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# Echoneews

Communities Edition - Oshodi, Isolo & Ejigbo

The Best Free Weekly Community Newspaper in Nigeria

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Monday 1st March - Sunday March 7th 2021

How to preserve your  
tomatoes ahead of  
the drought-Ukairo **PG. 6**



Councillors raise  
Oshodi-Isolo  
budget by 92m **PG. 7**



## COVID-19: BANKS YET TO OPEN SHUT BRANCHES

Community Road:  
Collector drain ready  
before rainy season **PG. 3**



APC will win  
council polls  
100 per cent **PG. 2**

CDA endorses  
houses demolition  
for Old Ewu road **PG. 7**

Isolo GH trains medics  
how to make babies  
breathe at birth **PG. 3**

# COVID-19: BANKS YET TO OPEN SHUT BRANCHES

By Edith Igbokwe,  
Damilola Kushimo,  
Saheed Afolabi and  
Motolani AbdulGafar

**B**anks are yet to open branches shut following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic 11 months ago.

This is dashing the hope of many customers who looked forward to resuming business normally at the branches where they opened their accounts in the new year.

They are wailing the inconvenience they are going through to transact business.

Junior workers of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area opened accounts at the neighbouring branch of Access Bank because they would walk a stone's throw to transact business.

However, for almost a year, they have had to visit the Access Bank branch on Afariogun Street, Isolo to make enquiries or transact business.

A quick dash from the office to the bank is no longer possible because it takes a minimum of 20 minutes to get to the branch.

Following the presidential directive to banks to resume operations on May 4, last year, Access Bank had alerted customers that it would re-open its branches in phases concluding that the final phase would occur later in the year.

Its words: "In line with the phased re-opening of the economy effective May 4, 2020 following the Presidential

directive, we will be resuming in-branch services in some of our affected branches in a programmed manner to ensure the health and safety of our employees and customers.

"This is also necessary to provide relevant contingency should there be any incident arising from the pandemic.

"We recognise that the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic is still out there and whilst we will do all that is required to ensure the safety of all our branches in line with the protocol advised by the health authorities, we urge our customers to leverage more on our digital channels for their transactions.

"We have made significant investment to ensure their availability throughout this period and beyond.

"We state that based on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we do not expect that all our branches will be fully opened for in-branch services until later in the year."

Workers of Isolo Local Council Development Area who bank at the Ecobank branch on Osolo Way, a walking distance to their office, share a fate similar to their Ejigbo LCDA colleagues.

Also meant to serve traders at the Aswani market in Isolo, the branch of Ecobank has remained closed since May last year as customers are directed to make use of its other branches.

The branches are at 43, Murtala Muhammed Airport road, Ajao Estate; 1, Ire-akari Estate Road,

and 132/134, Okota Road, Isolo. Even the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) at the Osolo Way branch of Ecobank has not been functioning.

Evidence that the branch has lost the favour management despite strong potential for deposits showed in September, last year when it failed to appear on the list of 122 branches initially opened to transact business from September 28 to October 9, last year.

Other bank branches still shut and their respective banks include First Bank branch inside the Pipelines and Product Marketing Company depot (PPMC), Ejigbo and Access Bank 1 on Airport road, Isolo.

Running Shifts

As part of the phased re-opening of branches, banks run several branches on shifts. An example is the Isolo branch of GTBank that currently runs shifts of one-week on, one-week off by notifying customers of schedules through text messages.

Recently, customers received text messages that the branch would open between Monday, February 22 and Friday, February 26, last week.

Same goes for the GT Bank (GTB) at Jakande Gate, Ejigbo. The bank opens for transactions for two weeks and closes for a week, according to one of the officers who spoke to ECHONEWS.

The branch won't open this week. It asked customers to go to other branches in the

neighbouring Okota and Ajao Estate.

Other banks such as Zenith, Fidelity and UBA branches in Isolo are opened for transaction daily but restrict entry of customers in line with the social distancing protocols of Covid-19.

In Ejigbo, UBA has maintained daily transactions due to the fact that its other branches are very far apart at Arida towards Ikotun and at Cele Express in Isolo.

Market-driven Operations  
ECHONEWS observed that banks adopt rotational or shifting methods when they have two or more branches close to each other.

It was also noted that banks located around commercial places like markets, fuel stations operate daily while many of them are making necessary preparations to fully resume in March as they often record more patronage despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

For instance, along Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, the banks such as Fidelity Bank, UBA, Access Bank, Union Bank and Zenith Bank located in the axis at the point where many routes meet, maintained business transaction and render banking services to customers from the hours of 8am to 4pm daily.

The banks have not closed their branch since the lockdown was eased and in spite of the outbreak of the second wave of Covid-19.

The Digital Alternative  
Although many banks are doing

daily customer audits to know how many are coming for business, their strategy is to migrate as many customers as possible to digital alternatives including mobile, internet and ATM banking.

