

2024 HAJJ:

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2024 HAJJ: NAHCON Rates Lagos Pilgrims Best

Kunle Awosiyan

The National Hajj Commission of Nigeria, NAHCON, has rated Lagos pilgrim as the best in Nigeria at the ongoing 2024 Hajj. The Head, Infection Prevention Control, National Hajj Commission of Nigeria Medical Clinic, Prof. Thairu Yunusa, said this during his visit to the camp of the pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. He describes the Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board and its

2024 Hajj pilgrims as the most organised as they are currently performing the holy pilgrimage in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Yunusa visited the pilgrims at Alsaad Flower Hotel 2, Misfalah Makkah, on Saturday during an outreach programme where he "described Lagos pilgrims as the shining example for Nigeria. As he put it, "My own is very simple, simple in the sense that if you are going to have a

discussion and you are going to talk to some states' pilgrims; if you are going to talk to Lagos State pilgrims, it is so easy to talk because the Lagos State pilgrims, the Lagos State Board, and the Lagos State Muasasa are all very organised. In fact, (they are) the best in Nigeria."

He said his team came to add some thoughts to the good work the state had been doing so far in its preparation, adding that the mission was also to encourage the

pilgrims to maintain positive health as they complete all the Hajj rituals in Mina, Arafah and the rest.

Responding, the Special Adviser to Lagos State Governor on Islamic Matters, Dr. Ahmad Jebe, appreciated the NAHCON team for recognising the good work being done by the state in the discharge of its responsibilities to the pilgrims.

Jebe said with the level of support and encouragement received from Governor

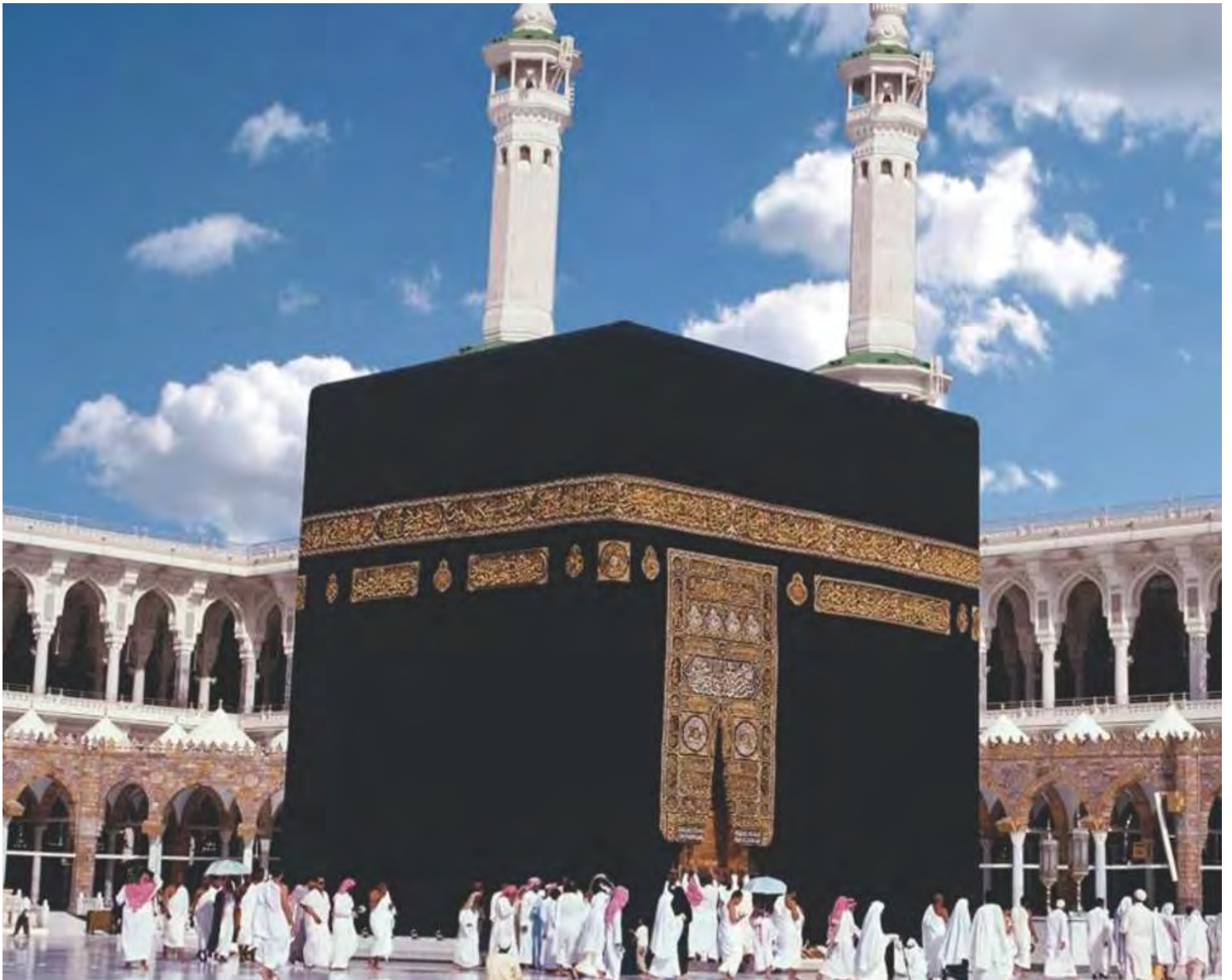
Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, the officials would not relent in their efforts but continue to work harder to provide comfort for the pilgrims throughout the Hajj exercise.

Last week, Sanwo-Olu granted 100 Saudi Riyals as "pocket money" to each of the state's 1,868 Hajj pilgrims.

The gesture came a few days after the governor gave the pilgrims \$186,800 to make up for the shortfall in their Travel Basic Allowance

for the Hajj pilgrimage. No fewer than 1,862 pilgrims were airlifted from Lagos from May 17 with each paying N4,899,000.00 (Four Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand Naira) as the final cost for the Y2024 Hajj exercise in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Commissioner for Home Affairs, Hon. Olanrewaju Ibrahim Layode (OIL) who revealed this amount also expressed the State Government's regrets over the increment.



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He said that the development was least expected at a time when every Nigerian was trying hard to survive the economic downturn in the country as a result of the instability in the dollar to the naira exchange rate.

The State Government secured a conducive and comfortable accommodation befitting its status nearer to the Haram in Makkah.

According to the Chairman/CEO, National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) Malam Jalal Ahmad Arabi, the adjustment in fares for the 2024 Hajj exercise shows that pilgrims from the Southern Region paid N4,899,000.00; those from the Northern Region paid N4,699,000.00 while pilgrims from Yola and Maiduguri Centre paid N4,679,000.00 for the 2024 Hajj.

Meanwhile one of the Lagos pilgrims, Oloshogbo Idris, has reportedly died last Tuesday.

The pilgrim gave up the ghost while eating, a few minutes after returning from circumambulation of the Holy Kaaba in Makkah.

The secretary, Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Mr. Saheed Onipede, who confirmed the incident in a statement signed by the Assistant Director, Public Affairs Unit of the

ministry, said the deceased passed on while eating shortly after returning from the Tawaf.

Although the circumstances surrounding his death had yet to be medically ascertained at the time this report was filed, Onipede suggested that the death could not be unconnected with the stress the deceased went through during the Tawaf.

He appealed to other pilgrims "to exercise cautions and restrain from overstressing

themselves before the commencement of the real Hajj rites.

Commenting on the treatment the Lagos State coordinators are giving their pilgrims in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrim, Alhaji Isiaka Isah spoke to Echonews. He said that Lagos State Government had always perfected its plan before leaving Nigeria.

"My sister who stays in the United Kingdom paid for my Hajj. I'm from Ogun State, Iperu Remo but I live in Magboro. She was the one who chose Lagos State for

me, having travelled to Mecca as a Lagos pilgrim before. She said the Lagos is the most organised and that was what I met also. From one training to another, one orientation class to another, we understand what we are going to Mecca to do," Isah said.

Isah is a welder and farmer. He said he only dreamt of Mecca, he never thought he would one day travel to Saudi Arabia but as God would have it, his sister decided to sponsor him.

Echonews gathered

that Lagos always start preparation for another pilgrimage immediately after the close of the current one. Shortly after the announcement fare for the 2024 Hajj, the State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board rolled out its vaccination programme in April to ascertain the health status of each pilgrim in fulfillment of the requirements for international travel. Medical officials from the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital screened the pilgrims for diabetes, malaria,

typhoid, Hepatitis B, and pregnancy tests, among others. Officials from the Port Health Service in the Federal Ministry of Health also vaccinated the pilgrims against diseases such as polio, meningitis and Yellow fever.

The screenings were carried out on a local government basis, starts at 8 am daily from Tuesday, April 30, and ends May 9, 2024, at the Shamsi Adisa Thomas Mosque hall, Old Secretariat, GRA, Ikeja.



Parastatals Monitoring Office Trains Officers on Globalisation

The Lagos State Parastatals Monitoring (PMO) Office has organized a two-day in-house training programme for middle and management-level officers, themed “Globalization and Emerging Trends in the Workplace”. The training aims to equip officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate the rapidly changing global landscape.

The Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Adetutu Ososanya (FCA), while declaring the workshop open, emphasised the importance of adapting to change in today's dynamic environment, noting that the only thing that is constant in life is change. “Today, we are witnessing an era of unprecedented change, driven by the forces of globalization and the emergence of new trends in the workplace”, she said.

Mrs. Ososanya highlighted the dual challenges of globalization and technological advancement, emphasising their impact on business operations and the nature of work. In her words, “Globalization has reshaped the way we do business, breaking down barriers and opening up new opportunities on a scale never before imagined. We must also contend with the rapid pace of technological advancement, shifting demographics, and evolving consumer preferences”.

She averred that the training programme, attended by officers from Grade Levels 8 to 13, is designed to foster innovation and

leadership, saying “As middle and management level officers, each of you plays a crucial role in driving our organization forward in this dynamic environment. Your role, vision, and dedication will be instrumental in charting our course through these uncertain waters”.

The Permanent Secretary, therefore, encouraged active participation, emphasising the importance of an open mind and a sense of purpose. “Let us seize

this opportunity to grow, to innovate, and to emerge as the future leaders that our organization needs us to be”, she urged.

She concluded by thanking the facilitators and officers for their commitment to excellence and dedication to the mission of the Parastatals Monitoring Office. “Together, I am confident that we can rise to the challenges of globalization and emerge stronger, more resilient, and more united than ever before”, she affirmed.



In a bid to significantly enhance legal literacy, the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy (LJLA) Fellows have launched the “EKO Laws Simplifier App” which aims to make legal information more accessible to Lagos residents.

Usman Adeniji, Team Ace Project Lead, unveiled the app at a press briefing held recently at Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, describing the app as part of the fellows' CAPSTONE project, designed to empower residents by providing easy access to legal information.

“According to the Ministry of Justice, 70% of Lagos residents encountered legal issues in 2021, yet only 30% had access to legal information, thereby informing the urgent need for the Eko Laws App in a city of 26 million people”, he stated.

As part of their outreach, the Eko Laws team visited

LJLA Fellows Launch Eko Laws Simplifier App

State Senior High School Alimosho and Alimosho Senior Grammar School to educate students on legal literacy. Adeniji reaffirmed his team's dedication to reaching every corner of Lagos and encouraged public support for the initiative.

