

About the Book

Lagos Open Parliament Seven (LOP 7) is an evaluation of the performances of the administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, which span the period between November, 2019 and September 2020.

The Lagos Open Parliament is a project of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) which periodically assesses the programmes and projects of the Lagos State Government. The compilation of this compendium involved media research, interviews, news analysis and visits to project sites in order to adequately assess the policies and agenda of the Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration.

LOP was designed to champion accountability and transparency in governance. The outcome of the research indicated that Sanwo-Olu remained steadfast in his commitment to good governance in the state. The Sanwo-Olu administration beamed a special focus on infrastructure, traffic management and transportation, with a view to reduce traffic gridlocks on Lagos roads. The administration sustained its aggressive response to rehabilitating bad roads across the metropolis to ease vehicular movement, by engaging the services of some construction firms and the Public Works Corporation.

LOP has been published since 2011 when its first edition generated a lot of reactions among residents of the state who demanded that it should be sustained. The second to sixth editions were published in response to demands from the people of the state. LOP Seven is a replica of the other editions as it is based on exhaustive media survey and use of other research tools to assemble the information contained in the publication.

The process involved gathering of information about developmental projects from members of CACOL's Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) units across the 57 Local Government and Local Council Development Areas of the State. There were also inputs from representatives of various tiers of government, civil society and community based organisations and other members of the public.

About CACOL

The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) is a coalition of human rights, community-based and civil society organizations with an anti-corruption and open governance agenda across Nigeria. It is a non-political, non-religious, non-sectarian and non-profit coalition. CACOL sets for itself the task of using any means possible to cause relevant authorities to probe and bring to book corrupt individuals both in public and private institutions. We also endeavor to protect the interest of individuals or groups who may be victims or potential victims of corrupt practices or processes. The decision to embark on this challenging journey was taken in 2007 in view of the need to tackle corruption headlong since there is a national consensus that it constitutes the ogre that has eaten very deeply into the fabric of our society.

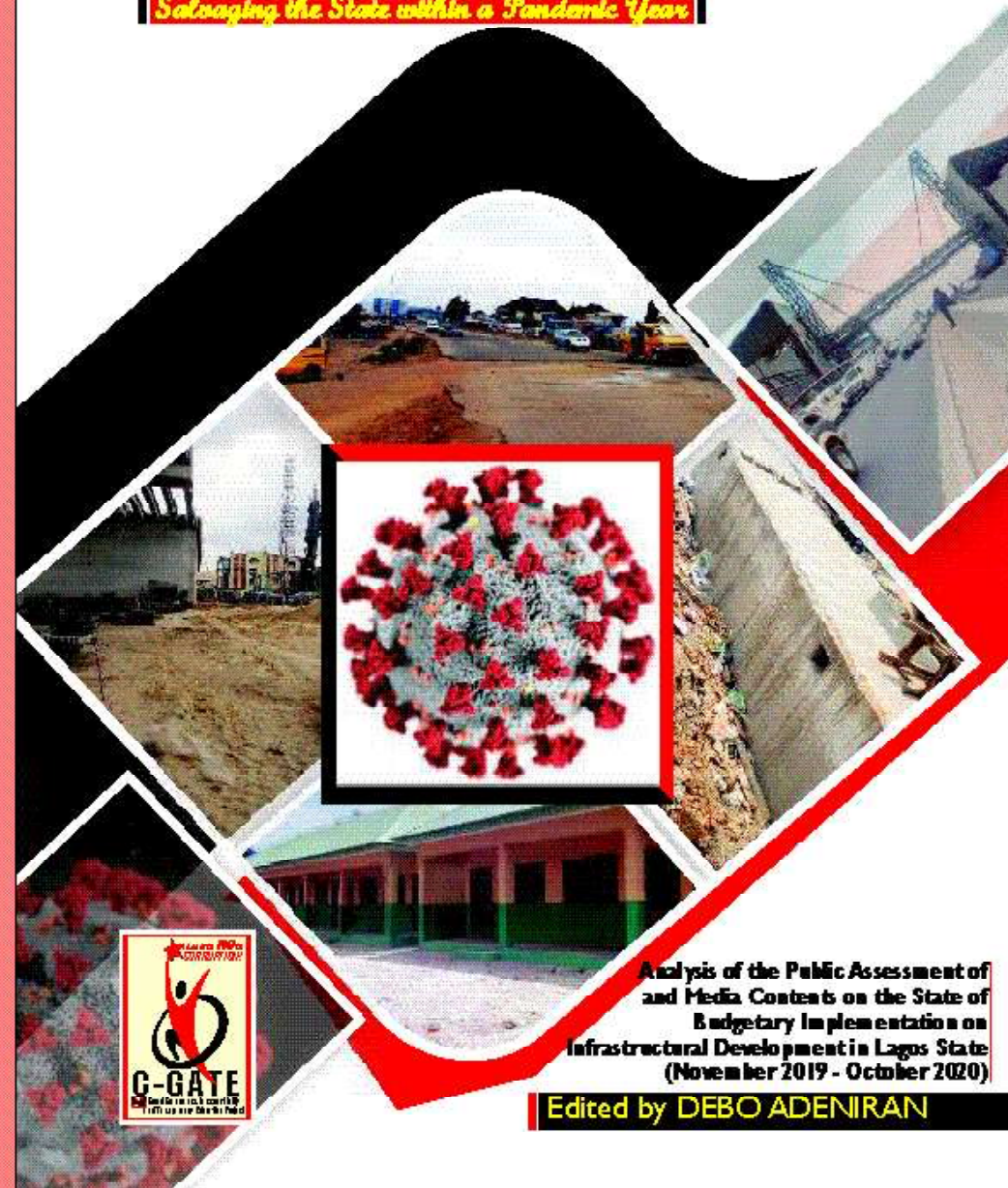


FIRST FACULTY VENTURES

LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7



Salvaging the State within a Pandemic Year



Analysis of the Public Assessment of and Media Contents on the State of Budgetary Implementation on Infrastructural Development in Lagos State (November 2019 - October 2020)

Edited by DEBO ADENIRAN



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DEBO ADENIRAN
Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership, CACOL



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We were able to compile and publish the sixth edition of the Lagos Open Parliament – which covered Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's first year in office as a result of the huge support and encouragement of many individuals and organizations which cannot be exhaustively mentioned in one list.

The entire members of the Board and Management of the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) therefore uses this medium to express its heartfelt gratitude to individuals and groups whose names may be inadvertently omitted from the list published below.

First and foremost, we wish to first of all express our profound appreciation to the management of media houses whose publications were analysed to lend credence to our research work. We specially thank the managements of The Punch, Vanguard, The Nation, National Mirror, Nigerian Tribune, Daily Sun, New Telegraph, Business Day, Daily Trust and their weekend titles for the abundant information they provided through their daily reports, features stories, editorials and opinion articles.

Journalists whose reports appeared in this publication and others who have been supportive of CACOL's activities deserve a place in the annals of CACOL's records. They include: Goke Famakinwa, Ayo Esan, Bayo Akinloye, Temitope Ogunbanke, Ayodele Ozugbakun, Rasheed Rasheed snr., Kayode Adelowokan, Oluwole Ojo, Nurudeen Oyewole, Ajibola

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We equally appreciate the contributions of Comrades Ishola Adeshina, Samson Olayiwola and Elijah Adubi. Our gratitude also goes to online newspapers whose reports were used in this edition of Lagos Open Parliament. They include: The Osun Defender, The Post, Orijoreporter.com, Native Scoops, Nigeria Camera, Pointblanknews.com, Newsverge, Naij.com, Simon Ateba and few others.

Also worthy of mention was the prompt response of the Lagos State Government (under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu) to CACOL's enquiries on the itinerary of the present administration.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Lagos Open Parliament Six (LOP 6) is the outcome of a media research and survey on the policies, programmes and projects of the Lagos State Government and their impact on the security and welfare of residents of the state between November 2019 and September 2020. The report covered over one year of the tenure of Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Though Sanwo-Olu inherited a deteriorating public infrastructure which apparently resulted in the neglect of many road and drainage networks in the state. This led to some of the highways becoming unmotorable following prolonged rainfall and flooding.

The Sanwo-Olu administration beamed a special focus on infrastructure, traffic management and transportation, with a view to reduce traffic gridlocks on Lagos roads. The administration sustained its aggressive response to rehabilitating bad roads across the metropolis to ease vehicular movement, by engaging the services of some construction firms and the Public Works Corporation.

The Sanwo-Olu administration, also deployed Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership (PIIP) as a strategy to improve the state's infrastructure by signing agreements with banks and other private institutions to embark on rehabilitation of adopted roads as a form of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and its attendant effects on countries around the world left its toll on the execution of some projects in Lagos State as the State Government shifted attention to the treatment of those that were infected and made efforts aimed at curtailing of the spread of the virus.

From all indication, this administration seems to be determined to complete all uncompleted projects which it inherited and embark on others especially the construction of the 37-Kilometre-long fourth Mainland bridge.



PREFACE

“Lagos Open Parliament 7” is the seventh in a series of occasional publications by the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership (CACOL) to present the score card of the Government of Lagos State to the public. It is the outcome of a media research and survey on the overall performance of the state government for the period spanning November 2019 and September 2020; which cover almost one and half year of the incumbent Governor of the State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu in office.

As CACOL chronicles the activities of the Lagos State Government in 'Lagos Open Parliament' LOP, it also does same in Ogun and Osun States. The publication is labeled 'National Open Parliament' NOP at the national level. The Lagos Open Parliament is one of the main activities of the organization under its Budget Monitoring Project (BUMP).

The LOP seeks to identify real governance through analysis of media reports and empirical analysis of data gathered from the field through research, interviews and pictures. It is a project that focuses on the details of the operations of government in order to evaluate how ministries, departments and agencies are performing in the discharge of their statutory responsibilities to the people. CACOL's work is guided by the social contract that exists between the government and the governed which requires serious monitoring to ensure that none of the parties fails in fulfilling its side of the agreement.

The open parliament approach of monitoring governance in Nigeria was necessitated by the fact that for decades government was a 'lucrative' business for looters whose sole

purpose of holding public office was to line their pockets at the expense of the people.

The media has reported the activities of many political office holders who often go to the undiscerning public with lists of achievements simply to rationalize dipping their fingers into the public treasury. Hence, CACOL is committed to exposing governance that is anchored on scam.

CACOL's determination to x-ray activities of Lagos State Government and present a publication based on media reports is hinged on the resolve to encourage an all-embracing assessment of government's performance in the areas of socio-economic and infrastructural development as a means of bringing the quality of governance into sharp focus. While conducting the fieldwork during workshops organized as part of CACOL's Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Education (GATE) project, the 57 local council areas in Lagos state were covered for an unbiased assessment of the performance of the state government in its constituent communities. Field activities included visits to facilities and construction sites, photographing, audio and video interviews.

CACOL members in all the local government areas of the state participated in the survey as it relates to seeking the views and perception of the people on their evaluation of government.

In this research, CACOL focused its resources on the areas of security, education, health, transportation and road construction and the administration of law and order.

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- 2.219 UN, Sanwo-Olu, Primate Ayodele, Others Brainstorm On Security**
- 2.220 Sanwo-Olu Restates Commitment To Absorb PLWDs**
- 2.221 Magodo Residents Ask Sanwo-Olu To Stop 'Plot To Build Homes On Flood PSlain'**
- 2.222 States Must Boost IGR, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.223 No Multiple Taxation In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu Insists**
- 2.224 Let's Reduce Dependence On Federal Allocation, Sanwo-Olu Tells Govs**
- 2.225 Okada Ban: Sanwo-Olu Acting Like Someone From Stone Age– Bode George**
- 2.226 Govt Has Completed Work On 138 Roads, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.227 'Council Chairmen Should Complement Sanwo-Olu's Efforts At Grassroots'**

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

- 2.228 We'll Implement Investment Friendly Policies – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.229 Sanwo-Olu Has Silenced His Critics With His Performances – Razak**
- 2.230 Sanwo-Olu Never Asked Us To Return Seized Vehicles To Owners – Egbeyemi, Lagos Taskforce Boss**
- 2.231 Disregard Bribery Allegation Against Us, Lagos Traders Appeal**
- 2.232 Sanwo-Olu Assures OPS of Rol**
- 2.233 Sanwo-Olu, George, Others Drum Supports For Devolution Of Power**
- 2.234 Women Empowerment Will Reduce Poverty, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.235 Sanwo-Olu Assures Nurses Of Opportunity**
- 2.236 Sanwo-Olu To Nigerians: Don't Divide Us With Religion, Ethnicity**
- 2.237 No Cause For Alarm Over Coronavirus Outbreak In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu Assures...Necessary Measures To Tackle Situation In Place**
- 2.238 Traders Beg Sanwo-Olu To Prevent Market Take Over**
- 2.239 Coronavirus: 11 Suspected Cases In Nigeria Test New**
- 2.240 No Cause For Alarm Over Coronavirus Outbreak, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.241 Coronavirus: We Will Ban Public Gatherings If Italian Case Escalates, Says Sanwo-Olu**

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

- 2.242 Regeneration Of Island CBD Started By Tinubu Is On Course – Sanwo-Olu**
*****Commissions Afriland Towers In Broad Street**
- 2.243 Coronavirus: Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Adequate Sensitisation Of Residents**
- 2.244 Covid-19: Sanwo- Olu Visits Isolation Facility, Expresses Confidence In Counter Measures**
- 2.245 Coronavirus: Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Residents' Sensitisation**
- 2.246 Sanwo-Olu Visits COVID-19 Isolation Facility, Assures On Counter Measures**
- 2.247 Sanwo-Olu Commissions UBA Business Office** **2.248 Sanwo-Olu, Elumelu Harp On PPP For Economic Devt**
- 2.249 Sanwo-Olu lauds Afriland's Investment in Infrastructure**
- 2.250 Sanwo-Olu Woos Private Sector In Education**
- 2.251 Sanwo-Olu To Grace Lagos Women Dance**
- 2.252 Blood Donation: SERAP Asks Lagos, Sanwo-Olu To Obey Court Judgement**
- 2.253 Street Naming: Lawyer Petitions Sanwo-Olu, Lagos CP Over Looming Crisis In Ayobo-Ipaja**
- 2.254 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Support, Decries Fake News**
- 2.255 Sanwo-Olu Takes Awareness Campaign On Coronavirus To Lagos Market**
- 2.256 We Must Collaborate To Ensure Seamless Governance, Says Sanwo-Olu**

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

- 2.257 Sanwo-Olu, Obasa Canvass Better Understanding Between Executive, Legislature For Seamless Governance**
- 2.258 Sanwo-Olu Implored To Build Bridge**
- 2.259 Sanwo-Olu Celebrates Women In Lagos At International Women's Day**
- 2.260 Sanwo-Olu Celebrates Women In Lagos At International Women's Day**
- 2.261 Education Remains Greatest Weapon – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.262 Sanwo-Olu Vows To Arrest Uniform Men In Commercial Motorcycle Operations**
- 2.263 Edo 2020: Sanwo-Olu Pledges Commitment To Athletes' Welfare**
- 2.264 Breaking: Lagos Govt Frees Isolated 'Coronavirus' Patients**
- 2.265 No Going Back On Construction Of Regional Road – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.266 Awori Hail Sanwo-Olu For Transforming LASU**
- 2.267 No Going Back On Construction Of Regional Road In Ajah -Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.268 JUST IN: Sanwo-Olu Visits Abule Ado, Lagos Explosion Scene...Sets Up N2bn Relief Fund For Victims**
- 2.269 Breaking: At Last, Lagos Gov Sanwo-Olu Visits Explosion Scene In Abule Ado, Makes Pronouncement**
- 2.270 'It's Like A War Zone', Sanwo-Olu Says Of Abule-Ado Disaster**

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

- 2.271 Spare Nobody In Coronavirus Screening, Sanwo-Olu Tells Airport Workers**
- 2.272 Lagos Explosion: Sanwo-Olu Sets Up N2bn Relief Fund For Victims**
- 2.273 Sanwo-Olu Advises Lagos City Poly Graduates 2.274 UPDATED: Sanwo-Olu Visits Lagos Airport, Warns Officials Over Coronavirus**
- 2.275 No society can develop without investment in education –Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.276 Why We're Honouring Sanwo-Olu, Others –Ogbonna**
- 2.277 Screen All Flight Passengers –Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.278 Lagos Explosion: CAN Hails Sanwo-Olu On Steps Taken**
- 2.279 AAC Condoles With Victims Of Abule Ado Disaster, Tackles Sanwo-Olu Over N2bn Fund Raising Plan**
- 2.280 Covid -19: Bishop Olumakaiye Orders Compliance With Sanwo-Olu's Directive**
- 2.281 Festac Explosion: Sanwo-Olu Under Attack After Asking For Donations**
- 2.282 Coronavirus: Lagos Lawmakers Task Sanwo-Olu On More Awareness, Sensitization Of Residents**
- 2.283 COVID-19: Lagos Lawmakers Task Sanwo-Olu On More Awareness To Contain Spread**
- 2.284 Explosion: Build Fire Stations Across 57 LCDA, Lagos Assembly Urges Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.285 Lawmakers Want Sanwo-Olu To Build Fire Service Stations Across Lagos**

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- 2.286 Technology Vital To Disaster Management, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.287 Assembly To Sanwo-Olu: Build Fire Stations In All Councils**
- 2.288 Alumni hail Sanwo-Olu Over School's Rehabilitation**
- 2.289 Coronavirus: Lagos Discharges Index Case, As Sanwo-Olu Hails Health Workers**
- 2.290 Coronavirus: Sanwo-Olu Orders Civil Servants To Work From Home**
- 2.291 Lagos explosion: Governors Pay Condolence Visit To Sanwo-Olu, Donate N200m To Relief Fund**
- 2.292 Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Measures To Avert Flood**
- 2.293 Sanwo-Olu: A Governor As Crisis Manager**
- 2.294 Monarch Urges Sanwo-Olu To Probe Lagos Explosion**
- 2.295 UPDATED: Sanwo-Olu Orders Closure Of Lagos Markets**
- 2.296 Threat To Life: Octogenarian Sends SOS To Sanwo-Olu, CP**
- 2.297 Tinubu Backs Sanwo-Olu's Measures To Curb Virus Spread**
- 2.298 Sanwo-Olu Orders Partial Closure Of Banks**
- 2.299 I've Not Ordered Lagos Lockdown –Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.300 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Gives Out Food Packages To Indigent, Most Vulnerable**

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- 2.301 Sanwo-Olu gives food packs to 200,000 households in Lagos**
- 2.302 BREAKING: I May Declare Curfew – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.303 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Rescue, Isolation Of 14 Students Stranded At Seme Border**
- 2.304 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Stimulus Package For 200,000 Households As Stay-Home Order Takes**
- 2.305 UPDATED: Shutdown of Lagos imminent, says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.306 COVID-19: No curfew in Lagos – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.307 Lagos: Sanwo-Olu unveils 110-bed COVID-19 patient isolation centre. The expansive facility, which sits in the middle of Onikan stadium, was built in a week**
- 2.308 Sanwo-Olu Rolls Out Economic Stimulus For Residents**
- 2.309 Oyetola, Sanwo-Olu exceptional in fight against Coronavirus – Oluwo**
- 2.310 Sanwo-Olu receives 110-bed isolation hospital 2.311 Lagos pays N1.8bn accrued pension right to 418 retirees**
- 2.312 Sanwo-Olu launches food markets, says tougher measures coming**
- 2.313 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu lauds GTB, Mandilas over Onikan isolation project**
- 2.314 COVID-19: Don't panic, Lagos will halt coronavirus spread, Sanwo-Olu assures Lagosians Says restriction in Lagos by Buhari is a tough call**

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- 2.315 Sanwo-Olu, a hero of COVID-19 war, says Rep**
- 2.316 Update On Covid – 19 Incident Commander, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.317 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu reiterates restriction of movement for 14 days**
- 2.318 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu receives N1b from UBA to fight coronavirus**
- 2.319 Don't panic over restriction, says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.320 COVID-19: Be friendly in enforcing lockdown, Sanwo-Olu charges security operatives**
- 2.321 COVID-19: Lagosians Lament Nepotism In Sharing Of Sanwo-Olu's Economic Stimulus Package**
- 2.322 Sanwo-Olu Salutes Endurance Of Lagosians**
- 2.323 COVID-19: Lawan, Gbajabiamila, Sanwo-Olu Yet To Undergo Test**
- 2.324 Lockdown: Sanwo-Olu commends Lagosians for compliance on day one**
- 2.325 How Sanwo-Olu's Economic Stimulus Package Ended In Politicians' Homes**
- 2.326 BREAKING: Lagos Discharges 11 Coronavirus Patients – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.327 Sanwo-Olu and battle against Covid-19**
- 2.328 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Urges Lagosians To Obey Lockdown Order As Gov, Family, Aides Test Negative**
- 2.329 Sanwo-Olu, wife test negative for coronavirus**
- 2.330 COVID-19- Restrictions Have Started Paying Off- Sanwo-Olu**

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- 2.331 Lagos Is Winning War Against COVID-19, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.332 Sanwo-Olu Can't Escape Probe After Coronavirus Pandemic – PDP**
- 2.333 Lagos to pay medical bills for pregnant women, others during lockdown, says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.334 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu thanks frontline health workers, urges public not to stigmatise survivors**
- 2.35 Sanwo-Olu: We're winning war against COVID-19**
2 female survivors are discharged from IDC, 31 persons make full recovery
- 2.336 Sanwo-Olu hailed for curtailing spread**
- 2.337 COVID-19: Mustapha Commends Sanwo-Olu For Setting Up World-Class Facility**
- 2.338 Gov. Sanwo-Olu's Stimulus Packages: Transport Union Makes Case For Bus Conductors, Drivers In Lagos**
- 2.339 World Health Day: Corps member, Sanwoolu, NCDC boss, others make heroes' list against Covid-19 in Nigeria**
- 2.340 COVID-19: Lagos Anglican Diocese Commends Sanwo-Olu, Donates N5m Cash, N20m Worth Of Food Items**
- 2.341 BREAKING: Seven Coronavirus Patients Discharged – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.342 COVID-19: ADC berates Sanwo-Olu over inadequate palliatives for Lagosians**

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- 2.343 COVID-19: Avoid fake news, lockdown hasn't been lifted – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.344 Easter: Sanwo-Olu Felicitates With Christians, Calls For Peaceful Co-Existence**
- 2.345 Easter: Sanwo-Olu, Wife Attend Easter Sunday Service Online**
- 2.346 Lagos PDP Carpets Sanwo-Olu For Inability To Check Civil Disobedience**
- 2.347 COVID-19: Lagos SWAN Salutes Gov Sanwo-Olu, Others**
- 2.348 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Appears In Live Video With Beejay Sax To Mark Easter**
- 2.349 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu celebrates Easter with medical workers**
- 2.350 Lockdown: Lagos PDP Urges Sanwo-Olu To Use Extension To Tackle Rise In Robbery**
- 2.351 COVID-19: Olu Of Epe Commends Sanwo-Olu, Calls For Patience During Lockdown**
- 2.352 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Discharge Of 6 More Patients**
- 2.353 COVID-19 Lockdown Unrest: Sanwo-Olu Orders Clampdown On Robbers, Hoodlums**
- 2.354 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Discharge Of Another Six Patients**
- 2.355 (UPDATED) COVID-19: Lagos Discharges Nine More From IDH– Sanwo–Olu**
- 2.356 Lockdown: Lagos Govt plans to feed 100,000 youths daily- Gov Sanwo-Olu**

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

- 2.357 18,000 benefit from free medical services in Lagos with over 600 childbirths, says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.358 Coalition Of Political Parties Hail Sanwo-Olu On Fight Against COVID-19**
- 2.359 Sanwo-Olu promises Lagosians more police deployment**
- 2.360 Lagos cab operators commend Sanwo-Olu over release of impounded vehicles**
- 2.361 Kudos Sanwo-Olu, but...**
- 2.362 Sanwo-Olu approves three-month moratorium on MSMEs loan worth N2.8 billion**
 - Govt to feed 100,000 youths
- 2.363 COVID-19: Discharged Olopade thanks Sanwo-Olu, Nigerians**
- 2.364 Patients who lie about travel history will be prosecuted – Sanwo-Olu**

At Easter, Sanwo-Olu makes Lagos Ohanaeze, others happy

 - Donates truckloads of foodstuff to groups to ease lockdown pain
- 2.365 Sanwo-Olu: Test is free in Lagos**
- 2.366 Against Sanwo-Olu's order, Alimosho, Ikorodu general hospitals charge us for treatment —Patients**
- 2.367 BREAKING: Sanwo-Olu Makes Face Masks Compulsory In Lagos**
- 2.368 Covid-19: Lagos talks tough on 'insincere' returnees, begins enforcement of face masks ÿp**
- 2.369 COVID-19: We are increasing health workers allowances, says Sanwo-Olu**

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

- 2.370 Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu of Lagos has said patients who lie about their travel history will be prosecuted.**
- 2.371 COVID-19: It'll get worse before it gets better - Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.372 Breaking: In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu announces massive allowance increase for health workers**
- 2.373 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Commissions 70-Bed Isolation Centre In Eti-Osa**
- 2.374 Sanwo-Olu approves increment of hazard allowance for health workers**
- 2.375 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Lauds Ecobank's Food Items Support**
- 2.376 Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Adequate Security, Unveils New Lagos Area 'J' Police Command**
- 2.37 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu insists use of face masks compulsory in Lagos**
Sanwo-Olu donates 400 bags of rice, garri to boat operators in Lagos
- 2.378 Sanwo-Olu inaugurates Lagos Area 'J' Police Command Hq**
- 2.379 Obasa to Sanwo-Olu: enforce laws to end coronavirus**
- 2.380 Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says there is no going back on the government's decision on mandatory use of face masks by residents of the state.**
- 2.381 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu approves e-lecture portals for 7 state-owned tertiary institutions**

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

- 2.382 Sanwo-Olu Frees 209 Correctional Centres' Inmates In Lagos**
- 2.383 [BREAKING] COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Compulsory Use Of Face Masks For Lagosians**
- 2.384 Sanwo-Olu threatens mass burial for unclaimed corpses within two weeks**
- 2.385 COVID-19: Pick Your Corpses Now Or Risk Mass Burial, Sanwo-Olu Tells Lagosians**
- 2.386 Let's Assist Sanwo-Olu Decongest Mortuaries, Group Appeals To Lagosians**
- 2.387 Wearing face masks not excuse to flout Lockdown order – Sanwo-Olu's aide**
- 2.388 COVID-19: Ooni Of Ife Presents Three Motorized Fumigators To LASG, Commends Sanwo-Olu, Others**
- 2.389 Partial lockdown: Continue to work from home if you can – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.390 Sanwo-Olu orders markets, restaurants to reopen**
- 2.391 COVID-19: Whistleblowers to report curfew defaulters – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.392 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu announces gradual easing of lockdown**
- 2.393 Sanwo-Olu's development agenda for Lagos**
- 2.394 Sanwo-Olu Suspends Okada, Lagos Tests 1.5 million Households**
- 2.395 Sanwo-Olu Blames Late Airport, Border Closures For COVID-19 Spread**

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- 2.396 **COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates 118-bed Isolation Centre In Lagos**
- 3.397 **Sanwo-Olu Dedicates 2020 May Day To Frontline Workers**
- 2.398 **COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Releases Names Of Lagos COVID-19 Response Donors**
- 2.399 **Workers' Day: Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Protection Of Employees' Rights, Promoting Incentives For Greater Productivity**
- 2.400 **PDP Hails Lagos Workers, Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Better Conditions**
- 2.401 **COVID-19: Ooni Of Ife Presents Three Motorized Fumigators To LASG, Commends Sanwo-Olu, Others**
- 2.402 **Let's Assist Sanwo-Olu Decongest Mortuaries, Group Appeals To Lagosians**
- 2.403 **Workers Day: Sanwo-Olu Doubles Life Insurance For Lagos Health Workers**
- 2.404 **COVID-19: TAMPAN Dubai Commends Sanwo-Olu's Leadership Role**
- 2.405 **Don't Resume On Monday, Sanwo-Olu Orders Civil Servants**
- 2.406 **Relaxing Lockdown Not Licence To Flood Streets – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.407 **Lagos Using Private Properties As Isolation Centres – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.408 **COVID-19: Nearly 3,000 Samples Not Yet Tested – Sanwo-Olu**

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- 2.409 **Nigeria Needs Data To Plan For Emergencies – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.410 **COVID 19: Sanwo-Olu Commissions 118-Bed Gbagada Isolation Center**
- 2.411 **Sanwo-Olu: Lagos Using Private Buildings As Isolation Centres**
- 2.412 **Sanwo-Olu Delays Resumption Of Civil Servants, As Lockdown Directive Expires**
- 2.413 **'Battle against COVID-19 shouldn't slow down the justice system' – Sanwo-Olu charges judicial officers ...as Lagos appoints 8 High Court judges**
- 2.414 **Sanwo-Olu Seeks Amendments To COVID-19, Amotekun Laws**
- 2.415 **COVID-19: Media Group Hails Sanwo-Olu On Excellent Leadership**
- 2.416 **You Will Account For COVID-19 Donations, Lagos Assembly Tells Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.417 **Sanwo-Olu Makes Public Names Of COVID-19 Palliative Donors**
- 2.418 **Sanwo-Olu Warns Against Non-Compliance, Threatens Lockdown**
- 2.419 **COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Vows To Re-Impose Total Lockdown If...**
- 2.420 **COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Threatens Total Lockdown Over Poor Compliance**
- 2.421 **Farmer Writes Sanwo-Olu On How To Avert Food Crisis**
- 2.422 **Lagos Assembly Okays Sanwo-Olu's Request To Amend Amotekun Bill**

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- 2.423 Lagos Appoints Eight High Court Judges, Sanwo-Olu Urges Efficient Justice Delivery Despite Pandemic Threat**
- 2.424 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Not Doing Enough To Enforce Order On Facemasks, Okada – Sagay**
- 2.425 Don't Sack COVID-19 Patients, Sanwo-Olu Warns Employers**
- 2.426 Sanwo-Olu Hailed For Being Proactive On COVID-19**
- 2.427 Sanwo-Olu Hailed For Being Proactive on COVID-19**
- 2.428 Lagos Assembly Rejects Sanwo-Olu's Nominee For Audit Service Commission**
- 2.429 Lagos Assembly Approves Sanwo-Olu's Request For Unification Of Fibre Infrastructure**
- 2.430 Sanwo-Olu urges religious leaders to sensitize residents on obeying safety measures
***Fn first Ever Virtual Meeting With Religious Leaders**
- 2.431 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Resumption Of Lagos-Abuja Flights**
- 2.432 We'll Assist Companies To Prevent Job Loss – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.433 Sanwo-Olu To Mark One Year In Office With Launching Of Projects**
- 2.434 Sanwo-Olu Tasks Muslims On Spirituality, Peaceful Coexistence**
- 2.435 Lockdown: Sanwo-Olu's Re-Registration Policy Will Inhibit Businesses – Nwachuku**
- 2.436 Lagos to close Marine Beach Bridge for five months**

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- 2.437 Sanwo-Olu to mark one year in office with projects inauguration**
- 2.438 Rector: LASPOTEC unions urge Sanwo-Olu to appoint 'credible' candidate**
- 2.439 Lagos attracts US\$250 million for new industrial-residential development – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.440 Anniversary: RTEAN commends Gov. Sanwo-Olu on road reconstruction, COVID-19 response**
- 2.441 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu honours 10 health workers**
- 2.442 My best is yet to come – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.443 Sanwo-Olu flags off construction of Regional Road**
- 2.444 Sanwo-Olu inaugurates community policing in Lagos**
- 2.445 Worship centres to reopen in Lagos June 19 – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.446 Schools In Lagos State May Re-Open In Two Weeks Time – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.447 COVID-19: FG Urges Civil Servants To Get Tested**
- 2.448 BREAKING: Sanwo-Olu Gives Date Mosques, Churches Are To Re-Open**
- 2.449 Sanwo-olu to reclaim land for Lekki regional road**
- 2.450 Sanwo-Olu Appoints Lekan Fatodu SSA On Sustainable Development Goals**
- 2.451 Delta APC Press Release Meant To Score Cheap Political Point – PDP**
- 2.452 Safer, Peaceful Lagos Is Paramount To Sanwo-Olu's Administration – SSG**

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- 2.453 Community to Sanwo-Olu: Save us from fire disaster**
- 2.454 Sanwo-Olu presents staff of office to Lawal as 15th Oniru**
- 2.455 One year in office: Sanwo-Olu delivers over 1,576 home units
...to complete 2,284 before Q1, 2021**
- 2.456 Lagos Commuters Groan Over Hike In Transport Fare, Beg Sanwo-Olu To Intervene**
- 2.457 Sanwo-Olu Lauds First Bank's 20,000 Device Donations For Students**
- 2.457 Sanwo-Olu Lauds First Bank's 20,000 Device Donations For Students**
- 2.458 Blocks Of 113 Classrooms In 7 Schools Ready For Commissioning — Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.459 June 12: Sanwo-Olu To Host Tinubu, Soyinka, Blair, Others On Democracy Day Webinar**
- 2.460**
Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 12, 2020
- 2.461 Democracy Day: Sanwo-Olu reiterates commitment to 'Greater Lagos'**
- 2.462 Blocks of 113 Classrooms in 7 schools ready for commissioning — Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.463 Lagos families hail Sanwo-Olu on good leadership**
- 2.464 Appraising Sanwo-Olu's strides in public transportation**
- 2.465 Lagosians Groan As VIOs Violate Sanwo-Olu's Directives**

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- 2.466 Sanwo-Olu Suspends Re-Opening Of Churches, Mosques Indefinitely**
- 2.467 Strike: Doctors Issue 21 Days Notice To Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.468 Accolades For Sanwo-Olu As OAAN Donates Safety Jackets To LASPARK**
- 2.469 Capturing Real Estate Activities Via Unified Database**
- 2.470 Sanwo-Olu suspends reopening of churches, mosques**
- 2.471 Why Lagos can't reopen schools now – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.472 CAN Urges Calmness As Sanwo-Olu Suspends Opening Of Worship Centres**
- 2.473 Sanwo-Olu administration empowering Lagosians**
- 2.474 Sanwo-Olu reconstitutes Lagos boards of security, employment funds**
- 2.475 Sanwo-Olu Empowers, Trains 300 PWDs**
- 2.476 Sanwo-Olu Has Been Fair To People Living With Disabilities – Dairo**
- 2.477 Sanwo-Olu To Implement Lekki's 20-Year Master Plan**
- 2.478 Lagos: Sanwo-Olu Gives Account Of Stewardship**
- 2.479 Lagos Identifies 400 Distressed Buildings, Approves 100 For Demolition**
- 2.480 OAAN Commends Sanwo- Olu On Environment Donates Safety Jackets To LASPARK**
- 2.481 Sanwo-Olu: technology vital to tackle economic challenges**

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- 2.482 Sanwo-Olu stops congratulatory birthday adverts**
- 2.483 Sanwo-Olu Approves N13.75bn To Offset Backlog Of Pensions**
- 2.484 Sanwo-Olu Okays N13.75bn To Clear Unpaid**
- 2.485 Sanwo-Olu's U-turn on reopening religious houses Pensions**
- 2.486 'We have Sanwo-Olu's backing to reform LAWMA'**
- 2.487 School reopening: Lagos must embrace technology, says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.488 Lagos Boosts Affordable Housing Scheme For Residents**
- 2.489 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Unveils 5,000 Transistor Radios To Improve Access To Learning**
- 2.490 Rename colonial monuments, Assembly tells Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.491 Sanwo-Olu promises safe, productive economy for Lagosians**
- 2.492 NMA Tasks Sanwo-Olu Over Lagos Doctors' Welfare, Working Conditions**
- 2.493 Sanwo-olu and the 'greater lagos' vision**
- 2.494 Lagos Frees 40 Patients**
- 2.495 Churches, mosques remain closed in Lagos – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.496 Abule Egba Fire: 69 Families Get N225,000 Each, Individuals N150,000**
- 2.497 Sanwo-Olu: Schools To Reopen For Exiting Classes**

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- 2.498 Traders seek Sanwo-Olu's intervention on rebuilding market**
- 2.499 Traders seek Sanwo-Olu's intervention on rebuilding market**
- 2.500 UN Writes Governor Sanwo-Olu On Dire Water Situation On Lagos**
- 2.501 Lagos Assembly To Sanwo-Olu: Accredite More Private Hospitals For COVID-19 Treatment**
- 2.502 Lawmakers To Sanwo-Olu: Accredite More Private Hospitals For COVID-19 Treatment**
- 2.503 MSSN Cautions Sanwo-Olu Against Reopening Of Schools**
- 2.504 COVID-19: Every Nigerian Must Take Responsibility, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.505 Revitalizing National Theatre, Step To 21st Century Lagos – Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.506 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Charges Every Nigerian To Take Responsibility**
- 2.507 Sanwo-Olu Commissions 36-Chamber Morgue at Yaba Infectious Diseases Hospital**
- 2.508 Lagos Traders Seeks Sanwo-Olu's Intervention over**
- 2.509 Lagos: Call off strike, Sanwo-Olu begs doctors
Says May and June COVID-19 allowance settled
Abandoned N13bn Alade Market**
- 2.510 Doctors' Strike in Lagos Opportunistic, Says Sanwo-Olu**
- 2.511 Sanwo-Olu urges tree planting, commends health workers**

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- 2.512 Sanwo-Olu: I've Paid All Healthworkers' Allowances**
- 2.513 Lagos Begins Recruitment of 760 Health Workers Including 400 Doctors**
- 2.514 Sanwo-Olu seeks support for technical education**
- 2.515 Community begs Sanwo-Olu for school**
- 2.516 Sanwo-Olu Gets 21-Day Ultimatum to Pay Pensioners or Face Protest**
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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 EDUCATION

Since the inception of this administration, efforts have been made to raise the standard of education in the state. Few months after taking his oath of office, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu declared a major emergency in the educational sector that will bring about an overhaul of the entire educational system.

The governor said it is being done at different levels. “We are fixing the infrastructure, we are also fixing the curriculum, we are fixing training, we are fixing development of the teachers, we are also fixing recruitment of teachers.

“So the entire value and eco-change educational sector we are actually doing because we realise based on experience that all of the things we need to do in very quickly fixing those schools”, Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor spoke at the swearing-in of members of the committee on the rehabilitation of public schools in Lagos state at Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja.

The 4-member committee is chaired by Mr. Hakeem Smith, other members are: Engr. Yetunde Holloway, Arch. Adebajo and Babatunde Ishola. He charged the committee members to help the state aggressively put together extensive regula-

tion in most of the schools, adding that “we're starting with the first of about 300 of them. And we would imagine that from the things we'll be doing, it will be spread around all the nooks and crannies of the states.

“We do not want to buggle it down with the Minister of Education, and we have used this system before so that's why you've been chosen very competently so, we believe that you would help us to have projects that are long lasting, of the fitting of the status of the Lagos State that we all are truly proud of.

“And I'm happy to say that not only are we always female, gender sensitive, but also very youth sensitive, because the future of the state does not belong to us alone, also for the generation that is also coming down, so we need to begin to train ourselves.

“So we ensure that we spread out in those areas so that we can see very, very tech driven school set, and we will be open to innovative ideas, we will be open to a functional projects that will be coming out from your committee,” Sanwo-Olu said. Moreover, the Lagos State government again reiterated its commitment to closing learning gaps in public and private schools in the state for effective delivery of qualitative and quantitative education.

This was disclosed by the governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Director General, Office of Education Quality Assurance, Mrs Abiola Seriki-Ayeni, at the 10th, Annual Conference of Association of Private Educators of Nigeria (APEN) tagged Global Classroom 2030: Vehicle to Attitudes, Knowledge, Skills and Values.

At the conference, Sanwo-olu expressed government's resolve to collaborate with the private sector to drive tailored policies

and programmes toward creating an enabling environment for teaching and learning in Lagos schools below tertiary level and build processes and structures that will ensure sustainability aimed at improving quality education in the state.

He stressed that “As partners, we will appreciate your continued commitment in achieving our collective aim of making education effective and efficient for the benefit of our citizens.”

The governor emphasised the importance of reaching set educational goals through the provision of high quality education accessible to all learners. According to him, the teaching profession will be made a functional model of knowledge transfer. He said curriculum must reflect needs that will positively influence the current educational system and infrastructure must be effectively upgraded to create an enabling study environment.

He claimed that as a responsible government, it has resolved to tackle challenges through combining innovative technology, training and scientifically-based approaches to raise the bar of teaching and learning in schools.

Another giant stride recorded in the education sector was the allocation of a large percentage of the 2020 budget to the education sector. Sanwo-Olu is said to have made the sectoral allocations in a “bold” bid to fulfill his campaign promises and emphasise the point that “it is not all about bricks and mortars; development should focus on human beings.” Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu also set up a visitation panel to investigate the crisis rocking the Lagos State Polytechnic. The panel was tasked with investigating all contentious issues that are setting the staff union of the school against the management.

According to a statement signed by Gboyega Akosile, the Deputy Press Secretary to the governor, Sanwo-Olu also ordered members of staff earlier disengaged by the management to forward their letters of appeal to the school's Governing Council within seven days for a review of the process of their disengagement, but with a condition that the appeal letters get endorsed by the Head of Service to ensure transparency in the review process.

The Governor expressed concern over the effects of the protracted crisis on the wellbeing of the school, noting that the prevailing situation had affected the morale of law-abiding employees of the institution, as well as the academic performance of its students.

1.2 TRANSPORTATION

One of the promises made by the Lagos State governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to the people of the state is to attain a 'Greater Lagos'. Considering the strategic role of transportation as a key driver of economic development, the Sanwo-Olu administration made Traffic Management and Transportation a foremost part of its T.H.E.M.E.S (acronyms for Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21ST Economy, Entertainment and Tourism and Governance and Security) Developmental Agenda.

This informed the signing of his first Executive Order on Indiscriminate Refuse Dumping, Traffic Management, and Public Work. In order to improve the state of roads in the state, a state of emergency was declared on roads by the governor.

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This led to heightened road construction projects across the state. Some of the critical highways and roads being constructed include the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Ojota stretch of the Ikorodu Road, Motorways-Kudirat Abiola Way, Agric/Ishawo Road and Ijede Road in Ikorodu, and Lekki-Epe Expressway from Abraham Adesanya to Eleko Junction among others.

The speed at which work is advancing on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway is particularly impressive. On January 3, the governor commissioned the newly constructed four kilometres stretch of the highway from Agboju to Trade Fair, while also declaring the commencement of construction work on the Phase II of the project, which will take off from Trade Fair to the main gate of the Lagos State University (LASU) in Iba Town.

The construction of the Phase II of the expressway is expected to be completed in October, after which the final phase will take off.

A major highlight of the state government's intervention in roads was the commissioning of 31 network of roads at Ojokoro area of the state. The Sanwo-Olu administration moved to complete the roads to relieve residents of the agony brought about by perennial traffic gridlock in the area.

Similarly, on May 29, the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for Bus Reform Scheme at Ikeja and Oshodi Bus Terminals, Oyingbo Bus Terminal, Concrete jetty with shoreline protection and waiting shelter at Baiyeku, Ikorodu LG, Fadipe/Salami/ Eyiwuawu/Odubanjo Streets in Shomolu LGA, Alhaji Akinwunmi Street, Mushin LGA and Adagun-Imeke-Iworo-Ajido-Epeme Road, Badagry LGA were all commissioned for public use by the governor.

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Work is equally on-going, in conjunction with Access Bank, on the five circular roads within Victoria Island and Lekki axis that will de-clog that part of Lagos. Work is also steadily progressing on the Agege-Pen Cinema flyover. The flyover, which is at 60 per cent completion stage, will ease traffic along the axis when completed.

Re-configuration of strategic roundabouts, in order to reduce traffic gridlocks, is equally ongoing. The affected roundabouts are Allen, Lekki 1st/2nd, Ikotun, and Maryland Junctions and roundabouts. The junctions are being reconfigured because their capacities can no longer meet the vehicular demands due to increased population and vehicles on the roads.

In order to enhance traffic management in the metropolis, morale of LASTMA officials was uplifted through 100 per cent increase in their monthly allowance. Also, 1,017 newly recruited LASTMA officers were inducted by Mr Governor and deployed to strategic locations to achieve better flow of traffic.

Also, in order to fill the noticeable space created in the transport sector by the restriction order on commercial motorcycles and tricycles, the Sanwo-Olu administration rolled out 65 High Capacity buses to augment the existing fleet.

The fully automated Ultra-Modern Vehicle Inspection Operational Headquarters in Ojodu, Berger was also commissioned while a cashless toll payment at Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge has also commenced. It is aimed at reducing traffic gridlock/queues often experienced on the corridor while making cash payments. Integrated mass transportation initiative has also recorded a huge progress with the successful completion of the elevated sea-crossing track of the Blue Line Mass transit project.

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Construction work has since begun on the final phase. It seems the project is a top priority for the current administration, as it is critical to the achievement of its prioritized pillar of traffic management and transportation in its six-point development agenda.

Similarly, ongoing work on the Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT lane and Blue/Red line rail, is in line with the aspiration of the present administration to solve the traffic gridlock through an effective and efficient intermodal transport system, which is also key to the building of a 21st century economy which is central to the attainment of a 'Greater Lagos'.

Also, to effectively integrate a sustainable intermodal transportation system, Governor Sanwo-Olu recently commissioned eight new state- of-the-art ferries, with a pledge to totally explore the tourism and economic potentials of the waterways in the State for the overall benefit of all.

While commissioning the boats at the Badore Ferry Terminal, Ajah, on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020, Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration's commitment to the implementation of the integrated transport management system designed to scale up water, rail and land transportation, saying that the grand plan is to divert at least two million passengers on the waterways daily, thereby reducing traffic on the road.

Much emphasis is particularly being placed on safety of the water ways. This is why lots channelization and dredging are being done in order to make the waterways safe and secure for all stakeholders.

There are also plans to connect water terminals and the roads, especially in places such as Badore, Ajah, Mile 2, Badagry, Ikorodu and other places where there are terminals.

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For instance, the expansion of trade to the Lekki Free Trade Zone will be easy to access by water from international waterways to local inland waterways.

Also, inter-costal trade will experience ease such that traders will be able to move their commodities via ships and other water transport modes. Therefore, the menace of tankers and heavy-duty trucks on the roads will be drastically reduced.

Presently, the Lagos Ferry Services Company (LAGFERRY) is facilitating cargoes movement and providing innovative solutions to logistic challenges of industries, importers and manufacturers.

It currently conveys trucks from its Mile 2 Jetty to Apapa Seaport to load containers. The hassles of doing same by road are being greatly reduced by the option of moving them on water via LAGFERRY's badges.

On the whole, given the complex and vital nature of public transportation in Lagos State, the Sanwo-Olu Administration has done well by investing in and developing intermodal transportation.

By the time the Lagos light rail project becomes effective and expanded, coupled with renewed efforts to improve water transportation in addition to numerous on-going road projects across the state, a more effective and reliable public transportation system will emerge.

1.3 FLIP SIDE

Some residents in Lagos State expressed dissatisfaction over the violation of the directives of Governor Babajide Sanwo-

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Olu by officials of the Vehicle Inspection Services (VIS) in the state.

VIS is a state traffic regulating agency that ensures presence of sound vehicles on the road. The agency is a directorate of the Ministry of Transportation.

The governor, in November 2019, ordered the state's Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) to desist from operating during the morning period.

According to the governor, the move is to curb traffic gridlock experienced during the peak periods as it is perceived that VIOs contribute to the gridlock as they normally stop vehicles during peak periods to demand for vehicle documents.

According to him, the officers would now operate between 12.00p.m and 3.00p.m.

Based on the governor's directives, the VIOs adjusted their schedules and were only seen in operation between the hours of 12p.m and 3p.m, a move many Lagosians applauded.

However, since the commencement of the partial lock-down in the state, VIOs have been seen on the roads operating as early as 9a.m in places like Ojodu Berger, Surulere, Ojota, Abule-Egba, Victoria Island, and other areas.

When contacted, Engr. Akin-George Fashola, Director, Lagos State Vehicle Inspection Service, admitted that his men were operating in the morning but added that their activities are not illegal.

"They are not violating the law. You will also recall that there is a restriction of movement; the lockdown has not been fully lifted. They are working to ensure that commercial vehicles

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adhere to the traffic guide-lines that have been laid down by the government in terms of passenger capacity."

Also echoing Fashola's position, Bola Ogunmola, Public Affairs Director, and Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, said: "I think it is because this is a special period that we didn't bargain for. When you see them on the road, it is not that they are controlling traffic."

1.4 FOOD SECURITY

The state government during the period under review embarked on various interventions to boost food production in the state. The Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, assured farmers of government's support to ensure increase in food production in the state. He spoke at the commencement of the 2019 Agricultural Value Chains Empowerment Programme.

About 1,750 agricultural value chain actors were empowered with various agricultural tools at the event.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, called for adequate preparation to meet the challenges of a growing population. He also reinforced the need for a new and integrated approach to food production and agro-allied business to enhance food security.

"In spite of the global climate change which constitutes a major challenge to food security, our government will continue to provide necessary assistance and advisory services to farmers to increase food production in the state," the governor said. He noted that the provision of socio-economic infrastructure on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of residents would continue to be a priority.

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Sanwo-Olu said the state government had already developed a five-year agricultural road map as part of efforts to make Lagos a 21st century economy, with the agricultural sector playing a vital role in diversifying the economy.

Moreover, the administration of Gov. Sanwo-Olu reiterated its commitment to support coconut farmers, processors, marketers, haulage operators, producers on food security, job and wealth creation with active involvement of private sector.

This was disclosed by Ms Abisola Olusanya, the Special Adviser to Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Agriculture who spoke at the Celebration of 2019 Coconut Festival tagged “Agunfest” held at Suntan Beach, Badagry. The theme of the festival is: “Coconut Production and Utilization; Dealing with Current Imperatives in view of Border closure”.

“There is need for a comprehensive and robust stakeholders’ engagement along coconut value chain so as to ensure that the good policy of the Federal Government on border closure will not impact negatively on coconut economy”.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) are working closely with other stakeholders toward proffering lasting solutions to the lingering crisis currently affecting the downstream sector of Coconut Value Chain,” she said.

Adesanya said that the government had been involved in rehabilitation of the coconut belt; massive production of improved seedlings; capacity building and empowerment of the value chain; and encouragement of proliferation of coconut cottage in a bid to encourage private investors to come and invest in the state.

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Furthermore, the state government made efforts to develop the aquaculture value chain. The State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, called on investors and business community to tap into the highly rewarding investment opportunity in the aquaculture value chain in order to bridge the demand and supply gap of fisheries in the state.

The Governor made the call while speaking at the 2019 Lagos Seafood Festival, with the theme “Celebrating the Seafood Diversity of Lagos State” at the Muri Okunola Park, Victoria Island Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented at the event by Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, his Deputy, said that the Seafood festival presents a unique opportunity to showcase Lagos State aquaculture and seafood potentials to local and international markets as well stimulate the growth of tourism in the state. He stated that within the agriculture value chain there exist potentials for increased production towards the attainment of the state food security objective, foreign exchange earnings from export and ultimately contribute to the growth of the state Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“You will all agree with me that Lagos State is endowed with natural landscape traversed by sea and lagoon waters as well as beautiful beaches and waterfronts, as 22 per cent of the state's total land area are covered with water and 180km coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

“These unique endowments give the State a comparative advantage in seafood and tourism business which are yearning to be tapped, harnessed and developed for the socio-economic transformation of the state,” he added. Speaking further he said to ensure a geometrical increase in fish production with active participation of the private sector, the state government

has initiated several projects in the agricultural space which include the establishments of Fish Farms in Ikorodu and Epe.

He stated that while the Ikorodu Estate is fully subscribed and produces 10,000 tons of fish per annum, the Ketu Ereyun, Epe Estate will produce 11,000 metric tons on completion of its first phase.

He emphasized that all these initiatives are geared at bridging the demand and supply gap which is estimated at 374,000 tonnes per annum and 155,262 tonnes per annum respectively.

1.5 HOUSING

Housing is one of the basic necessity of life. To this end, the administration of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has been making efforts aimed at sheltering residents of the state.

Governor Sanwo-Olu allotted all the apartments of the Lateef Kayode Jakande Housing Estate in Igando to 492 families certified by the State's Mortgage Board to benefit from the scheme. The allocation came four months after the housing estate was completed by the Sanwo-Olu administration. Sanwo-Olu described the development as "a promise kept ahead of time", noting that his administration's modified rent-to-own housing scheme took off earlier than expected.

The Governor reiterated that provision of decent homes for a large number of residents across the State remained a key thrust of his administration's social intervention scheme, stressing that his Government had introduced a simple mortgage model to expand the opportunity to low-income families.

He said: "We cannot overemphasise how critical housing is to all residents. We made a promise that we will deliver decent homes to our people. For us to start fulfilling this promise earlier than we predicted, it shows the credibility and our readiness to stand with our pledges to Lagosians. It's a promise kept ahead of time.

"Therefore, it is with great pleasure to hand over keys to apartments of Lateef Kayode Jakande Gardens to all beneficiaries selected by the Mortgage Board. Shelter, as we all know, is critical to fulfilling all other activities of life. Home ownership is a mark of great accomplishment, especially in city like Lagos. My joy knows no bound as ordinary people now boast of owning decent homes under my administration."

The Governor said the delivery of affordable housing to low-income residents underscored "irrevocable commitment" of his administration to actualise its agenda of building a 21st century economy and attaining 'Greater Lagos'.

Sanwo-Olu promised that his Government would continue to make more impacts through social intervention schemes, pledging that other ongoing housing projects would be completed.

He also said the welfare of the State workers would be a priority of his administration, disclosing that he had directed the Ministry of Housing to reserve 10 per cent of the properties developed by the Government for civil servant to keep them committed to the service of the State.

Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, said all housing schemes initiated by the previous administrations were being speedily worked on for completion on the order of the Governor. He disclosed that the Government would be delivering additional 360 homes in Igbogbo, 744 homes in

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Sangotedo, 660 homes in Agbowo and 680 apartments in Egan Igando. The Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led Administration in Lagos State has delivered over 1,576 home units going by the number of commissioned projects in the State's Housing Ministry.

Following the speech presented by the Ministry during the ministerial presentation of scorecard for the first year in office, the list of the completed projects included; six Housing Schemes located at Igando in Alimosho Local Government Area; Igbogbo in Igbogbo Baiyeku Local Council Development Authority, Igbokushu; Lekki Phase 1; Idale in Badagry; Iponri in Surulere Local Government and Lekki Phase 2 also in Eti Osa Local Government Area.

It was gathered that 120, 252, 124, 132, 96 home units situated respectively at Courtland Luxury Villa in Igbokushu; Lekki Phase 1; Lagos State Affordable Public Housing Scheme in Idale Badagry; Iponri Housing Scheme; and Lekki Phase 2 Scheme in Eti Osa local Government Area, were achieved through Partnerships with the Lagos State Property Development Corporation, Le Grand Property Development Company, Step Development, Echostone Housing and Messrs Lekki Ultimate Constructions respectively.

Moreover, no less than 2,284 home units are expected to be delivered before the first quarter (Q1) of 2021 based on estimations of more housing schemes undergoing constructions.

On the list of the ongoing projects are LAGOSHOMS Sangotedo clusters with 1218 homes in Eti-Osa LGA; 660 homes at Lagoshoms Odo Onosa/Ayandelu in Agbowo Local Council Development Area; Egan Igando Scheme with 270 homes; and Lagoshoms LASU in Lagos State University main Campus with 36 units. Also on Government owned Housing schemes undergoing development include Epe Housing

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Scheme in Itamarun Epe local Government with 112 home units. According to the State's Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, the provision of Housing schemes in major parts of the State are in line with the Sanwo-Olu led Administration's T.H.E.M.E.S. Agenda, categorised under the pillar of Building a 21st Century Economy.

It is a known fact that Provision of decent housing for Lagosians is an integral part of the transformation agenda of the present administration. Housing being a critical need of humans forms the bedrock of other developmental efforts hence the great attention given to it by the present administration.

1.6 LAND MATTERS

The Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led Administration in Lagos State has devoted more attention to the nefarious activities of land grabbers in the state.

To this end, the Lagos State Special Taskforce on Land Grabbers, popularly known as 'Omo Onile Taskforce', with a mandate to rid the state of land grabbers, has continued to receive petitions and there are several criminal prosecution cases against suspected land grabbers currently ongoing in different courts.

The operation of the taskforce received a major boost when 19 alleged land grabbers were arrested on November 13, 2019, in Kosofe Local Government and trial is still on-going at the Magistrate Court. Presently, there are over 35 Land Grabbing cases in Court, wherein land grabbers are being prosecuted and it is hoped that justice would be served without hindrance to serve as a deterrent to other land grabbers.

Recent statistics show that there is an appreciable increase in the number of citizens who patronise the taskforce for resolution of land grabbing cases. This is due in part to the intensity of publicity and awareness campaign as well as testimonies of people who have had their cases resolved through the Taskforce.

Towards the end of last year, the Lagos State Ministry of Justice intervened in respect of an encroachment on the land of an elderly couple at Ejigbo, whose video went viral on social media. The couple was invited to this office and the police are investigating the alleged criminal activities of the individuals named.

1.7 Health

Governor Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State reiterated its commitment towards developing a sustainable Smart Health Information Platform by connecting and strengthening linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary facilities to deliver efficient healthcare services to the people of Lagos State.

The Governor dropped the hint in January 2020 while speaking at the opening ceremony of a three-day Technical Conference on e-Health with the theme, "Lagos State Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP)," held at Victoria Island.

Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Dr. Obafemi Kadri, his Deputy stated that in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda, the conference underscores the importance of the health sector and its critical role in securing the economic and general well-being of residents.

He said, though current technological development are essentially limited to developed countries, e-health is a global issue

and that he is elated at the prospect of the conference providing workable strategies and solutions to identified challenges to the establishment of a smart health information platform for the state health sector.

"To my mind, establishing a Health Information Platform will impact positively on various aspects our state's health system such as Human Resources Health, Healthcare Financing through our Universal Coverage Initiative; Lagos State Health Scheme, Biosecurity and Biosafety, provide employment creation opportunities while opening doors to international collaborations and partnerships towards improving the state of our health service delivery," he said.

He stated that the development of 3,000km fibre optic network will enable public institutions (Schools, hospitals, offices etc) have direct linkages to the internet as part of strategies to make Lagos a Smart City.

While describing Data as the new currency, and key in planning, the governor called on all residents of the Lagos State to register with the State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) in order to assist the state government to have data which will assist the government in the provision of its numerous people-Oriented programmes.

He disclosed that there is ongoing discussion with NIMC to utilize the infrastructure of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency for data capture by residents of Lagos State.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu also increased the state government's allocation to the health sector in order to meet the health needs of residents of the state. The governor while presenting the budget to the state lawmakers, disclosed that the 2020 budget is fully consistent with his administration's

THEMES agenda, and gives priority to the completion of on-going projects. He was quoted as saying “similarly, in healthcare, we have provided for a capital expenditure of 33 Billion Naira, compared to the 2019 budget proposal of 21 Billion Naira”.

“We will ensure that our primary health care institutions remain active and attractive to the primary health care needs of our people. Lagos belongs to us all; we will continue therefore to drive partnerships with the private sector in promoting health services within our institutions”.

In November 2019, Governor Sanwo-Olu, called on the residents to step up efforts to achieve a further reduction in the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS through aggressive public enlightenment campaign, which should be taken to the nooks and cranny of the state.

Speaking at a “Know Your HIV Status” symposium in Victoria Island, Lagos State, on Wednesday, Sanwo-Olu thanked the state's stakeholders and partners for their efforts and commitment to the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS over the years in the state.

Commending them for working and sacrificing their resources to achieve the level of awareness that has significantly changed the behavior of people, the governor said, “this is evidenced by the reduction in the prevalence rate, which currently stands at 1.4 percent.”

The governor, who said that although the current prevalence rate showed a reduction, noted, “it is still a source of concern when we consider the actual number of people within the bracket, hence the need for more efforts to achieve a further reduction in the prevalence rate.”

Also at the event, which witnessed the inauguration of the state HIV Consortium Group, Sanwo-Olu said the consortium was to provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate a sustained and improved response to achieving 9090 target to end the scourge in the state.

The governor noted that the consortium would usher in a new era in response to HIV/AIDS challenge, which is a result of the commitment of all stakeholders to key into the strategy. This, he said, “means that all vulnerable people must be trapped, including men-to-men, sexual workers, injection drug users, women and children. Everyone must be involved. We must not leave anyone behind”.

Sanwo-Olu, therefore, urged all residents of the state “to collaborate with the government so that we can achieve a significant reduction in prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state.” He also asked Lagos residents to voluntarily present themselves to the designated centers to know their status.

He said “Know Your HIV Status” symposium was one of such strategies aimed at encouraging all citizens and residents of the state to know their status.”

Sanwo-Olu noted that this symposium was organised to achieve two major objectives: “Firstly, to disseminate the 2018 Nigeria HIV and AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) result for Lagos State disaggregated by local government areas – a first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa. “This result is important considering that Lagos State has been identified by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as one of the 15 priority high burden cities accounting for three million people living with HIV globally.”

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He said that the key goal of the Lagos State government for HIV was reducing the number of new HIV infections, which is coordinated by the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) utilising a multi-sectorial approach for the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS. This goal is line with the UNAIDS 90'90'90' initiative which states that by the year 2030: 90% of people living with HIV should know their status; 90% of HIV positive individuals are initiated on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs; 90% of individuals on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs should achieve suppression.

The governor noted that the state government is committed to achieving this goal as part of the Health and Environment pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda. "Our strategy will be multi-sectoral and focused on the following: Improving the health system service delivery, scaling-up community response, maintaining sustained support of programme".

Moreover, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, also called on insurance bodies to partner with the state government to ensure the successful implementation of the newly introduced Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme (LSHIS).

The scheme which was launched in December 2018 by the immediate past Governor of the state, Akinwunmi Ambode is being promoted by the present government of the state.

He made the call at the 65th birthday celebration of the first female President of the Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers, Laide Osijo and the commissioning of the Plum House, Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

The Governor who was represented by Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat his Deputy, while reiterating the importance of health insurance, urged the practitioners to partner with the State in

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the Scheme, to mitigate government having to expend over N2.5 billion in support of people with medical challenges.

He also urged religious leaders, traditional rulers and opinion leaders to assist government in the sensitization of health insurance.

"For instance, the fire incident that occurred in Lagos Island this week, though very unfortunate, but the truth is that between 80 and 90 percent of the traders does not have insurance. We must therefore find a way to meet the exigencies of getting our people to embrace insurance to meet disasters," he said.

Speaking on the ways by which insurance can affect infrastructure development in the State, the Governor said, "only two roads in the entire Africa were constructed through the Public-Private participation (PPP), that is only the Lekki-Epe Expressway and one other in South Africa, adding that virtually all sectors required insurance intervention.

Another giant stride by the administration of Governor Sanwo-Olu worthy of mention in the health sector is the free medical services offered to residents of the state by the government during the lockdown imposed as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Most residents that enjoyed these services were full of joy and gratitude to the government of the day for the good gesture saying they would not have been able to afford the cost of the treatment if not for the intervention of the state government.

Most families and households were finding it difficult to survive during the lockdown as a result of dwindling income. This would have impacted negatively on their disposable income especially when it comes to paying medical bills. The free medical

service introduced by the state government was a huge relief to indigent residents of the state who benefited from it.

Chief Incident Commander for the counter measures against Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Lagos state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, also re-assured Nigerians that the state remained committed to every effort geared towards preventing the human-to-human transmission of the virus, following the index case reported in the state.

The governor said both the state and federal governments healthcare officials had been working round the clock with infectious disease control professionals from the international agencies to ensure the counter measures being deployed to contain the virus achieved the desired results. Sanwo-Olu spoke during his visit to the state-owned bio-security and containment facility at Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Yaba, Lagos Mainland, where the Italian national diagnosed with COVID-19 is being managed.

Sanwo-Olu said he was highly confident in the response approach initiated by the state's incident command centre at the wake of the outbreak of the virus, expressing optimism that the nation would survive the epidemic and put it behind.

He said: "Let me express a confession that I am very delighted with the level of preparedness and our response to stop Coronavirus from spreading in our country. The kind of structures we have put in place and the strategies being deployed have raised my confidence that the nation, at the end of the day, will win this battle and will put it behind.

I keep on expressing to the Commissioner for Health that we must stop at nothing to achieve the very best result."

1.8 SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND TOURISM

It's unarguable that sports, tourism and entertainment are some of most important sectors invested in by Lagos Government. To this end, the Chairman of Badagry local government, Hon Olusegun Onilude, has commended the governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his commitment to develop the tourism potential of the Badagry Division.

He gave this commendation in his welcome address at the Badagry Heritage Festival symposium at Hunwaji Hotel, Badagry and Lagos.

He said: "Words cannot express my joy and appreciation to the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his commitment and unprecedented support for the development of tourism potential in the Badagry Division and most especially Badagry Local Government Area."

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu also promised his continued support for the Lagos City's Access Bank Marathon. Speaking at the end of the event, Sanwo-Olu said the marathon has come to stay. "We want to put Lagos, Nigeria Access Bank Marathon on the Marathon calendar of the world. Very soon, it will become a marathon that all the world athletes will come and join us."

The governor, who pledged his administration's continued effort at boosting sports and tourism in the state, added that the event is the beginning of the state's tourism agenda.

"We want Lagos to remain on the tourism master plan of athletes worldwide. We want Marathon to become part of us because we all want to live a healthy life."

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Also highlighting the importance of the marathon, he said stakeholders must endeavor to keep fit as it is the only way to good health.

“We all want it to be a work and play environment. We all want to keep fit. We want to make healthy running a way of life for all of us so that we can reduce health issues, sickness among ourselves”.

But more importantly, we can have a community where families (both young and old) can all come to have fun, do great exercises, enjoy ourselves and make money out of it.” While lauding all the Kenyans, Ethiopians, among others, for attending the marathon, he also thanked the organisers, for making the event successful.

Similarly, Governor Sanwo-Olu, reaffirmed his commitment to make entertainment and tourism key components of his policy. The Governor who spoke at the opening ceremony of Art X Lagos in November 2019 at Federal Palace Hotel, stated that making entertainment and tourism key components of his policy was not mere talk, but a decision to make Lagos tourism and entertainment destination in Africa.

“Why are we in government? We are in government to solve traffic problems. We are in government to fix potholes. We are in government primarily to create enabling environment where all of you can flourish in whatever you do. If we cannot get all these right, then we don't have any business being in government,” he said while reacting to remarks by founder, Art X, Tokini Peterside.

He noted that “If we are in government and Tokini still pick calls at middle of the night for people to get visas to come to Nigeria, then we have not done our jobs well.”

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Sanwo-Olu, however, reiterated his administration's commitment to support and promote private individuals and organisations' creative efforts that are geared towards making Lagos a destination of choice in Africa. He stressed that the Lagos State government, in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria and other financial experts, is working on the refurbishment of the National Theatre, Lagos and building of a 40-hectare eco-system real estate for the creative sector. He stated that, hopefully, in the next two or three years, the National Theatre should be able to host the fair.

He disclosed that by next year, Lagos State government will be on the list of sponsors of the art fair, adding that part of its contributions will be on how to remove those red tapes in order to make Lagos a destination of choice.

“We want Lagos to be on everyone's calendar for 2020. Next year, Lagos will host Under-20 Female World Cup and the Global Citizens award in September,” he added.

The State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, also pledged his commitment to the welfare of the state's delegation to the 2020 National Sports Festival in Edo State. Sanwo-Olu said this when he received the sports festival's Torch of Unity from the representative of the Minister of Youths and Sports Development, Femi Ajao, and the Lagos State Liaison Officer, Bode Durotoye, at his Alausa office on Thursday. According to the governor, the welfare of Lagos athletes was paramount to the government. He also added that the state deserved to win the biennial games.

“I am receiving this Torch of Unity for Edo 2020 National Sports Festival on behalf of the sports loving Lagosians who have been supporting us.

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“I am sure that we will win as many gold medals as we can. I have admonished the Chairman and the DG of Lagos State Sports Commission on this that we are going to be fair, firm and ensure that Lagos comes out tops, because it is deserving of us. “In the spirit of sportsmanship, we will do our best and ensure that all logistics are put in place for the success at the games,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu admonished the athletes to make sure that they put up their best performances to do the state proud, adding that their welfare remained paramount.

“We know that some states do come to poach our athletes, but this time around, we will not allow them to take our pride away. Anything that it takes us we will do. We will block all the loopholes and we are sure to make your welfare our priority,” he said.

1.9 JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu in December 2019 gave assurance that the executive arm of the state government will continue to cooperate with the judiciary in ensuring that the 'Rule of Law' remains the centerpiece of judicial reforms in Lagos State.

The governor also promised continuous training and re-training of judicial personnel to deliver best practice in justice administration as well as maintaining a welfare package to inspire and motivate them deliver their best.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance in his address at the commissioning of the newly constructed High Courts and Magistrates Courts at Ajah-Badore, Eti-Osa on Tuesday. The new court house complex named: Christopher Olatunde Segun Court

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House consists of two High Courts and three Magistrates' Courts.

The Complex also has ancillary services to enhance the administration of justice, namely: a well-equipped law library, conference room, and facilities to accommodate the Nigeria Bar Association.

In addition, the complex will house the Assistant Chief Registrar's Office and the Office of Public Defender (OPD).

Sanwo-Olu said the commissioning was in fulfillment of his administration's promise to ensure easy access to the administration of justice for all in Lagos State.

“The Lagos State Judiciary is an extremely busy one, perhaps the busiest in Nigeria; and we have always set the pace in terms of efficiency of service, and of the welfare of our judicial personnel.

“I recall that upon assumption of office, I promised my full support to the judiciary, in order to enhance Lagos State's position as a model of judicial administration. Today's commissioning, coming shortly after the commencement of the 2019/2020 Legal Year, is in fulfillment of that promise”.

The governor assured that there is more to be done, adding that his administration will not relent or rest on its oars. “What we have done here in Ajah-Badore will be extended to other areas in due course.”

Similarly, the administration of Mr Babajide Sanwo-olu, Governor of Lagos State, has been at the forefront of advancing the course of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with the establishment of Citizens Mediation Centres and the Multi - Door

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Court House. He has also assured Lagosians that his administration would do more in the area of settling issues that would have ended in acrimonious litigation.

He stated this during the opening ceremony of the 2019 Annual Conference and gala nite of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (U.K) Nigeria, Branch, held in Lagos on Thursday.

The Governor, who was represented at the event by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo, added, "We believe we can achieve much more with the establishment of more ADR Centres and increased public awareness advocacy."

At the event themed, 'Positioning Africa: The Changing Landscape in Alternative Dispute Resolution,' the Governor noted that in the very near future, the number of dispute resolutions arising from business transactions would most likely increase as a result of the expected trade activities from the newly signed Africa Continental Trade Agreement.

According to the Governor, "We must plan ahead by strengthening the capacity of our ADR institutions to ensure smooth and quick resolution of most of the anticipated number of disputes."

Moreover, Lagos State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu threatened to wield the big stick against perpetrators of rape, domestic violence and child abuse in the state.

This Governor added that his administration will support the police and the judiciary to ensure that the crime against humanity is brought to the barest minimum.

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Sanwo-Olu gave the stern warning Tuesday after the "Walk To Commit and Act" rally organised by Lagos State Government through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT).