To achieve this, banks are investing heavily in these alternative platforms backed by improved customer service through email chats and phone calls.

Thus, customers are directed to perform most of their banking transactions from the safety of their home, using Mobile Banking Apps on their phones and to make withdrawal of cash below N150,000 from ATM machines.

Many of the customers at the banks are either there to deposit cash or to renew ATM cards or to lodge complaints.

How fast banks are able to move their customers to the digital world will not only determine how well they protect their staff from the dangers of the pandemic arising from customer engagement, it will determine how they can lift their performance from 2020 levels.

According to checks by Nairametrics Research, Nigeria's tier-1 banks (or FUGAZ as they are often called), dominated the list of top performers.

As always, Zenith Bank Plc recorded the most profit during the period with N50.5 billion. This is followed closely by Guaranty Trust Bank Plc, which reported a profit after tax of N50.1 billion.

Access Bank Plc recorded N40.9 billion, while United Bank for Africa reported N30.1 billion. FBN Holdings Plc also reported a profit after tax of N25.7 billion. The Q1 2020 profit after tax for the rest of the banks is detailed below:

Stanbic IBTC Holdings: N20.6 billion

Ecobank Transnational Incorporated: N24.3 billion; Fidelity Bank Plc: N5.8 billion; Sterling Bank Plc: N2 billion; Union Bank of Nigeria Plc: N6 billion; FCMB Group Plc: N4.7 billion

Wema Bank Plc: N977.3 million. However, some banks underperformed as further analysis of banks' Q1 2020 financial statements revealed that the likes of Ecobank, Fidelity, Sterling, and Wema Bank witnessed slight declines in their profit after tax year on year.

For instance, Ecobank's profit declined by as much as 10% when compared to some N30.5 billion that was recorded in Q1 2019. Fidelity Bank's profit of N5.8 billion is less than N5.9 billion that was reported in Q1 2019. Similarly, Sterling Bank reported N3.2 billion worth of profit in Q1 2019, whereas its profit declined to N2 billion in Q1 2020. Also, Wema Bank's profit in Q1 2019 was N1.1 billion. This is more than N977.3 million that the bank reported in Q1 2020.

In the meantime, the likes of Jaiz Bank Plc, Aso Savings, Unity Bank Plc, and Aso Savings and Loans Plc are yet to release their Q1 2020 financials.

## APC will win Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo council polls 100 percent - Chief Martins Adegboyega, pioneer chairman, Oshodi-Isolo Local Government

The first Executive Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Chief Martins Ayoade Adegboyega, has declared that the ruling All Progressives Congress will win the forthcoming local government polls landslide. He also called for more autonomy to local governments to enable the chairmen perform better.

In this exclusive interview with Echoneews reporter, Damilola Kusimo, Chief Adegboyega, who served from 1990 to 1993, spoke extensively on politics, his time in office, the Local government election and other topical issues in the community. Excerpts:

**In clear terms, who is Chief Adegboyega sir?**

I am Chief Martins Ayoade Adegboyega, the first Executive Chairman of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government from 1990 to 1993 before the military took over. I am well over 80 years of age and I thank God for that. I still work, although I'm a politician, politics without work is nothing. I have my business; a shipping company in Apapa. I'm into clearing and forwarding. I've been in the business even before I became the local government chairman. I live in this estate in the house I built

before I became the chairman. **During your tenure, what were your achievements?**

When I was the chairman of Oshodi-Isolo LG, like the usual saying charity begins at home, I created this ward from Ward F which is Isolo and we became Ward G. I carried out so many infrastructural developments and other needed developments. I repaired so many roads in Ajao Estate and Oshodi. I did a lot in Ejigbo too and that is why I think I have a primary school named in my honour.

In fact, during that time I was the only local government

chairman who was paying teachers' salaries as and when due. Roads were well maintained and maternity centres in good shape. I can't remember everything. Where Isolo secretariat used to be my Area Office and where Ejigbo secretariat is now used to be my area office. During Abiola's struggle, Isolo was torched a bit. It was the compensation I got from the federal government that I used to rebuild it. I installed a lot of street lights. My impact was felt in almost every nook and cranny of the council.

**What were your major challenges then?**

Healthy rivalry among the communities was one of my challenges because they all wanted their communities developed at the same time. I worked hand in hand with the supervisors and councillors.

**What are the projects you could not do or the ones you could have done better had the military not truncated your administration?**

I would have had time to finish

some of the projects I started like the Secretariat in Oshodi, the reconstruction of the area office in Isolo which was 80% completed. Though the secretariat has been modernised now by the incumbent chairman and I give him that glory.

**What is your leadership philosophy and the logic behind your exemplary performance in office?**

There was no special logic behind it. It was because I went there with the pure mindset to serve. Before I became the chairman, I had been a contented man. I wasn't there to look for money or wealth. I'm proud of that and that is why you still see me living in the house that I built before I became the council chairman. Then, Jakande used to be proud of me and always told my counterparts to emulate my good works in Oshodi-Isolo. There was peace in my local government.