Mrs. Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, LJLA's Executive Secretary, expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Law Reform Commission for their support, noting that the App simplifies legal resource access, promotes law compliance, and empowers residents

to handle legal matters with confidence. The App, available at www.ekolaws.com, features a user-friendly interface, a comprehensive legal database, advanced search and filter options, and educational resources.

The launch event was attended by the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya and her counterpart in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget, Mr. Ope George, among other dignitaries.



Local Government Service Commission Holds Summit on Service Delivery

The Lagos State Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) has held a successful three-day summit aimed at enhancing sustainable service delivery in Local Government and Local Council Development Areas.

The event, held recently at Jubilee Chalet in Epe, brought together major stakeholders in local government administration to discuss how to rebrand the State's Local Government System.

Speaking at the Summit, the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, emphasised that the summit aligns with the THEMES Plus Agenda and it is geared towards enhancing service delivery and good governance at the grassroots level, just as he highlighted the present administration's dedication to improving the quality of life for all residents through efficient and sustainable practices.

Addressing participants, the Deputy Governor, who was represented by the Executive Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Dr. Hakeem Shittu, underlined the necessity of sustainable service delivery, urging collective efforts to innovate and implement practices that balance economic growth, environmental stewardship, and social equity.

He called on those at the grassroots level to partner in the mission of creating a better and greater Lagos State for present and future generations.

"I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will initiate strategies that will make our service delivery more efficient, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of our people", he stated.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman of the Lagos State House Committee on Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs & Rural Development, Hon. Sanni Okanlawon urged participants to actively engage in all activities and implement the insights gained to improve service delivery.

He emphasised the importance of the practical application of the summit's deliberations, just as he sought collaboration from all the stakeholders.

Also speaking, the Head of Service of Lagos State, Mr. Olabode Shuaheeb Agoro, underscored the crucial role of local governments as the bedrock of democracy, stressing the importance of equipping them to meet citizens' needs effectively.

Represented at the event by Mrs. Bopo Oyekan-Ismailia, the Head of Service called on public servants to remain unbridled, focused and committed in their roles to ensure that all Lagos residents continue to enjoy the benefits of good governance.

The Chairman of LGSC, Hon. Kamal Ayinde Bayewu described the Summit as a means to review administrative guidelines and enhance operational efficiency within the local government system.

He stressed the need for proper adherence to processes to bridge the gap between political officials and civil servants.

On her part, the Permanent Secretary of the LGSC, Mrs. Abosede George highlighted the Summit's goal of bringing together stakeholders to restructure and rebrand the local government system, ensuring officers align with their state counterparts.

The Summit featured various presentations on topics such as procurement, budgeting, sustainability, the Lagos State development plan, regulatory frameworks, statutory committees, and ethical considerations in decision-making.

Panel discussions addressed the future of the local government system and the moral and work ethics of its officers.

Other notable attendees of the summit included some members of the State House of Assembly, Body of Permanent Secretaries, Council Chairmen, Heads of Government Agencies and Parastatals, among others.

Lagos Subjects Badagry Master Plan To Public Inspection

Lagos State Government will subject the Draft Report on the Review of Badagry Master Plan(2022-2024) to public scrutiny from Wednesday 19th June to Friday 26th July 2024.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Physical Planning, Engr. Oluwole Sotire disclosed this in a statement issued at the weekend.

He said that the 28-day public inspection of the Draft Plan across various centres, mainly within the Badagry division of Lagos State, would allow stakeholders to review its proposals and make relevant comments to further enrich the Plan.

The Permanent Secretary stated that subjecting the draft report to public scrutiny was part of the acclaimed process of preparing an inclusive Plan, which is also in tandem with the State's culture of Citizen's participation in the preparation of Physical Development Plans.

The inspection venues, which are 13 in all, include the Local Government/Local Council Development Area Secretariat within the Badagry division of the State, local planning offices within the division, Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Secretariat, Alausa and the headquarters of the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) at GRA, Ikeja.

"It is worthy of note that to ramp up public participation in the plan preparation process, the 28-day public inspection of the Draft Report on the Review of Badagry Master Plan(2022-2042) will be followed by a final Stakeholders Meeting at 9 am on Thursday 8th August 2024 at LASU Main Auditorium, Ojo", he added.

According to Sotire, the aim of the Master Plan, which is going through a review upon its expiration after being operative for 20 years, is to harness the special characteristics and environmental sustainability of the plan area to engender sustainable future growth and socio-economic development of Lagos State as the preferred investment destination in sub-Saharan Africa.



90-Day Amnesty: LASPPPA Intensifies Campaign Across Lagos

... Enjoins House Owners, Developers To Take Advantage of Amnesty Offer

As the 90-Day Amnesty Period approved by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for property owners and developers to obtain requisite building permits enters the second month, the Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA) has intensified its advocacy, imploring more house owners to use the amnesty window to obtain their building permits. Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Olumide Oluyinka gave the advice during the commencement of a motorized campaign embarked upon by LASPPPA to different parts of the State where they engaged Lagosians and sensitized them on the need to access the amnesty opportunity. The Commissioner, who spoke through the Director of Administration and Human Resource, Office of Physical Planning, Mr. Taiwo Fesomu, acknowledged the tenacity of LASPPPA in ensuring that residents of the State are fully aware of the amnesty opportunity approved by the State Governor. He urged LASPPPA not to rest on its oars in ensuring that more house owners and developers benefit from the amnesty window. Dr. Oluyinka stated that the State Government under the leadership of Governor Babajide

Sanwo-Olu, through the approval of the amnesty programme, has again shown itself as a government with a human face. Oluyinka noted that apart from the 'no penalty' attached to the physical planning permit processing for an existing building, the Governor also approved a 5 per cent rebate on assessment fees payable to the State Government throughout the duration of the amnesty window. He said: "I just want to implore Lagosians not to allow this amnesty window to pass them by, this gesture from the State government shows that the administration of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu does not want anyone to lose his or her property but instead, wants everyone to

conform with laws guiding physical development in the State". The Commissioner also told officials of LASPPPA to continue to operate within their limit and avoid engaging in activities capable of bringing the Authority and the State government to disrepute.

Also speaking, the General Manager of LASPPPA, Tpl. Kehinde Osinaike explained that the amnesty window was designed to ensure that buildings are constructed correctly and that the necessary fees for physical planning purposes are paid to the government. On the possibility of extending the three-month amnesty window, the General Manager maintained

that only the state governor has the prerogative to review the date, adding that the three-month opportunity was enough for the residents to perfect their planning approvals. He commended Lagosians who have approached the Authority to regularize their physical planning approvals since the amnesty window was made public on the 2nd of May, 2024, saying that the turn-out has been encouraging. "I can say that we have witnessed an impressive level of compliance from building owners since the programme started on the 2nd of May this year. However, so many people who are yet to take advantage of this opportunity can still

do that from now till the end of July 2024", the General Manager added. Tpl. Osinaike disclosed further that the process is seamless, affordable and achievable within the three-month amnesty window, just as he enjoined Lagosians to do the needful within the stipulated time as against asking for an extension. He implored members of the public to liaise with the District Officers of LASPPPA in their respective LG/LCDAs for professional guidance instead of patronizing touts or any third-party agent. He also used the opportunity of the Sensitisation campaign to restate the good working relationship that exists between

LASPPPA and the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA) in ensuring seamless approval processing. Osinaike listed documents required for processing of building approval to include Title Document/Proof of Ownership, Survey Plan, As-built Architectural Drawings, Structural, Electrical, and Mechanical Drawings (Where Applicable), Non-Destructive Integrity Test Report (Where Applicable), Letter of structural stability and indemnity (Where Applicable), Land use Planning Analysis Report, other Supporting Documents where Applicable including evidence of Tax payment.



Lagos Govt Partners Statecraft Production on Kurumi Play

Says cultural rebirth, reorientation work faster through arts, entertainment

Lagos State Government on Monday expressed its readiness to partner with Stagecraft Studios and Film Production Ltd. to stage a play titled 'Kurumi'.

The decision of the Lagos State Government was revealed by the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, during a press conference held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa, Ikeja.

She said the government is partnering with the production firm in staging Kurumi in its bid to foster historical heritage and prevent African culture and traditions from going into extinction, as well as expose and awaken the consciousness of youths to the role of good leadership anywhere they find themselves.

Kurumi is a play written by the late renowned author, Prof. Ola Rotimi, that explores the themes of collective political and military leadership, social change and development, responsible leadership, control and accountability.

Kurumi, which is to be staged at Alliance Française on June 13 and 14 and at the Terra Kulture Arena on July 20 and 21, is directed by a renowned movie producer and actor, Mr. Oladapo Muyideen, popularly known as Lala. The stage play, which has 75 cast and crew members, will also be taken to the five IBILE divisions of Lagos State for the delight of residents.

Speaking during the press conference



attended by the Special Adviser to Governor Sanwo-Olu on Media and Publicity, Mr. Gboyega Akosile; Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toyin Atekoja; and representatives of organisations sponsoring the Kurumi stage play, Benson-Awoyinka, said the stage play speaks to the THEMES+ agenda of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to revive and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Lagos and Africa.

Benson-Awoyinka pointed out that the cultural rebirth and reorientation much desired could happen faster through entertainment and arts, and that is why the Lagos State Government is partnering with the production firm on Kurumi.

She said: "In line with the vision of the Lagos State Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture to make Lagos State the preferred destination for tourism, leisure, and business in Africa, I am honoured to present this captivating

stage play, KURUMI put together by Stagecraft Studios and Film Production.

"This play is a masterpiece that showcases our rich cultural heritage, steeped in tradition and history. It showcases the talents of our vibrant arts industry and the creativity of our theater practitioners.

"The play is a historical play that tells the story of a legendary Yoruba king, KURUMI, who embodied courage, wisdom, and leadership. The play masterfully weaves together elements of history, culture, and entertainment, making it a must-see for everyone."

Speaking on why the Lagos State Government is partnering with Stagecraft Studios and Film Production Ltd. in staging Kurumi, Benson-Awoyinka disclosed that "as the Commissioner of Tourism, I recognise the significance of arts and culture in promoting tourism and showcasing our state's diversity. The play is an excellent representation of our

cultural wealth, which I encourage everyone to experience.

"The world is changing rapidly, and cultures and traditions are fast losing steam to the world order. As Africans, we have a culture; we have our history. These two elements are most cherished and are a reminder of who we are as a people.

"It is on that basis that the Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, threw its weight behind the production of Kurumi, the stage play. We know that the cultural rebirth and reorientation that we talk about can happen faster through entertainment and the arts. Therefore, by attending this play, you will not only be entertained but also gain a deeper understanding of our rich cultural heritage. The talented cast, stunning costumes, and impressive set design will transport you to a world of wonder and awe.

"We support the production of Kurumi because we understand the inherent importance

and value that it would bring to our society, especially the numerous Lagosians that would go out to watch the play on stage. I urge all residents and visitors to join us in celebrating our cultural excellence by watching KURUMI. Let us come together to support the arts and make our state a hub for cultural tourism."

Also speaking, the Director of Kurumi, Mr. Oladapo Muyideen; the Production Manager, Michelle Adegbola; and the Technical Director, Mr. Biodun Abe, commended the Lagos State Government for supporting and funding the project for cultural rebirth, especially among the GenZ youths.