"The Lagos State government through the Ministry of Justice and other arms of the government deems it fit that we need to have this walk to further confirm and to indicate our full support for advocacy around the talk of child abuse, the advocacy around rape, against women and girl, the talk around domestic violence, sexual violence and all other vices that are around abuse of children," the Governor stated.

"Our government by this walk confirms that we are totally against it, we stand against everything about this issue and we are going to ensure that we have zero tolerance against it.

It is a crime against humanity. When you are caught in the act of sexual violence, child abuse, domestic violence, you will be made to pay dearly for your crime.

So, we are using this advocacy to warn and to tell people to desist because the full arm of law will be brought to bear on anybody or institution found wanting in any form."

The Governor said the state government was commemorating the day in line with United Nations declaration against gender-based violence.

While describing rape, domestic violence and child abuse as crimes against humanity which must not be tolerated, Sanwo-Olu said that the state was working hard with its police command and all relevant agencies to reduce their incidence.

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“It is about time we lived in a civil society and we need to end and ensure that people end the silence. Come forth if anything happens, speak up, and you can be rest assured that you'll be protected and the government will take up your issue.

For people that have been all shut out that don't know who or how to go about it, we have phone numbers that you can call. You can call our 112 or you can call the toll free number which is 08137960048. You can also send your text to 6820.

Be rest assured that somebody is on the other side, that will pick up your case and we'll see to it that justice is served in anyway where we found anybody culpable,” he stated.

1.10 SECURITY

In February 2020, the United Nations, Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the founder of Inri Evangelical Spiritual Church, Primate Elijah Babatunde Ayodele were part of discussions on how to keep peace in Nigeria and the world. They suggested that providing for the primary needs of the youth and people plays the biggest role in securing any nation.

The occasion was the flag-off of the 75th year anniversary of the United Nations cum the birthday ceremony of the clergy, which held at the premises of the church, in Ejigbo area of Lagos State.

According to the UN representative, World Peace President, Per Stafsén “our conversation is geared towards assembling 10 million Nigerian voices that will engage the United Nations with the opinion and suggestion that will strengthen their global mandate for the future we want and the United Nations we need.” Buttressing the UN's point, Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Commissioner for Home Affairs, Olanrewaju Anofiu

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Elegushi commended the UN on the promotion of peace.

“We all agree that basic needs are important. They should continue to provide for the war zone countries. They should also have future plans to help tackle unknown diseases. They should have future diseases in mind to save humanity,” he stated.

Meanwhile, Primate Ayodele has urged the UN and Sanwo-Olu to focus on the development of the youths. He explained that peace is generationally achieved and such can't be done without providing or attending to the needs of the youths.

“The youths must have jobs to be responsible and accountable. Lagos government needs to put policies that will help the youths in place. The government needs to reconsider the ban on Keke. Many of them depend on it. No terrorist can invade Lagos.”

At the beginning of the year 2020, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said security strategies put in place by his administration had yielded fruits, adding that crime rate, especially kidnapping, had reduced.

He spoke after the state's final Security Council meeting in the year. The governor noted that incessant kidnapping was part of the security challenges facing the state when he took over leadership in May 2019.

“As the Chief Security Officer of the state, I can confirm that activities of the security council has made Lagos safer than it was when we took over. We will continue to make the state secure for all law-abiding residents and visitors,” Sanwo-Olu added.

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The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, also said the police had weakened the capacity of kidnappers in the state, adding that the council remained vigilant to consolidate on the progress achieved.

“We are introducing a policy to contain the menace of okada riders and tricycles, and this policy will be fully implemented. We will be unveiling the plan in a few weeks and it will be sustainable. The plan will not be without human face, but we expect all the commercial motorcycle operators to comply with the policy,” Odumosu said.

In a similar vein, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu hinted that his administration plans to give amnesty to cultists and other criminal elements in the state. The Governor made the disclosure shortly after the state security meeting which held at the Government House, Alausa, Ikeja.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, also disclosed that the implementation of the state government's amnesty offered repentant cultists would start in the New Year.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in June 2020 also inaugurated community policing in the state. He said the launch of the State Community Policing Advisory Committee and its operations arm, the State Community Policing Committee was geared towards improving security in the state.

The governor instituted members of the two committees at a ceremony held at the State House in Alausa, according to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile. The SCPAC is co-chaired by the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, and the Chairman of Council of Obas and Chiefs in Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu.

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Sanwo-Olu said, “The work that the Police are expected to do becomes more difficult when they are expected to do it alone. No matter how well-resourced or technologically advanced a Police Force might be, there might be no progress without the trust and support of the communities in which they operate. Every citizen has a role to play in ensuring that the security architecture functions optimally”. “We are implementing this policing initiative with the sole objective of creating a platform for citizens' participation towards improving security in our communities”.

“Community policing, in its ideal implementation, will take a lot of pressure off the Police Force and allow them to focus their energy and resources where it matters most. It will give citizens and residents a strong sense of participation in governance, and strengthen the social contract between the Government and the governed. A citizen-centric approach to tackling crime and criminality is a big plus for democratic practice and governance.”

1.11 PENSION

In the area of pension, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, approved a 33 percent increment for all state pensioners under the Defined Benefits Scheme (PAY AS YOU GO) with effect from January 1, 2020.

Sanwo-Olu approved the payment of a balance of 25 percent allowance for officers on Grade Level 07 and above who had retired between May 2000 and August 2004.

Ajibola Ponnle, Commissioner for Establishments, Training, and Pensions, disclosed this on Tuesday during a meeting with the members of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners in Lagos. She affirmed that both the increment and payment of the arrears

would take effect from September 2020, in a bid to meet up with the harmonisation exercise for the pensioners.

Ponle said despite the shortfall of revenue owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lagos State Government has regularly paid a total sum of ₦1.893 billion to pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme.

According to her, under the Contributory Pensions Scheme, the Lagos State Government paid over ₦21 billion as accrued pension rights to 5,354 retirees from May 2019 to August 2020, while over ₦978 million was credited into the Retirement Savings Accounts of 405 retirees in June 2020.

Maintaining that all retirement bond certificates for June 2020 have been released to the Pension Fund Administrators for onward transmission to beneficiaries, Ponnle reiterated that the state government was determined to ensure that pensioners' rights were paid promptly while beneficiaries would continue to enjoy the dividends of democracy in the State. The Commissioner emphasised that the present administration was passionate about retirees' welfare and would continue to acknowledge their service to the state, hence the reason for the approval which is also geared towards cushioning the effects of the pandemic.

It is instructive to note that the Lagos State Government paid the sum of N1.8 billion, being accrued pension rights for past service into the Retirement Savings Account (RSA) of 418 retirees from the Mainstream Civil Service, Local Governments, State Universal Basic Education and Teaching Service Commission for the month of March, 2020.

A statement by the Public Affairs Officer, Lagos State Pension Commission (LASPEC), Mrs. Adetokunbo Eko, stated. The Director-General Lagos State Pension Commission, Mrs.

Folashade Onanuga, said the mode of distribution of Bond Certificates for the month is different from the norm, in view of the order by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to limit large gatherings in a bid to curb the spread of COVID 19 Virus.

According to her, all Bond Certificates for March have been released to the Pension Fund Administrators who will invite beneficiaries in their tens for the exit meeting and grant access to their RSA for computation of their Lump sum and monthly pension.

She also released contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all retirees and contributors in Lagos State Public Service to channel any enquiry on pension matters during this period.

1.12 ECONOMY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The Lagos State Government expressed its readiness to partner the Nigerian insurance industry to enhance the wellbeing of people through protection of their lives and material assets against unforeseen loses.

The state Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance during the unveiling of Plum Insurance Brokers House in Lagos. Mr. Sanwo-Olu stated that the only way to improve citizens' life expectancy, tackle the alarming rate of poverty and ameliorate the effect of disasters in the society was to embrace insurance as a risk management mechanism.

He specifically stated that the state needed the support of the insurance industry and particularly, insurance brokers in the conception of sustainable health insurance scheme, not only for the elite, but all citizens of the state.

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Represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, the governor said: “our insurance operators need to find a way to get people better informed, not just the rich and the educated people”

Nothing the unfortunate fire incident in Lagos, the governor, “you will be surprised that 80 to 90 per cent do not have insurance. We cannot build a system; neither can we build a state that is sustainable without insurance and effective risk mitigation devices”. He adduced low life expectancy in Nigeria to poor health insurance scheme. According to him, “as a people, we know that our life expectancy is 52 years.

Libya, after series of war, still has life expectancy of 78 years, so what is wrong? To me, it is lack of insurance; we do not have health insurance. And that goes for everything”, he retorted.

“When people lose their house, or in case of any other disaster, they have to start all over again. We are one disaster away from homelessness and poverty. It seems to me that the industry should put heads together and see the way we can get all those people into insurance circle. We must institutionalize the culture of insurance”.

Furthermore, in a bid to boost the economic prosperity of the state, the Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu said it had attracted investment worth US\$250 million for its new industrial-residential development.

The governor disclosed this during the ministerial press briefing to commemorate his administration, revealing that the total value of the 24 companies within the zone is estimated to be US\$250 million.

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Speaking through the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr Lola Akande, he said: 'The companies will engage about 2,050 employees in the first phase of their operations.'

He described the project as a public-private partnership, mixed industrial-residential development where the state government owns 40 per cent as land equity while Messrs Rendeavour, Africa's largest estate developer owns 60 per cent.

'The project, located at Epe on a 2,000-hectare piece of land comprises a mix of industrial concerns, homes, offices, healthcare facilities, schools, hostels etc.'

According to him, there are 24 new companies at various stages of development in the zone with the very first factory to set up there, Ariel Foods, opening for business in January 2020.

'Ariel Foods is the largest ready-to-use therapeutic food factory in Africa. Its investment in Alaro is a US\$15 million multi-sector investment, including investment in housing, soap and detergent production.

'The ground-breaking ceremonies for other investors at Alaro City such as ASB Valiant, Starium (BUA Group), Kenol, HMD, Loatsad, Sana and Universal Homes also took place in 2020.' Infrastructure in place includes roads which will open up access to 55 per cent of the site, a 1.4km dual carriageway asphalt road with a four-meter median, stormwater drains, street lighting and cycling lanes which are 90 per cent completed.

The governor expressed delight that the investment in the Lekki Free Trade Zone Development Company is yielding result as US\$30 million goods were exported in the last 12 months while 19 new companies are at various stages of deployment.

1.13 PHYSICAL PLANNING, URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

On Saturday May 31, 2020 the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu flagged off the construction of the long-awaited Regional Road in Lekki region, a critical infrastructure proposed in the Lekki-Epe master plan aimed at decongesting traffic gridlocks in the entire Eti Osa Local Government Area. At a ground breaking ceremony held on the project site, the Governor described the development as “a manifestation” of his administration's commitment towards improving socio-economic activities on the Lekki-Epe axis by the provision of supporting infrastructure.

The construction of the 8.75 kilometre-long road, being undertaken by Messrs Hi-Tech Construction Company Limited, will link Lekki-Epe Expressway at Victoria Garden City (VGC) Junction to the Freedom Way in Eti Osa. The road is also said to be a precursor to the proposed Fourth Mainland Bridge that is expected to take off from the axis. When completed in the next 24 months, Sanwo-Olu said the Regional Road would not only change the entire landscape of Eti Osa and improve journey time for commuters, he said it would also drive up the efficiency of Government's traffic management strategy.

“With the flag off of the construction of this critical road infrastructure, we are keeping the promise we made to Lagosians. As a Government, when we give commitments to our people, we do not shy away from it. Our word is our bond. Today's event is a manifestation of our pledge to address infrastructural challenges on the Eti Osa axis. We know what people go through on the Lekki-Epe Expressway as a result of traffic. We are moved by the pains to hasten the process of putting the Regional Road in place to bring the long sought relief to our citizens working and living on this axis.

Today, we are here for the ground breaking ceremony to start work on this critical infrastructure,” he said.

In tough tones, the Governor said sanctions awaited property developers and state officials who undermined the State's planning approvals and encroach the alignments of the Regional Road. Sanwo-Olu directed the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to sanction any State official found culpable in compromising the planning approval and right-of-way of the road.

He appealed to residents to cooperate with the Government and the contractor towards making the project a reality, pointing out that the construction work May bring about temporary period of hardship. He said the relief that would follow the completion of the project would assuage any feeling of pain experienced by residents on the axis.

The Governor also assured that the multi-million dollar Fourth Mainland Bridge project would take off before the end of the current dispensation, adding that the completion of the regional road necessitate the need for the bridge.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyoye, said the Regional Road remains strategic address the infrastructural need of the Lekki sub-region as the new economic centre in the State. The completion of the road, she said, will bring about competitive business environment and ease traffic off Third Mainland Bridge and serve as alternative to Lekki-Epe Expressway.

Moreover, the Lagos State Commissioner for Urban and Physical Planning Dr. Idris Salako announced in June 2020 a directive by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to reclaim the encroached alignments of the Lekki Regional Road.

The State Government has also revoked the land titles and planning approval on sections of Elegushi Royal Family land.

According to Salako, the affected sections of the land fall within the designated Right-of-Way (RoW) of the road which is about to be constructed and the revocation is intended to remove all impediments to the ongoing construction.

Salako noted in his statement that the ministry is acting on the governor's orders to remove all structures including private housing estates and shanties that encroach on the Right of Way, and directing the all cognate sections to cancel the planning approval on layout captured in the affected parts.

CHAPTER TWO

LAGOS ISSUES ONLINE RESEARCH EDITED

2.1 We'll Meet Expectations Of Business Community – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 2nd November 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has restated the commitment of his administration to promoting ideas that will ensure Lagos remains Africa's model megacity.

"Let me assure you that as Africa's model megacity and melting point of business and industrial activities in the sub-region, we will not rest on our oars until the economic landscape of our State is transformed and repositioned to meet the expectations of business community and also achieve the goal of becoming a destination of choice for foreign Direct Investment," he said.

Represented at the Opening Ceremony of the 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair, by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, he stated that the task of building a 21st Century economy requires committing to "promoting and connecting business across transnational borders remain strong and unshaken".

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He promised to improve the ease of doing business in the State by delivering “innovative incentives and interventions, as well as quality service delivery by a well motivated public service”.

In his keynote address, President Muhammadu Buhari who was represented at the event by the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, Ambassador Mariam Katagun stated that the task of transforming Nigeria into an industrial giant cannot be achieved without the needed collaboration with the private sector to ensure an inclusive and sustainable path towards growth, job creation and economic development.

He therefore reiterated his administration’s commitment to provide assistance that will guarantee the growth of MSMEs in ensuring that their products meet with acceptable global standard urging Nigerians to patronize made-in-Nigeria products and services. He said, “We must accept our new reality of promoting locally made products as it is evident that this is where our new Nigeria will be realised and that is why I have constantly emphasized that we must be a nation where we grow what we eat and consume what we produce”.

2.2 LASG to Close Learning Gaps In Schools – Sanwo-Olu

*Culled from the Nation Newspaper on November 3, 2019 in News,
News Update*

The Lagos State government has again reiterated its commitment to closing learning gaps in public and private schools in the state for effective delivery of qualitative and quantitative education.

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This was disclosed by the governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Director General, Office of Education Quality Assurance, Mrs Abiola Seriki-Ayeni, at the 10th, Annual Conference of Association of Private Educators of Nigeria (APEN) tagged Global Classroom 2030: Vehicle to Attitudes, Knowledge, Skills and Values.

At the conference, Sanwo-olu expressed government’s resolve to collaborate with the private sector to drive tailored policies and programmes toward creating an enabling environment for teaching and learning in Lagos schools below tertiary level and build processes and structures that will ensure sustainability aimed at improving quality education in the state.

He stressed that “As partners, we will appreciate your continued commitment in achieving our collective aim of making education effective and efficient for the benefit of our citizens.”

The governor emphasised the importance of reaching set educational goals through the provision of high quality education accessible to all learners. According to him, the teaching profession will be made a functional model of knowledge transfer. He said curriculum must reflect needs that will positively influence the current educational system and infrastructure must be effectively upgraded to create an enabling study environment.

He claimed that as a responsible government, it has resolved to tackle challenges through combining innovative technology, training and scientifically-based approaches to raise the bar of teaching and learning in schools.

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In her welcome address, the chairman of APEN and managing director of Oxbridge Tutorial College, Dr Olufemi Ogunsanya, said the classroom in 2030 must go beyond the simple acquisition of knowledge. It will be equipped with powerful knowledge that will provide deeper insight to specialised ways of understanding the world we live in.

2.3 We Are In Government To Serve The People – Sanwo-Olu

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 3, 2019 in News,
News Update*

Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured Lagosians that he is in government to serve the people, especially to provide solutions to the increasing traffic gridlock and the promotion of ease of doing business in the state. He said if his administration cannot provide these services, among others, it has no business being in government.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke at the opening ceremony of Art X Lagos on Friday night at Federal Palace Hotel, stated that making entertainment and tourism key components of his policy was not mere talk, but a decision to make Lagos tourism and entertainment destination in Africa.

“Why are we in government? We are in government to solve traffic problems. We are in government to fix potholes. We are in government primarily to create enabling environment where all of you can flourish in whatever you do. If we cannot get all these right, then we don’t have any business being in government,” he said while reacting to remarks by founder, Art X, Tokini Peterside.

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He noted that “If we are in government and Tokini still pick calls at middle of the night for people to get visas to come to Nigeria, then we have not done our jobs well.”

Sanwo-Olu, however, reiterated his administration’s commitment to support and promote private individuals and organisations’ creative efforts that are geared towards making Lagos a destination of choice in Africa.

He stressed that the Lagos State government, in partnership with the Central Bank of Nigeria and other financial experts, is working on the refurbishment of the National Theatre, Lagos and building of a 40-hectare eco-system real estate for the creative sector. He stated that, hopefully, in the next two or three years, the National Theatre should be able to host the fair.

He disclosed that by next year, Lagos State government will be on the list of sponsors of the art fair, adding that part of its contributions will be on how to remove those red tapes in order to make Lagos a destination of choice.

“We want Lagos to be on everyone’s calendar for 2020. Next year, Lagos will host Under-20 Female World Cup and the Global Citizens award in September,” he added.

2.4 Chinese Textile Firms Urge To Establish Production Factories In Lagos

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 4, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has expressed the need for old and prospective Chinese textile firms operating in the state to set up production factories in the state.

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The governor made this appeal yesterday at the official flag off ceremony of the Special Business to Business (B2B) Fair at the ongoing Lagos International Trade Fair.

The Governor said that the state government would continuously seek collaboration with organisations from Asia that prepared to operate in the state by creating the enable environment for businesses to thrive.

Speaking further, he said, “We will continue to encourage Chinese textile companies that want to come and invest in Nigeria.”

He further said that the Chinese companies must consider establishing textile hubs in Lagos so as to boost the capacity of local participants as this can have positive effect on the economy as a whole.

In his opening remarks, Commercial Counsul of the Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Lagos, Mr. Liu Junsheng, said China remains a strong trading partner with Nigeria assuring that the fair affords another opportunity for greater collaboration with businesses within Lagos State and beyond.

National President of the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Hajiya Saratu Aliyu, said it is no news that vehicles are now being assembled in Nigeria, and there are various advance automobile workshops in the country, although there is still a lot to be achieved in this sector.

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2.5 **Sanwo-Olu Calls For Upscale Of Lagos Trade Fair, Lauds Manufacturers**

Culled from Independent on November 4, 2019

LAGOS- To ensure that young and upcoming manufacturers in Nigeria publicise and communicate their products at expected standards during the annual international trade fair, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called for the need to upscale the Lagos International Trade Fair.

Speaking on Monday during the 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair, at the TBS, Sanwo-Olu said that there is also the need to understand and appreciate what the young and upcoming manufacturers face, what their issues are, and how well they are able to get their products to the market.

Noting that the event afforded him the opportunity “to do an on-the-spot assessment and go round a few of the pavilions at this year’s Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industries and international trade fair, which is taking place at the TBS in Lagos,” the governor stated that he also came to encourage many companies and small scale enterprises.

“As you can see, I have to come in here to encourage a lot of companies and a lot of our SMEs and MSMEs that are on display and this is the real governance and collaboration in action.”

While commending Nigerian manufacturers for believing in themselves and the country, Sanwo-Olu said: “I have seen one or two things that I didn’t even know are available in the country.

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It is really very refreshing for me, but more importantly, to see the-can-do-spirit of Nigerians.

“There are lots of products that you can never believe are coming out of the shores of this country, and particularly in Lagos State. So I want to commend our chamber of commerce for keeping faith with our various industries yearly to make sure that this trade fair comes alive.”

Tasking them to look inwards to see how they can make things work better, the governor said: “For us as a government is to continue to ask ourselves how can we make it better, how can we make all of the operational challenges that they have and make it better for them.”

He promised that in the next couple of years, the state government will endeavour to get a permanent site where they won’t need to begin to reinvent every year, as well as have a massive hall for display that will be used yearly for international fairs as this.

Also at the commissioning of the Chinese stand at the Nigeria International Textile Industry Fair, Sanwo-Olu talked about collaborating with Chinese partners.

2.6 Lagos Government To Relocate Trade Fair To Permanent Site — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on November 4, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday said the government would relocate the Lagos International Trade Fair to a permanent site in the near future.

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Sanwo-Olu said the move would assuage the operational challenges faced by the organizers of the fair annually and make it at par with other international exhibitions across the globe.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the governor spoke after visiting some pavilions at the ongoing 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair, taking place at the Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), Lagos.

Over two thousand foreign and local exhibitors are participating in the 33rd Edition of the fair which has the theme: “Connecting Businesses, Creating Value.”

The governor, who was led on the tour by Mr. Babatunde Ruwase, President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the fair was an avenue for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to showcase their products to the world.

He said: “I am here on an on the spot assessment and going round few of the pavilions at the trade fair.

“As you can see, I have to come in here to encourage our MSMEs that are on display.

“This is a real governance and collaborative initiative. This is an annual event, but we need to upscale it.”

Sanwo-Olu commended the LCCI for keeping faith with MSMEs, adding that it shows the can-do spirit of Nigeria.

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NAN reports that some of the pavilions visited by the governor include those of Ghana, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Lagos State Government, and the Chinese Government.

The 10-day fair, which opened on November 1, will come to an end on November 10.

2.7 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Committee On Rehabilitation Of Public Schools

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 4, 2019 in
Education, News, News Update*

A major emergency in the educational set up that will bring about an overhaul of the entire educational system in Lagos state has been declared by the state governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

The governor said it is being done at different levels. “We are fixing the infrastructure, we are also fixing the curriculum, we are fixing training, we are fixing development of the teachers, we are also fixing recruitment of teachers.

“So the entire value and eco-change educational sector we are actually doing because we realise based on experience that all of the things we need to do in very quickly fixing those schools, Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor spoke at the swearing-in of members of the committee on the rehabilitation of public schools in Lagos state at Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja on Monday.

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The 4-member committee is chaired by Mr. Hakeem Smith, other members are: Engr. Yetunde Holloway, Arch. Adebajo and Babatunde Ishola.

He charged the committee members to help the state aggressively put together extensive regulation in most of the schools, adding that “we’re starting with the first of about 300 of them. And we would imagine that from the things we’ll be doing, it will be spread around all the nooks and crannies of the states.

“We do not want to buggle it down with the Minister of Education, and we have used this system before so that’s why you’ve been chosen very competently so, we believe that you would help us to have projects that are long lasting, of the fitting of the status of the Lagos State that we all are truly proud of.

“And I’m happy to say that not only are we always female, gender sensitive, but also very youth sensitive, because the future of the state does not belong to us alone, also for the generation that is also coming down, so we need to begin to train ourselves.

“So we ensure that we spread out in those areas so that we can see very, very tech driven school set, and we will be open to innovative ideas, we will be open to a functional projects that will be coming out from your committee,” Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor also inaugurated the Projects, Finance and Process Audit Committee saddled with the responsibility to realign and look at how performances procurement, finances,

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outstanding liability of contracts on capital projects has been independent.

The committee chairman is former Lagos Head of Service, Mrs. Josephine Williams, other members are: Justice Yetunde Idowu (rtd), retired Chief Judge of Lagos; Mr. Hakeem Smith, Engr.Tayo Bamgbose Martins and Mr. Folusho Mustapha.

2.8 **Sanwo-Olu, Lagos Is Degenerating**

Culled from the Sun on 4th November 2019

The robbers were about three in number. They flashed their torchlight inside cars as they moved from one vehicle to the other. It was on a Friday night on Isolo-Cele axis of the Oshodi-Apapa Expressway. There was heavy traffic. When they got to this particular brand new Rav 4, they saw a woman at the back. They also noticed some bags and phones. That was when problem started.

The boys knocked on the window where the woman was sitting. She was asleep. They rudely woke her up with a bang on her window. The glass splintered everywhere in the car. They tried to open her door. But she woke up suddenly and instinctively attempted to resist them.

She had to soft-pedal when she saw someone holding her driver hostage with a gun. One of the boys beside her drew a long knife menacingly and drew a line on her arm with the knife. She was helpless. She shouted and shouted but other commuters appeared too frightened to intervene.

Within seconds, she lost her phones, laptop, and a bag containing debit cards and some other valuables. Before the

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woman could fathom what hit her, the criminals zoomed off on a bike.

To worsen matters, the victim could not block her accounts and phone lines because it was a weekend. Even when she went to the mobile phone operators the following day to block her lines, they asked her to provide police report and affidavit. I need not recount what transpired at the police station when she went there to make a report. As the bank and mobile phone operators dilly-dallied, the hoodlums succeeded in making some withdrawals from her accounts. She was traumatised to say the least.

This incident happened a few weeks ago. At the centre of it all is a senior manager (name withheld) of a multinational company in Lagos. She had left her office at Gbagada area of Lagos some minutes past 5pm but was trapped in traffic until about 9.30pm (over 4 hours) when the incident happened. Ordinarily, this is a journey of about 30 minutes or less.

The question is: Where are our security men? Immediate past governor, Akinwunmi Ambode, provided security at some construction sites like Oshodi in his time. The police used to patrol such major construction zones and some traffic flashpoints on bikes. Today, this security measure appears to have been relaxed even as Okada riders have a free rein on many of these roads.

Innocent Lagosians are the ones who suffer this anomaly. And the attacks happen almost every day. Some flashpoints in Lagos include Oshodi-Apapa Expressway, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway especially between the long bridge and Berger

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Bus stop, Mile Two-Badagry Expressway, Third Mainland Bridge, etc. The attacks usually occur early morning between 5.30 am and 6am and late evening between 7pm and 10pm.

The criminals usually take advantage of Lagos traffic jams occasioned sometimes by bad roads. From Agege to Ajao Estate; from Ikoyi to Victoria Island; from Isolo to Oshodi; from Apapa to Surulere, Ejigbo, Ikeja, Ogba and Okota, the potholes on many roads have turned to craters.

Some inner roads that should have served as alternative routes to commuters are also in a terrible state. For instance, Onitire Road which connects Ago Palace Way through Lateef Adegboyega Street to Amuwo Odofin Bridge is a no-go area. Even Ire Akari Estate which should serve as an alternative route to the deplorable sections of Cele Express to Oke Afa Road is itself in a sorry state.

Some of these roads have their drainage channels blocked such that whenever it rains or drizzles, flood takes over. Some parts of Lagos Island are like that. Ago Palace Way by Community Road junction is another typical example. Nobody bothers to check the flooding because we don't have maintenance culture. That is how many of the roads degenerate.

Lagos was not like this before. In colonial and early independence era, the city was orderly and clean. Most of the streets were lined with trees. Then, planning and management were the hallmark of the city. Today, slums, garbage, congestion, traffic snarls, poor sanitation, bad roads have taken

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

over. Many of the streetlights the previous administration restored in many parts of the state are no longer working.

It is too early to judge the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu. It is barely five months he took over from Ambode. But Lagosians are impatient lots. Many of them are angry and are already comparing the present regime with its predecessors.

You do not blame the people. He who wears the shoe knows where it pinches. Long hours on traffic inflict them with debilitating health challenges. They spend more on transport and repair of damaged vehicles. Manufacturers lose an estimated N20 billion annually as a result of bad roads.

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) added some perspectives to the issue. It called the governor's 100 days in office a charade and a celebration of failure and hopelessness.

The best the party scored him was 35 per cent. "In struggling to mention achievements, the governor claimed the renovation of primary health centres and construction of 14 classrooms. These are indeed projects funded by NGO and Redeemed Church.

The governor who claimed to have installed functional WiFi in Lagos, however, could not mention those areas; but only promised to do so," the Lagos PDP stated.

Of course, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) would not agree with this assessment. According to the party, the PDP is an attention seeker. It claimed the governor had fixed over 150 roads in 100 days and had also done very well in waste management and education sector.

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Recall that last month, Sanwo-Olu declared a state of emergency on Lagos roads and ordered massive rehabilitation. A statement by the governor's Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile, indicated that the government had engaged eight construction companies to tackle the repair work.

They are Julius Berger, Hitech, Arab Contractors, Metropolitan Construction, Slavabogu Construction, China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC), Rajaf Foundation Construction and RCF Nigeria Ltd. The Lagos State Public Works Corporation (LSPWC) will complement the efforts of these major contractors with repairs of 116 inner roads across the state.

Also, Sanwo-Olu restated the commitment of his administration to promoting ideas that will ensure Lagos remains what he calls "Africa's model megacity and melting point of business and industrial activities in the sub-region." He said so at the opening ceremony of the 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair last week.

Lagos cannot be a model megacity with filth and poor infrastructure. Since it boasts of also being the melting point of business and industrial activities, the state should provide some incentives to companies. It should justify the huge taxes it collects from them by providing the relevant amenities and security.

Governing the fifth largest economy in Africa is not a tea party. To succeed, Sanwo-Olu should understudy such ex-governors as Lateef Jakande. As the first civilian governor of Lagos State between 1979 and 1983, Jakande achieved so much that he was nicknamed Action Governor. His achievements cut across road construction and rehabilitation and mass housing estates.

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The governor should also face repair of roads squarely. Even if it is the only thing he achieves in one year in office, 22 million Lagosians will love him for that. He should intensify efforts to reduce the pressure on these roads by developing rail and water transport.

We have not forgotten the third tier of government. Being closer to the people, the local governments should help out in road rehabilitation and maintenance. They should not just exist to pay only salaries. They should engage in developmental projects that impact on the lives of the people.

On their part, residents should help government by observing sanitation laws. Indiscriminate dumping of refuse into drainage channels, for instance, will lead to blockage and the consequent flooding and damage to the roads.

Residents should also help themselves by being security conscious. It is not possible for the police to be everywhere at the same time. The traffic robbers usually target areas where there is no police presence.

Hence, citizens should devise extra security measures to protect themselves.

Part of these measures is to keep some valuables like laptops and phones out of the prying eyes of robbers. Instead, keep an old or non-functional phone close by as a decoy. Hand that one over to them when they come knocking on your window. Finally, put every other valuable like bags inside the booth while driving. And try to avoid the flashpoints of attacks and use alternative routes if available.

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It is only in Nigeria that government kills business with harsh policies and draconian laws, and complains of insecurity, unemployment, cyber-crime, etc. In better climes, government encourages business but reverse is the case in Nigeria. Most of the problems bedeviling this country are self-created.

A responsible government always considers the effects of its policies on the masses, but that has eluded us. Or is it deliberate or targeted on a particular region? There was a country.

2.9 Sanwo-Olu Woos Chinese Investors at Lagos Trade Fair

Culled from the Sun on 4th November 2019

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Monday assured Chinese investors of ample business opportunities in the state that would be mutually beneficial to both Nigeria and China.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance while declaring open the “China Hall” at the 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair, taking place at Tafawa Balewa Square.

Over two thousand foreign and local exhibitors are participating in the 33rd Edition of the fair which has the theme: “Connecting Businesses, Creating Value.”

The governor said Lagos had a large market, and the state could become a fashion and technology hub with the right investments. He said the government would continue to create the enabling environment for businesses to thrive through policy implementation and provision of infrastructure.

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On his part, Mr Liu Junsheng, Commercial Consul of the Consulate of the People’s Republic of China, said China was showcasing four fairs in the fields of textile, housewares, auto spare parts and mechatronics.

He listed them as “ the Nigeria International Textile Industry Fair (NigeriaTex)”, “International Automotive Parts, Equipment and Service Trade Fair (AutoEquip)”, “International Housewares and Gift Fair (Home Show Nigeria)” and “Premium Mechatronic Brands China (PBC).”

“We firmly believe that our four fairs will be among the largest and the most effective and professional global B2B exhibition and trade platforms in both Nigeria and West Africa,” he said.

Also, Mr Babatunde Ruwase, President, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), at a symposium on “Distributive Trade as Nigeria’s Hidden Economic Treasure said China was very important to Nigeria.

Ruwase said:” China is Nigeria’s largest source of imports. Nigeria is also one of China’s trading partners in Africa.

“According to the Chinese Consul General in Lagos, Mr Chu Maoming, total trade between China and Nigeria stood at \$8.6 billion in the first half of 2019.

“The ties between our two countries continue to wax stronger on growing bilateral trade relations and Strategic Cooperation.

“Many Chinese investors and enterprises are based in Nigeria operating in various sectors including oil and gas, manufacturing, agriculture, steel processing and construction among others.”

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He said that the Lagos State Government recently signed a \$629 million facility with China Development Bank (CDB) for the completion of Lekki Deep Seaport Project.

Ruwase said another attestation to the strong bilateral ties between both countries was the \$3.9 billion contract the Federal Government of Nigeria signed with the China Railway Construction Corporation Limited for the construction of a new Abuja-Itakpe- Lokoja rail line.

“Similar ongoing projects such as Mambilla Power Project, Lagos-Calabar Coastal railway line and Zungeru Hydropower Plant are outcomes of the growing bilateral cooperation between Nigeria and the People’s Republic of China.

“We believe that your participation at the fair will further strengthen the cooperation between both countries. The Lagos Chamber remains committed to Nigeria-China trade partnership.

“In line with our mandate, the Chamber will continue to support trade and investment in Nigeria,” the LCCI president said.

2.10 Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Protection Of Local Traders

Culled from Independent on November 5, 2019

LAGOS – The Lagos State House of Assembly has Culled on the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to direct the state Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Lola Akande, to come up with strategies to protect the local traders.

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The lawmakers, who stated this Monday’s plenary session, while debating on a motion moved by the Majority Leader, Sanai Agunbiade, titled, ‘Need to Protect Local Marketers and Entrepreneurs in the State’, also Culled for the enforcement of the Lagos State Market Advisory Council Law.

The House also took the decision to review the Lagos State Market Advisory Council Law with a view to upgrading it and make the law conform to current realities.

Agunbiade noted that the activity of foreign nationals in the market threatened trading, which is capable of forcing local traders out of business.

He explained further that some indigenous market men and women were being sidelined, saying the foreigners were selling directly to end users after manufacturing instead of passing through the local traders.

In his argument, Tunde Braimoh demanded explanation on why the House would have to come up with a review of Market Advisory Council Law and at the same time calling on the executive to enforce the same law.

Speaking in the same vein, the Chief Whip, Rotimi Abiru said, “I don’t think there is any law that prohibits the manufactures from selling directly to the end users. So everything depends on our strategies.

Abiru added, “We have been craving for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), so we should not send wrong signal, there is need for caution.”

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However, Adedamola Kasunmu advised that there is need to have a stakeholders meeting with the House and the local market men and women.

Abiodun Tobun argued, “We want them (foreign nationals) to come and invest in business but not to take away petty trading.”

The Deputy Speaker, Wasiu Sanni-Eshinlokun, who presided over plenary said, “Though a market must be competitive, there should be free entry and exit but the proponents of the motion believe the non-organised traders must be protected. It is generic; it is not to protect a section.”

2.11 Breaking: Lagos Gov Sanwo-Olu Throws Away ‘His Excellency’ title

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 6, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has officially drop the title, ‘Your Excellency’ nomenclature.

Sanwo-Olu said he now preferred to be addressed simply as ‘Mr. Governor.’

In a statement on Wednesday, the governor said he preferred to be addressed as ‘Mr Governor’ to deepen the citizen-government relations.

He said, “In the last five months that I have been privileged to exercise the mandate freely given to me by the great and hardworking people of Lagos State. It has come to my consciousness to review certain features of citizen-government relations which impede the genuine expression of the

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democratic spirit of our society and the meaningful exercise of the sovereignty of our people.

“The Office of the Governor has been celebrated as the paragon of excellence, a temple of perfection and a throne of purity. This demi-god mystique spreads over the entire machinery of the executive arm of the government, symbolising an authoritarian disposition on the governed.

It has deformed the orientation of elected and appointed persons who are paid from the taxes of the people to see themselves as oppressors who can do no wrong and must be served, rather than serve the people.

“Whatever might have been the reason for this myth, let us be honest, the office is occupied by a mortal who has been Culled upon to serve the electorate with humility – and sincerity. The office of Governor is a public trust that calls for sacrifice, modesty and willingness to add value to the lives of the people.”

Sanwo-Olu said he had concluded that for the narrative of governance to change, the government must remove the “seeming symbol of executive arrogance that commands popular obeisance and undermines the democratic role of citizens as the masters of those they have elected and appointed to serve.”

“It is a conviction that I believe will send the right signals to all politicians and civil servants that service to the people has brought us here. It is the duty we are obliged to do. It is the responsibility that we bear wherever we find ourselves; whenever we are Culled to serve.

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“Only God, the Almighty, the Creator, the Protector is the Most Excellent. No man can share His eternal qualities.

“Thenceforth, I wish to be addressed simply as Mr. Governor, a title that will constantly remind me that I have been chosen out of so many fellow compatriots to lead a collective salvage of our political economy.

A salutation that sanitises the paraphernalia of office and reminds us all of our imperfections and mortality.

To give official effect to this announcement, I shall issue tomorrow an executive order that will formally ensure full compliance with this new policy,” he added.

2.12 Balogun Inferno: Sanwo-Olu to Embark On Regeneration Of Lagos Island

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on November 6, 2019

Following the fire incident that razed the popular Balogun Market and other buildings housing several shops destroying goods worth millions of Naira, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday said his administration would begin the Lagos Island regeneration plan next year.

The governor who stormed the area where the inferno was recorded appealed to the families who owned properties to cooperate with government in its plans to regenerate the area harboring high-rise building that are over a century.

Sanwo-Olu, who was saddened by the fire outbreak, said the lesson learnt was that “we should stop storing generator and fossil fuels on penthouses and rooftops.”

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He commended all emergency responders, saying they responded swiftly to the fire that broke out 24 hours ago.

The governor, after thanking the people for their support, also solicited their assistance, urging property and store owners to give way to responders to do their work. Sanwo-Olu stated that full integrity tests would be carried out on buildings on the left and right sides of number 43, Martins Street that got burnt on Tuesday.

“Plans for the regeneration of Lagos Island are already perfected and that implementation will commence next year. Families that own properties on the Island must be prepared to support government’s efforts on regeneration.

“Government will soon start a conversation on how to commence and proceed. Lagos Island is dominated by buildings of over a century. Those weakened by old age will be pulled down during the regeneration,” he said.

He said government would commence the construction of Oluwole phase II soon and that government would build modern market to ensure that commerce began at an even higher scale with a better organized and modern way of transacting businesses. Sanwo-Olu commiserated with the traders on their losses and means of livelihoods, which he assured, would only be for a short time.

The Governor also stated that government would do an enumeration of the traders, businesses, and property owners, for a possible compensation.

2.13 **Balogun Fire: Sanwo-Olu Visits Market, Promises To Support Affected Traders**

Culled from the Nation Newspaper on November 6, 2019 in News

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday visited Martins Street, Lagos Island to sympathize with Balogun Market traders, following an inferno that completely razed a five-storey building in the market on Tuesday.

He promised that the government would support traders whose means of livelihood were destroyed in the incident.

Although, there was no casualty in the fire incident that gutted the building accommodating scores of clothing shops, traders lost materials worth millions of Naira in the inferno.

Sanwo-Olu identified with those whose shops were razed, but called for calm as Government's emergency response team made efforts to salvage other valuables left in the building.

The Governor, however, said the fire incident brought out the need for total regeneration of Lagos Island to prevent incidents that could endanger the lives of residents. The move, Sanwo-Olu added, would include a meeting with owners of some abandoned high-rise buildings dotting the area for possible use of the property.

Besides, he said the Government would be conducting integrity test on all buildings in the Central Business District (CBD) on Lagos Island, adding that his administration would re-visit the regeneration master plan already designed by previous

administrations. He urged all families that own property on the Lagos Island to support the move.

Sanwo-Olu said: "This fire incident presents discussion for complete regeneration of Lagos. Here, we have a lot of buildings as old as a century. Now is the time to look into the master plan for complete regeneration of entire area. All families must support our move to start the regeneration.

"We also have abandoned high-rise buildings on the Island and we have done audit of all these buildings. We need to have conversation with the owners on how we can put the abandoned property to better use.

There are a lot of traders who wish to take away their wares from the road and occupy these abandoned building. We need to talk the owners and reach an agreement on a scheme that would make traders use the abandoned property."

Sanwo-Olu condemned the hazardous and unsafe conditions created by some traders, who used heavy generating set on topmost floors of multiple-storey buildings in the market.

The Governor said the integrity test to be embarked on by the Government would ensure enforcement of structural codes to desist traders from creating condition that would endanger lives and property.

The Governor also said his administration would build the Phase II of the Oluwole Modern Market to discourage street trading. The market, he said, would eliminate incidents of fire and other hazards associated with uncoordinated trading.

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Sanwo-Olu said the State could not longer tolerate recklessness in market allocations by officials of Local Government Area, disclosing that he had called for an emergency meeting with council chairmen for discussion on shop allocations across markets within the State.

He said: “I have summoned an emergency meeting with all Local Government Areas chairmen later today. We cannot condone reckless approach in which shops are located to people in manner that is not coordinated. When problems arise, it comes back to State Government. We will not fold our arms and wait for disasters like this to repeat itself.”

The Governor said the fire incident should serve as a pointer to us on the need to place high premium on safety of lives and wares in market place. He said the Government would hasten up its discussion with electricity distribution companies for regular power supply to markets.

2.14 Open Letter To Gov Babajide Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 6th November 2019

Good day sir. I stoop in reverence of your exalted office as the executive governor of Lagos State. Your office is vested with authority, power, and influence over an estimated 21 million inhabitants of the widely acclaimed centre of excellence. Permit me to lay the foundation of this letter with literature because as a literary person, critical thinking is my forte.

The place of letter writing as a communicative strategy is secured in literature where the epistolary mode bulks large.

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It is in that mode that Senegalese writer, Mariama Ba’s novel, “So Long a Letter” is written.

The novel utilizes the sublime potential of letter writing to communicate a deep message of betrayal to the world.

In the novel, Ramotoulaye unveils the pain in her heart following the death of her husband who had betrayed her by marrying a second wife after their marriage. Her best friend, Aissatou, is the recipient of the letter.

Sir, I am using the epistolary medium to communicate to you, a deep sense of anguish following the glaring deterioration of affairs in Lagos State. Today, Lagosians are confronted with the abysmal collapse of various sectors but for lack of space, I will focus on roads and security.

Sir, in this letter, I am going to keep it simple and straight to the point, setting aside all the sensuous, linguistic gymnastics associated with academic discourse. No doubt, Lagos is home to millions of people.

Many have found fame and wealth in the state, some reaching unimaginable heights in their career.

Surely Lagos provides an infinite opportunity for people to actualize their dreams.

It is not in vain that the state is called the centre of excellence. Lagos has its language and its idiosyncrasies.

Every day, the big city admits new inhabitants, increasing the population. Hardly is there a family in Nigeria not represented

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in Lagos by at least one person. The city accommodates the wealthy, the rich, the middle class, and the downright poor.

However, many people have met their waterloo in Lagos, many have died, many have lost their wealth, and many lives cut short in Lagos. Such is the contrasting nature of the big city, the commercial capital of Nigeria.

Recently, life in Lagos has become a nightmare following the total collapse of 90% of all roads in the state. Lagos roads have become death traps and passing through them, a nightmarish experience.

It is unthinkable that a state like Lagos can have the kinds of roads in it now, more like roads in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Somalia or such other places ravaged by failure in governance.

Sir, without any attempt to exaggerate, Lagos roads are practically impossible to access, they have become a yawning emergency. The thought of waking up every day to drive or commute through the roads of Lagos induces a feeling of despair.

Due to the very bad state of the roads in Lagos, traffic gridlock holds the city by the jugular.

A journey that should ordinarily take thirty minutes now takes about 3 to 4 hours. Lagosians are crying, asking whether there is any government in the state.

In recent past, I read that your administration was going to embark on major rehabilitation of all the roads in Lagos State and these roads were mentioned. However, after the news, it

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turned out that no repairs were embarked on and where such repairs were done, they were short term palliatives which collapsed after heavy rain.

Sir, I understand that the office you occupy comes with a lot of majesty and grandeur, and it is easy to be immune from the harsh realities of everyday life. However, I share the sentiments of late playwright, Ola Rotimi, that no matter how hard the rain falls, it cannot wash off the spots on the body of a leopard.

Have the sophistication of your office made you lose touch with your people, those you entreated and cajoled to vote for you? Lagosians are in pains, they are collectively united in agony following the collapse of infrastructure especially roads.

No time in recent memory have Lagos roads been this bad, but as the Afrobeat maestro recalls, Lagosians are suffering and smiling, carrying on every day as if all is well.

Sir, you have spent about seven months in office, yet it is difficult for anyone to point to one major project you have undertaken.

It is possible you may have undertaken some projects, but they are not visible and do not impact on the life of the ordinary, struggling Lagosian. Please sir, Lagosians are looking up to you to immediately rehabilitate all the roads in the state.

Effective governance is to affect the lives of people under your sphere of influence in a positive way.

Sir, another important aspect in Lagos state that demands urgent attention is security. Gradually, Lagos has become insecure, people are robbed on the streets at any time.

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Movement in Lagos has become a big risk too. All around Lagos, the story is the same, people recount how they were robbed and dispossessed of valuable items. This is a very bad testimony for your government.

To be a governor comes with a huge responsibility, it goes beyond occupying a large office as a figurehead. It goes beyond using your office to patronize people while those who voted for you suffer in silence.

Sir, the most painful thing about the security situation in Lagos is that the police, who are expected to offer protection, are the ones violating the people, arresting youths at gun point, and robbing them of their money.

Space will not allow me to recount real stories by victims who have been robbed by the police in your state at gunpoint. Please sir, pay attention to the activities of police officers in Ojodu, Idimu, Festac, Agege, Oshodi, Egbeda, Ikorodu, and many other police stations that have become a hide-out for criminal police officers.

In Lagos state, it has now become a crime for youths to carry laptops or any electronic gadget. Stories abound how some youths have been arrested by police officers, taken to their station, and forced to use their ATM to withdraw money for these officers.

Also, soldiers are not left out in the milieu. I do not know any section of the Nigerian constitution that prohibits people from dressing in any shade of military camouflage. Soldiers now see it as an excuse to brutalize people; main them, drag them

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to unknown places, and force them to part with money and other valuables.

Please sir, the anomies in Lagos are too many to address here.

Therefore, in supplication, I beseech you to immediately address these issues in your state. History is a harsh judge. You will always be remembered for the things you do today or fail to do in your capacity as the executive governor of Lagos State. We look up to you because we love you and voted for you.

Therefore, reciprocate this gesture with good governance that will impact on the lives of Lagosians. God bless you sir.

Dr. Adiele writes from Lagos via promee01@yahoo.com

2.15 Balogun Market Fire: We Will Support Victims, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Punch Newspaper on November 6, 2019

Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday has said that his government would provide support for the victims of the fire that razed a storey-building at Balogun Market, Lagos Island.

A fire outbreak gutted a building on Lagos Island on Tuesday. One policeman has been confirmed killed in the incident while traders lost their goods.

Sanwo-Olu, during a visit to the market, said he spoke directly with the victims and emergency services on the scene.

Tweeting about the visit, Sanwo-Olu said, “I visited the scene of the unfortunate fire incident at Balogun Market and spoke directly with the victims and emergency services. We will provide support and relief packages to the affected individuals.”

He went on to add that there was a need to complete the modern market project in the area, as the inferno had disrupted commercial activities in the popular market.

He said, “Clearly, we will need to complete the modern and safer market project in the area because this inferno has disrupted commercial activities and exchanges in one of the most popular markets in Nigeria.

“This fire incident was caused by factors that could have been avoided and even though emergency services were on the ground promptly.

The building could not be rescued due to congestion and other issues.

“This experience is regrettable but we must all take the learning’s. Safety awareness and practices involve everyone.

2.16 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Integrity Test for Buildings

Culled from the Nation Newspaper on November 7, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday stated that integrity tests would be conducted on buildings around Balogun market affected by fire on Tuesday. He said

the government would support business owners who lost goods in the inferno.

He spoke at the scene of the incident on Wednesday on Martins Street in Lagos Island, where Brassas Plaza and Radio House were gutted fire on Tuesday.

The Nation learnt that a policeman was killed in the building which collapsed on Tuesday following the fire.

It was also learnt that the fire broke out yesterday at Radio House around 6:30 am, destroying goods including shoes, clothes and bags on the 4th and 6th floors of the six-story building. Traders were seen packing out their wares from the adjoining buildings.

The governor said, “All respondents are on site, even though getting here was a bit challenging but they were able to find their way in on time. As you can see the building has all sorts of commercial activities; merchandising and fabrics were destroyed.

We do not know the real cause of the fire yet because the building is still a live site so, we all need to be careful.

All of our men, emergency respondents, the fire service from both the Lagos State government and the federal fire service as well as private fire service including Julius Berger, Nigerian Port Authority and all others have come to support in the rescue mission.

“People’s means of livelihood have been destroyed. The government will do an enumeration and see how we can

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support the families and the businesses that have been affected.” “The building is completely distressed and it is completely burnt. What is to be done now is to start a gradual clearing of the building which in itself is a difficult exercise because they will be dealing with concrete, steel and iron. My advice is that people should move away and allow the operators, the respondents and all of our men to do their work well.

“The second issue is that because these buildings are clustered together, we will do full integrity test on both the building on the right and left sides after full evacuation. The integrity test is to ascertain the level of integrity of the adjoining buildings to ascertain if they are fit for business and for habitation.”

2.17 Sanwo-Olu Calls On Insurance Practitioners To Join In Implementing Health Scheme

Culled from Independent on November 7, 2019

Lagos – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor has Culled on insurance bodies to partner with the state government to ensure the successful implementation of the newly introduced Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme (LSHI).

He made the call on Wednesday at the 65th birthday celebration of the first female President of the Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers, Laide Osijo and the commissioning of the Plum House, Ebute-Metta, Lagos.

The Governor who was represented by Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat his Deputy Governor, while reiterating the importance of health insurance, urged the practitioners to partner with the

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State in the Scheme, to mitigate government having to expend over N2.5 billion in support of people with medical challenges.

He also urged religious leaders, traditional rulers and opinion leaders to assist government in the sensitization of health insurance.

“For instance, the fire incident that occurred in Lagos Island this week, though very unfortunate, but the truth is that between 80 and 90 percent of the traders does not have insurance. We must therefore find a way to meet the exigencies of getting our people to embrace insurance to meet disasters,” he said.

Speaking on the ways by which insurance can affect infrastructure development in the State, the Governor said, “only two roads in the entire Africa were constructed through the Public-Private participation (PPP), that is only the Lekki-Epe Expressway and one other in South Africa, adding that virtually all sectors required insurance intervention.

The Governor stressed the need for insurance practitioners to institutionalize the culture of insurance among the citizens by finding ways to relate and get people informed about the importance of insurance in their day to day activities.

2.18 Lagos Seeks Partnership With Insurers To Tackle Poverty

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 8, 2019

The Lagos State Government has expressed its readiness to partner the Nigerian insurance industry to enhance the wellbeing of people through protection of their lives and material assets against unforeseen losses.

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The state Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance during the unveiling of Plum Insurance Brokers House in Lagos.

Mr. Sanwo-Olu stated that the only way to improve citizens' life expectancy, tackle the alarming rate of poverty and ameliorate the effect of disasters in the society was to embrace insurance as a risk management mechanism.

He specifically stated that the state needed the support of the insurance industry and particularly, insurance brokers in the conception of sustainable health insurance scheme, not only for the elite, but all citizens of the state.

Represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, the governor said: "our insurance operators need to find a way to get people better informed, not just the rich and the educated people"

Nothing the unfortunate fire incident in Lagos, the governor, "you will be surprised that 80 to 90 per cent do not have insurance. We cannot build a system; neither can we build a state that is sustainable without insurance and effective risk mitigation devices".

He adduced low life expectancy in Nigeria to poor health insurance scheme. According to him, "as a people, we know that our life expectancy is 52 years.

Libya, after series of war, still has life expectancy of 78 years, so what is wrong? To me, it is lack of insurance; we do not have health insurance. And that goes for everything", he retorted.

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"When people lose their house, or in case of any other disaster, they have to start all over again. We are one disaster away from homelessness and poverty. It seems to me that the industry should put heads together and see the way we can get all those people into insurance circle. We must institutionalize the culture of insurance".

Also speaking at the unveiling ceremony, the President of the Nigerian Council of Registered Insurance Brokers (NCRIB), Dr. (Mrs.) Bola Onigbogi reminded the Lagos State Government, existing and potential insurance clients about the place of Registered Insurance Brokers in all insurance arrangements.

She used the opportunity to commiserate with those who lost their valued properties in the fire that gutted some houses at Martins Street in Lagos and the market fire that occurred in Kaduna recently.

She said, "it is quite sad to see what individuals labored for going in flames. This catastrophic event provides an avenue to call on all and sundry to imbibe insurance for protection of their valued properties. As the common saying in our Council goes "Whatever is worth having is worth insuring!"

2.19 Lagos Committed To Achieving More Through ADR – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on November 8, 2019

LAGOS – Mr Babajide Sawoolu, Governor of Lagos State, who has been in the forefront of advancing the course of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) with the establishment of Citizens Mediation Centres and the Multi- Door Court House, has assured Lagosians that his administration would do more in

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the area of settling issues that would have ended in acrimonious litigation.

He stated this during the opening ceremony of the 2019 Annual Conference and gala nite of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (U.K) Nigeria, Branch, held in Lagos on Thursday.

The Governor, who was represented at the event by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Lagos State, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo, added, “We believe we can achieve much more with the establishment of more ADR Centres and increased public awareness advocacy.”

At the event themed, ‘Positioning Africa: The Changing Landscape in Alternative Dispute Resolution,’ the Governor noted that in the very near future, the number of dispute resolutions arising from business transactions would most likely increase as a result of the expected trade activities from the newly signed Africa Continental Trade Agreement.

According to the Governor, “We must plan ahead by strengthening the capacity of our ADR institutions to ensure smooth and quick resolution of most of the anticipated number of disputes.”

2.20 Sanwo-Olu Unveils 2020 Budget, Makes Education Priority

Culled from the Sun on 8th November 2019

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu will unveil the state’s 2020 budget today at the House of Assembly.

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The size of the budget was not immediately clear last night, but sources close to the government said it will be bigger than last year’s N1.046 trillion.

The budget, said the sources, will give top priority to Education and Health.

It was also not clear how much will be spent on the two sectors, but it is believed that the allocation to health will be almost double of last year’s N29.9 billion.

“It will be over N30b,” an official said, pleading not to be named because “it is out of place to divulge details of the budget before they are released.”

Education will have a big chunk of the sectoral allocations, said another, who also pleaded not to be named because he “is not permitted to talk to the media”.The education vote will be “almost double of last year’s vote at over N40 billion,” he added.

Sanwo-Olu is said to have made the sectoral allocations in a “bold” bid to fulfill his campaign promises and emphasise the point that “it is not all about bricks and mortars; development should focus on human beings.”

2.21 Sanwo-Olu Proposes N1.168Trn Budget For 2020

Culled from Independent on November 8, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday presented the Year 2020 budget estimate totaling a sum of N1.168 Trillion (One Trillion, One Hundred and Sixty-Eight Billion Naira) to members of the state House of Assembly.

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The 2020 appropriation law, which Sanwo-Olu christened “Budget of Awakening to a Greater Lagos”, has a Capital Expenditure of N723.75 Billion Naira while the Recurrent Expenditure is 444.81 Billion Naira giving a 62:38 capital to recurrent ratio.

The 2020 budget size, which is higher than the 2019 budget by 34%, is to be funded by a projected Total Revenue of N1.071 Trillion, and a deficit amounting to N97.53 Billion.

Sanwo-Olu, while presenting the budget to the lawmakers, disclosed that the 2020 budget is fully consistent with his administration’s THEMES agenda, and gives priority to the completion of ongoing projects.

The governor explained that his administration has placed an increased focus on wealth creation where “we will take deliberate steps in courting a partnership between our people and various development institutions.

“In line with this, we have provided N11.8bn as counterpart funds in preparation for various social impact schemes. In addition, we have made provisions for N7.1bn this year, to provide for industrial hubs, parks, graduate internship programs and virtual markets for artisans.

This is in support for Micro, Small and Medium enterprises which are the engines for both economic and employment growth. “It is equally proposed that a total of 167.81 Billion Naira of the Recurrent Expenditure shall be applied towards personnel costs and other staff-related expenses.

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This represents 22.02% of the proposed Total Revenue, which is within the acceptable wage policy of 25% of Total Revenue and includes a provision for the new minimum wage.

“The budget deficit of 97.53 Billion Naira will be financed by both internal and external loans.

“Since revenue generation is the spine of any budget, this budget supports investment in our revenue-generating agencies,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the budget would aggressively invest in and develop education, health and other physical infrastructure sectors.

According to him, “Although our capital spend on works and infrastructure was just 31 Billion Naira as at September 2019, as against the 2019 budget proposal of 78 Billion Naira, it is our intention to spend 115 Billion Naira in 2020.

“Education will see a significantly increased capital budgetary allocation of 48 Billion Naira, an increase of 60% over the 2019 provision of 30 Billion Naira. We must improve the standard and relevance of our education outcomes for our industries.

“We will work together with our local governments to strengthen early childhood education and teachers’ training/administration, leveraging technology.

“Similarly, in healthcare, we have provided for a capital expenditure of 33 Billion Naira, compared to the 2019 budget proposal of 21 Billion Naira.

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“We will ensure that our primary health care institutions remain active and attractive to the primary health care needs of our people.

Lagos belongs to us all; we will continue therefore to drive partnerships with the private sector in promoting health services within our institutions.

“Given the perennial challenges of flooding in the metropolis, we have tripled the capital budget provision to tackle this from 3 Billion Naira in 2019 to 9 Billion Naira in 2020.”

While highlighting unique aspects of the budget proposal, the governor explained that, “First, in putting it together, we held consultations across the three senatorial districts, in addition to taking memoranda and feedback from stakeholders’ meetings organised by honourable members of the House within their constituencies, which were also attended by Cabinet members. It is indeed true that when Lagos speaks, this administration listens.

“Secondly, this 2020 Budget will be supported by a Performance Management System that will ensure that, by December 2020, we shall achieve an optimal budget implementation when compared with previous years. This is in line with our commitment to transparency and accountability in the management of public finances,” he added.

In his response, Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa commended the governor for his actions so far, noting

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that his actions have shown the zeal, desire, and passion in him to get things done, to fix what has been left undone and to move the state forward.

Obasa disclosed that the House believes that the content of the budget will serve this purpose in making life worthy of living for our people in Lagos State.

Obasa said: “As is evident, the Y2020 Appropriation Bill is significant in that it is the first budget proposal to be presented by Mr. Governor.

This will give him the opportunity to encapsulate his vision and mission for us all as the budget will lay the foundation for this. For this singular reason, we are all hopeful and expectant that this coming year will witness more of democracy dividends for the betterment of Lagos and Lagosians.

“However, permit me to remind this gathering that the matter of budget presentation is essential. Beyond its constitutional stipulation, it requires the backing of the law to make it implementable and executable; without which it becomes an offence punishable under the law.

“Let me therefore at this juncture assure Mr. Governor and all our people that my colleagues and I shall promptly and diligently commence work on the Y2020 budget just presented to this Honourable House.

“We will ensure that Lagos State occupies the enviable position that has always been reserved for us. We will work diligently for the early passage of the budget so that developmental work

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can start in earnest in the state. In other words, our intention is to make this budget a special New Year gift to the people of this great state.

2.22 PEDAN Hails Sanwo-Olu for Promoting Education

Culled from the Nation Newspaper on November 9, 2019 in City Beats, News Update

The National President of the Private Education Developers' Association of Nigeria (PEDAN), Elder Festus Awodoyin, has hailed Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for promoting education.

Awodoyin, who spoke on Thursday in Ajegunle, Lagos, at the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and first anniversary of the association, said that Lagos State government should be praised for promoting the educational sector.

He said the Sanwo-Olu administration, since its inception, had done a lot to eradicate illiteracy by promoting education.

Awodoyin implored the government to support the PEDAN in order to take education to the next level.

He said: "The PEDAN, in the last one year, has put together through a constitutional conference, a generally accepted constitution as its guiding principles and laws.

"It has organized a unified examination for primary six pupils in our schools where many of our pupils who excelled were given prizes.

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"The association has facilitated the participation of member schools in the Lagos State placement examinations into public secondary schools in the state. All our candidates performed well and have been placed in public schools of their choice.

"The PEDAN Multipurpose Cooperative Society has been put together to attend to the financial needs of members."

The PEDAN national president said the vision of the association is to create a credible alternative in the provision of low free education to the Nigerian child, adding that it is determined to achieve the vision.

The event was attended by Dr. A.A. Olaoye of the Faculty of Education, Lagos State University, Ojo; the Chairman of Ajeromi Ifelodun Local Government, Mr. Adekunle Ayoola; the Chairman of Ifelodun Local Council Development Area, Mr. Fatai Ajidagba, PEDAN members and others.

2.23 We're Not Here To Displace You, Sanwo-Olu's Representatives Tell Okobaba Fire Victims

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 10, 2019

The Lagos State Government has promised victims of Friday's fire incident at Okobaba, Ebute-Meta area of the state, that the visit of its officials are not intended to lead to the displacement of the marketers.

The government says it is handling the fire incident, which occurred at Okobaba, Ebute-Meta by Jebba, so as to bring some succour to victims.

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Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said this on Sunday while on visitation to the site of the incident to commiserate with the victims.

Sanwo-Olu was represented by the Commissioner for Finance, Rabiul Olowo, that of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Idris Salako and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Civic Engagement, Aderemi Adebawale-Owoeye.

They were accompanied by the Chairman, Lagos Mainland Local Government, Mrs Omolola Essien.

The governor, who spoke through Olowo, described the incidence as unfortunate, noting that it destroyed houses and businesses. He said that the presence of the Special Adviser on Civic Engagement was to ensure continuous dialogue with the people on ways to bring them happiness.

The governor also said that the presence of the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development was to understand the situation of the environment, all with the aim of bringing lasting solution.

“It is learnt that there has been cases of fire incidence for three times within three months, which is too much.

“I have asked my aides to come and have on-the-spot situation and report back to me.

“We are here to see exactly what happened, how bad it is, in a bid to understand the present situation so that we can also learn what we can do to bring some succour to the people affected.

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“It is not very good at sight, what we will hope to do is to understudy the root cause and we are going to attack it from the root cause, so that this kind of thing will not happen again.

“We are not here to displace you,” he said.

Also speaking on behalf of the fire victims, Abdulhakeem Mohammed appealed for government’s assistance, adding that the people affected “are really poor group.”

“We are happy that the governor has sent representatives to have on-the-spot assessment.

“Initially, our fear was that you were going to send us packing from here, but with your assurance, we are hopeful.

“All we need is government compensation. The people living here are about 500 families and are masses who can barely afford three square meals a day.

“We have nowhere to go,” Mohammed pleaded.

2.24 Okobaba Fire: Sanwo-Olu Promises Succour to Victims

Culled from Independent on November 10, 2019

The Lagos State Government says it is handling the fire incident at Okobaba, Ebute Metta by Jebba, so as to bring some succour to victims.

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said this on Sunday while on visitation to the site of the incident to commiserate with the victims.

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“It is not very good at sight, what we will hope to do is to understudy the root cause and we are going to attack it from the root cause so that this kind of thing will not happen again.

“We are not here to displace you,” he said At least, one person was confirmed dead while others sustained injuries in a communal clash that broke out on Sunday in Okobaba, Ebute-Metta, Mainland Local Government Area where the fire gutted on November 8.

The violent clash was said to have broken out in the early hours of Sunday between a group of truck pushers who specialised in scraps business, mainly Hausa youths and some Odua People’s Congress (OPC).

However, personnel of the Denton Police Station, Lagos State Command raced to the scene of the clash, later and restored peace and returned normalcy to the area.

Narrating to the government team how the crash happened, Mr Hassan Ibrahim, Leader of Hausa Youths, Okobaba, said the trouble started when some of Hausa Youths went to buy scraps from the burnt shanties.

He said on their way back, they were intercepted and harassed by some OPC miscreants demanding for money before they could go with the scrap materials to which the youths resisted. “In the process, a fight broke out.

One person was shot in the head and others who sustained injuries are currently receiving treatment at the Ebute Metta Health Centre. Also speaking on behalf of fire victims, Alhaji

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Abdulahakeem Mohammed, appealed for government's assistance, adding that the people affected were "really poor group."

"We are happy that the Governor has sent representatives to have on the spot assessment. Initially, our fear was that you were going to send us packing from here but with your assurance, we are hopeful.

"All we need is government compensation. The people living here are about 500 families and are masses who can barely afford three square meals a day. We have nowhere to go," Mohammed said.

Sanwo-Olu pleaded for calm and cooperation among the warring parties and the fire victims and urged them to maintain peaceful coexistence, shun conflict and violence.

The governor's delegation also visited the Ebute Metta Health Centre, where the injured during the fracas were being treated.

2.25 **Obasa Tasks Sanwo-Olu on Lagos Transportation Problem**

Culled from Independent on November 10, 2019

LAGOS – Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, says that no amount of road patching, rehabilitations and constructions will solve transportation problem in Lagos, judging by the influx of people into the state on daily basis.

The Speaker, in a remark given on Friday after the presentation of the 2020 budget by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, noted

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that, "It is high time we came up with innovative ideas and strategies to bring about change to the state with the aim of taking it to the next level."

Obasa noted that the state as it is today, needs radical, aggressive and a holistic revamping, and therefore, requires an urgent economic and infrastructural turn around.

He explained that to move Lagos forward, "there is the need to focus more attention on rail to connect the entire Lagos.

A rail from Ogun State boundary down to Lekki Epe side, a rail from Ikorodu to also same area should be urgently considered. And the ones under construction must be speedily completed.

"At the same time, more still need to be done about water transportation. Ilo Rivers running from Sango links Alimosho, Ojo, Amuwo back to CMS. Also, Odo Iya Alaro runs up to Ikorodu. This might sound like a tall order.

But we should start from somewhere. Dubai did not start in a day. They laid the foundation and continue building on it. Now, it is an envy of all.

"It is a common knowledge that doing things same way will yield same results. But when we desire new things, a marvelous and egalitarian society, we have to look inward and change the approach."

While pointing out that the state's education and health sectors need adequate attention, Obasa stated that, "Year in, year out, provisions are being made for these sectors but they have not been well sustained.

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It is our hope that this time, it will take a different and positive dimension.

2.26 Obasa Urges Sanwo-Olu To Focus More On Rail Transportation

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 10, 2019 in News, News Update

Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to focus more attention on rail transportation to connect the whole of the state.

Obasa made the appeal while giving his remarks after the governor presented the year 2020 budget estimate of N1.168trillion to the assembly at plenary in Lagos.

The speaker said no amount of road patching, rehabilitations and constructions will really solve the transportation problem in the state because of the influx of people into Lagos on daily basis.

“To indeed move Lagos forward, there is the need to focus more attention on rail to connect the entire Lagos,” Obasa said.

While calling for speedy completion of the on-going railway construction in the state, Obasa said, “a rail from Ogun State boundary down to Lekki Epe side, a rail from Ikorodu to also same area should be urgently considered; with money or not, we have to start doing something.”

He also told the governor that more still needs to be done about water transportation.

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“This might sound like a tall order. But we should start from somewhere. Dubai did not start in a day. They laid the foundation and continue building on it. Now, it is an envy of all.

“Likewise, our education and health sectors need adequate attention. Year in, year out, provisions are being made for these sectors. But they have not been well sustained. It is our hope that this time, it will take a different and positive dimension.”

The speaker promised that as representatives in the assembly they will not relent in their agitation for quality governance and qualitative representation.

2.27 Sanwo-Olu: I’ll Build On My Predecessors’ Legacies

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 11, 2019 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Sunday that he would continue to build on the legacies of his predecessors to support the growth of the local economy.

Sanwo-Olu made the assertion at the Lagos State Day of the Lagos International Trade Fair.

The programme was organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives.

“In line with my government’s commitment to move Lagos State to 21st economy, I shall continue to build on the legacies of my predecessors by supporting the growth of our local economy, improving the ease of doing business, providing easy access to finance, repositioning the public service and accelerating

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infrastructure intervention to ensure Lagos maintains her pride of place,” he said.

The governor said the day was significant because it showcased the state policies and projects, as well as sociocultural projects to international business communities, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

He commended Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) for organising an impressive fair.

Sanwo-Olu was represented by the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr Lola Akande.

The Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals, Mrs Solape Hammond, said the state government needed the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises to succeed and grow. “The trade fair is one of the landmark events that Lagos State holds and one that people look forward to.

“So, this fair is not just for Lagos State, its a global fair and Lagos has to be business-ready and focused. “For Lagos to succeed, we need the private sector, and for business to work, we need the Small and Medium enterprises,” she said.

The Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr Lola Akande, said the participation of the state government was to show support for MSMEs to showcase their products to the world.

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2.28 Sanwo-Olu To Engineers: Work Hard To Gain Govt’s Confidence

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 11, 2019in News Update, Property

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has Culled on engineers to work hard to gain the confidence of government and attract contracts in place of the foreign firms.

The governor said the nation can not rely on foreign nationals for projects and that the state believes in inclusive governance and patronage of the local market as it helps in capacity building and reducing flight and brain drain.

The governor said: “Lagos State believes in inclusive governance and patronage of the local market as it helps in capacity building of our work- force; reducing capital flight and brain drain.”

Sanwo-Olu made this known at the the Association for Consulting Engineering in Nigeria (ACEN) conference in Lagos. It had as theme: Integrating Nigerian engineers into national development.

In an address read on his behalf by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Olujimi Hotonu, Sanwo-Olu declared that the government has strong belief in the competence of engineers that they could hold their ground among their peers outside the country.

The governor, however, said there was the need to involve them in the design and execution of major projects that in all

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the aspects of engineering. He added that it is only by so doing that engineers would acquire the needed impetus, skills and experience to be updated and globally competitive.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that his administration was developing the necessary condition and framework for the state to transit to a Smart city in line with the vision of the founding fathers, adding that stakeholders in the industry and other sectors would be encouraged to participate in the design and the execution of major projects to realise the dream of a new Lagos that is safe with aesthetic value.

Noting the role of engineers in national development, he said: “The role of the construction sector in our life cannot be overemphasised. Virtually all other sectors rely on the construction industry to provide and maintain their accommodations, plants and infrastructure.

With the application of digital technologies, the role of the construction sector is bound to become even more important owing to various global megatrends.”

He urged engineers to abide by the new Public Procurement regulations in their projects execution, the governor stated that, the passage of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), which emphasised competence, appropriate pricing, structured funding, usage of standard and quality materials, amongst others, was meant or designed to entrench quality, efficiency and safety, in line with global best practices.