Read full interview  
on [www.echoneews.ng](http://www.echoneews.ng)



**Chief Martins Ayoade  
Adegboyega**



## Community Road: Collector drain ready before rainy season - Engineer

By Damilola Kushimo

The Project Engineer of BAF Earthworks Services and Construction Limited, Engr Oludare Ojeme handling the ongoing drain construction on Community Road, Oke-Ogbere, has promised to complete the project before the next rainy season.

The drain construction is a state government project in the community as contracted out by Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources; Office of Drainage Services and Water Resources. The 1.24 km drain on Community Road from the Junction on Ago-Palace Way to the canal is scheduled for completion within six months. It is expected to be ready by May 2021 as it began in December 2020.

The project engineer said the construction is already 40 per cent stressing that it would be totally completed before May, this year.

Ojeme explained that the company has been making stressful efforts to make sure the constructed part of the drain is covered for road users to use

in order not to further inconvenience their movement. He appreciated the residents for their support saying their tolerance underscores their understanding of the importance of the project.

He said there is a need for the drain to be constructed to decongest the flood on Ago-Palace Way whenever it rains especially at the Community Junction.

"There is a need to have a second drain on this road and that is what necessitated this project. The cooperation we've enjoyed from the residents and road users have been so encouraging. It really shows that the people know the importance of this project to their community.

"Though the project is scheduled for six months, from December 2020 to May 2021, we are working to make sure that it is completed before May which is when rain is likely to start. We are being practical with that plan because we work here round the week. Sunday is just like a normal working day and all our staff members are very committed to achieving that," he said.

In the same vein, community leaders in Akinbaiye and



Ongoing construction of drain collector in Community Road, Oke-Ogbere

Karimu-Olushi Community Development Associations (CDAs) have commended the Council Chairman, Hon. Shamsudeen Olaleye, over the ongoing road rehabilitation on Karimu and Aregbe Streets.

The projects, which will put the roads in motorable condition within three months (February - April), are handled by Gabakar Nigeria Limited and Uba-Rajid Nigeria Enterprises.

The Chairman of Karimu Olushi CDA, Alhaji Karimu Aregbe

explained that the project is a dream come true for the community as a series of letters and appeals have been made to the governments to fix Karimu Street which is one of the major link roads in Isolo community.

He noted that the project was one of the campaign promises of the council chairman which could not be fulfilled in his first term in office.

The CDA treasurer, who doubles as the Ex-officio 2 of the Community Development

Committee (CDC), Elder Adejare Oguntoyinbo said: "Upon completion, this project will not only ease vehicular movement on the road but adds greater value to business activities here. Though we've paid the chairman an appreciation visit for the project, we can't be grateful enough because this project will greatly complement his other efforts in this community and the ward, at large and we've appealed for more developmental projects in

our CDA here."

Also appreciating the council chairman, the chairman of Akinbaiye CDA, Hon. Samson Fatoye who is also the CDC secretary explained that the projects are coming at the least expected moment, describing it as "wonderful attestations to his (the council chairman) giant strides."

He, however, urged aspirants who are trying to succeed the incumbent chairman to be ready to serve the community.

The paediatrics department of the Isolo General Hospital has organised a two-day training of doctors and nurses on how to make babies breathe at birth.

The over 25 participants for the training including doctors and nurses were drawn from the Obstetrics and Gynaecology department.

The facilitators observed that death of new born babies contributes a great deal to child deaths in the country.

According to them, a newborn

## Isolo GH trains medics how to make babies breathe at birth

By Damilola Kushimo

baby must breathe in the first minute to stay alive.

The purpose of the training was to expose the participants to the knowledge and skills that would assist them to help newborn babies make a smooth transition from the womb to their new environment.

The training covered assessment of risk factors that could endanger newborns, evaluation of new babies at birth, administering positive pressure ventilation oxygen and chest compression.

To underscore the importance of breathing, the participants were challenged to hold their breath for one minute which nobody could achieve.

The facilitators of the training

include

Dr Funmilayo Showunmi, Dr Tolulope Olatunji, Dr Ayodele Renner, Dr Olugbade and chief matron Basirat Bolaji.

In the same vein, a Director of Medical Services from the Lagos State Health Service Commission, Dr Olugbenga Oyekan, has commended Isolo General Hospital for the facilities being put in place in readiness for the training of

House Officers.

Dr Oyekan, who led a team of pre-accreditation assessment to the hospital, expressed satisfaction with what has been done so far but asked the hospital to take care of a few things pointed out.

The Medical Director/CEO of the hospital, Dr Godwin Akhabhoa conducted the team round the hospital.

He said it has been his desire

to make the hospital train House Officers.

Other members of the team are: Dr Yinka Otegbola, Deputy Director Medical Services, Dr Adedoyin Fetuga, Assistant Deputy Director and Dr Morenike Abidakun.