Oladapo said Kurumi is about promoting the Yoruba cultural heritage. "As people of different cultural backgrounds, there are ways the Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa do their things. So Kurumi is taking us to the way we do things and the way we address issues. It is about reminding us of our heritage," he said.

Adegbola said the reason for the play is about a leader—a

legendary warrior who stood up for the tradition. He said stage play is a message for the youth that "no matter the level of technology, we should not forget our background. That is why we are showcasing the play to the public. Governor Sanwo-Olu had seen the good in our culture and we want everyone to connect with our culture."

Adegbola also disclosed that whoever wanted to use Uber to get to Ikoyi to watch Kurumi will enjoy 30 percent on Uber using Kurumi as the code.

Speaking during the press conference, the Media and Insight Manager of Rite Food, Mr. Adedotun Ajibade; the Group Executive Director of Omnicon Media Group, Mr. Yinka Adebayo; the Events and Sponsorship Manager of TOLARAM Group, Miss Frankie Ohwo; and other partners, whose companies are partnering with Stagecraft Studios and Film Production Ltd in staging Kurumi, said they are committed to the play because they believe strongly in it.

S'West Governors Adopt Common Agenda For Regional Prosperity Lagos Governor, Sanwo-Olu, Becomes Forum's Chairman

..Economic Integration, Security, Food Production Top Priority At Meeting



Regional economic integration, food production and regional security are the main items that top the agenda at the meeting of the South-West Governors' Forum held in Lagos on Monday.

At the meeting held behind closed doors in Alausa, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the host, was unanimously elected to lead the Forum as chairman.

Sanwo-Olu stepped into the position, following the vacancy occasioned by the death of the former Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu, SAN, who chaired the regional caucus.

Governors Seyi Makinde (Oyo), Dapo Abiodun (Ogun), Lucky Aiyedatiwa (Ondo), Ademola Adeleke (Osun), Biodun Oyebanji (Ekiti) and Sanwo-Olu (Lagos) were all

physically present at the meeting, which lasted for four hours. They all paid their last respects to the memory of the late Akeredolu, who passed away last December.

The Forum reviewed security across the region, pointing out that South-West had been relatively peaceful in the Southern part of the country. They, however, used to platform to renew their call for creation of State Police to further strengthen safety in the region.

They agreed on the need to forge a security cooperation in order to enhance economic development and free movement within the region.

The Governors also called for more collaboration between security agencies and Western Nigeria Security Network, known as Amotekun Corps.

The Forum commended the House of Representatives and members of the Southwest caucus in the National Assembly for their efforts at passing the South-West Development Commission Bill, urging the upper chamber of the federal parliament to speed up the bill passage.

To expand food production and agricultural development, the Forum also directed their respective States' Commissioners for Agriculture to immediately come together and develop a comprehensive agricultural template that would leverage on each State's comparative advantage.

Rising from the meeting, the Forum, through its chairman, Governor Sanwo-Olu, read the 11-point resolution adopted in

the communique signed by all the six Governors.

Sanwo-Olu said: The Southwest Governors' Forum, at its meeting today, June 10, 2024, deliberated extensively on contemporary issues in the South-West States and resolved to commend President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR on the groundbreaking of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road, and the proposed Lagos to Sokoto road. We, however, encourage the Federal Government to rehabilitate other federal infrastructure in the region.

"On security, the Forum commends the relative peace in the South-West region and notes the collaboration between all security agencies and the Amotekun Corps. We reaffirm our full support for State Police. We acknowledge the efforts of the Federal

Government to strengthen food security. We decide that Commissioners for Agriculture of all the South-West states should begin to meet and set up a working template, which will ensure collaboration based on each State's comparative advantage."

On lingering disagreement on Minimum Wage, the Forum said it was in support of the efforts of the Federal Government, Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) and the Organised Private Sector to resolve the wage dispute, while urging continued engagement with the Labour Union.

The Governors said they believed the outcome of the negotiations for better wages would reflect true fiscal federalism.

The Forum hailed the Federal Government's efforts on exploration policies on mineral

resources, but called for collaboration with States in the process to grant leases to investors.

The South-West Governors adopted a popular song composed by Afenifere, a Yoruba socio-cultural group, titled: "Ise wa fun ile wa", as common anthem across the six States. They condemned, in strong terms, nefarious activities of a group of people agitating for Yoruba nation, stating that the region remained an integral part of the country.

"The Forum agrees to strengthen the DAWN Commission on operational efficiency and charges the Commission to focus on economic integration, cooperation and investment promotion of South-West states. To that end, each State is mandated to appoint a State focal person," Sanwo-Olu said.

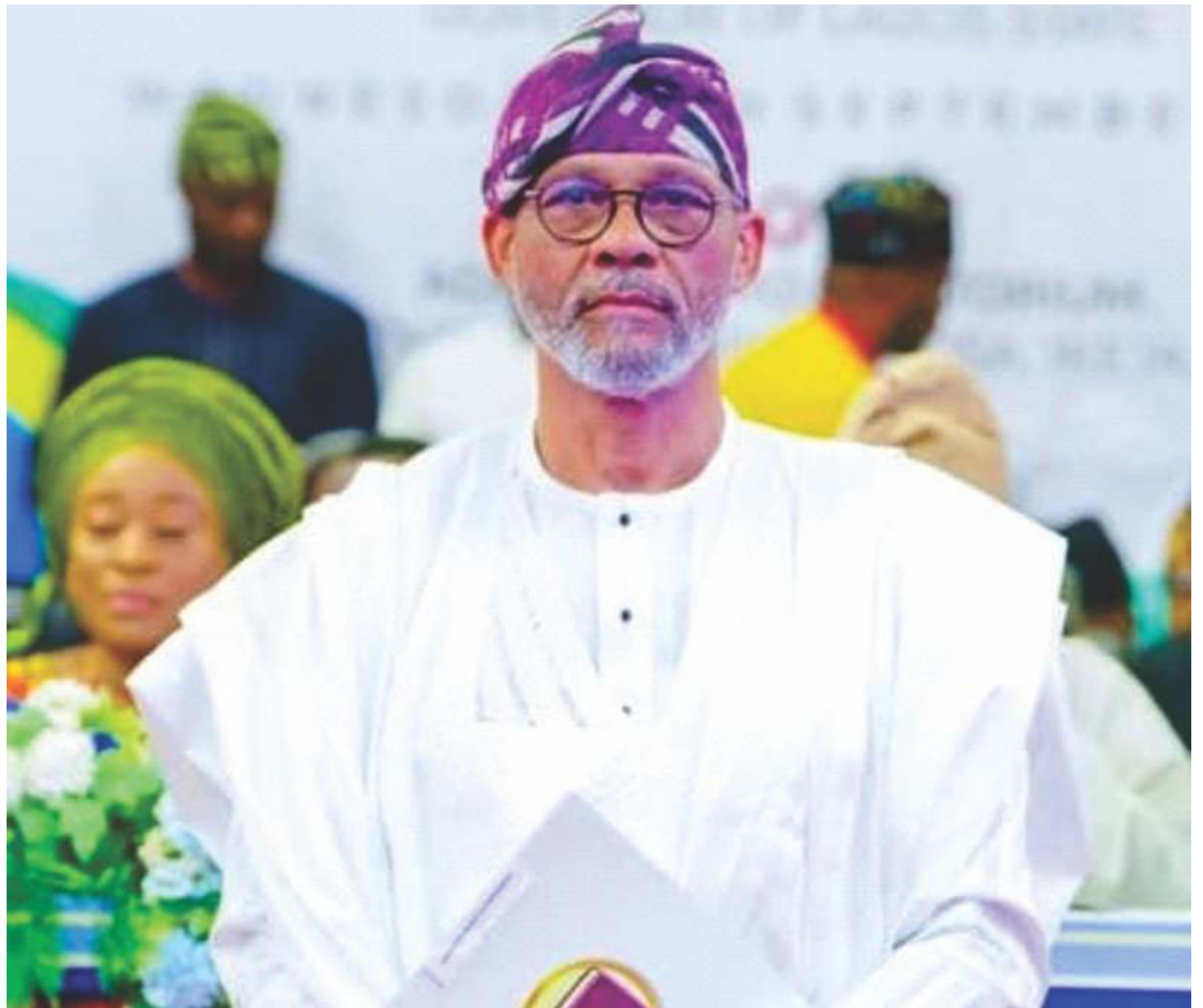
Lagos Calls For Precautionary Measures Against Cholera Outbreak

Lagos State Government has issued a call for heightened vigilance and the adoption of precautionary measures to prevent the spread of a potential cholera outbreak in the State. This call follows an excess of severe gastroenteritis cases reported in Lagos in the last 48 hours.

Speaking on the surveillance reports reaching his desk in the Ministry of Health, Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi disclosed that cases of severe gastroenteritis have been reported in communities around Eti-Osa, Lagos Island, Ikorodu and Kosofe LGA, resulting in about 60 hospital admissions, and sadly five deaths have been recorded mainly from patients presenting late with extreme dehydration.

"We have activated a statewide heightened surveillance and response. The Ministry of Health Directorate of Environmental Health and the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) have been alerted to investigate a possible water contamination source in the Lekki Victoria Island axis. We suspect a possible cholera outbreak; however, samples have been taken for confirmation. As of April 28, 2024, Nigeria reported 815 suspected cholera cases and 14 deaths across 25 states", he said.

The Commissioner noted that following



recent rains, Lagos State has seen a notable increase in cases of severe vomiting and watery stools, adding that urban slums and crowded areas with poor sanitation are particularly at risk. Prof. Akin Abayomi explained that cholera is a highly contagious disease that causes severe diarrhea and can be life-threatening, adding that it poses a significant health burden in areas with poor water treatment and sanitation, and could impact Lagos State.

"Cholera spreads through direct

transmission by eating or drinking contaminated food or water, and indirect transmission due to poor sanitation and lack of handwashing. Symptoms of cholera include severe watery diarrhea, vomiting, rapid dehydration, muscle cramps, fever and sometimes collapse", he said.

According to him, treatment options for cholera include rehydration using Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) for mild to moderate dehydration. Intravenous Fluids is used for severely dehydrated patients given only in medical

facilities and supervised by medical personnel.

"To prevent cholera, citizens are urged to ensure safe drinking water by boiling, chlorinating, or using bottled water, and avoiding ice products made from untreated water. Maintaining proper sanitation by using toilets, safely disposing of faeces, and avoiding open defecation is crucial. Practising good hygiene, such as washing hands with soap and clean water regularly, especially before eating, preparing food, and after using the toilet, is essential and

following food safety guidelines", the Commissioner advised.

He enjoined citizens to rely on the Lagos State Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), and accredited local health facilities for guidance, advice and updates on prevention, treatment and management. He added that suspected cases can be reported via the following emergency hotlines: 08023169485, 08137412348, or by using helplines 767 or 112.

While emphasising

the importance of maintaining high standards of hygiene and taking proactive measures to prevent cholera outbreaks, Professor Abayomi promised to keep the public informed and restated the commitment of the Government of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to ensuring the health and well-being of its citizens.

"We urge everyone to adopt these preventive measures and report any suspected cases promptly to safeguard our communities", he stated.