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2.29 Lagos Trade Fair, Successful Despite Border Closure –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 11, 2019

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says the 2019 Lagos International Trade has been a huge success despite the closure of Nigeria’s borders.

He made this declaration on Sunday at the Lagos State Day organised to mark the end of the fair.

The governor, who was represented by the state Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Mrs Lola Akande, commended the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organisers of the fair, for “the highly impressive organisation and successful turnout recorded at this year’s fair in spite of the socio-economic climate occasioned by the current border closure.”

He said he approved the state sponsorship of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to give them an opportunity to exhibit alongside large corporations and multinational companies at the fair.

Sanwo-Olu pledged to continue to build on the legacies of his predecessors by supporting the growth of the local economy, improving the ease of doing business, providing easy access to finance, repositioning the public sector to support businesses and accelerating infrastructure interventions.

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In order to complement ongoing progress in the Lekki Free Zone, the governor pledged to fast-track development of the Lekki-Epe road and a world-class international airport.

The President, LCCI, Mr Babatunde Ruwase, said, “Despite the evident limitations of the business environment, infrastructure challenges, recent border closure and the state of the economy, we have been able to hold a successful fair.”

He however Culled on the government to facilitate the process of providing a permanent site for the event, saying that the cost implication of setting up structures only to dismantle them at the end of the fair was huge.

He said, “The exhibitors and we are faced annually with the challenge of construction of many temporary structures and rental of tents and other facilities for the fair.”

2.30 Sanwo-Olu Declares 2019 Lagos International Trade Fair Closed

Culled from Independent on November 11, 2019

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by Mrs. Lola Akande, Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, said the administration would consolidate on the legacy of its predecessors to attract more investments to the state.

He said the government was committed to improving the ease of doing business, repositioning of the public service for effective service delivery and accelerating infrastructure development for a land of golden opportunities.

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“The government will continue to harness Public Private Partnership in developing businesses in sectors including oil and gas, transportation, affordable housing, agriculture and manufacturing.

“With a population of over 22 million people, Lagos State remains the largest market in Africa for any discerning investor,” Sanwo-Olu added.

According to him, the recent \$629 million deal between the government and China’s Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC) for the development of Lekki Deep Sea Port project is an attestation of investors’ confidence in the state.

Earlier, Mr Babatunde Ruwase, LCCI President, said the trade fair was successful with all the investors having rewarding experiences, despite the evident limitations of the business environment, infrastructure challenges, recent border closure and the state of the economy.

Ruwase said: “It is heartwarming to note that participants had rewarding business interactions during the fair.

“The Nigerian business community and foreign investors have again demonstrated their confidence in the Nigerian economy. I commend and appreciate their resilience and faith in the Nigerian economy.

“It is our hope that the governments at all levels would continue to address the issues of enabling business environment in the country, especially as regards infrastructure.

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“We need to do this in order to fully harness the huge enterprising resource of domestic and foreign investors for the diversification of our economy and the welfare of our people.”

Sanwo-Olu said the Lekki Free Trade Zone would transform Lagos to an economic hub when fully operational, adding that it was opened to both local and foreign investors.

He also commended the promoters of the fair, the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), for creating the platform for businesses to interact and network towards boosting trade and investments.

The LCCI president specifically said: “With this year’s theme, the Lagos Chamber drew the attention of policy makers and economic managers on the need to restructure and diversify the productive base of the economy to critical non-oil sectors like agriculture and manufacturing.

The Chamber remains resolute in promoting value addition in the non-oil sector in a bid to enhance industrialisation and fast-track the pace of economic growth”.

He, however, appealed to the Lagos State Government to assist in securing a permanent location for the exhibition to eliminate the challenges faced by the organisers and exhibitors annually.

It would be reCulled that the 33rd Edition of the fair, which began on November 1 at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, had the theme: “Connecting Businesses, Creating Value.”

Over two thousand exhibitors from Nigeria, China, Japan, Ghana, India, European Union, Indonesia, Taiwan, Bangladesh,

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India, Cameroun, Benin Republic and Ethiopia participated in the fair.

2.31 Suspend LASPOTECH Mgt, CSO Urges Lagos Govt

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 14, 2019

The Coalition of Civil Society Organisations has Culled on the Lagos State Government to suspend the management of the Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH) to create enabling environment for visitation panels investigating crises in the institution function uninterrupted.

The coalition made the call Wednesday in Lagos at a press briefing on the recent development over crisis rocking the institution.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the civil society groups comprise Sahara Education Development Initiatives, Human Rights Monitoring Agenda and Centre for Policy Intervention in Africa.

Some of the crises bedevilling the polytechnic include alleged mismanagement of funds by the management, unjustifiable sacking of workers, turning the campus into academic barracks and detention of 38 staff members in police custody.

Briefing newsmen, executive director, Human Rights Monitoring Agenda (HURMA), Mr Buna Isiak, said that suspension of the management would guarantee a thorough, unbiased, objective and meaningful exercise by the visitation panel.

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“It is the right and fair thing to do, because we are convinced that an unbiased investigation by the panel is to find a lasting solution to the challenges foisted on the institution.

“We, therefore, implore Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to be unwavering in this quest toward unravelling the immediate and remote causes of the crises.

“It is indeed our conviction that the 11-man visitation panel requires conducive and unrestrained environment to carry out its assignment,” he said.

Isiak said the groups were worried that the current rector of LASPOTTECH, Mr Samuel Sogunro, might mislead the visitation panel in order to hinder free and fair investigations.

“We commend Governor Sanwo-Olu for living up to the responsibility of his office to moderate LASPOTTECH.”

Also, Mr Taiwo Showole, director of programme, Sahara Education Development Initiative (SEDI), said that interest of the group was for justice and peace to prevail at the institution. Showole said that for justice and accountability to prevail LASPOTTECH management should step aside until after the investigation.

“We are the watchdog of the society, so we want the visitation panel to be properly guided in order to achieve a lasting solution,” he said NAN.

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2.32 Sanwo-Olu Charges NCC To Leverage On Provisions Of AFCFTA

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on November 14, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) to leverage on the provisions of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to the advantage of Nigeria's telecoms industry.

Speaking while delivering his goodwill message at the sensitisation workshop for the communications industry on the implications of the AfCFTA initiative with the theme: Improving Nigeria's Communication Industry Competitiveness for the AfCFTA Initiative, organised by NCC, Sanwo-Olu said it is one of the major factors that will fully drive the digital economic revolution in the country.

The governor who was represented by the commissioner for Science and technology, Mr Hafeez Popoola, said, “AFCFTA as we all know, is an initiative of the African Union with the main objective of creating a single continental market for goods and services, as well as facilitating free movement of investment and people across the entire African continent.”

“AFCFTA provides the opportunity for Africa to create the world's largest free trade area, which is also a new hope for boosting intra-Africa trade across African countries.”

He said the trade agreement marks a new dawn for Africa's economic transformation and Nigerian's economy stands to benefit with the creation of this single market.

However, the state governor noted that it is important for us to know that the anticipated benefits will only remain a mirage if we fail to prepare adequately by repositioning the key sectors of our economy to be competitive and able to take optimum advantage of the opportunities presented by new market.

“A lot of efforts must be put into improving the efficiency of service delivery through investment in modern technology,” he said, adding, “Effective communication network is a key facilitator of trade and economic activities. To enhance the sector’s competitiveness in emerging single market.

2.33 Sanwo-Olu To Commence Payment Of N35, 000 Minimum Wage To Workers End Of November

Culled from Independent on November 15, 2019

Following the agreement reached between the Lagos State Government, led by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Lagos State Joint Public Service Negotiating Council (JNC) on Friday, November 15, all arrangements have been concluded to commence the payment of the new minimum wage and the consequential adjustment rates to public workers in the November 2019 salary cycle.

State Chairman of JNC, Comrade Rasaq Adio Falade, disclosed this in a statement made public at the end of the meeting witnessed by representatives of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC), in Alausa, Ikeja.

The statement, titled, “Conclusion of negotiations on the minimum wage and consequential adjustment of salaries for Lagos State public sector workers,” read in part: “Consequent upon series of meetings and discussions held between the

Lagos State JNC on the payment of the new minimum wage to Lagos State public sector workers, necessary terms of settlement and agreement was reached today 15th November 2019.”

Falade reCulled that the National Joint Public Service Negotiating Council (NJPSNC), and the Federal Government’s Negotiations and consequential adjustment of salaries produced the following figures on Consolidated Public Service Salary Structure, CONPSS: Grade Level, GL. 01-06=N30,000, GL. 07=23.2 per cent, GL. 08=20 per cent, GL. 09=19 per cent, GL.10-14=16 per cent, GL. 15-17=14 per cent.

“Lagos State Salaries Consequential Adjustment/Increase, GL. 01-06=N35,000.09

b. GL. 07=30 per cent, GL. 08-10=25 per cent, GL. 12-14=22.5 per cent, GL. 15-17=20 per cent.”

Falade stated that payment of allowances peculiar to certain professions/sectors such as Health Workers, Medical Personnel, Teachers, among other embedded in their respective Consolidated Salary Structures, “such as CONHESS, CONMESS, CONTISS, shall be paid for those stated items (Hazard, Call, Shift, and others) at such rates as provided in the various salaries of government-approved in 2011.

“On payment of arrears the new Minimum Wage Act came into effect on the 18th April 2019 as such, it was agreed that payment of the six and half months arrears shall be made and concluded by the first quarter of the Year 2020.”

2.34 Pay Retired N2.3urses, FOLGONM Urges Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on November 15, 2019

The Forum for Local Government Nurses and Midwives (FOLGONM) has Culled on the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to reduce the suffering of retired nurses in the state by ensuring the settlement of their retirement benefits within six months of retirement.

Delivering her welcome address at the 10th Annual Conference/ Scientific Workshop of FOLGONM, the state chairman of the forum, Nurse Mary Modupe Lateef-Yusuf, lamented that some of the nurses who retired three years ago have died without receiving their entitlements.

“We hope something can be done drastically to reduce the interval between retirement and collection of entitlement to 6 months. Some have actually died of hunger waiting hopelessly that the release would be made”, Lateef-Yusuf lamented. She added that those who retired three years ago were yet to collect their retirement benefits.

Lateef-Yusuf also Culled on the governor to help FOLGONM enforce the integration of nurses into the local government management level since they were now at the directorate level. She said that nurses were capable of managing the votes of their units rather than waiting for other members of the health team to corner it for themselves.

Speaking on how to tackle the rising cases of suicides in the country, the FOLGONM boss urged government to explore tools for the integration of mental health management into the primary healthcare (PHC) system, stressing that people with mental

cases were reluctant to go to psychiatric hospitals because of the shame of stigmatisation associated with it.

She said that people with depression would seek relief at PHCs if they were equipped to handle mild cases of mental illness.

2.35 Sanwo-Olu Begins Payment Of N35,000 New Minimum Wage November

Culled from Leadership newspaper on November 16, 2019

The agreement reached between the Lagos State Joint Public Service Negotiating Council, (JNC), and Lagos State government, the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday disclosed that it would commence the payment of the new minimum wage and the consequential adjustment rates to public workers in the state this month end.

This was revealed in a statement by the state chairman of JNC, comrade Rasaq Adio Falade made public at the end of the meeting with the state government witnessed by representatives of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) in Alausa, Ikeja.

The statement, titled, “Conclusion of negotiations on the minimum wage and consequential adjustment of salaries for Lagos State public sector workers,” read in part: “Consequent upon series of meetings and discussions held between the Lagos State JNC on the payment of the new minimum wage to Lagos State public sector workers, necessary terms of settlement and agreement was reached today 15th November 2019.”

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According to him, the National Joint Public Service Negotiating Council, NJPSNC, and the Federal Government's Negotiations and consequential adjustment of salaries produced the following figures on Consolidated Public Service Salary Structure, CONPSS: Grade Level, GL. 01-06=N30,000, GL. 07=23.2 per cent, GL. 08=20 per cent, GL. 09=19 per cent, GL.10-14=16 per cent, GL. 15-17=14 per cent.

He added, "Comparatively and in consonance with the pronouncements of the Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, find below the product of the process of negotiations that were painstakingly undertaken and concluded with the Lagos State government by the labour movement for the public sector workers.

"Lagos State Salaries Consequential Adjustment/Increase, GL. 01-06=N35,000.09 b. GL. 07=30 per cent, GL. 08-10=25 per cent, GL. 12-14=22.5 per cent, GL. 15-17=20 per cent."

He added that payment of allowances peculiar to certain professions/sectors such as Health Workers, Medical Personnel, Teachers, among other embedded in their respective Consolidated Salary Structures, "such as CONHESS, CONMESS, CONTISS, shall be paid for those stated items (Hazard, Call, Shift, and others) at such rates as provided in the various salaries of government approved in 2011.

"On payment of arrears the new Minimum Wage Act came into effect on the 18th April 2019 as such, it was agreed that

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payment of the six and half months arrears shall be made and concluded by the first quarter of the Year 2020."

2.36 Sanwo-Olu Hails Jakande For Lagos Public Service Club

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 18, 2019

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has commended the first executive governor of the state, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, for the establishment of the state's Public Service Club.

Sanwo-Olu gave this commendation on Friday during a gala night and grand finale to mark the 40th anniversary of the club.

The governor, who was represented by his Deputy Chief of Staff, Mr Gboyega Soyannwo, said the membership of the club had grown tremendously over the years due to its focussed leadership.

He said, "It is my pleasure to celebrate with you on your 40th anniversary. I salute the vision of Alhaji Lateef Jakande, under whose administration this club was established. Over the years, the club has remained focussed and its growing membership from 1979 to date is the result of its wide acceptability.

"As we celebrate 40 years, we should give due credit to the successive leadership of the club and also commend those who have shouldered the leadership of the club to date.

I urge the leadership to develop a plan for the next 10 years when the club would have reached its golden age without deviating from its vision and overriding achievements."

Various categories of awards were given to members and non-members that had distinguished themselves.

The beneficiaries include the Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Babatunde Fashola; Senator Gbenga Ashafa; Chairman, Ikoyi Club 1938, Yomi Orenuga; and the Managing Director of Soft Alliance and Resources Limited, Yunde Badejo.

A posthumous award was given to the late Senator Isiaka Adeleke.

The club President, Mr Samuel Ajenifuja, commended members for maintaining the vision of the founding fathers.

Also, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr Oluyomi Amoye, commended the past and present governors of the state for playing their part in the provision of infrastructure.

The state Head of Service, Mr Hakeem Muri-Okunola, who was represented by Segun Adeniji, commended the leadership of the club for maintaining its standards.

2.37 The carnage on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 18, 2019

Lagos-Ibadan road, Nigeria's only expressway, has become something of a slaughter slab. The carnage that has occurred since the reconstruction of the 127.6-kilometre road was flagged off in July 2013, is horrendous and petrifying.

There is hardly a day that life is not lost on what has become the "highway of death".

Scores have died by accidents as a result of the reduction of the road to single lane for the more than 250, 000 vehicles that traverse it daily.

The sick die on the road as traffic gridlock caused by the reconstruction stop them from reaching hospital for medical assistance.

Contract for reconstruction of the road was awarded to Julius Berger and Reynolds Construction Company (RCC) at the cost of N167 billion (\$838,986,290). Reconstruction work on the ever-busy expressway was to be completed before 2017.

However, reconstruction of the expressway has suffered several hick-ups.

In the 2018 Budget, the National Assembly in its trademark meddlesomeness, diverted huge sums allocated by the federal government for the project to the funding of mysterious constituency projects. That again stalled work on the project.

At the moment, the federal government itself has indicated that the senseless slaughter on the road due to the agonizingly slow pace of work might continue for three more years.

The federal government plans to complete the reconstruction of the expressway by 2022. If that deadline is finally met, it would have taken Nigeria some nine long years to reconstruct

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a 127.6- kilometre road that took less than five years to build through thick forest and intimidating swamps.

The forests that delayed the original construction for four years were hacked down by the original builders but corruption and selfishness have delayed the reconstruction that could have been finished in two years for almost a decade.

Meanwhile, scores of people have died on the road since the reconstruction was flagged off in July 2013.

Relatively small accidents on the road that claim one or two lives hardly make the headlines in the media.

Those ones occur on daily basis as impatient commercial bus drivers execute dangerous overtaking on the single lane left for all commuters.

The ones that make the headlines are those that claim anything from five lives. The first of such accidents with multiple casualties occurred on March 22, 2015. An articulated truck carrying a 40-foot container lost a tyre, rammed into two incoming cars, slaughtered seven people and wounded 20 others.

What may be the deadliest slaughter on the “highway of death”, occurred about 10 days ago at the RCC end of the reconstruction scene. As usual, only a tiny portion of the road was open to traffic. A MAN Diesel truck lost a tyre and rammed into two buses coming in the opposite direction.

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This time Nigeria was not as lucky as it was in 2015. The single accident claimed the lives of 13 passengers in the two buses with several others injured.

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) officials who helped to clear the debris at the scene of the accident blamed the senseless slaughter on one of the bus drivers who impatiently tried to overtake at the wrong place in the narrow lane. That blame game is rather belated.

Everyone knows that Nigerian commercial drivers are impatient and like their rulers, have little value for life. Part of the blame for the carnage goes to the government that failed to reduce the suffering of the people by ensuring that the reconstruction work is completed at the appropriate time. In civilized societies, the rehabilitation of a 127.6-kilomtre expressway would not take up to two years.

The suffering on Lagos-Ibadan expressway is unacceptably horrendous. There is no calamity that has not happened on that road since the reconstruction work was flagged off.

A pregnant woman who was being rushed to maternity delivered on that road as the horrendous traffic gridlock kept her on the road for hours.

Another person who was rushed to hospital for emergency treatment was not as lucky as the pregnant woman who delivered on the jinx expressway. He died on the road as the endless traffic jam prevented him from reaching medical assistance in the hospital.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

All these calamities have befallen a potentially rich nation because its abundant resources had over the years been looted and mismanaged by its rulers. Millions of man-hours are lost daily as traffic gridlock hold down millions of travelers for five hours in a journey of 90 minutes.

The delay in the reconstruction of Lagos-Ibadan expressway is not caused by Nigeria's self-imposed poverty. It is caused by gross misalignment of priorities and wrong allocation of resources. Nigeria has done greater things faster in the past.

The first Niger Bridge in Onitsha was built within three years and commissioned in 1966. That was when Nigeria was much, much poorer than it is today. Now, as a richer nation, it is going to take about eight years to build the Second Niger Bridge.

Work on the east-west road has lumbered along for close to 20 years, because money meant for it was misappropriated and diverted into private pockets.

The rehabilitation of the Benin-Shagamu road has lingered for 10 years. It is yet to reach Ijebu-Ode. At the current pace, the remaining work might last another five years. Again, that is due to uninhibited corruption and wrong alignment of priorities rather than paucity of funds.

The diversion of N10 billion from the Lagos-Ibadan expressway project by the National Assembly in 2018 delayed the project by at least six months.

The money served the selfish interest of 469 members of the National Assembly rather than expediting work on a road that

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would ease the movement of at least one million commuters daily.

The federal government owes Nigerians the responsibility of ending the carnage on Lagos-Ibadan expressway by appropriately funding the project and ensuring that the road is fully opened to traffic by the end of 2020.

2.38 Sanwo-Olu Visits China For Collaboration With Lagos

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 18, 2019 in Business, News Update

BARELY three months after his trip to Japan with President Muhammadu Buhari for the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has returned to another Asian country for increased collaboration with the state.

The governor, who is on a working visit to China, the world's second largest economy, is expected to execute meaningful partnerships that will support the state's aspiration of becoming a 21st century economy and visit the China Railway Construction Company (CRCC) and China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) for project appraisal.

On this visit, Mr. Sanwo-Olu will explore his presentation to China-Africa Business Council to put Lagos before the Chinese investment community and declare the state's openness to investors.

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Likewise, the governor's economic ambassadorial role will take him to Zhuhai Changiong Ocean Park, Huawei, GAC Motor Factory and GREE Electrical Appliances, Inc. of Zhuhai for possible collaboration in the areas of industry, tourism and facility development.

Specifically, Lagos is seeking investments in infrastructure development, industry, energy, information & communication technology and transportation.

Sanwo-Olu's administration has been unequivocal about its quest for both local and foreign investors to actively participate in the economic and infrastructural development of the state.

While presenting the proposed state budget of N1.1trillion for 2020 to the State House of Assembly last week, Mr. Sanwo-Olu had noted that "the state has revised some of its approval procedures and operating laws to enable business thrive".

2.39 Sanwo-Olu Reaffirms Government's Commitment To Public Health

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 18, 2019 in Health, News, News Update

The wife of Lagos State governor, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, has reaffirmed the commitment of the current administration in the state of its readiness to give prompt attention to public health.

SanwoOlu stated this recently when a team of Public Health Sustainable Advocacy Initiative (PHSAI) paid an advocacy visit to her office in Lagos.

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The wife of the governor intimated the team of her plan to meet with all the 57 chairmen where they will be charged to step up efforts in delivering quality health care services to their people.

Acknowledging the work of NURHI 2 in the health sector of the State, the first lady regretted that NURHI2 project is winding up at a time when the new Babajide Sanwo-Olu led administration is gearing up.

She stressed that it is now a challenge as a concerned government to practically own the health interventions even when NURHI2 and other implementing health partners have gone.

High point of the visit was induction of the first lady as the FP/ LPAY Champion in Lagos State.

She thanked PHSAI for not giving up in government objectives and assured the team her willingness to always partner with the group.

Speaking earlier, the chairman of Public Health Sustainable Advocacy Initiative (PHSAI), Barr. Ayo Adebuseye, said the core objective of the visit to the first lady was borne out of her passion and interests in public health having served as a medical director at Shomolu General Hospital and to advocate for ways to improve sexual and reproductive health of young people in the state.

2.40 Sanwo-Olu Visits China, Seeks Increased Collaboration With Beijing

Culled from the Sun on 18th November 2019

Barely three months after his trip to Japan with President Muhammadu Buhari for the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) themed: “Africa and Yokohama, Sharing Passion for the Future”, Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has returned to another Asian country for increased collaboration with Lagos State.

The governor, who is on a working visit to China, is expected to execute meaningful partnerships that will support the Lagos State’s aspiration of becoming a 21st century economy and visit the China Railway Construction Company (CRCC) and China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) for project appraisal.

On this visit, Mr. Sanwo-Olu will explore his presentation to China-Africa Business Council to put Lagos before the Chinese investment community and declare Lagos State’s openness to investors.

Likewise, the governor’s economic ambassadorial role will take him to Zhuhai Changiong Ocean Park, Huawei, GAC Motor Factory and GREE Electrical Appliances, Inc. of Zhuhai for possible collaboration in the areas of industry, tourism and facility development.

Specifically, Lagos State is seeking investments in infrastructure development, industry, energy, Information & Communication Technology (ICT) and transportation; and Sanwo-Olu’s administration has been unequivocal about its quest for both

local and foreign investors to actively participate in the economic and infrastructural development of the state.

While presenting the proposed Lagos State budget of N1.1trillion for 2020 to the state House of Assembly last week, Sanwo-Olu had noted that “the state has revised some of its approval procedures and operating laws to enable business thrive”.

Interestingly, these efforts were corroborated in the acknowledgment of Lagos State by the World Bank for its significant contribution to Nigeria’s impressive performance in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index published last month, in which the country moved 15 places higher in the global ranking of countries.

“Our recorded 15 places upward-movement in the World Bank Ease of Doing Business has impressively positioned Nigeria as one of the most improved economies globally for business operation.

2.41 Omo-Agege, Sanwo-Olu Seek Tough Laws Against Sexual Abuse

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 19, 2019

Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege

Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, on Monday Called for tougher laws against sexual abuse.

Omo-Agege, who was represented by his Senior Special Assistant on Electronic and New Media, Lara Owoaye-Wise, made the call at the launch of the campaign against rape and sexual abuse in Abuja.

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The event was organised by the Federation of West African Freelance Journalists Association in collaboration with the National Council of Women Society, National Orientation Agency, Ministry of Women Affairs, among others.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that Omo-Agege condemned the rising incidence of sexual harassment, describing it as “bestial act” that should be stamped out of Nigeria.

“The challenge of rape and sexual harassment of the Nigerian child is still very much with us; it seems to me that the problem has persisted either because the laws leave a lot of loopholes or the prescribed punishment is not stringent enough or both.

“Another area of obvious deficiency is in the social issues that surround the subject.

“Many parents and families are wary of stigmatisation that their child or children may suffer should it become public knowledge that they have been defiled. To this extent, there is non-disclosure of many incidents of abuse of the child,” he said.

Omo-Agege said Nigeria should strengthen laws protecting the child from sexual and other forms of abuses.

The wife of Lagos State governor, Mrs Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, described sexual abuse as a bad act that should be stamped out of Nigeria.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State governor, Mrs Motolani Ladipo, said, “For us in Lagos State, sexual abuse is an evil that must be confronted

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frontally and we are leaving no stone unturned in naming, shaming and sanctioning perpetrators in line with the law.”

2.42 Sanwo-Olu Asked To Enforce Environmental Laws

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 19, 2019

The Lagos State House of Assembly has directed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to fully enforce relevant environmental laws against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the state.

The House made the resolution following a motion moved by the Majority Leader, Mr Sanai Agunbiade, representing Ikorodu I, on Monday.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that House frowned at a situation where Lagosians dump refuse in drains and road medians, causing flooding.

Agunbiade said, “We noted the effort of the state government towards taking the challenges and the campaign against indiscriminate refuse.

“Funds that could have been channelled to other meaningful sectors had been used to clear refuse in the state.”

2.43 Sanwo-Olu Flags Off “Exercise Crocodile Smile IV” In Lagos

Culled from Independent on November 19, 2019

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has assured the Nigerian Army of his administration’s continued support as it engaged in intensive security duties in the state.

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Sanwo-Olu made this known on Tuesday during the flag-off of Exercise Crocodile Smile IV by 81 Division of the Nigerian Army held at Takwa Bay, Lagos.

Represented by his deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, Sanwo-Olu commended the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, for his thoughtfulness and strategic foresight in conducting Exercise Crocodile Smile IV ahead of the Yuletide.

He said that the idea was geared towards ensuring peace and security within the South-West and South-South region during the festive period.

“From antecedents, the security issues prevalent within the Yuletide are not lost on any of us as criminal elements move to amass wealth through underhanded means during the period,” he said.

He said that Exercise Crocodile Smile IV was a welcome development that promised to ensure that criminal elements had no safe haven within the period.

“I commend the army for their resilience and determination towards providing security in Lagos and other states across the country including the Federal Capital Territory,” Sanwo-Olu said.

While seeking support for security operatives, the governor alluded to the need for citizens to be security conscious.

“They should notice what is going on in their environment and adopt the popular saying of ‘see something and say something’.

“If you see something wrong make sure you act.

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“The police and other security personnel are not magicians, they do not look at oracle, they listen to information. “It is for all of us to conduct ourselves and just be our neighbours keeper,” he said.

Commenting on the clean-up of the beaches as part of efforts to boost tourism, the governor urged citizens to own the beaches and treat them as their homestead by properly disposing their plastics and wastes.

Earlier in his remarks, Buratai, represented by Major-General John Irefin, GOC 81 Division, Nigerian Army, said that Exercise Crocodile Smile IV was part of the Army’s continuous commitment to combating security challenges in the country.

He added that the exercise would reduce to the barest minimum the prevailing security threat in the riverine environment such as illegal oil bunkering, militancy, kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, cultism and other common sundry crimes.

Buratai said that the exercise, aimed at sharpening the professional skills of security personnel, would be intelligence-driven and portray real time operation.

“This will be in line with the military’s constitutional role of conducting internal security operation to aid civil authority,” the COAS said.

He said that it would also provide good opportunity for collaboration with other services and relevant security agencies in order to strengthen greater inter- agency cooperation in combating crime and criminality in the country.

2.44 Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Enforcement Of Sanitation Law

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on November 19, 2019

Lagos State House of Assembly has Culled on Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to direct the Ministry of Environment to ensure enforcement of the environmental management sanitation law with a view to enforcing sanctions imposed for indiscriminate waste disposal.

The call on the governor came against the backdrop of a motion moved by majority leader of the house Hon. Sanai Agunbiade, Tuesday on the floor of the house during plenary.

According to him consideration should be given to imposition of community service as sanction for culprits arrested for indiscriminate disposal of refuse adding that such offenders should be made dispose refuse in the community where the offence was committed so as to serve as a deterrent to others.

Agunbiade noted that the need to enforce the law has become necessary considering the fact that in spite of public enlightenment campaign embarked upon by the state government and Lagos State Waste Management Agency people still dispose waste in unwanted places.

While seconding the motion for the enforcement of sanctions on offenders, Hon. BiSi Yusuf posited that offenders should be made to wear uniforms during the period of sentence while cleaning their immediate community.

He decried a situation whereby some motorists will throw refuse indiscriminately out of their windows while driving even as some people drop refuse in drainages and road medians.

Hon. Tobin in his contribution stated that “Health is Wealth. Cleaner environment bring better health”.

He said that there should be attitudinal change by people who drop refuse inside drainages and road medians adding that the law regarding violation of environmental laws should be enforced.

2.45 Sanwo-Olu Gets Chinese Investor’s Commitment

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 19, 2019 in News, News Update.

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday engaged the leadership of Gree Electrical Appliances on the possibility of siting a plant in Lagos to support the Fortune 500 Company’s expansion into Africa.

The Governor, while on a tour of the company’s expansive facility in Zhuhai, China, told the company’s leadership, including Mr. Xie Dong Bo, president assistant, who represented Madam Dong Mingzhu, the company’s president and chairperson at the facility inspection that “Lagos State is open to socially responsible and viable companies such as Gree Electric Appliances.

“As you know, Lagos is the largest city in Africa, with a population of over 22 million people.

The state’s economy is the 7th largest on the continent of Africa.

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The state is central for easy distribution of products and a fertile ground for recruiting highly skilled workforce that will help further the innovation for which Gree Electric Appliance is globally reputed.

Allaying the fear of the company's management about the challenges of doing business in Lagos, Governor Sanwo-Olu told the potential investors in the state's economy that "every region of the world has its own peculiar challenge(s).

Even here in China, you have your own issues, but your challenges Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May not be what our challenges are in Lagos.

"However, the good news is that Lagos State is committed to innovation and excellence in everything we do. We have our eyes on the ball and the government I lead is leaving no stone unturned in ensuring that business processes are simplified enough to support entrepreneurial efforts to grow and succeed.

We are the major driver of Nigeria's 15 places improvement on the World Ease of Doing Business Index, and we will continue to drive the process for continual ascension of Nigeria on the Index."

Speaking through its President Assistant, Mr. Xie Dong Bo, who has managed the company's international subsidiaries in Brazil and Pakistan, the company expressed gratitude to the government and people of Lagos State for the invitation to establish an international subsidiary in the state.

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He said: "Gree Electric Appliances is grateful for the invitation and the opportunity to expand into Lagos. With this invitation, we see an opportunity to increase our share of the air-conditioning market to the region of 35% and our annual production capacity of residential air-conditioners (RAC) and central air-conditioners (CAC) from more than 60 million and 5.5 million sets."

Bo added: "In addition to being in Brazil and Pakistan, we want to be manufacturing and packaging our products in Lagos. So, this invitation aligns with our expansion goal and the company will seriously deliberate on this because Nigeria is a big market for our products."

Gree Electric Appliances Inc. of Zhuhai is an international air conditioning enterprise, which has integrated research & development, manufacturing, marketing and service into its operations. Initially assembling residential air conditioners, the company has over the years diversified into a technological global group, with expanded operations to air-conditioners, home appliances, high-end equipment and communication apparatuses sold widely in over 200 countries.

In 2015, Gree Electric Appliances ranked 385 in Forbes Global 2000 and number one in the household appliances industry. Two years later, the company, which started operations in 1991, was listed among the world's top 500 public companies.

It has been number one in the production and sale of residential air conditioners since 2005. Its sales revenue is over \$16.51bn.

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The company paid up to \$12.21bn in tax to become the foremost tax payer in the home appliances industry in China for 15 years consecutively.

2.46 Sanwo-Olu Pledges Support For Scientific Endeavours

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 19, 2019 in
Business, News Update*

The Lagos State government on Monday reiterated its commitment to supporting scientific endeavours in the state.

The state governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu who gave the pledge during this year's edition of World Science Day for Peace and Development at Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Alausa Scretariat, Ikeja, said the occasion is significant as it promotes and enhances science engineering mathematics (STEM) in schools as well as drawing attention to the challenges faced by science.

Represented by the state Commissioner of Science and Technology, Hakeem Fahm, the governor said: "World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

"Open science is a burning issue in the scientific community which is gaining increasing attention by the non-scientific community. It is the growing global movement to make scientific research and data accessible to all. Open science has the

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potential to significantly increase collaboration and discovery and to facilitate adoption of the well-adapted technologies."

Mr Sanwo-Olu said science is the bedrock of technology, adding that the state will continue to encourage the study of science subjects through the provision of science laboratories and also equip the kids with the skills and knowledge in their next stage of life.

2.47 Bad Traffic Over Soon, Sanwo-Olu Assures Lagosians

Culled from the Sun on 21st November 2019

Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured the people that traffic situation being experienced in some parts of the state will soon be over.

Sanwo Olu appealed to residents to bear with the traffic situation, particularly in Ikeja, Agege, Oshodi/Isolo local government areas of the state.

Commuters and motorists have been experiencing serious discomfort and unbearable hardship since the beginning of the road repairs under 'Operation 116' across the state.

In a statement by Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotosho, the governor said there was no deliberate action to cause Lagosians any pain, assuring the people that the present situation is temporary.

"The contractors are speeding up their jobs and they are being encouraged to work at night where possible, even as motorists are being advised to use alternative routes.

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“The administration sympathises with residents on the inconvenience suffered daily but in fulfilment of its commitment to making the roads motor-able immediately the rains subside. Resources and equipment have been deployed to fix degenerated roads. The discomfort will be short-lived.

“The daily influx of people from other parts of the country into Lagos has contributed to the human and vehicular pressure on the roads.

The government will surely surmount the challenges with technology and enforcement of traffic rules,” he said.

The government directed relevant agencies to review traffic control and regulation policies towards identifying a long-lasting remedy to the problem.

2.48 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Lagos Resilience Steering Committee

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 21, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has inaugurated the Lagos Resilience Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the Lagos Resilience Strategy (LRS).

This inauguration is in furtherance of the state’s commitment to the 100 Resilient Cities programme of the Rockefeller Foundation.

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Sanwo-Olu, who spoke at the ceremony in Alausa, Ikeja, tasked the committee to build the state’s resilience to the physical, social and economic challenges of the 21st century.

He charged it to act as a “high level multidisciplinary strategic body providing critical resources and expertise to LASRO through the development and implementation of the Lagos Resilience Strategy.”

The committee will periodically report the state’s progress regarding resilience issues to the governor.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Budget, Mr Adebayo Sodade, said the inauguration “speaks volumes” of his administration’s readiness “to bequeath a legacy of good governance to residents of the state and also guarantee their wellbeing.”

Also speaking, Chairman, Lagos State House Committee on Budget, Hon. Gbolahan Yishawu urged the committee to address identified resilience issues “in line with best practices and without bias.”

The committees’ members include the Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Economic Planning and Budget, Justice, Education, Transportation, Physical Planning and Urban Development, Information and Strategy, The Environment and Water Resources, Energy and Mineral Resources, Works, Waterfront Infrastructure Development, Health, Local Government and Community Affairs.

Others are the Vice-Chancellors of the Lagos State University (LASU), University of Lagos (UNILAG); and Civil Society Organizations – Human and Environmental Development Agenda and Arctic Infrastructure.

2.49 Teachers Urge Sanwo-Olu To Harmonise Pay

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 22, 2019 in News, News Update

SOME primary schools teachers in Badagry, Lagos State, under the auspices of Concerned Assistant Executive Officers, on Thursday appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu over harmonisation of their salaries.

Their coordinator, Mrs. Abimbola Boboye, who spoke at a news briefing organised by the group in Badagry, said the 33 teachers from Badagry were among over 100 offered appointment as linkage teachers by the Local Government Education Authority on December 28, 2005.

She said: “During the interview, we were asked to submit our credentials, which we did, some with NCE and degree certificates.

“But we were surprised that in the appointment letters, we were placed on level 6, Step 1.

When we complained about the level, they assured us that it would be adjusted in March the following year and everybody would be placed according to his or her certificates.

“This was done when the present Chairman of Badagry Local Government, Mr. Olusegun Onilude, was the executive secretary of Education in Badagry.

“Till 2007, nothing was done about the adjustment of the salary structure. When we continued to complain about salary, they Culled all the linkage teachers together in Badagry.

“Onilude told us to submit our appointment letters, which we did and they gave us another appointment letters that read Assistant Executive Officers.

“Henceforth, we were asked not to sign as teachers in the schools where we taught but as non-teaching staff.

“Nothing was done about our salary which was placed at N75,875 for Level 6, Step 1.

“But despite this, we still continue to teach in our primary schools. I am teaching Christian Religious Knowledge from Primary one to six and Agricultural Science from primary 4 to 6.”

Another teacher, Mr. John Godonu, said from 2005 to date they had not been promoted. “Some of us are receiving between N29,000 and N32,000 as a graduate teacher.

“Some of the teachers employed after us have been promoted several times, while we remain on the same level. We have sent a... letter to our amiable Governor Sanwo-Olu, but we are yet to receive any message from him.

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“We have also written a letter to the Speaker of Lagos State House of Assembly... Mudasiru Obasa...

“We are not getting younger on the job, yet we have not been promoted since 2005,” he said. Godonu appealed to the governor to consider their fate and harmonise their salary so that they would meet up with their colleagues in the teaching line.

2.50 Oboh Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Lagos Roads

Culled from the Sun on 22nd November 2019

Peter Oboh, former commonwealth and British light heavyweight boxing champion, has commended the Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the excellent work being done on the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway and other parts of Lagos.

“I know many people will be wondering why the work on Apapa-Oshodi Expressway is taking too long, but we should all know that Rome was not built in a day,” he said.

Oboh, who also won the WBA International light heavyweight boxing tittle in the UK, says there are some grey areas that have to do with the main road. These, he pointed out, include the inner roads of Olodi Apapa by Warehouse bus stop, Ibafo, Kudaisi and many others.

“Before the last governorship election, some people came and destroyed most of the roads, breaking the gutters and shops and giving impression that they wanted to make the streets look standard.

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After the election, the roads have been left the way they were, which I believe Governor Sanwo-Olu is not aware of.

2.51 Traffic Gridlock: Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Scheduled Maintenance

Culled from the Sun on 22nd November 2019

The Lagos State House of Assembly, yesterday, raised serious concern about the current traffic gridlock experienced by Lagosians, following the ongoing maintenance of roads in the state.

The House commended the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for being proactive in road maintenance, but urged the governor to direct the Public Works Corporation embark on scheduled maintenance of the roads on week days, as well as on weekends instead of doing that peak periods.

Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa who presided over the plenary session Culled on the security agencies like Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) and Nigerian Police to desist from mounting road blocks while checking motorists’ vehicle particulars.

He also Culled on the state Commissioner for Transport to liaise with the contractors handling the ongoing construction of Lagos to Ibadan standard gauge railway line, especially the officials handling road intersection at Agege, Ikeja and Sogunle, so as not to disrupt free flow of traffic.

Hon. Temitope Adewale, who moved the motion, advised the state government to invest in the development of water

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infrastructure and railway, even as he Culled on the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LATSMA) to identify traffic flash points with a view to ensuring that officials of the authority are posted to such locations to regulate traffic.

In his contribution, Hon Rotimi Olowo described the traffic situation in Lagos as unbearable, advising that the maintenance work on the roads should be carried out during weekends and off peak periods.

2.52 Lawmakers Urge Sanwo-Olu To Solve Lagos Gridlock

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 23, 2019

The Lagos State House of Assembly on Friday passed a resolution urging Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to embark on scheduled maintenance of roads to ease the present gridlock in the state.

The House also resolved that the state Public Works Corporation should resort to scheduled maintenance of roads on working days and weekends instead of embarking on road maintenance at peak periods.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports the House resolution followed a motion by Mr. Temitope Adewale (Ifako-Ijaiye I Constituency) during plenary session.

Adewale complained bitterly over the current gridlock due to the ongoing road maintenance in the state.

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He also advised Lagos State Traffic Management Authority to identify traffic flash points with a view to ensuring that officials of the authority were posted to the locations to regulate traffic.

The lawmaker advised the state government to invest heavily in the development of water infrastructure and railway.

Contributing, Mr. Rotimi Olowo (Somolu I Constituency), said the traffic situation in Lagos was unbearable adding that maintenance works should be carried out during weekends and off peak periods.

The Speaker, Mr. Mudashiru Obasa, Culled on the state Commissioner for Transport to liaise with contractors handling ongoing Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway line not to disrupt free flow of traffic, especially around Agege, Ikeja and Sogunle intersections.

He also asked Federal Road Safety Corps, Vehicle Inspection Officers and Nigeria Police to desist from blocking the roads while checking vehicle particulars.

2.53 Gridlock: Focus On Scheduled Road Maintenance, Lagos Assembly Tells Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on November 23, 2019

The Lagos State House of Assembly on Friday passed a resolution urging Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to embark on scheduled maintenance of roads to ease the present gridlock in the state.

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*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

on working days and weekends instead of embarking on road maintenance at peak periods.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports the House resolution followed a motion by Mr Temitope Adewale (Ifako Ijaiye I Constituency) during the plenary session.

He also advised Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to identify traffic flashpoints with a view to ensuring that officials of the authority were posted to the locations to regulate traffic.

The lawmaker advised the state government to invest heavily in the development of water infrastructure and railway.

Contributing, Mr Rotimi Olowo (Somolu I Constituency), said the traffic situation in Lagos was unbearable, adding that maintenance works should be carried out during weekends and off-peak periods.

The Speaker, Mr Mudashiru Obasa, Culled on the state Commissioner for Transport to liaise with contractors handling ongoing Lagos-Ibadan standard gauge railway line not to disrupt the free flow of traffic, especially around Agege, Ikeja and Sogunle intersections.

He also asked Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIO) and Nigeria Police to desist from blocking the roads while checking vehicle particulars.

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2.54 Gridlock: Lagos To Restrict Movement Of Trucks – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 25, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, made this known on Monday at the Lagos House, Ikeja, when a team from the Nigerian Breweries Plc paid him a courtesy visit.

Sanwo-Olu said that the government had been pushing the trailers off that whole corridor of Iganmu area to ensure that the journey towards Apapa continued to remain free.

He said that the state would soon come up with comprehensive plan and decisions on traffic management in order to resolve the gridlock.

“New policies are going to come out in the coming days, on some regulations around movement of heavy duty trucks, just so that we can manage what time of the day they all get to come in on the roads.

“We cannot begin to imagine 30 to 50 trucks competing during work hours, and so we need to plan out the logistics around it, what time of the day they need to move.

“It is more around how do we resolve traffic movement and traffic flow in all of the places and some very hard decision will be taken.

“The issue is not building more roads, the issue is managing the ones that we currently have, and all of us using them efficiently and effectively.

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“The things that don’t need to move during the daytime, we can restrict them to night movement, so that they can free up traffic all around the places,” the governor said.

Sanwo-Olu said that rehabilitation as well as development needed to happen in all areas of the state.

He said that his administration was committed to rehabilitate Abebe Village Road in Iganmu, clean up carnals as well as major drainage system in the area.

The governor said the Abebe Village Road was strategic and the rehabilitation would further open up the industrial area and ensure Lagos remained a destination that people could do business.

Speaking earlier, the Managing Director of Nigerian Breweries Plc, Mr Jordi Borrut Bel, said that the company was in support of Sanwo-Olu’s visionary call of ‘Awakening a Greater Lagos’.

Borrut Bel commended the investment the administration was making in infrastructural development and security of the state.

“We share your vision that these investments would further stimulate private sector-led economic growth, which as well evidenced by developed nations, always yield substantial and sustainable rewards,” he said.

2.55 Sanwo-Olu Promises Support For Nigerian Legion

Culled from Independent on November 25, 2019

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has promised to support Nigerian Legion in their quest to cater for about 16,000

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widows, orphans, dependants of disabled and aged former servicemen.

The governor made the promise while receiving members of Lagos State Council of the Nigerian Legion, during the launch of 2019/2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration Emblem/Appeal Fund, at the State House, Alausa, Ikeja, on Monday.

At the event, which had the governor as its grand patron, Sanwo-Olu promised to grant their requests and give them all-year-round support. as its grand patron, Sanwo-Olu promised to grant their requests and give them all the needed support

2.56 Sanwo-Olu Reassures Lagos NYSC On Befitting Permanent Orientation Camp

Culled from Independent on November 25, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday, re-assured authority of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) of measures being put in place to have a befitting permanent camp for the scheme in the state.

The Governor stated this during the official closing ceremony and end of orientation course for the 2019 Batch C Stream 1 orientation for corps members deployed to the state.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Relations, Dr Jimoh Yusuph said, “I wish to put on record that this administration is very conscious of the rising number of corps members deployed to Lagos State, hence we are putting in place all measures towards the construction of a befitting permanent orientation

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camp that can accommodate a large number of corps members deployed to the centre of excellence”.

The governor Culled on employers of corps members in the state to accept the young graduates posted to their organizations, assist them to settle down and ensure the provision of adequate welfare for them during the national service.

To the corps members, Governor Sanwo-Olu said, “I want to assure you of the excellent hospitality of the good people of the state. Your welfare, especially security, is our priority.

I implore you as a father, to be security conscious in your host communities, as security is a collective responsibility of both the government and its citizens”.

He charged the corps members to uphold the objective of the scheme to foster unity among the diverse ethnic nationalities through vibrant participation in the nation’s call to duty.

Earlier, Lagos State Coordinator of the scheme, Mr Sunday Aroni said the 2,540 registered and trained for the batch have been properly groomed for the next phase of the service year.

“Throughout this period, these smart and vibrant Nigerians had training in military drills, leadership skills, martial arts, skills acquisition and entrepreneurship development, managerial and career-building skills.

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They were also exposed to a series of lectures aimed at preparing them adequately for the task of nation-building during and after national service.

“It is heartwarming to inform you that these young patriots exhibited a high sense of humility and dedication during their stay in camp. They selflessly and diligently participated in the camp administration which contributed immensely to the success of this orientation course,’ he added.

Aroni charged the corps members to diligently work towards perfecting the skills learnt on camp and actualise the dream of self-reliant, wealth creation and employment generation.

According to him, the various platforms introduced by both the state and the federal government to assist in setting up a small and medium scale businesses through loans from the Lagos State Fund, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Bank of Industry (BoI) are waiting to assist.

He warned the corps member to desist from acts that are capable of denting the image of the scheme and extension their families and encouraged them to be an agent of positive change and be good ambassadors in their respective places of primary assignments.

He lauded the support of Governor Babatunde Sanwo-Olu for his unrivalled support to the scheme, the NYSC State Governing Board for their commitment towards the welfare of corps members, the security agents, celebrities and the Agege community for being receptive and provision of a peaceful environment for the camp community.

2.57 Sanwo-Olu To China Bank: Increase Investment To \$1b

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 25, 2019 in
Business, News Update*

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged China Development Bank to increase its investment in Nigeria to \$1billion.

The governor made this request at a meeting with the bank's President, Mr. Quyang Weimin, while discussing the state's infrastructural needs and areas of collaboration with the bank in Beijing.

Sanwo-Olu hinted that there are huge developmental projects in the state which the bank could support in developing.

"We are determined to build a 21st century economy, and infrastructural development is one of the key deliverables for a modern economic system and society to run efficiently and effectively.

With functional infrastructure, businesses will thrive and the city will be more habitable. So, as a government, we are talking to you now about our needs and the areas of intervention where we require your support," he told the Bank's management team.

The governor assured Weimin that with Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole, investments in her will definitely give high returns.

"Lagos is Africa's 7th largest economy and the most populous on the continent. The state has enjoyed political stability for 20 years and has consistently grown across key economic indices.

If you consider these facts, you will agree with me that your risk analysis will favour investing in our State," he said.

Sanwo-Olu further remarked that: "As a development bank committed to supporting developing nations, I am certain that your involvement in our 4th mainland bridge construction, railway projects, road construction around our free trade zone and our water projects will fittingly support the attainment of your organisational goal."

Responding, Weimin said the governor's presentation has further increased his confidence in Lagos State and Nigeria.

"I have deep interest in what you are saying and your ideas. And we look forward to supporting you. We are different from commercial banks because we are focused on development and greater good of humanity.

We give loans at the lowest cost and very long loan maturity period" Weimin said.

He assured of the bank's relationship with Lagos State will be as reliable as the cooperation between Nigeria and China.

"Lagos is politically and economically stable, so the risk of investing in the state may not be high. We are therefore, enthused to put our weight as the world's largest development bank by asset, standing at \$2 trillion, loan balance of \$150 billion, over 100, 000 employees with a loan balance of \$200 per staff behind your greater Lagos goal."

2.58 Sanwo-Olu: I'll Spare No One On Rape, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse

Culled from the Sun on 26th November 2019, National

Lagos State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has threatened to wield the big stick against perpetrators of rape, domestic violence and child abuse in the state.

This Governor added that his administration will support the police and the judiciary to ensure that the crime against humanity is brought to the barest minimum.

Sanwo-Olu gave the stern warning Tuesday after the "Walk To Commit and Act" rally organised by Lagos State Government through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVRT).

"The Lagos State government through the Ministry of Justice and other arms of the government deems it fit that we need to have this walk to further confirm and to indicate our full support for advocacy around the talk of child abuse, the advocacy around rape, against women and girl, the talk around domestic violence, sexual violence and all other vices that are around abuse of children," the Governor stated.

"Our government by this walk confirms that we are totally against it, we stand against everything about this issue and we are going to ensure that we have zero tolerance against it.

"It is a crime against humanity. When you are caught in the act of sexual violence, child abuse, domestic violence, you will be made to pay dearly for your crime.

So, we are using this advocacy to warn and to tell people to desist because the full arm of law will be brought to bear on anybody or institution found wanting in any form."

The Governor said the state government was commemorating the day in line with United Nations declaration against gender-based violence.

While describing rape, domestic violence and child abuse as crimes against humanity which must not be tolerated, Sanwo-Olu said that the state was working hard with its police command and all relevant agencies to reduce their incidence.

"It is about time we lived in a civil society and we need to end and ensure that people end the silence. Come forth if anything happens, speak up, and you can be rest assured that you'll be protected and the government will take up your issue.

"For people that have been all shut out that don't know who or how to go about it, we have phone numbers that you can call. You can call our 112 or you can call the toll free number which is 08137960048. You can also send your text to 6820.

"Be rest assured that somebody is on the other side, that will pick up your case and we'll see to it that justice is served in anyway where we found anybody culpable," he stated.

2.59 Sanwo-Olu Mulls Amnesty For Cultists, Criminals

Culled from the Sun on 26th November 2019

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has hinted that his administration plans to give amnesty to cultists and other criminal elements in the state.

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The Governor made the disclosure shortly after the state security meeting which held at the Government House, Alausa, Ikeja.

While decrying the gridlock as a result of ongoing road construction and rehabilitation across the state, the Governor directed that Vehicle Inspection Officers in the state to restrict their inspection operations to between mid day and 3 PM daily.

2.60 Sanwo-Olu charges corps members to be diligent

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on November 26, 2019

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Monday urged National Youth Service Corps members posted to the state to serve the people in their host communities with diligence.

Sanwo-Olu made the appeal at the NYSC camp in Iyana-Ipaja, as the three-week orientation programme for the Batch 'C' Stream 1 corps members in the state came to an end.

The governor was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Dr Jimoh Yusuf.

He noted that the orientation course had equipped the corps members with determination, strength, discipline, tolerance and patriotism needed for the next phase of the service year.

“As you move to the next stage, it is essential that you translate the ideals and virtues inculcated in you through this orientation course to your performance at your places of primary assignment,” Sanwo-Olu said.

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2.61 Sanwo-Olu Launches Nigerian Legion Emblem/ Appeal Fund

Culled from Independent on November 26, 2019

Lagos – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has officially launched the emblem and appeal fund ahead of the January 15, 2020 commemoration of the Armed Forces Remembrance Day.

Sanwo-Olu promised to support the Lagos State Council of the Nigerian Legion in their quest to cater for about 16,000 widows, orphans, dependents of disabled and aged former servicemen.

The governor made the promise while receiving members of the state council of the Nigerian Legion during the launch of 2019/2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration Emblem/Appeal Fund at the State House, Alausa, Ikeja, on Monday.

At the event, which had the governor as the grand patron, Sanwo-Olu promised to grant their requests and give them all year-round support, and as its grand patron, assured that he would grant their requests and give them all the needed assistance.

He Culled for continuous support for those who paid the supreme price of laying their lives for the continued coexistence and unity of the country.

The Commandant-General, Nigerian Legion, Lagos State Council, Fola Akande, urged the people and government to

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support and identify with the widows, children and families of the fallen heroes by donating generously, buying and wearing the Armed Forces Remembrance Day celebration emblem.

Akande, on behalf of the Nigerian Legion, urged the governor to consider some of their requests, which include patrol vehicles and bikes for supervision and monitoring of its personnel deployed to various locations as security operatives for Ministry, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government, as well as engagement and employment of more Legion Commissionaire officers as security to guard public schools in the state.

The governor, alongside Obafemi Hamzat, his deputy, and five other cabinet members were decorated with the Armed Forces Day Remembrance emblem, while the governor promised to look into the requests made by the Legion.

2.62 Lagos Workers Jubilate As Sanwo-Olu Doles N35,000 As Minimum Wage

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on November 27, 2019

Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the implementation of N35,000 minimum wage for the state workers.

In a circular signed by the Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, on Wednesday, said the implementation was with effect from November 1.

Muri-Okunola said that with the approval, public servants in Lagos were to start enjoying the new minimum wage immediately.

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He explained that payment of salaries for the month of November was delayed, in order to adequately process payment of the new wage.

The Head of Service said that the approved minimum wage and consequential adjustments were more than the Federal Government's approved recommendation, which further demonstrated the administration's commitment to staff welfare.

He urged public servants to show more commitment, dedication and selflessness in the delivery of qualitative service to the citizens of Lagos.

"The consequential increase of the new minimum wage for senior and management grade levels is as follows: GL 07: 30 per cent; GL 08-10: 25 per cent; GL 12-14: 22.5 per cent and GL 15-17: 20 per cent.

"In addition, public servants are expected to give unalloyed support to the state government's agenda, as we collectively strive to actualise set goals," he said.

2.63 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Lagos HIV Consortium Group

Culled from Independent on November 27, 2019

Lagos- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has inaugurated the state HIV Consortium Group to provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate a sustained and improved response to achieving 9090 target to end the scourge in the state.

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Speaking in Lagos on Wednesday at Radisson Blue Hotel, Victoria Island during the launch, Sanwo-Olu noted that the consortium will usher in a new era in the state's response to HIV/AIDS challenge, which is a result of the commitment of all stakeholders to key into the strategy.

This, he said, "means that all vulnerable people must be trapped, including men to men, sexual workers, injection drug users, women and children. Everyone must be involved. We must not leave anyone behind".

Sanwo-Olu, therefore, urged all residents of the state "to collaborate with the government so that we can achieve a significant reduction in prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state."

He also asked Lagos residents to voluntarily present themselves to the designated centers to know their status.

2.64 Sanwo-Olu To Victims Of Rape: Speak Out

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 27, 2019 in City Beats, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday admonished victims of domestic, sexual violence and other related gender-based abuses not to be quiet but report perpetrators to relevant authorities for justice.

Sanwo-Olu gave the charge when he led his wife, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, executive council members and some Non-Governmental Organisations, NGOs, on a walk around Alausa, Ikeja.

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Tagged: "I say No to Domestic Violence," it was organised by Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, DSVRT, in conjunction with Nigerian Bar Association Ikorodu Branch"

The governor said, Lagos state government, through the Ministry of Justice and other arms of the government deemed it fit to have the walk to further confirm full government support of its advocacy around the stop the child abuse, the advocacy around rape against women and girl, the talk around domestic violence, sexual violence, and all other vices that are around abuse of children.

"Our government, by this walk, confirms that we are totally against it. We stand against everything that speaks to this issue. And we are going to ensure that we have zero tolerance against this.

"That is why we also have our Commissioner of Police here, it is a crime against humanity, it is a crime when you are caught involved either in rape, either in sexual violence, either in a child abuse, either in a domestic violence, in itself it is a crime.

"And so we are using this advocacy to warn and to tell people to desist from it, to stay clear from it, because the full arm of law will be brought to bear on anybody or any institution or in any form that you are found wanting, and so that is why all of us have come here this morning resolute, members of the Executive Council are here, board of Permanent Secretaries are here, representative of the chief judge and other justices are here, several law enforcement officers are here.

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“it is about time we live in a civil society. And we need to end and ensure that people end the silence, come forth if informed that anything has happened to you, speak up and you can be rest assured that you will be protected and government will take up your issue. “

The governor therefore, charged residents to report cases at various places of work, places of endeavours, churches, mosques, and propagate the advocacy across the local government areas.

He urged victims not to suffer in silence but call 112 toll free line, as well as 08137960048 or send a text to 6820 “and you can be rest assured that there is somebody on the other side that will pick up your case, and we will see to it that justice will be done in anyway where we will find anybody culpable.

“We are using this walk to reinforce it and to say that our government is against it and we are saying stop to all of these things.”

2.65 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Collaborative Efforts On HIV/AIDS Reduction

Culled from Independent on November 28, 2019

Lagos – Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled on the residents to step up efforts to achieve a further reduction in the prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS through aggressive public enlightenment campaign, which should be taken to the nooks and cranny of the state.

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Speaking at a “Know Your HIV Status” symposium in Victoria Island, Lagos State, on Wednesday, Sanwo-Olu thanked the state’s stakeholders and partners for their efforts and commitment to the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS over the years in the state.

Commending them for working and sacrificing their resources to achieve the level of awareness that has significantly changed the behaviour of people, the governor said, “this is evidenced by the reduction in the prevalence rate, which currently stands at 1.4 percent.”

The governor, who said that although the current prevalence rate showed a reduction, noted, “it is still a source of concern when we consider the actual number of people within the bracket, hence the need for more efforts to achieve a further reduction in the prevalence rate.”

Also at the event, which witnessed the inauguration of the state HIV Consortium Group, Sanwo-Olu said the consortium was to provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate a sustained and improved response to achieving 9090 target to end the scourge in the state.

The governor noted that the consortium would usher in a new era in response to HIV/AIDS challenge, which is a result of the commitment of all stakeholders to key into the strategy.

This, he said, “means that all vulnerable people must be trapped, including men-to-men, sexual workers, injection drug users, women and children. Everyone must be involved. We must not leave anyone behind”.

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Sanwo-Olu, therefore, urged all residents of the state “to collaborate with the government so that we can achieve a significant reduction in prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the state.” He also asked Lagos residents to voluntarily present themselves to the designated centers to know their status.

He said “Know Your HIV Status” symposium was one of such strategies aimed at encouraging all citizens and residents of the state to know their status.”

Sanwo-Olu noted that this symposium was organised to achieve two major objectives: “Firstly, to disseminate the 2018 Nigeria HIV and AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS) result for Lagos State disaggregated by local government areas – a first of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa.

“This result is important considering that Lagos State has been identified by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as one of the 15 priority high burden cities accounting for three million people living with HIV globally.”

He said that the key goal of the Lagos State government for HIV was reducing the number of new HIV infections, which is coordinated by the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) utilising a multi-sectoral approach for the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS.

This goal is line with the UNAIDS 90’90’90’ initiative which states that by the year 2030: 90% of people living with HIV should know their status; 90% of HIV positive individuals are initiated

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on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs; 90% of individuals on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs should achieve suppression.

The governor noted that the state government is committed to achieving this goal as part of the Health and Environment pillar of the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda. Our strategy will be multi-sectoral and focused on the following: Improving the health system service delivery, scaling-up community response, maintaining sustained support of programme.

2.66 Sanwo-Olu Tasks CDAs, LGAs On Community Projects Monitoring

Culled from Independent on November 28, 2019

Lagos – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, has urged members of the community development areas (CDAs) and local government areas (LGAs) in the state to monitor and take ownership of the projects built in their communities.

Giving this task on Wednesday during Lagos 2019 Annual Community Day Celebration at the Police College, Ikeja, on Wednesday, Sanwo-Olu urged the need to monitor and ensure that contractors in their communities “deliver quality service so that the schools, hospitals and the roads that they are building meet the standard that is required of them.”

At the annual celebration, themed: “Revisiting Rural Community for 21st Century Development,” which was organised by the state Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Sanwo-Olu, who was excited to be at what he Culled “the all-very important event,” noted that community development at CDAs are the real engines of growth.

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He stated that they are the owners of all the state interventions in government. “They are the ones that own every intervention, everything we are building is for a community, it is for a local government and it is not built in the air,” the governor said.

He stated that the government would collaborate with all its councilors so as to identify projects that must be community-based, adding “that from next year, Lagos will begin implementing and executing all of these projects.”

2.67 Sanwo-Olu Promises Better Deal For Private Sector

Culled from Independent on November 28, 2019

Lagos – The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commended Nigerian Breweries Plc for its commitment to the socio-economic prosperity of Lagos State and pledged government continued support for the private sector in the state.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke when he received the management team of Nigerian Breweries on a courtesy visit to his office in Ikeja, said that as a foremost investor in the state, Nigerian Breweries’ sustained fiscal and corporate social responsibility contributions to the state are a reflection of the successful relationship between the state and the private sector.

The governor, who received the team from Nigerian Breweries in the company of the Deputy Governor, Dr. Femi Hamzat and members of the state executive council, assured that “the administration is committed to the ‘Greater Lagos’ development plan that would see massive road and environmental system cleanup to further make for ease of business operations and drive private-sector led growth in the state.

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Earlier, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Nigerian Breweries Plc, Mr. Jordi Borrut Bel, congratulated Mr. Sanwo-Olu on his assumption of office as governor of the state and said that the company is excited by and in full support of his visionary call for ‘Awakening a Greater Lagos’.

Bel reaffirmed the company’s commitment as a partner for development in the state stating that “We have for 73 years kept faith with and supported the development aspirations of Lagos and as the birthplace of our company, Lagos State remains a home for Nigerian Breweries”.

2.68 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates HIV/AIDS Consortium Group

Culled from the Sun on 28th November 2019

The Lagos State Government is on the trail of about 60,000 people, who tested positive to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) but did not go back for treatment. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu charged the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA) to find the individuals for immediate antiretroviral therapy.

The Governor gave the charge on Wednesday at the inauguration of the State’s HIV Consortium Group held at Radisson Blu Anchorage Hotel in Victoria Island. The event also featured the formal dissemination of disaggregated Nigeria HIV/AIDS Indicator and Impact Survey (NAIIS).

Sanwo-Olu said the wanted HIV victims were diagnosed of the virus but they were not captured in the State’s HIV Response Database. He said the search for the individuals was to enable

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the State administer adequate antiretroviral treatment on them and prevent the spread of the virus.

The Governor said one of the key healthcare goals of his administration is to reduce the number of new HIV infections and help victims manage the trauma in line with best practice. He disclosed that his Government, since inception, had sustained deployment of resources to fight Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) through LSACA, leveraging a multi-sectoral approach to achieve prevention and control.

He said: “Lagos State Government and its partners have worked and sacrificed resources to achieve the level of awareness that have significantly changed the behaviour of our people. This is evidenced by the reduction in the prevalence rate which currently stands at 1.4 per cent.

“Although, the current prevalence rate shows a reduction, it is still a source of concern when we consider the actual number of people within the bracket.

2.69 Sanwo-Olu To Host Stakeholders At The LSSTF 13th Town Hall Meeting

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on November 30, 2019 in News Update, Southwest

OVER a thousand critical stakeholders, including corporate organisations and philanthropists, would on Tuesday grace the 13th edition of the Town Hall Meeting of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund, (LSSTF) the fund’s Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Abdurrazaq Balogun has said.

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Balogun while addressing a pre-event press conference at his Alausa, Ikeja office, said the event, will afford the Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu an opportunity to lay before corporate Nigerians who has been long time partner of the Fund his administration’s policies and programmes as it relates to security.

Also expected to brief members if the public is the new Commissioner of Police Hakeem Odumosu who is expected to give a comprehensive report of the activities of the police under his command and the strategies for crime prevention in the state.

He said the Town Hall meeting is an annual event where the trust fund gives an account of all that it receives and how they were spent. He said this is with a view to engendering the trust of members of the public especially corporate entities to ensuring that they continue to donate for the purpose of securing the state.

He said: “Conversations around security has to change from being reactive to being proactive. We must also see why we need to continue to donate to the trust fund in order to ensure that the state is kept safe.

He said though prevailing challenges in Lagos is not peculiar, to effectively police the megacity requires the cooperation of all to report crime on time to the relevant security agencies since the criminals are humans too.

He said the Find has advocated the massive deployment of technology based gadgets and artificial intelligence gadgets and tools to complement the effort of policemen whose number are too few to effectively police a megacity like Lagos.

2.70 Sanwo-Olu Goes Tough On Illegal Construction

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 1, 2019

Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Saturday ordered the demolition of no fewer than 70 houses built on unapproved sites within the Lekki-Ajah axis, most of which were constructed on the right of way of tertiary canals and access roads.

Sanwo-Olu led the deputy governor, Obafemi Hamzat and members of the State Executive Council on an inspection of regional roads and waterfronts in Lekki and Victoria Garden City, saying the developers of the properties on the inspected areas recklessly built their structures on unapproved sites and illegally embarked on development that encroached on statutory alignments and setbacks.

The actions, the governor said, were done in violation of the state's physical planning law and master plan, stressing that there would be partial and complete demolition of the marked structures to enable the government reclaim canals' right of way and also to embark on construction of regional access roads that would relieve pressure on Lekki-Epe Expressway.

He said: "This inspection is very important and strategic in our effort towards infrastructural renewal in Lagos. Regional roads in Lekki are meant to bring a relief, as they are access roads to the Lekki-Epe Expressway. But, the entire 9 kilometres of the regional roads that stretch from somewhere around VGC and to Freedom Road and Orange Island has been completely bastardised.

"This is a major concern to us, because people have built structures around this place without building approval. They

built on the right of way of the regional roads that will ease traffic and bring relief on the expressway. We are reclaiming the right of way to ensure that people can commute from one part of the city, especially around this Lekki axis to other parts of Lagos."

The Governor said the unapproved development was part of the reasons for flood in the axis, noting that the terrain of the entire Lekki-Ajah neighbourhood is situated on a low plain, which makes the area prone to flooding. Sanwo-Olu said developers intentionally disregarded the physical planning law by building structures on canals' right of way.

He said: "I have instructed the Ministry of Physical Planning to first come and ask for the developers' planning approvals. The ones that do not have approvals would have their building marked for demolition. But we will engage them first, because we'll need to ask them what alternative they are going to give us.

"People have complained that Lekki i-s usually flooded. These are all the developments that have caused the flood. Water does not just come anyhow. Just less than 200 metres from illegally built Brownstone Estate is the lagoon.

So when people have built on roads and drainages, what will happen? Let us take them to public courts so that people will see how reckless people can be."

Sanwo-Olu said Government would not sit back and allow developers take undue advantage of the State's urban planning laws. He said his administration would not relent in doing all required to protect the sanctity of the environment.

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Some of the areas visited by the governor and his team included a Regional Road in behind the Chevron Drive, where a church and several residential buildings encroached on statutory alignment to the tune of 90 metres.

Also, the governor visited Brownstone Estate Ridge Terrace in Agungi area of Lekki, where unapproved residential buildings covered the entire stretch of an access road to the Lekki-Epe Expressway.

2.71 We 'Il Step On Toes To Make Lagos Better, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 1, 2019

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the weekend said his administration will not shy away from taking decisions in order to set the state on a path of sustainable development.

The governor who decried the alarming rate at which certain individuals distorted the state's master plan, said his administration will pull down any structure illegally built distorting the state's built environment.

Addressing Journalists after undertaking tour of Lekki regional roads and alignments in Lekki area of the state blamed the excessive flooding that submerged so many houses, destroying property worth billions of Naira on the illegality.

Sanwo-Olu said he will demolish all the massive structures illegally built on road alignments in Lekki causing flooding in that axis of the state.

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He described the haphazard development on the Lekki corridor as shameful, saying no responsible government would fold it's hands and allow it's built environment to be distorted with illegal structures, mini developments.

He said," This alignment is Culled Lekki Regional Road. It is meant to be a relief access road to the Lekki -Epe Expressway obviously not pleased with the haphazard development in Brownstone Estate.

"Where we are now is our major place of concern. This is where people have completely bastardized the right of way.

Where people have built structures around this place first without approval, More importantly on our right of way on the relieve regional way that would ease traffic that would ensure that people can commute from one part of the Lekki regional part to the other parts.

"We are going to instruct the Ministry of Physical Planning first to come and ask and seek for their building approval , the one that do not have we will mark these buildings for demolition. We will need to ask them which alternative they want to give us. What alternative are they going to provide for us.

" Sanwo-Olu said the builders of the structures like, The Ridge Terrace, and buildings on Suliman Galadima Street in Brownstone Estate located in Lekki area of the state displayed high level of irresponsibility, saying the government was not pleased with their actions.

2.72 Lagos Best Place For Any Business – Sanwo-Olu

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 1, 2019 in
Business, News Update*

The governor of Lagos State Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said that Lagos State has what it takes to do any kind of business.

The governor who spoke during the 2019 leadership and mentoring conference of a career development organisation, Women in Successful Career, WISCAR said it is not about schooling alone anymore; “young people should be allowed to create ideas, develop business minds.”

The governor who spoke through his Commission for Works and Establishment Mrs. Ajibola Ponnle said there are a lot of businesses to be done to create jobs for the youth to make them responsible and keep them busy.

The event which held at the Alison Centre Lagos with theme “I do not walk alone.”

Speaking, the Deputy Secretary General United Nations and Former Minister of Environment Mrs. Amina Mohammed said WISCAR brings together career women in Nigeria for better development and growth.

2.73 Sanwo-Olu Urges Corps Members To Be Agents Of Positive Change

Culled from Independent on December 2, 2019

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos has urged the Batch C Stream 2, National Youth Service Corps members to see themselves as agents of positive change throughout their stay in camp.

Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Dr Yussuf Jimoh, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, made the appeal while declaring the orientation camp open in Iyana-Ipaja, Lagos.

He said that the corps members should maintain discipline and should endeavour to participate in all activities outlined for the orientation programme.

“I will like to reiterate my administration’s unwavering faith in the NYSC.

“This government is firmly committed to providing enabling environment to keep the scheme viable by ensuring the safety and welfare of members,” he said.

The governor commended all officials of the scheme in the state for having faith in the programme of the administration.

“I appreciate the agencies on ground to ensure that the corps members are properly guided, ” Sanwo-Olu said.

The NYSC Southwest Coordinator, Mr Emmanuel Ata, said that he was impressed by the level of discipline displayed by the corps members.

He urged the corps members to take the skills acquisition exercise seriously because at the end of the one year service, they would be well groomed to run any business of their own.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that no fewer than 1,832 corps members comprising of 1,286 females and 546

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males were registered for the orientation camp which began on November 28.

2.74 Enough Of Killings Of Law Enforcement Officers In Lagos, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 2, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday warned that the state government will not condone killing of its law enforcement officers or any form of disobedience to the laws of the state.

The Governor who expressed his displeasure over the gruesome killing of Ola Oyeshina Ganiyu, the Lagos State Traffic Management (LASTMA) official who was attacked while carrying out his lawful duty of enforcing traffic regulations, said the incident of his unfortunate death is a wake-up call to all Lagosians.