Last November, an accreditation team from the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria visited the hospital for the same purpose.

## Isolo 2021: We stand by Osolo's candidates - Nupe Leader

By Damilola Kushimo

The leader of the Nupes (Tapa) in Isolo, Alhaji Muhammad Isa, has explained that his people will support all candidates the Osolo of Isolo, Oba Kabiru Alani Agbabiaka, supports for various political positions during the forthcoming 2021 local government elections.

While waiting for the party primaries, Isa said the Nupes owe their loyalty to the king and the indigenes of Isolo, emphasising their support for any candidate ratified by the monarch.

According to him, supporting Osolo's candidates is the best way to repay the people of Isolo for accommodating them and the other privileges they have been enjoying in the community.

He explained that there are

more than a thousand of his people across all wards in Isolo LCDA who have been directed to register or revalidate their membership with the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and be ready to support Oba's choice in the coming local council elections.

He, therefore, appealed for political recognition and positions for the Nupes when forming the next cabinet members, saying the gesture would serve as an added benefit for their unflinching loyalty to their hosts.

He said: "I've been here for more than 32 years and I became the leader of Nupe 15 years ago. My leadership stretches to Ijegun, Ejigbo, Ikotun, Cele Egbe, Igando and so on. There has been peaceful coexistence between us and our host communities. There have been numerous cases of

inter-marriage between Nupes and the Yorubas in this community. I and the Oba have a cordial relationship. The Nupe enjoys a greater level of peace in this community and we are achieving most of our desires.

"Before now, we've been loyal to our host politically and this coming election won't be different. We are supporting king's candidates across the council area and I have advised my people to participate in the ongoing party registration as expected of us. We will increase our performance in the coming election because we know that it will increase our chances of being considered for any political post in the next political administration. After all, that will further encourage us to remain loyal to our host and strengthens our relationship."

## My dad gave me total support on my councillorship aspiration - Elemo

By Damilola Kushimo

The son of the late Baale of Mafoluku and Ajao Estate, His Highness, Chief Hussam Raimi Shekoni Elemo who is vying for councillorship position in Ajao Estate, Adeboye Shekoni Elemo, said he is not afraid of any competitor in seeking the position since he received his late father's blessing. Speaking with ECHONEWS at the eighth day Firdau prayer and final burial ceremony for the late chief last Wednesday, young Elemo explained that backing out of the race would mean betraying his late father. According to him, his father gave him the needed support and encouraged him to pursue

his political ambition.

He, however, regretted his father's passing away especially at the time he needed him most, stating that his demise has left a great vacuum in the family, adding that he would be missed for his moral teachings.

"The family has been missing him already because his death, though a milestone, has created a void that can't be filled by any other person. We will miss him more for his moral teachings.

"About my councillorship aspiration, he told me to go for it and gave his blessings but told me to see whatever happens as God's plan. His death is another reason for me to push on with my aspiration because



Adeboye Shekoni Elemo

it has always been my desire to be of greater service to humanity and I believe that it is best for me to start from my immediate community."



## Lagos City League: Horipelaye scores birthday goal, leads Diadem Stallion FC to crush TCN FC

By Saheed Afolabi

**D**iadem Stallion FC won convincingly away from home by crushing TCN FC 4-1 in the Lagos City League (LCL).

The Isolo based side maintained their second position in the league table with goals from Odedeyi Monsuru, Horis Horipelaye-Yisa and Akindele Yusuf.

Horis Horipelaye-Yisa, who celebrated his birthday a day before the match, put up an excellent performance to give himself a perfect birthday gift by scoring two fascinating goals to cement the win for his side.

Horis Horipelaye-Yisa put the visitors in front from close range to give his side the lead.

Enterprising winger Yusuf Akindele doubled Diadem Stallion's lead with an emphatic finish.

TCN FC pulled a goal back in the 40th minute to fight their way

back into the game.

Diadem Stallion FC, inspired by the birthday boys Horis Horipelaye-Yisa and Monsuru Odedeyi, pegged TCN FC back to their own half with exchange of exquisite short passes and diagonal long passes.

Horis Horipelaye-Yisa proved to be a monster in the heart of the defense of TCN FC with his lightening speed and great foot work, which made him grab a brace with a scintillating finish.

Monsuru Odedeyi capped out an impressive performance with a 30 meters screamer which made the TCN goalie rooted to the spot as it bombarded the net, sending the substitutes bench to a frenzy mood.

Horis Horipelaye-Yisa was awarded the man of the match.

While speaking with ECHONEWS, he said he was delighted with his performance, hoping to build on the momentum going forward to secure the league title for Diadem Stallion FC.



Diadem Stallion FC vs TCN FC

## Only 10 clubs can afford Haaland, 4 are Premier League clubs – Raiola



By Saheed Afolabi

**P**owerful Football agent, Mino Raiola, has said his client, Erling Haaland, can be afforded by just only 10 clubs out of which four are in the Premier League when he leaves Borussia Dortmund.