Hamzat Commissions New School In Ejigbo

... Commends Council Chairman for Initiative



The Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat has reiterated the commitment of the Sanwo-Olu administration to investing in the future of children by providing essential educational infrastructure, recognising them as the future leaders and drivers of progress in Lagos and Nigeria as a whole. The Deputy Governor said this today at the commissioning of the Akinsanya Ajaloleru Nursery and Primary School, at the school premises, Oke Afa, Ejigbo Local Council Development Area. Hamzat highlighted that Education and Technology are the third pillar of the State

Government's developmental plan, under the acronym T.H.E.M.E.S Plus, and the school commissioning is part of fulfilling the state government's agenda. He explained that the school is being commissioned due to the demand of the people of Iamoshe for a public primary school to reduce the stress that the children go through in accessing education, noting that there is no single public primary school within the ward, thereby making the children trek a long distance before accessing government education.

The Deputy Governor stated that the newly commissioned government-owned school in the local

environs will protect the kids from traffic accidents while crossing the road, adding that the school can compete better than many private schools within the area with the possibility of affordability by the parents.

Hamzat, however, urged the people of Iamoshe to take ownership of the newly constructed edifice and ensure that it is kept safe for the children.

While commending the LCDA Chairman, Hon. Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello, the Deputy Governor thanked the Chairman for being innovative and charged him not to relent. The Ejigbo community will

forever be grateful to him and remembered for his integrity.

In his remarks, the Lagos State House of Assembly member, representing Oshodi/Isolo Constituency II, Hon. Ladi Ajomale commended the Chairman for his excellent work. He urged him to continue implementing various infrastructure projects, including inner road construction and other initiatives that will improve the living standards of the people of Ejigbo LCDA.

Hon. Ajomale added that people always say that Local Government Chairmen don't perform or work but this Chairman was

able to work and deliver such a good edifice that is even more beautiful than any private institutions within the local council area.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Executive Chairman of Ejigbo (LCDA), Hon. Monsurudeen Oloyede Bello explained that the newly commissioned school aims to revolutionise the education landscape in the area by providing an alternative to the costly private schools, thereby alleviating the financial burden on residents and making quality education more accessible.

He added that this is due to the proximity of Iamoshe Estate to the well-known Ajao

Estate and International Airport which has prevented many of our children from receiving a free or reasonably priced high-quality education. He added that the school's strategic position is expected to enhance socio-economic activity within the surrounding community.

According to Bello, the school has enrolled over 350 students in the first three months of operation, adding that the aesthetic appearance of the building and the calibre of teachers deployed to the school by the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) forced many parents to remove their children from some Private Schools.

Lagos Govt Promotes Optimal Nutrition Awareness

The Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) has announced a comprehensive food and nutrition initiative, aimed at improving food and nutrition standards across Lagos State.

The State Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Honourable Bolaji Cecelia Dada said this during the advocacy programme organised by the Ministry's Women Department to mark the Year 2024 Food and Nutrition Day, tagged: 'OunjeL'oreAwo', held recently at the Palace of Onisabe of Igbobi Sabe, Yaba Local Council Development Area, Lagos.

Speaking during the programme, Dada stated that the initiative underscores the Ministry's commitment to fostering a healthier and more resilient



community through enhanced food consumption and nutritional awareness.

According to her, "WAPA is a prominent member of the Lagos State Committee on Food and Nutrition (SCFN), an initiative of the Federal Government geared towards domestication of malnutrition and nutrition-related matters across all states of the

Federation".

"We scored the highest mark 66.93% in year 2023 food and nutrition policy implementation among the 13 MDAs that make up the Committee", she added.

The Commissioner further pointed out that governments around the world are keen at promoting and

ensuring good nutrition for their citizens. Also, public health awareness campaigns screenings, Community Nutrition Education Programmes and the importance of investing in the well-being of the people are in line with the Ministry's mandate.

She reiterated that over the years, the Ministry has been engaging citizens, especially women in advocacy programmes on

how to eat healthy foods with nutrients to function optimally, saying "You are what you eat".

Furthermore, she said the launch of a statewide Multisectoral plan of action for Food and Nutrition for another 5-Year Plan (2025 – 2029) remains essential because WAPA is a women-focused Ministry and has the support of Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Dada said, "In recent times, we have been empowering women to be resilient to grow their foods and focused on educating residents about balanced diets, nutritional values, and healthy eating habits".

Speaking on beneficiaries of the food items, she said the Ministry has held similar initiatives at Ikorodu, Eti-Osa, Lagos Island, Alimosho, Isolo, Somolu, Apapa, and Ajegunle for the benefit of the residents in the areas, adding that, today, the Ministry is at the Igbobi Sabe Kingdom to extend the same gesture to the women folks in the

area on eating healthy foods.

In his remarks, His Royal Majesty, Oba Owolabi Adeyemi Adeniyi, Maforunyomi I of Igbobi Kingdom, thanked the Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, Honourable Bolaji Cecelia Dada and his subjects for their support towards the success of the programme, imploring the women to take advantage of the medical screening opportunity included in the initiative to check their health.

Earlier, Dietary Nutritionist, Mr. Olusola Malomo advised the gathering that, "What goes into our mouth is important, please eat in moderation, eat a variety of foods and drink 2 litres or 3 litres of water daily, as food and water are medicinal".

The highlights of the day were free medical screening for women and distribution of rice, beans, garri, crates of eggs, vegetables, whole chicken and groundnut oil to women of Igbobi Sabe Kingdom.

Sanwo-Olu Donates Multi- Million Naira Office Equipment To Education District II

... As Permanent Secretary Urges Judicious Use of Items

The Permanent Secretary/Tutor-General of the Lagos State Education District II, Mrs. Anike Adekanye has urged benefitting schools of the multi-million naira Furniture and Office Equipment donated by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to justify the gestures by making judicious use of them as well as protecting them.

Adekanye gave the advice recently during the presentation of the donated furniture and office equipment to Junior High Schools



under the Education District II at the District's

Headquarters in Maryland, Lagos. She stated that the

items were donated to new schools located in the Ikorodu

area in line with the THEMES Plus Agenda of the Sanwo-Olu administration and his commitment to improving the education sector.

Adekanye said: "We are distributing office equipment and furniture such as photocopiers, desktop computers, air conditioners, fans, chairs, generators, television sets and office cabinets amongst others, to our new schools in Ikorodu and offices of the Principals and Vice-Principals".

The Permanent Secretary, however, appealed to all the beneficiaries including

the Communities, Principals, Vice-Principals, Teachers and Students to make good use of the donated items so that more gestures would be extended to schools under Education District II by the State Government.

Some of the beneficiaries Schools of the donated furniture and equipment are Ibelefun Junior Grammar School, Musade-Odugate Junior School Ori-Okuta and Egbon Kingdom Junior High School, among others.

We Must Take Proactive Measures To Address Land Degradation

... As State Celebrates 2024 World Environment Day



Lagos State Government at the weekend reiterated the necessity for all residents to take proactive measures to address land degradation and enhance resilience to drought.

The Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources Mr. Tokunbo Wahab stated this at the grand finale of the 2024 World Environment Day Celebration held on Saturday at Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja, saying that Lagos State is not immune to natural challenges of being a megacity with growing population and rapid urbanization.

He described the

theme: "Land Restoration, Desertification, and Drought Resilience", as a call to action to address the critical challenges of land degradation, desertification, and drought issues that threaten the very existence and future of the planet.

He said that land degradation, driven by unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and climate change, affects about 1.9 billion hectares of land globally.

He further explained that Desertification is the process by which fertile land becomes desert and this happens in over 168

countries making it one of the most significant environmental challenges of this time, stressing that droughts have become more frequent and severe, exacerbating the impacts of climate change and threatening the resilience of the ecosystems.

"In our nation, these challenges are particularly pronounced as Nigeria, with its vast and diverse landscapes, faces significant threats from land degradation and desertification, especially in the northern regions", he said.

Wahab stated that encroachment of deserts and the loss of arable land are affecting agricultural productivity, water resources, and the livelihoods of millions of Nigerians

He emphasised that the health nature of the land directly impacts food security, water availability, biodiversity, livelihoods and overall well-being, stressing that these crises affect millions of people worldwide.

"Sustainable Land Management initiative not only enhances soil fertility and productivity but also separates carbon, contributing to climate change mitigation", he observed.

Wahab stated that there is a Community Engagement and Education initiative meant for empowering communities with knowledge and crucial resources, adding that the state is conducting extensive outreach programmes to educate farmers, local leaders, and citizens on sustainable practices that promote land restoration and drought resilience.

According to him, "The journey ahead may be daunting, but I am confident that with our collective determination,

we can overcome these challenges; our efforts to restore our land, combat desertification, and enhance our resilience to drought will yield lasting benefits for our environment, economy, and future generations".

The Commissioner who also dwelt on enforcement efforts of the administration said there is no going back on the application of the law to all environmental infractions.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu noted that

the ecosystems are under immense pressure from urbanization, climate change, pollution, and unsustainable land use practices.

He added that amidst these challenges lies an opportunity for all to come together, re-imagine the relationship with nature, recreate sustainable solutions, and restore the balance that is essential for the well-being of the planet and future generations.

He said the State Government has long been at the forefront of

environmental conservation and sustainability efforts which include tree planting initiatives to waste management reforms.

He said another example could be seen in the recent ban on Styrofoam food containers amongst other saying, the government has demonstrated the unwavering commitment to environmental management.

In his remarks, the Permanent Secretary Office of Environmental Services, Dr. Gaji Tajudeen reminded participants of the environmental challenges confronting the planet, noting that the World Environment Day celebration serves not only to raise awareness but also to inspire action towards sustainable practices that safeguard the environment for generations to come.

The Guest Speaker at the event, Dr. Soladoye Iwajomo said land restoration is the process of arresting degradation or rehabilitating degraded land and restoring its productivity through reforestation, soil conservation and protecting natural processes.

At the climax of the event, Green Awards were presented to private sector operators in Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Reporting and Environmental Restoration Categories respectively.

SURULERE

Apatira Warns Residents Against Contacting Cholera

By Saheed Afolabi

Chairman of Itire Ikate LCDA, Ahmed Apatira has warned residents on contacting Cholera after the breakout of the disease.

Following the recent rains, there has been a surge in gastroenteritis cases and suspected cholera cases in the state. According to the



Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, 814 cholera cases have been reported in Nigeria, resulting in 14 deaths.

Apatira urges residents to take their health seriously and prevent the spread of the disease.

"I urge all residents to take immediate action to prevent the spread of cholera in our community.

"To protect yourself and your loved ones, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, drink clean and safe water. Keep toilets clean and practice personal hygiene.

"If you suspect you or someone else has cholera, please drink one sachet of ORS mixed with one liter of water, visit the nearest medical facility for proper monitoring and treatment.

"Let us work together to prevent the spread of cholera in our community. Stay safe, stay healthy."

Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates New Paediatric Sickle Cell Centre at LASUTH

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu formally commissioned the newly built Sickle Cell Centre at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), donated by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, on Friday.

In his address, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the SSA to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Princess Adejoke Adefulire for her continuous commitment and contributions towards healthcare advancement in Lagos State. He described the intervention as a "remarkable donation" strategic to the State's healthcare value chain, noting that the project would scale up response time to cases and stem infant mortality.

He said: "This collaboration with the Office of the SSA to the President on SDGs is a testament to our collective commitment to improving care for children living with

sickle cell diseases. I acknowledge Princess Orelope-Adefulire for her vision and commitment to healthcare advancement that made this Centre a reality. This will not only transform our healthcare landscape; it will also add to the number of childcare facilities in Lagos. If we all work together, we can achieve a lot more together".