Sanwo-Olu who spoke at the residence of the deceased led members of the State Executive Council to commiserate with the family of Oyeshina.

He stated that government will not sit back and watch motorists or anyone or group of people wilfully break laws or inflict injuries on state officials.

He said: "In the last 48 hours, we have had heavy brutality on men of LASTMA who were doing their work. We have had people whose legs have been amputated in the last 48 hours

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whilst on the assignment that was given to them to bring about enforcement of our laws and orders.

"I think this is the level at which we need to make this very stern warning that we will not stop at ensuring that we implement and enforce our laws not minding which force is involved.

Lagos will not condone people that will not obey our laws.

He added: "We cannot be condoning reckless killing and sending our young men to early grave.

This government, certainly will not stand for that." Sanwo-olu assured that the perpetrators of the unspeakable act will be made to face the law.

According to him: "we will do everything to ensure that the perpetrators of this evil act face the full extent of the law.

We will certainly prosecute them to the full arms of the law.

"We are using this opportunity to tell people that Lagos wants to remain secured and safe for all of us."

The late Oyeshina, said to be an orphan was attacked on Friday during the course of sanitising Iganmu-Sifax axis of Apapa.

It gathered that a large stone was thrown at the late officer he was immediately rushed to Area "B" police station along with two of the people that attacked him but owing to the trauma experienced, Oyeshina was immediately referred to LUTH from Randle Hospital, Surulere where he died.

2.75 Sanwo-Olu Pledges To Complete Abandoned Projects

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 2, 2019 in News, News Update, Property

AGAINST the backdrop of Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's pledge to complete all abandoned housing projects, Housing Commissioner Moruf Akinderu-Fatai has said the ministry is ready to partner with core professionals to deliver on the promise.

He said Sanwo-Olu reposed confidence in professionals, especially estate surveyors & valuers, to deliver on his pledge.

He spoke when members of The Nigeria Institution of Estate Surveyors & Valuers (NIESV), Lagos State branch visited him.

The governor appointed Abdulhakeem Ayodeji Amodu, a surveyor into the Housing ministry as a Senior Special Assistant on Housing.

Akinderu-Fatai said: "With over 4,000 uncompleted projects, the Governor has directed that there is no new project; we must finish the old ones and we are on top of it. We have done 492 units, we are moving to 360 units that will be ready in Igbogbo, 700 units in Sangotedo in the next six months, 600 units in Epe.

We are also thinking to create two more estates in Egan by next year."

He said the current administration continued with programme it met on ground. According to him mortgage is not something people can easily key into.

Akinderu-Fatai said: "If we ask for 30 per cent how many can bring it but government has reduced it to five per cent in its Rent-to-Own policy, meant for first-time buyers.

The idea is to pay with 33.3 per cent of your annual salary at the rate of six per cent over the course of 10 years. Every month as you pay, you have it at the back of your mind that you are owning the house. We will continue and consolidate on the programme," he said.

Responding, NIESV Lagos Chairman Adedotun Bamgbola said: "We are here to stretch our hands of fellowship to the Commissioner, SA and SSA in order to help them fulfill the vision of the Governor for housing.

We perceive that you are ready to achieve the goal. We have our people within and outside the ministry. What we can achieve collectively will boost your efforts.

We have a Research and Development Committee with members from public service, academia and private practice. We have skills in various areas, from valuation to property development to agency, to project management, and facility management. We will make ourselves available for whatever request you demand from us."

Amodu commended NIESV for the visit and reiterated that the governor had interest in developing housing. He pledged that

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as a government they would ensure that affordable housing became a reality.

2.76 Sanwo-Olu Visits Slain LASTMA Officer's Family, Vows To Prosecute Perpetrators

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 2, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday issued a strong warning to those bent on attacking law enforcement agents.

Harsh punishment, Sanwo-Olu vowed, awaits anyone who attacks men of the State's law enforcement agencies in the line of duty.

The Governor sent the warning on Monday at the residence of the late Ola Ganiyu Oyeshina – the slain officer of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), who died last Saturday after an attack on him by two trailer drivers in Sifax-Iganmu area of Apapa.

The late Oyeshina, 33, hailed from Osun State. He was said to be an orphan. Sanwo-Olu led a delegation comprising his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, and members of the State Executive Council, on a condolence visit to the late Oyeshina's family house on Oni Street in Surulere.

Slain LASTMA official

The Governor described the attack on the LASTMA officer as “mindless and callous”, saying the Government would “thoroughly prosecute” the arrested culprits to send a clear

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signal to those taking penchant in attacking law enforcement agents in the line of duty.

He wondered why some members of the public would take pride in brutalising those working to make the society better and safe. He vowed to make Lagos inhabitable for those inclined to disobey the State's traffic laws.

He said: “This is a very sad development. We have lost a fine officer and gentleman, who was a victim of unnecessary attack in the line of duty.

It is sad that our society has got to a level where people that commit their lives lawfully to helping us to live in a better society become victims of mindless brutality.

“As a Government, we are sending a strong signal to say enough is enough. In the last 48 hours, there has been heavy brutality on LASTMA officers while carrying out tasks assigned to them by the Government.

We will not stop implementing our laws. We will do everything to ensure the perpetrators of this evil act are brought to book and get harsh punishment.”

The Governor advised residents to be law-abiding and engage security operatives with respect. He said the death of the LASTMA officer would not deter the State's officials in carrying out their statutory duties.

Sanwo-Olu and his deputy personally met with the victim's aged foster parents, Pa Oyewole Fashola and Mrs. Muslimat Fashola, and the rest of the family members.

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Mrs. Fashola, who raised the deceased since he was 10 years old, said the death of late Oyeshina had put the family in shame, pleading with the Governor punish the perpetrators. She thanked the Governor and his entourage for visiting the family, describing the gesture as act of responsibility.

Commissioner for Special Duties, Hon. Wale Ahmed, led a short prayer session held for the deceased at his family house.

2.77 Sanwo-Olu: We'll Improve Infrastructure For Business

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 3, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured the business community that the government will improve infrastructure communities around industrial zones.

He said amenities that would enhance business growth would be put in place.

Sanwo-Olu spoke yesterday at the Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja during a visit by Switzerland Ambassador George Steiner and board members of the Swiss-Nigeria Business Council.

He said his government would build up the relationship between the state and Swiss companies, adding that he hoped to make the state a last destination for Swiss businesses.

The governor said: "I believe your trip will further reinforce and signpost to other companies that we are ready and we can collaborate for good. One of the things we are doing is to make the business environment in Lagos accessible.

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"Something we're continuously talking about is that we can make doing business here a lot better.

"We are building transportation, building infrastructure and reinforcing our security agencies to ensure Lagos is secure for all of us.

"We want to reassure you that our administration looks forward to opportunities that will foster our relationship with Swiss companies. We want to see how we can grow the number of Swiss companies in Lagos and make the state a destination of choice for them. Lagos is ready for Switzerland."

Steiner thanked Sanwo-Olu for committing time and effort to make the Lagos business environment firm and attractive to foreign and local business owners. He emphasised on the importance of Lagos market to Switzerland, stressing that "we are making efforts to expand our presence for the benefit of Lagosians."

Steiner said: "I believe we have an excellent relationship with this country, Lagos, most of all. We will like to create wealth for the benefit of Swiss companies and of course, the benefit of a greater Lagos. Lagos especially is an important market for us.

"In view of strengthening our presence, we set up a Swiss-Nigeria Business Council in 2017. My visit to Mr. Governor is a strong sign to determine to do more for Swiss companies and most importantly, Lagos."

Also present during the visit were Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat, Consul-General of Switzerland and some members of the Executive Council of Lagos State.

2.78 LASTMA Killings: Lagos'll Not Condone Lawbreakers – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on December 3, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has warned that government will not condone any form of disobedience to the laws of the state, vowing that harsh punishment awaits anyone who attacks men of the State's law enforcement agencies in the line of duty.

The governor sent the warning on Monday at the residence of the late Ola Ganiyu Oyeshina – the slain officer of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), who died last Saturday after an attack on him by two trailer drivers in Sifax-Iganmu area of Apapa. The late Oyeshina, 34, hailed from Osun State. He was said to be an orphan.

The governor, who expressed his displeasure over the gruesome killing of Oyeshina, said the incident of his unfortunate death is a wake-up call to all Lagosians, describing the attack on the LASTMA officer as “mindless and callous”.

He said the government would “thoroughly prosecute” the arrested culprits to send a clear signal to those who have penchant for attacking law enforcement agents in the line of duty.

He wondered why some members of the public would take pride in brutalising those working to make the society better and safe. He vowed to make Lagos uninhabitable for those inclined to disobey the state's traffic laws.

He said: “In the last 48 hours, we've had heavy brutality on men of LASTMA who were doing their work. We've had people whose legs have been amputated in the last 48hours whilst on the assignment that was given to them to bring about enforcement of our laws and orders.

“I think this is the level at which we need to make this very stern warning that we will not stop at ensuring that we implement and enforce our laws not minding which force is involved. Lagos will not condone people that will not obey our laws.”

2.79 Sanwo-Olu Pledges To Make ‘English Without Teacher’ Compulsory For Schools

Culled from Independent on December 3, 2019

A more pragmatic approach to ensure that majority of students pass English at credit level has been taken with the introduction of ‘English without teacher’, by Dr. Biodun Adeneye-Marcus, who launched the book at the weekend in Lagos.

The book, a product of serious academic research, which was introduced with fanfare, was witnessed by some top government officials, politicians, representatives of Lagos State governor, Commissioner for Education and some monarchs.

Speaking at the event, Babjide Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State governor, represented by Bolaji Olaleye, disclosed that the

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governor was very passionate about the high standard of education in Lagos State.

He informed that the government's recommendation for the compulsory adoption of "English without teacher".

At both the primary and secondary schools is their contribution to Dr. Adeneye – Marcus efforts.

Olaleye maintained that the reviewers high opinion about the book "is a tacit stamp that it is a must for those who offer the subject as a compulsory one at the end of their primary and secondary education.

Earlier, the representative of the state Commissioner for Education, Mrs. M. Oyetunde, observed that the publication was timely, especially at this time students hardly knew what English examiners were looking for in their scripts.

2.80 Sanwo-Olu Flags-off 1.8km Victoria Island-Oniru Road Network

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 4, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu Wednesday flagged off the upgrading of 1.8km Victoria Island-Oniru road meant to ease traffic at that axis.

The project which was conceived and conceptualised four months ago by Planet Projects at the instance of Access Bank Plc, the major partner is being executed through Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership (PIIP) arrangement.

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The project which is expected to be completed in six months is expected to ease traffic linkage and improve travel time around the highly commercial axis of Victoria Island where traffic congestion is reducing productivity and discourages growth of businesses.

Flagging off the project, Sanwo-Olu said the partnership was another "deliberate action" to solve traffic congestion and relieve Lagos residents of pain. "This flag-off is another milestone we have achieved through partnership with the private sector to deliver projects that will directly impact lives.

"We came to this area about 4 months ago at a presentation at Four Points and we told our partners that immediately the rain subsides, we would come back and start with the development of the Oniru into Victoria Island from Lekki.

"I'm happy that within the short time frame, a lot of work has been done. We are here being the 4th of December and with the stoppage of the rains, work can now start immediately.

"For me, my colleagues and our partners, it is a strong point that we deliver on our commitments.

I want to assure you that we will deliver all the commitments we've made. So, I'm happy that we can tell everybody in this corridor that we are back here. Work will start in earnest."

Sanwo-Olu stated that the flag off of the project is a validation of his administration's commitment to regenerate, upgrade and develop the entire Victoria Island and Oniru axis. He appealed to the residents to cooperate with the contractors, saying the

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project construction might come with some pains but assured that the citizens would reap the full benefits of it in a matter of months.

He also praised Access Bank for supporting the government to regenerate the Oniru-Victoria Island-Lekki circulation and bringing good traffic modulation and flow to the axis.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Works, Mrs Aramide Adeoye, in her opening remarks, said the project is significant in a number of ways because it involves private sector participation, stressing that the private sector is seen as a critical partner in the growth and development of the economy Lagos State.

Adding that the private sector, which controls about eighty percent of the State's Gross Domestic product is crucial in the government's drive to bridging the infrastructure gap and to also build the smart city of our dream.

Managing Director of Access Bank Plc, Mr. Hubert Wigwe, said the financial institution entered into the partnership to promote socio-economic growth of the State and enhance residents' productivity.

Wigwe, who was represented by the Executive Director, Mr. Victor Etoko, said the Bank remained committed to help Lagos Government delivering infrastructure that will be economically sustainable.

Giving details of the construction work, Planet Projects Managing Director, Mr. Biodun Otunola, said the project would

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lead to the construction of Alaba Oniru Road, Akingbolagbe Road to Muri Okunola Roundabout.

He added there would be regeneration of seven junctions prone to traffic on the axis.

Okunola estimated the total length of the construction work to be 1.8 kilometres, stressing that the construction would be purely concrete to ensure durability. He added that the materials to be used would be sourced locally.

He listed road improvement, junction improvement work, traffic system management measures and classification of roads as 1-way street as part of the proposed solutions in the project.

2.81 Sanwo-Olu Renames Onikan Mobolaji Johnson Stadium

Culled from the Sun on 4th December 2019

The compact waterfront sports stadium in Lagos, Nigeria, the Onikan Arena has been renamed after the first Lagos State Governor, retired Brig. Gen. Mobolaji Johnson who died on October 30.

The renaming was announced on Tuesday by the governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, during a 'Day of Honour' event organised to celebrate the exit of the pioneer governor of the state.

Mobolaji Johnson became the Governor of Lagos when it was formerly proclaimed a state on May 27, 1967.

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Before then, the city had existed first as a Colony of Lagos under the British and later as a federal territory before 1967. The area is therefore having its sixth name since it was built in 1936 as the Association Ground.

At the beginning in 1936, the site was fenced with raffia mats and had two gates.

One was for the important people while the other gate was for the masses.

On April 12, 1952, it was renamed as King George V (KGV) to mark the coronation of England monarch. That was the first change of name for the arena.

2.82 Sanwo-Olu Names Onikan Stadium After Mobolaji Johnson

Culled from Independent on December 4, 2019

LAGOS – To immortalise Lagos State first military administrator, Brig.- Gen. Mobolaji Johnson, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday named the Onikan Stadium after the late general. It is now Called Mobolaji Johnson Arena.

In his tribute to the late military administrator, Sanwo-Olu described Johnson as a father, elder statesman and a charismatic leader. “He was as gentle as a dove; he never threw his weight around. As a soldier, he never ruled with an iron hand. He was a gentleman in the real sense,” Sanwo-Olu said.

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The governor said that Johnson was a goal-oriented leader, a great man of many parts, an iconic figure and quintessential manager of resources.

Describing Johnson as a man of integrity, decency, humility, fairness and justice, Sanwo-Olu noted that the late military administrator was a source of inspiration to the state governors as he was always available to offer his wise counsel to them.

Also, former Lagos state governor and the All Progressives Congress (APC) leader, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in his tribute, described Johnson as a servant-leader, and a man of integrity, who made history as governor of Lagos State.

“Mobolaji Johnson was an epitome of discipline, who left good legacy in the public service. He was simple and never used the corridors of power to amass state wealth,” Tinubu said.

Noting that Johnson showcased courage, determination and consistency for the betterment of Lagos State, Tinubu added that Johnson lived a life of principles and commitment, as well as believed that a good name is better than amassing unmerited wealth.

Quoting from Johnson’s autobiography, Tinubu urged the citizens to cultivate the qualities of uprightness and integrity, and Culled on everyone to come out in a big way to showcase these qualities, as “We need these qualities if our state is to develop spiritually, economically and socially.”

“If we emulate him, we won’t serve Lagos going backwards.

I wish his soul eternal rest”, the APC national leader said.

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Brig.-Gen. Raji Rasaki, a former governor of the state, described the late Johnson as a soldier of all soldiers.

“As an officer, he was nice to all. He taught all those close to him what a soldier should be. We learnt a lot from him.”

Stating that Johnson’s simplicity to the junior officers was something for all soldiers to emulate, Rasaki added: “As a soldier, Johnson was a complete gentleman with untainted character”

At the event of tributes, Ogun State former governor, Olusegun Osoba, while eulogising Johnson, noted that the late Lagos State military administrator was a disciplinarian.

2.83 Sanwo-Olu Pledges To Focus On Technology To Secure Lagos Young People At The Centre Of State’s Security Strategy

Culled from the Sun on 5th December 2019

Lagos State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to focus on technology to combat crime in the state.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed this at the 13th Annual Town Hall Meeting on security, which was organised by the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF), with the theme ‘Transformational Security’.

The town hall event is organised as a feedback mechanism where residents and other stakeholders in the security system meet to obtain a first-hand report on the state of security in

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Lagos, serving also as a forum for fundraising towards improving state security.

The Governor commended the efforts of the LSSTF in revitalising security coverage in the state through its consistent donations and innovative strategies employed to tackle security challenges.

He added that the state would continue to intensify efforts to check the menace of traffic robbery, cultism and other crimes in trouble spots across the state.

Sanwo-Olu noted that the LSSTF had provided integrated end-to-end security solutions to violent crimes through its innovative technology and digital connectivity.

He mentioned however that despite the introduction of new security strategies to combat crime, the system has a lot to improve on, calling for stronger connections between infrastructure and the state’s security apparatus.

The Governor revealed the plan of his administration to build a one-stop technology hub where data will be collated for efficiency in the handling of security matters.

“The Trust Fund will be taking a higher responsibility and new initiatives will take place.

We are going to build a smart city project. We will use technology to ensure that the State remains safe. We will build data rooms and install lots of security cameras across the State,” he stated.

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“Other security apparatus will be complementing the work of the police. Lagos State is working with other neighbouring states.

“In partnership with all the States in South Western region, a regional security outfit code-named ‘Amotekun’ has been established to combat banditry and kidnapping.

This group will work interstate and all modern gadgets and facilities will be provided. It will make it impossible for anyone to abscond to the neighboring state after an offense in one State.

“We are revamping our Command and Control Centre. We are doing a complete overhaul of this centre.”

The Governor said that focus has been placed on the youth of the state to ensure that they are placed in a position where they will voluntarily shun cultism.

“Very importantly, we are fully aware of the nexus between young people and security, and therefore very much focused on putting young people at the centre of our security strategy,” he said.

“To this end, we are engaging youths and educational institutions, right from primary school level, in order to empower them to shun cultism and criminality, and to help them build skills to be active and responsible citizens.”

He Culled for the support for law enforcement agents while they discharge their duties of safeguarding the state.

Sanwo-Olu promised to work with the LSSTF to upgrade infrastructure across the state, which he said would be achieved

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in the next few months with significant improvements on security.

“There is a need to redesign the security architecture of the state, using smart security devices to analyse crime,” he stated.

The government, he said, would build a rapid response security team, relying on new data and installed security cameras, with the various agencies trained to work together using advanced communication tools to curb crime.

Sanwo-Olu highlighted some of the projects his government has embarked on, including equipping security personnel, completing a police station at Ibeche equipped with first-class and modern facilities.

He explained his plan to collaborate with other southwest States to address cross border crime. The borders, he said, would be effectively patrolled.

Highlighting the life and death risks faced by security operatives everyday in the line of duty, the Governor gave the following accounts:

“Five days ago, a security personnel was involved in an accident and his legs were amputated.

“A sad incident also happened on Monday that claimed the life of LASTMA official, who was stoned with a heavy stone, this should be addressed. There would be stiffer punishment for offenders,” he noted.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

On his part, LSSTF Executive Secretary Dr Abdurrazaq Balogun said the initiative has helped in no small measure to address the state's peculiar security situation through the prompt provision of necessary professional and logistical support for the various security agencies in the state to operate seamlessly.

Being the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria and West Africa, Lagos has its peculiar security challenges, with its sheer human density driven by a rising population due and economic-driven migration, making the state naturally vulnerable to criminal activity. "But the coming of the LSSTF really assisted in swiftly addressing some of the state's most critical security concerns," Balogun assured.

The Lagos State Government had established the LSSTF on September 3, 2007 as a public-private partnership framework for mobilising and providing equipment and resources for effective operations of security agencies in the state.

Balogun said the LSSTF was a practical response to the reality of the operational deficiency of the various security agencies within the state, particularly with regard to funding and provision of modern equipment.

"With the realisation that the huge demands of security can no longer be met by government alone, the LSSTF is primarily conceived to institutionalise an enduring public/private approach to security challenges in the state," he explained.

"The law setting up the Trust Fund provides for the structure, funding, decision making and accountability procedures for the Trust Fund.

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"The main goal of the Trust Fund is to provide money for the acquisition and deployment of security equipment and such human, material and financial resources as shall be found necessary for the effective functioning of all Federal, State, Local Government and other security agencies operating in the State and part of the Fund shall be reserved for the training and retraining of security personnel."

With regular provision of training and critical security equipment such as surveillance helicopters, operational vehicles, motorbikes, arms and ammunition, patrol boats, Armoured Personnel Carriers among others crucial operational needs to relevant security agencies in the state, crime rate in the state been on the progressive decline in the last 12 years, Balogun said.

He noted that a number of the more notorious areas in the state have become safer for citizens to carry out their lawful daily activities without fear.

The Chairman, LSSTF Board of Trustees, Mr Our Hassan-Odukale, noted that crime fighting is mandatory and the Fund will not stop promoting the fight against crime.

He said: The theme of today's event is, "Transformational Security" which means that at the Fund we are reviewing our response to security challenges in furtherance of our goal.

"After 12 years, our Trust Fund is still very relevant as we continue to provide critical support for the police and other security agencies. This is because our esteemed donors have continued to contribute to the Fund. This continuous support

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is not only a vote of confidence in the LSSTF, but a recognition that our collective resolve to continue the fight against crime is an absolute necessity.”

2.84 Don't Turn Ojota Mechanic Village To Dumpsite, NATA Begs Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 5, 2019in City Beats, News Update

The Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association (NATA), Lagos State Chapter has appealed to the Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu not to convert the approved Ojota mechanic village to refuse dump site.

The Chairman Ojota Branch of the association Mr. Prosper Ampeh on Wednesday said it had come to their notice that the management of Olusosun refuse dump site wanted to extend their operations to the mechanic village.

According to him, the association had been informed to vacate about four hectares of its site used as Ojota mechanics village for the purpose of extending the Olusosun refuse dump site.

“We are begging the state governor, at the same time sending Save Our Soul message to him to consider the over 4,000 artisans working at the village presently.

“There are over 4,000 different artisans working in the mechanic village excluding Industrial Training (IT) students from various tertiary institutions coming for their practicals, the state government should consider us we appeal,” he said.

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Rasak Ayoola, the Former Chairman of the association also begged the state government not to throw the huge number of artisans at the mechanic village into the labour market.

According to him, many artisans will definitely become jobless if their workshops were taken away from them.

He said families and dependants of the artisans would also suffer as a result of the development.

“This is a mechanic village which had existed since 1982, approved by the state government; we are paying our dues accordingly to both local and state governments.

Shina Oyekunle, also former association chairman, decried the level of environmental and water pollutions the refuse had caused to the various communities in the area.

2.85 Sanwo-Olu: As A Smart City, We'll Fight Crime With Technology

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 5, 2019in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday restated his administration's commitment to the development of a smart city hinged on the 21st century technology.

He spoke at the 13th Town Hall meeting of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF), which held at the Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos. “We are determined to use the LSSTF to pioneer our effort at building a smart city to launch our capacity and capability in the security sector to the next level.

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We will use technology to rejig our command and control Centre, install CCTV cameras enabling our systems.

In the new year, we will begin to make procurements in line with such vision,” he said.

According to him, LSSTF will be from next year begin to play a very significant role in the new vision of the administration which would see to a modernisation of the control centre, and the installation of closed circuit cameras and other intelligence gathering gadgets that would promote a tech-driven security network.

In the new vision, the LSSTF, Governor Sanwo-Olu further disclosed would also be expected to look beyond the Police as other arms of security apparatus of the state, including the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), the Lagos State Neighbourhood Corps (LSNC), Lagos State Environment and Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), would be retooled with up to date equipment to enhance their capacities.

The governor seized the occasion to praise all partners of the Fund since its establishment in 2007, especially banks, insurance companies, members of the organised private sector and other high net worth individuals for their continued assistance, adding that though the state government will not abdicate its responsibility of policing the state, it needs the partnership of the private sector to assist by providing the intervention fund needed to provide equipment and tools to enhance the task of effective policing of the state.

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“It is our responsibility to keep our state safe and secure, but we need to quickly point out too that security is everybody’s business, that is why we need the private sector to partner with us.

The Fund is an intervention fund and is not meant to take over the operations and responsibilities of government.” Sanwo-Olu said.

Earlier, LSSTF’s Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Dr Abdurrazaq Balogun said the Fund is a product of the visionary contributions of former Inspector General of Police Musiliu Smith, whose committee recommended the establishment of the Fund, and the pioneer board who toiled tirelessly to ensure the stability of the agency as a critical intervention agency to enhance the capacity of the security architecture of the state.

2.86 Sanwo-Olu Flags-Off Victoria Island-Oniru 1.8km Road

Culled from Independent on December 5, 2019

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday officially flagged-off work on the upgrade of road on the Victoria Island-Oniru axis.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while flagging off the project, which is being executed through Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership (PIIP) arrangement, conceived and conceptualised four months ago by Planet Projects at the instance of Access

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Bank Plc, the major partner, said the partnership was another deliberate action to solve traffic congestion and relieve Lagos residents of pain.

The governor said: “This flag-off is another milestone we have achieved through partnership with the private sector to deliver projects that will directly impact lives.

“We came to this area about four months ago at a presentation at Four Points and we told our partners that immediately the rain subsided, we would come back and commence the development of the Oniru into Victoria Island from Lekki.

“I’m happy that within the short time frame, a lot of work has been done. We are here today and with the stoppage of the rains, work can now start immediately.

“For me, my colleagues and our partners, it is a strong point that we deliver on our commitments. I want to assure you that we will deliver all the commitments we have made. So, I’m happy that we can tell everybody in this corridor that we are back here. Work will start in earnest.”

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who assured that the project would be completed in six months’ time, noted that the flag-off is a validation of his administration’s commitment to regenerate, upgrade and develop the entire Victoria Island and Oniru axis. He appealed to the residents to cooperate with the contractors.

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**2.87 Technology Key To Growth, Development –
Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on December 6, 2019

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said that any society, which desires to be reckoned with on the global stage, must be grounded in the application of technology to power growth and development.

Sanwo-Olu noted this while playing host during the opening ceremony of Art of Technology Lagos 1.0, themed: “Bridging The Gap” in Lagos on Thursday.

The governor said, “There are many opportunities available for the development of software that can transform the way we see, do or think about life activities,” adding that the “Art of Technology 1.0 will open the window for ideas, concepts and principles buried in the creative recesses of our people to break out and transform the landscape.” Urging participants and investors to leverage on the opportunities available at Art of Technology 1.0 to synergise and network with other innovators to develop life-changing software that will transform healthcare, agribusiness, transportation, food security, housing and education in Lagos, Sanwo-Olu promised that his administration would continue to provide opportunities that ease doing business in the state for local and foreign investors to leverage on potential available in tourism and recreation sectors.

He said that the state administration was committed to releasing and turbo-charging the nascent problem solving potential through innovations in science and technology.

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The governor stated that was gratifying to note that the world has accepted that Lagos State is the “Silicon Valley” of the African continent with major investments by Microsoft and Google in the Ikeja Computer Village and emerging tech hubs, which have served as launch pads for the digital careers of numerous youths as software developers.

He added that the state has provided opportunities for children in public primary and secondary schools to acquire ICT knowledge through exposure to coding.

While inviting everyone to explore the potential available on the platform of Art of Technology 1.0., as the future is now, the governor noted that, “It is our goal to foster the gains achieved by the Art of Technology 1.0 to enhance and empower the residents and investors in Lagos, the obvious and preferred location of first choice.”

2.88 Council Boss Commends Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 7, 2019in City Beats

The chairman of the Badagry local government, Hon Olusegun Onilude, has commended the governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his commitment to develop the tourism potential of the Badagry Division.

He gave this commendation in his welcome address at the Badagry Heritage Festival symposium yesterday at Hunwaji Hotel, Badagry, Lagos.

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He said: “Words cannot express my joy and appreciation to the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his commitment and unprecedented support for the development of tourism potential in the Badagry Division and most especially Badagry Local Government Area.”

Onilude noted that for the first time, Governor Sanwo-Olu brought together the various cultures and traditions of various communities comprising the division in order to bring about unity and development.

“This celebration is arguably the first in recent time that our people in the Badagry Division will be coming together to celebrate our cultures and traditions with the intent to foster collective socio-economic development for the region,” he said.

The council boss pointed out that the division held a crucial position in the history, arts and cultures of Lagos State that could be nurtured to bring about the desired significant socio-economic growth of “our division as an integral part of the Centre of Excellence. We are naturally endowed with vast waterways, clement weather and other natural endowments that we can build our tourism development on”

2.89 Sanwo-Olu Promises Collaboration With Religious Organisations

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 8, 2019in News, News Update

Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said his administration will continue to collaborate with forward-looking

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organisations and religious bodies for the development of the state.

He said his vision is to bring righteousness, forthrightness and accountability to government, promising Lagosians that at the end of his stewardship, the state would have witnessed unprecedented growth and development.

“We are bringing righteousness to governance. With God, all of you here will be witnesses to it when at the end of the four years. I answer to God and to all of you, and as the scripture says, in the Gospel of John, chapter four, verse 23, He says, “that the eyes actually know where we’ll get the real worshipers that will worship the father, the truth and the spirit.”

Sanwo-Olu gave the pledge while addressing thousands of worshippers at the 14th edition of ‘The Experience’, an annual gospel music concert, held at the Tafawa Balewa Square, TBS in Onikan, Lagos, on Friday.

Award-winning Nigerian and international gospel artistes who graced the stage at this year’s edition included Onos Ariyo; Sammie Okposo; Preye Odede; Sinach; the legendary Don Moen; Tope Alabi; Chioma Jesus; Donnie McClucking; Mercy Chinwo Planet Shakers; Travis Greene; Todd Dulaney and the Lagos Metropolitan Gospel Choir from House on the Rock church.

The governor who was accompanied by his wife, Ibijoke, reCulled that he was part of the concert in 2018 as a governorship candidate, and now attending this year’s edition as the 15th governor of the state.

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He said he has spent 193 days, translating to 13.2 percent of the four-year mandate given to him by residents and had been praying to God to lead him right as he would be accountable to Him and all Lagosians at the end of his tenure.

The governor who assisted House on the Rock church to unveil tricycles bought for reformed street urchins, popularly Culled area boys, but renamed Jesus Boys, thanked the church for the gesture and promised to collaborate with it to ensure that the reformatory efforts are sustained.

Earlier, the Senior Pastor of House on the Rock and Convener of the Experience Lagos, Pastor Paul Adefarasin, said in addition to praising and worshipping God, the experience has been a platform to pray for peace and sustainable development of Nigeria and for justice, truth and equity to prevail within its borders.

A new logo for The Experience was unveiled, while Adefarasin also Culled for a minute silence in honour of the first administrator and governor of the state, Brigadier-General Mobolaji Johnson, who died about a month ago.

2.90 Sanwo-Olu Urges Retirees To Acquire Skills

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 8, 2019in News, News Update

As Lagos State government graduates 4,000 students from 17 skill acquisition centres, civil servants who are about to be retired have been enjoined by Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to acquire skills in order to become employers of labour.

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While congratulating the graduands, the governor urged them to make the best use of the opportunity given to them. “What you have in your hands is a golden opportunity that must not be wasted.

Endeavour to continue to build on what you have been taught at the various centres; never get tired of learning,” said Sanwo-Olu who was represented by his wife, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu.

According to the governor, acquiring skills and making a livelihood out of them is the only solution to the massive unemployment that Nigeria is experiencing today.

“I therefore enjoin youths to take advantage of the skills acquisition programme at the 17 skill acquisition centres in all the five divisions in Lagos State.

There is obviously a dearth of white collar jobs. In order to stamp out poverty and unemployment, everyone must learn and acquire skills that will enable them to be independent and self reliant,” Sanwo-Olu said.

Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Cecila Bolaji Dada, stated that the graduands were made up of majorly women, young school leavers, unemployed graduates from tertiary institutions and will be receiving the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board (LASTVEB) certificate, which grants them a seamless transition into any of the Lagos State technical colleges of their choice for further training.

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“It is expected that the graduands will grow to become self employed, employers of labour or even employees in organizations; by so doing they can cater for themselves and their families,”declared Dada.

Awards and startup machines were given to best graduating students in the various skills, while certificates were given to all graduands.

2.91 Adefarasin, Sanwo-Olu Empower ‘Area Boys’ at Experience 14

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 8, 2019

A new dimension was on Saturday added to gospel music concert organised by the House o the Rock, as the church’s Senior Pastor, Paul Adefarasin, empowered several ‘area boys’ on the Lagos Island axis of Lagos State. He distributed tricycles and commercial buses to get them meaningfully engaged.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who attended the concert with his wife, Ibijoke, pledged that the state government would equally key into the project to ensure its sustainability.

The annual event tagged “Experience 14” adjudged to be one of the biggest gospel music concerts in Nigeria, attracted over 250, 000 worshipers cut across different denominations.

The worshipers danced to the musical rendition by some of the celebrated recording artists like Travis Greene, Sinach, Nathaniel Bassey, Tope Alabi, Donnie McClurkin, Planetshakers, Chioma Jesus, Eben, Onos Ariyo, and Sammie Okposo, among others.

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The event also attracted several dignitaries including representatives of the British High Commission and the United States Consulate in Nigeria.

According to Adefarasin, the church has over the years collaborated with the Lagos Island ‘area boys’ in the area of rehabilitation and skills acquisition to get them meaningfully engaged.

He said, “At this time, we are very thankful for the Lagos Island area boys that we have christened and renamed them Jesus boys. We have a partnership with them for over 24 years dividing healthcare, education, rehabilitation, and skills acquisitions.

“Now, we are taking it a little further to empower them by creating a transport industry that the ‘area’ boys will be able to run. It involves various types of vehicular transportation but we are starting the pilot scheme with the Keke-Marwa (tricycle).

“We would also give them several vehicles for commercial transportation purposes. They will be delivered to them in the next 72 hours. The very best of them have been identified and they will be handed their buses.”

2.92 The Experience 14: We’ll Collaborate With Religious Organisations For Devt- Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 8, 2019

Lagos state Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said his administration will continue to collaborate with forward looking organisations and religious bodies for the development of the state.

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Sanwo-Olu said this while addressing thousands of worshippers in the early hours of Saturday at the 14th edition of The Experience, an annual gospel music concert, held at the Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS) in Onikan, Lagos.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was accompanied by his wife, Ibijoke, reCulled that he was part of the concert in 2018 as a governorship candidate, and now attending this year’s edition as the 15th Governor of the State, said he has spent 193 days, translating to 13.2 percent of the four-year mandate given to him by residents and had been praying to God to lead him right as he would be accountable to Him and all Lagosians at the end of his tenure.

He said: “Today, with all sense of humility, I stand in front of you as the fifteenth Governor of Lagos State witnessing the experience 14.

At this same location, 193 days ago, I was sworn-in and what that means is that I have spent 193 days in office, meaning again that I have spent 13.2% of my 1,460 days. I am counting down, and I’m asking God to continue to lead me, because at the end of those days, I will stand answerable to God and to the people of Lagos State based on the things I have done during my tenure.

“I thank the organisers of The Experience, for journeying with me. One thing is certain, Lagos will never remain the same at the end of that 1,460 days, so says the Almighty. Lagos will see the level of development it has never seen before.”

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“We are bringing righteousness to governance, with God, all of you here will be witnesses to it when at the end of the four years, I answer to God and to all of you, and as the scripture says, in the Gospel of John, chapter Four, verse 23, He says, “that the eyes actually know where we’ll get the real worshipers that will worship the father, the truth and the spirit”.

Governor Sanwo-Olu who assisted the church to unveil tricycles bought for reformed street urchins, popularly Culled area boys, but renamed Jesus Boys, thanked the church for the gesture and promised to collaborate with it to ensure that the reformatory efforts are sustained.

“I want to say that as a government, we will continue to collaborate with the Experience and I pray that come 2020 December, all of us will be sharing The Experience 15 together.”

Earlier, the Senior Pastor of House on the Rock and convener of The Experience Lagos, Pastor Paul Adefarasin said in addition to praising and worshipping God, the experience has been a platform to pray for peace and sustainable development of Nigeria and for Justice, truth and equity to prevail within its borders.

A new logo for the Experience was unveiled, while Pastor Adefarasin also Culled for a minute silence in honour of the first administrator and Governor of the state, Brigadier-General Mobolaji Johnson who died about a month ago.

The Experience Lagos which started in 2006 is usually attended by more than 500 thousand people and also watched by millions of viewers via satellite TV and livestream on the web.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

Award-winning Nigerian and international gospel artistes who graced the stage at this year edition include Onos Ariyo; Sammie Okposo; Preye Odede; Sinach; the legendary Don Moen; Tope Alabi; Chioma Jesus; Donnie McClucking; Mercy Chinwo Planet Shakers; Travis Greene; Todd Dulaney and the Lagos Metropolitan Gospel Choir from House on the Rock church.

2.93 Lagos Plans Upgrading AOCOED To University – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 9, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has revealed plans by his administration to upgrade Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education to a University of Education.

The Governor said this on Monday when he received the newly elected Zonal Coordinators of the National Association of Nigerian Students, Zone D, led by Kappo Olawale at the Lagos House, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu, in a close chat with the group assured them of the continuous commitment of his administration to the reforms of education sector, stating that the sector has the “lion’s share” in the year 2020 budget.

He said, “We want to elevate Adesanya Ogunsanya College of Education to a University of Education. This is one of our plans as a government.

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“We are training all Primary School teachers and also recruiting new ones. We will ensure that the quality in our classroom are the same.

And this is based on development of teachers first. Once we are able to push that, we will also improve the quality of teaching. We will see better outcome and that will give us better pupils.

“We will also duplicate this in Secondary Schools across Lagos. We want to continue to reduce truancy, cultism and all those unhealthy acts amongst pupils. We will increase infrastructure in Schools.”

He urged the students’ leaders to ensure that they uphold peace in their various institutions and be good representatives of their citadels of learning.

2.94 AOCOED To Be Upgraded To University – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 9, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday said the state government owned Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education is to be upgraded to a University of Education.

The Governor disclosed when he received the newly elected Zonal Coordinators of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Zone D, led by Comrade Kappo Olawale at the Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

Sanwo-Olu assured the students of the continuous commitment of his administration to the reforms in the education sector stating that the sector has the highest vote in the year 2020 budget.

He said: “We want to elevate Adesanya Ogunsanya College of Education to a University of Education. This is one of our plans as a government.”

“We are training all primary school teachers and also recruiting new ones. We will ensure that the quality in our classrooms are the same. And this is based on development of teachers first. Once we are able to push that, we will also improve the quality of teaching. We will see better outcome and that will give us better pupils.

“We will also duplicate this in secondary schools across Lagos. We want to continue to reduce truancy, cultism and all those unhealthy acts amongst pupils. We will increase infrastructure in Schools.”

He stressed that his administration will build new facilities for State institutions and complete the ones that are yet to be completed.

He urged the student leaders to ensure that they uphold peace in their various institutions and be good representatives of their citadels of learning.

“We want to have positive impacts at all levels of education but we need you to understand and appreciate the efforts of the government.

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To be able to speak to your fellow students to ensure that we continue to work in an environment where there is peace, harmony, understanding and collaboration”.

2.95 Lagos Moves To Eradicate Construction, Demolition Wastes

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 9, 2019

The Lagos state government has launched the construction, demolition and disaster waste of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) in a bid to eradicate wastes generated during construction and demolition in the state.

Speaking at the CDDW stakeholders’ forum with the theme, “Creating Values Through Responsible Management of Construction and Demolition Wastes in Lagos State,” held in Victoria Island at the weekend, the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tunji Bello, said government had not stopped devising strategies towards value creation and making life better for all, noting that disaster was an inevitable natural occurrence.

According to Bello, the theme was critical, timely and a calculated step as it was targeted at contributing frontier approaches to construction and demolition waste management towards safety, liability and sustainability of human race and the environment.

The commissioner, whose speech was read by the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, said the management of CDDW had evolved over the years with the introduction of various strategies with

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

treatment options for re-use and recycling of CDDW to guard it from constituting environmental nuisance.

“All these efforts are being concerted with due realisation that any omission or error that could be recorded in the adoption of options should not create new challenges; otherwise, the world eco-balance would be negatively affected. Whereas, we have the privileged of exploring workable and adaptable options to effectively and efficiently surmount and challenges.”

Earlier in his opening address, LAWMA CEO, Muyiwa Gbadegesin, had said there had been several attempts in the past to engage the stakeholders in the construction and demolition sector, with a view to developing policies and strategies, as well as modalities that would create a mutually beneficial relationship for effective management of CDDW in the state.

“Therefore it is with great pleasure that our past efforts have yielded positive result and here we are today, big players in the construction and demolition sector, poised to make a change and set the pace for effective management of CDDW,” he said.

2.96 Sanwo-Olu Mulls Upgrading Of AOCOED To University

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 10, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the state government is considering upgrading Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education to a University of Education.

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The Governor disclosed this when he received the newly elected Zonal Coordinators of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Zone D, led by Comrade Kappo Olawale at the Lagos House, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu, in a close chat with the group assured them of the continuous commitment of his administration to the reforms of Education Sector stating that the sector has the “Lion’s share” in the year 2020 budget.

He said, “We want to elevate Adesanya Ogunsanya College of Education to a University of Education. This is one of our plans as a government.

“We are training all Primary School teachers and also recruiting new ones. We will ensure that the quality in our classrooms are the same. And this is based on development of teachers first.

Once we are able to push that, we will also improve the quality of teaching. We will see better outcome and that will give us better pupils.

“We will also duplicate this in Secondary Schools across Lagos. We want to continue to reduce truancy, cultism and all those unhealthy acts amongst pupils. We will increase infrastructure in Schools.”

The Governor stressed that his administration will build new facilities for State institutions and complete the ones that are yet to be completed.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

He urged the student leaders to ensure that they uphold peace in their various institutions and be good representatives of their citadels of learning.

“We want to have positive impacts at all levels of education but we need you to understand and appreciate the efforts of the government. To be able to speak to your fellow students to ensure that we continue to work in an environment where there is peace, harmony, understanding and collaboration”.

2.97 Sanwo-Olu Seeks More Jobs For Physically Challenged

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 10, 2019

**Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu
Samson Folarin**

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled on the public and private sectors to increase employment quotas of qualified physically challenged Nigerians.

Sanwo-Olu said no one should see disability as liability, adding that rather, people should support those with impairments to realise their full potential in life.

He spoke at the graduation of Bethesda Home for the Blind and the grand finale of activities to mark the 2019 International Day of Persons with Disability.

The governor said, “We must encourage these students to attain their full potential by ensuring that they get jobs after their studies. We must do more for them both in our individual capacity and as government.

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“On our part, we will partner the private sector to promote employment inclusion of the visually impaired in our society. It is by doing this that we will increase the economic base of the physically challenged, as well as rid our society of miscreants in our streets.”

Sanwo-Olu noted that the state had promulgated a law that discouraged public and private sectors from discriminating against the physically challenged, adding that when more physically challenged persons secured gainful employment, society would be better for it.

The governor, after listening to a passionate speech by a visually-impaired lawyer, Mr Ajayi Adedokun, who spoke on the plight of qualified but physically challenged people while seeking employment, announced an offer of an automatic employment for him.

Adedokun, a fellow of the Nelson Mandela Washington Fellowship, did his National Youth Service Corps scheme at the Lagos State Ministry of Justice in the Directorate of Public Prosecutions in 2018.

The Matron of the home, Mrs Folorunsho Alakija, lamented the poor treatment of the blind in Nigeria, saying they were faced with challenges which hindered their progress in life.

2.98 Sanwo-Olu Pledges Commitment To Health Workers' Welfare

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 11, 2019

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has pledged his commitment to the welfare of health workers in the state.

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Speaking during the Annual General Meeting of the Medical Guild, Sanwo-Olu said the state was ready to implement the 2001 Abuja Health Declaration, the result of a meeting by African Union member countries in which they pledged to set a target of allocating at least 15 per cent of their annual budgets to improve the health sector.

The governor, who was represented by the state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, promised to increase the Lagos State health budget in order to provide quality health care to residents of the state.

He said, “In the mandate of this government, you will realise that health is pillar number two and it aligns with the environment. You cannot imagine that your health will exist in isolation with the health of your environment. We are only as healthy as the integrity of our environment. This government will try its best to achieve the Abuja declaration.

“Right now, Lagos is spending 8.8 per cent of its budget on health and the budget for 2020 has gone up to 9.5 per cent. This will go up by one per cent every year until the end of this administration. With this and other plans, health will enjoy special privileges under this government. This government will also ensure that the ongoing brain drain is reversed in Lagos State.”

The Chairman of the Nigeria Medical Association, Lagos State chapter, Dr Saliu Oseni, said the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme would cover the existing gaps in Nigeria Health Insurance Scheme.

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Also, the Chairman of the Medical Guild, Dr Babajide Saheed said, “We decided to focus on the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme so that our doctors can know more about the scheme introduced to us a year ago by the previous administration.

We want to guard against the failure of NHIS, we want everyone to have access to good medical treatment in Lagos State. We all know that health is expensive and the best way to get good health is through insurance.”

2.99 Sanwo-Olu’s Proposed Amnesty For Criminals: Matters Arising

Culled from Independent on December 12, 2019

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu was in the news recently over his plan to grant amnesty to criminals operating in the state as a strategy to combat crime in the economic nerve centre of the nation.

This plan is in bad taste as it purports to pass on a surreptitious message that crime indeed pays in the ‘Centre of Excellence’. Lagos State, with its robustly funded security trust fund, should be a no go area for criminals who should be constantly watching their backs when they are on the streets. This asinine move by the governor has effectively made the state surrender to these urchins.

Sanwo-Olu should be more concerned with crime prevention through the massive building of skill acquisition centres which will see a free and compulsory enrollment of young people across the state irrespective of tribe, as the state is the country’s cultural melting pot. After their training, they should be either

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given take off grants or soft loans at humane and flexible interest repayment rates.

The idea is to keep them sufficiently busy so that their minds won’t wander to partaking in acts of criminality as idleness breeds such a mindset.

There should also be the more effective way of tackling crime as the state has the resources to tackle the scourge.

It was the first state in the country to conceptualise the concept of a public-private partnership in crime control through the establishment of the security trust fund sometime in 2007.

It shouldn’t have any excuse for Lagosians not to be able to sleep like babies with their two eyes closed.

The wants of man is insatiable. Even if the scheme is implemented, it wouldn’t stand the test of time as the beneficiaries would go back to the streets since they reckon that they will make much more money from acts of violence there.

These violent non state actors will perpetually hold the state by the jugular to extort more money from them as they may not either hand over all their weapons or they will easily procure more to cause further damage with some of the money that will be paid to them from the scheme.

Lagos cannot hope to become one of the world’s mega cities if it tacitly encourages criminal actions through this ill-fated scheme.

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Reduction in crime is a sine qua non for the conferment of such a status on a particular state. The state should adopt a zero tolerance for crime instead.

There is also the menace of the 'area boys' or 'agbero' syndrome that is the most brazen of daylight criminality under the cloak of the National Union of Road Transport Workers in the state.

The establishment has obviously long endorsed it as these boys are used as political thugs during elections and run errands for politicians from time to time.

These idle hands have become role models for the youths since they make easy money without any form of brain work. It's just brawn as they endlessly chase after vehicles like bees do to honey.

The government should gradually take these boys off the streets through this skill acquisition centres which will give both hard and soft skills to them so that they can live a more productive life.

I was shocked when MC Oluomo, a well-known 'agbero' was invited to be among the guest speakers at a conference in the University of Lagos. How low have we sunk as a nation due to materialism and disdain for the sweat of one's brow!

Tax payers' money shouldn't be used to fund the whims and caprices of criminals who, in most cases, have a recidivist tendency. A similar scheme was experimented with in Ondo, Taraba, Zamfara, Katsina, Kaduna, Imo, Rivers, Benue which

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ended in a colossal failure. Sanwo-olu should learn from the examples of these states so as not to repeat the same error in Lagos.

Lagos should be made attractive to foreign investors and tourists and this strange form of amnesty will be a red flag as no sane mind will situate his or her hard earned investment in a clime that honours criminals rather than reprimanding them.

There is no point in building various hubs like the Eko Atlantic City and the Lekki Free Trade Zone if the security of lives and property isn't of paramount interest to the government.

Despite the billions of naira pumped into the Lagos State Security Trust Fund, it cannot boast of a downloadable app or even a number that can be used to call the police who will promptly respond to distress calls. What a tragedy!

Sanwo-Olu should hearken to the voice of reason in not going ahead with his planned amnesty scheme as billions of naira will be wasted in the process. He should look inwards and think of sustainable ways of tackling the behemoth of crime in the state.

It is high time we enjoyed good governance in the most populous albeit smallest state in the country.

Ademiluyi wrote in from Lagos.

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2.100 Sanwo-Olu, World Bank, Others Urge Inclusion For Persons With Disabilities

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 13, 2019 in News, News Update

Wife of the Lagos State governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, international development partners, including the World Bank, United Kingdom (UK) Department for International Development (DFID), have restated their commitment to mainstreaming inclusion for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

They spoke at the maiden edition of: “The Social Inclusion Dialogue Series and Disability Inclusion and Leadership (DIAL) Awards” on Victoria Island, Lagos.

The stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to seeking and deepening innovative ways to promote digital inclusion and advocacy for PWDs.

The theme of the dialogue was: The Future Is Accessible.

The awards were organised by Project Enable Africa, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) providing transformational Information Technology (IT) skills to PWDs, in collaboration with Hacey Health Initiative, a development organisation focused on improving health and productivity of under-served population in Africa.

The DIAL Awards, according to Project Enable Africa’s Director Olusola Owonikoko, aimed at inspiring individuals and organisations to accelerate disability inclusion in their processes, policies and programmes.

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It was also in commemoration of the 2019 International Day of PWDs.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by Dr. Olayinka Adeyeye, lauded the efforts of Project Enable Africa for championing advocacy for the implementation of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibitions) Act and empowering over 500 people with ICT skills.

“There is ability in disability only if we provide the platform for people living with disabilities to have the right opportunity to compete. As such, we must consistently work towards giving this category of persons the sense of belonging and dignity,” he said.

2.101 Sanwo-Olu Promises Support For Farmers, Empowers 1,750

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 13, 2019

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured farmers of government’s support to ensure increase in food production in the state.

He spoke at the commencement of the 2019 Agricultural Value Chains Empowerment Programme.

A statement on Thursday said 1,750 agricultural value chain actors were empowered with various agricultural tools at the event.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, Culled for adequate preparation to meet the challenges of a growing population.

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He also reinforced the need for a new and integrated approach to food production and agro-allied business to enhance food security.

“In spite of the global climate change which constitutes a major challenge to food security, our government will continue to provide necessary assistance and advisory services to farmers to increase food production in the state,” the governor said.

He noted that the provision of socio-economic infrastructure on a sustainable basis to meet the needs of residents would continue to be a priority.

Sanwo-Olu said the state government had already developed a five-year agricultural road map as part of efforts to make Lagos a 21st century economy, with the agricultural sector playing a vital role in diversifying the economy.

2.102 Sanwo-Olu’s Aides Decry Low Production Of Coconuts In Badagry

Culled from Independent on December 15, 2019

Ms Abisola Olusanya, the Special Adviser to Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos on Agriculture has decried the low production of coconuts in Badagry, Lagos.

Olusanya spoke at the Celebration of 2019 Coconut Festival tagged “Agunfest” held at Suntan Beach, Badagry on Saturday.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the theme of the festival is: “Coconut Production and Utilisation; Dealing with Current Imperatives in view of Border closure”.

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According to her, just recently, the Federal Government ordered the closure of the entire country’s borders as one of the ways of patronising local produce goods and services to save foreign earnings.

“One of the consequences of enforcement of border closure is the overzealousness of some security operatives who have been allegedly reported to be harassing local producers and marketers of coconuts.

“The seizure of coconuts, harassment of local producers and marketers within this area is having adverse effects on local production of coconuts.

“There is need for a comprehensive and robust stakeholders’ engagement along coconut value chain so as to ensure that the good policy of the Federal Government on border closure will not impact negatively on coconut economy.

“The Ministry of Agriculture and Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) are working closely with other stakeholders toward proffering lasting solutions to the lingering crisis currently affecting the downstream sector of Coconut Value Chain,” she said.

Adesanya said that the government had been involved in rehabilitation of the coconut belt; massive production of improved seedlings; capacity building and empowerment of the value chain; and encouragement of proliferation of coconut cottage.

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“We are doing these and more in a bid to encourage private investors to come and invest in the state,” she added.

She said that the administration of Gov. Sanwo-Olu had reiterated its commitment to support coconut farmers, processors, marketers, haulage operators, producers on food security, job and wealth creation with active involvement of private sector.

Mr Solomon Bonu, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, said that the state government had set up a committee to look into continuous seizure of coconuts in Badagry.

Bonu noted that the governor had written letters to President Muhammadu Buhari and the National Assembly (NASS) on the matter. According to him, coconut cannot be separated from Badagry because Badagry is coconut and coconut is Badagry.

Mr Dapo Olakulehin, the General Manager, Lagos State Coconut Development Authority (LASCODA) said the usefulness of coconut could not be over-emphasised. According to him, it is perhaps the most useful tree in the world because of the wide range of products.

“It grows naturally along the coastal terrain and cultivated in about 92 countries of the world including India, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri-lanka, Nigeria, among other countries. “Seventy per cent of the total production from Nigeria is produced in Lagos State and ranks Nigeria 17th in the World Coconut producing countries.

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“The state is naturally blessed with vast coconut belt embedded with abundance of coconut resources and it has advantages over other crops in the country.

“It has about two million trees with annual production of 200 million husked nuts. Also about 20,000 farming families derive their livelihood from it and the number increases daily,” he said.

In his welcome address, Mr Doheto Mesi, the President, African Coconut Heritage Initiatives (ACHI) said the awareness for coconut utilisation and commercialisation was definitely on the increase across Nigeria. “The current deficit in production is worrisome and poses a situation of severity in nearest future if the production capacity of coconut is not increased.

“The low production capacity of coconut in Nigeria led to massive and uncontrollable importation from neighbouring African countries like Ghana, Benin Republic and Togo. “The current severe scarcity of coconut in Badagry presently necessitated by the current border closure also pointed to the fact about low production capacity of Nigeria,” he said.

Mesi urged government agencies, NGOs, Coconut Associations, private investors, schools and communities to come together to take steps to reverse the current trend to meet up the growing demand. (NAN)

**2.103 Save Us From Hardship, Eviction Victims Beg
Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on December 15, 2019

Lagos – A group, Association of Evicted Residents of Ijora Badia, has cried out to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos

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State to save its members before they would all die as a result of hardship brought upon them by the eviction from their home, Ijora Badia fourteen years ago.

The group whose members now live in shanties, in Ijora, lamented to on Sunday, while speaking with journalists, when they told pathetic story of how they were forcefully evicted over a decade ago, and how successive governments had made unfulfilled promises of resetting them in a new housing estate in the area which according to them had been under construction for over fourteen years without any sign that government was prepared to live up to its promise.

Emmanuel, Oladele-Ojuri, who spoke on behalf of the group, maintained that since they were forcefully evicted, they had lost a lot of their members, their children had been thrown out of school and their means of livelihood destroyed.

He stressed that former Governor Babatunde Fashola visited them, and promised to construct 1,008 housing unit but until he left office in 2015, nothing was done to that effect, pointing out that a lot of them had been traumatized, some of them had developed mental ailments, while others had even died.

Oladele-Ojuri said that the immediate past governor of the State, came on board, awarded the contract to a Lebanese company, which according to him pulled down the building as a result of structural defects.

Deji Akinpelu co-founder Rethink Cities had Culled on the government to take a look at the impact of forced eviction on Lagosians, stressing that the forceful eviction of Ijora Badia had been a lingering issue for over a decade.

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He said that the assumption by government that once people were evicted they would probably move to somewhere else or leave the State was actually wrong, maintaining that people would never leave.

He said that as soon as a shanty was destroyed, another one would quickly emerge, with the attendant health hazards and socio-cultural menace.

Akinpelu appealed to the government to address the issue of housing in low-income areas and waterfront communities, stressing that for every force eviction that had taken place, the government must consider ways of compensating the victims.

Oladele-Ojuri said that they did not see the promise coming to pass, maintaining that former commissioner for Information, Kehinde Bamgbetan had assured them that they would get allocations from the housing units at a cost of N500,000 per apartment, and he wondered how a man who lived in a shanty would afford that amount of money.

2.104 Sanwo-Olu Wants Stronger Collaboration In HIV Response

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 15, 2019in News, News Update

TO combat HIV/AIDS more effectively and meet 2030 target to eradicate the pandemic, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has Culled for stronger collaboration among all stakeholders. This, he stressed, would to eradicate the HIV pandemic in a country with unenviable record of second largest HIV prevalence in the world.

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He made the call while unveiling the South-West Zonal Office of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) in Ikeja, stressing that there is an urgent need for stakeholders to review strategies and deepen partnerships in the area of advocacy and expanding access to care, treatment and support for those living with the virus.

“Let us move forward in a bold new spirit of partnership to overcome the cycle of HIV transmission and deliver health and wellbeing for all our citizens,” he stated.

The Governor, who was represented by the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, explained that the recently released report of national and sub-national incidence rates, which indicate a reduction in prevalence of the disease, is a testament to the efforts of all stakeholders involved in the war against the pandemic.

He asked that complacency should not be allowed to set in, as there is still a long journey ahead in order to win the battle and free the country of the virus.

“The progress made so far in ending this epidemic would not have been possible without dynamic advocacy, solidarity and a spirit of shared responsibility, which must be maintained,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He added that the decision to locate the South-west office of NACA in Lagos, must have been in recognition of the commitment and dedication the state government in eradicating the virus through the activities of the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency (LSACA).

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In his address, Dr. Gambo Aliyu, Director General of NACA, said the new zonal office will oversee the coordination of NACA's activities in the South-west and provide effective oversight of the agency's activities in cluster of states within the zone for appropriate report to the head office in Abuja.

While noting that Nigeria has done remarkably well in stemming the tide of HIV in the last 15 years, resulting in reduction of the prevalence of the disease, Gambo stated that NACA's focus is to ensure that HIV is 90 per cent under control.

2.105 Lagos City Marathon: Runners Thank Sanwo-Olu, Access Bank For Paying Their Registration Fee

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 16, 2019

Thousands of runners who are beneficiaries of the Executive Governor of Lagos State Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu's decision to pay their registration fee for the 2020 Access Bank Lagos City Marathon have expressed their profound gratitude to the Governor and other sponsors supporting runners to participate in the race slated for February 8, 2020.

“After having so much fun and imbibing the culture of running and general exercise from participating in the first four editions of the Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, I was looking forward to participating in the fifth until they introduced a fee.

I gave up my dream of running the fifth edition until the cheering news came last month after the press conference that Governor Sanwo-Olu has stated that he will pay on our behalf. I was glad when I heard the news.

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I followed up and got a form free. I thank the Governor for making my dream come true. God bless him” Iyabo Lawal, a student of a tertiary institution, told our correspondent.

Free from the first edition in 2015, the management of Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, now an IAAF Silver Label Race, had to introduce registration fee in compliance with IAAF/AIMS regulations for all label races.

A registration fee of N5,000 was introduced for the full Marathon and the 10km race for Nigerians, while foreigners will pay \$100 for any of the races.

Access Bank, the headline sponsors, Seven-up Bottling Company, Revolution Plus Properties and other sponsors and partners are paying registration fees for thousands of runners.

Edward Johnson, another beneficiary, thanked the Lagos State Governor and Access Bank for sponsoring the race and supporting runners.

2.106 Access Bank Lagos City Marathon: Runners Thank Sanwo-Olu For Support

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“After having so much fun and imbibing the culture of running and general exercise from participating in the first four editions of the Marathon, I was looking forward to participating in the fifth until they introduced a fee.

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Access Bank, the headline sponsors, Seven-up Bottling Company, Revolution Plus Properties and other sponsors and partners are paying registration fees for thousands of runners.

Edward Johnson, another beneficiary, thanked the Lagos State Governor and Access Bank for sponsoring the race and supporting runners.

“Access Bank may not fully understand the magnitude of what they have done by sponsoring this race” Said Aisha Ibrahim.

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“They have promoted the culture of exercise. Most of my friends and family that were obese are now fit and trim thanks to the culture of running triggered by the Marathon.

I thought I will miss the 2020 edition until the Governor and Access Bank promised to pay on our behalf”.

2.107 Adiyen Water: Sanwo-Olu pays N600m Compensation To Landlords

Culled from the Sun on 16th December 2019

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday disclosed that N600 million will be paid as compensation to landlords that will be displaced in the Adiyen water project.

Four years after it was abandoned, Sanwo-Olu revived the abandoned multi-billion naira project, promising the contractor of serious financial commitment.

The N50 billion Adiyen Waterworks Phase11 project, when completed would supply 70 million gallons of water daily to the residents.

The water project was started by the former governor Babatunde Fashola.

Addressing journalists yesterday, the governor who spoke through the Commissioner for Information, Gbenga Omotoso, said the cheques have been signed and will be presented to the affected landlords any time from now.

Also, he disclosed that in a bid to take the pressure off the roads which has become a nightmare to motorists due to traffic

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congestion, the blue rail line project will be test run by December 2020 as well as ensure its completion thereafter.

Omotoso, who was flanked by the Commissioner for Transportation, Frederic Oladeinde and his Special Duties counterpart, Wale Ahmed, said various steps were taken to address the challenge of bad roads and ease movement across the state.

While assuring the menace of Okada riders in the state will soon be curbed, the governor, who lamented activities of the riders, added that they will be restricted to inner roads. “This was followed by extensive palliative and maintenance works, especially by the Public Works Corporation, which has rehabilitated hundreds of roads and cleared several drainage channels in various parts of the state.

“This was taken further with the flag-off of the reconstruction and upgrading of strategic roads in Ikorodu. The project comprises 6.05 kilometres Phase One road from Itamaga to Ewu Elepe town; 7.8 kilometres Owutu-Agric-Ishawo road Phase One and Bola Tinubu-Igbogbo-Imota road.

“Interestingly, the Victoria Island, Lekki Traffic Circulation project on Oniru axis was also flagged-off the same day.

“The project, being undertaken by Lagos State Government and Access Bank under a Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership arrangement, would ease traffic considerably around Victoria Island, Oniru and Lekki axis.

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On the 4th Mainland Bridge, he said: “Within the period under review, eight multi-national construction firms were mobilised to carry out massive repair on critical highways in what we christened, Operation 116.”

**2.108 Save Us From Hardship, Victims Of Forced Eviction
Beg Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on December 17, 2019

LAGOS – An association of Evicted Residents of Ijora Badia has cried out to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State to save its members from hardship brought upon them occasioned by the forceful eviction from their home at Ijora Badia 14 years ago by the Lagos State Government.

The group, whose members now live in shanties in Ijora, while speaking with journalists, narrated pathetic stories of how they were forcefully evicted over a decade ago, and how successive governments had made unfulfilled promises of resettling them in a new housing estate in the area.

They said the housing estate had been under construction for over 14 years without any sign that government was prepared to live up to its promise.

Emmanuel, Oladele-Ojuri, who spoke on behalf of the group, maintained that since they were forcefully evicted, they had lost a lot of their members, their children had been thrown out of school and their means of livelihood destroyed.

He stressed that former Governor Babatunde Fashola visited them, and promised to construct 1,008 housing unit but until

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he left office in 2015, nothing was done to that effect, pointing out that a lot of them had been traumatised, some of them had developed mental ailments, while others had even died in the process.

Oladele-Ojuri said that the immediate past Governor of the state came on board and awarded the contract to a Lebanese company, which according to him, pulled down the building as a result of structural defects.

Deji Akinpelu co-founder Rething Cities, had Culled on government to take a look at the impact of forced eviction on Lagosians, stressing that the eviction of Ijora Badia residents had been a lingering issue for over a decade.

He said the assumption by government that once people were evicted they would probably move to somewhere else or leave the state was wrong, as people would not leave because they don't have an option.

He said as soon as shanties were destroyed, another one would quickly emerge, with the attendant health hazards and socio-cultural menace.

Akinpelu appealed to government to address issue of housing in low-income areas and waterfront communities, stressing that for every force eviction that had taken place, government must consider ways of compensating the victims.

Oladele-Ojuri said that they did not see the promise coming to pass, maintaining that former Commissioner For Information, Kehinde Bamgbetan had assured them that they would get

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allocations from the housing units at a cost of N500,000 per apartment, and he wondered how, a man who lived in a shanty could afford such amount of money.

2.109 Sanwo-Olu Opens Eti-Osa Court House Complex

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 18, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday gave assurance that the executive arm of the state government will continue to cooperate with the judiciary in ensuring that the 'Rule of Law' remains the centerpiece of judicial reforms in Lagos State.

The governor also promised continuous training and re-training of judicial personnel to deliver best practice in justice administration as well as maintaining a welfare package to inspire and motivate them deliver their best.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance in his address at the commissioning of the newly constructed High Courts and Magistrates Courts at Ajah-Badore, Eti-Osa on Tuesday.

The new court house complex named: Christopher Olatunde Segun Court House consists of two High Courts and three Magistrates' Courts.

The Complex also has ancillary services to enhance the administration of justice, namely: a well-equipped law library, conference room, and facilities to accommodate the Nigeria Bar Association.

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"In addition, the complex will house the Assistant Chief Registrar's Office and the Office of Public Defender (OPD).

Sanwo-Olu said the commissioning was in fulfilment of his administration's promise to ensure easy access to the administration of justice for all in Lagos State.

"The Lagos State Judiciary is an extremely busy one, perhaps the busiest in Nigeria; and we have always set the pace in terms of efficiency of service, and of the welfare of our judicial personnel.

"I recall that upon assumption of office, I promised my full support to the judiciary, in order to enhance Lagos State's position as a model of judicial administration.

Today's commissioning, coming shortly after the commencement of the 2019/2020 Legal Year, is in fulfilment of that promise".

The governor assured that there is more to be done, adding that his administration will not relent or rest on its oars.

"What we have done here in Ajah-Badore will be extended to other areas in due course."

Among dignitaries present at the event were the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Head of Service, HOS, Akeem Muri-Okunola, Secretary to State Government, Mrs. Folashade Jaji, Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General, Kazeem Alogba and top juducial officers in the state.

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2.110 Lagos Metro Rail Will Become Operational 2021 – Sanwo-Olu

The Director-General of PSSDC, Dr Senukon Ajose-Harrison, said the agency was seeking to deepen its partnership with more international institutes.

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 18, 2019
Editorial III News 0

The Lagos state government Tuesday commenced the sale of its popular brand of rice, Lake Rice, in preparation for the coming yuletide celebration.

Commissioner for Agriculture, Prince Gbolahan Lawal said in a statement that Lake Rice was available for sale in centres across the state. Lawal said the rice was available at the Agricultural Development Authority Complex, Oko-Oba; Lagos state Agriculture Inputs Supply Authority (LAISA), Ojo and the Blue Roof at LTV Complex, Agidingbi, Ikeja.

The commissioner outlined other centres such as the Lake Rice Sales Centre at Farm Service Centre, Epe; Odogunyan Farm Service Centre, Ikorodu; Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere and Farm Centre, Ajah.

The rice can also be bought at Government Technical School, Ikotun; Farm Service Centre, Badagry and the Mobolaji Johnson Sports Centre, Rowe Park, Yaba.

He said that a 50kg bag of Lake Rice costs N17, 000, while the 25kg bag would be sold for N8, 500, warning that the commodity should not be sold above the approved prices. (NAN)

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2.111 Employment: Sanwo-Olu Charges Students To Embrace Change, Adopt Technology

Culled from the Sun on 21st December 2019

Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advised graduating students of the Mountain Top University to embrace change and disruption if they intend to compete in today's labour market.

The governor, who was the guest lecturer at the maiden graduation ceremony of the university owned by the Mountain of Fire Ministries, made the call on Friday at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the university in Ibafo, Ogun State, where he delivered a lecture titled: "Future of Job and the World of Work: The Need for Graduates That are Globally Competitive."

According to the governor, the knowledge acquired in the university becomes obsolete in a short while and needs continuous advancement, urging the graduating students to adopt technology because "jobs of the future will be driven by technology".

He said: "Many of the things you learnt in university will have grown obsolete even before you complete NYSC. That's the truth. Fifty or a hundred years down the line, we didn't know that new technologies would have emerged to disrupt the world as we know it.

But it is certain that to thrive in that world, University graduates will need to be fully prepared, they will need to be educated in the tools and the languages of that world, and will need to be

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able to compete with multitudes of other graduates in the quest for jobs and employment.

“We must also extend this to curriculum transformation. We will not progress in the 21st century using 20th century curricula. Our young people must become comfortable with coding, robotics, 3D printing and other technologies from an early age, especially in the public school system. Regardless of what academic track our students are on: arts, sciences or social sciences; technological literacy must be a common denominator.”

2.112 Sanwo-Olu Unveils 31-Road Network To Unlock Lagos Perennial Traffic Congestion

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 23, 2019

Amid perennial traffic congestion rocking the state, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday commissioned 31 networks of roads totalling 20.216km in Ojokoro Local Council Development Area, (LCDA) in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area to facilitate effective traffic management in the state.

Speaking at the commissioning which took place at four different locations in the LCDA, Sanwo-Olu said, “good road network facilitates effective management of traffic and transport thereby boosting the socio-economic activities of the State; it reduces traffic induced health challenges and travel time to access health facilities and educational institutions.

The governor said the drainages that came with the roads will help to de-flood the environment while the streetlights complement the security architecture of the state.

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According to him, the provision of road infrastructure is central to the delivery of the THEMES Agenda of his administration, adding that, “it is common knowledge that tourism and entertainment are better appreciated and attract more people when access to the venue is relatively stress-free.

“To this extent the prioritization of infrastructure especially, road, rail, and water transportation facilities is predicated on its multiplier effect and direct relationship to other pillars of the THEMES agenda.”

The governor said, Ojokoro LCDA is a strategic settlement with a fast growing population and huge need for infrastructural renewal adding that the 31 network of roads commissioned was specifically executed to offer traffic relief to the rapidly developing area, improve the socio-economic activities and connectivity within the axis and its neighbouring Ogun state through Segun Adetiba Road and the bridge across Ilo River.

The completion of the network of roads will also complement other completed roads within Ojokoro LCDA.

“The network of roads will help unlock perennial traffic gridlock along Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway with resultant reduction in travel time along the corridor. Prior to embarking on these projects, traffic on the road had grown tremendously considering the high rate of the population growth and its attendant vehicular density.”

Earlier, Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Engr. Aramide Adeyoye said the commissioning of the roads is a testimony to the fact that Lagos state

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government have robust plan for the development of the area and that “we are truthful to our vow to do things positively and differently.

**2.113 Sanwo-Olu Runs Inclusive Administration -
Ogbonna, Lagos Ohanaeze President**

Culled from the Sun on 24th December 2019

Chief Solomon Ogbonna Aguene, President, Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Lagos State, recently spoke on the state of the nation and how he has been piloting the affairs of Ndigbo in the state. He said Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has done a lot in giving democracy dividends and good governance to Lagosians.

