right: Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof S.O. Makinde, Chairman, LASUIS Board, Prof Ayodeji Badejo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Housing, Mr Damilola Olowosago, and Principal LASUIS, Mr Taiwo Odumbo)

He counselled the graduands and students to continue to be good ambassadors of the University's International School and be law-abiding as these will further make them excel in their future endeavors. His words, "...Your knowledge, attitude, skills, passion, environmental and

parental teachings will help shape up your future." Adding that they should be self confident, determined, resilient and have a good picture of what their future will look like.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Ibilola Olatunji-Bello, mni, NPOM who was ably

represented by the Dean, Faculty of Education, Prof. S. O. Makinde, in her opening remarks felicitated the Chairman, Prof. Ayodeji O. Badejo, members of the LASU International School Board, staff and students of the school on the occasion of the 5th valedictory service. Prof. Olatunji-Bello, mni,

NPOM averred that the university will continue to support the international school by making their learning environment very conducive, provide facilities to learn and world class teachers that will equip the students with the right teachings needed to navigate in the

contemporary world of uncertainty.

The Chairman, Lagos State University International School Board, Prof Ayodeji O. Badejo in her speech congratulated all the graduands and students on the occasion and urged the students to continue to represent the School positively.

Prof. Badejo also counselled the graduands to be worthy ambassadors and to shun what could bring the name of the school to ridicule.

The Counselling Psychologist further advised them not be pressurized to take courses because their friends are taking it, but follow their capability and what they can excel in.

While appreciating the parents/guardians of the students, she equally thanked the University Management for giving the board members

another term to serve the international school.

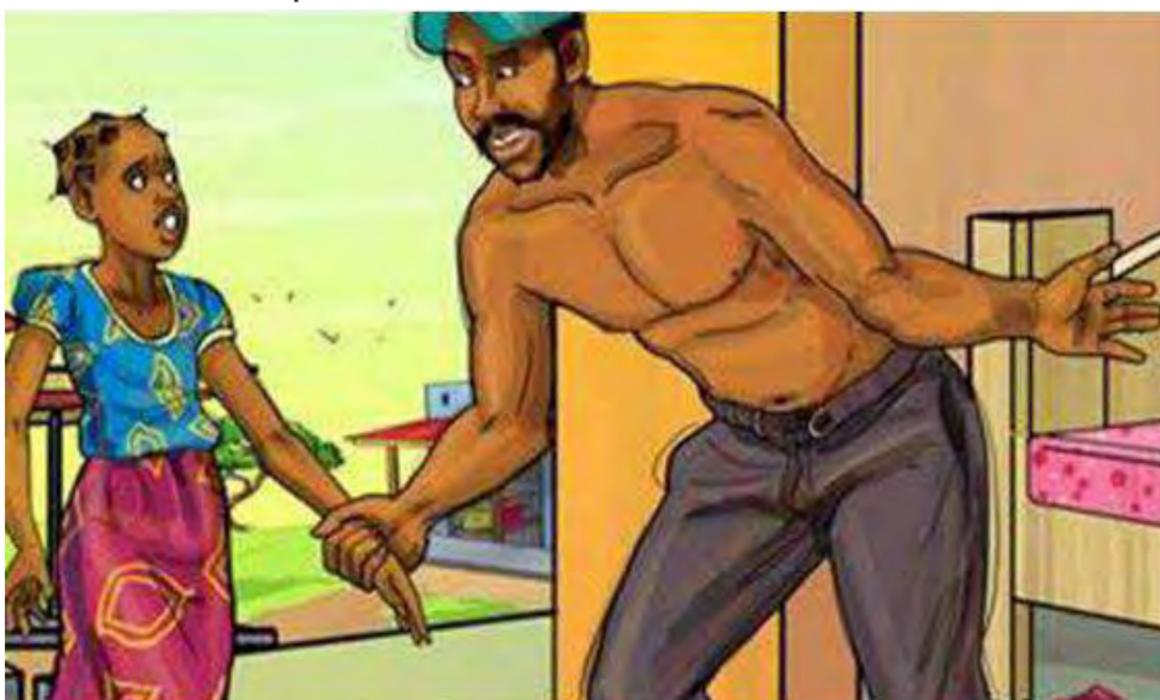
The Chairman, Parent/Teachers Association, Alhaji Lawal Fagbo also congratulated the graduands, students, principal, members of staff, chairman and members of the LASUIS Board, Management of Lagos State University and appreciated the Parents/Guardians for attending the ceremony.

The Principal, Mr. Odumbo Taiwo applauded the Board of LASUIS, University Management, parents and guardians, and members of staff for their unwavering support.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of awards of well behaved students, well dressed, overall best students, best in sports and most outstanding students in each classes.

The well attended event was graced by parents and guardians of the LASU International School students.

Office of Public Defender Rescues Victims of Defilement ...Hands Suspect to Police



The Lagos State Office of the Public Defender (OPD) recently rescued four young victims of

defilement in Ikorodu area of the State while a suspect named Sunday Fatoba (41 years) has been

arrested by officers of the Nigeria Police in connection with the incident.

Speaking on the incident, the Director, Lagos State Office of the Public Defender (OPD),

Mrs. Olubunmi Adesomoju said the suspect was alleged to have had regular intercourse with the victims whose ages are between 11 and 14 years.

She explained that the arrest of the suspect was made possible through the efforts of concerned members of the public and community leaders who collaborated with the Nigeria Police, Igbogbo, to effect the arrest of the suspect and assist with the ongoing investigation. The Director commended the community leaders and

residents for standing by the law to promote justice for the victims.

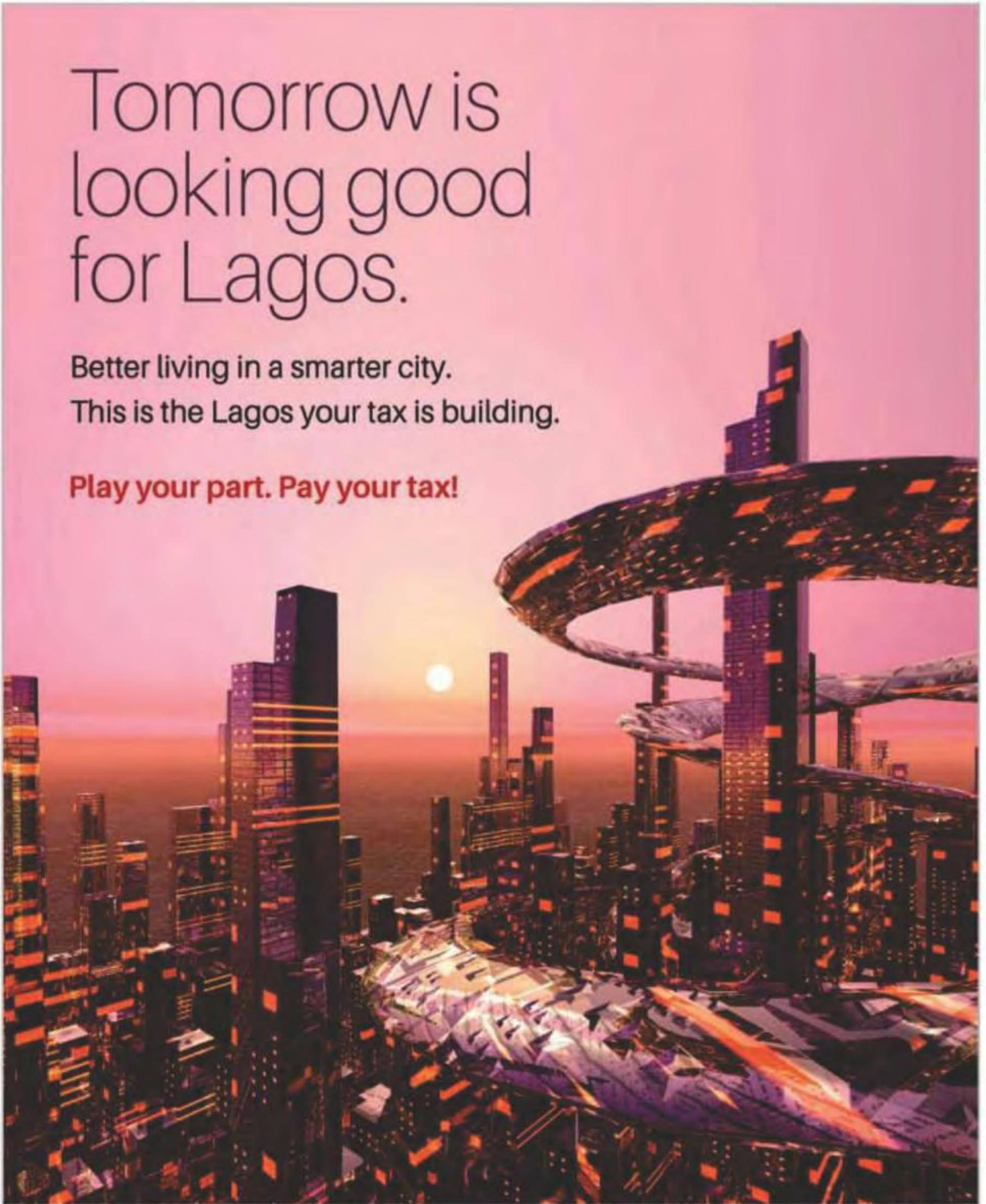
Adesomoju urged community leaders and citizens within the State to join hands with the OPD in the fight against the violation of human rights, support protection of the vulnerable in the society and report cases of rape and defilement to the nearest office of the OPD.