The Governor added that the Centre will provide comprehensive care that will include early diagnosis, advanced treatment and continuous management to children who are suffering from the debilitating condition and equally serve as a hub for research and education, which will foster a deeper understanding of the disease and more importantly, it will contribute to reducing infant mortality index.

He equally expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for finding Lagos worthy to benefit from the intervention, adding that the project had further reinforced the health vision of the President to enhance the nation's capacity to meet global health

coverage.

The Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Tunji Alausa, in his message, said the event marked a significant milestone in an ongoing collaborative effort to combat non-communicable diseases and improve healthcare outcomes for all Nigerians. He said the establishment of the state-of-the-art Sickle Cell Centre is an effort of the SDG office to contribute to the provision of quality health care and infrastructure to people to offer comprehensive care for early diagnosis and treatment to the ongoing management and support for sickle cell patients and their families.

On her part, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, a former Deputy Governor of Lagos State, said that sickle cell disease had impacted communities across the nation negatively, subjecting families to psychological torture,

this informed the priority accorded to the development of modern medical care with the capability to address the growing cases.

She noted that the Centre was designed as a one-stop shop for all the medical components required for sickle cell care and support for children and adolescents with Sickle Cell disorder.

In his address, the Chief Medical Director LASUTH, Prof. Adetokunbo O. Fabamwo said the Sickle Cell Centre houses facilities for clinics, wards, daycare centre, investigation as well as educational and research activities exclusively for children afflicted with sickle cell disease.

He further said that sickle cell disease is a very serious inherited blood disorder that affects the body's red blood cells and

causes them to sickle, leading to various complications. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of the disease in the world with up to three million people living with the condition which also contributes to childhood mortality and morbidity; Therefore, it is very important to have a Centre that will offer preventive and therapeutic care to children dealing with this disease.

Fabamwo also mentioned that the establishment of the Centre will take a huge chunk of load off the usual crowded Paediatrics clinic and wards while patients will have the benefit of a conducive environment where they would be attended to and those that need daycare will come and go home while those that need

more care will be admitted.

"LASUTH under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is blessed to have been able to attract donors, partners and benefactors who through their contributions have made the burden of healthcare management lighter for the hospital", the CMD said.

The SSA also donated an Ambulance to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital.

The event had in attendance the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Kadiri Obafemi Hamzat, Speaker Lagos State House of Assembly, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, Member House of Representatives Ikeja Federal Constituency, Hon. James Faleke represented by Hon. Adedamola Kasunmu, All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwarts and LASUTH Staff, among others.



BUSINESS

Fidelity Bank leads trading as equities gain N324b



Kehinde Adeleye

Fidelity Bank Plc was the most active stock on Monday, 10 June 2024 at the Nigerian stock market as a strong positive sentiment led Nigerian equities to a net capital gain of N324 billion in the first trading session of the week.

The market opened with widespread positive sentiment as investors sought to lock into value

stocks in the high-end sectors of oil and gas, construction and manufacturing.

With three gainers for every loser, the market closed with average return of 0.58 per cent, equivalent to net capital gain of N324 billion.

The momentum of activities also improved considerably as total turnover rose by 148.33 per cent to

963.541 million shares valued at N13.498 billion in 8,657 deals. Fidelity Bank topped the activity chart with 605.257 million shares valued at N6.025 billion.

Fidelity Bank's activities appeared to be driven by buy sentiment as the stock closed within the top 15 gainers with a gain of 6.52 per cent to close at N9.80 per share.

The All Share Index (ASI)- the common value-based index that tracks all share

prices at the Nigerian Exchange (NGX), rose by 0.58 per cent to close at 99,793.71 points as against its opening index of 99,221.14 points.

Aggregate market value of all quoted equities also increased simultaneously from its opening value of N56.128 trillion to close at N56.452 trillion.

Other most active stocks included Access Holdings, which recorded turnover of 93.067 million shares worth N1.744 billion.

United Bank for Africa (UBA) traded 58.726 million shares valued at N1.261 billion. Nigerian Breweries traded 45.256 million shares valued at N1.267 billion while Zenith Bank traded 16.079 million shares worth N539.552 million.

Analysts at Futureview Financial Services said they anticipated a mixed sentiment in the equities market, primarily due to the enduring allure of the fixed income market among investors.

"This interest is fueled by expectations of increased rates in the Nigerian

Treasury Bill (NTB) auction and the impending release of the inflation rate. However, amidst these factors, there remains an opportunity for sustainable growth, particularly in fundamentally strong stocks that currently find themselves in the oversold region. We foresee a selective pursuit of bargains, particularly in dividend-paying stocks, driven by the nearing corporate qualification and payment," Futureview stated.

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Lagos Assembly Seeks Understanding Between Govt and Residents

By Felix Kuyinu

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have sought understanding between the general public and government officials in the discharge of their duties.

The Assembly members expressed

concern over the grievances from residents in the state against government officials which has generated reports of negative occurrences Between the duo.

During an interactive meeting with district officials of the State's Physical Planning Permit Authority, lawmaker representing Epe Constituency 02,

Honourable Sylvester Ogunkelu, emphasized the importance of positive attitude from both sets in reflecting an acceptable condition in the state.

The legislator who is also the Chairman of the House Committee on Physical Planning and Urban Development at the Assembly said the

meeting is gave an opportunity to provide guidance and corrective measures government's dealings with the public.

Ogunkelu cautioned officials against misconduct and affirmed that the Committee is commitment to address any infractions.

Honourable Orekoya Abiodun, representing Shomolu Constituency 01, stated that a harmonious

relationship between the duo will provide avenue for the residents in the state to convey their needs and expectations from the government. He said that the state government, keen on improving the welfare of its populace will ensure that the expectations are met.

The state's Commissioner for

Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Oluyinka Olumide, stressed on the need for officials to exhibit professionalism and empathy on the public.

Olumide assured of comprehensive training of government officials alongside public awareness initiatives to enhance service delivery.

Speaker at the Lagos State House of Assembly, LAHA, Honourable Mudashiru Obasa, has reckoned that 300 bills were passed in the last 25 years.

Obasa, while assessing the achievements made by the democratic government which kicked off in 1999, also stated that 2,000 resolutions have been made at the Assembly during the time.

The legislator, on Wednesday, during a programme organized by LAHA revealed that the provisions of the enacted bills and resolutions are quite remarkable and historic.

At the event tagged "Building a Brighter Future: A Journey of Hope and Aspirations", Obasa said, "Many of the bills eventually became laws which had impacted residents greatly as well as people outside of the state.

"Particularly worthy of mention are the Financial Autonomy Law, Neighbourhood Safety Agency law, Regulation Approval law, and the Local Government Administration law, which created 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

"This is in addition to the existing 20 local government areas in the state for the purpose of bringing government closer to the teeming Lagosians. The law also creates a four-year tenure for elected officials of the local government councils, making Lagos the first state in Nigeria to do so.

"Also, there is the Traffic Sector Reform law which created the Bus Rapid Transportation (BRT) system and the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) law.

Our BRT law became a

Lagos Assembly Passed 300 Bills In 25 Years - Obasa

By Felix Kuyinu

prototype design for many other states in Nigeria and some West African countries like Ghana and the Gambia.

"As a matter of fact, most of our laws, including our House Rules, have become models for other State Houses of Assembly in Nigeria."

He further stated, "Speaking on education, the Assembly had enacted the Lagos State University of Science and Technology Law which converted the old Lagos State Polytechnic to a full university to eliminate the discrimination against polytechnic graduates in the labour market.

"The Lagos State College of Education was upgraded to the Lagos State University of Education through an enabling law, thereby increasing the number of universities established by the state to three.

"In a bid to proffer solutions to the security challenges facing the country, the Assembly pioneered the agitation for the creation of state police.

"Due to constitutional constraints, an abridged form of security outfit called the Neighbourhood Safety Corps Agency was created to assist the police in maintaining law and order and enhance community policing in the state."

The Speaker lauded the continuous leadership stability at the Assembly complex. He said, "The leaders at the Lagos House of Assembly have in no doubt enhanced innovation, competence

and capacity.

"In the democratic regime, Mamora led the House between June 1999 and June 2003, followed by Mr Jokotola Pelumi who led between June 2003 and December 2005.

"Then, Mr Adeyemi Ikuforiji took the mantle and led between December 2005 and June 2015. In addition, I am the current and longest serving legislator and Speaker in Nigeria. I was first elected Speaker in June 2015, I was re-elected in 2019 and again returned in

2023," the lawmaker added.

Obasa who said the state's lawmakers would not hesitate to continue in the good trend added that the Assembly's avowed commitment to excellence in all its ramifications had made the state the bride of all since 1999.

He said that the Assembly had lived by its creed, reflecting positively on the constituents who had put their hopes on it as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for prompt, fair and effective

dispensation of justice.

He concluded by reassuring the residents of the state to key into the provisions of democracy, stating that the ruling government will keep on putting things right to maintain a good society alongside passing bills which will be beneficial for all.

He urged the populace to carry out their duties by abiding by the laws and continue to remain good citizens to create a credible habitat for all.



ALLIMOSHO

Physically Challenged Man Gets Sewing Machine In Egbe Idimu LCDA

Kehinde Adeleye

A physically challenged man in Egbe Idimu Local Council Development Area in Lagos State, Mr. Abidemi Ayeni, 43 has gotten sewing machine in continuation of an empowerment program organized by the LCDA.

The sewing machine which was presented under the office of the supervisor for youths and sports led by Mr. Lateef Ogungbade has given Ayeni another the opportunity to be a much more better person in the society.

THE Chairman of the LCDA, Mr. Kunle Sanyaolu Olowoapejo also joined in presenting the dual purpose sewing machine to Mr. Abidemi Ayeni.

Echonews reports that Mr. Ayeni was one of the past participants at one

of the youth empowerment program which was facilitated by the office of the supervisor for youths and sports held in the year 2023. Mr Abidemi Ayeni Among other Youths in the LCDA was opportuned to undergo a training course on tailoring and fashion designing.

Ayeni, despite being physically challenged, displayed remarkable determination and passion for learning fashion design. This spirit of perseverance and resilience caught the attention of the Egbe Idimu Local Council Development Authority's (LCDA) Supervisor for Youth and Sports, Mr. Lateef Ogungbade, and other philanthropists, who, moved by Ayeni's commitment, donated a dual-purpose sewing



machine to assist him in launching his career as a fashion designer

The Egbe Idimu LCDA expresses optimism that Mr. Ayeni will make good use of the sewing machine and succeed in his newfound career in fashion design. Furthermore, Mr. Ogungbade Olawale

Lateef urges Mr. Ayeni to continue representing the LCDA in the best light possible, as he embarks on his journey as a fashion designer

He thereby urges notable philanthropist in the LCDA to join hands with his office to empower youths in the community.

Court Docks Two Over Abduction Of 12 Year-Old Girl

By Felix Kuyinu

The Ikeja Magistrates' Court has remanded two suspects for allegedly abducting a 12 year-old girl. First accused, 45-year-old Joseph Jimoh and

55-year-old Helen Bada, were arraigned on Thursday having been alleged to have conspired to commit felony to wit: abduction. Inspector John Iberedem, standing as prosecutor, said that

the defendants committed the offence in Ejigbo, Lagos on Jan. 27, 2023. Iberedem said that the defendants abducted the teenager, daughter to complainant, Felix Anyigor, after an altercation.