What is your assessment of Gov. Sanwo-Olu’s 200 days in office?

I will not equate it to the marvelous 200 days of late Murtala Mohammed, because Murtala covered the entire country.

However, Sanwo-Olu’s achievement in the past 200 days is great and counting. He is determined to make Lagos greater. His delivery of dividends of democracy has been all-inclusive, covering all sectors of Lagos State.

As you say all-inclusive, what are the benefits to your immediate constituency, Ohanaeze Ndigbo?

His delivery of dividends of democracy is for all Lagosians including Ndigbo. All Lagosians make use of the roads being fixed. The breath of fresh air through waste management is for all Lagosians including Ndigbo.

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On very specific notes, the Sanwo-Olu administration has empowered over 100 widows who are financial members of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Lagos. The government also gave Ohanaeze Ndigbo Xmas hampers in the form of over 250 bags of rice.

The harassment and disturbing activities of area boys and security operatives in most markets in Lagos have reduced drastically, making the market places very conducive for business.

Quite some miscreants are still disturbing some traders, but the administration is doing everything possible to address such incidences at the affected markets. Remember, Ndigbo control commerce in Lagos and therefore in control of most markets in Lagos.

So, peace in the market places means good for our businesses. In fact, Ndigbo are finally part of the Lagos State administration and will continue to benefit immensely from the administration.

What is the impression of the Ohanaeze Ndigbo national executive about the fraternity of Ohanaeze Lagos chapter with the Lagos State government?

The major objective of Ohanaeze Ndigbo is to protect and project the interest of Igbo in all sectors and spheres of life, as the umbrella organisation of Igbo worldwide.

The National Chairman, Chief Nnia Nwodo supports all good intentions of chapter executives geared towards the welfare of Ndigbo. So, he is happy with the cordial relationship between

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Ndigbo and other ethnic nationalities in Lagos including the state administration under Sanwo-Olu.

It is pertinent to note that the business relationship and partnership between Igbo and Yoruba has increased tremendously. In fact, our investigation and available statistics indicate increase of over 50 per cent in partnership arrangement between Igbo and Yoruba since the inception of Sanwo-Olu administration.

This is the first time Igbo got it right at Lagos State, identifying with the ruling party in the state, since the beginning of this republic. Our President General, Chief Nwodo is happy with the present setting in Igbo-Yoruba relationship.

He encourages us to sustain the good relationship, thereby protecting the interest of Igbo in Lagos in particular and Nigeria in general. Nonetheless, we rely on Chief Nwodo's wise counsel in dealing with the Lagos State administration.

Remember, Chief Nnia Nwodo served at different capacities in government at the federal level, so he understands the dynamics of government institutions and relationship with the governed.

So, when we are at a loss on how to relate with the Lagos State administration, we will seek his advice and guide. By and large, the national executive supports every beneficial step taken by chapter executives. So, whatever I and members of my executive do, we do to protect and project the interest of Igbo in Lagos.

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How have you benefited personally from the administration, considering the challenges you faced after endorsing Gov. Sanwo-Olu?

I derive maximum satisfaction knowing that Ndigbo are protected under Sanwo-Olu administration. What will be more beneficial than the welfare of the people I lead, over 6 million Ndigbo in Lagos State?

When I took the decision in the face of stiff opposition from some members of my executive, I did it believing it will pay Ndigbo to identify with the ruling party than staying in opposition. So, the satisfaction of Ndigbo in Lagos means greater personal benefit to me.

My trust in Sanwo-Olu is paying and Ndigbo will get more. Sanwo-Olu is a true born again Christian and his word is his bond, so he will fulfill all his promises to Lagosians. My personal satisfaction comes from seeing the government meet the needs, yearnings and aspirations of all Lagosians including Ndigbo.

I urge all Igbo in Lagos to remain loyal to his administration, as we will earn our fair share of the dividends of democracy.

In this festive season, what is your advice to Ndigbo especially transport operators?

Our business style and model sometimes go against basic economic logic. In simple economic terms, prices go down when more goods are being bought, that is the economics of scale.

In other climes especially the advanced world, festive seasons are seasons for lower prices in most things including transportation, considering economics of scale.

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But in Nigeria, people hike prices especially transport fares. I plead with transport operators to be rational in fixing fares, so that many people can afford to travel for the festive period. I also call on all traders to reduce prices, because more sales will be made within the period. Finally, I wish all Igbo, all Lagosians, and all Nigerians Happy Xmas and prosperous year 2020.

2.114 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates VIS Headquarters, Tasks VIOs On Discipline, Courtesy

Culled from the Sun on 24th December 2019

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Tuesday challenged Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) on discipline and courtesy in law enforcement, as he inaugurated a two-storey Vehicle Inspection Service (VIS) Headquarters in Ojodu area of the state.

Sanwo-Olu told the officers at the event not to molest anyone while performing their duties, but to be firm and play by the rules, telling an offender what he or she might have done wrong with courtesy.

“You must ensure that discipline be your watchword, and you must be civil in dealing with the members of the public at all times.

“We are more refined, we are better human beings, we are better officers and we are working in an environment that we can compare and compete with anybody in any part of the world.

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“So, let us keep this environment working, let us be courteous when people come in for service. Let them have an experience that they will go and tell others.

“People must see that we have a human face in all of our deliverables,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu said that his government was committed to bringing the administration of VIS in the state in line with global best practices.

He said that the state had so far recorded substantial improvement in traffic law enforcement.

According to him, the improvement is through the introduction of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) the Lagos Computerised VIS (LACVIS) the forensic laboratory, and E-testing for Driver’s licence among others. He said that all the initiatives were in consistence with the government’s Smart-City Project and the goal of making Lagos truly a preferred 21st-century economy.

“Now, with the commissioning, we are consolidating on the progress so far made, the VIS plays a critical support and role especially at ensuring that all vehicles that ply our roads are roadworthy and do not constitute dangers to commuters.

“We know that vehicle breakdowns are major contributors to traffic gridlock in Lagos, which results in avoidable losses of productive lives and time.

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“ We must therefore seek to minimise these destructive breakdowns through strict enforcement of relevant laws aided by application of modern technology.

“The major hold of this new system is to ensure that traffic flow is not negatively impacted in the process of enforcing the law,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He said the structure was to help VIS render efficient and optimal services supported by a state-of-the-art technology.

“To whom much is given, much is expected,” the governor said.

According to him, the state will implement VIS modern offices in all the 57 local government and local council development areas, and 16 LGAs have been covered already.

The governor, who noted that government infrastructure was made possible through contributions of tax payers, charged the VIS to ensure adequate protection of the facility.

He said the administration would continue to invest heavily in the ongoing transportation sector reform with a view to bringing about a transport system that would contribute optimally to the growth of Lagos economy.

According to him, the reform will guarantee safety of commuters and save them travel time on their various journeys.

Sanwo-Olu said that the government would continue to build capacity of its workforce and prioritise their welfare, as a conducive work environment would motivate them to deliver optimally.

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He commended the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) for its role, saying that the government would make ts operations 21st century with an upcoming hand-held device to capture traffic offenders.

Newly inaugurated VIS headquarters in Lagos

Providing a brief description of the VIS headquarters, Dr Frederic Oladeinde, the Commissioner for Transport said the edifice accommodated all arms of the Directorate of VIS, Head of Division, Planning and Research and Pre-registration Inspection Unit.

Oladeinde said that the headquarters had Back-End-Office for the Automatic Number Plate Recognition Enforcement System, (ANPR) Training Hall, Conference Room and others.

He said that for easy synergy with other sister agencies, the building accommodated Motor Vehicle Administration Agency (MVAA) and the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) to provide quick, prompt and quality One Stop Service.

“This administration in ensuring safety of lives and property and has introduced the Lagos Computerised Vehicle Inspection Services (LACVIS) to ensure proper vehicular documentation and also ANPR for data analysis of traffic law offences.

“The use of ANPR in enforcing vehicle documentation has reduced the heavy presence of Vehicle Inspection Service Officers (VIOs) on the road thereby eliminating the problem or congestion caused by the presence of the officers on the road during routine checks,” Oladeinde said.

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Earlier, Mr Sewedo Whenu, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transport said the 3rd and 4th pillar of UN Decade of Action (2011-2020) and the 3rd and 4th pillar of Road Safety Approach of the National Road Safety Strategy (NRSS) were hinged on safe vehicles and safer roads. Whenu said:

“To achieve these pillars, the VIS personnel should be provided with the best working environment which is key to implementation of the pillars.”

Speaking, Mr Akin-Goerge Fashola, the Director of VIS said that edifice and the technology would make the service more efficient and optimal.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the event had in attendance, Mr Temitope Adewale, Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Transport, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, Head of Service, and other top government functionaries.(NAN)

2.115 Lagos Won't Tolerate Uncivilised Officers On Its Roads, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 24, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said it is no-longer business as usual for law enforcement officers in the state, saying the government will no-longer tolerate uncivilised officers on its roads.

Sanwo-Olu who stated this at the commissioning of the Lagos Vehicle Inspection Service headquarters said the state government does not want anybody to be molested during enforcement of traffic and transport laws.

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He urged Vehicle Inspection Officers, Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA) officers to be civil in their engagement with the residents, especially during enforcement.

According to the governor, his administration wants civilised officers because that is what was promised the residents. To ensure that officers do not molest any Lagosian, the governor said officers would be equipped with handheld devices to capture vehicles that contravene the law so that they have less physical interaction with offenders.

He added that the state government does not want officer running after motorists who contravene the law. Sanwo-Olu assured that the state government will continue to build the capacity of its workforce and motivate them.

He pleaded with the officers to maintain the facilities and put it to good use.

The Commissioner for Transport, Dr Frederic Oladeinde stated that the provision of the facility is in the line with the Vehicle Inspection Service vision which is to serve the people of Lagos State by delivering efficient and automated service that would ensure a safer transportation system that meets global best practices.

“This administration in ensuring safety of lives and properties has introduced the Lagos Computerised Vehicle Inspection Services (LACVIS) to ensure proper vehicular documentation and also Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) for data analysis of traffic law offences.”

2.116 Lagos: Police Deploy 1,000 Patrol Vehicles For Hitch-Free Yuletide

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 24, 2019
Editorial III News 0

The Lagos state police command Monday said it had deployed no fewer than 1,000 of its personnel for a hitch-free yuletide in the state.

The state police public relations officer, DSP Bala Elkana, said Monday in Lagos that it was part of steps aimed at preventing crimes during and after the yuletide.

Elkana said, “The command has made adequate arrangements in the deployment of its personnel and other resources to markets, recreation centres and places of worship on Christmas Day and New Year Day, to ensure a hitch-free celebration.”

He said that the Commissioner of Police, CP Hakeem Odumosu, had declared a state of emergency on traffic with the deployment of no fewer than 1,000 police officers to help ensure free flow of traffic.

He said Lagos state had two major issues, which were traffic management and crime prevention and control.

“Traffic situation is a major concern in the state and once traffic does not flow, we will experience traffic-related crimes such as traffic robbery among others.

“Therefore, we have a large number of our personnel in Lagos State working toward managing traffic which will also help prevent crime.

“The commissioner has also deployed 200 motorcycles which the command got with the support of the Lagos state government for traffic patrol alone and also to prevent traffic-related crimes,” he said. Elkana stated that the command also reactivated the Mobile Court System with the support of the Ministry of Justice and the judiciary.

He said the mobile court had to be reactivated alongside enforcement team for those driving against traffic. He stated that this was an act which had been contributing to traffic gridlock in the state.

“Traffic offenders will be arrested instantly and arraigned before the mobile court.

“This will help reinforce in the minds of people that the law is very strong with enforcement and prosecution backing it up. “This will deter people from breaking the law with impunity,” he said.

Elkana also stated that the Lagos state Taskforce had started clearing different parts of the state of street trading. The police spokesman added that the command was dealing with the problem of indiscriminate parking as well as illegal bus stops to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

“Traffic-related crime is a crime of opportunity. When we can ensure that there is a smooth flow of traffic, then we will have

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begun to remove the opportunity which perpetrators take advantage of to commit crime,” he said.

He stated that the command had also launched what he Culled a ‘Special Strike Force Unit’ that would be after miscreants.

The task force, he stated, had begun to take its battle to the doorsteps of suspected miscreants who were operating under different names. He said, “Close to 200 suspects related to the ‘Awawa’ boys, ‘No Salary boys’ and all manner of gangs had been arrested with an appreciable number of arms recovered from them.

“All these are geared toward making the Yuletide safe for everyone and for people to enjoy a peaceful atmosphere within the state and, by extension, neighbouring states.”

Elkana said that the command also had speedboat patrolling the waterways as well as patrol vehicles on the highways and on the streets to ensure safety of travellers and residents.

He also said that aerial surveillance was ongoing with helicopters hovering and taking surveillance of the city/state so that ground personnel could be deployed in areas where there were reported cases of unrest.

“So, there is no space that has not been provided for in the state by the police command in terms of safety when it comes to the Yuletide,” he said. (NAN)

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2.117 Sanwo-Olu Charges MTU Graduands On Productivity

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 24, 2019

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged the graduating students of the Mountain Top University, Magboro, Ogun State to improve themselves through the acquisition of knowledge and requisite skills to stand the test of time in an evolving work environment.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke on the topic titled, ‘Future of Job and the World of Work: The Need for Graduates that are Globally Competitive’, while delivering the convocation lecture at the university, enjoined the graduands to get used to change and disruptions, which particularly characterise the 21st century due to the emergence of information technology.

“You must get used to change and disruption. Many things you learned in the university will have grown obsolete even before you complete NYSC. Fifty or a hundred years down the line we don’t know what new technologies would have emerged to disrupt the world as we know it.

“You must commit to lifelong learning. You will be judged not only by what you know, but also know quickly that you can learn new things and unlearn old ones. It is not enough to stay current. You must strive to be ahead of the game.

“We have already established the fact that jobs of the future will be driven by technology, and students who are technologically inclined and prepared will have an edge over those who are not,” the governor said.

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The Chancellor of the university, Dr Daniel Olukoya, said his passion was to see youths being engaged in anything legitimately productive for them to be economically empowered.

“My passion is in anything that will take Nigerian youths taken away from the streets to become productive in life,” he said.

The Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Universities Commission, Prof Abubakar Rasheed, commended the chancellor and the Board of MTU for their efforts towards promoting quality education.

Rasheed who was represented by the NUC’s Director of Human Resources, Dr Boniface Odum, said it would continue to ensure that quality education is upheld in Nigeria’s universities.

A total of 120 students graduated from the university’s two colleges: Basic and Applied Sciences, and Humanities, Management and Social Sciences. 22 students made first class, 50 were in a second class upper division while 47 in a lower division while one graduated with third class.

2.118 Passengers, Others Agonise As Lagos Govt Harass Airport Bus Operators

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on December 25, 2019

Passengers and airport workers accessing the three terminals at the Murtala Muhammad Airport in Lagos went through harrowing hours on Tuesday as they could hardly get vehicles to convey them to their destinations following the disruption of services by the bus operators, the Association of Limousine Bus Operators (ALBO).

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What began as a mild drama later degenerated into what many people who spoke to our correspondent described as overzealousness on the part of operatives from the Lagos State Task Force.

The state task force team it was gathered had illegally arrested the Chairman and Public Relations Officer of the bus operators union, Mr. Tijani Jelili and Lukmon Abdullahi early in the morning while appeal to release them to allow for negotiations on the perceived violations by the operators fell on deaf ears, hence the hiatus in bus services.

A driver and officials of the union told Blueprint newspaper that three vehicles were whisked away alongside the two leaders as early as 6:15am by the Lagos State Task Force personnel.

The situation left passengers and others with no choice than to trek inside the scorching Lagos sun to the MMA1 and MMA2 terminals and other offices close to the Ikeja Nahco bus station where the operators load and disengage commuters.

ALBO said it is contesting the Lagos State Government harassment of it members and warned that the airport does not fall within the state’s jurisdiction.

Secretary of ALBO, Augustus Amonimo said “Lagos State Task Force are seriously harassing us for no reason. They feel they don’t want to see our blue buses but we are registered under the airport authoity Nationwide and not the state government.”

He added that “We wrote FAAN to give us a place around conoil and some of our people were there before those task

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force came and impounded those three vehicles as well as whisking away our chairman and PRO who came to intervene.

“The worse is they were shooting sporadically as if the ALBO were thieves. We will not operate until we get our people and get to the root of the matter,” Omonimo said. The aggrieved union members parked their buses at the Local Junction Bus-stop while they chant solidarity songs.

2.119 Sanwo-Olu Frees Six Convicted Inmates, Commutes Death Sentences

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 26, 2019

In the spirit of Christmas, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday pardoned six convicted inmates and commuted the death sentence of three others to life imprisonment.

Sanwo-Olu was said to have signed two executive orders — Executive Commutation of Death Sentence Order and Executive Grant of Clemency Order — for the directives to take immediate effect.

The Lagos State Advisory Council on Prerogative of Mercy was said to have considered applications from convicted inmates and upon consideration, recommended the commutation of death sentences to life imprisonments for three convicted inmates. The inmates are Muhammed Abdulkadiri, Moses Akpan and Sunday Okondo.

The six pardoned inmates are Bestman Dennar, Wasiu Jimoh, Augustine Opara, Folakemi Osin, Rebecca Danladi and Njoku Ogechi.

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The executive orders were said to have been delivered to the state’s Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo, who would deliver them to the prisons service for action.

Speaking on the two orders at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos, where he observed the Christmas Day service with his family, the governor urged Nigerians to have the attitude of gratitude.

He said, “As a nation and as a state, it is only appropriate for us to count our blessings and reflect on those things that have happened to us in the course of the year and how we can improve them and be better citizens. “For us as a state, it is also a season of giving back. So, I have also signed a small release of some convicts that we have in the various prisons; people who have been given death sentences have been reduced to life sentences, and some who have been jailed for minor offences have also been given warning and I have asked that they should be pardoned.”

2.120 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates New Council Building, Roads, Court

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on December 26, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has inaugurated the new secretariat of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area in Lagos.

The governor also inaugurated a network of roads and Customary Court Building.

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Amid fanfare, Sanwo-Olu said the projects would, no doubt, be of immense benefit to the people of Onigbongbo LCDA.

Represented by Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyo Onigbanjo (SAN), Sanwo-Olu said the Administrative block would provide a conducive environment for improved productivity and service delivery.

“The network of roads would impact positively on the socio-economic lives of the people through improved connectivity with major roads while the customary court would enhance the process of efficient and effective delivery of justice,” he said.

According to him, the vision of a greater Lagos cannot be realised through the efforts of the state government alone. Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas, he said, have their roles to play, being the closest to the grassroots.

Sanwo-Olu said, “The T.H.E.M.E.S agenda is a shared vision which both the state and local governments/councils must key into in order to ensure maximum impact on the lives of ordinary Lagosians. It is for this reason that I am elated by the high level of commitment demonstrated by the administration of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area through these rejects.

“I wish to state that the State Government will continue to improve on the existing synergy between the State and the Local Governments/Local Council Development Areas, to ensure that no part of the state is left behind in the journey towards a Greater Smart City Lagos.”

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The governor urged residents of Onigbongbo to take ownership of the projects and ensure that they are protected against misuse.

“You must always remember that the provision of these facilities was made possible through your taxes, levies and dues,” he said.

He congratulated the council Chairman and management for the achievements, hoping that the best is yet to come. The council Chairman, Francis Babatunde Oke, thanked the governor for honouring the council’s invitation. He also thanked the party leaders, state executive members, lawmakers and others that graced the occasion.

According to Oke, nothing happens in a vacuum, adding that the nature of a problem dictates its causes of solution. By every Standard, Onigbongbo, he said, is a metropolitan area, with all parts, developed.

Oke said, “We share the space as host to the Lagos State Government. But we have been facing this daunting problem of lack of space for accommodation. It was even easier then, but there is no space and procuring land, is just too expensive amidst some other problems, even legal ones. No sooner than we would set our eyes on a space, that politics legal tussle, sometimes mundane issues, power play, would deprive us of it.

“When it was becoming uncomfortable/embarrassing to me, we have to bend over backwardly to achieve this modest score. It is our hope that, once our deliberations with the State Government yields expected fruits, space can then

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accommodate our dreams of a befitting edifice fit for a government status aimed at satisfying the aspirations of our people.

It is in the nature of good things to have its bad side. Autonomy is good, but like freedom, it has to be managed and well structured.”

2.121 Sanwo-Olu’s Visit To Lagos General Hospital On Boxing Day Excites Patients

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on December 27, 2019

Patients in Lagos General Hospitals were yesterday excited when Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu visited the Paediatric, emergency and orthopaedic wards of the Lagos Island General Hospital located on Broad Street, to celebrate Christmas and boxing days with the in-patients battling various health conditions.

The patients who spoke at separate interviews said they were excited to see the Governor, prayed for him and wellbeing of his family.

The governor, while at the hospital, chatted with the patients, cheering them up, encouraging them and also prayed for their recovery.

Sanwo-Olu also toured facilities of the oldest General Hospital in Nigeria to ascertain level of work done on the renovation of the Accident and Emergency ward building.

The Governor said his visit, which has been a tradition even before he came into political office was to share memorable moments with those in the hospital at a time when every other person is in joyous mood at home.

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He said: “Christmas offers us an opportunity to spare a thought for the infirm. We need to share moments like this with them so that they also can feel the greatness of the season even though they are not entirely fit.”

“We must also remember that this season teaches us love, compassion and selflessness. While majority of us have our relatives and friends with us to mark the Christmas day, we need to understand that several families are in pain because their loved ones are battling various ailments at the hospital. So, it’s no Christmas for these people because they need to be with their ailing family members.

“On a day like this, I thought it necessary to identify with these families and celebrate with them. I believe this gesture will cheer them up and give them reasons to be happy. We hope that the little we have come to share with them today will strengthen them to get out of the sickbed quicker and better,”

2.122 Tap Into Investment Opportunity In Aquaculture Value Chain, Sanwo-Olu Tells Investors

Culled from Independent on December 27, 2019

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled on investors and business community to tap into the highly rewarding investment opportunity in the aquaculture value chain in order to bridge the demand and supply gap of fisheries in the state.

The Governor made the call while speaking at the 2019 Lagos Seafood Festival, with the theme “Celebrating the Seafood Diversity of Lagos State” at the Muri Okunola Park, Victoria Island Lagos.

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Sanwo-Olu, who was represented at the event by Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, his Deputy, said that the Seafood festival presents a unique opportunity to showcase Lagos State aquaculture and seafood potentials to local and international markets as well stimulate the growth of tourism in the state.

He stated that within the agriculture value chain there exist potentials for increased production towards the attainment of the state food security objective, foreign exchange earnings from export and ultimately contribute to the growth of the state Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

“You will all agree with me that Lagos State is endowed with natural landscape traversed by sea and lagoon waters as well as beautiful beaches and waterfronts, as 22 per cent of the state’s total land area are covered with water and 180km coastline along the Atlantic Ocean.

“These unique endowments give the State a comparative advantage in seafood and tourism business which are yearning to be tapped, harnessed and developed for the socio-economic transformation of the state,” he added

Speaking further he said to ensure a geometrical increase in fish production with active participation of the private sector, the state government has initiated several projects in the agricultural space which include the establishments of Fish Farms in Ikorodu and Epe.

He stated that while the Ikorodu Estate is fully subscribed and produces 10,000 tons of fish per annum, the Ketu Ereyun, Epe Estate will produce 11,000 metric tons on completion of its first phase.

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He emphasised that all these initiatives are geared at bridging the demand and supply gap which is estimated at 374,000 tonnes per annum and 155,262 tonnes per annum respectively.

“I urge you all to avail yourselves the opportunities presented by this gathering to network and initiate partnerships that will promote food security, create jobs and enhance livelihoods in the State while enjoying yourselves at this festival,” Sanwo-Olu noted.

He commended the organisers of the 2019 Seafood festival for the painstaking efforts put to ensure a successful celebration and hoped that next year’s edition would be bigger and more glorious.

Prince Gbolahan Lawal, the State Commissioner for Agriculture earlier in his address, said that Lagos Seafood Festival aimed to boost the development of the creative industry and promote the visibility of the state as a tourist destination in alignment with the entertainment and tourism pillar of the state government’s T.H.E.M.E.S Development Agenda.

He added that in accordance with the theme of the festival, the rich seafood diversity of the state will be projected through the display of various fresh, processed and wide varieties of seafood based dishes by the exhibitors, adding that it is strengthened by the fact that fishing is the main occupation of the people living in the coastal zones and along the vast lagoon network of the state.

He pointed out that entertainment and the show business are major activities in the State which provides employment for youths and significantly contribute to the growth of the State’s

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

GDP and the well-being of its people through the creation of an atmosphere for relaxation and enjoyment.

He added that the industry is expected to generate revenue of \$88million with positive impact on the economy and provide a way for the much needed diversification of sources of foreign exchange earnings aside income from the sales of crude oil.

2.123 Sanwo-Olu Presents N250m Seed Cheque For Lagos Tech Start-Ups

Culled from the Sun on 28th December 2019

As part of plans to make Lagos State a hub for innovation and technology, Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday, presented a seed fund of N250million to the State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC).

LASRIC is a Lagos State institution in charge of research with the responsibility of boosting innovation and technology in the State. It presently has a 16-man team headed by the Vice Chancellor of University of Lagos, Professor Toyin Ogundipe.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, during the presentation of the cheque at the Government House in Alausa, charged the committee to ensure that the criteria to access the fund is flexible enough for Lagosians to benefit from.

According to him: “For us, it is to put action in what we believe in. When you make pronouncements as a government, you must put them to action. I don’t want very stringent conditions that will not make people benefit from this fund. In the next six

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months, let us begin to see a litmus test that people have been supported through this fund.

“We can’t do it alone, ours is just a seed fund. Some of you have access to international donors and partners that will want to see the level of our seriousness and commitment; I want us to put in serious effort so that others will be willing to support us.

“We need innovative solutions. We can think global but we have to act local. Let us think about solutions that are peculiar to us as Lagosians and Nigerians and you will be amazed that we have great skills that lack people to bring them out.”

Speaking earlier, Chairman of the Council, Professor Toyin Ogundipe, noted that the institution will partner with several non-governmental organisations for the benefit of Lagos State.

The event was attended by the state Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; the Commissioner for Science and Technology, Dr. Hakeem Fahm; Special Adviser on Innovation and Technology, Mr Tunbosun Alake.

2.124 Sanwo-Olu Reiterates Lagos’ Commitment To Freedom Of Religion

Culled from Independent on December 28, 2019

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured that his administration remains committed to upholding the rights of citizens and residents of Lagos to practice any religion of their choice without fear of harassment, discrimination or segregation.

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He said this at the opening ceremony of the 34th National Qu'ran recitation competition, which kicked off on Friday, December 27 at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Lagos.

The National Qu'ran recitation competition, which was established in 1986 as an annual Islamic competition is organised by the Centre for Islamic Studies, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto to bring the Qur'an close to the hearts and minds of young Muslims across the country.

For this year, the competition, which began on Friday, December 27, will run till January 10 in Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu explained that the competition serves as an initiative for the enlightenment of young Muslims on the bright side of life as preached by Islam through the holy Qur'an.

He added that now was the time Nigeria required more programmes such as the Quranic recitation to re-channel the minds of the youths toward positive ventures.

He said: "As a nation engaged in the battle against extremism, this programme will, among other initiatives, promote true understanding of the religion of Islam and help make our young people less vulnerable to beliefs that are not consistent with the teachings of the religion.

"As you all know, Lagos State is a cosmopolitan State in which people of diverse religious, ethnic and cultural orientations have lived together in peace, tolerance, mutual respect and understanding for centuries.

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"As a government, we will continue to protect the right of every citizen to practise every religion of their choice without fear of harassment or discrimination in this State."

The Governor described Islam as a religion of peace stressing that citizens should embrace tolerance, with reference to the life of Holy Prophet Muhammed.

The Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar in his remarks noted that the Quran stands as a guide to life in all facets of life.

2.125 We're Committed To Seaport Project In Badagry – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 29th December 2019

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says his administration is highly committed to the issue of seaport project in Badagry.

Sanwo-Olu made this known on Sunday at the Badagry Integrity Awards 2019 organised by Badagry Parrot Prints and Publication in Badagry. The governor was represented by his Special Adviser on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr Solomon Bonu.

According to Sanwo-Olu, on the issue of seaport, Badagry has been identified for this project for the past four years.

"We are still talking to the Federal Government to perfect the deal because as at today, the heart of Lagos is congested and we need to decongest it.

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“Badagry has the land and we are still praying to Federal Government to listen to us so that the project will start on time.

“We are willing to do everything humanly possible to let the project start,” he said.

In his keynote address, Mr Maumo Jinadu, Bursar, Lagos State Polytechnic and Chairman of the event, urged the Federal Government to resuscitate the Badagry Seaport project’s plan and make it a reality. Jinadu said that the project would help the development plan of Badagry and Lagos.

According to him, the construction of the seaport in Badagry is key to the development of the town. He said that the award was in recognition of his 27 years of work experience in Lagos Polytechnic, saying that the organiser did not request for any money.

According to him, it is a merit award and no monetary value is attached to it; it is not an award bought with money. Mr Solomon Zosu, Publisher, Parrot Prints and Publication, the organiser of BIA 2019 Award, said the criterion used in selecting the awardees was performance.

“We do not reward people who won election but we went into the field and looked at the performance evaluation of people before giving them awards,” he said. Zosu expressed his gratitude to the people who had been behind the success of the publications over 10 years ago.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that among the awardees were, Mr Solomon Bonu, the Special Adviser on

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Tourism, Arts and Culture to Lagos State Governor; and Mr Mobolaji Ogunlende, the Founder of Real Acts of Kindness (RAK), an NGO in Badagry.

Other awardees were, Alhaji Fatai Shokunbi, the President of Badagry Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BACCIMA); and Mrs Ronke Ogabi, the Coordinator, Lagos State Neighbourhood Corps in Badagry.

They also included Mr Maumo Jinadu, Bursar, Lagos Polytechnic; and Mr Temitope Ajayi, a reporter with Radio Nigeria. (NAN)

2.126 Sanwo-Olu Vows To Tackle Traffic Girdlock In Lagos

Culled from Independent on December 29, 2019

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has reassured that his administration will do all within its power to rid the state of everything causing traffic gridlock on the roads.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance on Saturday evening while inspecting the removal of 2nd Lekki roundabout as part of junction improvements for free flow of vehicular movements along the Lekki corridors. The state government has embarked on the removal of some roundabouts identified as the major causes of traffic gridlock experienced by motorists.

Four roundabouts in Ikotun, 2nd roundabout on the Lekki-Epe Expressway, Allen Avenue and Maryland will be removed to pave the way for road expansion and free flow of traffic.

The government, through the Ministry of Transportation, explained the removal will give room for road expansion and

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strategically ease off traffic congestion in some parts of the metropolis.

At the project site, Sanwo-Olu, encouraged the contractors handling the projects to keep up with the current pace of work to ensure its completion in record time.

2.127 Sanwo-Olu Makes History With 31 New Roads In Ojokoro

Culled from Independent on December 30, 2019

The Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo Olu, last week commissioned a whopping 31 roads marking a watershed in his administrations stride to bring the dividend of democracy to the good people of Lagos and most especially the dwellers of Ojokoro LCDA, who are the direct beneficiaries of the road projects.

The roads were started by the administrations of Ambode, but were not completed before the coming in of the incumbent government of Babajide, who vigorously pursued their completion after assuming office six months ago.

Ojokoro is a Local Government Council Development Area (LCDA) carved out from Ifako-Ijaiye Local government area of Lagos state, with headquarters at Agbado Ijaiye. The towns of Ojokoro form part of the conurbations of the emerging smart mega city of Lagos.

It shares border with Ogun state and majority of its residents are mostly middle-class folks who live there but could be found mostly working in the high brow business districts of the city. It

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has an estimated population of about 400,000 people living in its towns and communities.

Even though past administrations of the state made limp attempts to shore up the few number of road networks in the LCDA, the efforts were not sustained, leaving the local council with a comparatively poor network of roads.

It is therefore quite cheering that the administration of Babajide Sanwo-Olu, backed its promises with actions by completing these road projects which definitely will ease the living conditions of its dwellers.

Speaking at the commissioning exercise, the governor, said, “We gather today to commission 31 networks of roads in Ojokoro LCDA in Ifako-Ijaiye Local Government Area”.

“The provision of road infrastructure is central to the delivery of the THEMES Agenda of this administration. Good road network facilitates effective management of Traffic and Transport thereby boosting the socio-economic activities of the State; it reduces traffic induced health challenges and travel time to access health facilities and educational institutions”.

“The drainages that come with the roads help to de-flood the environment while the streetlights complement the security architecture of the State. It is common knowledge that tourism and entertainment are better appreciated and attract more people when access to the venue is relatively stress-free”.

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The governor pointed out that, “This Ojokoro LCDA is a strategic settlement with a fast growing population and huge need for infrastructural renewal.

“The 31 network of roads being commissioned today was specifically executed to offer traffic relief to this rapidly developing area, improve the socio-economic activities and connectivity within the axis and its neighbouring Ogun state through Segun Adetiba Road and the bridge across Ilo River. The completion of the network of roads will also complement other completed roads within Ojokoro LCDA”.

While affirming the obvious, the governor said: “The network of roads will help unlock perennial traffic gridlock along Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway with resultant reduction in travel time along the corridor. Prior to embarking on these projects, traffic on the road had grown tremendously considering the high rate of the population growth and its attendant vehicular density”.

He concluded by advising residents on their responsibilities to the roads, saying, “It is important at this juncture to emphasise the need for our people on this axis to take ownership of this network of roads right from this commissioning.

“We have to understand that challenge to sustainable infrastructure is beyond quality of job but include vandalism of road furniture and public utilities by indiscriminate dumping of refuse on roads and drainages, activities of roadside mechanics and axle overload on inner roads among others”.

“Therefore, I seek your continued support to ensure that projects in Ojokoro are used judiciously because they have

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been put in place with our commonwealth. I urge all community/religious leaders and the people of Ojokoro and others that will ply these roads to guard jealously the infrastructure being commissioned today and those that would be provided in the near future. Together, we shall build a greater Lagos State”.

In her address, the Special Adviser on Works and Infrastructure, Aramide Adeyoye, said: “Prior to the intervention leading to the construction of the roads, the growth in traffic volume and axle loads had caused distress and depression in most sections of the network of roads serving the huge population of resident in the area and Nigerians using this corridor to commute to and from work places in Lagos and their residence in the neighbouring Ogun State”.

She sought the continued support of the residents to ensure that projects in Ojokoro are safe-guarded, “Let us protect our network of roads by ensuring that drainage channels are not turned into dump sites. Streetlights must be protected from vandalism. Any motorist who damages the poles should be handed over to enforcement agents to ensure that they pay for the repairs”.

“I implore our vehicle owners and drivers to shun over-speeding; the road is a shared asset. We need to be cautious of pedestrians especially children using the roads. Let it be a collective responsibility of all to ensure that parking on the roads is not allowed,” she said.

The honourable chairman of Ojokoro LCDA, Hammed Tijani, heartily appreciated the governor for his dogged commitment to the completion of the road projects, asserting that residents of the LCDA will continue to give maximum support and cooperation to the administration of governor Babajide Sanwo Olu, with assurances that it will take ownership of the roads in

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ensuring safety of users, maintenance of the roads and the drainage.

Tijani, like Oliver Twist, presented to the governor other critical road networks in the LCDA requiring attention because of their strategic nature to reduce the heavy dependence on the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway, responsible for its perennial traffic gridlocks.

Some of the roads commissioned include; Akinsola street, aremu Lawal street, Edun Alaran road, Funso Owoyemi street, Home Science Road, Alh. Luqman Avenue, Odun Alayo street, Santos avenue, Segun Adetiba road, Suberu street among others.

2.128 Sanwo-Olu Promises To Rid Lagos Of Gridlock

Culled from the Nation Newspaper on December 30, 2019

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has reassured that his administration will do all within its power to rid the state of everything causing gridlock on roads.

He spoke at the weekend while inspecting the removal of second Lekki roundabout as part of junction improvements for free flow of vehicular movements along the Lekki corridors.

The government had embarked on the removal of some roundabouts identified as the major causes of traffic jams being experienced by motorists.

Four roundabouts including Ikotun, second roundabout on the Lekki-Epe Expressway, Allen Avenue roundabout and Maryland will be removed to pave the way for road expansion and free flow of traffic.

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The government, through the Ministry of Transportation, said the removal of some roundabouts and street furniture such as giant bill boards would give room for road expansion and strategically ease off traffic congestion in some parts of the metropolis.

At the project site, Sanwo-Olu encouraged the contractors handling the projects to keep up with the current pace of work, to ensure its completion in time.

Last week, Transportation Commissioner Dr. Fredrick Oladeinde, who accompanied Governor Sanwo-Olu to inspect the project, described the decision to improve the junctions as a strategic repositioning of the roads to ease traffic congestion.

He said that the government started off through discovery of 60 gridlock junctions and areas across the state.

Said he: “The junction improvement work being conducted on the four roundabouts includes the following:

“Removal of roundabouts, separate streams of traffic through Traffic Signal Lights (TSL), synchronising all TSLs through intelligent traffic systems, which will recognise the densities of traffic streams and give priorities accordingly.

“Introducing stacking lanes for both left and right turns at these junctions, which will also contribute to increasing the capacities of our roads at the junctions, thereby reducing travel time.”

Sanwo-Olu visited the Lekki coastal roads to ascertain the level of work done by men of the Environmental Task Force, who had gone earlier to clean up the illegal structures built on the right of way.

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Satisfied, he said that the government would move in and start work in the area to avoid further encroachment and illegal occupation of the large expanse of land.

2.130 Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Better Lagos

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on December 31, 2019 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday said Lagosians should expect better service delivery in road construction, education, health, security and housing in the coming year.

He added that all these had been captured in the 2020 budget, noting that more funds had been made available to cater for the needs of the sectors. The governor, who spoke on a TVC programme, Journalists' Hangout, said Lagosians would not pay additional tax. He said that the government would only ensure that those not captured in previous tax regime were now covered.

The governor said a lasting solution was being put to perennial road challenges by opening up the waterways and railways. He said there would be a comprehensive transportation system in the New Year.

"Lagosians should be expecting improved condition. We are not increasing any form of taxation for anybody. We are only making sure that those who are not covered are covered in the New Year." He added the roads were damaged because they were overstretched, noting that if interlocks and concrete materials were used in the construction they would be more durable," he said.

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Sanwo-Olu added that the fourth Mainland Bridge was under review, stressing this would take about two years to be completed.

"We are solving Lagos gridlock one after the other, we are removing the roundabouts in all the places we have them. We are ensuring zero potholes on our roads, this will enhance better roads and it will remove traffic build up in the state," he said.

The governor further said his administration would open up more Primary Healthcare facilities in areas where none existed.

2.131 Vehicles' Breakdown, Major Cause Of Lagos Gridlock – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 1, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the breakdown of faulty vehicles is one of the major causes of gridlock in the state.

The governor made this known during the inauguration of an ultra-modern office accommodation for the Lagos State Vehicle Inspection Officers to boost their capacity and create good working environment.

He said traffic officials had been empowered to ensure that only roadworthy vehicles would ply the roads for the safety of lives and property of residents.

The governor said the state had been able to achieve 21st Century improvement in service delivery in the transport sector through technological innovations such as the use of Automated Number Plate Recognition, electronic testing, Lagos

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Computerised Vehicle Inspection Service, Forensic Laboratory and Auto-Vin, and E-testing for driver licence.

He said the state would consolidate on the success recorded in the new infrastructure and technology and replicate similar offices of the same capacity in all the 20 local government areas and 37 local council development authorities in the state.

Sanwo-Olu urged traffic officials to justify government's investment in infrastructure by rededicating themselves to duty and ensuring genuine commitment to duty. He said his administration would remain committed to more investment in the transport sector.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Dr Frederic Oladeinde, said the provision of the facility was in line with the Vehicle Inspection Service vision to serve the people of the state better.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Mr Sewedo Whenu, said stakeholders would meet the transport needs of the state.

He stated that the Vehicle Inspection Service and Ministry of Transportation would continue to initiate new ideas that would help to reduce gridlock in the state, thereby promoting trade and commercial activities necessary for its economic growth.

**2.132 We've Weakened Kidnappers In Lagos,
Says Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 1, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday said security strategies put in place by his administration had yielded fruits, adding that crime rate, especially kidnapping, had reduced.

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He spoke after the state's final Security Council meeting in the year. The governor noted that incessant kidnapping was part of the security challenges facing the state when he took over leadership in May 2019. "As the Chief Security Officer of the state, I can confirm that activities of the security council has made Lagos safer than it was when we took over. We will continue to make the state secure for all law-abiding residents and visitors," Sanwo-Olu added.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, also said the police had weakened the capacity of kidnappers in the state, adding that the council remained vigilant to consolidate on the progress achieved. Odumosu also disclosed that the implementation of the state government's amnesty offered repentant cultists would start in the New Year.

"We are introducing a policy to contain the menace of okada riders and tricycles, and this policy will be fully implemented. We will be unveiling the plan in a few weeks and it will be sustainable. The plan will not be without human face, but we expect all the commercial motorcycle operators to comply with the policy," Odumosu said.

**2.133 Sanwo-Olu Plans 100% Implementation Of N1.168tr
budget**

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 1, 2020 in News,
News Update*

The N1.168 trillion Lagos State Budget 2020 was on Tuesday signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the day after the House of Assembly passed the Appropriation Bill.

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The budget is made up N451.5 billion Recurrent Expenditure and N711.0 billion Capital Expenditure.

The governor described the state's biggest ever budget as a very audacious and assured that: "My colleagues and I are well-seated and they are fired-up to ensure that we perform on this budget, almost 100 per cent.

"We're targeting to do well above 92 per cent and track it to 100 per cent. This is the only way the government can make the more than 20 million Lagosians happy."

The governor said "the budget will be implemented responsibly, transparently and with accountability and will ensure a greater good for a greater number of people and will result in a better quality of life for residents."

Sanwo-Olu said: "Lagosians do not have a voice but we will implement the budget responsibly and at the end of the year, we will ease their lives. I am hopeful that 2020 will be prosperous."

He thanked the Speaker and members of the Appropriation Committee for ensuring timely passage of the budget.

Speaker Mudashiru Obasa said: "We thank the governor for giving us a proposal that we only had to change few things, scrutinise the figures and the MDAs. "Whatever we have proposed we need money for implementation.

Obasa urged members of the executive to block leakages, saying "we want 100 per cent implementation; I'm urging you all to rise up to your responsibility. I urge you to block leakages."

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The budget, which was presented on November 8, last year, has education and healthcare as top priorities. With a proposed fiscal plan of N115 billion for public infrastructure, the governor said the entire state will be "a massive construction site" this year.

The governor unveiled his administration's plan to accelerate the growth of the state's economy by proposing aggressive investments in critical areas of priorities – physical infrastructure, environment, human capital and security.

2.134 Sanwo-Olu Signs Lagos 2020 Budget Into Law

Culled from Independent on January 1, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has signed the 2020 budget of the state into law. The move comes less than 24 hours after the Lagos State House of Assembly approved N1.168trn being the 2020 budget for the state.

Details Later...

2.135 We've Weakened Kidnappers' Capability In Lagos — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on January 1, 2020

Security strategies put in place by Lagos State government has yielded fruits with the reduction in the spate of crime in the state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu disclosed on Tuesday.

Sanwo-Olu said some of the security challenges inherited by his administration at inception had been largely contained, but said his government was not resting on its oars to keep the state safe for business and living.

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The governor made the disclosure after the state's final Security Council meeting in the year. After the meeting, held behind closed doors in Alausa, Sanwo-Olu led members of the council to brief Government House reporters about security actions to be taken by the government in the coming new year.

Sanwo-Olu said incessant kidnapping was part of the security challenges facing the state when he took over the leadership in May 2019.

He noted that strategies deployed by the government to confront the scourge had significantly brought down kidnapping and led to positive reviews of the crime in the final quarter of the outgoing year.

He said: "Today is our last Security Council meeting in the year and there have been positive reviews we have achieved based on the results from the measures we put in place to contain security challenges we inherited.

There are lots of new security strategies we are embarking on next year. "As the Chief Security Officer of the state, I can confirm that activities of Security Council has made Lagos safer than it was when we took over. We will continue to make the state secure for all law-abiding residents and visitors."

Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, corroborated the governor's submission as he reviewed security operations in the outgoing year. He said security operatives had weakened the capacity of kidnappers in the state, adding that the Council remained vigilant to consolidate on the progress achieved.

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He said: "The kidnapping issue has gone down drastically; those coming to Lagos for businesses should know that they are safe. But, we remain vigilant. We believe it is still the collective effort of everyone to ensure kidnapping becomes a thing of the past in Lagos."

Odumosu also disclosed that implementation of the state government's amnesty offered repentant secret cultists would start in the new year, noting that the amnesty would be complemented with an integration programme for the pardoned cultists.

Besides, Odumosu said the Council would be initiating new policy to curtail the activities of commercial motorcycles, known as 'okada' on the highways.

This plan, the Lagos police boss said, would be rolled out within the first four weeks in 2020.

"We are introducing a policy to contain the menace of 'okada' riders and tricycles, and this policy will be fully implemented. "We will be unveiling the plan in a few weeks and it will be sustainable.

The plan will not be without a human-face, but we expect all the commercial motorcycle operators to comply with the policy," Odumosu said.

There will be more punitive actions to be taken against those engaging in one-way driving, the Commissioner of Police warned, adding that driving against the traffic is now being considered as a major security issue in Lagos.

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The Police Commissioner said: “While we roll out more security plans to keep everyone safe, we urge members of the public to be security conscious. We have reviewed the progress and setbacks we recorded in the outgoing year, but we will be deploying more strategies next year to ensure improved performance in our security operations across the state.”

**2.136 I’m Committed To LASU’s Boarding Facility —
Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 2, 2020 The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has reiterated his commitment to building a 8,272-room boarding facility for the Lagos State University.

The governor said the boarding facility would be built through a Public Private Partnership agreement, adding that it was aimed at transforming the state-owned varsity into “a residential institution, thereby enhancing quality of teaching and learning.”

Sanwo-Olu said this in his New Year message on Wednesday.

He said he was also committed to addressing the difficulty being experienced by Lagosians on the road to and from work on a daily basis.

The governor restated his administration’s plan to take advantage of the vast water bodies in Lagos State to address the problematic traffic situation in the state, adding that plans for Blue (Railway) Line from Okokomaiko to Marina and the Red (Railway) Line, connecting Agege to Ebute-Meta were on course.

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Sanwo-Olu said, “Fellow Lagosians, from the feedback I have consistently received from you, it is clear that transport ranks very high on the list of issues that concern you.

“Our administration identifies strongly with these concerns, and we are doing everything we can to improve transportation and traffic situation across the state.

“It is for this reason that we are seriously building on the efforts of previous governments in the quest to significantly improve the transportation experience in the state.”

He said his administration would deliver “the all-important 4th Mainland Bridge, for which the procurement process is underway, the Agege Pen Cinema Bridge, the Lekki Regional Road, Aragadun and Agilaso in Badagry and several boundary roads in the Alimosho Local Government.”

Sanwo-Olu said with the amounts allocated to the education and health sectors in the 2020 budget, his administration had demonstrated its seriousness “to set new standards of investment in health and education, to cater to the needs of our rapidly growing population.”

**2.137 Agege Pen Cinema Flyover Ready June/July –
Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on January 3, 2020

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured residents and motorists that the Agege Pen Cinema flyover bridge will be completed and commissioned for use by June ending or early July 2020.

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The governor, who toured the project site on Friday in company of his cabinet members, said the bridge has reached 70 per cent completion. He stated June/July date was the commitment given by the contractors.

Sanwo-Olu also visited on-going work at the first segment of construction at the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, which is open to motorists.

The Agege Pen Cinema flyover, which connects Oba Ogunji road where it takes off and drops off at Agunbiade on the other side, also has a railway underpass and three abatements, splitting into adjoining streets all around Agege Pen Cinema.

Sanwo-Olu said: “At the completion not only would we see a major traffic gridlock improvement, we would also see real estate value coming back to the entire neighbourhood here and you could see better quality of life because it is all geared to ensure we continue to build smart environment and smart cities.

“This is one of the major flyovers happening right in the midst of Agege, so what it speaks to is the fact that what is good for the people on the Island is also good for my people right here.

“You can see road infrastructure, bridge infrastructure, all three coming to solve traffic, transportation and movement of human beings from one point to the other, and you can see economies, businesses coming up to flourish here.”

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He appealed to citizens and residents around the area to bear with the government a little bit more and to exercise more patience and cooperate with the contractor, who has engaged many of them on site.

At the Lagos-Badagry expressway, the governor warned residents and motorists around Mazamaza- Alakija- Agboju against indiscriminate dumping of refuse, open defecation, illegal parking of tankers and trucks among other traffic and environmental nuisances on the expressway.

Sanwo-Olu noted that government has kept its promise made in July 2019 to deliver, quality, motorable roads to residents of the area, vowing to intensify enforcement of the state’s traffic and environmental laws.

According to him, before the end of the third quarter of this year, construction work will be concluded on the four point seven kilometres stretch of the Expressway from Agboju to LASU Gate.

The Governor, who was accompanied by his Deputy, Obafemi Hamzat and some cabinet members noted that the projects will ease gridlocks and boost economic activities in the areas.

2.138 Badagry Expressway: Sanwo-Olu Gives CCECC Deadline On Construction

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 4, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has asked the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation to complete

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the Trade Fair-LASU Gate portion of the Lagos-Badagry Expressway within eight months.

Sanwo-Olu gave the directive during an inspection of the Agboju-Trade Fair section of the expressway noting that the Trade Fair-LASU Gate section, which spans 4.7 kilometres, was the next phase of construction to be carried out on the road.

He said the work would pass through Volkswagen, the military barracks, then from LASU-Iba Junction to LASU Gate.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria, the governor said the contractor promised to finish the portion in nine months.

“But we are pushing for delivery within seven to eight months,” Sanwo-Olu said. “This is because we are in the dry season. We want them to push all of the heavy works around drainage and keep the right of way safe, such that by the middle of the year, they should be able to get to the front of LASU Gate.”

Meanwhile, the governor commended CCECC for delivering the Agboju-Trade Fair phase within the timeframe.

He, however, decried the indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the road by residents, urging them to join the government in maintaining public infrastructure. The governor also warned articulated vehicles against pouring used engine oil on the road.

He said, “They make it unusable and they park their vehicles permanently on the road. A lot of enforcement will continue to come; we will continue to go back there and tow vehicles.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

“It is a 10-lane highway; five lanes on either side and it’s supposed to be free-flowing of traffic. We are going to come very strongly; we are sending the message right now; this is a major international highway; you cannot turn it into a refuse dump. “We will not agree to that; we will come back and clear everybody off the right of way.”

Sanwo-Olu also said that sooner in the year, the BRT corridor would be carved out on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway to ease traffic.

In a similar manner, Sanwo-Olu has assured residents and motorists that the Agege Pen Cinema Flyover bridge will be completed by early July.

The governor gave the assurance while inspecting the work done so far on the bridge on Friday in Agege.

Sanwo-Olu said the bridge had reached 70 per cent completion and that the most difficult part of the construction had been done.

He said, “We are pushing the contractor. We have also been able to drive a lot of commitment from them. So, let us use the dry season to see how we complete this bridge very quickly.

“So, they have given us a commitment — at the end of the second quarter or the beginning of the third quarter — meaning that we should complete this bridge toward the end of June, early July, and all of you will be invited to see the level of development that we have brought to this entire neighbourhood.”

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

According to the governor, the Agege Pen Cinema flyover, which connects Oba Ogunji Road, where it takes off with Agunbiade on the other side, also has a railway underpass and three abatements, splitting into adjoining streets all around Agege Pen Cinema.

He said at completion, not only would there be an improvement in traffic flow, but real estate value would come back to the entire neighbourhood.

“You could see a better quality of life because it is all geared to ensure we continue to build a smart environment and smart cities,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.139 Sanwo-Olu Fulfils Promise, Completes Section Of Lagos-Badagry Expressway

Culled from Independent on January 4, 2020

A newly constructed section of Lagos-Badagry Highway was on Friday, declared open for public use by Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, fulfilling the promise made at inception of his administration.

The construction of the 4-kilometre section, which stretches from Agboju to Trade Fair, started shortly after the current administration took off.

It would be reCulled that Sanwo-Olu visited the site on June 4, 2019 to assess the level of work on the abandoned project. He promised to mobilise the contractor handling the project back on site, while also pledging to complete the stretch before end of December, last year.

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In fulfilling the promise, Sanwo-Olu led members of the State’s Executive Council to Lagos-Badagry Expressway to open the completed section, while also declaring the commencement of construction work on the Phase II of the project, which will take off from Trade Fair to the main gate of the Lagos State University (LASU) in Iba town.

The construction of the Phase II of the expressway is expected to be completed next October, after which the final phase will take off.

Sanwo-Olu said: “We gave our commitment when we came to inspect the level of work on this section of Lagos-Badagry Expressway in the first week of June, last year. We promised we would complete the construction of first phase of the expressway by December. We have kept our word, as we have just delivered the Phase 1 of this important highway exactly six months.

“We still have about 4.7 kilometres section to be constructed from Trade Fair to LASU gate, which makes up the Phase II of the project. The contractor has already been mobilised and we will be delivering this in the next nine months. The last phase of work is about 2 kilometres which will take the construction work to Okokomaiko.”

The outstanding work on the completed section, the Governor revealed, includes the designing the pedestrian walkways and fixing of streetlights. The completed stretch cuts across strategic locations, including Maza-Maza, Alakija, Agboju and stopped at Trade Fair.

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Sanwo-Olu advised road users and residents of the area against activities that might damage the completed section, urging them to take ownership of the road.

Also, the Governor visited Agege to assess the on-going construction of Agege-Pen Cinema flyover, securing the contractor's commitment to deliver the project next July.

The flyover which is said to be at 60 percent completion stage, took off from Oba Ogunji Road and drops at Oke Koto axis of Agege. The third abutment of the bridge extends to old Abeokuta Highway into Abule Egba.

The total length of the bridge is 1.4 kilometres and it is expected to have streetlight facilities and pedestrian walkways.

The Agege-Pen Cinema flyover, Sanwo-Olu disclosed, will be complemented with comprehensive rehabilitation work on inner roads to enhance traffic flow.

**2.140 Badagry Expressway: Sanwo-Olu Orders
Completion Of Trade Fair-LASU Gate Portion By
August**

Culled from the Sun on 4th January 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday gave marching orders for the completion of the Trade Fair – LASU Gate portion of the Lagos-Badagry expressway within eight months.

Sanwo-Olu gave the directive to the contractor, China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC), during an

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

inspection of the 'Agboju to Trade Fair' section of the expressway.

Sanwo-Olu said that the Trade Fair to LASU Gate portion, a 4.7 kilometres distance, was the next phase of construction to be carried out on the road.

He said that the work would pass through Volkswagen, the military barracks, then from LASU-Iba junction to LASU Gate.

The governor said that the contractor promised to finish the portion in nine months, "but we are pushing for delivery within seven to eight months.

This is because we are in the dry season, we want them to push all of the heavy works around drainage, and keep the right of way safe, such that by the middle of the year, they should be able to get to front of LASU Gate," Sanwo-Olu said.

He commended the contractor for delivering the 'Agboju to Trade Fair' phase within the timeframe. "It was the first week in July, we all came here on this road and we gave a commitment that by December, this part of Lagos-Badagry Expressway would have been completed and opened to traffic, we have kept to our word, this is exactly six months.

"If you recall in July, nobody could stand on where we are standing right now, we could not access this part of the route at all. But we have been able to push it from Maza-Maza towards Agboju to Alakija; now we have passed Trade Fair, so we have kept faith with our promise and our contractors have also measured up to work," he said.

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He, however, decried the indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the road by residents and urged the public to join the government in maintaining the public infrastructure.

He also warned articulated vehicles against pouring used engine oil on the road. “They make it unusable and they park their vehicles permanently on the road. A lot of enforcement will continue to come; we will continue to go back there and tow vehicles.

“It is a 10 lane highway, five lanes on either side and it’s supposed to be free-flowing of traffic. We are going to come very strongly, we are sending the message right now, this is a major international highway; you cannot turn it into a refuse dump. We will not agree to that; we will come back and clear everybody off the right of way.”

Sanwo-Olu Said That Sooner In the year, the BRT corridor would be carved out on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway to ease transportation.

**2.141 Sanwo-Olu Calls For Review Nf nation’s Curriculum
Sanwo-Olu Cautions Lagosians On Fire Outbreak**

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 5, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has advised Lagosians to take precautionary measures to prevent fire outbreak during the harmattan season.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke through the state Commissioner for Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Dr Wale Ahmed,

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said residents of the state should be cautious because the current low humidity helped fires to spread fast.

He said the spread had led to numerous fire outbreaks that had been recorded in parts of Nigeria and the rest of the world.

The governor decried cases of fire outbreak in the state, which had become a crucial concern for the government, adding that there was a need for all residents to be more careful, especially during this time of the year.

As part of the precautionary steps, Sanwo-Olu advised Lagosians to always switch off all electrical appliances and unplug them while leaving their houses.

“This also applies to markets and shops in the metropolis. If there is no spark, there won’t be spread of fire,” he added.

Sanwo-Olu also advised Lagosians to keep gas cylinders in open space, away from their kitchens, to prevent disasters even in the case of a leakage.

He Culled on the people to invest in basic firefighting equipment, such as fire extinguishers to deal with fire incidents before they could spread.

The governor also cautioned against the use of fireworks at this time of harmattan, noting that they could lead to fire if they fell on combustible materials. “Although the Lagos State Government is prepared at all times to respond to emergencies, it is better and more cost-effective to take precautionary measures to prevent disasters, including fire outbreaks, from happening in the first place,” he added.

2.142 Rep Applauds Sanwo-Olu, Gbajabiamila Over Clearing Of Canal In Apapa

Culled from Independent on January 6, 2020

Lagos – The member representing Apapa Federal Constituency at the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Mufutau Egberongbe has commended the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his swift response to ensuring that canals in the Apapa area of the state are cleared.

The lawmaker, had in a motion on the floor of the House, Culled on Gov. Sanwo-Olu to reconstruct the drainage system in the area to avert an impending disaster. He had also through the motion Culled on Speaker Gbajabiamila, to support the state in rebuilding the Apapa canal otherwise known as “System 5.”

In a chat with Daily Independent on Monday, the lawmaker disclosed that he and his colleague at the state House of Assembly, Hon. Muiyiwa Jimoh, who is the Deputy Majority Leader of the House, met with Joe Igbokwe, the Special Adviser to Gov.

Sanwo-Olu on Drainage and Water Resources, to discuss the issue, which eventually yielded a good result. He explained that after the visit to the Special Adviser, the state government through the Ministry of the Environment moved to the area and had since then commenced the clearing of the canals in the area.

According to the lawmaker, “I must thank the state government for coming to our rescue because the System 5 drain travels from Onilegogoro in the Surulere area through Gasikiya Road

in Apapa Iganmu and leads to the drain by Government Press in Ajeromi Local Government area.

“On the floor of the House, I Culled on the state governor and Rt. Hon. Gbajabiamila to come to our rescue in Apapa and ensure that the drain is cleared to stem incidences of flooding and mitigate polio-related ailments.

“I can categorically tell you now that work has commenced already and I wish to really appreciate the governor, the Speaker and Mr. Igbokwe for the roles they all played at ensuring that this System 5 is cleared.

“This development will go a long way in ensuring that our constituents live under a hygienic environment and even if it rains, we can rest assured that flooding won’t be an issue again.”

2.143 Preach, Practice Peaceful Co-Existence With Others, Sanwo-Olu Tells Muslim Faithful

Culled from Independent on January 6, 2020

Lagos – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, has urged all Muslim faithful to preach and practice peaceful coexistence with individuals of other religious persuasions, while describing Islam as a religion of peace.

He made this call at the weekend while speaking at the closing and prize giving ceremony of the 34th National Quran Recitation Competition held at the Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere.

Samwo-Olu, who was represented by Dr. Kadri Hamzat, his deputy stated that Nigeria at this time should begin a process

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of rebuilding adding that it is by tolerating the views of other people that the nation can reach the zenith of its national potentials.

He stated that his administration will embrace and promote religious tolerance in every nook and cranny of the state. He also stressed the need to promote an atmosphere of cordiality, tolerance and peace so that government policies and programmes can be successfully implemented.

“With a peaceful society, we are able to practice our religion and adhere to the teaching of the Prophet (SAW) and abide with the dictates of the Almighty Allah. The point to make here is that we must pursue the high end of what our faith demands us – brotherhood of all men,” he added.

Muhammed Yahaya, Gombe State Governor, who was represented by the State Commissioner for Education, Dr. Abu Dairu stated that the competition will enhance unity and promote healthy competition among youths.

Earlier in his speech, the Vice-Chancellor, Usmanu Dan Fodiyo, Sokoto, Professor Lawal Bilbis Culler for the support of all tiers of government and private sector support in hosting the national competition.

He added that the Institution’s Centre for Islamic Studies is ready to partner with any state government or private organizations willing to sponsor/host the 2020/21 National Quran Recitation Competition.

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Also in his address, the President Muslim Community of Lagos State, Professor Tajudeen Gbadamosi disclosed that the event has been a celebration of the Quran and the people as well a celebration of the bond of the faith and bond of the country.

Highlight of the event was the presentation of star prize of a car each to the Overall winners in male and female categories.

Kabiru Umar from Kaduna State won in the male category while Sanni Diayaātu Abdulkadir from Kano State won in the female category.

Lagos State also won in six categories.

2.144 MTU Celebrates 22 First Class Graduates

Culled from the Sun on 7th January 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has Culled on stakeholders in tertiary institutions to equipped students with skills in digital marketing, design thinking and entrepreneurship to enable them to embrace change and disruption if they desire to be relevant in the Nigerian market.

The governor, who was the guest lecturer at the maiden convocation of Mountain Top University (MTU), Magboro, Ogun State, stated this at the multi-purpose hall of the university.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke on, ‘Future of Job and the World of Work: The Need for Graduates That are Globally Competitive’, said the knowledge acquired in the classroom becomes obsolete in a short while; hence graduating students should

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embrace technology, as jobs of the future would be technology-driven.

“Any students who acquired skill in design thinking will create enormous job opportunities for young graduates because organisations are interested in employees that would add value and help them to learn and better understand the users of their products and services through testing.

He added: “Many of the things you learnt in university would have become obsolete even before you complete NYSC. That’s the truth. We must also extend this to curriculum transformation. We will not progress in the 21st century using 20th-century curricula.

Our young people must become comfortable with coding, robotics, 3D printing and other technologies from an early age, especially in the public school system. Regardless of what academic track our students are on, technological literacy must be a common denominator.”

In his remarks, the Chancellor of MTU, Dr. Daniel Olukoya commended the graduating set for actualising their vision of getting certified. Olukoya said the vision is to raise a cynosure and leaders beyond the shores of the nation.

“Be curious, do not stop learning and make value out of every endeavour including time and resources,” Olukoya stressed.

On his part, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Elijah Ayolabi, charged the graduands to be good ambassadors of the institution and

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urged them to use the training acquired at MTU to impact on the society.

He words: “What you do with the training you received is your sole responsibility. I charge you to remember the responsibility placed on your shoulders as the firstborn of MTU.

“MTU graduates are assets, their intellects have been trained in different aspects of life, entrepreneurship, leadership, vocation and soft skills that will help them immensely in their endeavours. I’m confident of this particular set, they are doing excellently well and they can compete anywhere in the world. This is how graduates should be prepared to become assets and not liabilities to the society,” he stated.

According to him, MTU is graduating 120 students, 22 of them bagged First Class honours in various disciplines. He disclosed that the best graduating student of the institution, Babalola Benjamin Ayodipupo finished with a perfect score of 5.0 CGPA and bagged nine awards.

“The best graduating student of MTU is an exceptional student. The 21- year -old Bio-Chemistry graduate topped the 2018/ 2019 academic session, finishing in First Class with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 5.00. He is from Igbara-Odo, a suburb in Ekiti South West, Ekiti State.

Ayodipupo narrated how after he wrote the UTME and passed the post-UTME to study medicine at the University of Lagos but he was not given admission.

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“I took it in good faith, two days to the closure of admission into MTU, I enrolled and got the opportunity, that is how my journey into MTU began.

He said he set the goal to become the best student right from his first day in the university and was never distracted by frivolities. “I was very focused and determined.

I truly appreciate my parents for their prayers, they are cleric, Mr Peter Ayodipupo and Mrs Adenike Ayodipupo who stood in the gap. God almighty was faithful to me as I was a beneficiary of the Dr. Daniel Kolawole Olukoya, scholarship scheme and made good use of it. I want to thank everyone for the opportunity.

Also, my father and elder sister were the best graduating students during their time, so I emulate them.

My elder sister was the best graduating student in Crawford University and encouraged me to study hard. I kept the right company and made good use of my time. I was actively involved in school activities. I had a timetable and I adhered strictly to it”.

For falling in love with his books, he smiled home with nine academic awards, including the VC’s prize for the best graduating student and the wife of the chancellor’s award. He said the university had shaped his life positively, paving him to a successful career path.

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2.145 Sanwo-Olu Empowers Women, Artisans

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 8, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, empowered over 1,050 vulnerable women and artisans in the state.

The governor said the initiative was in line with the foundational ideology of the All Progressives Congress, adding that it would boost the economy of the most vulnerable in the society.

He said, “One of the key functions of government is to bring the greatest good to the greatest number of the people. Living in poverty or on the edge of poverty is akin to being submerged in water, struggling to stay afloat. Poverty alleviation seeks to ensure that every person in the water is helped onto a boat, where they can then get a chance to take charge of their lives and their journeys henceforth.

“Today, over 1,050 Lagosians made up of vulnerable women, indigent residents, as well as graduates of skill acquisition centres will be receiving requisite support to lift them out of poverty and set them firmly on the journey to financial and economic independence.”

The Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Cecilia Dada, was quoted to have said at the event that women formed the backbone of the state economy.

2.146 Stop Discriminating Against Physically-Challenged, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 10, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has appealed to residents of the state to stop discriminating against people living with disabilities.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Thursday at an event marking the 2019 International Day of Disability for Persons Living with Disabilities.

It was organised by the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs at the Ndubuisi Kanu Park, Alausa, Ikeja.

The governor, who was represented by the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Ganiyu Dawodu, said his administration would do more for people living with disabilities in 2020, especially in the area of education and empowerment.

He said the various clusters of people living with disabilities in the state had been supportive of government's policies, adding that government would reciprocate the gesture.

"Our aim is to create awareness and sensitise the people not to look down on people living with disabilities. Many of them are smart and brilliant. This government will do a lot to ensure that they are not discriminated against.

"We are looking at areas where they can do better. 2020 is a different year. There is a fund that has been earmarked for you to access. 300 of you will be trained and when you

graduate, government will give you kits and accessories to go out and excel.

"We are going to ensure we create awareness among the private sectors. Private sectors must make their buildings user-friendly for people with disabilities," Sanwo-Olu said.

The acting General Manager of LASODA, Alejo Adegboyega, said the event was to identify with the physically-challenged and care for their welfare.

2.147 Sanwo-Olu Boosts Teachers' Morale At Training

Culled from the Sun on 10th January 2020

Lagos Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, made a surprise appearance at CMS Schools Complex, Bariga, for assessment of ongoing capacity building programme for public primary school teachers across the State.

More than 2,000 teachers are undergoing the two-week intensive training being held under the state government's Eko Excel Initiative.

It is a key component of the administration's education blueprint seeking to deploy technology to fundamentally transform the basic education template.

The State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and its technical partner, Bridge International Academies, had already trained 2,400 primary school teachers in the first tranche of the capacity building programme.

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Sanwo-Olu said the training was necessary to incorporate the primary school teachers into the reforms being introduced to improve on education at the foundation level and enhance the quality of education in the State.

The Governor said his Government had concluded the plans to digitise curriculum of basic schools, noting modern techniques were being employed to maximise learning in all public-owned primary schools. He said the teachers required the training to enable them use gadgets being introduced by the Government to achieve and measure academic growth in primary schools.

He said: “We are changing the mode of instruction in our primary school and we are employing technology to achieve this. By this, we are creating a situation where school will be attractive to children, irrespective of social background. We believe the first effort to shape their future is to make them look forward to going to school every day in their formative years. When we properly prepare them at that cognitive stage, we have carved a good future for them.

“Delivering these instructions is critical. This is why we introduced this intensive training to boost the capacity of our teachers to deliver and support these children at this critical stage. We believe teachers are the first point of contact between the children and their future. The six hours spent with teachers can go a long way in shaping what the pupils will become tomorrow.”

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2.148 Urban Regeneration: Sanwo-Olu Inspects Lagos Island Sites

Culled from the Sun on 12th January 2020

In line with the administration’s plan to embark on urban regeneration of identified communities in Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu early yesterday morning visited some locations in Lagos Island.

The governor, who was accompanied by the Deputy Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Honourable Sanni Eshinlokun and some members of the State Executive Council, including the state’s Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, went round the Onala playing ground; the demolished Jankara market; the Isale Gangan regeneration site, Adeniji Adele, Ebute Elefun and some areas around Idumagbo designated for redevelopment.

Sanwo-Olu restated his administration’s commitment to urban regeneration, saying that Lagos truly needs regeneration especially Lagos Island.

The governor assured residents of the affected areas that his administration would ensure a complete renewal of the entire community, emphasising on building of drainage channels, road upgrade and construction to ease vehicular movements of people and goods.

During his campaign for office, Sanwo-Olu spoke on the need for urban renewal especially in some communities in Lagos Island. The governor also said lack of trust was the major issue militating against urban redevelopment in the state.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

He said: “When you want to take people’s properties and you want to regenerate, they must first see the sincerity of purpose – what are the additional plans that you have for them before you could regenerate?”

He assured Lagosians that his administration would provide a stop gap for at least two to three years, adding that “you need to do what we call proper enumeration”

Speaking on the governor’s visit, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Salako said Lagos Island regeneration plan is an important focal point for urban renewal of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration, noting that Isale Eko is the heart of Lagos and a historical centre.

Salako said the government has also considered its potentials for socioeconomic and cultural revival, noting that the regeneration of Isale Eko would bring up its thriving arts and cultural vibes with local markets and commercial activities.

2.149 Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT Corridor Ready In May – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on January 13, 2020

Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, has revealed that the ongoing construction of the BRT corridor from Oshodi to Abule Egba route will be completed in May, this year.

Construction on the 13.68 kilometre-long route work, which was started under the last administration, has resumed. The project is being handled and supervised by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

Upon completion, Governor Sanwo-Olu, who disclosed this while inspecting the project on Sunday, said it was expected to bring relief to residents, as it is expected to ease transportation challenges along the route.

The governor said over 200 mass transit buses would be deployed to the corridor for immediate operations, pointing out that additional buses would be delivered based on assessment of traffic situation and utilisation.

He said: “This BRT corridor was conceived with the intention to address congestion and transportation challenges along the Oshodi-Abule Egba corridor. We are fully back on this project and we are pushing the contractor to step up the pace of work on it. Once it starts operation, this will significantly bring relief and reduce traffic congestion and transportation problems along this route.

Sanwo-Olu said the government had started to address some impediments slowing down the construction work on the path, which, he said, included blocked drainage network along the route. The governor said desilting of the identified drain channels at Katangowa market would be done to pave the way for completion work on the BRT lane.