She assured members of the public that any information given by them would be attended to promptly and with utmost confidentiality, while the identity of such informant would be protected.

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Oshodi-Isolo LG Calls Property Owners For Urgent Action On Distressed Buildings

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Otunba Kehinde Oloyede has called on property owners and concerned persons to take proactive steps and act fast on distressed buildings for the safety of lives and their properties.

The call was made as the final notice was issued by the Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development via Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) to landlords of distressed buildings in Oshodi.

“This is a call to the landlords/developers of the affected

buildings to act fast in the interest of public safety and protection of their properties. I also want to implore our people that are currently living in such buildings to move out as soon as possible for the sake of their lives. We don't want to record any form of avoidable disaster in our local government.”

In the notice released,

LASBCA reported 19 buildings to be exhibiting signs of distress within the local government and has issued notices to the concerned landlords/developers to carry out Non-Destructive Tests (NDT) on the structures to ascertain their structural stability.

And if the structures turn out to be unfit for habitation, a Demolition Permit should be obtained from the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) to remove the structures in the interest of public safety.

The notice further stated that a time frame of 90 days is given after the publication of the notice for the conduct of (NDT), re-engineering, or removal of the identified Structures that are exhibiting signs of distress.

Failure to comply, LASBCA stated not to hesitate to remove the structures in the interest of public safety and line with the regulatory provisions of the Law.

According to the

notice, where structures are removed by the Agency, the cost of removal will be recovered from the owner/developer as required by the Law.

Oloyede noted with concern that many of the identified buildings are currently being occupied by tenants.

He urged the people living in such buildings to accelerate their plans to evacuate, noting that their safety remains a top priority of the government.

He disclosed that the local government has never witnessed any building collapse leading to loss of lives and he

intends to keep it that way.

Oloyede also charged the owners of such properties to adhere strictly to the directive of LASBCA in conducting the N-D Test for the result to inform them what to do either renovation, re-engineering, or total removal of the structure.

He reminded them that collapsed buildings leading to loss of lives will be taken over by the government.

He finally assured them of the readiness of the local government to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Okanlawon Emerges New Oshodi CDA Chairman

By Rasaq Adebayo



Oshodi CDA New executive members

Oshodi Community Development Association (CDA) has elected new executive officers according to the directive of the Lagos State Government that every (CDA) should elect other officers.

After the election was conducted, Mr. Yusuf Okanlawon emerged as the new chairman with 20 votes.

Three people contested for the chairmanship position in Teresa School Akinosho Street, including the incumbent chairman, Mr. Nurani Lawal.

The total vote count revealed Okanlawon as the winner with 20 votes, Mr. Habeeb Dosunmu took the

second position with 8 votes while the incumbent chairman got just one vote.

The election was anchored under the supervision of the caretaker committee and the outgoing secretary, Mr. Ole.

Representative of the Agriculture Department of the Local Government, Mr. Senami Akinlolu gave the new executive members guidance on how to work together for the continued growth of the committee.

The newly elected chairman, Okanlawon pledged to do his possible best to keep the growth of the association and work

in tandem with the Local Government rules and guidelines within four years tenure.

Elected executive members include the chairman, Mr. Yusuf Okanlawon; vice chairman, Adekunle Aimasiko; General Secretary, Mrs. Olabisi Alabi; and Assistant General Secretary, Mr. Adebayo Odukoya.

Others are the Treasurer, Ahmed Olayiwola; Financial Secretary, Oluwaseun Oredugba; Internal Auditor; Pat. Barnabas Otoibhi; PRO, Abdulrasaq Shokunbi, Social sec.- Ismaila Adebayo; and Welfare Officer, Mrs. Adiat Adeyanju.



Distress buildings notice to oshodi-isolo property owner

Market Leader Hails Isolo Rotary Club For Empowering Traders With N1.5m

By Saheed Afolabi

The Iyaloja of Obada Market, Isolo, Alhaja Wasilat Yusuf Saka, has commended the Rotary Club of Isolo over the N1.5 million micro-credit scheme executed for the traders.

No fewer than 30 market women benefited from the largesse on Friday, August 11, 2023, with three indigent women smiling home with brand-new grinding machines.

Alhaja Saka affirmed that the Rotary Club of Isolo has helped to sustain the businesses of many women in the community who solely depend on their petty trades for sustenance through the club's micro-credit scheme, urging others can emulate the club.

The District Governor,

Rotary International, District 9110, Ifeyinwa Ejezie who witnessed the disbursement of the money alongside the District Secretary, Tayo Adelaja, and the Chief of Staff, Ezinne Obioha described the project as “highly commendable”, adding that such is what Rotary is all about and globally known for.

According to the club's president, Rotarian (Hajia) Abimbola Oseni, the multi-million naira project is in furtherance of the club's commitment to upholding the goals of Rotary, especially as it has to do with Economic Empowerment and community development.

The beneficiaries especially the three women who were empowered with grinding machines were full of emotions as they took turns to

express their appreciation.

In addition, the former Assistant Governors, Ralph Abanum, and Charles Okonkwo, donated N20,000 as startup capital support to the beneficiaries of the machines.

The club, in collaboration with Rotaract Club of Isolo led by Rotaractor Damilola Kushimo, also donated two clippers to two indigent and promising barbers in the community.

Four industrial waste bins were donated to Isolo General Hospital in Isolo. The waste bins were received by Dr. (Mrs.) Aderade Ijogun, the Medical Director, Mrs. Lawal Adedoyin, the Hospital Administrator, and Mr. Daudu James, the Head of Human Resources.

Also, the club in partnership with Sure Diagnostics Centre organised free medical tests for the residents.

Subsidy: Rep Fayinka Supports Constituents With Palliatives

By Saheed Afolabi

A member representing Mushin Constituency II at the House of Representatives, Hon. Toyin Fayinka, has doled out palliative to the people of his constituency to cushion the effect of subsidy removal.

He promised to do more for the people in the coming weeks, saying it would serve as economic relief for them.

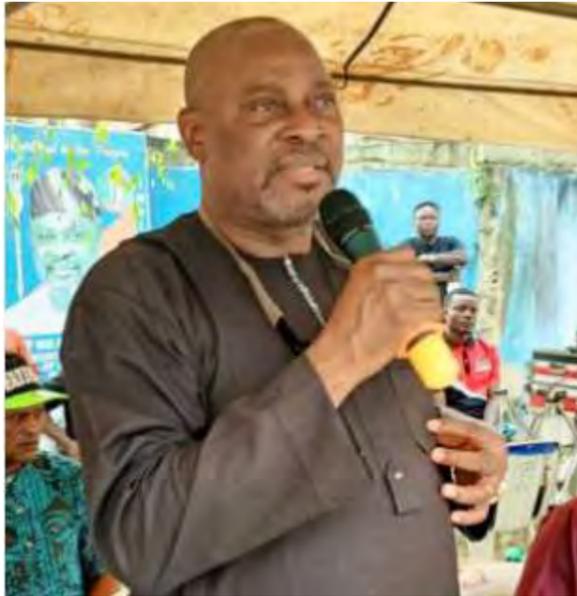
Addressing members of his constituency at the Mushin Justice Forum meeting at Aromire Street, Fayinka thanked the party faithful and his supporters for their endless support and loyalty to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and his Imole

Movement.

He said the victory at the last elections would not have been possible without the support and commitment of his supporters and party faithful.

While distributing the food items to the constituents, the lawmaker said the gesture was borne out of the need to support the people to cushion the effects of subsidy removal.

His words: "The current hardship occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidy is affecting us all. There is no doubt about that. However, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has promised to bring up palliatives that will address these challenges. I am assuring you there is light at the end of the tunnel."