The Norwegian international has been in sensational form after moving to Borussia Dortmund by finding the back of the net 43 times which makes him a star for the next decade.

Only two players have scored more than Haaland in the top five European League - Robert Lewandowski, who has scored 56 goals for Bayern Munich and Cristiano Ronaldo, who managed 50 goals since January 2020.

However, Haaland is more impressive than both Lewandowski and Ronaldo for his minutes per goal.

Rumors have it that Borussia Dortmund is willing to let Haaland leave at the end of the 2021/2022 season from a few of €75million.

In a recent interview with BBC Sport, Mino Raiola explained why only 10 clubs could afford Haaland.

"It is obvious that everybody is looking at Haaland as one of those potential new future stars because it's so difficult to do what he does at his age at his level," Raiola said.

"He will be one of the future stars of the next decade because we see that stars such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Ronaldo and Lionel Messi are coming to an age where everyone asks themselves: 'How long can we still enjoy them?' So everyone is looking for the new generation.

"Only a maximum of 10 clubs can afford to buy Haaland and give the platform you would like after you've been in Dortmund... and four of those clubs are in England.

"I don't think there's a sports director or trainer in the world who would say he is not interested. It's like saying 'Is there a Formula 1 team who would not be interested in having Lewis Hamilton?'"

Raiola made it clear that he does not expect the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic on extraordinary talents such as Haaland and Paul Pogba, another of his client.

## Bellerin on the verge of leaving Arsenal

By Saheed Afolabi

**A**rsenal could consider Hector Bellerin leaving the club this summer according to an agreement reached between the player and manager Mikel Arteta.

The 25 year-old right back had the intention of parting ways with the Gunners last season but the intervention of Arteta changed the plans as Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona mounted pressure on him.

Despite pressures from two European Football power houses, the discussion which Arteta had with Bellerin changed the right back mind and committed to stay for one more season with the Gunners before exploring his options at the end of the season.

Presently there are no reports of



Hector Bellerin

negotiation between Bellerin and Arsenal regarding his future but the two years left on the Spaniard contract may trigger him to move elsewhere after spending a decade at the Emirates.

Though Bellerin has never been short of offers from varying clubs in past summers, it's evident there will be host of clubs pursuing his signature in the summer because of how frustrated the player has been in Arsenal.

## Liverpool will find it hard to finish in top 4 - Klopp

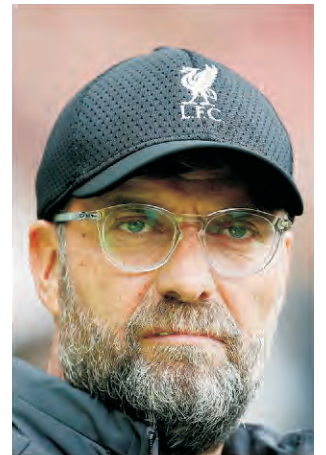
By Saheed Afolabi

**L**iverpool Manager, Jurgen Klopp, has spoken about how hard it will be for his team to finish in the top 4 of the Premier League with terrible results coming their way.

The Merseyside giant has been ravaged by injuries to 11 first team players, which has had a negative impact on the team, considering they are the defending champions having a roller coaster ride to the Premier League title last season.

Liverpool won the Premier League title by 18 points last season but they currently find themselves in sixth place as Klopp said it will be a big challenge to finish in the top four this time around.

"It is a big challenge of course to finish in the top 4," admitted



Klopp.

"You only have to look at the points. We are not too far off but it's still a distance.

"We have to win as many games as possible and we will see at the end of the season, but it's a challenge," he concluded.

## I sponsor talented youths to realise their dreams – Oduko

By Saheed Afolabi

**E**se Oduko, the CEO of Fresh Talent, a football agent who specialises in talent hunt and nurture them to seek greener pastures outside the country, said he sponsors the youths to make their dreams come true, stating that his platform is an opportunity for the talented footballers to excel.

Oduko said he has played with the like of Taribo West, Peter Rufai and JJ Okocha and a host of former international footballers.

He noted that a few footballers who now ply their trade outside the shores of Nigeria went through his scouting programmes to secure their

dream outside the country.

"We have some successful players who now play for foreign established clubs, the most popular among them is Ogaga Oduko who represented Nigeria at the U17 level but now ply his trade with Georgia first division side FC Saburtalo. There are also Michael Inainfe who plays for Turkish second division side Istanbulspor and Fashola who plays in Italy. We also have about five players who will be traveling in a month time for a trial programme."

Enumerating the challenges faced in trying to secure a deal for the players, football agent pointed out the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) strict rules on underage players.

He said he is always cautious of the rules and makes sure the players that are taken outside the country are 18 plus.

Oduko noted that he always keeps in touch with the talents that passed through him to Europe.