The ongoing Phase 1 of the project will have 14 bus stations between Abule Egba and Oshodi. Five of the stations are bilateral, facing both sides of Expressway; nine medium stations. Also, streetlight facilities will be installed on the route in addition to pedestrian bridges being built along the path.

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The governor also said the government would be acquiring land to build mega bus depots for the BRT vehicles to be deployed to the area.

After the completion of the first phase, Sanwo-Olu disclosed that work would commence on the Phase II of the project, which will stretch from Abule Egba to Sango, later this year.

“The extension of the BRT corridor to Ogun State border is part of the solutions we are bringing to address traffic congestion along Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway and reduce it to the barest minimum. This will create a robust transportation model for our residents living in border towns.”

The Governor warned against indiscriminate dumping of refuse on the BRT corridor, stressing that the Government would not condone one-way driving along the route.

2.150 Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Efficient Mass Transit System

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on January 13, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said his administration will strive hard to provide a mass transit system befitting Africa model mega city like Lagos.

The governor who beamed a special focus on the ongoing construction BRT corridor from Oshodi to Abule Egba when he went on inspection tour of the project assured that the 13.68 kilometre-long route will be completed in May, this year.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

Construction work has resumed on the project, which was started under the last administration. The project is being handled and supervised by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

When completed Sanwo-Olu said the project was expected to bring relief to residents, as it is expected to ease transportation challenges along the route.

The Governor said over 200 mass transit buses would be deployed to the corridor for immediate operations, pointing out that additional buses would be delivered based on assessment of traffic situation and utilisation.

He said, “This BRT corridor was conceived with the intention to address congestion and transportation challenges along the Oshodi-Abule Egba corridor. We are fully back on this project and we are pushing the contractor to step up the pace of work on it. Once it starts operation, this will significantly bring relief and reduce traffic congestion and transportation problems along this route.

“We are hoping that by the end of May, we should complete the entire Phase 1 of the BRT infrastructure along this route. The work has been pushed up and there entire project is about 75 per cent to completion. The rest of the construction activities to be done include completion of bus shelters, rigid pavements and terminals.”

Sanwo-Olu said the government had started to address some impediments slowing down the construction work on the path,

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which, he said, included blocked drainage network along the route.

The Governor said de-silting of the identified drain channels at Katangowa market would be done to pave the way for completion work on the BRT lane.

2.151 Urban regeneration : Sanwo-Olu Visits Lagos Island Sites

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on January 14, 2020

In line with the administration's plan to embark on urban regeneration of identified communities in Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu early Saturday morning visited some locations in Lagos Island.

The governor, who was accompanied by the deputy speaker of the Lagos state House of Assembly, Honourable Sanni Eshinlokun and some members of the State Executive Council including the state's commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Idris Salako, went round the Onala playing ground; the demolished Jankara market; the Isale gangan regeneration site; Adeniji Adele; Ebute Elefun and some areas around Idumagbo designated for redevelopment.

Sanwo-Olu restated his administration's commitment to urban regeneration, saying that Lagos truly needs regeneration especially, Lagos Island.

The governor assured residents of the affected areas that his administration will ensure a complete renewal of the entire community, emphasising on building of drainage channels, road

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upgrade and construction to ease vehicular movements of people and goods.

It will be reCulled that Governor Sanwo-Olu, during electioneering spoke on the need for urban renewal, especially in some communities in Lagos Island. The Governor also said sincerity is the major issue militating against urban redevelopment in the state.

2.152 Sanwo Olu Inspects Oshodi-Abule Egba, Road Construction

Culled from Independent on January14, 2020 2:25 PM

Earlier today, we paid an inspection visit to the ongoing construction site of the 13.68-kilometer long Oshodi – Abule Egba, BRT Highway. It is another project we inherited from the previous administration and we intend to complete the entire Phase 1 of this BRT infrastructure, which spans through Abule Egba to Oshodi by May this year. We are currently addressing some identified impediments slowing down construction work along this corridor like the clogged-up drainage channels.

The level of work on this project has been accelerated and we have achieved about 75% completion of the entire Phase 1 of the project while Phase 2(Abule – Egba/Sango) will commence later in the year.

The road infrastructure upon completion will have 14 Bus Stations, 5 of which are bilateral (facing both sides of the expressway) as well as streetlights and pedestrian bridges. We will be deploying over 200 Mass Transport Buses along

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this corridor for immediate operations with the intention to scale up on a needs basis.

This development will no doubt go a long way in addressing the transportation challenges faced by residents on this corridor consequently reducing traffic congestion thereby bringing relief to road users. We are taking zero-tolerance stance on refuse dumping along this BRT highway, we will also not condone traffic offenses therein. Road users and motorists are implored to be guided accordingly he says.

2.153 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Private Support For Infrastructural Challenges

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 15, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu Samson Folarin

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said his administration will partner the private sector to tackle infrastructural challenges in the state.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday at a stakeholders' forum organised by the Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency.

The event, themed, 'Private Partnership on Infrastructure Maintenance Regulation: Aligning with Global Best Practice,' held at Onikan, Lagos State.

The governor assured the participants that LASIMRA would ensure that businesses across the state thrived, adding that technology would be an enabler.

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He said, "What we are doing is to ensure that we bring about a Private Public Partnership model and begin to solve our entire infrastructural challenges. It is also in that same vein that we will be using a PPP model to also fast-track our technology.

"We believe that technology can be a major lead for us and you are in that critical sector where we can use technology as an enabler. For technology to live and survive, it has to have a strong backbone which is also in infrastructure."

He urged them to embrace the policies of the government, saying they were meant to make life better for Lagosians.

The governor also assured the people that his administration would deliver on all the promises made on assumption of office.

Sanwo-Olu said he believed in the ability of the people leading the agency.

He, however, stated that they would be monitored to ensure they continued in their professionalism to meet the yearnings of the industry.

2.154 Sanwo-Olu Reiterates Commitment To Efficient Healthcare Delivery

Culled from Independent on January 15, 2020

Lagos – Lagos state government has reiterated its commitment towards developing a sustainable Smart Health Information Platform by connecting and strengthening linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary facilities to deliver efficient healthcare services.

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Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor dropped the hint on Tuesday while speaking at the opening ceremony of a three-day Technical Conference on e-Health with the theme, “Lagos State Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP),” held at Victoria Island.

Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Dr. Obafemi Kadri, his Deputy stated that in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda, the conference underscores the importance of the health sector and its critical role in securing the economic and general well-being of residents.

He said, though current technological development are essentially limited to developed countries, e-health is a global issue and that he is elated at the prospect of the conference providing workable strategies and solutions to identified challenges to the establishment of a smart health information platform for the state health sector.

”To my mind, establishing a Health Information Platform will impact positively on various aspects our state’s health system such as Human Resources Health, Healthcare Financing through our Universal Coverage Initiative; Lagos State Health Scheme, Biosecurity and Biosafety, provide employment creation opportunities while opening doors to international collaborations and partnerships towards improving the state of our health service delivery,” he said.

He stated that the development of 3,000km fibre optic network will enable public institutions (Schools, hospitals, offices etc) have direct linkages to the internet as part of strategies to make Lagos a Smart City.

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While describing Data as the new currency, and key in planning, the governor Culled on all residents of the Lagos State to register with the State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) in order to assist the state government to have data which will assist the government in the provision of its numerous people-Oriented programmes.

He disclosed that there is ongoing discussion with NIMC to utilize the infrastructure of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency for data capture by residents of Lagos State.

He stated that the development of 3,000km fibre optic network will enable public institutions (Schools, hospitals, offices etc) have direct linkages to the internet as part of strategies to make Lagos a Smart City.

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He disclosed that there is ongoing discussion with NIMC to utilize the infrastructure of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency for data capture by residents of Lagos State.

Professor Akin Abayomi, the State Commissioner for Health, disclosed that the Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP) is an outcome of the Art of Technology launched by the state

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government last December and is designed to leverage on technology to improve the health sector and ensure that large number of citizens have access to qualitative healthcare.

He said that the strategy would amongst others things, reduce wastage of scarce resources, prepare to enter the digital age of precision medicine; drive the bioeconomy accelerate human resource development and create global virtual health hub.

Andrew S. Nevin of PWC in his keynote address urged the state government to become a global leader by measuring not its GDP as the yardstick for growth but rather the sustainable Development Goal levels.

He said the prosperity of Lagos as shown by the GDP has not translated into wellbeing given the low level of life expectancy of 54.6years for Lagosians.

2.155 Sanwo-Olu Reiterates Commitment To Improve Health Care Delivery

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 15, 2020in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has declared the intention of his administration to continue to review strategies and policies geared towards delivering his electoral promises based on the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda.

The governor spoke yesterday at the opening ceremony of a three-day Technical Conference on e-Health with the theme: “Lagos State Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP)”.

The event was held on Victoria Island, Lagos.

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Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, noted that the conference was geared towards developing a sustainable Smart Health Information Platform by connecting and strengthening linkages between primary, secondary and tertiary facilities so as to deliver “better, faster and smarter health care.”

He said in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda, the conference underscores the importance of the health sector and its critical role in securing the economic and general well-being of residents.

Speaking further, the governor remarked that though current technological developments are essentially limited to developed countries, e-health is a global issue.

He said he is elated at the prospect of the conference providing workable strategies and solutions to identify challenges to the establishment of a smart health information platform for the state health sector.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said: “To my mind, establishing a Health Information Platform will impact positively on various aspects our state’s health system such as Human Resources Health, Healthcare Financing through our Universal Coverage Initiative; Lagos State Health Scheme, Biosecurity and Biosafety, provide employment creation opportunities while opening doors to international collaborations and partnerships towards improving the state of our health service delivery.”

He said the development of 3,000km fiber optic network would enable public institutions (schools, hospitals, offices etc.) to

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have direct linkages to the Internet as part of strategies to make Lagos a Smart City.

While describing data as the new currency and key in planning, the governor Culled on all residents to register with the State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) in order to assist the government to have data, which will assist the government in the provision of its people-oriented programmes.

He said there is ongoing discussion with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to utilise the infrastructure of the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency for data capture by residents of Lagos State.

2.156 Remembrance Day: Empowerment Programme Underway For Widows Of Fallen Heroes -Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 15, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday said the state government will package a special empowerment programme for widows of fallen heroes in the state as a way of support.

The Governor stated this while speaking with correspondents after laying wreath in commemoration of the Armed Forces Remembrance Day at Remembrance Arcade, TBS, Lagos.

The Governor led other dignitaries to lay wreaths after inspecting guard of honour to commemorate the event.

Sanwo-Olu said the ministry of Home Affairs was in charge of the widows' programme but promising that "We will focus on the widows of our fallen heroes.

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"In our next programme, we will deliberately look for the widows of our fallen heroes and give them empowerment so they can begin to fend for their families and themselves.

"Speaking specifically about Nigerian Legion, we have almost two thousand of them and we will continue to support them," he said.

The Governor said, "I 'm happy we witness this year's armed forces remembrance day. It is the grand finale, we started it about six weeks ago. It is something we will continue to do and give honour to our fallen heroes.

"As you can see prayers were offered and laying of wreaths which were witnessed by a detachment of all the security formations in the state.

"You also saw a widow who represented the wives of the fallen heroes. It is a clarion call to men who are serving. As regard Lagos state, we certainly cannot begin to blow our trumpet. We are a friendly security government.

"We will continue to collaborate, we will not discriminate and we appreciate every effort of all the divisions," Sanwo-Olu said.

2.157 Sanwo-Olu To Empower Widows Of Fallen Military Personnel

Culled from Independent on January 15, 2020

The Lagos State Government (LASG) says it will come up with a programme aimed at empowering widows of the members of the Armed Force who laid down their lives to defend and protect their fatherland.

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Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said this on Wednesday during the parade and laying of wreath to commemorate 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day.

The ceremony held at the Remembrance Arcade, Tafawa Balewa Square, Onikan, was organised by the state government. Sanwo-Olu said that there was the need to empower the widows of the fallen heroes for them to be able to fend for their families and themselves.

He said that the government would discuss with the wives of the Officers of the Armed Forces to know possible areas that the widows could be empowered. “We will look for all the widows of our fallen heroes in the next programme and empower them, because that is really what they require,” the governor said.

He said that the state government would continue to remember the fallen heroes and not let their efforts go unappreciated. Sanwo-Olu urged the serving officers and men of the Armed Forces to always do their best to ensure safety of lives and properties in the country.

“As you can see, it is a very solemn and humble ceremony. It is something that we need to continue to do.

“We need to remember and thank all our fallen heroes that had done well for the country at one point or the other.

“It is very significant and something we will continue to celebrate and appreciate. For us as a nation, all their efforts will not go unnoticed.

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“This is also a clarion call to the men still in service, that when issues happen, the government will certainly not forget them,” he said. Sanwo-Olu also said that the government was security friendly and would be collaborating with the security agencies in several ways.

He added that some members of the Nigerian Legion were employed by the state as a way to continue to support them. Also, the Chief Judge of Lagos State, Justice Kazeem Alogba, said that the programme was to appreciate the efforts of the Armed Forces, especially the fallen heroes, for the sacrifices they made for the country.

Alogba said that the deceased laid down their lives for the peace, unity and freedom of the country, hence, they would always be remembered.

“This is to show that the fallen heroes are not forgotten and also a way of rekindling courage in those still in service wherever they may find themselves.

“This is a call to everyone to serve judiciously and I pray we do not lose our lives in the course of service,” he said. Earlier, Mrs Uzamat Akinbile-Yussuf, Commissioner for Home Affairs, said that the government had constantly been supporting the Armed Forces and would continue to do that.

“In the past years, the government had rendered several helps to them, and I can assure you all that Gov. Sanwo-Olu had graciously approved lots of things for this year’s celebration,” Akinbile-Yussuf said. She said that the items approved to assist

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the members of the Armed Forces would be made available to them.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, urged all servicemen to be proactive and be dedicated to their duties for the general good of the nation. Odumosu said that the celebration had provided an opportunity to encourage the Armed Forces and the Police to realise that the internal security they were rendering was recognised and appreciated. (NAN)

LAGOS – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has said his government would deploy technology to deliver precision, faster and smarter healthcare services in all healthcare facilities in the state.

Sanwo-Olu, who disclosed this while declaring open a three-day Smart Health Technical Symposium on e-Health themed, ‘Lagos State Smart Health Information Platform, SHIP’, stressed that his administration was prepared to leverage technology to improve healthcare delivery in the state.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, stated that the essence of the eHealth symposium organised by the state Ministry of Health, was to enhance the already existing e-health platform to ensure Lagos remained in tune with modern technology.

He explained further that the development of e-Health had made it possible to have a single source of truth with a solid data base which makes planning effective. “It is important for us to establish and strengthen our health information platform as this will positively impact on our various health care system,

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health financing through our universal health coverage, bio-security, bio-safety which will also lead to employment opportunities while opening doors for international collaboration,” the governor said.

Highlighting the importance of accurate data in medicine and healthcare delivery, Sanwo-Olu described data as the currency of the future, stating further that data generated under the Lagos State One health strategy would enable his administration to better meet the needs of residents and implement lasting policies for the benefits of future generation.

Sanwo-Olu noted that e-Health platform is similar to the state-of-the-art technology recently launched by the state government. He added that the technology master plan would allow developers to develop useful system in the state.

2.158 Sanwo-Olu Mulls Special Empowerment Programme For Widows Of Fallen Heroes

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on January 16, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday said the state government is considering a special empowerment programme for widows of fallen heroes to efficiently support their families.

The Governor stated this while fielding questions from newsmen shortly after the Parade, Laying of wreath ceremony to commemorate the 2020 Armed Forces Remembrance Day at Remembrance Arcade, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos.

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Sanwo-Olu said the Ministry of Home Affairs was in charge of the affairs of the ex-servicemen but promised, “We can as well focus on the widows of our fallen heroes.

“In our next programme, we will deliberately look for the widows of our fallen heroes and give them empowerment where they can begin to fend for their families and themselves. “Speaking specifically about Nigerian Legion, we have almost two thousands of them working for the state government and we will continue to support them,” he said.

The Governor added, “I ‘am happy we witness this year’s armed forces remembrance day. It is a grand finale, we started it about six weeks ago. It is something we will continue to do and give honour to our fallen heroes. “As you can see prayers were offered and laying of wreaths which were witnessed by a detachment of all the security formatives in the state.

“You also saw a widow who is a lady who represented the wives of the fallen heroes. It is a clarion call to men who are serving. As regard Lagos state, we certainly cannot begin to blow our trumpet. We are a friendly security government.

“We will continue to collaborate, we will not discriminate and we appreciate every effort of all the divisions,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.159 Lagos: Shake-Up As Sanwo-Olu Sacks Commissioner 5 months After

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on January 17, 2020

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has sacked Commissioner for Tourism, Art and Culture Shulamite Adebolu in a minor cabinet reshuffle.

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She lost the job five months after she was sworn in.

The cabinet reshuffle, which saw the appointment of three new members, was announced in a statement by Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Gboyega Akosile.

According to Mr Akosile, Governor Sanwo-Olu moved three commissioners around while two special advisers were assigned new roles as commissioners.

“Affected commissioners and their new portfolios are: Commissioner for Special Duties, Dr. Wale Ahmed who has now been moved to Local Government and Community Affairs; Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke, formerly Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs has been moved to the Ministry of Wealth Creation and Employment.

“Also, Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf has been moved from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture as Honourable Commissioner.

“Two former Special Advisers, Prince Anofiu Elegushi and Architect Kabiru Ahmed are now assigned to the Ministries of Home Affairs and Waterfront Infrastructure as Honourable Commissioners respectively.”

The Governor, according to Akosile, also announced portfolios of the new cabinet members. They are Engr. Tayo Bamgbose-Martins, Commissioner-designate (Special Duties), Mr. Oyerinde Olugbenga Olanrewaju, Special Adviser-designate (Central Business District) and Hon. Ayuba Ganiu Adele, Special Adviser-designate (Urban Development).

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“Governor Sanwo-Olu thanked members of the Lagos State House of Assembly for believing in the Executive and carrying out the ratification of the cabinet nominees in a manner devoid of mere political considerations other than the interests of the electorate, assuring that his action is in line with his administration’s vision of delivering good governance to the residents of Lagos.

“The new appointments and redeployments, Sanwo-Olu said are intended to create a new energy and vivacity for continued delivery of values to the government of Lagos and provision of service to millions of Lagosians,” Akosile’s statement concluded.

2.160 Akinbile-Yusuf To Manage Ministry Of Tourism, As Sanwo-Olu Sacks Adebolu

Culled from Independent on January 19, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has announced the redeployment of Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf from the Ministry of Home Affairs to manage the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

Akinbile-Yusuf’s new posting was announced in a minor cabinet reshuffle announced by the state government on Thursday.

Recall that the immediate past governor of the state, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode also sacked Mr. Folarin Coker, the incumbent Director-General of Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) as Commissioner in charge of the Ministry in 2016 in a minor cabinet reshuffle.

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The exit of Adebolu, observers said might not be unconnected with the poor showing of the Greater Lagos event in December.

However, Michael Balogun, Chief Executive Officer of Tour2Nigeria in an interview with Sunday Independent said he was not surprised considering the poor interface of the ministry with industry players in the state.

‘To be honest, it wasn’t a shock for me and I wasn’t even a bit surprised. I will say this, not until there’s a spirit of inclusion in the different sectors in Nigeria, especially in Tourism in Nigeria, we won’t get very far.

He added, “With over 5,000 tour operators and can I say out of that 5,000 probably 500-600 are inbound tour operator or less. Then for us Lagos based tour operator pushing strictly Inbound Tourism. We haven’t for a day been invited to the table by the people at the helm of affairs. Are they even bothered about feedbacks or inputs?

He urged the new commissioner and the government of Lagos State and their counterparts across the country not to work in a silo, saying that tourism as a vast sector with huge potential is beyond the staging of jamborees and concerts. Femi Subair, an Abeokuta based tourism enthusiast regretted that governments across the states are yet to come to terms and understand what tourism is all about.

On the contrary, Mr Rilwan Saaka, Lead Faculty, Travel & Tourism Instructor at Lagos Aviation Academy said, “I don’t think the sack of commissioner for tourism has any connection

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with the Lagos Fiesta. However, a few things were not put in place.

Corroborating Balogun's position on how the sector should run, Saaka said, "Tourism actually goes beyond the way it is being handled and until we get the right people to handle the portfolio rather than making it a political appointment or compensation same thing might keep happening".

He added, "Former Governor Ambode's sack of Folarin Coker shows that there is more to the recent sack. Maybe they are not getting something right, but I will still maintain that the right person for the job should be appointed to take up the role".

Akinbile-Yusuf, the new commissioner was born on 25th May 1974. She bagged a B. Pharm. Degree from the University of Lagos, 2006 and Doctor of Social Work (DSW) from the Institute of Social Work of Nigeria.

The Pharmacist turned politician has served on the State Executive Council as Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development from 2015 to 17 and later in Wealth Creation and Employment from 2018 to 2019.

She is a member of the Association of Ladies Pharmacists Society (ALPS), National Association of Social Workers of Nigeria (NASOW) and Pharmacists Society of Nigeria.

She is also the Managing Director / CEO of Musaroq Pharmaceutical, Beta Silver Crown Limited and Musaroq Nigeria Limited.

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On the political front, she was the Supervisory Councilor for Agriculture, Rural and Social Development, Agbado -Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Alimosho and has been a front liner in political activities in the LCDA. Her IBILE Youth Academy which attracted 500 youth participation has instilled multipronged virtues for effective leadership in the youths.

2.161 We're Excited Dangote Refinery Is In Lagos –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 20th January 2020

Governor of Lagos, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has described as exciting the decision of the Dangote Group to site its petroleum, fertilizer and petrochemical company in Lagos.

He said the decision is to the advantage of the state and will lead to real growth and development in the Lekki area and the state in particular.

In a chat with select newsmen recently, Sanwo-Olu said Aliko Dangote is a rare breed that has done so much towards youth employment and economic development of the country.

On Dangote's refinery project, the governor said: "We are happy with this investment. It is an investment that is real and it is also an investment that has come to stay.

In fact, this is the largest single construction site anywhere in the world... We are truly excited. The question is, how do we key into this project?... Part of the things we will be doing here

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is a comprehensive new infrastructure that will be coming to this corridor.

We are closing up on two different roads connection out of this place that one will go straight to Epe and another one will go towards Ijebu-Ode and another one will go right back into Lagos.

“This is necessary because we realise that once this project is finished, they will need to either transport them on the road, or by the shoreline, which is also why, just across here is where we have the Lekki deep sea port.

So, all these are comprehensively coming together, because we know that infrastructure has to come around all these conversations and ...the road has bridges, it has all sorts of connections that will be able to take the products and also be able to open up this place comprehensively where people can also come and work, live and it will be a full ecosystem that we are building up all around here.”

2.162 Sanwo-Olu Okays Guidelines For Safe Water

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 20, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the ‘Drinking and Packaged Water Quality Guidelines’ to regulate activities of Water Producers in the state.

This is in furtherance of his administration’s quest to engender consumption of safe water by residents and in fulfillment of the

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United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on improved Clean Water and Sanitation.

Executive Secretary of Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LSWRC), Funke Femi Adepoju, who disclosed this during separate stakeholders’ meetings with the Association of Table Water Producers (ATWAP) and Nigeria Water and Sanitation Association (NIWASA) at the weekend said the guidelines would go a long way to assist operators in the water production, distribution and sale industry to operate in line with global best practices.

According to Adepoju, a recent report of the World Health Organization indicated that 3.4 million people, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases, saying that government is committed to efforts aimed at promoting good water resource management, access to safe water and secured environment through regulatory framework which seeks to ensure service providers adhere to quality standards.

2.163 Law, Order Take Centre Stage In Sanwo-Olu’s Project T.H.E.M.E.S

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 21, 2020 in Law, News, News Update

A MAJOR highlight of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s inaugural speech is to make ‘Lagos Greater’.

To actualise this vision, he devised Project T.H.E.M.E.S.

T.H.E.M.E.S is an acronym for his administration’s six strategic development agenda namely, Traffic Management and

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Transport-ation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism as well as Security and Governance

An integral part of the THEMES agenda is upholding of Law and Order which is captured under Security and Governance, the last leg of the THEMES' pillar.

A democracy consists of three vital organs of government namely; the executive, legislature and the judiciary. The legislative arm makes laws, the executive formulates and carries out government policies while the judiciary applies the laws and resolves disputes.

To guarantee freedom, which is the hallmark of democracy, these three arms must be separated as much as possible and balanced against one another. For a successful democracy, the existence of a free and fair judiciary is a must.

It is in view of the significance of the judiciary in a democracy, the Sanwo-Olu administration is evolving critical reforms geared at oiling the wheel of justice in the state. The objective is to ensure that the justice sector continues to experience the implementation of programmes aimed at giving the people greater access to justice through dynamic law reforms and adherence to the Rule of Law.

An essential part of the plan is to clamp down on criminals, land grabbers and other trouble makers to reduce crime and all forms of security threat to the barest minimum.

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The Sanwo-Olu administration has zero tolerance for criminals, and it is poised to ensure that the poor and downtrodden in the society have access to justice through our agencies.

An EXCO Sub- Committee on Road Traffic and Law and Order was inaugurated to look into the expansion and functionality of the Mobile Courts in order to seek ways of reducing street trading, traffic congestion and unethical/anti-social conducts on the roads, as well as environmental nuisances; thereby improving the socio-economic well-being of the residents of Lagos State.

To demonstrate the seriousness and commitment of the administration towards law and order, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo (SAN) personally prosecuted traffic offenders at the Mobile Court in October last year.

In the last few months, the focus has basically been to foster speedy and time effective justice delivery equally amongst all persons in the state. This is in recognition of the fact that this can only be achieved mostly through institutional and policy strategies.

The Lagos State Special Taskforce on Land Grabbers, popularly known as 'Omo Onile Taskforce', with a mandate to rid the state of land grabbers, has continued to receive petitions and several criminal prosecution cases against suspected land grabbers currently ongoing in different courts.

The operation of the taskforce received a major boost when 19 alleged land grabbers were arrested on November 13, 2019,

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in Kosofe Local Government and trial is still on-going at the Magistrate Court.

Presently, there are over 35 Land Grabbing cases in Court, wherein land grabbers are being prosecuted and it is hoped that justice would be served without hindrance to serve as a deterrent to other land grabbers.

Recent statistics show that there is an appreciable increase in the number of citizens who patronise the taskforce for resolution of land grabbing cases. This is due in part to the intensity of publicity and awareness campaign as well as testimonies of people who have had their cases resolved through the Taskforce.

Towards the end of last year, the Lagos State Ministry of Justice intervened in respect of an encroachment on the land of an elderly couple at Ejigbo, whose video went viral on social media. The couple was invited to this office and the police are investigating into the alleged criminal activities of the individuals named.

In the area of access to justice, in the last five months, the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) has handled 1,636 cases, 600 petitions out of which 245 have been concluded. Equally, 141 judgments were obtained while over 30 children were rescued and a total compensation of N8, 103,567.09 was received on behalf of clients by the OPD.

Similarly, the Public Advisory Centre, received monetary claims of N3, 684.666 on behalf of claimants, whilst the Directorate of Citizen's Rights instituted cases in the National Industrial Court

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where seven claimants were awarded N21, 352,319 as terminal benefits from their various organisations.

Furthermore, two new offices of the Citizens' Mediation Centre, a directorate under the Ministry of Justice, were commissioned early this year. The major goal behind this is to expand the number of outlets across all the 20 Local Governments and 37 Local Council Development Areas for easier access to justice.

Also, in the last five months, the Directorate of Public Prosecution received 212 duplicate files for Legal Advice out of which 164 have been issued and dispatched. The remaining 48 could not be treated because of request for further investigation by the Police.

In the same vein, towards the end of December last year, 94 Plea Bargain applications were treated. It needs to be stressed that the introduction and utilisation of the Plea Bargain has reduced the time spent on criminal cases towards achieving Prison and Court decongestion, as well as saved, in no small measure, the amount of tax payers money expended in the prosecution of matters in court.

Currently, more emphasis is being placed on the fight against Domestic and Sexual violence through the Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team, which is dedicated to pursuing justice for survivors and deterring perpetrators.

On November 26, 2019, there was a Walk to commit and act against domestic and sexual violence. The Walk represents a clear message that the Lagos State government will not tolerate any form of domestic or sexual violence. In order to really drive

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this point home, the symbolic walk was led by no other person than Mr Governor himself.

Presently, the opening of a dedicated Sex Offenders Register with data extracted from the Lagos Criminal Information System and the DSVRT is being contemplated. The major aim of the monitoring programme and the mandated reporting policy is to reduce repeat cases by providing names and personal details of convicted sex offenders in a central database.

In the current year, particular attention will be focused on Law and Order and Legislative Reforms. There are a whole lot of Laws in the pipeline. The importance of Laws in a Society cannot be overemphasised as it keeps the society running.

Plato and Aristotle were Greek philosophers who both developed important ideas about the rule of law. According to them, chaos occurs when people are allowed to become lawless in a given society.

It is, therefore, in order to guide against chaos in Lagos, that the Sanwo-Olu administration has initiated decisive reforms in the State's judicial sector.

2.164 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Balanced Development Trade Between Africa, UK

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 21,
2020 in City Beats, News Update*

LAGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled for equal partnership between United Kingdom and African countries for genuine global development.

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Speaking to journalists at the sideline of the UK-Africa Investment Summit which opened in London yesterday, the Governor reaffirmed that his administration will bring new opportunities that will improve the lives of Lagosians.

According to the Governor: "It is truly a function of who is a partner, who stands and sees you as a fellow partner, not behind, not in front but standing right beside you and sees you and the challenges you have and asking ways which we can work together. So for me, those points truly suggest that we can begin to see true partnership come out of conversations like this.

"For us, it is to see what type of giver you are, are you seeing us as equal partners or master to servant relationship. At the end of the day, what we will be seeking to achieve is what the greatest good for the greatest number is? What are those additional benefits that we see and believe that have potentials to improve the lives of our people?"

The UK-Africa Investment Summit is attended by African leaders, international business Chief Executives and heads of international organisations with the aim of creating new partnerships that will deliver more investments and jobs to the benefit of people and businesses in African countries and the United Kingdom.

The Governor also noted that it is a major opportunity for Africans, most of all Lagos, stating that if the summit is not properly tapped, it could be transferred somewhere else.

According to Sanwo-Olu, the State Government is open for transactions that will make Lagos better, emphasising on the importance of time.

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2.165 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Equal Partnership Between Africa, UK

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 21, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled for equal partnership between United Kingdom and African countries, saying it will aid genuine global development.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on the sidelines of the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London on Monday.

According to a statement, the summit is attended by African leaders, business chief executives and heads of international organisations to create partnership for investments and job opportunities. The governor said his administration was committed to bringing new opportunities that would improve the lives of Lagos residents.

He said, “It is truly a function of who is a partner, who stands and sees you as a fellow partner, not behind, not in front, but standing right beside you and sees you and the challenges you have and asking ways which we can work together. So for me, those points truly suggest that we can begin to see true partnership come out of conversations like this.

“For us, it is to see what type of giver you are; are you seeing us as equal partners or master -to-servant relationship? At the end of the day, what we will be seeking to achieve is what is the greatest good for the greatest number? What are those additional benefits that we see and believe that have potential to improve the lives of our people?”

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Sanwo-Olu, who noted that the summit was a major opportunity for Africans, said the state was open to transactions that would make Lagos better.

The governor was said to have joined the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State, and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Otunba Niyi Adebayo, for meetings on trade and investment.

2.166 Sanwo-Olu Opens IDP Camp for 300 Victims Of Lagos Pipeline Explosion

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 22, 2020

The Lagos State Government has opened a camp for 300 Internal Displaced Persons of the pipeline explosion that occurred at Ile-Epo, Abule Egba area of Lagos State.

Astatement made available to The PUNCH by the Public Affairs Officer of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Nosa Okunbor, on Wednesday, confirmed that the IDPs would be kept at the Igando Relief Camp.

It will be reCulled that a pipeline belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation was on Sunday ruptured by vandals, which led to an explosion.

The Lagos explosion, which occurred around 8.30pm, left five persons dead, while 11 buildings, 17 shops and 36 vehicles, including 33 trucks, were consumed by the accompanying inferno.

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The statement read, “Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in view of the disaster resulting from the pipeline vandalism of Sunday, January 19, 2020, has magnanimously granted the request of the Chairman Agbado Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area, Dr Adeoye Arogundade, and has directed that the Igando Relief Camp of LASEMA be opened to the about 300 Internally Displaced Persons/victims with immediate effect.

“In the same development, Mr Bosun Ogunkolade has been appointed Head of Special Duties and Camp Commandant over LASEMA Relief Camps to oversee the affairs and welfare of the about 300 Internally Displaced Persons from the Abule Egba/Ile Epo pipeline explosion.”He resumes duty with immediate effect.”

2.167 Lagos Deploying Technology To Solve Healthcare Challenges – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on January 22, 2020

LAGOS – Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, Tuesday said the state would depend on technology to overcome its healthcare challenges and offer a quality care to the residents.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed this at the opening ceremony of a three-day Technical Conference on e-Health by the state geared towards strengthening the Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP) in Victoria Island Lagos.

The Governor who was represented by the Deputy Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, described e-Health as the holistic and comprehensive

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delivery of health care services by electronic means through digital management of data resources on the supply and demand side.

He said it is a virtual healthcare system supported by electronics, informatics and telecommunications.

Sanwo-Olu said: “Digitalisation of health is having a profound effect on health delivery, enabling new models of care and shifting the focus of health systems toward speed, efficiency, security and transparency.

“Data is also a central pillar to modern healthcare systems in the age of technology and innovation. The medical knowledge economy is driven by big data, computational analysis, machine learning and artificial intelligence tools to mine the rich source of data emanating from surveillance, planning, and management or personalized health data.

“A crucial element to the data-centric nature of e-Health is the ability it gives governing bodies to enable them to accurately measure the impact of its policies and decision in real time,” Sanwo-Olu said.

Speaking earlier, Prof. Akin Abayomi, the Commissioner for Health, pointed out that the three-day technical conference on e-Health was geared towards strengthening the Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP) of the state which would further strengthen the state’s one healthcare record policy.

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He listed the advantages of SHIP to include precision medicine, accelerated human resource development, quality assurance, standardise exchange of information and optimise operating procedures adding that SHIP is in furtherance of the efforts to ensure efficient and effective healthcare delivery in Lagos State.

2.168 NIOB Chief Tasks Sanwo-Olu, LABCA On Collapse Of Buildings

Culled from Independent on January 23, 2020

LAGOS – Mr. Kunle Awobodu, the president, Nigerian Institute of Building (NIOB), has urged Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State governor, to unveil plans to avert cases of building collapse in the state.

Awobodu's call, coming on the heels of two separate buildings collapse in Lagos last week, also urged the state's Lagos Building Control Agency (LABCA) to rejig in order to end the menace.

Specifically, on Friday, January 17, 2020, an uncompleted three-storey building located at 12 Alasepe Street, off Community Road, Ago Palace Way, Okota, in Lagos State collapsed.

While rescue operation was ongoing on the three-storey building that collapsed, another two-storey building located around Agarawu area of Lagos Island, Lagos State, also collapsed. However, no life was lost to the incidents.

Speaking to selected journalists in his Lagos office on Wednesday, Awobodu, who reviewed cases of building collapse

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in the nation in 2019, said the incidences continued to project Nigeria and the professionals in the building in bad light.

"In 2019, 43 notable buildings collapsed in Nigeria. Lagos, led with 17 buildings. Out of this figure, existing buildings that collapsed in the state took 59 per cent, while buildings under construction took 41 per cent.

"In Anambra State, out of five buildings that collapsed, four were under construction. Plateau, had three while Delta had three buildings that collapsed.

"These collapses led to loss of 59 lives while 74 persons were injured," he said. He said the figures were alarming and regrettably surpassed the 2018 record. Posing a question on whether the nation was progressing or retrogressing, Awobodu, founder, Building Collapse Prevention Guild (BCPG), urged Sanwo-Olu to rise to the occasion and stem the tide.

"It behooves on us to go back to the drawing table and re-strategise with a view to mapping the way forward. use the number of buildings under construction that collapsed in 2019 was disturbing.

"This number, to us, looks like an indictment on the Lagos State Building Control Agency (LABCA)."

To the NIOB president, cases of collapses might be as a result of lack of effective control mechanism or the policy on the building process.

While noting that Governor Sanwo-Olu was the vice chairman of the technical committee set up by former Lagos State

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governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), that reviewed the physical planning and urban development law, Awobodu said the incumbent governor was in a better position to arrest the perennial building collapse.

2.169 Sanwo-Olu Urges private support for health care

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 23, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has Culled for increased private sector partnership with the state government to revamp health infrastructure across all levels of care and attain universal health coverage.

Sanwo-Olu made the call on Wednesday at the inauguration of multi-million naira medical emergency response equipment and consumables donated by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company to the General Hospital, Lagos.

The governor, who was represented by the Commissioner for Health, Prof Akin Abayomi, said the donation showed the companies' sense of responsibility and love for the people.

"This will go a long way in assisting the government to achieve the overall objective of the health pillar of the THEMES agenda, which is to increase the capacity of the health care system and infrastructure to sustainably meet the health care need of our growing population," Sanwo-Olu added.

While explaining that health and education accounted for the largest share of the 2020 budget in the current fiscal year, the governor noted that the allocation, when considered within the

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context of the growing population of the state would almost pale into insignificance without the contribution of the private sector.

He said the donated equipment was proof of what public-private partnership could achieve, adding that his administration would continue to encourage such collaborations to impact positively on the well-being of citizens.

Sanwo-Olu urged other private companies and multinational corporations to take a cue from the NNPC and SNEPCo, and partner the government to make the society a better place.

2.170 Sanwo-Olu Charges Parents, Teachers On Pupils' Safety

Sanwo-Olu's open-door policy commended

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 25, 2020in News, News Update

A Lagos-based APC chieftain, Hon. Ibrahim Alao Megida, has given kudos to the incumbent Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, whose administration, according to him, has taken off on a laudable democratic note, in view of his all-inclusive, open-door policy, which embraces every Lagosian without discrimination.

In his address during the annual end-of-the-year /thanksgiving ceremony organized by the Mainland Independent Group, Alhaji Megida, founder and leader of the influential socio- political pressure group, described Sanwo-Olu's style of governance as a progressive emulation of the democratic political

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philosophy of the APC national leader, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Noting that the MIG has always aligned with the progressive tendency since twenty years ago, when it was founded, Megida pledged that the group will always identify with the progressive philosophy of Asiwaju Tinubu.

“We are ready to follow him, come rain or sunshine. We pledge our unalloyed loyalty to him, while we also thank God for giving us this exemplary servant leader,” said the MIG leader.

Megida also seized the opportunity to extend appreciation to the Commissioner of Environment and Water Resources, Hon. Tunji Bello, who, according to him, has sacrificed his time and financial resources to propel the MIG to its present height of influence as a force to reckon with in the political equation of Lagos State.

“The frequent financial and poverty alleviation empowerment for which the MIG is noted and celebrated over the years is mainly due to the immense generosity which he had brought to bear in assisting the group over the years. Often our leader and patron, Hon. Tunji Bello, will always tell us to intensify our drive at financial empowerment because that is what Asiwaju likes.”

Also present at the highly eventful and well-attended occasion were Hon. Lanre Osun, member of the Lagos House of Assembly; Chairman, Mainland Local Government, represented by his Special Assistant, Femi Kupoluyi; Hon. Wahab Alawiye King, Chairman, SUBEB, represented by his

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Personal Assistant, Bashiru Lawal; Hon. Toyin Fanoiki and Hon. Dayo Israel, who all took time to commend the group which, according to them, is especially celebrated for its sustained and intensified empowerment programme.

Dignitaries who donated on the occasion included Mrs Essien, Chairman, Mainland Local Government; and Hon. Toyin Fanoiki. Others were Hon. Kafayat Bimbola Akinpelu, Councillor, LMLG; Hon. Sunday Kotiito, Councillor, Yaba LCDA, Alhaji Tunde Oshelu, Mr. Abiodun Folajimi and Alhaji Ibrahim Alao Megida.

The financial donations realized were all pooled together and given out in financial empowerment of the teeming mass of the needy on the occasion.

2.171 Sanwo-Olu Orders Investigation Into Amu Market Fire Disaster

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on January 26, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has ordered full scale investigation into the cause of the fire incident the gutted the popular Amu Plank Market located in Mushin area of the state destroying eleven houses and goods worth over N10 billion.

The governor who stated this when he visited the market with his deputy Dr. Obafemi Hamzat and other members of his cabinet lamented the huge losses recorded in the market inferno. He said the relevant government agencies had been mobilized to take inventory of the situation and report back to the government.

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The governor said, “This is rather very unfortunate incident, nobody ever imagined this amount of destruction to happen in this market. We will also further start full investigation into the remote causes of this fire incident so that we can plan in future how to forestall incident like this.

“After the Lagos State Emergency Agency (LASEMA) and other agencies have finished their physical process we will come back with Ministry of Physical Planning to take inventory of the various store owners in this place and also sit with our market leaders to see what kind of lasting solution that we can bring about in markets like this.

“We will do enumeration of the houses affected by the fire incident. Then the government will go back and see what support it can render. We thank God that it is only goods that was lost, no life was lost. Because we cannot equate the life of anybody to any amount of goods and services. Sanwo-Olu allayed the fears of the traders that the government will not take over their market, assuring that the government will help to rebuild the market .

The traders who spoke at separate interviews appealed to the governor to support them to go back to their businesses and help in rebuilding the market.

2.172 EKOEXCEL: Sanwo-Olu Promises Massive Investments In Education Sector

Culled from the Sun on 26th January 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Saturday reaffirmed his administration’s plan to transform the educational

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sector of the State, vowing to increase government’s investment for the good of the pupils.

Over 3000 teachers from various schools and education districts across the State converged at De Blue Roof of the Lagos Television, Ikeja where the Governor formally launched the EKOEXCEL, a teachers’ professional development and training programme.

Earlier, primary school teachers went through a 2 weeks training process, organised by the State Universal Basic Education Board (LSUBEB) to increase capacity and develop manpower of teachers in the State.

Sanwo-olu noted that at the end, over 14,000 primary school teachers would have benefited from the initiative while over 500,000 pupils would have been positively impacted.

The Governor said: “I am particularly happy that this programme is holding at a time when all hands are on deck to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is improved across all our schools in the State.

“As a responsible government, we will continue the massive investment in this sector, with the training and retraining of our teachers, making the sector more ICT compliant, exposing our teachers to international best practices as well as ensuring that our schools become a destination for work and learning.

“We resolved to address these problems through combining innovative technological approach that is scientifically based, with effective training and empowering our teachers in every

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Local Government to strengthen their capacity and deliver quality education to our children.”

The Governor, in a bid to encourage teachers and make good examples from outstanding ones, said the State Government will identify the best Head Teachers in all the 20 LGs and 37 LCDAs and reward them with a car each.

He noted that his administration is not paying lip service to the repositioning of the educational sector, noting that it is the reason the education ministry got a significantly higher envelope in the 2020 budget.

2.173 Osinbajo, Sanwo-Olu Laud Airtel’s CSR Initiative

Culled from the Sun on 26th January 2020

The Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, has commended Airtel Nigeria for assisting the underprivileged members of society through its corporate social responsibility initiative.

Osinbajo commended the telco company on Saturday night in Lagos during the premiere of the Season 5 ‘Airtel Touching Lives’ a philanthropic programme sponsored by Airtel Nigeria.

He said the company had made a good call for helping and bringing others out of despair and suffering.

“I really want to laud the effort of Segun Ogunsanya and his team at Airtel for touching so many lives and for doing so in the past five years without fanfare.

“Listening to the stories of the lives that have been touched must be a reminder of so many others in despair who need our

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help and comfort,” Osinbajo said: He noted that in 2014, among the fundamental plans of the All Progressives Congress (APC) was to create social safety nets for the people in the country and also to show that the government owed a duty to the weak and vulnerable.

Osinbajo said that part of that social safety net was the feeding of about 9.5 million school children ongoing across 34 states.

He said the Federal Government was also giving monthly cash to about 10 million families. “Inspite of all these social safety net schemes, we are still very far from touching the majority of those who need our help, we still need more resources.

“Because we can’t do it all, that is why socially conscious organisations like Airtel is so vital in bridging the huge gap between what government can do and what is left to be done,” Osinbajo said.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, who also commended Airtel for touching lives through its CSR initiative, said individuals and organisations who had done very well in their lives should emulate the company by helping the underprivileged.

“Government cannot do it all, that is why organisations like Airtel have seen that they need to work with us and not behind us. “As partners we work for the greater good of the citizens of Nigeria.

“Airtel has been going out of its way to really touch lives and has also contributed to Lagos State Security Trust Fund by

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giving us over 200 lines for all our security operatives in the Rapid Response Squad (RRS),” he said.

Sanwo-Olu said that because of the way Airtel supported citizens, the Lagos State Government would be giving the company huge discounts on right of way.

The Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Nigeria, Mr Segun Ogunsanya, in his speech, Culled on kind-hearted Nigerians to join in uplifting the less-privileged members of society. He said the ‘Airtel Touching Lives’ served as a platform to promote the culture of giving, self-sacrifice, love and charity among Nigerians.

“The initiative is designed to offer practical relief, succour, hope, opportunities and credible platforms to liberate and empower the underprivileged, disadvantaged individuals, families and communities in the Nigerian society, ” he said.

He said the initiative had continued to record tremendous success since it was launched in 2015. Ogunsanya said that the success of the programme over the years had encouraged the telecommunication company to keep the show coming back every year.(NAN)

2.174 Sanwo-Olu Orders Investigation Into Amu Market Fire Disaster

Culled from the Sun on 26th January 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has ordered a full-scale investigation into the cause of the fire incident the gutted the popular Amu Plank Market in Mushin area of the state.

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The Governor, who gave the order when he visited the market that was razed by fire on Friday, allayed the fears of the traders that the government would take over the market.

He assured the victims of the fire incident, which gutted about eleven houses and goods worth over 10 billion, of his administration’s assistance, adding that the government will help to rebuild the market.

The traders who spoke at separate interviews appealed to the Governor to support them to go back to their businesses and help in rebuilding the market.

Sanwo Olu, who was accompanied by his deputy, Dr Femi Hamzat, and members of his cabinet, said relevant government authorities have been mobilised to take inventory of the situation and report back to his office.

Sanwo-Olu orders investigation into Amu market fire disaster.

The Governor, who lamented the huge losses recorded in the market inferno, said: “This is a rather very unfortunate incident, nobody ever imagined this amount of destruction to happen in this market. We will also further start a full investigation into the remote causes of this fire incident so that we can plan in future how to forestall incident like this.

“After the Lagos State Emergency Agency (LASEMA) and other agencies have finished their physical process we will come back with Ministry of Physical Planning to take inventory of the various store owners in this place and also sit with our market leaders to see what kind of lasting solution that we can bring about in markets like this.”

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“We will do enumeration of the houses affected by the fire incident. Then the government will go back and see what support it can render. We thank God that it is only goods that were lost, no life was lost. Because we cannot equate the life of anybody to any amount of goods and services,” the Governor said.

2.175 Sanwo-Olu Allays Fears Of Amu Traders Over Govt’s Takeover Of Plank Market

Culled from Independent on January 26, 2020

Lagos- Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured traders in Amu Plank Market, Mushin Local Government Area of the state of the governments support.

Sanwo-Olu, who gave the assurance during a visit to the market on Sunday, which was gutted by fire between Friday night and Saturday morning, also allayed fears of the traders of government’s takeover of their land and property.

He urged traders to remain peaceful and law abiding, adding that those who do not have any business around the are a should stay away to avoid further injuries.

Details later...

2.176 We’ll Continue Massive Investments In Education Sector – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on January 26, 2020

LAGOS – Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State governor, on Saturday reaffirmed his administration’s plan to transform

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the state’s educational sector, vowing to increase government’s investment for the good of the pupils.

Over 3,000 teachers from various schools and education districts across the state converged at De Blue Roof of the Lagos Television, Ikeja, where the governor formally launched the EKOEXCEL, teachers’ professional development and training programme.

Earlier, primary school teachers went through a two-week training process, organised by the State Universal Basic Education Board (LSUBEB) to increase capacity and develop manpower of teachers in the state.

Sanwo-olu noted that at the end, over 14,000 primary school teachers would have benefited from the initiative, while over 500,000 pupils would have been positively impacted.

The governor said: “I am particularly happy that this programme is holding at a time when all hands are December to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is improved across all our schools in the state.

“As a responsible government, we will continue the massive investment in this sector, with the training and retraining of our teachers, making the sector more ICT compliant, exposing our teachers to international best practices as well as ensuring hat our schools become a destination for work and learning.

“We resolved to address these problems through combining innovative technological approach that is scientifically based, with effective training and empowering our teachers in every

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local government to strengthen their capacity and deliver quality education to our children.”

The governor, in a bid to encourage teachers and make good examples from outstanding ones, said the state government would identify the best Head Teachers in all the 20 LGs and 37 LCDAs and reward them with a car each.

He noted that his administration would not pay lip service to the repositioning of the educational sector, noting that it is the reason the education ministry got a significantly higher envelope in the 2020 budget. The governor also promised that teachers would undergo free sight assessment and reading glasses would be provided for every teacher that requires it to be able to discharge their duties effectively.

EKOEXCEL, which is Excellence in Child Learning and Education Programme, is a Lagos State primary education transformation initiative.

2.177 Sanwo-Olu Promises Car Gifts To Best Head Teachers

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 27, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the weekend assured residents of his administration’s plan to transform the education sector.

He promised to reward the best head teachers in the 20 local governments and 37 local council development areas with a car each.

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anwo-Olu spoke at De Blue Roof, Lagos Television (LTV), Agidingbi, Ikeja when he launched the EKOEXCEL, a teachers’ professional development and training programme.

EKOEXCEL, meaning Excellence in Child Learning and Education programme, is a Lagos State primary education transformation initiative.

Over 3000 teachers from schools and education districts across the state converged on the LTV premises for the event.

The primary school teachers had gone through two weeks training process, organised by the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), to increase capacity and develop manpower of teachers.

The governor said at the end of the exercise, over 14,000 primary school teachers would have benefited from the initiative, while over 500,000 pupils would have been positively impacted on.

He said: “I am particularly happy that this programme is holding at a time when all hands are on deck to ensure that the quality of teaching and learning is improved across our schools.

“As a responsible government, we will continue the massive investment in this sector, with the training and retraining of our teachers, making the sector more ICT compliant, exposing our teachers to international best practices as well as ensuring that our schools become a destination for work and learning.

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“We have resolved to address these problems through combining innovative technological approach that is scientifically based, with effective training and empowering our teachers in every local government to strengthen their capacity and deliver quality education to our children.”

Sanwo-Olu, in a bid to encourage teachers and make good examples from outstanding ones, said the government would identify the best head teachers in the 20 local governments and 37 local council development areas and reward them with a car each.

He said his administration was not paying lip service to the repositioning of the educational sector, adding that it was the reason the Education ministry got a significantly higher envelope in the 2020 budget.

The governor promised that teachers would undergo free sight assessment and reading glasses would be provided for every teacher that required it, to discharge their duties effectively.

He promised to increase government's investment for the benefit of the pupils. With the EKOEXCEL programme, over 14,000 head teachers and teachers will be moved from analogue to digital teaching, using tablets and updated curriculum.

Over 3,000 primary school teachers from 300 public primary schools have been captured under the pilot scheme.

An initiative of the Sanwo-Olu administration, EKOEXCEL is aimed at developing a highly-skilled teaching workforce by

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training, supporting and motivating teachers to succeed in the classroom of tomorrow and enhance the basic education curriculum, thereby empowering children to compete effectively in the world of work.

The programme will equip teachers with skills to deliver value, empower pupils with requisite knowledge to improve education and help in sustaining the growth of Lagos State as a leading knowledge driven city and economy in the world.

2.178 Sanwo-Olu To Help Rebuild Amu Market

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 27, 2020in News, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Sunday said his administration would help rebuild the Amu Plank Market.

The market was gutted by fire at the weekend. He allayed fears of the traders that the government would take over their market.

The governor spoke when he visited the market with his deputy Dr. Obafemi Hamzat and other members of his executive council.

The governor said: “This is rather very unfortunate incident, nobody ever imagined this amount of destruction would happen in this market. “We will start full investigation into the remote causes of this fire incident so that we can plan in future how to forestall incident like this.

“After the Lagos State Emergency Agency (LASEMA) and other agencies have finished their physical process we will come back with Ministry of Physical Planning to take inventory of the

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various store owners in this place and also sit with our market leaders to see what kind of lasting solution that we can bring about in markets like this.

“We will do enumeration of the houses affected by the fire incident. Then the government will go back and see what support it can render. We thank God that it is only goods that were lost, no life was lost. Because we cannot equate the life of anybody to any amount of goods and services.”

2.179 Sanwo-Olu Orders Probe Into Amu Plank Market Fire

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 27, 2020

Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has ordered an investigation into the fire that gutted the Amu Plank Market in the Mushin area of the state on Saturday.

The fire, which was said to have started around 12am as a result of power surge, razed 11 buildings and destroyed property worth millions of naira.

The fire, which raged for several hours, was eventually extinguished on Sunday.

Traders and residents of the area blamed the slow response of firefighters for the massive loss of property.

Sanwo-Olu, during a visit to the scene on Sunday, lamented the huge losses recorded in the market as a result of the inferno, adding that relevant government agencies had been mobilised to take inventory of the losses and report back to the state government.

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He said, “This is rather a very unfortunate incident; nobody ever imagined this amount of destruction could happen in this market. We will start a full investigation into the remote causes of this fire incident so that we can plan in future on how to forestall incidents like this.

“After the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency and other agencies have finished their physical processes, we will come back with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to take inventory of the various store owners in this place and also sit with our market leaders to see what kind of lasting solution that we can bring about in markets like this.

“We will do enumeration of the houses affected by the fire incident. Then, the government will go back and see what support it can render. We thank God that it was only goods that were lost and no life was lost, because we cannot equate the life of anybody with goods and services.”

The governor assured the traders that the state government would rebuild the market.

**2.180 Sanwo-Olu Calls For Equal Trade Partnership
Between UK, AFRICA**

Culled from Independent on January 27, 2020

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, at the weekend Culled for equal partnership between United Kingdom and African countries if it hoped to have genuine global development.

Speaking to journalists at the sideline of the UK-Africa Investment Summit in London, the Governor reaffirmed that

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his administration would bring new opportunities that could improve the lives of Lagosians.

Gboyega Akosile, the Chief Press Secretary in a statement made available to our correspondent, quoted Sanwo-Olu as saying: “It is truly a function of who is a partner, who stands and sees you as a fellow partner, not behind, not in front, but standing right beside you and sees you and the challenges you have and asking ways which we can work together. So for me, those points truly suggest that we can begin to see true partnership come out of conversations like this.

“For us, it is to see what type of giver you are, are you seeing us as equal partners or master to servant relationship. At the end of the day, what we will be seeking to achieve is what the greatest good for the greatest number is? What are those additional benefits that we see and believe that have potentials to improve the lives of our people?”

The UK-Africa Investment Summit is attended by African leaders, international business Chief Executives and heads of international organisations with the aim of creating new partnerships that will deliver more investments and jobs to the benefit of people and businesses in African countries and the United Kingdom.

The governor also noted that it is a major opportunity for Africans, most of all Lagos, stating that if the summit is not properly tapped, it could be transferred somewhere else. According to Sanwo-Olu, the state government is open for

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transactions that will make Lagos better, emphasising on the importance of time.

Governor Sanwo-olu, at the Summit, joined President Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Otunba Niyi Adebayo for meetings on trade and investment.

2.181 Lagos Govt Won't Take Over Amu Plank Market, Sanwo-Olu Assures Traders

Culled from Independent on January 27, 2020

Lagos – Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured traders in Amu Plank Market, Mushin Local Government Area of the state of the government's support.

Sanwo-Olu, who gave the assurance during a visit on Sunday to the market, which was gutted by fire between Friday night and Saturday morning, also allayed the traders' fears of government's takeover of their land and property.

“There is no plan to take over the market. We are not taking over your market. We will work with you to see how to rebuild this place,” the governor stated.

While also assuring that the state government will work to build for the traders befitting stalls, as well as do its best to bring succor to them as soon as possible, the governor said: “We will work to ensure that befitting stalls are installed for you. The government is here with you, we will not leave you alone. We know that this serves so many families, so many families are involved.”

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He urged traders to remain peaceful and law abiding, adding that those who do not have any business around the area should stay away to avoid further injuries.

At the site of the plank market in Mushin, the governor said the incident happened in less than 48 hours overnight Friday to Saturday. “It is a live site. The incident is being curtailed but we still have residual smoke.

Fire trucks and men are live on site. All first responders are on site, including the state Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Safety Commission, Fire Service, Ministry of Physical Planning officials are all taking inventory. Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) has been working with them, Neighbourhood Safety Corp, as well as the Police.”

While sympathising with the traders on behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, Sanwo-Olu noted that the incident “was rather a very unfortunate one. No one would have ever expected this amount of destruction to happen here.”

He assured the traders that the government would commence full investigation into the remote causes of the incident “so that we can plan how to forestall future occurrence.”

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All first responders are on site, including the state Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Safety Commission, Fire

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Service, Ministry of Physical Planning officials are all taking inventory. Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) has been working with them, Neighbourhood Safety Corp, as well as the Police.”

While sympathising with the traders on behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, Sanwo-Olu noted that the incident “was rather a very unfortunate one. No one would have ever expected this amount of destruction to happen here.”

He assured the traders that the government would commence full investigation into the remote causes of the incident “so that we can plan how to forestall future occurrence.”

“LASTMA and physical planning ministry will take full inventory of the various stall owners and sit with the market leaders to see what kind of lasting solution to proffer so as to forestall the incident. We will also take enumeration of the houses torched by fire and see what support we can render.

“It is very unfortunate but we thank God that no life was lost in the inferno,” the governor assured. He promised that LAWMA would clean the area.

Also, Chairman of Mushin Local Government Area, Emmanuel Bamigboye, thanked the governor for the visit and assured that the people would remain law-abiding and always support the state government.

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2.182 Breaking: No More Okada, tricycles, Opay in Lagos, Sanwo-Olu-Led Gov't Declares

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on January 27, 2020

The activities of commercial motorcycles, popularly Culled Okada, and tricycles, known as Keke Napep, have banned by the Lagos state government. Opay and Gokada operators were also caught up with the restriction in some Local Government Areas in the state.

Among the 15 Local Governments and Local Council Development Centres affected are Apapa, Apapa Iganmu, Lagos Mainland, Yaba, Surulere, Itire Ikate, Coker Aguda, Eti-Osa, Lagos Island, Ikeja, Onigbongo, Ojodu, Ikoyi-Obalende, Iru Ikoyi-Obalende and Lagos Island East.

Full implementation according to the state government would kick-off February 1, 2020.

2.183 Sanwo-Olu Charges New Appointees On Excellent Service

Culled from Independent on January 27, 2020

Lagos- Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged the newly appointed commissioner, special aides, as well as permanent secretaries to make the state live up to its standard as centre of excellence and innovation.

At the swearing-In of Newly Appointed Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, the governor urged the appointees to continue to raise the bar by redoubling their efforts, ensure

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that Lagos continues to lead, as well as not to disappoint Lagosians.

Details later

2.184 'Okada' Ban: Lagos Residents Hail Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on January 28, 2020

Some residents of Lagos on Tuesday commended Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu's courage in banning commercial motorcycles (Okada) and tricycles (Keke) in some local governments, highways and bridges in the state.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Lagos State Government on Monday announced the restriction and ban of commercial motorcycles and tricycles in six Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the state with effect from Feb. 1.

The residents, who spoke to NAN in separate interviews in Lagos, said that it was better to be unemployed than to die or remain permanently incapacitated.

Mr Williams Dada, an Auditor in a private firm, who commended the courage of the governor, however, expressed fear that high-handedness of some law enforcement agents could bring pains to the operators.

Dada, also a Cleric, urged operators of commercial motorcycles and tricycles to heed the law.He advised the law enforcement agents to implement the law with human face.

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He said: “The ban and restriction are good for the state. It is only in Lagos, out of the major cities that you see Okada riding in the metropolis and condoning all sorts of their excesses.

“Though, I don’t think the government is sincere about it because when electioneering comes now, you won’t hear things like this. These operators are veritable tools in the hands of the politicians.

“Looking at the rate of Okada accidents and fatalities, one will not oppose this move. Go to hospitals and see.

“If we tolerate because of the unemployment rate, it is better to be unemployed than to die.

“My fear is that most of the law enforcement agents will take the advantage to enrich themselves and inflict pains on the operators. Government should see to this while implementing the law.”

A Legal Practitioner, Mr Wale Akande, who also commended the government for being courageous to implement the law, said that the enforcement of the law would not only enhance safety but also foster a more organised society.

“The laws have been there unimplemented because of the gains the government derive from operators, especially during elections.

“I think it is a good step if the government is now ready to damn the consequence.

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“We cannot continue to waste the human capital of the nation in Okada accidents. No, not for any reason including unemployment.

“Those who live on Okada and Keke should limit their operations to the area allowed by the law,” Akande said.

In his view, Mr Olanrewaju Dunmiju, a Screen Painter, said that the ban and restriction were laudable because it would save a lot of lives.

Dunmiju, who urged the government to intensify efforts at creating enabling environment for businesses and artistic works to thrive, said that many who engaged in Okada had been trained in one field or the other.

“The ban is laudable on major express roads, not on connecting roads.

“In the past, law enforcement agents, especially the police used this ban to inflict unbearable exploitation on the defenceless okada riders.

“Such laws mostly affected the masses and the poor which the government had neglected and left to their plight of struggling for survival. I think, there is a need for human face while implementing this,” he said.

NAN reports that the government after the State Security Council Meeting on Monday said that it would commence enforcement of the extant Transport Sector Reform Law 2018 which banned the operation of Motorcycles (Okada) and

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Tricycles (Keke) in some Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

They include Apapa LGA, Apapa Iganmu LCDA, Lagos Mainland LG, Yaba LCDA, Surulere LGA, Itire-Ikate and Coker-Aguda LCDAs, Ikeja LGA, Onigbongbo and Ojodu LCDAs, Eti-Osa LGA, Ikoyi-Obalende and Iru/Victoria Island LCDAs, Lagos Island LGA and Lagos Island East LCDA.

According to the state government, the rate of crimes aided by motorcycles and tricycles keeps rising, as they are also used as get-away means by criminals.

The state government added that the law also banned motorcycles and tricycles on all highways, bridges and listed roads.

The major highways include: Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, Oworonsoki-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos-Ikorodu Expressway and Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

Others are: Eti-Osa/Lekki-Epe Expressway, Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Funsho Williams Avenue, Agege Motor Road and Eti-Osa Lekki Coastal Road.

The restricted bridges included: Iyana-Ipaja Bridge Agege, Dopemu Bridge Agege, Airport/Ikeja Bridge, Agege Motor Road/Oshodi Loop, Oshodi, Mushin/Isolo Link Bridge and Dorman Long Bridge.

Others are: Ojuelegba Bridge, National Stadium Flyover, Apapa-Iganmu Bridge, Apapa-Ijora Link Bridge, Liverpool Bridge, Apapa, Mile 2 Bridge-Loop, Amuwo-Odofin, Okota (Cele)/Ijesha

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Link Bridge, Apakun/Apapa-Oshodi Bridge Network, Ikorodu Road/Anthony Clover Leaf Bridge and Trade Fair Flyover Bridge.

Others are: Festac/Amuwo-Odofin Link Bridge, 2 Flyover Bridges along Alhaji Masha Road, Ojota Clover Leaf Bridge, Ogudu Bridge, 3rd Mainland Bridge, Maryland flyover, Ikeja General Hospital Flyover Bridge, Kodesoh Bridge, Oba Akran, Ikeja, Opebi Link Bridge, Sheraton-Opebi Bridge, Jibowu/Yaba flyover Bridge, Carter Bridge, Lagos and Bariga-Ifako Bridge.

Others are: Apapa-Oshodi Expressway/Alapere Bridge, Bariga/Oworonsoki Bridge, Apapa-Oshodi Expressway/Gbagada U-Turn, Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, 3rd Mainland/Oworonsoki Bridge, Eko Bridge, Apongbon flyover Bridge, Cowry Bridge (Officers Mess), Mcwen Bridge (Bonny Camp), Marina/Ikoyi Bridge and Ikoyi/Obalende Bridge. (NAN)

2.185 Sanwo-Olu Wants More Women To Hold Political Offices

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on January 28, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday stressed the need to ensure more women are given opportunity to hold political offices and participate in decision making, saying such move would lighten administrative burdens.

Sanwo-Olu made the call while delivering his keynote address In Lagos during the official launching of “HeforShe” Campaign, an initiative of the United Nations launched in 2014 to promote gender equality.

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The Governor who was decorated as a champion of the HeforShe campaign along with nine other personalities, maintained his administration has shown example in this regard by having 12 women in his cabinet.

He said, “This campaign is a clarion call on the male gender to sign up to this initiative because it is an idea that the society as a whole stand to benefit from. Women are endowed with incredible potential that the society needs to harness to achieve optimum level of development.”

While emphasizing the role of women, the Governor added, “I lend my voice to those of our mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends to call for your support in their quest for gender equality.

“Let us create more space for them to operate as this will free us from the burdens we have borne over the years. Also, it is important that we eschew all forms of violence against women, be it Physical, Financial, Emotional or Professional.

“I am fully persuaded that women are not out to take over from us, they have only asked for more space to operate. Why should we deny them? After all, in today’s world, women have demonstrated great capacity in all areas of human endeavour that were hitherto considered exclusive preserve for men and in the scheme of things.

UN Women Deputy Representative of Women in Nigeria, Mr Lansana Woneh noted that with the launch of the campaign in the State, “it is a demonstration that Lagos has shown commitment and progressiveness in promoting gender equality.”

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2.186 Nigerians React As Sanwo-Olu Bans Okada, Tricycles

Culled from Independent on January 28, 2020

The Lagos state government yesterday proscribed the operations of commercial motorcycles (Okada) and tricycles (Keke NAPEP) in six Local Government Areas (LGAs), nine Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) and 10 major highways across the state with effect from February 1.

There’s no job for the youth, the ones driving Okada and tricycle, the government is still taking their job away from them, how will they feed their families???How Do We Fight Crime, When We’re Pushing People To Crime?— valkingT& (@_valkiing) January 27, 2020

2.187 Sanwo-Olu, Others Attend Chinese New Year In Lagos

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 29

GUESTS at the 2020 Chinese New Year’s festival were, last Saturday, treated to an array of fun at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos.On hand to celebrate with China’s Consulate General Chu Maoming is Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Among top state officials present at the event were Commissioner for Tourism, Arts & Culture Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf, and Special Adviser on Works and Infrastructure Monsurat Aramide Adeoye.

Organised by Nigeria Huaxing Art Troupe, the ceremony marks the beginning of Chinese lunar calendar in 2020. Usually

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referred to as Spring Festival in China, it paraded cultural displays, dance, miming, karaoke, exhibition, dining, and fireworks.

Speaking at the event, Sanwo-Olu said “Lagos is open for commerce, tourism, and business opportunities and with the industrial focus to grow the nation’s economy, we see ourselves as investors, economic partners, and collaborators that will bring about positive development to our business community and our state.” Also speaking, Maoming said China would strengthen bilateral relations with Nigeria, noting that the partnership would grow both economies.

“We have achieved a GDP growth rate close to \$50 trillion and we have made huge achievements in 2019,” he said. “We are looking at 2020, a year China would realise the five-year plan to completely eliminate poverty in China.” Speaking on the Coronavirus disease in China, Ming noted that “as we celebrate the Chinese New Year, China has attached great importance to prevention and eradication of the disease.

“With its strong leadership, and strong global support from the international community. we will fight the disease and we will make the people of Wuhan safe and sound.”

2.188 Breaking: Lagos Govt Set To Quarantine ‘Returnee’ Chinese

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on January 29, 2020

All Chinese travelling back to Lagos from their country would be quarantined in order to avert outbreak of deadly Coronavirus in Lagos.

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Speaking at a news conference inside Lagos state government secretariat, Alausa, Commissioner for Heath, Prof. Akin Abayomi, said the government was leaving nothing to chance to prevent outbreak of the disease in Lagos.

According to Abayomi, Lagos state government has reached an agreement with the China Embassy in Nigeria to quarantine many people in China living in Lagos, and had travelled back to their country to celebrate the Chinese New Year and had not returned before the outbreak of Coronavirus in their country.

He said anytime from now, many of them might be thinking of returning to Lagos for their businesses, which he said portended great risk of possible outbreak in Lagos. Abayomi stated that the state government had met with the Chinese Embassy and that they agreed to send message to their people in China to stay back until the outbreak is curtailed before returning.

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2.189 Women Key To Achieving Optimum Development In Society – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on January 29, 2020

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has described women as being endowed with incredible potentials that the society needs to harness to achieve an optimum level of development.

Speaking at the official launch/flag-off ceremony of the “He For She” campaign in Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, Sanwo-Olu noted that the campaign “is a clarion call on the male gender

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to sign up to this initiative because it is an idea that society as a whole stands to benefit from.” Reiterating his belief in the critical role played by women in advancing the socio-economic development of the state, the governor said he was proud to accept to lead the campaign as an ambassador for the cause of women in Lagos State.

He, therefore, Culled on men to give the womenfolk more space in decision making, saying that such a move would lighten the administrative burdens. ‘He For She’ campaign was an initiative of the United Nations launched in 2014 to promote gender equality.

Sanwo-Olu, who said that Lagos State had been at the forefront of promoting gender equality through its policy of zero-tolerance for gender-based discrimination and protection of women and the girl-child against violence, sexual harassment, rape and trafficking, added that the issues of women empowerment and equal opportunity for both gender are part of the cardinal policies of his administration.

The governor, who was decorated as a champion of the ‘HeforShe’ campaign along with nine other personalities maintained his administration had shown an example in this regard by having 12 women in the state cabinet.

2.190 Sanwo-Olu Seeks More Opportunities For Women

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 29, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said women must be given more space to operate and explore their abilities.

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He noted that women were no threats to men, adding that they must be supported to contribute to societal growth and development.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday while leading other stakeholders to begin the state’s leg of the ‘HeForShe’ campaign, a United Nations’ initiative against gender inequality.

Speaking on the need for gender balancing at the event at the Adeyemi Bero Hall, Ikeja, Lagos, the governor said women were endowed with “incredible potential” that should be harnessed by society.

“Today, we join other countries of the world to sign up to the ‘HeForShe’ campaign, a United Nations Women’s initiative aimed at enlisting the support of men in the fight for gender equality.

“This campaign is a clarion call on the male gender to sign up for this initiative because it is an idea that society as a whole stands to benefit from.

“As the Chief Executive of Lagos State and one who believes in the critical role of women in advancing the socio-economic development of our state, I am proud to accept the responsibility to lead this campaign as an ambassador for the cause of women in Lagos State,” the governor said.

According to him, a world without women is unimaginable.

Sanwo-Olu was decorated as the Chief Gender Champion of Lagos as other top public officials were decorated as members of the movement.

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While reiterating the state's effort to fight gender-based discrimination and violence, the governor urged other gender champions to give women "more space to operate."

Representative of the UN Women Nigeria and Economic Community of West African States, Ms Comfort Lamptey, who was represented by Lansana Woneh, said Sanwo-Olu "is a principal fighter of segregation and violence against women." She noted that his recognition was symbolic.