House of Representatives Member representing Mushin federal constituency 11, Hon Toyin Fayinka

"On my part, I will be distributing food items to cushion the effects and address the high cost of living."

He also announced the commencement of a N10 million empowerment loan to market men and women in his

constituency.

He noted that the soft loans with zero interest will help small business owners to run seamless businesses.

He also promised a monthly free medical checkup and drug support for the constituents which will

be conducted by certified Doctors and Pharmacists who would assess the prospective patients and administer drugs to them.

At the meeting, one of the constituents drew the attention of the lawmaker to an abandoned borehole project that served Joel Dunmade Street and Adefimihan Street in Iire.

Responding, the legislator vowed to fix the issue and ensure water is made available to the residents.

At the meeting, Fayinka donated an Audi Car to one Engineer Rafiu Babatunde, a former taxi driver from Ward I, who had recently lost possession of his hire purchase car to the rightful owner due to incessant mechanical faults.

Fayinka also announced that he would take charge of any mechanical issues that may occur on the car

within the space of eight months.

He also promised to get the vehicle registered and complete the necessary papers in Engineer Rafiu's name.

Appreciating the lawmaker for the kind gesture, the beneficiary said: "My heart is full of joy because I wasn't expecting this neither was I prepared for it. I was just encouraging a young man in my Ward to attend the meeting hoping that someday, we may also benefit from Hon. Fayinka's benevolence."

"A big and many thanks to Hon. Fayinka. This is my first time meeting him in person and my prayer is that God will continue to raise him higher against all odds."

In the coming days, Fayinka said he would be reaching out to the generality of his constituents and told the audience to be on the lookout for more empowerment programmes.

Ajala Unveils Palliative Schemes For Residents

By Saheed Afolabi



The collage of pictures shows the launching of N250 million naira palliatives of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA by Hon Razaq Ajala

The Chairman of Odi-Olowo Ojuwoye LCDA, Hon. Razaq Ajala, has rolled out palliatives to cushion the economic effects of subsidy removal.

The chairman announced this on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at A stakeholders' engagement held within the council premises.

The engagement, themed "Connecting

and Impacting our People", was attended by religious leaders, traders, artisans, organisations, and representatives of professional bodies.

Speaking at the event, Ajala appealed to the gathering to be patient with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, stressing that subsidy removal is "a temporary pain to achieve success."

He assured that "very

soon the light will illuminate the dark tunnel."

He stated further that the engagement aimed to apprise the residents of programmes and measures to implement to alleviate the hardship occasioned by the recent removal of oil subsidies by the federal government.

The chairman said: "Let me do a little bit of reflection here. The removal of oil subsidy is not a curse, neither was it meant to inflict suffering on the people, rather it was implemented to usher in an era of growth and development for the country. An era of equitable distribution of resources devoid of the hitherto situation where only a few wealthy and powerful individuals rule over our wealth."

"In doing this and to achieve our aim of even development and greatness, we must endure pains but I want to assure you that the pains we are going through now will be temporary. Very soon, and I mean very soon, we will start to reap bountiful rewards of this seemingly hard but

necessary policy.

"Indeed, it's a tough period, but a tough period does not last, only tough people do and I believe we will all smile at the end of the day, for us, the light at the end of this seemingly dark tunnel, will soon shine through."

"As a government, we will not fold our arms and watch while our people continue to lament. We must complement the efforts of government at the state and federal levels to bring succor to our people. In essence, we have thus put in place various measures to cushion the effect of this trying period."

"Thus, with your approval, through your elected councilors who will sit on the supplementary appropriation Bill, we are sending to the legislative arm and give us the power of expenditure decided to put in place the following measures as our palliative measures."

"Quarterly Trade Assistance Programme (TAP) to support Petty

Traders. We will be giving out a minimum of N10 million every quarter to qualified traders. This money will be disbursed among selected Traders quarterly and is meant to support their trading activities. For this, we are targeting a minimum of 250 beneficiaries every quarter."

"N250 million Interest-free loan: between now and the life of this administration, we are disbursing N250 million as a loan to small-scale business owners. We intend to commence this economy-stimulating program with a disbursement of N100 million on or before the end of this year for those whose business proposals meet the criteria of the selection committee. The business must demonstrate its bankability and ability to engage or employ at least one person apart from the owner who must be a resident of Odiolowo/ Ojuwoye Local Council. This among several other criteria are measures instituted to ensure the sustainability of the

program, reduce the number of unemployed youth and enhance economic activities in our council area.

"Establishment of Odiolowo/Ojuwoye Traffic Maintenance and Environmental Corps (OTMEC): We are establishing this not only to provide employment for youth but also to complement the efforts of the state Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and the Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC)."

"Employment of Teaching and Non-teaching Staff: It's an open secret that some of our public primary schools lack an adequate number of teachers and we have to agree that the state government alone cannot provide all the needs of the public schools."

"As a grassroots administration, we have to complement the efforts of the state government where necessary and urgent. It is because of this that we have decided to employ teaching and non-teaching staff on ad-hoc arrangements to complement those already working in our various public schools."

"We are not doing this alone. We are going to collaborate with all



ECHONEWS

LAGOS COMMUNITIES EDITION

COLOUR	PRICE	BLACK AND WHITE	PRICE
Full Page Outside Back Cover	150,000	Full Page Outside Back Cover	120,000
Full Page Inside Front Cover	125,000	Full Page Inside Front Cover	100,000
Full Inside Page	100,000	Full Inside Page	80,000
Half Page	60,000	Half Page	50,000
Quarter page	35,000	Quarter page	25,000
1x2 inches	2,000	1x2 inches	1,600
2x2 inches	4,000	2x2 inches	3,200
3x2 inches	8,000	3x2 inches	7,000
4x2 inches	10,000	4x2 inches	9,600
5x2 inches	12,000	5x2 inches	5,600
6x2/ 4x2 inches	15,000	6x2/ 4x2 inches	12,000
6x3 inches	22,000	6x3 inches	17,000
6.5x3 inches	24,000	6.5x3 inches	19,000
7x2 inches	17,000	7x2 inches	13,600
7x3 inches	28,000	7x3 inches	22,400
7x4 inches	34,000	7x4 inches	27,200
8x2 inches	20,000	8x2 inches	16,000
8x3 inches	30,000	8x3 inches	24,000
8x4 inches	39,000	8x4 inches	31,200
8x5 inches	49,000	8x5 inches	39,200
9x2 inches	22,000	9x2 inches	17,600
9x3 inches	33,000	9x3 inches	26,400
9x4 inches	44,000	9x4 inches	35,200
9x5 inches	66,000	9x5 inches	52,800
9x6 inches	80,000	9x6 inches	64,000
10x3 inches	37,000	10x3 inches	29,600
10x4 inches	49,000	10x4 inches	39,200
10x5 inches	77,000	10x5 inches	61,600
10x6 inches	92,000	10x6 inches	73,600
11x5 inches	85,000	11x5 inches	68,000
11x6 inches	97,000	11x6 inches	77,600
14.5x3 inches	53,000	14.5x3 inches	42,400
Online - 300 x 250 Banner for 500,000 Impressions - 50,000.00			
14.5x4 inches	86,000	14.5x4 inches	68,800
14.5x5 inches	100,000	14.5x5 inches	82,400

Agboyi-Ketu LCDA Gives Out Free GCE Forms

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Chairman of Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Dele Oshinowo, has unveiled an educational support initiative to alleviate the impact of fuel subsidy effects.

Under the "Welift Educational Support Drive", the council administration has distributed free GCE (General Certificate of Education) forms to indigent students within the council, showcasing a commitment to supporting the community's young

scholars.

Dele Oshinowo's administration embarked on a multi-faceted approach to provide essential support to residents.

The distribution of prepaid Cowry Cards, food packages to 6000 households, and now the distribution of free GCE forms demonstrate the council's dedication to fostering well-being and educational opportunities.

Addressing the students during the presentation of the forms at the Council Secretariat, Oshinowo, who was represented by Vice Chairman, Mrs.

Folake Kayode, emphasized the catalytic role of education in sustainable development.

He underscored that education is the conduit through which lasting progress is achieved, saying every effort must be made to ensure that all individuals willing to learn have the opportunity to do so.

"As part of our empowerment and welfare programmes, our administration is committed since inception to making it a duty to support the dreams and aspirations of our young scholars who seek to further

their higher education in their chosen disciplines," he emphasised.

The chairman, however, highlighted the enduring significance of the programme, saying the initiative has been sustained over the years, primarily focusing on indigent students who lack the financial means to support their educational pursuits.