"I am like a father to them. I provide guidance and compassion for the young talents to have a better life. I keep in touch with them regularly and I travel to see them, to see how they are improving in the game. I stay with them for some weeks because their well-being is my priority and give the necessary guidance needed."

Oduko informed that he will be launching his book about his rise to fame and how football made him soon.



Ese Oduko



# Happy Birthday

TO

## BAÁLÈ OKO ÌLÚ

The management and the entire staff of De-Prinocc Construction Company Limited congratulates High Chief Tajudeen Amoo Orilowo, Baale Oke-Ogbeere Community, Ago-Palace Way, Isolo on his birthday.

May you continue to lead with a good heart, direct with the competency of your hands, and grow with the knowledge of your mind.

Wishing you a life of merriment and prosperity.

**Happy birthday to an outstanding leader!**



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Orilowo, Baale Oke-Ogbere Community, Ago Palace Way, Isolo



# Why we prioritise security - Ashamu West CDA

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chairman of Ashamu West Community Development Association (CDA), Ejigbo, Alhaji Kunle Adegboye, has reiterated that the safety of the residents in the seven streets under the CDA is one of the important agenda his administration is striving to secure.

He made this known during the community inspection tour by the Community Development

Committee (CDC) led by its Public Relations Officer, Mr. Toyin Saka, informing that the spate of insecurity made the association prioritise provision of security in the community.

According to the CDC, it embarked on the inspection in a bid to monitor the efforts of all CDAs in the development of their communities and ensure every CDA executes at least a project in their communities.

Adegboye explained that since the beginning of his administration last year, efforts

have been made to hire security guards and purchase iron gates among other precautionary measures taken to secure the community.

He added that the CDA has effortlessly constructed some drains in the community to avoid stagnant water on the roads during the rainy season.

He explained: "Through coordination and appropriate monitoring, we deducted a required amount from the CDA account to buy and fix five security gates at each entrance of

the streets and individually hired security guards as instructed by the security company we approached. We initially intended to centralize security guards and enable a 24 hours CCTV in the community. We put in place all requirements by the security company before they could render their service to us.

"We constructed culverts at some drainage points that can sustain heavy vehicles, brought a tractor and dug an in-to-in 3 fts drainage with a 6 fts depth and instructed all landlords to concrete drainage

paths in front of their houses. Then, we sand filled the roads for smooth movement of vehicles."

He, however, appealed to the CDC to provide financial assistance to all CDAs for project execution, emphasising that the CDAs have financial challenges. He said the construction by the members of the CDAs can only do little in the development of the community.

"The CDC should as well monitor each CDA on how they spend the money given to them and handover anyone caught stealing

directly to the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission to the ICPC to penalise misappropriation of funds meant to execute CDA projects," he suggested.

Meanwhile, the CDA Vice Chairman, Mr. Ekom Henry, commended the CDC for its efforts in monitoring the development of each CDA, noting that the act will help in attracting the attention of important personalities that can assist in the development of Ejigbo as a whole.

## How to preserve your tomatoes ahead of the drought- Ukairo

By Motolani AbdulGafar

As prices of food items including peppers keep soaring, farmers have warned that there may be scarcity of farm produce due to the insecurity and unfavourable weather affecting farming activities.

Following the trend, the Creative Director of Josilcakes, Bucknor Estate, Jakande Isolo, Mrs. Ihunanya Anyaibe Ukairo, has given consumers some tips

on how to get enough tomatoes and preserve it for future use.

According to her, tomatoes are in season now and in the next couple of months, most families will be struggling to buy enough to cook a sizable meal.

She explained three ways of preserving tomatoes.

She explained: "There are three easy ways you can preserve your tomatoes for future use.

"The first is the freezing method. Buy your tomatoes in large quantities. A big basket is

between 2500 and 3500 presently. Wash very well and simply boil it. Drain out the water and blend to form thick tomato paste. Pour in your bowl and freeze till you want to use it. Just defrost and you have your fresh blended tomatoes ready for use.

"Why you need to boil and drain out the water first is because, if you simply blend and freeze, when you defrost. It becomes too watery owing to the water from the freezer which can be very frustrating when cooking. "The second method is my favourite and it's the one you put on your shelf.

"Follow the same method as above. After blending, pour back in a pot and boil till it is completely dried. Get empty mayonnaise bottles or any airtight bottle and scoop the boiled and dried tomato paste inside them and close tightly. Put a large pot on the fire with water and bring to a boil.

"Drop the mayonnaise bottles that already have tomato pastes inside them into the boiling water and boil for about 5 mins. Turn off the light and bring them out and simply keep on your

shelf or inside your kitchen cupboard till whenever you want to use them.

"The last method is the dehydration method.

"This is especially good where we have epileptic power supply like Nigeria or where your freezer isn't functioning well.

"This type can last as long as eight months without spoiling.