2.191 Osinbajo, Sanwo-Olu, Others Commend Airtel For Outstanding CSR Initiative

Culled from Independent on January 30, 2020

The Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Ali Ibrahim have lauded Airtel Nigeria for its exceptional CSR efforts at the telco's season 5 premiere of its flagship Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, 'Airtel Touching Lives'.

The grand ceremony, which held over the weekend in Lagos at Eko Hotel Convention Centre, Victoria Island was attended by several eminent guests, including award-winning writer and novelist, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II.

In his keynote address, Yemi Osinbajo commended Airtel for its unswerving efforts in bringing millions of underprivileged Nigerians out of despair and being a beacon of hope through its Touching Lives initiative. He stated, "I really want to laud the effort of Segun Ogunsanya and his team at Airtel for touching

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so many lives and for doing so in the past five years without fanfare.

Listening to the stories of the lives that have been touched must be a reminder of so many others in despair who need our help and comfort." "In spite of all these socia safety net schemes, we are still very far from touching the majority of those who need our help.

We still need more resources because we can't do it all, and that is why socially conscious organizations like Airtel is so vital in bridging the huge gap between what the Government can do and what is left to be done", he added.

Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu in his keynote address regarded Airtel as a partner in progress, praising the telecommunications giant for going out of its way to impact millions of lives over the years through the initiative. He stated that Airtel's commitment to touching lives continues to compliment the State Government's goal of giving a voice to the voiceless.

He said: "Companies like Airtel is helping us actualise the reason millions of people stand under the rain and in the sun to vote for us as public officers. We truly appreciate companies like Airtel, who are taking the right narrative and steps to truly impact lives without expecting anything in return".

Sanwo-Olu went on to elucidate one of the numerous ways the telco has supported the Lagos State Government, stating, "I can assure you the company has been doing incredible work and supporting us without pressurizing them.

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I am more than happy to reveal that even in our Security Trust Fund, Airtel gave us over 200 lines for all of our security operatives in the RRS. That for us is critical, as communication is a consequential tool that security operatives need to have to discharge their duties.

“ The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, , Isa Ali Ibrahim also lauded Airtel for its Touching Lives initiative, citing it as a source of inspiration for not just only public officers in government, but one that could permeate the culture of giving among millions of Nigerians.

He described Airtel as a corporate entity worthy of emulation by other organisations in the country. He noted that he was moved by Airtel’s unflagging dedication to truly render a helping hand to those in need without being compelled by the law to do so.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Nigeria, Segun Ogunsanya, Culled on kind-hearted Nigerians to join in uplifting the less-privileged members of society. He stated that ‘Airtel Touching Lives’ serves as a platform to promote the culture of giving, self-sacrifice, love and charity among Nigerians.

2.192 Sanwo-Olu Signs Issuance Of N100b Bond

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on January 30, 2020in City
Beats, News Update*

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday signed the issuance of a N100billion bond.

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It is the largest bond issuance in the domestic capital markets by a sub-national government.

The signing took place at the Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja, with the partners and exco members in attendance.

It is Lagos State’s third bond programme under its N500b bond issuance programme, having previously issued bonds under N107.75billion and N167.5billion programmes.

The governor said the bond issuance recorded an oversubscription at 196.5 per cent, adding: “This strong response to the new administration’s debut bond issuance is a testament to continued investor confidence in Lagos state and the state’s strong credit profile.

“Lagos State maintained its discipline on size and pricing, despite over-subscribed books and the active participation from a wide array of institutional investors, including banks, pension fund administrators, asset managers and corporates; the series 3 issuance was maintained at N100billion and clearing price at 12.25 per cell.”

Sanwo-Olu said his administration will ensure that Lagosians feel the impact of the issuance in the provision of key infrastructure across the state to give them the real essence of governance.

He said the issuance is a demonstration of the can-do spirit of Lagos, “because we made a commitment of a greater Lagos when this administration came in and today after 249 days we

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are excited that we are writing the financial history of Lagos in a good chapter.

“We really are appreciative of the investing community, whose sustained support of Lagos State continues to spur our resolve to deliver on a Greater Lagos. This bond positions Lagos State as a very active participant in the development of our domestic debt capital markets. We remain resolute to upholding our commitment to being the most responsible issuer in the Nigerian capital markets.”

The Chairman of Chapel Hill Denham, an issuing house and one of the partners, Bolaji Balogun, had hailed Governor Sanwo-Olu, saying the lead bond issuance set an example of building continuum in government, because the process was started by the administration of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu.

He said Lagos must continue to accelerate development of infrastructure, as it is the only way to develop and grow the economy, adding: “The process must be sustained.”

Finance Commissioner Mr. Rabiul Olowu said that proceeds from the issuance would be judiciously used in line with the ‘THEMES’ agenda of the government.

He said: “We appreciate support of investors to the significant growth witnessed by Lagos State, given that the money raised through our bonds are being committed to the development of physical and social infrastructure, for the benefit of us all.

“Our partners, especially the issuing houses led by Chapel Hill Denham, have worked tirelessly with us to deliver another successful outcome on this landmark transaction. We also acknowledge the support received in the issuance process from

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the Federal Ministry of Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission and Debt Management Office Nigeria.”

2.193 Sanwo-Olu Seeks LG’s Cooperation On Smart City

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on January 31, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday urged the local government administrators to cooperate with the state government to deliver the vision of a greater Lagos. Sanwo-Olu, who stated this at the swearing-in of the new Chairman of the Ikosi-Isheri Local Council Development Area, Abolanle Bada, at the Lagos House, Ikeja, noted that the two arms of government needed to collaborate to deliver democracy dividends to residents of the state.

Bada was sworn-in after the demise of the chairman of the LCDA, Abdulfatai Oyesanya, on January 21, 2020.

The governor, while urging the new chairman to implement programmes that would have a direct positive impact on the lives of the people of the LCDA, noted that all the infrastructural projects being executed by the current administration fall within the jurisdiction of one local government or the other thereby spreading development across the state.

He said, “To ensure maximum effect and optimum delivery of dividends of democracy to our people, local governments must strive to compliment the state government efforts in the areas of construction and maintenance of inner roads, waste management, the security of lives and property, primary education and healthcare and so on. We must synergise to deliver a smart city state that works for all.

“As you assume your new office, let me remind you that the task ahead requires purposeful and result-oriented leadership that will deepen the relevance of local government administration for the benefit of the good people of Ikosi-Isheri LCDA and I want to urge you to prioritize the completion of ongoing projects going forward.”

The new chairman promised to work with the government to deliver better to the residents of the LCDA.

2.194 **492 Families Benefit From Sanwo-Olu's Maiden Housing Scheme**

Culled From The Sun Newspaper On 1 February, 2020

It was all outpouring of emotions and joy, at the Banquet Hall of the State House in Alausa on Friday when Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, presented keys to beneficiaries of his administration's maiden rent-to-own housing scheme.

Governor Sanwo-Olu allotted all the apartments of the Lateef Kayode Jakande Housing Estate in Igando to 492 families certified by the State's Mortgage Board to benefit from the scheme. The allocation came four months after the housing estate was completed by the Sanwo-Olu administration.

A 56-year-old widow, Mrs. Fatimat Kosoko, betrayed emotion as her name was being announced to benefit in the scheme.

The mother of four, who is a staff of the Ministry of Education, said the scheme had brought a “huge relief” to her family, eight years after she had been struggling to provide decent

accommodation for her children, following husband's demise. She got a 40 per cent rebate on the monthly payment to service the mortgage.

Sanwo-Olu described the development as “a promise kept ahead of time”, noting that his administration's modified rent-to-own housing scheme took off earlier than expected.

The Governor reiterated that provision of decent homes for a large number of residents across the State remained a key thrust of his administration's social intervention scheme, stressing that his Government had introduced a simple mortgage model to expand the opportunity to low-income families.

He said: “We cannot overemphasise how critical housing is to all residents. We made a promise that we will deliver decent homes to our people. For us to start fulfilling this promise earlier than we predicted, it shows the credibility and our readiness to stand with our pledges to Lagosians. It's a promise kept ahead of time.

“Therefore, it is with great pleasure to hand over keys to apartments of Lateef Kayode Jakande Gardens to all beneficiaries selected by the Mortgage Board. Shelter, as we all know, is critical to fulfilling all other activities of life. Home ownership is a mark of great accomplishment, especially in city like Lagos. My joy knows no bound as ordinary people now boast of owning decent homes under my administration.”

The Governor said the delivery of affordable housing to low-income residents underscored “irrevocable commitment” of his

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administration to actualise its agenda of building a 21st century economy and attaining 'Greater Lagos'.

Sanwo-Olu promised that his Government would continue to make more impacts through social intervention schemes, pledging that other ongoing housing projects would be completed.

He also said the welfare of the State workers would be a priority of his administration, disclosing that he had directed the Ministry of Housing to reserve 10 per cent of the properties developed by the Government for civil servant to keep them committed to the service of the State.

The Governor advised those who missed out in the maiden housing scheme not to lose hope; their applications, he said, would be re-considered in the subsequent schemes coming later in the year.

Sanwo-Olu urged the allottees to take ownership of the Estate by maintaining all facilities provided in the Estate.

Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, said all housing schemes initiated by the previous administrations were being speedily worked on for completion on the order of the Governor.

He disclosed that the Government would be delivering additional 360 homes in Igbogbo, 744 homes in Sangotedo, 660 homes in Agbowa and 680 apartments in Egan Igando.

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2.195 **“Don’t Take Bread Out Of Our Mouths,” ‘Okada/Keke’ Operators Beg Sanwo- Olu**

Culled from the Sun on 1st February 2020

Some operators of commercial motorcycles (Okada) and tricycles 'Keke' NAPEP in Lagos said that the ban on their operations by Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu would deprive them of their daily bread.

The operators said this while speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in separate interviews on Saturday in Lagos. They added that the government's plan would also affect them and their families in negative ways.

They urged the government to be lenient with them, and give them more time to think of other positive things they could engage to take care of their families.

They said that operating Okada or commercial motorcycles and 'Keke' NAPEP was their last resort to survive and stay away from crimes.

Mr Winner Daniel, an Okada operator, urged the government to have a rethink on its order to ban Okada and tricycle operations on some major highways and bridges in Lagos.

The Marine Engineer said that the government should give more time to the operators, saying many of them took to Okada business to survive for the main time.

Daniel said: “If this is what we get from the government that we stayed inside the sun and under rain to vote for, it is very bad.

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“This is where we get our daily bread, feed our families and pay our children’s school fees.

“Government is taking the bread out of our mouths. I am a graduate by the Grace of God, but I don’t have a job.

“I trained and graduated as a marine engineer but because there is no job, I have to use this to take care of my family for the main time until when God will answer me.

“Nobody wants to do Okada, it is just a matter of life and death. The government should give us time.”

According to him, there are about eight or nine Okada riders in his park that are graduates. He said that they were surviving on it instead of being a nuisance to people as well as to stay away from crimes.

Another commercial motorcyclist, Mr Success Esi, said that the ban would cause more damage to the society than good. He urged the government to give the operators more time and provide more jobs.

“This is wrong because since the new government came in, they have not provided any job for the people; instead more people are going out of jobs.

“There are more jobless people now. So many people had been sacked by their employers.

“Such used their severance pay to buy Okada or Keke to survive.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

“We must eat, our families must eat; we must pay school fees and house rents. So, banning Okada is very wrong. We survive from it as well as our wives and children also.

“This ban will cause much damage to the society than good. It will affect security more because an idle hand is a devil’s workshop.”

A tricyclist, Mr Ismael Abdullateef, added: “This is our source of livelihood; we cater for our families through this work. If banned from major roads, it will badly affect our family. “What I want to say is that the government should be lenient with us; it is not easy for us.

“If the reason for the ban is the rate of accidents, I think the government can get a task force to clampdown on some of us that ride roughly instead of banning all of us and take away our means of livelihood.”

According to him, as a private school teacher, he resigned because his salary was not paid, and then becoae commercial tricycle operator.

Another tricyclist, Mr Basir Jimoh said: “We are good Nigerians, we are not into crimes rather we work and struggle to make ends meet.

“If the government bans `Keke` Marwa, which I am riding, do they want me to be snatching phones or stealing around?

“This is what I use to feed my family, my first child is above 20 years, I send them to school. This is not the best time for the governor to do this.

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“If we are restricted from bridges, it is understandable but if we are banned in some local governments and restricted in most of the roads, the government is invariably recruiting people into crimes and violence.”

Another ‘Keke’ rider, Mr Jimoh Suraju, said that most riders collected the tricycles on hired purchased of N1.3million, saying if banned paying back the money would be difficult and could make some commit suicide.

“What does the government want us to do? Many of these roads where we are restricted from are the roads people use to go to offices and markets.

“Government should leave us to continue struggling for our survival.”

NAN reports that the Lagos State Government on Monday announced that it would commence enforcement of the extant Transport Sector Reform Law 2018 which banned the operation of Motorcycles (Okada) and Tricycles (Keke) in some Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) with effect from Feb. 1.

They include: Apapa LGA, Apapa Iganmu LCDA, Lagos Mainland LG, Yaba LCDA, Surulere LGA, Itire-Ikate and Coker-Aguda LCDAs, Ikeja LGA, Onigbongbo and Ojodu LCDAs, Eti-Osa LGA, Ikoyi-Obalende and Iru/Victoria Island LCDAs, Lagos Island LGA and Lagos Island East LCDA.

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The state government also listed the highways, bridges and roads where the law also banned motorcycles and tricycles from operating in the state. (NAN)

2.196 492 Families Benefit From Sanwo-Olu’s Housing Scheme

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 1, 2020in News, News Update

It was all outpouring of emotions and joy, on Friday, at the Banquet Hall of the State House in Alausa on Friday when Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, presented keys to beneficiaries of his administration’s maiden rent-to-own housing scheme.

Sanwo-Olu allotted all the apartments of the Lateef Kayode Jakande Housing Estate in Igando to 492 families certified by the State’s Mortgage Board to benefit from the scheme. The allocation came four months after the housing estate was completed by the Sanwo-Olu administration.

A 56-year-old widow, Mrs. Fatimat Kosoko, betrayed emotion as her name was being announced to benefit in the scheme.

The mother of four, who is a staff of the Ministry of Education, said the scheme had brought a “huge relief” to her family, eight years after she had been struggling to provide decent accommodation for her children, following husband’s demise. She got a 40 per cent rebate on the monthly payment to service the mortgage.

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Sanwo-Olu described the development as “a promise kept ahead of time”, noting that his administration’s modified rent-to-own housing scheme took off earlier than expected.

The Governor reiterated that provision of decent homes for a large number of residents across the State remained a key thrust of his administration’s social intervention scheme, stressing that his Government had introduced a simple mortgage model to expand the opportunity to low-income families.

The Governor said the delivery of affordable housing to low-income residents underscored “irrevocable commitment” of his administration to actualise its agenda of building a 21st century economy and attaining ‘Greater Lagos’.

2.197 Okada Ban: Sanwo-Olu To Launch Commercial Ferry Operations

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 2, 2020in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu will on Tuesday launch Lagos Ferry Services, (LAGFERRY) commercial operations with the commissioning of 14 ferry boats for public transportation on Lagos waterways.

Of the 14 boats 8 are new ones; Waterways transportation is expected to commute 480, 000 passengers daily.

The governor will also launch a LAGFERRY operations app to operate a schedule water transportation services with online/ offline ticket bookings.

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This is coming barely 72 hours after the government banned the operations of commercial motorcyclist and tricycle on highways, bridges and major roads in the state.

Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAGFERRY, Hon. Ladi Balogun disclosed this at a press briefing on the commercial launch of operations of LAGFERRY which held at Bagauda Kaltho Press Center, Alausa, Ikeja over the weekend.

Balogun said the launch is a huge step forward in the integration of multi-modal transportation in the state, a process which has been on since 1999, and that technology will play a big role in the integration.

“Being a megacity and emerging smart city, it is quite obvious that efficient traffic management can best be experienced in Lagos State if the three modes of rail, road and water transportation are effectively integrated to complement one another. Commuting the over 20 million people of Lagos State largely on the road has, thus far, proven ineffective,” Balogun said.

According to him, road transportation has been overstretched, adding that, “the introduction of Minibuses, Keke Marwa and Okada (Motorbikes) has mostly compounded the management of traffic across the state.

In as much as these diverse means of road transportation cluster Lagos roads, the bus-stops continue to play host to stranded passengers”.

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He said the current administration is committed to changing the narrative, “it has made, and it is still set to make, quite an appreciable level of investment that is surely poised to lift the face of water transportation in the state.

“Water transportation is an integral component to the development of the Lagos multi-modal transport system; we have no doubt that the waterways will offer further solution to persistent gridlock on our roads and the ever growing transport demand in the state,” he said.

The commercial operations will commence in full scale on Tuesday in six routes and they include: Ipakodo Terminal , Ikorodu-Five Cowries Terminal, Falomo Ikoyi, Ipakodo Terminal, Ikorodu-Ebute Ero Jetty-Elegbata –Lagos Island, Marina Terminal CMS and Five Cowries Terminal, Falomo Ikoyi, - Badore Terminal, Ajah-Eti in Osa Local Government.

Others are Ebute Ero Jetty, Ojo Local Government-Ijegun Egba Terminal, Oriade LCDA, Amuwo-Odofin Local Government-Marina Terminal, CMS, Mile 2 Terminal, Amuwo-Odofin Local Government-Liverpool Jetty, Apapa- Marina Terminal CMS and Badore Terminal, Ajah, in Eti-Osa Local Government- Ijede Jetty, Ikorodu.

He said the government is poised to encourage more private sector operators to invest in water transportation while it provides more facilities and regulations. “We are also working in hand with the private sectors, local and international ferries builders with the support of Mr. Governor to acquire more ferries to cover all the forty (40) waterways routes before the end of the year 2020.

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“LAGFERRY is determined to deliver on her mandate through an effective and real time service delivery driven by technology to the good people and business of Lagos. At LAGFERRY, we are set to safely sail Lagos,” Balogun assured.

2.198 We Are Committed To Improving Public Schools — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on February 2, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said that his administration was irrevocably committed to improving the learning and teaching environment in public schools.

The governor, who was represented by his wife, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, said this at the Medilag Alumni High Table and Fund Raising Dinner organised by the alumni of College of Medicine, University of Lagos on Sunday.

He said that the prioritisation of education was in tandem with the administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S agenda in which education represented a key pillar.Sanwo-Olu said that the state had just completed a training programme for primary schools teachers under its Eko Excel Initiative.

“Also, the pilot exercise of the school feeding programme tagged, “Snack for Thoughts”, for pupils in primary four and six within Lagos Island Local Government was completed a few days ago.”When fully operational, this programme will improve the nutritional intake of the pupils. This would result in improved mental capacity and school attendance.”All of these and many more initiative being implemented will result in significant

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transformation of the education sector and better future for our state and the country as a whole,” he said.

Also speaking, Prof. Afolabi Lesi, Provost, College of Medicine, University of Lagos, urged government to provide an enabling environment in the health sector in order to attract Nigerian doctors abroad back home. According to him, provision of modern equipment, infrastructure and adequate funding would help reverse brain drain in the health sector. The provost said that the event was an opportunity for the alumni to get together and focus on the college’s needs.

“This college has really invested in their lives, so it is an opportunity to give back to the college so as address issues of the college.” We train our students for them to be globally competitive; that is why it’s natural for them to move from one place to another in order to improve their competitive skills,”

Lesi said. Prof. Oladapo Ashiru, Chairman, Alumni Organising Committee, said that the fund raising was an opportunity for alumni of the college to network and donate to the college projects. (NAN)

2.199 #OkadaBan: Lagosians Compare Fashola’s Tenure To Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on February 3, 2020

The Lagos state government started to implement a ban on motorcycles, popularly known as okadas, and tricycles in major parts of the state on Saturday.

This has caused outrage from lagosians following the supposed hardship the ban is putting people through. Netizens have also

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taken the opportunity to compare Fashola and Sanwo-olu’s tenure.

2.200 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Incident Command System On Coronavirus

Culled from Independent on February 3, 2020

Lagos- To check the outbreak of the corona virus infiltrating into the state, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, inaugurated the incident command system on corona virus.

Sanwo-Olu, speaking at the event, held at the State House, Ikeja, on Monday, noted that the effort is n collaboration with the Ministry of Health, to contain the outbreak of the disease.

The incident command system on corona virus, which is chaired by Sanwo-Olu, has the Commissioner of Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, as the deputy.

Meanwhile, Prof. Abayomi has allayed fears of Lagos residents over outbreak of the disease, assuring that there is no such thing in the state, country, and Africa.

Details later...

2.201 Sanwo-Olu To LASTMA Officers: Be Diligent, Shun Corruption

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 5, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State government on Wednesday inducted 1017 new officers into the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) to enhance traffic management in the State.

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Speaking at the passing out parade at LASTMA headquarters, Oshodi, the Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu tasked the officers to be diligent and shun corruption.

The Governor who adorned the LASTMA uniforms in company of his Deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat said, “Traffic in Lagos is over 10 times in comparison to national average.”

While congratulating the inductees to have been privileged to be recruited, Sanwo-Olu urged them to see their recruitment as an opportunity to serve. “Our administration will continue to support you. We will do more to support you. Your induction is to ease movement of people and goods.

“We have zero tolerance on corruption or financial inducement, harassment of citizens will be frowned at, let’s be civil, firm and decisive,” the Governor said.

Commissioner for Transportation, Mr Frederic Oladeinde told the new officers that “your employment as officers of LASTMA demonstrates the commitment of the governor to attend to traffic issues in the State.”

Oladeinde explained that “transportation impacts directly on any functional economy. On your new job, you must show commitment, dedication and discipline.

“There is no place for corruption, I urge you to tread carefully,” he said.

In his welcome address, LASTMA General Manager, Mr Olajide Oduyoye disclosed that the governor had been exceptional as it was the first time a sitting governor would attend any induction

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ceremony of the organization, he also advised the inductees not to allow temptation to ruin their career.

“Today marks a new dawn, before you were wearing black and white. A lot of people didn’t accord you respect but today you are wearing the uniform.

“The uniform is an authority, with the authority comes a big responsibility, the job is not a small job, we expect you to do extra and be magical.

“All we asking you is to present yourselves accordingly for you to be respected.

“I want to plead with you not to allow temptation in your work, don’t allow temptation to wane your career,” Oduyoye charged the new inductees.

2.202 Sanwo-Olu Warns LASTMA Officers Against Corruption

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on February 5, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday warned officers of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) against corrupt practices, saying his administration has zero tolerance for extortion and other forms of corruption.

The Governor spoke at the passing out parade and induction of 1017 officers to the Lagos State Transport Management Authority held at its Headquarters to enhance traffic operation in the state.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

Sanwo-Olu who spotted the LASTMA uniforms in company of his Deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat said, “Traffic in Lagos is over 10 times in comparison to national average.”

While congratulating the inductees to have been privileged to be recruited, Sanwo-Olu said, “I urge you to see your recruitment as an opportunity to serve. “Our administration will continue to support you. We will do more to support you. Your induction is to ease movement of people and goods.

“We have zero tolerance on corruption or financial inducement. Harassment of citizens will be frowned at. Let’s be civil, firm and decisive.”

Also speaking the Commissioner for Transportation, Mr Federic Oladeinde told the inductees, “your employment as of officers of LASTMA demonstrates the commitment of the Governor to attend to traffic issues in the state.”

Oladeinde explained that, “Transportation impacts directly on any functional economy. On your new job, you must show commitment, dedication and discipline. “There is no place for corruption, I urge you to tread carefully,” he said.

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2.203 Border Closure Necessary To Protect Nation’s Economy — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on February 6, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says that the closure of the country’s border is necessary to protect the Nigerian economy against unfair actions which run contrary to acceptable norms.

Sanwo-Olu said this at the Center for Values in Leadership (CVL) 17th Annual Lecture and International Leadership Symposium on Intra-African Trade Service on Thursday in Lagos. The theme was: Intra African Trade: Growth and Economic Development.

The governor, who was represented by his Deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, emphasized that trade between nations thrived on the commitment of parties to the principles of fairness, integrity and equity. “If these principles are breached with its attendant negative effects on the economy of one party, then the sustenance of trade relations and the mutual benefits that should accrue from such, would be threatened,” Sanwo-Olu said. According to him, it is wrong to view the border closure as an action against the objectives of promoting intra-African trade.

Sanwo-Olu said that the continent and individual countries “stand to gain a lot in terms of enhanced economic growth and development if greater attention is focused on improving the current level of intra-African trade. “The African Continental Trade Agreement (AfCTA), if well implemented, has a potential

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to increase intra-African trade by about 52 per cent by 2020,” Sanwo-Olu said.

Earlier in a goodwill message, the Deputy Governor of Jigawa, Alhaji Umar Lamidi, said that intra-African trade was necessary to alleviate poverty in African countries. Lamidi said Jigawa State Government was partnering with the Central Bank of Africa (CBN) in tackling the problem of poverty.

Also speaking, Deputy Governor of Edo, Phillip Shuaib, said that intra-African trade must be taken seriously in order to unlock untapped potentials. Shuaib said the adoption of AfCTA had created the largest trading block in the world and also resurrected the goldmines that had been neglected for so long.

“For us to enjoy the benefit of our expanded market, we must first work toward reducing or even eliminating those barriers that hinder the African trade such as cross border conflicts, piracy, tariff and transport infrastructure deficit,” he said

The founder of CVL Prof Pat Utomi, a political economist and management expert, said that Nigerian businessmen must be men of integrity who respect contracts and frown at impunity.

2.204 Sanwo-Olu Advocates Informal Learning For Youths

Culled from Independent on February 6, 2020

Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, and Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, have said that apart from formal education, there is the need for informal learning for youths.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to Sanwo-Olu at Lagos House, Ikeja, the Earl of Wessex said that he was in Nigeria to support

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the Duke of Edinburgh International Award, licensed in the country as the International Award for Young People Nigeria.

NAN reports that Prince Edward is the youngest child of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Prince Edward said that there were many young people in Nigeria who had no work to do, hence, they should be encouraged to take up informal education to develop skills.

He said that it was not just about formal education, hence, the government had a role to play to provide the necessary encouragement for informal education. Prince Edward emphasized that the Duke of Edinburgh International Award was providing many opportunities for the youth in Nigeria and many other countries.

He said that the government and employers of labor needed to recognize and encourage non-formal education, as it would improve the economy.

The Earl of Wessex was accompanied by the British Deputy High Commissioner, Harriet Thompson and the Chairman of the Award’s board of trustees in the country, Wale Edun, a Trustee, Doyin Abiola and the Award’s Regional Director Africa, Edwin Kimani, While introducing the Award to the governor, Edun, commended Sanwo-Olu administration’s investment in education and technology.

He said that the award was the premier platform globally for non-formal, co-curricular outside the classroom learning and had been of tremendous value around the world and in Nigeria.

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Founded by The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956, the award is available to all young people aged 14 to 24 years, and equips them with life skills, regardless of their background, culture and physical ability.

He sought the support of the state government in the provision of internet access for youths participating in the award to enable them to share their works with their International counterparts.

Responding, Gov. Sanwo-Olu commended the Royal Family for the many charitable organizations which were positively impacting many lives. He said that the public schools in Lagos State had started imparting similar informal knowledge so as to diversify their learning.

According to him, without school or informal activities, young adults can develop, compete globally and take charge of their environment and their future by themselves.

2.205 Sanwo-Olu And The Restriction Of Okada And Keke In Lagos

Culled from Independent on February 7, 2020

The recent ban on the operations of commercial motorcyclists (Okada) and tricyclists (Keke) in certain parts of Lagos has created a tense situation in the state. The development has also elicited heated reactions from Nigerians.

Recall that the Lagos state government, last week, announced plans to commence total enforcement of Reform Traffic Law of 2018 on activities of the operators of Okada and Keke on restricted routes and bridges across 15 Local government Areas

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of the state. Enforcement of the policy has, since February 1st, commenced.

However, the development caused the eruption of mayhem at Ijora area of Lagos state earlier in the week, as commercial motorcyclists disrupted normal activities and began demonstrations in protest against the policy. Three people were reportedly killed and vehicles burnt in the fracas as security operatives tried to quell the protest.

While proponents of this ban argue that the development is long overdue, others, who are on the side of the operators, argue that the policy does not have a human face. Meanwhile, the Lagos State government says that these operators have constituted nuisance in the city of Lagos.

Most times, they don't obey traffic and safety regulations. Many people have been sent to their early graves even as many are permanently maimed due to the recklessness of these Okada operators. One commentator noted they act as a people on suicide mission, ready to take others along. Some analysts have also argued that sometimes, these Okada and tricycle operators behave in an uncivilised way on the road.

Some analysts have also noted that the operators deface the city as they sometimes appear like swarm of bees. Okada menace, for some watchers, also manifests in their complicity in crimes; and they have turned Lagos into a city where the law of the jungle holds sway.

Proponents believe that no responsible government would fold its hands in the face of such unprecedented menace. In fact,

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recall that the government of Babatunde Fashola also restricted the Okada operation to certain routes. There have been efforts to tame the wild way the Okada riders operate, but there has not been enough political will to get this done.

Meanwhile, there is no doubt that the ban on Okada and Keke has created a situation where people have to track long distances. In the first place, analysts note that the emergence of Okada and tricycle as means of transportation is largely due to the failure of government to entrench a formidable transport system.

This is therefore an indictment on the government. More so, there are those who argue that the ban would worsen the security situation in Lagos considering that these operators may find crime handy as an alternative means of livelihood.

The economy is in a bad shape; the jobs are not enough. And so they argue that it is foolhardy to take the only means of livelihood these people can find. It may blow in government's face on the long run if not properly addressed. For observers, it is something to be concerned about.

Oby Ezekwesili, former Education Minister, described the ban as a case of "empathy-deficit in our public governance". Some watchers agree with Dr Oby, considering that the system has encouraged the huge number of people who are surviving on their Okada operation.

The onus is on the government to fix the economy so that people can find decent means of livelihood. Ogaziechi Nnedi, a columnist with the Independent Newspaper, puts it succinctly.

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"The systemic errors must be corrected with a lot of political will and with an eye to development and modern ways of running functional economies. A menial job like riding commercial motorcycle and tricycle should not be upgraded as the huge employer of labour that it is right now. We are just empowering Asian youths and literarily killing our own youths and economy."

Much as the Lagos State government decisiCulled from Independent on May be in public interest and common good, the snag, according to analysts, is that it failed to put the Horse before the Cart, but rather put the Cart before the Horse.

Government would have reformed the transport system in Lagos first; ensure there are enough buses that would cushion the effect of the ban; in fact, ensure there is efficient public transportation system that would serve the transport needs of majority of Lagosians before taking the Okadas and Kekes out of the roads.

Nevertheless, whether or not Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu would bow to pressure which this ban has generated would be known in the coming days.

2.206 Sanwo-Olu Urges Stakeholders To Proffer Strategies For Job Creation

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 7, 2020in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged state governments, private sector, and international development

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agencies to proffer strategies and interventions for a holistic and evolutionary job creation outcome for youths.

He spoke at the opening ceremony of the maiden edition of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) Employment Summit 2020, with the theme: 'Showcasing Leading Practices in Job Creation'. It was held at the Radisson Blu, GRA, Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by Wealth Creation and Employment Commissioner Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke, noted that the successes of the LSETF are enough learning for governments and corporate businesses to tackle unemployment across the nation.

"Our interventions in job creation have been instrumental to the 6.7% drop in the unemployment rate as recorded by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), making Lagos the state with the highest job creation record nationwide as at Q3, 2018," the governor said. He added: "Our desire is to stimulate similar outcomes in every state in Nigeria. It is this underlining rationale and in partnership with the Nigeria Governor's Forum that we have come together to share ideas, case studies and success stories to reverberate these same energies and impact on a national scale.

"Through this summit, the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund and subject matter experts in the job creation space will identify challenges, showcase leading practices, share learnings and success stories that have helped in achieving job creation." Sanwo-Olu said his administration is committed to providing entrepreneurs and productive population with the resources needed to work efficiently.

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He said the purpose of every progressive government was to provide a working order that would promote a positive effect on the economy and impact prosperity.

The governor said with the reality of the growing population in Lagos, the need to provide the capacity to manage the citizens' demands was paramount, adding that the government would devise strategies to address the challenges through such establishment as the state's Employment Trust Fund.

LSETF Chairman Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru said the summit was necessary to showcase learning in job creation and global best practices to help in efforts to combat chronic unemployment situation.

"During this two-day summit, I look forward to all of us learning, unlearning, relearning and taking back actionable points that will enable innovative ways to promote job creation through skills development, entrepreneurship, access to affordable funding and applied technology to our organisations," she said.

Force in reducing the rate of unemployment in Nigeria, by enabling capacity building for unemployed youths, providing support and access to finance for budding entrepreneurs, thereby creating employment opportunities for residents."

The Acting Executive Secretary, LSETF, Mrs. Teju Abisoye, enjoined the public and private organisations to support the Employment Trust Fund in its deliberate quest to put young people to jobs. She thanked the partners and sponsors for their contributions towards hosting a successful summit.

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The partners include IBM, Harambee Youth Accelerator South Africa, FCMB, Tek Experts, GIZ, Eko Innovation Centre (EIC), Jobberman, SOS Children's Village, International Breweries, Coca-Cola, ILO, Workforce Group, PIND Foundation, Stanbic IBTC, Businessday and LASAA.

2.207 Sanwo-Olu Urges Firms To Empower Youths In Communities Hosting Oil Exploration

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 10, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said he will encourage companies operating in communities to facilitate empowerment programmes for skilled and unskilled youths.

The governor promised to ensure the inclusion of indigenous youths in the employment plan of the state. He spoke at the weekend at the 2020 Badagry Youth Oil and Gas Conference.

Sanwo-Olu was represented by the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Olalere Odusote. He said: "In Lagos State, we are convinced that youth engagement remains the fulcrum for peace in extractive operations.

That was why we agreed to host this very important conference, so that together, with the youth, we can develop a unique Community Engagement Standard (CES) as a key component of inclusive governance."

He noted that while the petroleum sector had contributed to the economy of Nigeria and by extension the state by providing employment, supporting industries, and had enhanced the living conditions of people, often times, tension existed in the

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relationships between the youth and operating companies because of lack of mutual understanding in the standard of engagement and absence of a platform for engaging youths.

The governor said the present administration was ready to work with youths and other stakeholders to make the petroleum sector more sustainable by implementing a step-by-step, follow-through process of establishing clear grievance structures, constructive dialogue and responsible handover practices; which would enable Badagry youths to benefit from the exploration.

Stressing the need to work in harmony and promote better understanding between youths and other stakeholders, Sanwo-Olu, who promised a more proactive approach to the development of Badagry and its environs, said the expected attendant improvement in infrastructural development would attract more foreign direct investment to the state.

During a question and answer segment, Commissioner for Energy and Petroleum Resources Mr. Odusote said that the state government would not relent in its efforts to ensure that adequate oversight was provided in the process and manner in which communities provided consent and participated in community development agreements.

He said: "We have put in place necessary mechanism to ensure adequate investments in regular and marginal oil blocks as a means of diversifying the state investment portfolio for the overall benefit of the youth. "We are going to do everything we have promised so that Badagry will benefit from being a host community."

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The commissioner assured Badagry youths that the government would complete the Mile 2-Okoko section of the Lagos-Badagry Expressway in the next two years. He promised to take the issue of multiple checkpoints along the Agbara-Seme Expressway to the governor for action.

“We will continue to deliver our promise to Badagry people and will develop the infrastructure that the government has promised. We expect the people to take advantage of the state’s skill acquisition programme to improve themselves and contribute to the economy,” he said.

2.208 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Youths’ Inclusion In Employment Plan

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on February 10, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has promised to ensure the inclusion of youths in the employment plan of the state.

He added that he would encourage companies operating in Lagos to facilitate empowerment programmes for youths in communities hosting them.

The governor, who was represented by the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr Olalere Odusote, spoke at the 2020 Badagry Youth Oil and Gas Conference, organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

He said, “In Lagos State, we are convinced that youth engagement remains the fulcrum for peace in extractive operations and that is why we agreed to host this conference,

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so that together, with youths, we can develop a unique community engagement standards as a key component of inclusive governance.”

Sanwo-Olu said he was ready to work with the youths and other stakeholders to make the petroleum sector more sustainable by implementing a step-by-step, follow-through process of establishing clear-grievance structures, constructive dialogue and responsible handover practices; which would lead to the youths in Badagry benefiting directly from the exploration.

During the question and answer segment, the Commissioner for Energy and Petroleum Resources, Mr Olalere Odusote, who doubled as the chief host, said the state government would not relent in its efforts to ensure that adequate oversight was provided on the process and manner in which communities provide consent and participate in community development agreements.

2.209 We Want To Put Lagos Access Bank Marathon On World Map –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on February 10, 2020

LAGOS – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has commended the outcome of the Lagos City’s Access Bank Marathon, describing it as excellent.

Speaking at the end of the event on Saturday, Sanwo-Olu said the marathon has come to stay.

“We want to put Lagos, Nigeria Access Bank Marathon on the Marathon calendar of the world. Very soon, it will become a marathon that all the world athletes will come and join us.”

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LAGOS – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has commended the outcome of the Lagos City's Access Bank Marathon, describing it as excellent.

Speaking at the end of the event on Saturday, Sanwo-Olu said the marathon has come to stay. "We want to put Lagos, Nigeria Access Bank Marathon on the Marathon calendar of the world. Very soon, it will become a marathon that all the world athletes will come and join us."

The governor, who pledged his administration's continued effort at boosting sports and tourism in the state, added that the event is the beginning of the state's tourism agenda. "We want Lagos to remain on the tourism master plan of athletes worldwide. We want Marathon to become part of us because we all want to live a healthy life."

Also highlighting the importance of the marathon, he said stakeholders must endeavor to keep fit as it is the only way to good health. "We all want it to be a work and play environment. We all want to keep fit. We want to make healthy running a way of life for all of us so that we can reduce health issues, sickness among ourselves.

"But more importantly, we can have a communing where families (both young and old) can all come to have fun, do great exercises, enjoy ourselves and make money out of it."

While lauding all the Kenyans, Ethiopians, among others, for attending the marathon, he also thanked the organisers, for making the event successful.

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2.210 Sanwo-Olu Tasks Extractive Industry Operators On Youth Engagement

Culled from Independent on February 11, 2020

LAGOS – While promising to continue to ensure the inclusion of youths in the employment plan of the state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has urged companies operating within communities in the state to facilitate empowerment programmes for skilled and unskilled youths in their host communities.

The Governor, who made the pronouncement during the 2020 Badagry Youth Oil and Gas Conference, was represented by Olalere Odusote, the Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources. He noted that they were convinced that youth engagement remained the fulcrum for peace in the extractive industry operations, as a result, that they have agreed to host the conference so that together, with the youths, they can develop a unique Community Engagement Standard (CES) as a key component of inclusive governance.

"While the petroleum sector has contributed to the growth of the economy by way of providing employment, supporting other industries, and generally enhancing the living conditions of our people, often times, tensions tend to exist in the relationships between operating companies, the youth as well as the host communities, because of lack of mutual understanding on the standards of engagement and absence of a platform for engaging the youths."

2.211 Magodo Residents Appeal To Sanwo-Olu On Conversion Of Flood Plain Into Residence

Culled from the Sun on 11th February 2020

Residents of Gateway Zone Estate Magodo GRA Phase 1, Isheri, Lagos State have opposed the planned conversion of a natural flood plain, prone to heavy annual flooding, into a residential estate. The residents said the plan amounts to despoliation of the green belt zone and will destroy the ecosystem and the peace of the area.

They therefore Culled on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to save their environment, lives and property from the plan to avoid repeat of awful incident in the neighbouring Isheri North in October 2019, where buildings collapsed and lives were lost, overnight.

Chairman and Secretary of the Community Development Association (CDA), Oyebode Ojomo and Tony Ebinum respectively, in a statement said: “We cannot sit back, fold our arms, watch and allow similar incident of more grievous dimension happen to us when we can fight to prevent it now. As it is said ‘prevention is better than cure’.

“These flood plains are designed to receive water, so as not to cause flooding in developed areas but sheer greed and avarice are at the centre stage propelling the land grabbers to move into the plain with the intention to sell and develop private estates and in the process destroy the ecosystem and the peace of the area.”

The statement was prompted by media reports on February 6 and 7, on a fresh plot by “a property development company, traditional authorities and the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Land Matters in concert with the newly appointed acting General Manager of New Towns Development Authority (NTDA), O. J. Aboyeji, to convert a natural flood plain that is prone to heavy annual flooding into a residential estate.

“The new NTDA helmsman on Wednesday Culled a meeting with the CDA executive of Gateway Zone Estate Magodo GRA Phase 1, Isheri, Lagos State.

The meeting turned out to be a monologue of threats and intimidation to railroad the CDA into teaming up with him and his collaborators to consent to the environmental degradation of the green belt area despite the opposition of the estate and against the opinions of environmental experts in the private and public sectors. The green area is a vast gorge adjoining our estate.

“The reaction of our representatives at the meeting was that of shock and disdain that public official whose brief include the protection of public interest could show such insensitivity to the genuine public outcry that greeted the initial exposition of this sinister plot. Several red flags have been raised at different platforms emphasising the imminent threats to human lives and property if the Lagos State government permits the despoliation of the Green Belt Zone, which essentially and primarily is a flood plain.

“We are further dismayed that some civil servants and lawmakers could embark on such an ominous venture under

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the exemplary government of Governor Sanwo-Olu, who is reputed for professionalism, administrative ingenuity, exemplary leadership and strict adherence to the rule of law.

“At the meeting with the NTDA officials at their office, the CDA executive members were shocked when events at the meeting clearly showed that the NTDA had made a 360-degree turn from its previously sound position that an estate could not be sited on the flood plain.”

**2.212 Jesse Jackson, Other African-American Groups
Caution Sanwo-Olu Against Water Privatisation**

Culled from the Sun on 12th February 2020

Prominent Africa-Americans have cautioned the Lagos governor, Babajide Sanwo Olu, to back off on his water privatisation plan in the state.

Among those who wrote Sanwo-Olu are the American civil rights activist and candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, Rev Jesse Jackson; President, Institute of the Black World 21st century and independent candidate for president of the USA in 1992, Dr. Ron Daniels, Senior Vice-President, for Advocacy and Director on NAACP Washington Bureau, Hillary Shelton; Nayyirah Shariff, Director of Flint Rising; and other 11 African-American and U.S-based racial justice organisations.

In a letter to Sanwo-Olu, dated February 4, in made available our correspondent during a press briefing by the Environmental Rights Action (ERA) Deputy Executive Director, Akinbode Oluwafemi and Our Water Our Rights Coalition in Lagos, on

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February 11, they warned the Lagos State government to abandon its privatisation agenda, maintaining that water is a human right.

Part of the letter reads: “The Institute of the Black World 21st Century and the undersigned African American and U.S based racial justice organisations stand in solidarity with the people of Lagos, Nigeria, and our sisters and brothers on the continent as we collectively struggle together to achieve the universal human right to clean, safe drinking water.

At a recent roundtable discussion on water as a human right with African American leaders in Washington, D.C., we learned about the calculated strategy of multinational corporations to profit from the privatisation of water systems in Africa. Nigeria has emerged as the epicentre of this insidious effort.

“Because of our racial, cultural and historical relationships with the people of Africa, we have a strong commitment to stand in solidarity with the Our Water, Our Rights Coalition in Nigeria.

As the people of Lagos, the largest city in Africa face the ongoing threat of water privatisation, the Our Water Our Rights Coalition stands as a symbol of the power of people coming together and fighting for a water system that serves their communities instead of corporate interests.

“Accordingly, we call on the Lagos government to abandon its efforts at water privatisation and listen to the voices of the people who are demanding a public water system with the investment needed to work for all Lagosians.

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“We have requested that the Congressional Black Caucus of the U.S. Congress use its full influence to bring attention to the demands of the Our Water Our Rights Coalition in Nigeria.”

Earlier, Akinbode Oluwafemi, ERA/FoEN Deputy Executive Director explained that nearly eight months into the life of the Sanwo-Olu administration, demands by the Our Water Our Right Coalition for a blueprint on how to resolve the water crisis and recommendations on real solutions, have not elicited any response.

Other signatories include of the letter Ebonie Riley (National Action Network, Bureau Chief, Washington DC), Ronnie Galvin (Vice-President for Racial Equity and Democracy Economy, Democracy Collaborative) and Rev Terrence Melvin (President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Albany, NY) among others.

2.213 Sanwo-Olu Reiterates Commitment To Pilgrims Welfare

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on February 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday restated the commitment of his administration to ensure improved welfare and service delivery to all pilgrims from the state at all times.

The governor stated this at the general pilgrims’ inter-denominational thanksgiving service held at the Chapel of Christ The Light in Lagos.

The Governor who was represented by his Chief of Staff Mr. Tayo Ayinde said the state government is proud of pilgrims

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from the state who he said were good ambassadors, displaying high level of discipline and probity while in holy land.

He said, “We give thanks to God almighty for giving us this opportunity every year to return back from pilgrimages safely to give thanks to him. I must commend you all for being good ambassadors of our state through your conduct and discipline I was informed you all exhibited throughout the journey.”

Also speaking Commissioner for Home Affairs Prince Anofiu Olanrewaju Elegushi noted that “Today’s thanksgiving service is in fulfilment of His command: expressing our appreciation and gratitude to God for His faithfulness, goodness and mercies over us.”

“I am sure you have returned with great richness of spiritual rejuvenation, full of joy and strengthened with faith. A great gift and grace, a unique and unforgettable experience you will forever cherish in your hearts that the almighty Culled you to experience.

“I want to restate that the Almighty God wants you, as Jerusalem Pilgrims to show the way forward by living exemplary lifestyle worthy of a true ambassador of God and to preach peace amongst your circle of influence. “

2.214 Infrastructural Devt To Attract Investment, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on February 12, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has said the ongoing infrastructural development programme of his

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administration is a deliberate effort to make the state attractive to foreign investors.

Sanwo-Olu, according to a statement on Tuesday, said there would be no point requesting Nigerians abroad to come back home to invest if the local business environment was not developed to support their aspirations.

The governor spoke while receiving the Mayor of Brampton City in Ontario, Canada, Mr Patrick Brown, who led a delegation to the State House, Ikeja, on a courtesy visit.

Sanwo-Olu said the Canadian city shared similar history with Lagos, stressing that both cities had grown over the decades to become the hubs of commerce and technology.

He said, “It feels great to know how much effort you, as the Mayor of Brampton, is investing in driving development into your city and this is similar to what we have been doing in Lagos. We have embarked on an intensive infrastructural programme to make Lagos more attractive to people in the Diaspora to invest in.

“All these efforts will sustain the position of Lagos as the first destination for business and keep our economy growing at a steady pace. Lagos is the tech hub in sub-Saharan Africa and there is much collaboration we can seal with Brampton in the area of cyber security. “We are transforming Lagos into a smart city and a city of the future driven by technology. This will also enhance our ease of doing business policy, which foreign investors can tap into,” Sanwo-Olu said.

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The mayor welcomed Sanwo-olu’s invitation for collaboration in various areas, including education, ICT, agriculture and cyber security.

Brown described Nigerians living in Brampton as resilient people, saying their influence on the city’s economy and culture contributed to its economic prosperity and social development.

2.215 Lagos-Badagry Expressway Must Remain 10 Lanes, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on February 13, 2020

**Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu
Oluwatosin Omojuyigbe**

The 10-lane right-of-way already set by the Lagos State Government in the ongoing construction of the Lagos-Badagry Expressway needs to be preserved, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged the Federal Government.

Sanwo-Olu said the ongoing construction work on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway would shoot up population upon completion and open the corridor up for more physical development.

He spoke on Wednesday, while meeting with members of the Senate Committee on Works that paid him a courtesy visit at the State House in Alausa. The committee was led by its chairman, Senator Adamu Aliero.

The Federal Government is currently handling the construction of the Lagos-Badagry Expressway from Agbara to Seme Border, while the Lagos State Government is complementing

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the effort from Orile to Iba town, creating five-lane on either sides of the 22-kilometre-long stretch.

Sanwo-Olu said, “We don’t want to reduce the expressway to two lanes. The Federal Government should keep the 10-lane right-of-way, instead of reducing it back to two lanes. Even if what they are going to build is two lanes on either sides, let them keep the space for expansion to 10 lanes. So that in future, either the state or the Federal Government can build on it.”

Aliero said the purpose for the committee members’ trip to Lagos was to inspect the ongoing road projects being handled by the Federal Government in the state, noting that the senators would be visiting Apapa-Oshodi-Oworonsoki, Lagos-Ibadan and Lagos-Badagry expressways to inspect the ongoing work on the roads.

2.216 Sanwo-Olu To Fed Govt: Don’t Reduce Lagos-Badagry Road Standard

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 13, 2020in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday appealed to the Federal Government to ensure that the ongoing rehabilitation of Lagos-Badagry Expressway meets international standard.

Sanwo-Olu spoke when he hosted members of the Senate Committee on Works, who visited him at the State House, Alausa Ikeja. They were led by Chairman of the committee, Senator Adamu Aliero.

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The governor, who explained that the state government was working on a 10-lane road from Lagos State University (LASU) to Okokomaiko corridor, believed that the Ministry of Works should also replicate same from Agbara to Seme border.

He said since the road is an international gateway, constructing two lanes will not meet the standard required.

The governor said: “First is to thank Mr. President for giving the support at the budgetary level through the Ministry of Works. More importantly to thank the committee for the oversight function to Lagos.”

He said that since Lagos used to be the former capital, “it has inherited both Federal Government assets and liabilities. We have to manage the assets, which is a huge responsibility.”

2.217 Sanwo-Olu Gives Civil Servant Double Promotion

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 13, 2020in City Beats, News Update

Fortune on Wednesday smiled on an Information Communication and Technology (ICT) level 08 officer in the Lagos State civil service, Mr. Oluwaseun Ogunmolu, as Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu gave him double promotion from level 08 to 10.

Sanwo-Olu made the public pronouncement while hailing Ogunmolu, who developed an App named ‘Alausa Sabi’; an App on anything and everything you need to know about Lagos State public service.

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Ogunmolu presented the App at the Ministry of Establishment, Training and Pensions organised ‘The Service: A Disruptive S.H.i.F.T’, held at the Adeyemi Bero Auditorium, Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja.

Ogunmolu, who joined the service on level 08 in 2017, said he created the App so that every civil servant would have at his fingertip all and any information about Lagos public service.

Sanwo-Olu urged civil servants to be at their best at all times.

“Let people see something different about Lagos State officials.

“You must give your best, your 100 per cent in your work because that is what determines your future. Cherish what you have, hold it fast and do your best,” he said.

The governor said that henceforth, the service was going back to the old tradition where performance would determine promotion to the rank of permanent secretary.

“So, know that you are being watched. Let your work speak for you, let it demonstrate your capacity and capability to perform as a civil servant,” he added.

Commissioner for Establishment, Training and Pensions Mrs. Ajibola Ponle said that SHIFT was about “shifting the way we think, behave and do things.”

The disruptive SHIFT, she said, “is a knowledge sharing platform that will enable public servants see the world through someone else’s eyes.

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“Most often in public service, it is a challenge to share knowledge within the system and also identify the officer with vast experience and exposure,” adding that the initiative was part of efforts aimed at co-creating a 21st century workforce in the Lagos State public service.

‘S.H.i.F.T’, according to her, stands for: Simple, High impact, Interactive, Focused and Transformational.

2.218 Sanwo-Olu Opens 11 Road Network, Health Centre, Classroom Blocks In Bariga

Culled from Independent on February 15, 2020

LAGOS – Residents of Bariga Local Council Development Area (LCDA) in the eastern part of Lagos State have reaped what could be termed “bountiful dividends” of local government autonomy entrenched in the state.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was in the area on Friday to inaugurate 11 road network recently completed by the council chairman, Hon. Alabi Kolade.

Governor Sanwo-Olu’s intervention accelerated the completion of the 1.6-kilometre long road projects, two years after they started.

The governor, accompanied by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, and members of the State Executive Council (SEC), commissioned a state-of-the-art CMS Primary Health Centre and fully furnished three blocks of classrooms built by the council in Gbagada Girls Junior Secondary School.

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Sanwo-Olu said he was thrilled by the quality of the projects delivered, while paying glowing tributes to the council chairman, whom he described as a “true grassroots leader.”

He said the projects were the core of social intervention programmes whose benefits to the people could not be quantified.

2.219 UN, Sanwo-Olu, Primate Ayodele, Others Brainstorm On Security

Culled from the Sun on 15th February 2020

The United Nations, Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the founder of Inri Evangelical Spiritual Church, Primate Elijah Babatunde Ayodele were yesterday part of discussions on how to keep peace in Nigeria and the world. They suggested that providing for the primary needs of the youth and people plays the biggest role in securing any nation.

The occasion was the flag-off of the 75th year anniversary of the United Nations cum the birthday ceremony of the clergy, which held at the premises of the church, in Ejigbo area of Lagos State.

According to the UN representative, World Peace President, Per Stafsen “our conversation is geared towards assembling 10 million Nigerian voices that will engage the United Nations with the opinion and suggestion that will strengthen their global mandate for the future we want and the United Nations we need.” Buttressing the UN’s point, Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Commissioner for Home Affairs, Olanrewaju Anofiu Elegushi commended the UN on the promotion of peace.

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“We all agree that basic needs are important. They should continue to provide for the war zone countries. They should also have future plans to help tackle unknown diseases. They should have future diseases in mind to save humanity,” he stated.

Meanwhile, Primate Ayodele has urged the UN and Sanwo-Olu to focus on the development of the youths. He explained that peace is generationally achieved and such can’t be done without providing or attending to the needs of the youths.

“The youths must have jobs to be responsible and accountable. Lagos government needs to put policies that will help the youths in place. The government needs to reconsider the ban on Keke. Many of them depend on it. No terrorist can invade Lagos.”

2.220 Sanwo-Olu Restates Commitment To Absorb PLWDs

Culled from Independent on February 17, 2020

LAGOS – As part of events to mark the annual Valentine’s Day, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has restated his administration’s resolve to incorporating people living with disabilities (PLWDs) and their interest in its programmes and policies, as well as bequeath quality legacy to the group.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youths and Social Development, Yewande Falugba, noted this during the weekend during an event held at Idapo Mimo Cherubim and Seraphim Church, Ebute-Metta, organised by the Centre for Disabilities Issues (CDI), in conjunction with the church and the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Alagomeji Parish, Lagos.

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Falugba commended the coordinator, Centre for Disabilities Issues, Kehinde Oshilaja, and his team for hosting the annual valentine love feast, which, according to him, would go a long way in lifting the spirit of PLWDs, especially as a result of the expression of love and care that the occasion signifies.

Falugba reiterated Sanwo-Olu administration's commitment to ensuring that PLWDs have confidence in their disability, saying that different programmes had been earmarked for their development. While saying that a lot was being done to improve on the existing disability laws to meet up with the current trends, Falugba noted that efforts would be geared towards improving on ease of movement.

"Today, the society has come to the realisation that there is ability in disability, as a result of the remarkable achievements of PLWDs," she said.

She said further: "We believe there is ability in every disability. Therefore, you should not allow your disability to limit your progress and life aspirations. You must strive to achieve the best in everything you do, so that you can command respect from people in the society," Falugba said.

2.221 Magodo Residents Ask Sanwo-Olu To Stop 'Plot To Build Homes On Flood PSlain'

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 17, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

The Community Development Association (CDA) of the Gateway Zone Estate, Magodo, GRA Phase 1, Isheri, Lagos

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State, has renewed its claim of an alleged plot to convert a green belt in the area to a residential estate.

It appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to investigate the matter by setting up a non-partisan committee to review the case and save the lives and properties of residents in the area.

The CDA alleged that the New Towns Development Authority (NTDA), a property development company, traditional authorities and the state House of Assembly Committee on Land Matters were behind the plot.

It made the claims in a statement signed by CDA Chairman Oyebode Ojomo and Secretary Tony Ebinum.

The Nation learnt that the crisis has been on since last year.

It said the NTDA recently Culled a meeting with the Executive members of the CDA, but that "the meeting turned out to be a monologue of threats and intimidation to railroad the CDA into teaming up with the NTDA and its collaborators to consent to the environmental degradation of the green belt area despite the opposition of the estate and against the opinions of environmental experts in the private and public sectors. The green area is a vast gorge adjoining our estate.

"The reaction of our representatives at the meeting was that of shock and disdain that public officials whose brief include the protection of public interest could show such insensitivity to the genuine public outcry that greeted the initial expose of this sinister plot.

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“Several red flags have been raised at different platforms emphasising the imminent threats to human lives and property if the Lagos State Government permits the despoliation of the Green Belt Zone, which essentially and primarily is a flood plain.”

The statement also stated that at the meeting, the CDA Executives were shocked “when events at the meeting clearly showed that the NTDA had made a 360-degree turn from its previously sound position that an estate could not be sited on the green belt.”

It said it became obvious that the CDA was only invited to be commanded by the NTDA to do the bidding of the developer, the omo-onile (landgrabbers) and other affiliated interest groups.

“We were told that the House of Assembly had arrived at a resolution that the CDA must open its gates to these intruders to willfully turn the flood plain into a residential estate and therefore jeopardise the peaceful existence of residents of Magodo GRA Phase 1, Magodo GRA Phase 2, Omole Phase 2 and Olowora environs.

“The NTDA officials further stated that part of their recommendations was that an access road should be created for the settlement via Olowora if they insisted on building on the flood plain. The Omo-oniles rejected this recommendation and the House of Assembly members concurred with the Omo-oniles.

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“It is a shameful dimension in the annals of our history as a people that all caution, expert opinions and environmental orders are about to be willfully thrown to the winds because of the desperation and rapacious greed of a few for commercial gains at the detriments of many lawful residents of government-approved estates in the environs.

“There are rumours that the House of Assembly Committee on Land Matters might have been compromised because it is very clear that they are bent on letting the Omo-oniles have their way in the face of the many dangers that this move portends. We begin to imagine if their loyalty it to individuals with pecuniary gains or the people they have sworn an oath to serve and protect,” it said.

The CDA explained its reasons for opposing the development of a residential estate in a gorge. It said: “We are living witnesses to the awful incidents that happened in the neighbouring Isheri North in October 2019, where buildings collapsed at Orisha at the adjacent end of Magodo Village and lives were lost overnight.

“We cannot sit back, fold our arms, watch and allow similar incidents of more grievous dimension happen to us when we can fight to prevent it now. As it is said ‘prevention is better than cure’.

“These flood plains are designed to receive water, so as not to cause flooding in developed areas but sheer greed and avarice are at the centre stage propelling the landgrabbers to move into the plain with the intention to sell and develop private

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estates and in the process destroy the ecosystem and the peace of the area.

“We will not be tired of appealing to Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to investigate this matter by setting up a non-partisan committee to review the case.

The Ministry of Environment, Surveyor-General’s office, and the NTDA have, at different times, individually and collectively advised that the green belt area should be left unaltered and intact for its primary purpose as a flood plain, but the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Land Matters is insisting that the landgrabbers must have their way.”

However, the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Lands on Friday denied that it issued secret approval of land to anyone in the Magodo GRA Phase I.

Richard Kasunmu, Chairman, House Committee on Lands, at a press briefing held in the Assembly Complex, said the committee had been investigating the matter with all intent, integrity and never favouring any party in the dispute.

The Nation also learnt that officials from the Drainage Enforcement and Compliance Unit of the Lagos State Ministry of Environment recently visited the flood-prone green belt between the Magodo Phase 1 and Phase 2 housing schemes to serve a stop-work order on the owners of buildings under construction on the setback of the green belt.

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2.222 States Must Boost IGR, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 18, 2020in City Beats, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Monday that states must adopt creative and innovative strategies to boost Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), to reduce dependence on what comes from the federation account on a monthly basis.

The governor spoke at the opening of the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee Retreat held at Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island.

He said states must do everything within their power “to create and boost new sources of export, especially along the lines of value-added agriculture and manufacturing. We have everything we need to make this happen; we have the land, we have the people, we have the energy and the can-do spirit.”

Sanwo-Olu said Lagos is showing the rest of Nigeria the way regarding this, as the bulk of its annual budgets are funded by its creative approach to internal revenue generation.

He Culled for a new, fair and just federal revenue-sharing formula, saying: “The necessity of this cannot be swept under the table. There is actually a correlation between an appropriate revenue formula and the ability of the federating units to achieve a meaningful diversification and sustainable growth in IGR.”

Sanwo-Olu noted that Lagos should be considered for a special status recognition in the allocation of federation revenue.

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“As a former federal capital, the nation’s commercial and industrial nerve centre, and also Nigeria’s most populous state, Lagos shoulders a heavy burden, which if not properly discharged, poses great danger to the attainment of our national economic growth aspirations.

“It is projected that by 2050, Lagos will be the fifth or sixth most populated city in the world. Available statistics estimate that as many as half a million people currently migrate to Lagos from other parts of Nigeria, annually.

“The implications of this are clear – and we can see it in the mounting pressure on public facilities and utilities in the state: transport, energy, water, and so on. We are now in a race against time to not only catch up, but also hopefully create capacity that exceeds the demand in all of these areas.

“But we need all of the support we can get on this. The imperative to start planning and building for the distant future cannot be over-phasised,” he said.

The governor advised that two things should be considered to make revenue sharing formula fairer, equitable and more development-oriented.

He said: “First is the need to attach increased value to population density as a critical factor, in addition to the nominal population figure. The population density of Lagos, measured as number of persons per square kilometre, is more than 20 times the national average.

This is not surprising, considering that our state actually has the distinction of hosting the largest population on the smallest land mass.”

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2.223 No Multiple Taxation In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu Insists

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on February 18, 2020

Lagos State Government on Tuesday reiterated that there is currently no multiple taxation in Lagos State revenue system.

The Governor stated this when the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service, (FIRS) Mr. Muhammad Nami paid a courtesy visit to his office in Lagos, adding that his administration will always improve on the ease of doing business in the state rather than stifle the economy with loaded taxes.

Sanwo-Olu promised to embrace and support the activities of start-ups who are scared of the tax burden associated with businesses.

He also urged Nigerians to pay their taxes regularly in order for the government to attain a balanced development at all levels, which according to him, include social infrastructure, security among others.

The Governor promised that Lagos State Government would continue with the existing relationship and further collaborate with the Federal Inland revenue Service in sharing information to aid revenue collection and ensure deliverables were met.

Sanwo-Olu lauded the Federal Government for considering the start- up businesses in the exemption threshold on taxation.

His said: “we will make sure that there is ease of doing businesses, especially start-ups, that are always scared that

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they have multiple taxation. There is nothing like multiple taxation in Lagos.

“It is clear that they are exempted but that doesn’t stop them from doing proper filing and ensure transparent reporting at whichever level of their business.

“We will also use this opportunity to encourage our citizens that it is only when they play their own part as responsible citizens both at the corporate and individual level that the government can come up and discharge its responsibilities.

Earlier, the Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service, FIRS, said the aim of the visit was to ensure effective performance of the service in meeting its target and in its request to share information, collaborate in building capacity as well as engage private sector on the Value Added Tax collection.

“We feel without this collaboration, we cannot generate this 8.5 trillion that we have been mandated by the President to generate,” he said.

2.224 Let’s Reduce Dependence On Federal Allocation, Sanwo-Olu Tells Govs

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on February 18, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advised his fellow governors to diversify the revenue base of their states from sole dependence on federal allocation.

Sanwo-Olu said, “The era of relying on federal allocation is over in Nigeria.”

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This was as he advised the Federal Government to begin to pay attention to the manufacturing sector for revenue generation, rather than continue to depend on crude oil.

Sanwo-Olu, according to a statement on Monday, spoke at the opening ceremony of the Federation Account Allocation Committee retreat held in Lagos.

He was said to have been represented by his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, at the FAAC retreat with the theme, “Efficient Federation Revenue Allocation as a Nexus for National Economic Diversification.”

Sanwo-Olu said, “Nigerian government needs to diversify its source of revenue. We must do anything we can to boost revenue along the line of manufacturing. It is important every state first looks for ways to diversify. We must reduce our dependence on federal allocation.”

However, he made a case for “a new, fair and just revenue-sharing formula for federating units to achieve a meaningful diversification and sustainable growth in their IGR.” He said for just revenue sharing, population density and “nominal population figure” must be taken into account.

In her keynote address, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Hajiya Zainab Ahmed, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mahmud Dutse, said continued reliance on federal allocation was “not only risky but also unsustainable” for states.

Ahmed urged states to “give serious consideration to diverse sources of revenue at national and sub-national levels with a

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view to deploying appropriate measures to plug leakages and ensure effectiveness in revenue collection.”

2.225 Okada Ban: Sanwo-Olu Acting Like Someone From Stone Age– Bode George

Culled from Independent on February 19, 2020

Lagos- Chief Olabode George, a former Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday came down heavily on Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu over the restrictions on commercial motorcycles (okada) and tricycles (keke) in some parts of the state.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Daily Independent, George said while it is true that there is insecurity challenges and a need to address it, placing outright ban on okada and keke is not the proper way to address it but will rather make the situation worse as those affected will resort to criminal activities.

While also lamenting the hardships some Lagosians are being subjected to on account of the ban, George, who is the Atona Oodua of Yorubaland said some private citizens who also use motorcycles to transport themselves to their workplaces are now being forced to trek to their offices.

“Yes, there is this issue of insecurity. People have said most of the okada riders put AK-47 and daggers in their motorcycles and so on. My belief is that you do not because you want to get rid of them now clear those who are innocent”.

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“That is not a good policy. I believe when the governor and his team went to their tactical room in Lagos, they didn’t think it through”.

These people are at the base of the pyramid. If you believe that they actually voted for you, you won’t pay them back or reward them by taking away their means of livelihood or subjecting them to untold hardship.

“You don’t pay back people like that, you consider them. How will they have an income to feed their families, pay the school fees of their children? Some workers can’t afford a car, but they have motorcycles which they use to transport themselves to work. You are now telling them to get these motorcycles off the road and start trekking to their workplaces. What alternative means of transport have you provided?”

On the way forward, George advised Sanwo-Olu to regulate the activities of the operators so that anyone who flouts the law is apprehended and punished.

“These people are behaving as if they are in the Stone Age. If you talk about security, let these okada riders go and register in their respective local governments. There is data processing to capture their faces, fingers, the plate number and so on”.

“If they find any of them committing crime, first they look at that number and fish the culprit out. If the person said ‘I wasn’t the one who drove the motorcycle when the offence was committed’, he will be asked to produce the person who drove it”.

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But if you just place outright ban on them because of security, you are now making it worse because they will revert to things that are anti-social. Then, what do you do Mr. Governor? You don't allow them to eat but you can have you three square meals with your colleagues in Alausa and you think you will sleep well at night?"

"It's just like the Amotekun issue. Other South-West states embraced it but Lagos state said they will not be part of it because they already have Neighbourhood Corps. Who knows any goddam neighbourhood corp?"

"I have been living here for a couple of years, yet I haven't seen a single neighborhood corp member. While everybody is heading to the West, the Governor of Lagos is heading to the East. No human being can be at the top perpetually, there will be the day after" he said.

2.226 Govt Has Completed Work On 138 Roads, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 21, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Thursday that his administration had completed reconstruction and rehabilitation of 138 roads. He added that works on 131 roads were ongoing.

The governor said this in his keynote address at the interactive breakfast meeting with the business community. It was organised by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and

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Cooperatives and held at the New Banquet Hall, Lagos House, Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, said the gesture was part of the overall objective of his administration as captured in the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda aimed at maximising the socio-economic potential of the state, through the building of world-class infrastructure that would guarantee an enabling environment for investment to thrive.

He said: "We developed the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda to serve as a vital document that will guide our action in the areas of policy initiation, development, implementation and evaluation against set KPIs, to ensure that every stratum of the society is properly accommodated."

Sanwo-Olu said that engagements with critical stakeholders, partnership with the private sector, provision of investment friendly policies and security of lives and property would continue to be the priority of the government.

He urged the business community not to relent in its contributions so that together with the government they will create and sustain an environment that is safe and secure for business, leisure and living.

The governor said there is need for sustainable synergy and understanding between the business community and the government.

"I urge the business communities to continue believing in Lagos and our administration and take advantage of our policies within

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the framework of the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda so that we can together move the state forward,” Sanwo-Olu said.

Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and cooperatives Dr. Lola Akande said the meeting is an avenue that reflects responsiveness on the part of the government as a means to harness hidden potentials in the policies and plans of the state as it affects the society.

She said that plans were on to develop ‘Enterprise Zones’ in the state to encourage a cluster system and take business away from the street, which is starting with Gberigbe in Ikorodu and Ibeju-Agbe in Ibeju-Lekki.

Akande said that to ensure best practices, quality control and integrity in business transactions, plans were underway to float the ‘Better Business Bureau’ and a policy on ‘Made in Lagos goods’.

“The ‘Better Business Bureau’ is being proposed as a one-stop-shop for business registration and certification, while the policy on ‘Made in Lagos’ will be a means of promoting made in Lagos goods.

“This will entail printing ‘Made in Lagos’ on products produced in the state after certification by relevant agencies of the government. It is our belief that these policies will engender integrity and trust in the course of doing business.”

“I want to assure you all that our doors are open for partnership and collaboration that will be of immense benefit to the state, businesses and the citizens. I enjoin the business community

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in Lagos State to take advantage of the policies that will facilitate the growth of your businesses and the economy at large”, she said.

2.227 **‘Council Chairmen Should Complement Sanwo-Olu’s Efforts At Grassroots’**

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 21, 2020in Politics

Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC) Chairman Alhaji Tunde Balogun on Thursday urged the 57 councils chairmen to complement the efforts of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the grassroots.

He also charged the local government party chairmen to welcome defectors to the platform with enthusiasm and integrate them into the local structures of the ruling party.

Balogun spoke at the ‘Unification General Assembly’ of the Lagos East Senatorial District held at the Centre for Management Development (CMD) Field, Magodo.

The “unity meeting” were chaired by the senatorial leader, Chief Busura Alebiosu, and the Lagos APC Vice Chairman (East), Ashipa Kaoli Olusanya. There was a deep gulf between the two caucuses- Mandate and Justice Forum in the district. Also, there have been leadership squabbles involving Alebiosu, Senator Tony Adefuye and Alhaji Akanni Seriki.

Alebiosu, who acknowledged the reality of friction in the district, said the rift was over, stressing that party leaders will henceforth, build on the existing unity and harmony.

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He said the restoration of unity was underscored by the absence of factional meetings at Agboyi/Ketu, Ikosi/Isheri and Kosofe councils, adding that the crisis in Ikorodu chapter will also be resolved.

Party leaders and members, who were in one accord at the meeting, came from 16 local governments constituting the district.

Chieftains and party members came from Agboyi/Ketu, Bariga, Epe, Ibeju, Igbogbo Bayeku, Ikorodu Central, North and West, Ikosi Ejirin, Ikosi Isheri, Imota, Kosofe and Somolu.

Balogun, who hailed the reconciliation, described the cessation of hostilities as “a new dawn in East Senatorial District.” He said: “There is no more disunity. In the next general elections, the East Senatorial District should take the lead.”

Balogun gave two directives; one to the elected council chairmen, and the other to local government chairmen of the party.

He said: “The party chairmen across the councils should note that a lot of people have joined the APC from other parties after the elections. Don’t make it difficult for them to register. Give them easy access to the party.

“The elected council chairmen should complement the efforts of our governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in their local governments in the areas of roads; fixing of roads and clearing of drainages before the rain comes; health care and primary education.”