He stressed that the distribution of free GCE forms opens doors of opportunity for underprivileged students to take their exams and pursue their dreams.

50 beneficiaries of the free GCE forms underwent a thorough screening process to ensure that the support reaches those who need

it the most.

The council boss, therefore, encouraged the recipients to work diligently and excel in their studies, stating that their success will contribute to the community's pride and growth.

The Head of the Department of Education, Comrade Wale Olorode, emphasised.

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The Head of the Department of Education, Comrade Wale Olorode, emphasised that education serves as a guiding light and a key to success.

Ikosi Isheri LCDA Distributes Palliatives To 6000 Residents

By Nurudeen Adebayo



The chairman of Ikosi Isheri LCDA, Hon. Samiat Abolanle Bada, orchestrated the distribution of 6,000 food packs to the less privileged, vulnerable, and elderly residents within the area.

The foods were distributed in all the political wards of the council, running across Ward A Isheri/Olowora, Ward B Shangisha-Magodo phase 1, Ward C Ikosi-Oke, and Ward D Orile Ikosi.

Speaking, Bada reaffirmed her commitment to aiding those in dire need, saying: "I have always had a passion for giving back to the community, and it aligns with my religious beliefs. When you give, you are giving unto God. As we have been blessed with the

privilege of holding this position, it is an extension of our plans."

She clarified that the initiative was not solely prompted by the recent removal of fuel subsidies but had been a continuous effort long before that.

She emphasised that assistance was provided during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic and will persist in supporting the masses, as these funds belong to the public.

The food items distributed included Rice, Beans, and Garri, among others.

The council boss disclosed that her administration will remain committed to providing welfare packages for the indigent, unveiling a

comprehensive strategy for efficient distribution across various points within the area.

She underscored the importance of alleviating poverty and bringing smiles to the faces of the residents.

She informed that transportation expenses for the underprivileged will also be considered to facilitate mobility within the community.

She called on everyone to extend their necessary support to her administration, stressing that the dividends of democracy will continue to reach all segments of the community.

Among the distinguished guests at the event was Gbenga Omotosho, a Commissioner designate in Lagos State, who lauded the chairman's efforts, recognising that the palliatives will alleviate the challenges brought about by the fuel subsidy removal.

He urged other well-meaning Nigerians to participate in initiatives of such nature.

The beneficiaries expressed immeasurable joy and gratitude towards the council leadership for the compassionate gesture.

Olu of Agboyi Canvasses Unity Among Residents, Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Olu of Agboyi Kingdom, Oba Monsuru Abimbola Oladega, has continued to preach the promotion of unity among the residents of the community as he charged the indigenous people of Agboyi Ketu both within and in the diaspora to unite for collective development.

He made the call during the celebration of his 3rd anniversary on the throne held last week.

The monarch emphasised that unity among the people of Agboyi is paramount for the growth of the kingdom, the advancement of Lagos State, and the overall development of Nigeria.

"Our progress as a community hinges on our unity. It is only when the people of the domain are united that we can forge ahead and foster the socioeconomic development of Agboyi land," he stated.



Olu of Agboyi Kingdom

The monarch also urged all residents and stakeholders to come together, leveraging their collective strength to accelerate Agboyi's development and attract positive opportunities to the area.

He emphasised that regardless of any grievance that might arise, it is essential to maintain unity and prioritise the greater good of Agboyi.

Oba Oladega affirmed: "Whatever redress any

aggrieved party seeks should not deter us from our goal of achieving unity, development, and growth in Agboyi. Every project I facilitate is for the betterment of all."

The monarch expressed his gratitude to the Agboyi Muslim community for their unwavering support since his ascension to the throne as he acknowledged their role in shaping the positive trajectory of Agboyi's progress.

Ikorodu LG, NULGE Reward 43 Retirees

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Forty-three retirees of Ikorodu Local Government were honoured with gifts including cash by the council chairman, Hon. Wasiu Adesina, and the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE).

The council organised a sendoff ceremony for them to appreciate their

efforts and contribution to the development of the local government administration.

While making his comment, the council boss announced that the event was set up to acknowledge and reward the retiree's contributions and dedicated service in the past 35 years.

The chairman noted that the event was not meant to show

appreciation only to the retirees but also to present cash gifts and other consolation items to them.

Urging the retirees to maintain their passion, and spend quality time with their loved ones, Adesina further advised them to invest in their gratuities so they can enjoy the fruits of their labour.

He said: "As you are now out of service, I

pray that you continue to fulfill your future endeavours.

"We made this event memorable because we want every retiree to reconnect with senior and junior colleagues, friends, family, and well-wishers in an atmosphere of music and dance.

"Be the best you can as you enjoy the second chapter of your life.



Reactions As Council Gives Palliatives to Ijede Residents

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The residents of Ijede LCDA of Ikorodu LG expressed joy as they were relieved following the distribution of food items as palliatives to them by the council chairman, Hon. Motunrayo Alogba.

No fewer than 2,500 residents benefited from the packages to lessen the impact of the subsidy removal on them.

The distribution of the food items was done under the Hon. Alogba's food bank programme tagged, 'Ijede Tunrayo/Ayo Ni Temi', which was said to have been in existence since her emergence as the council chairman two years ago.

The palliatives include rice, beans, garri, semovita, yam powder, spaghetti, salt, sugar, Maggi, tomato paste, and groundnut oil. Also provided for the beneficiaries were yams, pepper, and vegetables with packs of cooked food.

Appreciating the gesture, the chairman, APC Ijede LCDA, Evan Falade Falohun, commended Alogba's administration's performances which he said have secured her a second term ahead.

"The chairman has been trying with her food support for the residents and other



Hon. Alogba

programmes of her administration, and people love her for that. I know she will continue in the office after this term. She has been delivering on her promises to the people."

Mrs. Adeyefa Comfort, a resident in Ijede, also said: "This is a good and laudable idea by the chairman of Ijede LCDA. I pray that she has the power to continue in this direction and I pray that God will continue to help her and her team. I also pray that she will succeed in this position that God has placed her."

Alhaja Tanwa Akabioro from Abule Eko, Ijede said: "She has been a good chairman who loves and cares for her people. She will continue to succeed in her position. She has never allowed the younger and elderly ones to suffer from hunger. She is still young, I pray that she will continue to grow and develop.

"She will continue to

move higher within the political circle. We are all very excited, especially me. I am always happy with her, and I will keep praying for her because she is a good child who inherited her good traits from her late mother."

Mr. Adewale Mojeed also applauded her, saying: "This is a good initiative that has been happening since she emerged as the chairman. Everyone in Ijede is happy with her initiative and we hope that she will continue with it because it is a laudable programme.

"If she can continue like this, it would be a better thing for all the people. And those coming after her should emulate the idea. So, it is a good initiative that the community is so pleased with."

Mrs. Bayole Olarenwaju said: "I am appreciative of her initiative and pray that she will continue to move forward. She will serve another term and continue to make impacts on the lives of many more people and the community at large."

Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative Celebrates Two Years

The Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative, under the chairmanship of Odofin Adewunmi Ogunsanya, celebrated its second anniversary, highlighting the significant progress made towards fostering peace and unity in the Ikorodu division since its inception.

In commemoration of the anniversary, the body also presented an award to the Oriwu Club of Ikorodu.

Oriwu Club of Ikorodu, a renowned social and cultural organisation set up for the elite across the division, was recognised for its assistance to the

community and efforts in promoting unity and harmony in the division.

The event took place at the Palace of Obateru of Egbin Kingdom, HRM, Oba Adeoriyomi Abdul-Akeem Oyebo.

During the award presentation, Ogunsanya commended Oriwu Club for its remarkable efforts in facilitating civic cohesion and cultural protection.

The award presented by HRM, Oba Bashiru Aremu Shotonwa, Sekumade of Ipakodo, was received by Otunba Amid Adekunle Oduborisa, the President of Oriwu

Club.

Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative affirmed the key function fiddled by Oriwu Club in stimulating agreeable conjunction and peace among diverse groups within the community.

Ogunsanya declared that the Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative was established to promote peace, unity, and security in the region.

He added that over the past two years, the body has promoted and successfully implemented various programmes and initiatives, bringing together different stakeholders to work towards a common goal.

Ikorodu West LCDA Distributes Relief Package to 5000 Residents

By Nurudeen Adebayo

No fewer than 5,000 residents of Ikorodu West LCDA have collected food items as palliative distributed by the local council authority to cushion the effects of subsidy removal.