"Trust me it doesn't. I have used this method for as long as I can remember. You can give it a try with little quantity to experiment. "Slice your tomatoes in a circle, remove the seeds and sprinkle a little salt. You may spread under the sun to dry, spread in your oven pan and oven dry or if you have a dehydrator, just use it and dry it.

"Thereafter you blend with your dry mill blender and store up. This equally lasts as long as eight months.

"Whenever you want to cook, just add a little water to form paste and cook. You can also use it to add colour to your moimoi or any food you want that bright red colour.

"The boiling is actually the only preservative or you put in the



Ihunanya Anyaibe Ukairo,.

fridge thereafter till you exhaust that bottle."

Ukairo, who is also the founder of Woman of Worth (WOW), a Non-governmental organisation (NGO) with branches all over the 36 states of the country, said

she has empowered many women through the organisation.

She said her calling is to empower lots of women in skill acquisition in different vocations hence, the creation of the NGO.

## Olusumade cautions residents against vectors

By Motolani AbdulGafar

The Chief Medical Officer, Isolo Estate Clinic, who doubles as the Vice Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Doctor Olakunle Olusumade, has urged residents to prevent their contact with vectors, which he said, aid the widespread of lymphatic filariasis.

According to him, vectors are mosquitoes such as anopheles and culex species that transmit the disease from one living thing to another.

He revealed that lymphatic filariasis is any of the diseases transmitted by mosquitoes which are common in tropical areas such as Africa, Asia, America and Caribbean.

He said the residents in tropical areas such as Africa and Asia are at the higher risk of contracting the disease, noting that a victim is infected as a result of repeated mosquito bites.

Olusumade emphasised that residents should be more cautious as the disease is usually asymptomatic at its initial stage compared to some other deadly diseases.

"I advise that residents should cultivate the habit of using insecticide-treated nets, air conditioners, applying mosquito repellents, wear long sleeves and trousers and so on



Doctor Olakunle Olusumade

to prevent being infected and to as well visit medical centres or take drugs for adequate treatment when infected.

"Filariasis is quite delicate because at the initial stage, it shows little symptoms until it reaches an acute stage where an infected patient experiences fever, skin irritation and many more before experiencing various body swellings and deformities, skin and tissue thickening that can lead to disabilities, stigmatisation, isolation and so on at the chronic stage," he explained.

He, therefore, urged people to acquire general knowledge about health tips they need to do to keep them safe and survive in the kind of environment they find themselves.

## Aspirant says his election will mainstream Sogunle ward

By Edith Igbokwe

Determined to end what he considers the exclusion of Sogunle ward E1 from the mainstream of Oshodi politics and governance, Timothy Fatoki, a councillorship aspirant is seeking the flag of the ruling All Progressives Congress to reposition the ward.

Fatoki, whose political name is given as FOT, said his ward and Shogunle as a community has been denied developmental projects which other communities enjoy, claiming that there is a very big gap between the community and the local government.

He noted that the people of his ward are not well represented in the government like other wards in the local government, claiming that the situation has been drawing the ward back



Fatoki Oluwatosin Timothy

He said he is contesting to bridge the gap and facilitate developmental projects into his ward.

According to him, his youthfulness is an advantage to represent his ward at the local

government, pledging to leverage on his youthful exuberance to facilitate various projects to the community.

His words: "I have realised that politicians that are voted into power tend to forget the

promises made to people and only fight for their selfish interest thereby neglecting the government-people relationship that was established before coming to power.

"As a youth yearning for development in all facets, I believe if I am given the opportunity to serve as councillor in my ward - Shogunle, I will make a great impact in the community with the vision I have for my local community.

"I am passionate about the development of my ward because we are being marginalised. If I am given the opportunity, things would turn around for better in my ward. My people must also have their own share of the dividends of democracy. I will try to bring them closer to the government and contribute my own quota to the development of my ward."



# Oshodi-Isolo LGA: Why we raised 2021 budget by N92.62m - Obasa

By Edith Igbokwe

The council leader of Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Rasheed Obasa, has explained that the legislative arm raised the 2021 budget by N92,618,412.03 to cater for even development across the local government area.

The 2021 proposed appropriation bill presented to the legislative arm in December was increased by 3.67 per cent of the initial total budget after much debate at the chamber during the defence by the executive arm before it was finally passed to the Executive Chairman for signing.

According to the council leader, the initial N2,433,717,555.42 presented to the House was increased to N2,526,335,967.45 after much deliberation before it was passed after the third reading.



Signing of Oshodi 2021 budget by the executive chairman, Hon. Bolaji Muse-Ariyoh and his cabinet crew

He noted that the House, during the budget defence, pointed out the need for the executive arm to block leakages in the revenue

generation for the local government to be able to implement the budget and have a productive year.

The budget was signed into

law on Wednesday, last week by the council chairman.

Obasa said the budget was speedily passed because it caters for the growth and

development of the community.

He appreciated the chairman for providing an enabling environment for the House to

do its job while commending the councillors for placing priority on the timely passage of the budget.