The prosecutor said that the offence contravened Sections 268 and 411 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015. According to the information gathered, Section 268 stipulates seven years imprisonment on anyone

caught abducting a girl under the age of 18. However, the defendants each pleaded not guilty. Magistrate Ejio Kubeinje, handling the case, admitted the defendants to bail in the sum of N250,000 each

with two sureties each in like sum.. She said that the sureties must be gainfully employed and must show proof of tax payment and verification of address. She adjourned the case until June 25.

Court Jails Man For Stealing Tricycle Batteries

BY Felix Kuyinu

The Yaba Magistrates' Court has convicted one Taofeek Toheeb for theft of tricycle batteries. Toheeb was said to have broken into a store to steal the items worth N485,000, according to the prosecutor, ASP Godwin Oriabure. The convict, a resident at No 40, Bale Moshalashi Street, Orile Iganmu in Lagos saw a six month prison sentence pronounced

on him by Magistrate Omobola Salawu who presided over the case. Magistrate Salawu, who jettisoned an option of fine, sentenced the 25 year-old who pleaded guilty to a three-count charge of burglary, damage to property and stealing. She said the convict is to serve two months jail term on each of the counts, adding that the sentences should run consecutively. Before the verdict, ASP

Oriabure, told the court that Toheeb committed the offences on January 10, 2024, at No. 128, Apata Street, Shomolu, Lagos. He said that Toheeb stole five tricycle batteries valued at N485,000 and damaged the entrance to the store belonging to the complainant, Eweje Oluwaseyi. The offences contravene Sections 287, 309 and 339 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015.

SOMOLU

Road Construction: Salawu Promises Economic Stability

By Saheed Afolabi



Man Remanded For Stealing Lady's N3.4m School Fee

BY Felix Kuyinu

The Ikeja Magistrates' Court is prosecuting a man identified as Mosuro Hameed for allegedly stealing the sum of N3,450,000 million meant for payment of a lady's school fee. 37-year-old Hammed was on Thursday, at the court, docked for the alleged offence. The suspect, standing trial on three-count charge bordering on conspiracy, fraud and stealing was accused of committing the offences on April 18

at Ladoje Street, Oko-Oba in Agege, Lagos. He pleaded not guilty. However, the Prosecutor, Inspector John Iberedem, told the court that the defendant, and another still at large, conducted themselves in a manner likely to cause breach of the peace, by stealing the sum of N3,450,000 under false pretence. He said the defendant fraudulently obtained the sum from one Tonia

Okoye on the pretext that he would help her to make payment for her school fees but converted the money to his use and fled. The prosecutor said that the offences contravened Sections 280(2), 314, and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos, 2015. The Magistrate, Ejio Kubeinje, granted the defendant bail in the sum of N250,000, with two sureties in like sum. Kubeinje ordered that the sureties should be gainfully employed and show evidence of tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu has assured the residents of Somolu that the roads under construction will bring economic stability when completed. As part of his recent roads renewal, expansion, and construction initiative in Somolu, the council boss inspected the construction site of the Dabira-Emmanuel-Albert Road stretch in the Palmgrove-Ijebutedo area. This inspection marked the beginning of a busy week dedicated to overseeing ongoing projects across the local government area. The council boss expressed satisfaction with the progress being made on the Dabira-Emmanuel-Albert Road. He

highlighted the project's significance in enhancing connectivity and improving the quality of life for the residents of Somolu. Salawu applauded the Community Development Associations (CDAs) and the residents of the area for their unwavering support and cooperation with the contractors. He emphasized that their efforts in creating enough space for the contractors have been instrumental in keeping the project on schedule. He acknowledged the minor inconveniences experienced by the community during the construction phase. He stressed that these short-term disruptions are necessary sacrifices for the long-term benefits that the improved roads will

bring to Somolu's growing business community. The Chairman reaffirmed his commitment to delivering high-quality infrastructure projects that meet the needs of the community. He assured residents that the new roads would significantly improve accessibility and stimulate economic activities in the area. The 114 Roads initiative across the 20 LGs and 37 LCDAs in Lagos State emphasizes the Conference 57 Chairmen's dedication to sustainable development and community engagement. The council boss remains steadfast in ensuring that these projects are completed on time and promising benefits for the Somolu community.

Akinsanya Empowers Youths as Adult Literacy Facilitators in Mushin

Adeleye Kehinde

In a strategic move to enhance adult literacy and mass education, Mr. Nureni Akinsanya, the Chairman of the House Committee on Public Accounts (Local), has facilitated the employment of young people in Mushin Constituency as Adult Literacy Facilitators. The initiative, announced in a statement released by Hon. Akinsanya's media office on Friday, aligns with the Lagos State government's vision to improve literacy skills among adults in the

community.

"This program is designed to empower our youth and make a tangible difference in the lives of adult learners," stated Mr. Akinsanya.

The application window for the positions is open until June 13th, 2023. Interested candidates must possess a minimum qualification of a Nigerian Certificate in Education (NCE) and a passion for teaching. The statement reads further, "Successful applicants will be considered as ad-hoc staff under the Lagos State Agency for Mass

Education and will receive a monthly stipend. Prior to commencing their duties, the facilitators will undergo specialized training in Andragogical Methods, which focuses on effective teaching techniques for adult learners and their work would be at the center in Mushin Constituency. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Hon. Akinsanya's office for more information and to apply for the available positions, the statement concluded.



Bamigboye Recognised As Most Outstanding Local Government Chairman

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye honoured with another feather on his cap as the most outstanding Local Government Chairman among his counterparts. The indefatigable Chairman was honoured



by the prestigious Globestrides Ventures, the publisher of Timeline Nigeria in its 5th Edition of informative, educative, performances rewarding Initiative/Lecture and Award Presentation Program. This is a reputable publishing establishment headed by Mr. Adeoye, Yusuf.

The Chairman of Mushin Local Government, Mr. Emmanuel Bamigboye honoured for his outstanding performances in terms of endearing achievement of grassroots development and people's oriented programs in Mushin Local Government.

The Chairman expressed his profound gratitude to the organizers for their obvious inquisition on his performances in office as the Executive Chairman of Mushin Local Government. He promised to continue in his unrelenting service to the people of Mushin Local Government.

Kehinde Adeleye

Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA Commences ICT Training

In line with its commitment to promoting digital inclusion and empowering its community with essential skills, the Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA has launched its third batch of free ICT training courses. This initiative, which offers comprehensive programs in Full Stack Web development, Desktop Publishing, a n d Graphics/Animations, has received an overwhelming

response from prospective students, with 532 applicants vying for a place in the third cohort.

Exhonor reports that the LCDA's dedication to bridging the digital divide and cultivating a culture of innovation has yielded impressive results. With over 2000 students and youths empowered with cutting-edge skills since the program's inception, including 850 graduates in

December, the LCDA has shown unwavering commitment to its mission.

The recent launch of the third batch of free ICT training courses highlights the LCDA's continued efforts in promoting digital inclusion and providing essential skills training to its community. The robust response from applicants, with 532 vying for a spot in the third cohort, underscores the value and importance of these

initiatives in the lives of the people.

The Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA has taken a proactive approach to ensuring digital inclusivity and skills development by hosting the training sessions at two ICT centres, located in Ilupeju and Damengoro. This practical measure allows for greater accessibility to the programs and, consequently, more residents can benefit from this invaluable opportunity.

Echoneews reports that the Chairman of Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA Mr. Rasaq Ajala deserves recognition for his foresight and leadership in driving this ground-breaking program, which provides free training to participants. This initiative, which is fully funded by the LCDA, is a clear demonstration of the organization's commitment to providing opportunities for its residents to

develop their skills and enhance their career prospects in the tech industry.

As this program continues to flourish, it is clear that the Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye LCDA is paving the way for a brighter, more digitally empowered future for its residents. The impact of this initiative will undoubtedly be felt for years to come, serving as a shining example of the power of innovation and community investment.

PHC: Onilude Lauds NGO For Donating Health Equipment

Chairman of Badagry LG, Olu Segun Onilude has lauded the Zeenatul Quran Ladies Learning Forum for donating health equipment to Primary Health Center in Badagry. In its bid to complement the effort of the local government in equipping health facilities at the grassroots, a non-governmental organisation Zeenatul Quran Ladies Learning Forum handed over hospital equipment donated to primary health centers in Badagry local government.

The Coordinator of Zeenatul Quran Ladies Learning Forum Alhaja Bale Gbemisola Sefinat

who presented the equipment to the council boss said the donation is part of the core mandate of their NGO in providing relief materials to the needy and less privileged. Onilude appreciated the gesture of Zeenatul Quran Ladies Learning Forum. The council boss says the gesture aligns with the vision of his administration in providing quality, affordable and accessible healthcare to the citizens.

"I want to thank Zeenatul Quran Ladies Learning Forum for this noble gesture which signifies the spirit of generosity, selflessness and empathy which is at the heart of humanitarian work.



"The essence of gifts or donations is not in the quantity but the intents and the impacts it will make.

We are grateful for the donation and I assure you that we will keep records of all the items donated, and we will ensure it is

distributed to our PHCs so that it will serve the target population." Items donated include, File Cabinets, metallic

and plastic chairs, ceiling fans, blankets, plastic pallets, flasks and basins among others.

Ogungbe Outlines Targets For Badagry West LCDA

By Saheed Afolabi

The All Progressives Congress (APC) chairmanship aspirant for Badagry West LCDA, Princess Sesi Ogungbe has outlined her targets for the community after meeting with party leaders recently.

At the meeting, Ogungbe said she is a complete party woman who understands the role of the party, hence the need to first meet with the party leaders.

While seeking for their support for her aspiration as next Council Chairman of Badagry West, Ogungbe promised to be a good ambassador of the party if given the ticket to contest.

"I must commend my boss and mentor, Hon. Gbenu Joseph for setting standards in terms of projects, programs, capacity, and many



others. My plan is to embrace the existing and do more as your Council Chairman if elected.

"I took leave of absence as a civil servant to serve as the present Supervisor for WAPA, I have an on-the-job experience about local

government administration couple with my political experience. I promise to bring my expertise to play, especially to boost our IGR as your next Council Chairman.

"My desire is to serve you better, and I won't disappoint."

The head of the Badagry

West LCDA ward Chairmen group for the five wards, Mr. Opeyemi Bashir describes Sesi as a courageous woman who has the capacity to deliver.

Mr. Eruku, Ward B Chairman representing Sesi's ward, said he was

happy that the only woman aspirant contesting for the position of Chairman in the area is from his ward. He further appreciated the women forum for having one voice on the candidacy of Princess Sesi Ogungbe.

Eruku said Ogungbe is from a notable family of Igbogbele Badagry, and her father is a great politician who was very

caring.

Mrs. Senayon Kwakanu, a former Vice Chairman of Badagry West and present LGA Woman Leader, agitated that women should be given a voice come 2025, affirming that the increased population of women voters contributed to the victory of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the 2023 elections.

Mrs. Zosu Agness, the Deputy LGA Woman Leader, appreciated the precedence Sesi is laying for other women. She assures the aspirant of massive support from the area, noting that it will be record-breaking.

The party representatives, however, advised Ogungbe to take clue from the successful administration of Gbenu Joseph Henugbe, the incumbent Chairman, and build on his achievements.