The initiative, which was muted by the council chairman, Hon. Kareem Sulaimon Kazeem,

was launched at the council secretariat last week, attracting a huge number of residents.

Speaking, the council boss said: "Through

this program, the LCDA will provide essential food items for free to ensure that everyone has access to nutritious meals during these challenging times.

"The initiative is a testament to my administration's commitment to the well-being of our communities.

"We're not only addressing immediate food needs but also promoting a sense of unity and aid within Ikorodu West LCDA."

He hinted that the council is also procuring cash for youths and adults to help enhance

businesses in the region, stating that the administration is working to stabilise civic and economic procedures.

He urged residents to be patient with the present government of Nigeria, explaining that eventually, things will get back to normal to aid a good standard of living for everyone.

It was a major sigh of relief for beneficiaries of the programme encompassing stakeholders and traditional chiefs who hailed the council boss for meeting the needs of residents at a time of economic downturn.

Shun Cultism, Drug Abuse, Stakeholders Warn Youths

By Edith Igbokwe

Community stakeholders have warned the youths in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area to desist from social vices such as cultism, drug abuse, and others.

They gave the warning during a road walk tagged 'Youth Walk Against Vices' organised by the Police Campaign Against Cultism and Other Vices (POCACOV) in collaboration with Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government chairman, Prince Usman Hamzat

at the Idiagbon area of the local council area

The group raised awareness of the need to ensure youth engagement and participation in essential matters of development in the community.

On behalf of the council chairman, his Special Adviser on Security and Special Duties, Hon. Ibrahim Aronjura, Urged the youths to continue to imbibe good values.

He advised that youths must always be positive and see the brighter side of the country to achieve greatly.

Lagos State Chairman of POCACOV, Henry Bassey, advised youths to wage war against vices that posed to be a great danger to their youthful generation.

The Public Relations Officer of the Police, SP Benjamin Hundeyin expressed the delight of the Commissioner of Police, CP Idowu Owohunwa to the people of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government for the laudable programme in reducing the rate of crimes and criminality in the state.

He assured the residents of better and improved policing in

the community and across the state, charging the youths to shun vices.

He noted the need for the exchange of useful information with the Nigeria Police to carry out their work diligently.

He emphasised that the police would not be able to fight crimes effectively if they are starved of necessary information by the community.

He assured the people of the confidentiality of any information passed across to them.



Ifako-ijaiye campaign against drug abuse, cultism

Representatives of NDLEA, NOA, NSCDC, and other security agencies also charged the youths to shun social vices harmful to their health and society at large.

We'll Ensure Squatters Don't Return To Shanties - Jejeloye

By Edith Igbokwe

The Chairman of the Taskforce, CSP Shola Jejeloye, has said the agency will make sure the squatters do not return to the shanties after they have been cleared at the Fagba area of Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area.

The Agency recently demolished the shanties erected along the railway route at Fagba to ward off criminal activities in the area.

Jejeloye decried the state of decadence brought about by squatters in the area.

He said: "We had served the squatters here an eviction notice on the 20th of June but it is obvious they thought we were bluffing. We will carry out our operation with minimal force and ensure that the entire shanties are removed.

"The plan of the State Government to completely reclaim the portion of roads occupied by squatter is non-negotiable.

"The enforcement takes place first, followed by monitoring

and then sustenance. We will ensure these sites are monitored till they are fully occupied and put to good use by the State Government."

He further disclosed that the clearing exercise is scheduled in phases to ensure that squatters do not return to constitute a nuisance in the area.

He noted that the same method of operation utilized in Lekki shanties would also be replicated in Fagba and its environs.

Jaiyeola attributed some of the criminal activities in the Fagba axis to miscreants who make use of the shanties by the railway tracks as a hideout.

He disclosed that some harmful weapons and illicit drugs, belonging to some of the squatters were recovered from the shanties during the clearing exercise.

According to him: "Residents are excited seeing us clear out these structures due to the criminal haven it has become. They have complained of pick-pocketing, stealing, and robbery usually perpetrated by the squatters, but it is

now a thing of the past." Jejeloye assured Lagosians that the operation would be extended to Pen Cinema and environs till serenity and safety are guaranteed.

He, therefore, urged residents in the State to support the State Government's efforts in ensuring that acts that could be harmful to the environment are reported to the Agency for prompt action.



Shanties clearing exercise in Fagba area

Isolo LCDA Commences Drainage Desilting

By Edith Igbokwe

Isolo LCDA has embarked on drain desilting and carting away wastes on major streets across the council area.

On Asa Afariogun and Lateef Salami Streets in the Ajao Estate ward; workers were on Friday sighted working assiduously on the drains on both sides of the road while sanitary officers from the council supervised the job.

Coming in the exercise, the council boss, Hon. Adebayo Olasoju said: "The desilting is a routine exercise aimed at

making our drains clean and functional, especially in the rainy season. The importance attached to the policy is among the reasons we aren't recording cases of flooding as they do in some other councils. Whether it rains heavily these days or not, our goal is to leave our drainages functioning against the likelihood of late rains.

"Other wards like Akinbaye, Alagbeji, and Ishaga/Ire-Akari will also have the councils' version of "drain ducks" sailing in their directions in the coming days."



Hon. Bayo Olasoju

Over 5,000 Households Targeted In Badagry LG With Relief Packages

By Saheed Afolabi

To cushion the effect of the hardship being experienced by residents of Badagry LG as a result of subsidy removal, the council chairman, Hon. Adeniran Onilude has flagged off the distribution of food items across the 10 wards and partisan divide in the local government.

Speaking at the commencement of the distribution of relief materials, Onilude stated that the purpose of the palliative was to provide succour to the vulnerable in society as the attendant hardship of subsidy removal bites harder.

The council boss said:

"What we are doing is in line with the declaration of H.E. President Bola Tinubu and our Governor, H.E. Babajide Sanwo-Olu. As an administration, we prioritise the welfare of our citizens and we will ensure that every measure that is put in place to ameliorate the plights of our citizens at this level or by the state and federal government is implemented to the latter. As you can see, we have packaged different food items in the bag for the consumption of our people because we understand that everyone is feeling the heat of subsidy removal.

"The purpose is to alleviate the plights of our citizens the best way we can at this critical time. We have reached out to the first batch of beneficiaries across partisan divides in the 10 wards and over 200 communities in the local government and we will continue to do so for the next few months."

The council boss pledged that every citizen regardless of their partisan leaning will benefit.

"To ensure that this palliative is fairly distributed, we will involve notable stakeholders that include traditional rulers, reputable community leaders, CDC and CDAs as well as religious leaders. As a government, we

understand that the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led administration meant well for us, and sometimes thing has to assume this kind of dimension before we

can get it right."

He, therefore, urged everyone to give maximum support to the federal and state governments, stating that the hardship resulting from the fuel

subsidy removal is temporary.

Some of the beneficiaries who thronged the council for the palliatives heaped praises on the Onilude-led administration for the gesture.

SURULERE NEWS

Coker-Aguda Chairman Advises Students To Shun Social Vices

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Coker Aguda-LCDA, Hon.

Rasaq Olamilekan has warned the students to shun any form of social vices as he doled out free GCE forms to the lucky beneficiaries.

He said the main purpose of the annual

programme is basically aimed at encouraging youths in the society to further their education, so that they will be better ambassadors to themselves and the society at large.

Addressing the beneficiaries of the free GCE forms, the chairman encouraged to come back with the

best results and visit either his office or the education department to claim free JAMB form.

He also advised them to stay away from immorality, unwanted pregnancy and stay focused on their education.

The GCE forms were presented in batches to the qualified beneficiaries.



Itire Ikate LCDA Boss, Hon Ahmed Olanrewaju Apatira giving out GCE forms to selected youths of the community

Badagry West LCDA To Support 7000 People With Palliatives

By Saheed Afolabi

The Chairman of Badagry West LCDA, Hon. Gbenu Henugbe Joseph has concluded plans to commence the distribution of subsidy intervention palliatives to the vulnerable and less privileged across the 99 communities in the local council area.

The chairman explained that the essence of the split in the number of days is to effectively capture the targeted audience of about 6,930 persons, comprising 70 vulnerable from each of the 99 communities, saying the number may, however, vary in terms of population.

Some of the items in the palliative include rice, beans, cassava flour (garri), spaghetti, etc.



The chairman of Badagry LG, Hon Segun Onilude handing over a relief package to a beneficiary

According to him, this will help cushion the effect of hunger and pains caused by the removal of subsidies.

"Although we still have other plans, we are starting with the distribution of foods as palliative."

The palliatives, according to the chairman, will be distributed at the ward level to ensure the right persons get them.