# I will build well-equipped primary health care centres -Animashaun

By Edith Igbokwe

A chairmanship aspirant on the platform of the Ruling All Progressives Congress in Oshodi-Isolo Local Government, Hon. Saheed Animashaun, has promised to run an inclusive administration and build well-equipped primary schools if he wins the party ticket and the council polls.

Animashaun, popularly known as ASK, said he would bear the party's flag during the next local government elections.

His words: I want to say wholeheartedly that I know the terrain of Oshodi-Isolo having served as a councillor and supervisory councillor when Oshodi, Isolo and Ejigbo were

still together. So, I can boldly say I am the best man for the job being a community man and grassroots person and also a party loyalist."

Animashaun is the Special Adviser on Agriculture, Youth, Sport and Social Services to the incumbent local government chairman.

He has been a councillor and is the current vice chairman of APC in Oshodi-Isolo as well as the secretary of the Community Development Committee (CDC).

He is contesting the chairmanship for the third time. According to him, he contested against the former council chairman, Prince S. O. Aina in 1999 and stepped down for the present chairman, Hon. Idris

Bolaji Muse-Ariyoh in 2011.

Animashaun assured the residents that his government would be all-inclusive in which the people would work together to make input to the progress of the local government area.

He, therefore, urged the party leaders to use aspirants' antecedents as yardsticks in picking the right candidate to be the party's flag bearer during the election.

He appreciated the outgoing council chairman for giving him (Animashaun) the opportunity to serve in his (Ariyoh's) administration, promising to use his experiences to further develop the local government. Explaining his agenda, Animashaun promised to build

a well equipped primary healthcare centre in each ward staffed with qualified doctors and nurses to cater for residents' health challenges.

Other items in his agenda include infrastructure building, youth empowerment - enrolling about 70 per cent of youths in vocational training, promotion of sporting activities, building of more classrooms for the pupils to improve the standard of education and providing them with writing materials and school uniforms.

In the aspect of security, he proposed to work with the police as well as supporting community policing to achieve peaceful coexistence of people in the community.



Hon Animashaun Saheed Kolawole

## CDA endorses houses demolition for Old Ewu road

By Edith Igbokwe

The members of the Old Ewu/ Ogunyinka Community Development Area have endorsed the plan of the Lagos State government to demolish the houses on the way of the proposed Old Ogunyinka road.

They were reacting to the pleas of the member representing Oshodi-Isolo I at the House of Assembly, Hon. Hakeem Shokunle. Lagos State House of Assembly representing Oshodi-Isolo Constituency I, Engaging the community, Hon. Hakeem Shokunle explained the need to break into some houses in Old Ewu/Ogunyinka Community to allow the reconstruction of the drainage and road.

The lawmaker facilitated the project. Shokunle, who inspected the buildings marked for demolition in the company of the members of the Community Development Association (CDA), the contractor and the surveyor,

discussed with the people whose properties were affected and secured their cooperation.

Speaking with ECHONEWS, the CDA Chairperson, Mrs. Durotola Akinyemi, stated that all the community members accepted the terms involved in the road reconstruction exercise because they want to put an end to the constant flood ravaging the whole community whenever it rains.

"We are so happy that we have been remembered by our representative, Hon. Shokunle to help address the issue of flood that makes us resort to canoe for movement in the community whenever it rains. The flood always restricts business transactions in the environment."

She explained that the major flood-prone area has been demolished to give way for good drainage that will enable free flow of water.

She commended the lawmaker for his intervention, saying the gesture is the major help the community needs to be relieved.

## Aspirant vows to redress infrastructure decay in Oshodi

By Edith Igbokwe

Abiodun Ogundimu is seeking the ticket of the All Progressives Congress to contest the chairmanship of the Oshodi-Isolo Local Government Area.

Speaking to Echonews, he declared that his mission to pilot the affairs of the local government is to fight the decay in infrastructure that undermines life in the communities.

Saying it would give him the opportunity to give back to a community that has served him for over 30 years, Ogundimu says he will also use the opportunity to tackle the challenges of inadequate health and educational facilities facing the local government.

While waiting for the party primaries to select candidates for the forthcoming local government elections, Ogundimu said so much has not been well catered for, promising to fight against infrastructure decay if elected as the next council chairman.

He said: "30 years ago, Oshodi has served as an abode for settlers like me. So, I have decided to take time to pay back to the communities through service.

"It's my devotion to fight against infrastructure decay, lack of quality education, bad health facilities and insecurities.

"We will unify the caucuses/groups in the party so this will help pave the way for a better life for Oshodians through our faith in the power of love to defeat hate, my commitment to



Hon. Abiodun Ogundimu

speak truth to power, and my uncompromising fight for

inequalities through direct but non-violent diplomacy."





# Terminal 1

## DESTINATIONS

Ibadan • Abeokuta • Sagamu • Ifo • Ilaro • Owode • Ore • Ife  
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