Caleb University Emerges 'Best Private Varsity In Nigeria'

Kehinde Adeleye

Caleb University, Lagos, has been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Private University in Nigeria Award' at the recent African Education Monitor Magazine Awards, an accolade that adds to their previous recognition as the recipient of the 'Living Legacy Platinum-Gold Award' for their outstanding contributions to education and social impact.

At the award ceremony, Prof. Nosa Owens-Ibie, Vice-Chancellor of Caleb University, expressed his gratitude and attributed the university's success to its unique programmes,

driven by industry demands and professional affiliations.

Prof. Owens-Ibie further highlighted the importance of Caleb University's curricula being tailored to meet industry requirements, with strong professional ties, complete accreditation, and substantial investor confidence.

In addition, the Vice-Chancellor revealed a historic milestone for the university, namely, being the first private institution in Nigeria to host the Secretariat of the Nigerian Association of Architecture Students. The university will also

be hosting the association's annual convention in June 2024, further cementing its leadership position in the field of higher

education.

"The Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria recently approved the Nursing Science programme which is now in its first session."

The African Education Monitor Magazine Awards, held annually, recognise educational institutions that have consistently demonstrated

exceptional commitment to academic excellence, innovative practices, and positive impact on their surrounding communities.

From a pool of exceptional nominees, Caleb University stood out for its student-centred learning approach, strategic partnerships with local communities, and sustained affiliations to professional bodies.

With the theme of this year's award focusing on the "Sustainable Development Goals in Education in Nigeria: Progress and Challenges," Caleb University's recognition serves as a testament to the dedication and hard work of its students, faculty, and staff.



Ikorodu Peace Initiative Begins Construction of Renal Dialysis Centre

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Marking its 3rd anniversary in grand style, the Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative Limited (IDPIL) has commenced the construction of a state-of-the-art renal dialysis centre at Ikorodu General Hospital.

This multi-million naira project aims to significantly enhance healthcare services in the region by addressing the critical need for kidney treatment facilities.

The new building, covering approximately 600 square meters, will feature a comprehensive layout. The ground floor will include a reception area, pharmacy, nurse station, core room for nurses and doctors, a nurse lounge, equipment storage room, and a water treatment room.

The upper floor will house an intensive care unit, two wards with 16 beds, an open office, core room, and another nurse lounge.

Additionally, the building will have two rear exits for safety and convenience.

The flag-off ceremony witnessed the presence of notable figures from traditional institutions, stakeholders, and community leaders. Chief Adewunmi Ogunsanya SAN, the major donor for the project, assured attendees that the centre would be completed within a year.

He highlighted the importance of the initiative, noting that the lack of renal care facilities at Ikorodu General Hospital has forced patients to seek treatment elsewhere, often with dire consequences.

Dr. Taiwo Hassan, CEO of Ikorodu General Hospital, emphasized the hospital's growth from four departments to 32. Despite this expansion, the hospital has been unable to adequately support kidney

patients. "Our ICU handles about 10 kidney cases per week, underscoring the urgency of this project," Dr. Hassan stated.

He also pointed out that diabetes and hypertension, prevalent in the community, are major contributors to kidney problems.

Otunba Ayodele Elesho expressed gratitude to all leaders present and praised the initiative for occurring "in our own time." He thanked Chief Ogunsanya and the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, for their consistent dedication to the community's welfare. Elesho also revealed aspirations for Ikorodu General Hospital to become a teaching hospital, which he believes will further promote the region.

Chief Ogunsanya emphasized that the project is a collective effort by IDPIL, acknowledging the support of local kings and leaders. He



credited Olori Kudirat Abosede Shotobi, the wife of the Ayangbure of Ikorodu, with inspiring the idea of the dialysis centre and expressed his wish to name the centre after her once completed. He assured that IDPIL would provide state-of-the-art equipment for the centre and encouraged the hospital to seek IDPIL's support whenever necessary.

The ceremony also featured remarks from the Ranodu of Imota, HRM Oba Mudashiru Ajibade Bakare-Agoro, who praised Chief Ogunsanya and IDPIL for prioritizing the needs of Ikorodu Division. The Ayangbure of Ikorodu, Oba Kabiru Adewale Shotobi, commended the initiative and urged local leaders to preserve nearby lands for future development projects. He thanked the Odofin for

development of the region," Oba Shotobi asserted. Other dignitaries in attendance included the Adebora of Igbogbo Kingdom HRM Oba Semiudeen Orimadegun Kasali, HRM Oba Olukayode Raji, the Eweye of Isiu, HRM Oba Aremu Shotonwa Sekumade of Ipakodo, and Pa Aremo Adeniyi Ogunsanya, head of the Ogunsanya family.

Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative Rebrands Local Joint Task Force

By Nurudeen Adebayo

The Ikorodu Division Peace Initiative Limited (IDPIL) marked its 3rd anniversary with a media conference at its secretariat, highlighting a major rebranding of its Local Joint Task Force (LJTF) and outlining future plans. The event was presided over by Executive Secretary Otunba Ganiyu Olusegun Abiru. Key stakeholders present included the Board of Trustees Chairman, Odofin Adewunmi Ogunsanya SAN, former Head of Service Commission Chairman Basorun Tajudeen Rotinwa, IKODASS Chairman Mr. Rotimi Erogbogbo, Ikorodu Central CDC Chairman Alhaji Lukman Shonibare, and traditional rulers. A significant highlight of the event was the



rebranding of the IDPIL-LJTF, now to be known by its new Yoruba name, "IDAGIRI-EKUN," unveiled by Sir Otunba Ayodele Elesho, Chairman of the Publicity and Education Committee. "We are not unmindful

of the challenges that lie ahead of us as a body," stated Otunba Elesho. "Given this, we have decided to reposition our Local Joint Task Force by rebranding them with a local name that can easily resonate with our teeming

residents, particularly the locals and inner communities." The rebranding aims to present the task force as a formidable deterrent to criminal elements within Ikorodu. Elesho elaborated on the choice of the new name, explaining, "The choice of

the animal, Black Jaguar, known as IDAGIRI-EKUN' in Yoruba, underscores the nature and character of the animal in hunting down its prey in a tactical manner, uncommon to other predators.

LJTF, you will be right to call or refer to them as IDAGIRI-EKUN," he added. Elesho emphasized the importance of collaboration with other security outfits, whether government or private, to combat crime effectively. "IDPIL is ever ready to collaborate with any vigilance groups or security outfits, be it government or private, that are sincerely prepared to combat crimes and all sorts of nefarious activities that are capable of hindering the progress of our dear country, particularly Ikorodu division." He also expressed gratitude for the support from the Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) in Ikorodu Division and the CP's STRIKE team, acknowledging their crucial role in IDPIL's successes.

KOSOFE

Kosofe LG Makes Progress on Road and Drainage Projects

Kehinde Adeleye

Kosofe Local Government Area is witnessing significant infrastructural development, as three critical projects have commenced in the area. Firstly, the upgrade of Roju Avenue in Ojota as part of Lagos State's 114 roads

project has begun, with contractors making good progress in the works. The second project, construction of drainage on Frederick Eze Nwosu Street in Ogudu GRA, is almost complete, signaling enhanced flood management for

residents. The Taiwo Lane, which links Epetedo Street to Gafari Balogun Street in Ogudu where both drainage and road construction works are advancing smoothly. The Kosofe Local Government's prioritization of infrastructural development in the area

serves as a testament to their commitment towards enhancing the quality of life for residents. These projects are not only aimed at enhancing mobility and reducing flooding risks, but also improving the overall living standards for Kosofe residents. The effective implementation of these

crucial infrastructure projects reflects the vision and leadership of the Chairman's administration, committed to sustainable urban development and infrastructural progress in the Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Anomo Visits Ongoing Roads Rehabilitation in Ikosi-Ejinrin LCDA

By Mohammed Adekola

The Chairman of Ikosi-Ejinrin Local Council Development Area, Akogun Wale Raji Anomo, inspects the ongoing rehabilitation of the failed roads portion being carried out by the Council at the curb of the entrance of Ajebo Community towards Orugbo-Iddo and Ajebo/Ago-Hausa road.

Anomo urge the contractors to expedite the work, emphasizing the importance of completing the rehabilitation before the Eid'l Adha festival.

The inspected ongoing reconstruction of the road along the Ikorodu-Itoikin expressway, particularly the Ajebo/Ago-Hausa area,



which is now at the asphalt laying phase. He commends the contractors, GELD Construction Company, for their commendable

work and encouraged them to finish the asphalt laying before the festival to ensure that commuters and residents can enjoy a

smooth ride along the road. He express gratitude to Senator Tokunbo Abiru and MHR Wale Raji for facilitating the reconstruction.

Oriwu Students Emerge Winner of Lagos JSS Quiz Competition

By Mohammed Adekola

Two students of Oriwu Junior Model College, Ikorodu recently emerged winners of the prestigious Lagos State Junior Secondary School Quiz Competition, organized by the Irene Onwuka Peace Foundation.

The two winners, Abdulramon Lemboye of JSS II and Oyindamola Agbede of JSS III secured the star prize of One Million naira and two laptops for their outstanding performance.

The remarkable achievement of Lemboye and Agbede, a donor and supporter of the event, AK Model Homes and Properties, also graciously gifted the students with two plots of land around the Ibeju-Lekki, Epe axis, in recognition of their academic excellence.

The two students achievement not only underscores the culture of hard work, resilience and dedication established by the Tutor General/Permanent Secretary of Education District II, Mrs Anike Adekanye, but also testifies to her dogged leadership and commitment to leave legacy that thrives continually for education development.

Mrs. Adekanye, while celebrating the winning student, said "We are incredibly proud of Abdulramon Lemboye and Oyindamola Agbede for their exceptional performance in the Competition. Their achievement is a true inspiration to all the students in Education District II and we are grateful to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu led government for giving our students the will to platform through the improvements in the education sector".

"This remarkable milestone testifies to the transformative impact of the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of Mr Governor's administration in using education to transform the lives of young individuals. As our students bask in the glory of their achievement, the entire Education District II community celebrates the success and looks forward to the continued growth and development of education under the able leadership of Mr. Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun, the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education", said Anike Adekanve.



Epe Club Honours Olowa Prestigious Local Government Leadership

By Mohammed Adekola

Epe Club of Lagos State Honours the Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LCDA (Engr.) Abdullahi Sesan Olowa the Outstanding Local Government Leadership Award.

The accolade was presented during the Club's 2024 annual general meeting, a notable event that featured the induction of new members and a public lecture on agriculture and food security, with a focus on the Epe Division.

The award ceremony celebrated Olowa's exceptional leadership and innovative initiatives that have



significantly transformed grassroots governance in Ibeju-Lekki.

President of the Epe Club, Hon. Adebola Shabi, who presented the award, praised Olowa's efforts, stating, "Olowa's

visionary projects have set a benchmark in local governance. His dedication to the community serves as a shining example for others to follow."

Olowa vows and expresses his gratitude to the Epe Club Board

for the honour. "This award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the entire Ibeju-Lekki community. We will continue to push for social and economic growth, leaving no stone unturned".

Lekki Chairman Bags Icon of Local Government Administration Award

By Mohammed Adekola

Chairman of Lekki Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Engr. Rasaki Bamidele Kasali (MNSE, MNATE), has been honored with the Icon of Local Government Administration award by City Herald Magazine.