"I have held meetings with the councillors,

supervisors, and leaders of each ward, and we have agreed that each ward should collate and submit names of identified persons who are in dire need as beneficiaries."

He, however, thanked the federal and state governments to ensure that the people at the grassroots also feel the impact of the government on the subsidy removal intervention directly.

Itire-Ikate LCDA Boss Charges GCE Forms Beneficiaries To Study Hard

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Itire-Ikate LCDA boss, Hon.

Ahmed Olanrewaju (Apatira) has charged the beneficiaries of his free GCE forms to study hard and focus on their academics.

The council chairman said he has successfully distributed 250 GCE forms to indigent students of the council area.

While addressing the

prospective applicants, the chairman stated that the distribution of GCE forms was one of the flagship programmes embarked on by the Local Government, aimed at raising the literacy bar in Itire-Ikate LCDA.

He stated that the aim was not just to provide quality education, but to support and present them with unique opportunities to prepare them for tertiary education.

"Education is key and the only way you can

give that to the people is to give an opportunity to everyone willing to study and make sure they are well educated and that's what we're doing."

The council boss added that the benefit of attempting the GCE exam is the first crucial step towards achieving success in the students' various careers.

He advised beneficiaries to concentrate on their studies and aim for the best in their educational pursuit as he also enjoined parents to give their wards ample time to study.



Managing The Next Revenue Revolution in Lagos

Faced with infrastructural, environmental and socio-economic needs of the populace, Lagos State needs to develop the revenue collection management of local governments at par with the international best practices of its tax agencies particularly, the Lagos Internal Revenue Service. This was the consensus of the local government revenue stakeholders-council chairmen, managers, treasurers, state administrators and the LIRS – at the recent summit sponsored by the LIRS to explore upgrade of revenue collection at the local government level through transfer of the organizational and technological values that have made it possible for the LIRS to grow the revenue of Lagos State from N600 million in 1999 to N50 billion today. Luckily, the laws governing revenue collection and expenditure in the state and local governments have been put in place. The Fourth Schedule of the 1999 Constitution assigned responsibilities to local government

and the revenue to fund them. The revenues include fees, licences, charges, rates and levies. Several other provisions relating to federal allocation set up the State Joint Allocation Committee which distributes funds to local governments in line with the arrangements enacted by the House of Assembly. The Public Finance Management Law 2011, The Accounting Manual for Local Governments, Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Law, etc set the rules and practices of revenue collection in the state. Under these laws, councils receive remittances or revenue collected on their behalf by the Land Use Charge Committee and the Lagos State Signage and Advertising Agency. However, the concern is that local governments in Lagos have the potential to collect revenue 20 times than the state if better organized and if the laws are enforced. The Lagos State Levies Law 2010 put local governments in five revenue categories- A+, A, B, C and D- reflecting the different stages of

urbanization of a particular local government or local council development area and capped collectible revenue for items in each category. Thirteen years after and despite year-on-year increase in the rate of inflation, these rates are still the same. This tempts many collectors to cross boundaries to higher rates to boost internally-generated revenue. Stakeholders at the summit agreed that the rates are overdue for review and called on the state Joint Tax Board, headed by the Chairman of the LIRS, Mr. Ayo Subair to initiate the process. The review is also expected to recognize the different rates of urbanization in areas in local governments. Because of infrastructural upgrades, certain areas of rural or semi-urban neighbourhoods could have urban economic activities. Recently completed network of roads in Epe, Ikorodu, Agbado-Okeodo, Ejigbo etc experience highly urbanized economic activities that the local government categories don't capture. But the greater

concern is the system of collecting internal revenue. In a bid to replicate the organizational leap that birthed the LIRS, the Public Finance Management Law 2011 set up the local version of the tax board as the Local Government Revenue Committee with powers to collect revenue for the local government. As at the last count, 36 out of 57 council authorities have complied. Speaking at the summit, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs, Mrs Kikelomo Abolarin said any local government that has not set up the committee is breaking the law. The ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance is expected to ensure full compliance. For the councils that complied, there are issues about the level of compliance as far as it relates to the appointment of the chairman. As Segun Tijani, LIRS Revenue Manager and Head of the Ikeja Tax Office explained, the law provides for a person knowledgeable in revenue matters to chair the committee. He advocates that the appropriate

professional is a licenced chartered tax practitioner whose professional ethical principles and knowledge of international best practices would impact on the operations of the committee. Considering the elaborate provisions of the law for accountability and transparency in revenue collection, the Lagos State Government has to raise the bar and ensure that the intention of the law to bring professional expertise to revenue collection at the local government level is realized. Organising the staff for revenue collection requires the awareness of corporate values. Relating her experience at the LIRS as the Director, Informal sector, Dr. Folashade Coker, emphasized the need to simplify revenue rates and items in local language so that the tax payer and authorities can be on the same page. She also emphasized the introduction of technology by digitizing data of tax payers and what they are meant to pay, setting up a complaints or whistleblowers unit to respond to tax payers and using revenue to build

visible projects and organize welfare programmes to encourage voluntary payment of taxes. A controversial challenge to the local government revenue collection system is the engagement of consultants. Since the law gives the revenue committee exclusive powers to collect revenue, many experts believe the engagement of consultants violates the law and that they should only be invited for short-term intervention in solving problems. To curb the current sharp practices of revenue collectors who disobey transfers to other local governments, the chairman of the Local Government Commission, Hon. Kamal Baiyewu urged council managers to recommend such recalcitrant staff for discipline. He urged all stakeholder to come together to overhaul the revenue collection system in local governments. The ball is now in the court of the LIRS to roll out training programmes and staff exchanges to boost the professional capacity of revenue collectors and managers and start the next revenue revolution in the state of aquatic splendour.



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HEROES & HEROINES OF LAGOS

Candido Joao Da Rocha

Chief Candido Joao Da Rocha (1860 – March 11, 1959) was a Nigerian businessman, landowner and creditor who owned Water House on Kakawa Street, Lagos Island, Lagos, and was the proprietor of the now defunct Bonanza Hotel in Lagos. He held the chieftaincy title of the Lodifi of Ilesa.

History

Da Rocha, an ethnic Ijesha, was born to the family of Joao Esan Da Rocha, a former Brazilian slave; his father was 10 years old when he was captured as a slave in about 1840 and Candido was born in the Bahia region of Brazil.

Candido attended CMS Grammar School, Lagos where he was peers with Isaac Oluwole and Herbert Macaulay.

Left is Joao Esan and right is Candido as a young boy with his mother, Angelica

Candido is the brother of Moses Da Rocha, one of the earliest Western-trained Nigerian doctors. He lived in Water House on Kakawa Street,

Lagos, a house built by his father. The home was commemorated in literature by a novel, *The Water House*, written by Antonio Olinto. The house had a borehole and the first water fountain in Lagos Island; water was sold from his house to consumers. Some of his business interests included a restaurant called *The Restaurant Da Rocha* and *Sierra Leone Deep Sea Fishing Industries Ltd.* He collaborated with Lagos businessmen J. H. Doherty and Sedu Williams on a money lending business established under the name of the *Lagos Native Bank*. He was a founding member of the *Lagos auxiliary to the Anti Slavery and Aborigines Right Society* which was headed by James Johnson and had Samuel Pearse, Hon. Justice Dahunsi Olugbemi Coker and Sapara Williams as members. Da Rocha died in 1959 and is buried at *Ikoyi Cemetery*. Among his children were Alexander Da Rocha, Adenike Afodu, Angelica Folashade Thomas and Louissa Turton.