This accolade recognizes Kasali's monumental contributions to grassroots governance, distinguished leadership, managerial expertise, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence within the LCDA.

Chairman Kasali expressed his admiration for the



accolade, emphasizing his unwavering dedication to fulfilling his leadership mandate.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Icon of Local Government Administration award. It is a testament to the collective efforts of my team and the support of

our community. While I am grateful for this recognition, my focus remains steadfast on delivering our leadership mandate to the people of Lekki LCDA," he stated.

He acknowledged the work that lies ahead, calling for continued collective effort.

"There is still much to be done in various critical sectors of our local government economy. I urge everyone to rally together, support our initiatives, and work towards fostering prosperity and development. Together, we can achieve remarkable progress and build a better future for all."

AGEGE

Agege Born Influencer, Abari-Ogunsona, Bags Doctorate(PhD) Degree

Kehinde Adeleye

Titilola Atinuke Abari-Ogunsona, a renowned youth influencer and the driving force behind the T.O.A Foundation, has recently achieved a major academic milestone, receiving a doctorate degree from the esteemed Lagos State University.

Hailing from Lagos Island, Titilola grew up in a family of exceptional academics, with her father, Prof. Ayodeji Olasunkanmi Abari, and mother, Mrs. Anne Adebola Abari, both steeped in academic excellence. Continuing her impressive academic trajectory, Titilola began her education at Ifako International Primary and Secondary Schools, where she excelled in her studies and earned top grades.

Graduating with a Second Class upper division in Economics from Lagos State



University in 2004, TAO further pursued her academic aspirations, obtaining a Master's degree in Finance from Bells University of Science and Technology in 2015.

These accomplishments not only reflect TAO's relentless commitment to academic excellence but also her potential

to excel in various fields of study.

TAO boasts an extensive career spanning over two decades, beginning in the banking sector with Equitorial Trust Bank and transitioning into financial consulting. TAO's expertise includes Organizational Development, Strategic planning, Strategic Human

Resources, Public Sector Reforms, Leadership Development, Training Designs, and Evaluation, making her an invaluable asset to various organizations across sectors such as public, banking, engineering, petroleum, construction, and IT.

This formidable combination of education and professional experience makes Titilola Abari a leading figure in her respective fields, with a wealth of knowledge and skill to contribute.

Titilola Abari is also a broadcaster who presently runs a weekly program series "Policy Formulation and Economic Development, on Armougate Radio Communications(ARC) an internet radio station.

Dr Titilola Abari-Ogunsona is the Convener of Titilola Abari-Ogunsona Foundation, a non governmental Organization with focus on Youths and Women.

IKEJA

Residents of Agege, Onigbongbo Benefit From Lamex Charity Foundation Medical Outreach

Kehinde Adeleye

A popular proverb states that "the eyes are the window to the soul." In a display of love for humanity, a Lagos based NGO, Lamex Charity Foundation recently held a three days free optometry outreach to residents in different parts of Lagos.

The free optometry service is in commemoration of the 60th birthday of Alhaji Olanrewaju Rasaq Akani Mashika, the founder of Lamex Charity Foundation.

Our correspondent gathered that the three days event, which was held between Friday, June 7 and Sunday, and 8, include free eye screening, surgical operations, prescription, and gift of free eyes glasses and medications.

The event held in Agege Local government secretariat and Onigbongbo Local government secretariat has over 5000 beneficiaries in attendance. Echonews reporter present at the venue reports that the orderliness and professionalism of doctors, nurses, and stakeholders at the secretariat was top-notch.

During a visit to Abule Onigbagbo Primary Health Care Center which was specifically used to attend to patients marked for

surgery during the 3 days medical outreach, over 2000 patients were operated on and were given free eye glasses after the operation and given guidelines to prevent reoccurrence.

Our correspondent at the Agege Local government reported a massive turnout in comparison to Onigbongbo LCDA as beneficiaries shower encomium on the celebrant.

The Onigbongbo LCDA Supervisor for Health, Hon Glory George who spoke to our correspondent, said 'I want to Thank Alhaji Masha for this kin dog projects, it's worthy and it shows that he has the less populace and the masses at heart. He could have chosen to celebrate his birthday with his fellow bigwits but decided to reach out to the poor masses who might not even have eaten talk less of thinking about their own poor sight, I give kudos to him and as you can see without prejudice, people from various tribes, age and class are here and some have been transported immediately for surgery.

Beneficiaries at the venue who got their free eye glasses and those who had surgical operations couldn't hide their joy as many would not have been able to afford it if not for the opportunity that presenter itself courtesy of Lamex Charity Foundation.



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Airtel donates learning facility to Green Fingers Initiative

By Rasaq Adebayo

Leading telecommunications service provider, Airtel Nigeria, has officially handed over a newly constructed sustainability learning facility to Green Fingers Initiative, a beneficiary of the 7th season of the Airtel Touching Lives corporate philanthropy program. The handover took place on Tuesday, 11th June 2024, at the Green Fingers Center in Lagos, as part of the World Environment Week activities organized by Airtel Nigeria across the business. Following Green Fingers mission to promote awareness on sustainable practices, the sustainability facility constructed by Airtel Nigeria will serve as a hub for learning, enabling children to engage and understand the importance of recycling, waste management and the circular economy. Speaking during the event, Chief Executive Officer,

Airtel Nigeria, Carl Cruz, stated that the project embodies the telecom giant's belief and commitment to sustainability practices, expressing confidence in the positive impact of the company's support for Green Fingers Foundation on global environmental protection objectives. "Airtel's donation to the Green Fingers initiative is a demonstration of our

dedication to nurturing youth, the young minds, and encouraging innovative solutions to environmental challenges. Through the sustainability facility, we hope to drive positive change and foster a sustainable future for all of us, most especially for the future of the world," he said. Cruz also encouraged members and students of Green Fingers

Conservation Learning Center to put the new facility into productive use. He said, "We firmly believe that by equipping our youth with the knowledge and skills to manage waste effectively, we are investing in a brighter and cleaner future for Nigeria and the world at large, and we believe that the Green Fingers team and students benefitting from the project will put the facility

to good use." Founder, Green Fingers Initiative, Chinedu Mogbo, expressed gratitude to Airtel, describing Airtel's support as an advancement for the ongoing effort to educate youths on environmental issues. "At Green Fingers Initiative, we teach youths about climate and our immediate environment. It's been our tradition over the years to

recycle plastic in creative ways, bringing it down to the level of young people working to be actively involved in raising their voices for a cleaner and safer environment. Having this new learning facility, students can now effectively learn more about climate and other environmental issues that affect our everyday lives within a more comfortable space," he said.



TECNO offers discount on new Tecno POVA 6 Neo

By Rasaq Adebayo

Tecno has announced discount on its new smartphone, TECNO POVA 6 Neo. In a statement, the company said every customer will enjoy exclusive N10,000 on the purchase of the phone at any store. "This incredible offer brings this already affordable device within even closer reach, making it an unbeatable deal for those looking to get the best value for their money. "With Easybuy's zero-interest instalment

plan, owning the POVA 6 Neo has always been challenging. You can get the device for a low upfront and pay the rest in easy monthly instalments. This flexible payment option ensures you don't have to break the bank to enjoy premium technology, making the POVA 6 Neo accessible to everyone. "With all this, what stops you from getting the TECNO POVA 6 Neo? Nothing, so head to the nearest official TECNO store to pick up the TECNO POVA 6



Neo. For more information, follow TECNO on Facebook, Instagram, and X. Don't miss out on this opportunity to elevate your smartphone experience and stay ahead of the curve

with TECNO." Explaining the features of the smartphone, the firm said TECNO POVA 6 Neo has a massive 7000mAh battery, ensuring you stay connected,

productive, and entertained for days without frequent recharges. Whether navigating through a busy workday or indulging in marathon gaming sessions, this battery powerhouse won't let you down. "At the heart of the POVA 6 Neo is the formidable MediaTek G99 Ultimate Gaming Processor. Engineered for high performance, this processor delivers lightning-fast speed, smooth multitasking, and responsive gameplay, ensuring you remain at the top of your game. "Paired

with a 6.78" FHD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate, the visuals are crystal clear, and the performance is seamless, making every gaming session an immersive experience. "Beyond its impressive internal features, the POVA 6 Neo boasts a sleek and dynamic design that is visually appealing, highly durable and always adds to your steeze. "With an IP53 water-resistant rating, it is built to protect against spills and splashes, ensuring longevity."

Kosofe Local Govt Chairman Ecstatic Over Joshua Akpudje's Career Growth

By Saheed Afolabi

Joshua Akpudje's dedication to his community and his impressive career trajectory have garnered him high praise from Kosofe Local Government chairman, Moyosore Ogunlewe following his recent meeting with the leading community head in his office alongside distinguished members of the community, the first of its kind since his move to Europe. Hailed for both his community spirit and career success, Joshua Akpudje received a warm welcome from Kosofe LG.

Speaking on behalf of the chairman, deputy chief of staff, Moses Adekoya lauded Joshua's effort in ensuring that the younger players get a solid platform to continue developing in their chosen path of career and also for being a shining light despite the challenges he faced before stardom.

"His journey is a testament of a true and born talent who fought valiantly against all odds to get to where he is presently. Standing out as a difference maker amongst all the stars that have emerged from the community, he's indeed a different breed and we are glad that his hard-work is paying off now.

"Joshua playing for the national team unlocked another level of self believe and confidence in the children in the

community. If Joshua can be there, I can be there someday and that's only if they keep up with training and hard-work because that's what he did.

"We are very happy of the man and player that he is today and more so his growth in the course of time because I have always been around him right from the very beginning, Joshua is an exceptional kid with a large heart and I'm immensely filled with pride to be a witness of this moment, coming back as a hero to the community where he had nothing but

determination to excel as a footballer.

"Since Joshua moved to Europe, he regularly send balls to each team that trains on the pitch where he started his career, that's about 10 teams in total. He partakes in grassroots competition, gives financial rewards even when not around and when around, he makes his presence seen." Using Joshua as a measure of excellence and kindness, he urged others to emulate his good acts of kindness.

"If we have 10 more youths in community give back to the

society, we are sure of a brighter future for these boys.

"He is the first football player in Kosofe local Govt. to come back and do this. We are proud of him for having the initiative to do this and we are wishing him nothing but the very best in his endeavors and career."

The former Nigeria U23 defender applauded the local govt drive and commitment to growth amongst youths and their support for him over the years.

"It's an amazing feeling knowing that some of these young lads look up to me, I

must say it's a special feeling and of course, I'm so glad to meet the chairman. I'm so proud that this talent that God has given me have made people that matters most to recognize and connect with me.

"It's nice playing with them and feeling the same soil I started from, I'm happy to see some of the boys growing so fast and becoming better players".

"My future plan for the community is to be able to have a foundation where I can help reach out to people. All I can say to the boys is that they should stay

disciplined, never relent in putting in more effort and stay focused in achieving their goals because in no time, they will see their dreams manifesting before their very eyes."

Joshua's career over the years have been nothing but a lucid example of determination, hard work and sacrifice, he has had quiet an eventful ride in his career since that memorable move from MFM FC where he proved pivotal in their top-flight run, moving to Latvia, then to Czech Republic and now in Georgia's first tier division with Dinamo Tbilisi.





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