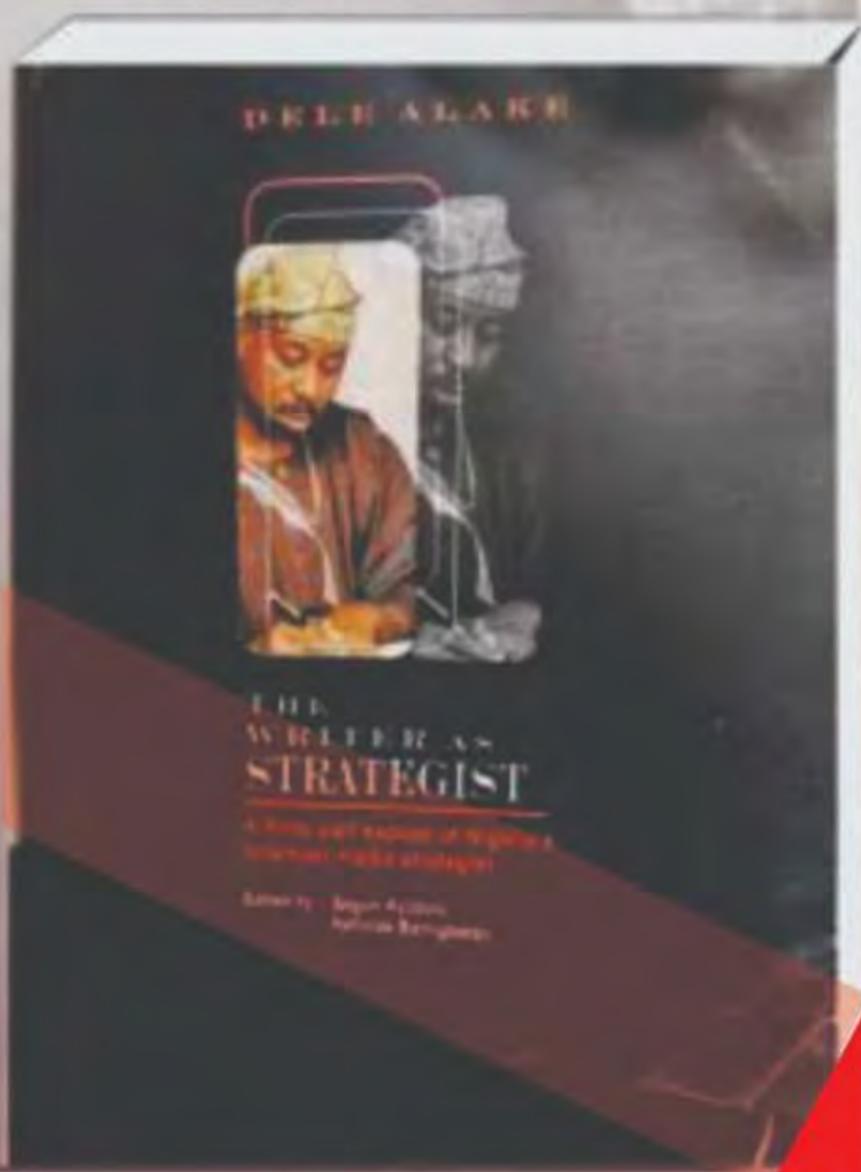


Chief Candido Joao Da Rocha



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Beneficiaries Appreciate Rotary Club For Empowerment

By Edith Igbokwe



Beneficiaries of Rotary club empowerment

Beneficiaries of the empowerment programme of the Rotary Club of Lagos West, Amuwo-Odofin have appreciated the club for the sewing machines and grinding machines donated to the less privileged in the community.

The club donated four grinding machines, and two sewing machines as part of its economic empowerment scheme for people to create a source of income that can cater to their needs and families.

The items were formally presented to the beneficiaries during the official visit of the District Governor (DG), Rotary International, District 9110, Ifeyinwa Ejezie last week.

One of the beneficiaries, a widow, Mrs. Rashidat Agunbiade said it was a joyous moment for her to have a grinding

machine that will provide her with income to hold on to.

Another beneficiary of the sewing machine expressed how she has been struggling to acquire a sewing machine after her apprenticeship.

She explained that her dream has come true, as she was gifted a brand new sewing machine to start her fashion and design business.

Also, Olanike Babalola, who was given a sewing machine, said it would boost her business as the ones she has had been giving her problems.

"If you come to my shop, you will understand exactly my plight and how grateful I am for receiving this gift."

Another beneficiary

who was given a grinding machine, Mrs. Amaka Nwachukwu, was full of joy as she sang, danced, and thanked God and her benefactors for rekindling her hope.

She stated that the benefactor has provided her with a means to feed her children and a means to pay their school fees.

Mr. Joseph Tim was part of the four less-privileged people who got a grinding machine

Mr. Kayode Ogunleye and Mrs. Mary Solomon equally benefited from the club's gesture.

The beneficiaries stated that the gesture will better their life and future than they ever imagined considering the economic hardship at the moment.

The DG who was accompanied on the visit by members of her team applauded the club for continuously touching lives in the community.

She charged beneficiaries to ensure the tools are effectively used to serve the purpose they are given and to ensure they are sustained.

She explained that the empowerment scheme was aimed at giving them the privilege to have an earning ability.

She stressed the need to impact more lives, especially now that the economy is dwindling, following the removal of fuel subsidies and the high side of the dollar exchange rate.

She appealed to the government to roll out palliatives that could cushion the harsh effects of their policies affecting the poor

masses.

"I am expected to visit all the clubs under my jurisdiction. "One of the core objectives of Rotary is to give a helping hand to the needy and the less privileged. Rotary is committed to serving humanity and reaching out to the needy.

"We have come together to give the little we can. We believe that the little we have given to the beneficiaries will go a long way to impact their lives, their children, and the people around them. We are not giving it for their benefit alone but for the people around them."

She disclosed that the mission area of Rotary

Club International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

The president of the club, Omolara Akinsanya, said Rotary Club is concerned with the plight of people and is committed to finding ways of alleviating poverty and hunger in the land, which is in line with humanitarian services.

"We want the beneficiaries to see what we have given as a fruit that will expand and benefit others. I pray that God will make this donation fruitful and impactful to many others."

New Area Commander In Amuwo-Odofin, ACP Nwachukwu Seeks Community Cooperation

By Edith Igbokwe



Amuwo-Odofin Area New Commander, ACP Eburuaj

The newly deployed Area Commander in Amuwo-Odofin Local Government, ACP Egburuaj Nwachukwu has sought the cooperation of the community on the security of lives and properties.

He appealed to the residents as he took over the task of securing the community.

He was the Officer in Charge of Conflict Resolution, Area 'E' Police Command, Lagos State before he was recently promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP).

Nwachukwu was said to have been promoted for his outstanding qualities and contributions to Nigeria Police Force and the country in general.

It would be recalled that Nwachukwu came to public notice following his rare display of courage

during the 2020 EndSARS protest when he was the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Elemoro in the Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Area.

According to the report, despite the danger he faced with his officers when hoodlums stormed the station, he was able to bravely manage the deadly situation.

At the same time, he worked in line with the rules of engagement with his men as they tactically repelled invaders with teargas and warning shots only.

He was praised for ensuring that there was no casualty as they resisted and turned back protesters who were determined to destroy the police station.

However, the hoodlums were said to have mobilised reinforcement from neighbouring communities and the station was eventually vandalised and set on fire, with his vehicle, refrigerator and other valuables destroyed before help could come to them.

Nwachukwu and his men were reportedly pushed into the forest where they stayed without food and water for three days before they were eventually rescued by

the Area 'J' Commander, ACP Gbolahan Olugbem.

He was enlisted in the Nigeria Police Force on March 1, 1991.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nigeria and a Master of Science in Administration and Management from the University of Lagos.

In addition, he has Advance Diploma in Security Operations Management and Specialist Certificate in Investigation and Intelligence.

ACP Nwachukwu had served in several locations in various capacities before his deployment as the DPO in charge of Elemoro.

He had served as Acting DPO, Ketu Division, and DPO Iju Division all in Lagos State Police Command.

He had also served as Area Crime Officer in Area Lima and Area Kilo Commands in Borno State, Staff Officer DFA, Admin Officer, Police Airing Command, Team Leader Anti Fraud Unit Force CID, Annex Alagbon Close, Ikoyi Lagos.

Before his recent promotion, he has been in charge of Conflict Resolution, Area 'E' Command (FESTAC), Lagos State Police Command.

TG/PS Education District V Encourages Promoted Teachers To Achieve More

By Edith Igbokwe



District V teacher's promotion letters presentation

The Tutor General/Permanent Secretary (TG/PS), Education District V, Mr. Lawal Idowu has congratulated the district staff as they received their promotion letters earlier at Education District V Headquarters, Agboju.

He encouraged the newly promoted teachers to strive for more significant achievements.

He advised them to humbly treat everyone around them with respect as he encouraged them to work diligently.

The staff members who were due for and merited the promotion were given letters of higher levels in their teaching profession.



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Jelili Warns Against Illegal Waste Disposal

By Edith Igbokwe

Alimosho Local Government chairman, Hon. Suliamon Jelili has warned against indiscriminate waste disposal as he toured round street and drainage projects in the community. He called on residents of Alimosho to avoid dumping wastes in the drains to prevent flood during the rainy season. He stated that some of the challenges in the

community are caused by the wrong actions of the residents such as dumping of waste in waterways and non-maintenance of drainage channels, leading to erosion and flood at the drainage control site close to Olorungbebe Health Centre. He toured all the projects, beginning with the already completed construction of Azeez



Project inspection by Hon. Jelili

Ayorinde Street, made a few corrections, and

scheduled a date for the commissioning. Other project sites visited include Odeunmi Street which requires an adjustment

at the edge point and the ongoing drainage close to the Olorungbebe Health Centre. He sought the opinion

and observations of the residents about the projects and called their attention to the need for collaboration with the government.

Olowolagba Emerges Agbado Oke-Odo NULGE Chairman

By Edith Igbokwe



Agbado oke- Odo NULGE election

Members of the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) Agbado Oke-Odo Branch have elected Comr. Femi Olowolagba as the new NULGE chairman. The election was adjudged free and fair as all staff members were allowed to participate in the voting exercise. Olowolagba emerged as the winner by defeating the incumbent chairman, Comr. Agemo Oladeinde Joseph with 66 votes. Olowolagba appreciated the council Chairman, council Manager, HRO, and everyone for their

support in ensuring his emergence as the new NULGE branch chairman. He assured the members of the union that he would work as a servant and not a ruler while operating an open-door policy. The State NULGE President, Comr. Sunday Sewanu was in attendance with the management team, executives, legislators, and NULGE leaders as observers. The Chairman, Agbado Oke -Odo (LCDA), Hon. David Famuyiwa admonished the newly elected NULGE

chairman and his executive members to ensure they work towards the goals of the administration. The newly elected team includes the chairman - Comr. Femi Tajudeen Olowolagba, Vice-Chairman - Com. Akanmu Olusegun, Women Leader - Comr. Falola Yemisi, and Secretary - Comr. Fadipe Oluwadamilare. Others are Assistant Secretary - Olusola Temitope, Treasurer - Comr. Fayemi Tinukemi, Auditor - Ikono Ezekiel, and Trustee - Comr. Ajenifuja Babatunde.

Ogunyemi Emerges Chairman As Agura Alaru CDA Elects New ExcOs

By Rasaq Adebayo

Following the dissolution of the old executive members of Community Development Associations (CDAs) and Community Development Committees (CDCs) across the State by the State government and ordered that a new election be conducted, Agura Alaru CDA in Ikorodu LG has elected new executive members to steer the affair of the association. At the end of the election conducted by the Caretaker Committee, Mr. Olufemi Ogunyemi emerged as the chairman unopposed. The 12 CDA executive members were produced from the three

zones into which the community is divided. Zone A produced Vice Chairman 1, Samuel Adebajo; Secretary, Mr. Tobi Oremule; Social Secretary, Moses Rachael (Iya Kewe); Chief Whip, Adeyemo Aina; and Ex-Official I, Mr. Ayo Amos, Zone B produced Vice Chairman 2, Mr. Kazeem Taiwo; Treasurer, Mrs. Lucy Ikechukwu; Assistant Secretary, Adebayo Charity Lawrence; Welfare, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Kayode, and Ex-Official II, Mr. Ihin Ferdinand, while the CDA chairman comes from Zone D, the Zone produces other posts such as Financial Secretary, Mr. Onigbinde; PRO, Yakubu Yusuf;

and Auditor, Pst Kalu Michael. Aside from the three posts of Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer which were filled automatically unopposed from each of the three zones, other posts were keenly contested which were decided by 52 members of the association in a free and fair election held on August 12, 2023. Speaking after the election, the newly elected chairman called all other members of the community to work and support them to achieve success in the development of the community and be fulfilled. He promised to make an effort to make sure the community gets its share from the governments both at the local and state levels.



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NPFL Club Owners Assure New Sports Minister Of Support

By Saheed Afolabi

The Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Club Owners Association has assured the new Minister of Sports Development, Senator John Enoh of the association's support in discharging his duties. The club owners chairman, Chief Okey Kpalukwu said the new

sports minister needs the support of all relevant football stakeholders to succeed with the right people behind him. He advised Enoh to pay more attention to the management of the Nigeria topflight league because of the positive effect it will have on the country's footballing image as he confidently

assured that Nigeria sports are in safe hands. "On behalf of Football Club Owners Association of Nigeria, I want to congratulate the new Sports Development Minister, distinguished Senator John Enoh and to assure him of our support in this huge assignment of taking the game to the next level. It's a tough assignment no doubt but from what I've read and in

my interaction with other members, it's obvious that what he needs to succeed is our support and to have the right people around him. "There's no denying the fact that the new Minister of Sports Development, Senator

Enoh should be encouraged to pay serious attention to the NPFL because if it's well run or managed, it will reflect positively on our country's football both on the continent and on the national teams. From his cv and as a former legislator, I am

confident that as a businessman, sports is safe in his hands." Enoh is an accomplished politician, farmer and businessman. He is a former gubernatorial candidate in Cross River but lost to Senator Ben Ayade in 2019 general elections.

Onome Ebi Denies Excluding Oplayers From First Lady Reception

By Saheed Afolabi



The Super Falcons players hosted by Nigeria first lady, Senator Remi Tinubu

Nigeria captain, Onome Ebi has denied not including the players and officials of the country who participated at FIFA Women's World Cup in the recent reception done by Nigeria's first lady, Senator Remi Tinubu. Only three Super Falcons players were at the Presidential Villa to meet with the first lady and this caused a wild backlash from various quarters. Debunks the information about sidelining her teammates for the first lady reception, Ebi said

she passed the information personally to the players in Australia but the majority of the players gave flimsy excuses that they won't be able to attend the reception. "I must say that I, as the Captain of the team (Super Falcons), passed the information relayed to me by the Team Secretary (Mrs. Mary Obodoku) that the Presidency wanted to host us on our return to Nigeria. I informed everyone right there in Brisbane, Australia. "But many told me that

they will be joining their clubs for the Pre-season training straight from Australia while others gave us excuse that they have family issues to attend at the same period and would not attend the reception." The former Levante Las Planas player defended the NFF secretary general, Mohammed Sanusi of the allegations levelled against him of compiling the list of the players to see the first lady.

"I don't want to believe that Dr. Sanusi drew up the list of those to attend the Presidential Villa Reception. The invitation to the team was made open for the team members to attend but only a few turned up. That is what I know about it. I don't know the source of the negative vibes coming out of the reception. We should not be bickering. Let us move forward for the love of our football." The Super Falcons were shown the exit door by England in the round of 16 of the World Cup through the penalty shootout.

Salernitana Signs Ex-Nigerian U20 Star

By Saheed Afolabi

Italian Serie A side, Salernitana has signed former Nigeria U20 star, Chukwubuike Ikwuemesi from NK Celje. Ikwuemesi completed his move to the Serie A side and penned a four-year deal with the club. The 22-year-old forward found the back of the net nine times in 30 appearances for Slovenian side, NK Celje last season. The Grofje (The Counts) finished in



IKWESI

second place in the Slovenian league last season to secure European football. Salernitana escaped relegation last season in the Serie A as they

settled for a 15th-place finish. Ikwuemesi was part of the Flying Eagles squad that crashed out of the Wafu B U20 Cup in 2020.

Amokachi Joins Zambian Side

By Saheed Afolabi

Zambian Premier League outfit, NAPSA Stars have secured the signature of Nazim Amokachi from Lobi Stars. The young lad signed a two-year contract with the Pensioners, thereby ending his stint at the NPFL. Amokachi was unveiled together with

Zambia striker, Saith Sakala. The Pensioners boss, Ponga Liwewe described the additions of Amokachi and Sakala as exceptional players that he's confident will help the club achieve success in the upcoming season. "We have strengthened our squad with these two exceptional players, and we are

confident that their contributions on and off the field will play a pivotal role in our success this upcoming season," Liwewe was quoted by NAPSA Stars. The Pensioners finished in fifth place in the Zambian Premier League last season and will open their campaign in the 2023/2024 season against ZESCO United.

Celtic Extends Nigerian Contract

By Saheed Afolabi

Scottish Premiership champions, Celtic have extended the contract of Nigeria prospect, Bosun Lawal. The Ireland-born defender signed

additional three years to his existing deal to guarantee him a place at the Hoops till the summer of 2026. Celtic have revealed that Lawal will join Fleetwood Town in the English League One this season on loan.

The 20 years old player arrived at Celtic in 2021 after spending some years at Watford Academy. Lawal has been a focal part of Celtic and he starred for their youth team in the Scottish Lowland League and the

Premier League International Cup. He helped the club win the Glasgow Cup at Ibrox last season. He made a valuable impact in the youth team which earned him a promotion to the first team and made

his debut against Greenock Morton in the Scottish Cup. Bosun was included in the Celtic first-team preseason tour of Portugal and Japan.



Bosun Lawal