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Olusanya paid tribute to National Party Leader Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, who he described as an exemplary leader, pointing out that, without him, APC would not be where it is today. He also praised Sanwo-Olu and his predecessors, the GAC leaders at the meeting, led by Alebiosu, council and ward leaders and other members for their commitment.

He said the meeting was held in fulfilment of the APC constitutional requirement of holding quarterly meetings to assess the party and chart a new way forward.

Olusanya, former Agriculture Commissioner, said party unification was a process, adding that leaders and members must continue to brainstorm and share information.

He added: “The presence of our leaders show that we are united. We have been winning and we will continue to win. If the senatorial district can deliver two million votes to APC, it is not too much. We are more than Zamfara State.”

Alebiosun said the target was achievable, urging members to close ranks.

He said: “In politics, we can fight, but not fight to finish. Politicians fight in Europe, America and Canada. We need to always settle our quarrels.

“We won by the strength of our unity. We should sustain it. Prince Abiodun Abiodun Ogunleye and Olorunfunmi Basorun are not here. They obtained permission from me that they had other engagements. Ogunleye went to Ibadan.

“Since 1956, our votes were usually high in Kosofe. But, it has been going down. We need to work hard.”

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Adefuye, who spoke on the state of the nation, urged council chairmen to take good care of party members, adding that they should be given priority in terms of employment opportunities.

He said: "Consider your party members first in the distribution of dividends of democracy. That will foster harmony.

"We have 377 wards. Total votes were over 700,000. It was less than 3,000 per ward. We should do 20,000 per ward.

"APC is facing challenges in Zamfara and Bayelsa. The people, not judges, should elect their leaders."

Seriki hailed Sanwo-Olu, saying that the difference is clear. "He is working. He is providing employment. Look at Lawma.

"Our council chairmen are working, but, not all of them. During electioneering, they will hear their results. A day of accountability is coming."

Eminent accountant Prince Sosanya hailed the reconciliation in the district, saying that "as from today, there is no fight again".

He said the party should improve on its performance in next elections, adding: "We have three million APC members in Lagos. The total vote at the general elections was 700,000. It was shameful. We should be holding party meetings regularly and discussing."

Sosanya said it is now a taboo for APC elected functionaries to donate motorcycles and tricycles to party members in Lagos.

He stressed: "Don't distribute Okadas, Keke Marwa and empowerment items. If you do that, you are fighting the government. Anybody who does that is not a good party man."

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Rasak, Balogun of Epe, praised Tinubu, saying he is a good leader. He also thanked Sanwo-Olu for not letting the party down. He said the governor and his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat are working and party leaders can beat their chest on account of their performance.

Rasak spoke on political labour and reward, stressing: "The more, the merrier. When you call people to labour, there should be refreshment. It should not be "me and me" alone."

Urging party leaders to always embrace love, he said: "When there is love, there will be peace and development. Let us play politics without bitterness."

Rasak said Lagos has six million voters and APC has three million registered members. Over one million people have also defected to the party. Therefore, he said the chapter should get more votes in the future.

Rasak gave the elected local government chairmen a pass mark, saying that they scored above 60 percent in terms of performance. He applauded Olusanya for his display of leadership qualities in the zone.

Ogunlewe said: "I am happy to be back. I was against you during the election. But, I am now back. I won my only election in AD. I can see some of the people who worked for my victory here. I am grateful to you for accepting us back."

Senator Osinnowo said: "There is no more disunity and disharmony in Lagos East. There is no state in Nigeria like Lagos. America is the best land. But, they have been changing

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governments. We have been the ruling party in Lagos for 20 years.

“Our party must continue to grow. Our party is big. We have three senators, 22 House of Representatives members, 40 House of Assembly members. We should shun bickering, plots and bitterness.”

At the meeting were Lagos APC Governor’s Advisory Council (GAC) members Senator Tony Adefuye, Chief Akanni Seriki, Chief Lanre Rassk, Prince Oluwamuyiwa Onasanya; state party Lanre Ogunyemi, Senator Adeseye Ogunlewe, Senator Bayo Osinnowo, Chief Adeola Oyedele, Commissioner for Women Empowerment Otunba Yetunde Arobieke, Pa Alabi Macfoy, former Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Commissioner Alhaji Muslim Folami, Yeye Fausat Gbadebo, Segun Olulade, House of Assembly members Tunde Braimoh, Okanlawon Sanni, Sunai Agunbiade, Saka Solaja, Rotimi Olowo and Wale Raji, former Special Adviser Bimpe Akinsola, Yinka Osinubi, Ramata Bankoke, Gbenga Balogun, Youth Leader Tayo Sanyaolu, State Assistant Secretary Femi Saheed, State Publicity Secretary Abiola Salam, Jumoke Animahun, Sunday Adeyemo, Chief Tunde Temionu, Moyosore Ogunlewe, Mojeed Fatai, Alhaja Kafilat Ogbara, Afolabi Sofola, Primate Charles Odugbesi, Abiodun Akhigbe, Adeniyi Saliu, Lanre Odubote, Gbolahan Bagbostowe, K.K. Elesin, Kasim Raimi, Ademola Fatai and Sylvester Ogunkelu.

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2.228 We’ll Implement Investment Friendly Policies – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on February 21, 2020

LAGOS – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, La-gos State Governor, has assured the business com-munity in the state of his administration’s commit-ment to engage and part-ner with stakeholders while also implementing investment friendly pol-icies and guaranteeing security of life and prop-erty.

He gave the assurance on Thursday while speak-ing at a breakfast meeting with the Lagos Business Community in Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his Dep-uty, Dr. Kadri Hamzat, said, “As a responsive government, we are not resting on our oars and will continue to provide necessary tools and sup-port that would translate into greater opportuni-ties with the overall aim of ensuring sustainable economic and social de-velopment of the state.”

He urged the business community to continue believing in the admin-istration and take advan-tage of the various poli-cies within the framework of the T.H.E.M.E.S agen-da.

While stating that he has no doubt that the business community will not relent in its contri-butions, so that together they can create and sus-tain an environment that is safe and secure for busi-ness, leisure and living, the Governor promised to continue working with the business community as partners in the devel-opment of the economy of the state.

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He added that the administration, at inception, identified the need to aggressively transform the state to the standard of a modern economy and meet the yearning and aspirations of all stakeholders including the business community.

He said, “We developed the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda to serve as a vital document that will guide our action in the areas of policy initiation, development, implementation and evaluation against set KPIs,” he said. Speaking further he stated that his administration has commenced the implementation of the agenda as evident in the various ongoing road rehabilitation and construction projects, infrastructure renewal, investment in inter-modal and integrated transportation system among others.

2.229 Sanwo-Olu Has Silenced His Critics With His Performances – Razak

Culled from Independent on February 22, 2020

LAGOS – Chief Lanre Razak, an elder statesman and chieftain of the All Progressive Congress (APC), has expressed excitement over the several roads commissioned by Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor and his performances in other sectors like the economy, security, health, education and social welfare, stating that his performances have silenced his critics.

Razak, who was addressing newsmen in Lagos said that Sanwo-Olu has not disappointed all his supporters, stating that, “it is a thing of joy that in a short time in office, Sanwo-Olu has started showing his true colour as a performer and focused administrator,” he said.

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Speaking further on the commissioned roads, the elder statesman said, the state of emergency the Governor declared on roads during the rainy season and his promise to go out in full force when the rain subsided has started yielding fruits, stating that, that has shown that Sanwo-Olu appreciates the role of good road in the economic upliftment of any society.

Razak, who is a member of the Lagos State Governor’s Advisory Council (GAC), stated further that, the role of good roads can never be over emphasised in the economic growth of any country, adding that, “smooth movement of vehicles would eliminate wasting of productive hours and enhance maximum human productivity.”

While commending the people of Lagos for their patience and exhibition of understanding throughout the period the fixing of the roads lasted, said the gains of their pains have come at last. He Culled for continued support for this current administration so as to guarantee more dividends of democracy which he said, has just started.

2.230 Sanwo-Olu Never Asked Us To Return Seized Vehicles To Owners – Egbeyemi, Lagos Taskforce Boss

Culled from the Sun on 24th February 2020

The Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Taskforce) has debunked an online report that the governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, directed the agency to return seized vehicles in their custody to their respective owners.

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A release issued by the office of the chairman of the agency, CSP Olayinka Egbeyemi, refuted the claim that the decision was a follow up to a memo he sent to the governor seeking for his approval to auction seized vehicles in order to create space for new ones.

Egbeyemi said he was not aware of the purported memo neither did he receive any directive to release impounded vehicles from the governor, adding that it was irresponsible and mischievous for any individual to insinuate that Governor Sanwo-Olu would give such an order.

According to him, “Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is conscious of the provisions contained in the 2018 amended Traffic Law as it relates to the duties of the task force and will never make pronouncements contrary to the provisions of the law.”

While noting that transportation and traffic management play prominent roles in the present administration’s agenda, Egbeyemi reCulled that the governor had on numerous platforms stated unequivocally that “should members of his family or cabinet run foul or violate the traffic laws, they shall equally face the consequences of such acts.”

Egbeyemi, therefore, implored the public, particularly owners of impounded vehicles, to ignore and disregard the fake news designed to confuse and mislead them into not complying with ‘court order’ on such vehicles in the custody of the agency.

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2.231 Disregard Bribery Allegation Against Us, Lagos Traders Appeal

Culled from Independent on February 25, 2020

LAGOS – Traders at the Oriyanrin Market on Lagos Island, which was recently affected by fire, have appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Lagos State government officials to disregard the allegation that they (traders) have been going to Alausa to bribe government officials in a bid to stop them from doing their job.

Rukayat Balogun, a market leader, who spoke on behalf of the traders on Monday, said although the state government officials had been sent to inspect the market, it was confirmed that only two shops were affected by the fire.

It would be reCulled that some parts of the popular Balogun Market, located on Lagos Island, were recently gutted by fire where goods worth millions of naira were destroyed, which eventually led to the closure of the market.

During the investigation, traders were asked to vacate the premises for seven days so as to allow government officials inspect the level of damage done by the fire incident and to know how to further prevent future occurrence.

While lamenting the damage the false information has done to the psyche of the traders in the market, Balogun said it was disheartening to hear allegations that traders who could barely make ends meet were accused of offering bribe to government officials with huge sums of money.

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Balogun said, “It is disheartening to hear that some of us have been bribing government officials. Where do they expect us to get that kind of money? How do they expect us to raise that money? Most of us here are the bread-winners of our various families; so where do we get that money from?

“Their motive is to blackmail us, so as to provoke the state officials to take a decision that would be counter-productive, or close down our shops. But we are aware of their tactics, their stock in trade is to foment trouble, but as law-abiding citizens and traders, we would never do such act of corruption.

“We want to appeal to the governor and the state officials to disregard the false information. It is meant to blackmail us, and drag the name of officials of government involved in the mud; we are not party to it.”

2.232 Sanwo-Olu Assures OPS of RoI

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 25, 2020 in
Business, News Update*

The Organised Private Sector (OPS) has been assured of an impressive Return on Investment (RoI).

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, gave the assurance when he hosted members of the OPS at the weekend in Alausa, Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, pledged friendly policies that would serve as catalysts for a thriving business atmosphere.

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He said his administration understands the importance of creating the right ambience for businesses to prosper and as such, efforts would be intensified to address grey areas affecting the smooth operations of businesses and trades.

Sanwo-Olu described members of the business community as partners in the development of the state’s economy, promising to continue to work with them to ensure a win-win situation in investment matters.

“We have identified some limiting factors to a booming business atmosphere that’s why. For instance, we are taking advantage of this dry season to massively embark on construction and reconstruction.

We have so far, through the Public Works Corporation, completed the rehabilitation of 138 roads across the state while 131 are ongoing. Also, the ongoing signalisation of roundabouts at five locations in the state will improve traffic management significantly,” the governor said.

In similar vein, the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr. Lola Akande, explained that the parley with the OPS was to get a first-hand response from the private sector about commerce and industry in the state as well as to get familiar with the policies of government as it affects businesses in the state.

“We expect the OPS to be open and truthful to us about their plights because communication is a two way thing. The feedback we get from you is very useful for us in coming up with business and investment policies,” she said.

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2.233 Sanwo-Olu, George, Others Drum Supports For Devolution Of Power

Culled from Independent on February 26, 2020

LAGOS – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the governor of Lagos State, Chief Olabode George, former Deputy National Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Prof. Akinyemi Onigbinde, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of African Studies, University of Lagos among others are calling for true federalism.

They affirmed that the nation will not experience meaningful progress if the states are not empowered to take up developmental projects through enacting laws that would stripe the centre of its overbearing responsibilities.

The contributors at the third Annual lecture of Freedom Online with the theme, “Nigeria: foundation, Fundamentals, Future,” on Tuesday in Lagos, with speakers as former governor Gbenga Daniels; Minister of Transport, Rotimi Amaechi; Isah Mustaphar, President Nigeria Guilds of Editors, they were of the opinion that the time had come for the centre to divulge power to the states so that the nation would experience the kind of progress it had when the country operated regional government.

Governor Sanwo-Olu who was the guest speaker was represented by deputy governor Olufemi Hamzat. He went down memory lane to talk about the various progress made during the era of regional government when each region prospered so much and had to contribute percentage of its revenue to the centre.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

“Every month representatives of states gather in Abuja to do Federal Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) leaving very innovative projects that would engender self sufficiency. Today according to National Bureau of Statistics, it is only Lagos and Ogun States that generate more revenue annually that FAAC allocates and that is tragic.

As at 1999, Lagos was a bankrupt State, with revenue of N600 million, salaries of N1.8 billion, with Federal transfer of just about N400,000 million” he said.

Olu maintained that power must be divulged to the states for the country to progress like other nations of the world, stressing that if Nigeria would not emulate United States of America (USA), she should emulate Pakistan.

He said that Nigerians should commend the agriculture revolution of Federal Government which had caused six companies in Thailand to go under and prospered the country as Nigeria had saved billions of naira through ban on importation of rice.

The governor stressed that devolution of power should not only be in the area of revenue, pointing outthat the issue of drivers license should be left to states, wondering why Abuja should be the one issuing drivers licenses.

George, who was the keynote speaker, maintained that to move forward, recreate a new Nigerian space, power must be devolved to the states. The center must be stripped of its overbearing, crushing responsibilities.

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“Let the states look within their localities and define their paths, cultivating their resources to be self-reliant rather than waiting for monthly handouts from the center. To be sure, we are running a country predicated on charity, encouraging laziness, discouraging hard work and creative enterprise. Right Skyscraper

2.234 Women Empowerment Will Reduce Poverty, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 27, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

The wife of Lagos State governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday reflected on the soaring unemployment in the country, stressing that continuous women empowerment will halt the trend and reduce poverty.

She lamented the National Bureau of Statistics’ (NBS’) figure of 23 per cent unemployment rate, which Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May increase to 33 per cent this year, unless actions are taken. Noting that empowerment is a collective endeavour, the governor’s wife urged women in public offices to support and lift up womenfolk.

Mrs. Sanwo-Olu spoke at the Micro Enterprise Enhancement Scheme and Cosmetology Training for Women held at the Academy Hall, Agidingbi, Ikeja. She was accompanied by the wife of the deputy governor, Mrs. Oluremi Hamzat.

No fewer than 400 women were trained under the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Programme facilitated and hosted by the Lagos State All Progressives Congress (APC)

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Women Leader, Jumoke Okoya-Thomas, while many women also received money for trading.

The woman leader hailed the NDE for the training and empowerment, saying it would assist indigent women.

Okoya-Thomas advised the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the training and money provided for them, instead of using the money for frivolous things.

Lauding President Muhammadu Buhari for the NDE scheme, she said more opportunities were underway for women.

Mrs. Sanwo-Olu praised Okoya-Thomas and the three senatorial women leaders – Fausat Gbadebo (East), Kofo Ajayi (West) and Mrs. Otitolaye (Central) for their passion for women welfare.

She said that the training covered soap making, healthy insecticide and perfume jelly production, as well as financial support, adding that “these life-transforming initiatives will reduce poverty and foster self-reliance.”

NDE Director-General Dr. Nasir Argungu enjoined the trainees to imbibe the virtues of discipline, capacity for long hours of work, perseverance, continuous learning and improvement, customers relations, networking with colleagues, trainers and mentors.

APC Chairman Tunde Balogun, who commended the NDE for the training and loan disbursement, said the statutory duties are not exclusively targeted at women.

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Southwest NDE Director Serena Edward described unemployment as a national plague, urging stakeholders to support the directorate in its bid to stem the tide.

At the event were Mrs. Kehinde Babalola, who represented Southwest APC Women Leader Mrs. Kemi Nelson; APC Vice Chairman (West) Chief Funso Ologunde; Secretary, Lanre Ogunyemi; Publicity Secretary, Seye Oladejo; Legal Adviser, Demola Sodiq; his deputy, Debola Ladigbolu; NDE board member Olorunfunmi Basorun; Mrs. Omolola Essien; Prince Abiodun Abu; Mrs. Yinka Osinubi; Mrs. Modupe Osheghale; Mrs. Abiodun Bankole; Mrs. Subu Ajose and NDE official Mrs. Adeola Sahafau.

2.235 Sanwo-Olu Assures Nurses Of Opportunity

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 28, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has reiterated his readiness to make nurses and midwives excel in their professions with constant training and retraining.

He spoke yesterday in Lekki, Lagos at a retreat organised by the Lagos State College of Nursing, Midwifery and Public Health Nursing, Igando.

The theme of the event was: “Collegiate Nursing Education, Prospects, Implementation, Challenges and Way Forward”.

The governor, represented by his Special Adviser on Education, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, said that as part of his administration’s

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determination to achieve its desired goal, training and retraining of workers was one of its cardinal points.

He urged the beneficiaries to reciprocate government’s gesture because, according to him, to whom much is given, much is expected.

The Provost, Mrs. Oyefunso Orenuga, said that the training was the first they were having since their relocation to Igando, adding that it was aimed at preparing them for the journey ahead.

She said the health sector should be manned to yield the desired result, adding that the government should engage nurses in leadership position, including policy formulation and implementation.

Orenuga said it had been estimated that the world would need nine million more nurses and midwives if it was to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, noting that strengthening the nursing profession would have the additional benefit of promoting gender equity, contributing to economic development and supporting other sustainable development goals.

Head of Service Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Public Service Office, Mr. Segun Ajibade, said that the government would provide subventions to be augmented by the authorities of the tertiary institutions to meet specific needs in the three cores areas, namely teaching, research and community service.

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He advised the participants to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the retreat to learn, unlearn and relearn.

2.236 Sanwo-Olu To Nigerians: Don't Divide Us With Religion, Ethnicity

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 28, 2020 in News, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged Nigerians to purge their hearts of any form of ethnicity and religious bigotry in the interest of the nation's development.

The governor spoke at the third annual lecture of an online publication, Freedom Online, with the theme: Nigeria: Foundation, Fundamentals, Future, at the Lagos Sheraton, Ikeja. Represented by Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat, the governor said no nation can develop on the basis of religious and ethnic animosity.

"We should stop using ethnicity and religion to divide ourselves. No nation in history has developed on the basis of religious and ethnic animosity," he said. Sanwo-Olu urged Nigerians to avoid the use of religion and ethnicity to divide the country.

The governor said it is imperative for the country to evolve, face issues and find solutions, adding that Nigeria has what it takes to handle its challenges. He stressed that the challenges facing the country are not peculiar as other countries have faced and surmounted same.

Stressing the need to revisit the terms of the fiscal relationship between the Federal and state governments, Sanwo-Olu advised the Federal Government to consciously devolve more

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powers and responsibilities as well the resources to other levels of government.

He said: "States should be allowed to manage their resources as they deem fit, create incentives and attract investments, set taxes and then contribute something from the internal revenues into a pool for the Federal Government. That is the true essence of federalism."

The governor noted that there is no reason why states cannot operate independently, to a large extent, apart from issues on defence, foreign policy, border control, currency, Customs, among others. Sanwo-Olu added that for transformation to take place in the country, there is need to re-write and update obsolete laws to bring them up-to-date in line with current realities.

"Our attitude to our nation must change," he said.

The governor advised that to change the fundamentals and guarantee the future the country deserves, Nigerians must believe in ourselves.

Sanwo-Olu said self-confidence is a prerequisite for economic transformation. "This can-do spirit will make a great deal of difference. We must believe in our potentials. We must believe in what we produce and encourage everyone who seeks to make a difference in this regard. We must consume what we produce," he added.

In his keynote address, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, Chief Bode George, averred that an intelligence-

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driven police force, working with security bodies at the state level will eliminate insecurity in Nigeria.

The politician Called for the re-evaluation of the nation's security architecture.

“We believe there is no state in this country that cannot sustain itself, if given the legal backing to tap its resources. But we cannot unlock the potentials at the sub-national level if we don't look at the foundation,” he said.

Transportation Minister Rotimi Amaechi, who was represented by Sam Nwakoju, said government should localise security to ensure the safety of life and property.

Former Ogun State Governor Gbenga Daniel urged government to create jobs and discourage capital flight.

“We should discourage capital flight and probably legislate that Nigerians should invest in the country. Nigerians should be made to invest in the country and use made-in-Nigeria goods,” he said.

The guest of honour and Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to President on Media and Publicity, Mallam Garba Shehu, said the Federal Government was doing everything possible to end insurgency.

He added that more arms and aircraft had been acquired to uproot banditry in the country.

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2.237 No Cause For Alarm Over Coronavirus Outbreak In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu Assures...Necessary Measures To Tackle Situation In Place

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on February 28, 2020in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday allayed the fears of Lagosians over the case of an Italian who tested positive to the deadly Coronavirus in the state.

The governor said there is no cause for alarm as the government had put necessary measures in place to tackle the situation. The governor stated this in a press conference at the Lagos House, Marina, Lagos.

He disclosed that the government has commenced contact tracing of those who had connection with the patient that developed the symptoms in Ogun State, where he had a business meeting on Tuesday.

Sanwo-Olu explained that the patient arrived Lagos from Milan, Italy, on Monday, without symptoms, but was later referred to Lagos after exhibiting the signs and was first treated at the Company's facilities, in Ogun State.

Sanwo-Olu, who hinted that there are various levels of escalation, said the state is constantly in touch with the National Centre For Disease Control, Federal Government and all other stakeholders while surveillance, monitoring and containment would be intensified.

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While urging citizens and residents not to panic, Sanwo-Olu said the patient, who is currently quarantined is in stable condition and undergoing a molecular test to really confirm if he is positive to COVID 19.

The governor said tracking mechanisms have been activated with the support of relevant authorities to identify possible contacts with the patients.

Also a number of staff in the company where he is working in Ogun State and the two hotels where he lodged on arrival in both states were under surveillance and necessary test, Sanwo-Olu said.

He said, "We had a traveller that started his journey from Milan on Monday, 24th, he transmitted through Istanbul through a Turkish airline and arrived in Lagos on Tuesday night, and spent the night in an hotel near the airport and on Tuesday morning, he moved on to his business in Ogun State, a corporate entity.

"He carried out his business within Ogun state within the confines of the company on Tuesday and Wednesday and spent the night in their accommodation, company's Guest House. By the afternoon, he started to develop symptoms of high fever and body pains.

"He presented himself at the company medical facility, where investigation began. Of course, he gave a history of his origin of Italy, where we know there is a young outbreak.

"It was astute of the medical personnel to keep him over night in an isolated environment. They contacted us at the biosecurity

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unit in Lagos for assistance and we immediately ask them to transfer the case to Lagos.

"He was brought to our high containment facility in Yaba on Thursday morning. Immediately, he arrived, he was put in strict isolation and appropriate tests were ordered.

"Within hours we received signals that the test in the laboratory was showing signs of positivity. At that point, we informed the federal minister of health, about the incident and the minister informed higher authorities in Abuja."

The governor said the patient had been placed in strict isolation at the state containment facility in Yaba and he is doing well with supportive therapy.

He added that," As of now, we have started to trace the movement from the airport through Lagos to Ogun state. And we are busy identifying any possible person that May have come in contact with him so that we can start our isolation and containment exercise to ensure we break the circle of transmission.

"In Lagos, we have been building capacity steadily, fortified support at the airport and sending state health personnel to support federal authorities. A form has been developed and all travellers are to fill the form as they arrive.

At our infectious facility, we have ramped up our capacity to isolate cases. We are now sitting on an 80 bed facility because of the urgency fund that has been released by the incident commander.

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“We are continuing to build more capacity, should in case we have an increase number of cases in Lagos. We have an aggressive public awareness campaign going on and we have engaged in extensive training across the hierarchy of health professionals in Lagos state. In addition, we are building our capacity to diagnose the case in Lagos and right now, we can run the test in two centres in Lagos.

“ One in our biosecurity facility and the other at the Lagos teaching hospital. We are in constant contact with the National Centre for Disease Control and the minister of health and we are exchanging information continuously.

“The important thing is that the patient is confined and we have aggressively started to identify all his contacts all the way to the airline and that process started around 3am this morning and it continues as we speak.

“We like to assure everybody that we are on this case that we can identify everybody that come in contact with him.

“The symptoms are subsiding, he does not have any symptoms of respiratory disease. It is probably a good thing, but he does have fever and body pain. If he had respiratory symptoms, it probably May have been more contagious than it is at the moment.”

Also speaking, the state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi said Lagos has a sophisticated Response Mechanism, adding that government had activated its Disease Control Centre with an eighty bed facility with plans to scale it up to contain the spread of the Virus.

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He urged Lagosians to exercise a high level of suspicion at all times, especially for those just arriving the country and report any suspected case through the helplines.

2.238 Traders Beg Sanwo-Olu To Prevent Market Take Over

Culled from Independent on February 28, 2020

Lagos – A group of Traders in the Agboju market, Amuwo-Odofin, Festac Town, Lagos has appealed to the State Government, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to stop some persons from taking over their sources of livelihood in the market.

The affected traders who were affected by the proposed takeover of the market alleged that one Mrs. Bridget Martins has been behind the recent unrest in the market.

In a peaceful protest, the traders who marched to Amuwo-Odofin local government councils were seen carrying various placards with different inscriptions like “ Sanwo-Olu save us from land grabbers, ‘we are traders not drug dealers’ among others.

The developer who let out the market space to the traders, Mr. Gilbert Fulani Okereke said he has an agreement with the government sometimes in 2010 and that the late ‘Iya-oloja’ (market leader) Mrs. Abibat Mogaji was a party to the agreement.

According to the developer, “A committee which was headed by Mr. S.AAjose was constituted and I was given the go-ahead to develop the land for a period of thirty-eight years and they

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promised to give me a letter of approval within 60-days but till this moment, I am yet to get the approval from the government.

“I took a loan from the bank to be able to develop the property and when I could not service the loan again, the bank reported to EFCC and I was interrogation until it was clear that I was not embezzling the money,” he said.

Okereke further said the late Alhaja Mogaji was so kind to him hence the reason why he named the plaza after her to immortalize her but some persons are instigating the current Iya Oloja against him to take over the market, saying it belongs to her late mother.

Also, Mr.Emma Onyia, lawyer to Kassy Associates also said the developer (Okereke)had an arrangement with the council and they were given a lease for 35- years and three years for the construction of the plaza and for the past ten years, they have not gotten approval.

“Then came an interloper who is not a party to the agreement and started claiming ownership of the property.

“The matter is ongoing in the court, yet they have continued to cause trouble in the market.One of the affected trader, Ismail Ibrahim, said we came here to defend our rights. I have been selling in this market for the past 15-years and we are not into sales of illicit drugs.

“Madam Bridget has been giving us trouble since she was sent away from the market, threatening us with OPC and thoughts.

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Another trader, Ibeh Steven said the matter has started for Avery long time, but madam Bridget always bring touts to the market to harass us.

“We have not done anything wrong, we are doing our legitimate business, he said.

Efforts to speak with the Chairman of Amuwo-Odofin Council, however, proved abortive as security prevented journalists to enter the premises.

Right Skyscraper

2.239 Coronavirus: 11 Suspected Cases In Nigeria Test New

Culled from Independent on February 28, 2020

ABUJA – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos, on Thursday, confirmed that eleven suspected cases of the deadly Corvid-19, otherwise known as coronavirus, have appeared in Nigeria but tested negative to the virus.

The governor, who made this disclosure after the National Economic Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja, said only Egypt and Algeria had had confirmed cases in Africa, even as the confirmed cases globally peaks at 80,239 and deaths at 2, 700 so far.

These statistics were polled by the National Primary Health Board in Nigeria and presented at the NEC meeting.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said: “We were briefed about the status of Corvid-19, which is the coronavirus worldwide disease, by

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the Minister of Health, the Director-General of the National Primary Health Board.

“As of February 25th, we have worldwide confirmed over 80,239 cases, we have over 2,700 deaths worldwide.

“In Africa, it’s been confirmed that only Egypt and Algeria have confirmed cases but we have seen a transition in countries outside of China – Italy, South Korea, and a few other countries.

“In Nigeria, the good news is, yes, there have been a total of 11 suspected cases but all the 11 have turned out to be negative.

“In fact, there was a scare in Lagos yesterday, about two cases, but all have been confirmed negative as we speak.

“But Nigeria still places itself on high risk, as also advised by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

“So, what the federal and all the state governments are doing, we are looking at all the international airports that we have as major entry points: Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Enugu, and Port Harcourt – they continue to be a major source of external in-road to the country. The alertness in each of these airports is very high.

“But we also have testing facilities and are ready at the NCDC lab in Abuja, LUTH in Lagos, in Edo State, and also the University of Osun, all have been activated and all state governments have been told to have a level of preparedness.”

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Speaking further, he said governments at the various levels had increased public enlightenment campaigns as well as areas where technology could be of help.

“The minister told us what they are also doing in terms of public sensitisation, and they are also ensuring that there is an enhanced screening, especially at the ports of entry.

“We were also given an update around Lassa fever that we have in the country currently. In the last month, we have had about 103 cases nationwide and we recorded 13 deaths and they are in 18 states that this incident has appeared, including Edo, Ebonyi, Bauchi, Plateau, Enugu, Gombe, Katsina, Kogi, Sokoto, Taraba, Delta, Rivers, Adamawa, Nasarawa, and Lagos.”

2.240 No Cause For Alarm Over Coronavirus Outbreak, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on February 28, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday allayed the fears of Lagosians on the outbreak of the deadly Coronavirus in the state, saying there is no cause for alarm as the government had put necessary measures in place to tackle the situation.

The governor who stated this at a press conference in Lagos said the government had commenced contact tracing of those who had connection with the patient that developed the symptoms in Ogun State, where he had a business meeting on Tuesday.

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Sanwo-Olu explained that the patient arrived Lagos from Milan, Italy, on Monday, without symptoms, but was later referred to Lagos after exhibiting the signs and was first treated at the Company's facilities, in Ogun State.

Sanwo-Olu, who hinted that there are various levels of escalation, said the state is constantly in touch with the National Centre For Disease Control, Federal Government and all other stakeholders while surveillance, Monitoring and containment would be intensified.

While urging citizens and residents not to panic, Sanwo-Olu said the patient, who is currently quarantined is in stable condition and undergoing a molecular test to really confirm if he is positive to COVID 19.

The governor said tracking mechanisms have been activated with the support of relevant authorities to identify possible contacts with the patients, while a number of staff in the company where he is working in Ogun State and the two hotels where he lodged on arrival in both states were under surveillance and necessary test.

He said, "We had a traveller that started his journey from Milan on Monday, 24th, he transmitted through Istanbul through a Turkish airline and arrived in Lagos on Tuesday night, and spent the night in an hotel near the airport and on Tuesday morning, he moved on to his business in Ogun State, a corporate entity.

"He carried it out his business within Ogun state within the confines of the company on Tuesday and Wednesday and spent the night in their accommodation, company's Guest

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House. By the afternoon, he started to develop symptoms of high fever and body pains.

"He presented through the company medical facility, where investigation began. Of course, he gave a history of his origin of Italy, where we know there is a young outbreak.

It was astute of the medical personnel to keep him over night in an isolated environment. They contacted us at the biosecurity unit in Lagos for assistance and we immediately ask them to transfer the case to Lagos .

"He was brought to our high containment facility in Yaba on Thursday morning. Immediately, he arrived, he put in strict isolation and appropriate tests were ordered. Within hours we received signals that the test in the laboratory was showing signs of positivity. At that point, we informed the federal minister of health, about the incident and the minister informed higher authorities in Abuja."

The governor said the patient had been placed in strict isolation at the state containment facility in Yaba and he is doing well with supportive therapy.

He added that," As of now, we have started to trace the movement from the airport through Lagos to ogun state. And we are busy identifying any possible person that may have come in contact with him so that we can start our isolation and containment exercise to ensure we break the circle of transmission.

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“In Lagos, we have been building capacity steadily , fortified support at the airport and sending state health personnel to support federal authorities. A form has been developed and all travellers are to fill the form as they arrived.

At our infectious facility, we have ramped up our capacity to isolate cases. We are now sitting on an 80 bed facility because of the urgency fund that has been released by the incident commander.

“ We are continuing to build more capacity, should in case we have an increase number of cases in Lagos. We have an aggressive public awareness campaign going on and we have engaged in extensive training across the hierarchy of health professionals in Lagos state. In addition, we are building our capacity to diagnose the case in Lagos and right now, we can run the test in two centres in Lagos.

“ One in our biosecurity facility and the other at the Lagos teaching hospital. We are in constant contact with the National Centre for Disease Control and the minister of health and we are exchanging information continuously.

“The important thing is that the patient is confined and we have aggressively started to identify all his contacts all the way to the airline and that process started around 3 AM this morning and it continues as we speak. We like to ensure everybody that we are on this case that we can identify everybody that come in contact with.

“The symptoms are subsiding, he does not have any symptoms of respiratory disease. It is probably a good thing, but he does

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have fever and body pain. If he had respiratory symptoms, it is probably it may be more contagious than it is likely at the moment.”

Also speaking, the state’s Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi said Lagos has a sophisticated Response Mechanism, adding that government had activated its Disease Control Centre with an eighty bed facility with plans to scale it up to contain the spread of the Virus.

He urged Lagosians to exercise a high level of suspicion at all times, especially for those just arriving the country and report any suspected case through the helplines.

2.241 Coronavirus: We Will Ban Public Gatherings If Italian Case Escalates, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on February 28, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Friday that the state government would prohibit public gatherings if the coronavirus case confirmed in the state escalated.

He, however, said taking such a measure now in the wake of the confirmation of the virus could give rise to needless panic among the public.

At a press conference held at the State House in Marina on Friday, the governor noted that the condition of the Italian, who happened to be a victim, was not ‘highly contagious’ at the moment, hence, there was no need to forbid public assembly in the state.

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Sanwo-Olu allayed the fears of a possible spread among residents in the state, saying the victim was being isolated at the state's bio-security facility in the Yaba area of the state.

He assured the people that there was no cause for panic among Lagosians and Nigerians at large over the reported COVID-19 incident, stressing that measures had been set in motion by the state and federal government to contain the spread of the virus in the country.

He said, "It is only when there is a high level of escalation that the public can be panicky and this is when we realise that it is getting to person-to-person transmission.

"As we have said, this isolated case has been contained right from the hospital where he was first admitted and the guesthouse he slept after his arrival in Nigeria.

"It is when there is a person-to-person infection that we can trigger another level of isolation and curtail public events where a large number of people can gather. But I don't think we have gotten to that level yet."

2.242 Regeneration Of Island CBD Started By Tinubu Is On Course – Sanwo-Olu

*****Commissions Afriland Towers In Broad Street**

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 1, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday commissioned the Afriland Towers at Broad street in Lagos

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owned by Heirs Holding Group and the United Bank for Africa family.

Formerly known as Raymond House, the building was redesigned and restructured and renovated by Afriland Properties, the real estate arm of the Heirs Holdings Group owned Mr. Tony Elumelu.

Speaking at the brief commissioning ceremony, Sanwo-Olu said the redesigning and recristering of the building which is in the very heart of the Lagos Island Business District is part of the regeneration program of the Island central business district started by the administration of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu in the early 2000.

"Many of you here are witnesses to the tragic decline of Lagos Island, in the 1980s and 1990s; necessitating the launch of a regeneration programme in the early 2000s, by the administration of His Excellency Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"Successive governments, I am pleased to note, have since followed up on and continued the implementation of that initiative. So, I must say that I am the lucky beneficiary of a solid legacy, and I remain fully committed to the implementation of the Central Business District (CBD) Masterplan.

"We have since seen a heart-warming reversal in the fortunes of Lagos Island. From the revitalisation of City Hall, Campos Square, Tinubu Square, to the development of Freedom Park, to name a few, the last two decades have brought back a lot of the lost glory of the Island."

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The governor told Afriland properties that it has written its name in gold with “this contribution to the revival narrative of Lagos Island, through the investment in this magnificent structure”.

“Broad Street, where this building is located, is the very heart of the Lagos Island Business District; our very own Wall Street. In its heyday it was the epicentre of Nigeria’s financial system.

Even today it continues to house important financial industry landmarks like the Stock Exchange and the headquarters of several leading institutions, including that of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc. “I would like to specially thank Afriland Properties and Heirs Holding, for this extensive renovation effort; a fitting tribute to an important landmark. You have no doubt invested a lot of resources into this, in the process creating jobs, and benefiting the local economy in multiple ways.

“Every project of this nature requires large amounts of skilled and unskilled labour; construction workers from different fields. The money you have spent has gone into the Lagos economy, and touched countless lives.

“And very importantly, this investment is a vote of confidence in the present and future potential of Lagos Island. You have sent a strong message to other investors and players in the economy, that Lagos Island, and Lagos by extension, is worth investing in. You have helped contribute to an improved image for this Central Business District and for Lagos Island as a whole.

“The high quality of the work done is exactly what we have come to associate with Afriland Properties. I am told that this

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renovation has been done with great consideration for the environment. We have here before us a unique mix of old and new elements: 21st century design thinking brought to bear on a property immersed in history”, he said.

“Raymond House is among a class of iconic buildings that have adorned the skyline of Lagos Island and defined its character for many decades, in some cases, centuries. Names like Godstone House, Caxton House, Wilberforce House, Manchester House, and others, come to mind.

“Many of them are sadly no longer standing today, Raymond House, which will henceforth be known as “Afriland Towers” has stood on this site since the 18th century, and has been a first-hand witness of the evolution of Lagos through various ages and periods. If buildings could speak, it would tell us countless interesting stories about this great city of ours”.

According to Sanwo-Olu, what Afriland properties has been achieved with the renovation is a demonstration of what is possible when the private sector is both ambitious and supportive. Adding that as a government, we look forward to even more significant development interventions from you in the years ahead.

“I would also like to urge other private sector players to emulate this laudable investment. Lagos State under my watch will continue to remain committed to partnering with and supporting the private sector to deliver on our vision of creating a Greater Lagos; a Lagos that works for all of us, and not just a few”, Sanwo-Olu said.

2.243 Coronavirus: Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Adequate Sensitisation Of Residents

Culled from Independent on March 2, 2020

The Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday urged Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to ensure adequate sensitisation of Lagosians on the dreaded Coronavirus.

The matter was raised under “Matter of Urgent Public Importance” by Mr Akeem Shokunle (Oshodi/Isolo I) during plenary and it was seconded by Mr Lukman Olumo (Ajeromi/Ifelodun I).

Shokunle, who chairs the House Committee on Health, said that it was important that the governor ensured adequate sensitisation of the people on the virus. He said the state government should also implement the law passed by the 8th Assembly on Cancer and Diseases Control Institute.

The Speaker, Mr Mudashiru Obasa, said that the state government should reach out to many organisations, including local government authorities.

“The House is calling on the state government to also sensitise the Community Development Areas, National Union of Road Transport Workers and others; so they could further pass the information to the people.

“The Commissioner for Education should ensure adequate campaigns on the virus in our public and private schools. “We should also wear masks and wash our hands regularly and

correctly. We can use handkerchiefs when we go to public gatherings,” he said.

Obasa thanked members for their contributions to the matter, stated that issue of placing a ban on airlines from the countries affected by Coronavirus, had to be re-considered due to the economic consequences.

The speaker also commended the governor for his swift efforts on the incident.Obasa said the people that had contact with the Italian man, suspected to have been infected with Coronavirus, had been quarantined for further examination.

Contributing, Majority Leader of the House, Mr Sanai Agunbiade, (Ikorodu I) said that residents of the state should be urged to comply with all the preventive measures.

Agunbiade advised that people should use dedicated telephone lines that had been released for the people to call where any case was being suspected.

Mr Gbolahan Yishawu (Eti Osa II) said that people should stop spreading fake news about Coronavirus.

Yishawu gave an example of where it was reported that the Italian man that was quarantined by the state government over Coronavirus wanted to escape from where he was being kept.

Also speaking, Mr Abiodun Tobun (Epe I), thanked the state government for its efforts on the matter and advised the people not to spread the disease beyond where it was.

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“It happened in China and not Nigeria, it is only one case that was reported in Lagos.

“We should know how to handle it. We know what happened during the time of Ebola, when the state government curtailed it.

“We should take our health issues with more seriousness. We have to take our hygiene seriously and protect ourselves from diseases.

“The people should be told the preventive measures. We should also educate our people.

“Our healthcare centres should use completely disposable materials, and the state government should invest in disposable materials, when handling issues relating to Coronavirus,” he said.

Others who contributed to the matter included Mr Wasiu Eshinlokun-Sanni (Lagos Island I), Mr Victor Akande (Ojo I), Mr Moshood Oshun (Lagos Mainland II).

Others are: Mr Lukman Olumo (Ajeromi/Ifelodun I), Mr Adedamola Richard (Ikeja II) and Mr Mojisola Macaulay (Amuwo Odofin I).

2.244 Covid-19: Sanwo- Olu Visits Isolation Facility, Expresses Confidence In Counter Measures

Culled from Independent on March 2, 2020

Chief Incident Command-er for the counter mea-sures against Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in La-gos State, Governor

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Baba-jide Sanwo-Olu, has again re-assured Nigerians that the State remained commit-ted to every effort geared towards preventing the human-to-human transmis-sion of the virus, following the index case reported last Friday.

The Governor said both the State and Federal Gov-ernment healthcare officials had been working round the clock with infectious disease control professionals from the international agencies to ensure the counter mea-sures being deployed to con-tain the virus achieved the desired results.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Sun-day during his visit to the State-owned bio-security and containment facility at Infec-tious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Yaba, Lagos Mainland, where the Italian national diagnosed with COVID-19 is being managed. Depu-ty Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, and Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, accom-panied the Governor on the tour of the facility.

Sanwo-Olu said he was highly confident in the re-sponse approach initiated by the State’s Incident Com-mand Centre in the wake of the outbreak of the virus, expressing optimism that the nation would survive the epidemic and put it behind.

He said: “Let me express a confession that I am very delighted with the level of preparedness and our re-sponse to stop coronavirus from spreading in our coun-try.

The kind of structures we have put in place and the strategies being deployed have raised my confidence that the nation, at the end of the day, will win this battle and will put it behind. I keep on expressing to the Com-missioner for Health that we must stop at nothing to achieve the very best result.”

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Sanwo-Olu said the State had already upgraded its iso-lation facilities at the IDH in the case of escalation in the number of cases, revealing that two additional contain-ment centres had been cre-ated with 80 bed spaces and necessary medical equip-ment to manage cases. Also, there are two mobile isolation wards of 15-bed capacity each stationed in the hospital.

Reacting to the report of scarcity of sanitary materials at pharmacy shops across the State, the Governor condemned the action, saying it was wick-ed for people to take the advantage of emergency situation to hoard and jerk the prices of face mask and hand sanitizer.

2.245 Coronavirus: Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Residents' Sensitisation

Culled from the BluePrint Newspaper on March 2, 2020

The Lagos state House of Assembly has urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to ensure proper sensitisation of the residents of the state about the dreaded Coronavirus.

This was raised under Matter of Urgent Public Importance by Hon. Akeem Shokunle (Oshodi/Isolo 1) during plenary Monday and it was seconded by Hon. Lukman Olumo (Ajeromi/Ifelodun 1).

Shokunle, who chairs the House Committen on Health, stated that it was important that the governor should sensitise the people of Lagos on the matter and implement the law passed by the 8th assembly on Cancer And Diseases Control Institute.

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Sanwo-Olu was also urged to direct the state commissioner for education to do proper awareness on Coronavirus in all public and private schools in the state.

Speaker Mudashiru Ajayi Obasa thanked members for their contribution to the matter. He stated that issue of placing a ban on airlines from the countries affected by Coronavirus had to be re-considered due to the economic consequences.

“The federal government and Lagos state government are working hand- in- hand to curb the spread of Coronavirus.

“We should commend our state governor for his efforts on the matter. But, we should call on the governor to implement the provision of the law on Centre for Cancer and Diseases Control, which was passed in the 8th assembly.

“People, who had contact with the Italian man suspected to have been infected with Coronavurus are being watched. We should standby at all times to reduce or prevent the incursion of such a disease into our state,” he said.

2.246 Sanwo-Olu Visits COVID-19 Isolation Facility, Assures On Counter Measures

Culled from The Blueprint Newspaper on March 3, 2020

Chief Incident Commander for the counter measures against Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in Lagos state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has again re-assured Nigerians that the state remained committed to every effort geared towards preventing the human-to-human transmission of the virus, following the index case reported last Friday.

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The governor said both the state and federal governments healthcare officials had been working round the clock with infectious disease control professionals from the international agencies to ensure the counter measures being deployed to contain the virus achieved the desired results.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Sunday during his visit to the state-owned bio-security and containment facility at Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Yaba, Lagos Mainland, where the Italian national diagnosed with COVID-19 is being managed.

Sanwo-Olu said he was highly confident in the response approach initiated by the state's incident command centre at the wake of the outbreak of the virus, expressing optimism that the nation would survive the epidemic and put it behind.

He said: "Let me express a confession that I am very delighted with the level of preparedness and our response to stop Coronavirus from spreading in our country. The kind of structures we have put in place and the strategies being deployed have raised my confidence that the nation, at the end of the day, will win this battle and will put it behind. I keep on expressing to the Commissioner for Health that we must stop at nothing to achieve the very best result."

Sanwo-Olu said the state had already upgraded its isolation facilities at the IDH in the case of escalation in the number of cases, revealing that two additional containment centres had been created with 80 bed spaces and necessary medical equipment to manage cases. Also, there are two mobile isolation wards of 15-bed capacity each stationed in the hospital.

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Reacting to the report of scarcity of sanitary materials at pharmacy shops across the State, the governor condemned the action, saying it was wicked for people to take the advantage of emergency situation to hoard and jerk the prices of face mask and hand sanitiser.

He said: "This should not be the means for anyone to enrich themselves. It is unfortunate people are hoarding these important sanitary materials. We need to speak to ourselves. People are just abusing a rare opportunity, because the outbreak is not an event everybody wishes for.

I think it is unacceptable for people to sell above the prices they used to sell before the outbreak. These people should search their conscience and ask themselves what kind of people are we. We should be our brother's keeper."

Sanwo-Olu also frowned at misinformation trailing the COVID-19 case being managed at the IDH, saying the public deserved to get accurate information about the management of the patient in isolation.

He urged the media practitioners to approach the appropriate quarters for updates and developments on the case being managed.

2.247 Sanwo-Olu Commissions UBA Business Office

Culled from Independent on March 3, 2020

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) has officially added a new touchpoint to its network.

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The new branch in Afriland towers on Lagos Island was inaugurated by Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Chairman of UBA, Mr. Tony Elumelu.

According to a statement, the Governor who congratulated the UBA management and Afriland for the beautiful edifice said the bank has remained a principal stakeholder in the development of Lagos, constantly creating jobs and opportunities for Nigerians.

The Chairman, UBA Group, Mr. Tony Elumelu, who received the Governor as well as the Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu, expressed gratitude to every other guest who took time off their busy schedules to grace the event.

He explained that the project to build the new business office in Afriland towers was borne out of the need to solidify past successes recorded by the bank, as well as create new vistas for the growth of businesses.

He explained that Afriland properties, developers of Afriland Towers are set to develop new projects aimed at catapulting Lagos into the state of excellence.

He said, “It is interesting to note that Afriland has been developing some iconic properties, and today is a wonderful and joyous moment to see that this building which has a lot of rich history, is back to life. We call it the rebirth, and we appreciate all the planning that has gone into the creation of this beautiful and clean world-class masterpiece.”

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Elumelu disclosed plan by Afriland to develop more iconic properties in the near future, adding that given its expertise and its pedigree, the people of Lagos were in for a huge surprise.

Elumelu said, “Indeed, this is just a tip of what we want to do at Falamo in Ikoyi. We are going to develop a world-class integrated complex at Falomo, and everyone will be pleased with the outcome.

On his part, the Lagos State Governor, congratulated UBA and Afriland on the major feat of developing a beautiful edifice such as Afriland, adding that Elumelu was known for coming up with great ideas that boost employment opportunities for Nigerians.

He said, “This is a historic event today and it is a great honor to be here to see the kind of possibilities that can be achieved when you set your mind to it, and what you can turn an un-earning asset into.

It is very interesting to note that that this house, formerly Culled the Raymond House has a rich history, and this is quite nostalgic for me because like some of you may know, I used to work with UBA and this place was the head office where everyone wanted to be because everything happened here. I’m happy to know that it has such a rich history dating back to over a century ago.”

“We plan to rebuild some of our old structures in Lagos state such as the old Oluwole market, the children’s hospital at Martins Street, among others. We will also be building a cable car project into Lagos Island and all the buildings that have

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gone down will be rebuilt to meet up with international standards that Afriland has shown us here today,” Sanwo Olu added.

The Oba of Lagos, who congratulated UBA for continuing to contribute positively to the economy as a financial institution that cares about the communities in which it operates.

The Managing Director, Afriland Properties, Uzo Oshogwe, gave a brief history of Afriland Towers, noting the former Raymond House was built in 1886.

2.248 Sanwo-Olu, Elumelu Harp On PPP For Economic Devt

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 3, 2020

The governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the chairman of Heirs Holdings, Tony Elumelu has stressed the importance of public private partnership in the development and growth of the economy.

Both of them spoke at a ceremony marking the refurbishment of Afriland Towers in Lagos. Sanwo-Olu while commending Afriland Properties Plc, which has Heirs Holdings as a lead investor said, “We are in government because we want the private sector to work, to thrive and to do well.

“When the private sector does well, the government does well, when the government does well, then our people benefit. We tackle poverty, unemployment, and education – something I am absolutely committed to.”

Impressed by the ambience and size of the development, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended Tony Elumelu, chairman of

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Heirs Holdings, a lead investor in Afriland Properties Plc. “My very good friend and brother, Tony Elumelu continues to make Nigeria proud.

His example of making strategic investments in infrastructure, that creates public good, is one we should all applaud. It is an honour to be here this afternoon to see yet again, an underperforming asset turned into what we are witnessing here.”

Sanwo-Olu praised Afriland Properties Plc for the successful renovation and inauguration of the world-class 8-floor office complex – Afriland Towers. As a publicly quoted company, Afriland is one of Nigeria’s leading institutional real estate owners and developers, with a portfolio in excess of N100 billion.

The governor expressed his commitment to collaborating with Afriland for the development of the state. He said: “Afriland is making long term investments, that are greatly helping the revival of Central Business District of Lagos – I am delighted that Afriland is so clearly contributing to the redevelopment of Lagos. I want to thank the board and management of Afriland Properties for taking this bold initiative. You have put real money where your mouth is.”

Tony Elumelu in his remarks commended the governor’s vision for a prosperous Lagos and emphasised the importance of private-public collaboration to catalyse development and employment in Lagos.

He said: “We appreciate our governor for what he stands for. He wants a world-class and prosperous environment,

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something I share – investment in infrastructure, whether power, buildings or indeed human capital – is something I believe in fundamentally.

I want to see a thriving and redeveloped Lagos Island. What we are doing here today is just the beginning of what we want to do at Falomo. We want to realise the potential of Lagos.

Falomo is a unique property, a place where we want to showcase the potential of Lagos and what it can become. We are looking forward to engaging with Lagos State further, so we can all develop this historic and flagship location, which truly puts our city on the global map.”

The Afriland Towers development is a key element in the redevelopment of the Central Business District of Lagos. At the event, the distinguished guests were taken on a tour of the 8-floor business complex, boasting an open plan office environment, with floor to ceiling windows, overlooking the bustling Marina district, whose contemporary décor is enhanced by energy-saving utilities, and spacious parking for the convenience of visitors.

2.249 Sanwo-Olu lauds Afriland’s Investment in Infrastructure

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 3, 2020 in Money, News Update

LAGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has praised Afriland Properties Plc for the renovation and inauguration of the world-class eight-floor office complex – Afriland Towers in Lagos.

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The ceremony marked the refurbishment of Afriland Towers, the state-of-the-art office building.

In attendance were Oba of Lagos, HRH Rilwan Aremu Akiolu; Erelu Angela Adebayo; founding Chairperson, Afriland Properties Plc, and Chairman of Heirs Holdings, Tony Elumelu.

Publicly quoted company, Afriland is one of Nigeria’s leading institutional real estate owners and developers, with a portfolio in excess of N100 billion.

The Afriland Towers development is a key element in the redevelopment of the Central Business District of Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu commended Tony Elumelu, Chairman of Heirs Holdings, a lead investor in Afriland Properties Plc. “My very good friend and brother Tony Elumelu continues to make Nigeria proud. His example of making strategic investments in infrastructure, that creates public good, is one we should all applaud. It is an honour to be here this afternoon to see yet again, an underperforming asset turned into what we are witnessing here,” he said.

The governor expressed his commitment to collaborating with Afriland for the development of the state. He said: “Afriland is making long term investments, that are greatly helping the revival of Central Business District of Lagos – I am delighted that Afriland is so clearly contributing to the redevelopment of Lagos.”

2.250 Sanwo-Olu Woos Private Sector In Education

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 4, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday launched the state's transformation plan with a promise to make the education sector a pride before the end of his four-year tenure.

Speaking at a Public Private Partnership (PPP) dialogue with private sector executives, held on Victoria Island, the governor said: "I am hoping that this sector at the end of my tenure will be one you will be very proud of."

He said his administration had increased the education budget from N65 billion in 2019 to N136 billion in 2020, to implement the 15 focus areas covered by the transformation plan.

Sanwo-Olu said the state would next month launch a programme to improve teaching and learning in public secondary schools that would rival the Eko EXCEL technology initiative launched in February to improve teaching and learning in public primary schools.

He said he would utilise some of the ideas suggested by private sector partners at the event – including addressing the high tax concerns and land request of private school proprietors; establishing state-of-the-art technology-driven school in a containerised structure suggested by Buddzone; and making public buildings accessible to special needs people, among others.

Education Commissioner Folasade Adefisayo said the government seeks to upgrade school infrastructure; curriculum; school governance; quality education delivery; welfare of students and school personnel; technology, among others.

She said that the government had started with the introduction of Eko EXCEL; recruitment of 3,000 teachers; infrastructural upgrade; ICT upgrade and improvement of performance in the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE).

"We are working on a deep plan to improve WASSCE results. Lagos State is sixth in Nigeria. In all where I have worked, I have never been number six. We are working to get to number one," Adefisayo said.

She noted that the state would appreciate partnership in six areas such as improving capacity and welfare of school personnel; upgrading education resource centre; investment in secondary school infrastructure; enhancement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); improvement of Special and Inclusive Education; and other broad sectoral intervention areas such as provision of data; character reforms, etc.

The commissioner told the private sector representatives that the state was serious about engaging with them and would make the process seamless.

2.251 Sanwo-Olu To Grace Lagos Women Dance

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 4, 2020

The wife of Lagos State Governor Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu is expected to grace the maiden edition of Lagos Women Dance., tagged “ Stress Out”.

The Lagos Women Dance, an initiative of Seed Rehabilitation Foundation is being organized to commemorate the international Women’s Day 2020.

According to a statement signed by the event coordinator, Mrs. Angela-Tony Iji, the event will be declared open by Lagos state first Lady, Mrs. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu , adding that the programme will bring together Lagos Women from different backgrounds to collectively ruminate on issues and dance to celebrate the social, economic cultured political achievement of women.

She said the programme slated for this Saturday at the national stadium, Surulere Lagos,” is designed to bring together women from all walks of life across the state to stress out through dancing, have fun, network, have some relief, and mingle among themselves.

“Stress is a universal and common challenge to modern women. Women working in different sectors and organizations have to deal with stress to prevent decrease in organization/employee overall performance, high error rate, poor quality of work, and absenteeism due to health problems such as anxiety, emotional disorder; work life balance; depression and other forms of ailment such as frequent headache; obesity and cardiac arrest. Research shows that dance, especially health and fitness dance boost one’s ability to live healthy as they age.

“Major side attractions of the event include; stress management talk, fitness dance, dance drama, zumba dance, dance therapy, free bees etc.

2.252 Blood Donation: SERAP Asks Lagos, Sanwo-Olu To Obey Court Judgement

Culled from Independent on March 4, 2020

LAGOS – The Socio-Econom-ic Rights and Ac-countability Project (SERAP), a non-gov-ernmental organization, has urged the Lagos State Governor Babajide San-wo-Olu to use his leader-ship position to instruct the Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi, to immediately, fully and effectively enforce the judg-ment stopping all Lagos hos-pitals and health facilities from demanding compul-sory blood donations from patients or their relatives as precondition for medical attention either in antenatal and maternal or any other health services.

Following a suit brought by SERAP, Justice Raliat Adebisi of the Lagos High Court yesterday held that demanding compulsory blood donation from those seeking medical attention, including maternity ser-vices, is arbitrary, unfair and a violation of their hu-man rights, including the rights to life and to equal opportunity for everyone in the health system.

SERAP, in a letter dated 3 March 2020 and signed by its deputy director, Ko-lawole Oluwadare, the or-ganization said: “The en-forcement of the judgment will be a special moment for the implementation of the government’s strate-gies towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as it will improve the chances of everyone including wom-en during

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and after child-birth, and ensure quality health services, which will contribute to the promotion of these goals.”

SERAP said: “As Justice Adebisi stated in her judgment, your enforcement of the judgment will be consistent with Section 33 of Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (as amended), which guarantees the right to life; and articles 2(a),3 and 12(1) of the International Convention on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, which requires the health system including in Lagos State to provide equal opportunity for everyone. Nigeria has ratified the covenant.”

2.253 Street Naming: Lawyer Petitions Sanwo-Olu, Lagos CP Over Looming Crisis In Ayobo-Ipaja

Culled from Independent on March 4, 2020

LAGOS – A Lagos -based lawyer, Mr. Ehis Omoijade, has petitioned the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, Hakeem Odumosu, over an imminent break-down of law and order at Ishefun in Ayobo/Ipaja Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of the state.

In the petition titled, “Possible Breakdown of Law and Order at Ishefun, Ayobo over Street Naming,” Omoijade explained that he was acting as solicitor to his client, Mr. Tony Amokeodo, on whose express instructions, the petition dated 20th February, 2020, was written.

The lawyer, in the petition, alleged that the Ayobo/Ipaja LCDA Chairman, Yusuf Sa-kiru Adisa, ignored a directive from the

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Permanent Sec-retary of Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs over street naming controversy in Ishefun.

According to him, the Street in dispute, Tony Amokeodo Street, was duly registered by his client since 2011 and has remained in the same name until sometime in August 2019 when he (Amoke-odo) received a call from an official of the council informing him that the council has no record of his registration and that the street belongs to one Mr. Olamilaken Ola.

“Our client immediately took steps by writing a petition to the Hon. Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs being the supervising ministry. In response to the petition, the ministry invited all the stakeholders for a meeting at the ministry.

“At the end of the meeting, the council was directed by the ministry to restore the street to Mr. Tony Amokeodo. Surprisingly, your Excellency, the council in a complete disregard to the directive of the Ministry, invited our client to another meeting vide a letter dated 10th February, 2020, through his lawyer.

“The Executive Chairman, Alh. Yusuf Sakiru Adisa, was reminded by Omoijade who stood in for Mr. Tony Amokeodo and other staff of the council of the decision reached at the ministry, but the LCDA boss insisted that the council would carry out its own investigations.

The LCDA boss informed the stakeholders of his decision to visit the street in dispute and another meeting was thereafter fixed for 19th day of February 2020 as the date for the visitation.

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“After the visit to the street in question, the Council Chairman invited the two traditional rulers of the two communities – Ishefun and Ijon Camp David – for a meeting with the stakeholders which further gave credence to our earlier claim that the street registered by our client is under Ishefun Community not in Camp David Ijon where Mr. Olamilaken Ola house is situated.

The traditional rulers identified two separate letters both given consent to Mr. Tony Amoke-odo and Mr. Olamilekan Ola and for the registration of the street. “Surprisingly, the Executive Chairman in a most bizarre and one-sided posture, awarded the said street to Mr. Olamilaken Ola.

“Your Excellency, Sir, we hold the view that the Executive Chairman’s decision to carry out a separate investigation outside the one already conducted by the ministry was just to formalise a premeditated decision.

“We state further, that the chairman turned logic on its head when he awarded a street belonging to two communities to one person without the consent of the traditional ruler from the other community which can result in a communal clash between the two communities if not properly managed.

“We have since been informed that the said Mr. Olamilekan Ola, have boasted that as an official of the NURTW, they controlled things in Lagos and there was nothing they could not achieve in Lagos.

“We therefore urge you to urgently intervene as possible breakdown of law and order is imminent on the grounds that a

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chairman of a LCDA lacks the power to impose one community on another,” the petition read.

Some of the residents, who sought anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the matter, confirmed to journalists that the street in question was indeed named after Tony Amokeodo but the pole indicating the name was removed by unknown people.

2.254 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Support, Decries Fake News

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 4, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has Culled on religious and traditional leaders to cooperate with the state government in its effort to spread basic information to curb the spread of coronavirus.

Sanwo-Olu, represented by his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, said this at a stakeholders’ forum on the management and control of COVID-19 organised by the state Ministry of Information and Strategy on Tuesday.

He said, “Apart from the threat of coronavirus, an issue of great concern is fake news on social media about the patient (Italian) currently receiving treatment. Any information that does not emanate from the Federal Ministry of Health, Lagos State Ministry of Health or the National Centre for Disease Control should be authenticated before it is spread on social media.”

The governor said the state government was prepared to handle any further incidents that might be discovered in the coming days.

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The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Gbenga Omotosho, said the forum was convened to sensitise Lagosians to coronavirus and provide information from the state government about the journey so far and stop fake news.

2.255 Sanwo-Olu Takes Awareness Campaign On Coronavirus To Lagos Market

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 5, 2020

Wife of the Lagos State Governor, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu on Thursday took awareness campaign Coronavirus disease to the market, emphasizing the need for residents of the state to maintain personal hygiene and strengthen their immune system.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke at a Special Sanitation Visitation of the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) to Tejuosho Ultra Modern Market in Yaba, said it was important for people to adequately fortify themselves to be on a sound footing to ward off any threat of disease.

According to the Governor's, who is also the chairman of COWLSO, market sanitation was a critical factor in protecting the health of residents, adding that the government would do everything possible to ensure hygiene in markets across the state in line with the Health and Environment component of the THEMES Agenda of the present administration.

She said, "Coming in to the market this morning, I saw a banner placed at the entrance gate to educate the people about Coronavirus and I must commend you for that because it is important for the markets to be clean. It is also important for

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people to imbibe the habit of regular washing of hands with soap and water.

"It is very important that we should all be aware that as long as we are eating clean and healthy vegetables and fruits, we would be able to increase our immunity so that we will be strong to fight the virus.

"As a matter of fact, this time around we need double dose of clean vegetables; double dose of fruits and for the doctors we would recommend Vitamin C to build your immunity and even when you have any of the attack like cough and so on, it would run its course and not stay in your body."

Also speaking the Iyaloja of Tejuosho market Alhaja Titilayo Majekodunmi said the traders in market had been sensitized about coronavirus, saying they already know how to prevent the deadly ailment.

She said issues of environmental sanitation is given serious attention in the market to ensure there is epidemic outbreak in the market.

2.256 We Must Collaborate To Ensure Seamless Governance, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 5, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday stressed the need for collaboration between the executive and legislative arms of the government. He said it would bring about seamless governance.

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Sanwo-Olu was addressing reporters at the opening of a three-day 15th Executive/Legislative Parley at Ikota-Lekki, Lagos.

The event attracted lawmakers from the Lagos State House of Assembly, senators and House of Representatives members from Lagos State, state exco members and state All Progressives Congress (APC) leaders.

The theme of the parley is: 'Harmonious relationship among various arms of government: A necessity for a Greater Lagos'.

The governor said that the parley was held to see how governance had fared in the state and how both arms of the government could collaborate to realise the greater Lagos dream of Lagosians.

"It is a working relationship that will bring about development and governance that will be seamless for our people. At the end of the day, we will have a progressive and hitch-free understanding of ourselves once we realise that the roles and responsibilities are different. "We are here to iron out and resolve things that are very contentious or if there is any advice we need to give ourselves and at the end of the day our citizens will be the beneficiaries," he said.

The essence, Sanwo-Olu said, is to bring about positive and quality governance representation at the highest level where people will feel the dividends of democracy and they will see that "Lagos will continue to experience purposeful development.

"So it makes governance in itself seamless and a win-win situation for all of us at the various levels of governance."

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He said that the parley was also for state representatives at the National Assembly to acquaint the state with the critical issues they were facing in Abuja and see what they could do to address some issues critical to the state in Abuja.

"It is also an opportunity for our party leaders to remind us of the promises we made to the people as well as the party manifesto and to ask us how we are faring.

"So, at the end, all of us will be better enriched, geared and motivated to go out there and deliver the dividends of democracy at all levels of governance, and we will continue to ensure that we foster a working relationship and understanding that everybody has a role to play and giving everybody the deserved respect and opportunity for everybody to begin to do well and play their role in governance and greater Lagos conversion we are talking about."

Answering questions from reporters, House of Assembly Speaker Mudashiru Obasa thanked the governor for sustaining the parley, saying it was a platform for a harmonious working relationship "where information, understanding and collaboration is a major factor in all that we are doing."

He said that the parley would enable them to build on what they had achieved.

"We are supportive of the executive arm and we will continue to do that to ensure we serve our people. But this does not mean we will turn a blind eye to something we feel we must look into," Obasa said.

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He said the Assembly needs the collaboration of the state representatives at the National Assembly to amend the constitution, in order to achieve some of the things it has been clamouring for such as special status for Lagos, state police and a transportation system that will allow the state and neighbouring states to connect together.

“We need them to push that through,” the Speaker said.

2.257 Sanwo-Olu, Obasa Canvass Better Understanding Between Executive, Legislature For Seamless Governance

Culled from the Sun on 5th March 2020

Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Speaker of the House Of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, have stressed the need for collaboration and understanding between the executive and legislative arms of government.

They spoke yesterday at the opening of the three-day 15th Executive/Legislative parley organised by Lagos State Government Office of Civic Engagement tagged “Harmonious Relationship Among Various Arms Of Government.” The governor and the speaker said the parley will bring about seamless governance and efficient service delivery.

The parley have lawmakers from the Lagos state Assembly, Senators and House of Representatives member from Lagos state, state exco members and state APC party leaders.

“It is a working relationship that will bring about development and governance that will be seamless for our people and at the end of the day we would have a progressive and hitch free

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understanding of ourselves once we realize that the roles and responsibilities are different.

“We are here to iron out and resolve things that are very contentious or if there is any advice we need to give ourselves and at the end of the day our citizens will be the beneficiaries”.

The governor said the essence of parley is to bring about positive and quality governance representation at the highest level of the people where people will feel the dividends of democracy and they will see that “Lagos will continue to experience purposeful development. So it makes governance in itself seamless and a win-win situation for all of us at the various level of governance”, Sanwo-Olu said.

“It is also an opportunity for our party leaders to remind us of the promises we made to the people as well as the party manifesto and to ask us how we are faring.

2.258 Sanwo-Olu Implored To Build Bridge

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 9, 2020 in News, News Update

Traders at Ladipo Market in Mushin, Lagos Mainland at the weekend implored Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to build a pedestrian bridge at Toyota bus stop.

The traders, who spoke during the general market sanitation, said that the bridge was necessary to prevent them from being knocked down by hit-and-run vehicles.

Speaking during the exercise, the President- General of the market, Mr. Jude Nwankwo, said that the day was set aside to

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keep the market clean, noting that it would enable customers to come and buy motor spare parts in a conducive environment.

He said: “Coronavirus is not good for us, hence the need for us today to close the market, clean the environment and clear our drainages. Our members must regularly clean and sanitise their environment, wash their hands and ensure their shops are always clean, thereby making the market conducive for all.

“All the 47 units have been sensitised on the need for continuous sanitation and the need for all to have hand sanitisers.”

He appealed to Governor Sanwo-Olu to assist them in evacuating their refuse and hailed him for road construction ongoing in Lagos.

The Environmental Chairman, Mr. Nonso Chiufo, said that the cleaning was necessary to make the market cleaner and more conducive for traders and customers.

“The exercise tagged: ‘Ladipo must be clean’, was designed to meet the standard of cleanliness the state government expects from us. We will sustain this. The traders have been sensitised on the continuity of the cleanliness. We don’t want the market to be shut because of dirtiness,” he said.

Chiufo said that the traders had been educated on Coronavirus, adding: “We have told them that it is important for them to wash their hands regularly and apply sanitisers.

“We have protected ourselves and the environment. Today’s cleaning is extraordinary and will be sustained. Task force will

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go round the market to apprehend those who refuse to partake in the clean-up. They will be penalised.”

2.259 Sanwo-Olu Celebrates Women In Lagos At International Women’s Day

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 10, 2020in News

To celebrate the immense impact of their work on the drive towards a Greater Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has taken advantage of this year’s International Women’s Day to celebrate 200 notable women.

The Governor shared a video highlighting the exponential growth that Lagos has experienced over the years due to the exemplary work spearheaded by trailblazing women such as Efunroye Tinubu, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Sinatu Ojikutu, and Tosin Oshinowo.

“We must ensure we continue to record growth across all facets of our society. Therefore, celebrating women isn’t just the right thing to do, recognising their immense contributions and impact is necessary for growth and sustainable development at a time when women make up almost half of our population, and are fast becoming the largest group of enablers of the economy through their enterprise and sheer desire for greatness,” Gov. Sanwo-Olu said.

For over six centuries, Lagos has relied on the contributions of its women to attain and retain its status as Nigeria’s centre of excellence. The state has historically been proactive about ensuring it builds structures that promote equity and justice regardless of gender, religion, and background.

2.260 Sanwo-Olu Celebrates Women In Lagos At International Women's Day

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 11, 2020

To celebrate the immense impact of their work on the drive towards a Greater Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has taken advantage of this year's International Women's Day to celebrate 200 notable women.

The Governor shared a video highlighting the exponential growth that Lagos has experienced over the years due to the exemplary work spearheaded by trailblazing women such as Efunroye Tinubu, Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, Sinatu Ojikutu, and Tosin Oshinowo.

"We must ensure we continue to record growth across all facets of our society. Therefore, celebrating women isn't just the right thing to do, recognising their immense contributions and impact is necessary for growth and sustainable development at a time when women make up almost half of our population, and are fast becoming the largest group of enablers of the economy through their enterprise and sheer desire for greatness," Gov. Sanwo-Olu said.

For over six centuries, Lagos has relied on the contributions of its women to attain and retain its status as Nigeria's centre of excellence. The state has historically been proactive about ensuring it builds structures that promote equity and justice regardless of gender, religion, and background.

2.261 Education Remains Greatest Weapon – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on March 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has stated that education is the greatest weapon for social, political and economic engineering of any society as no society develops without good investment in the education of its citizen, or without the enabling environment for innovative and progressive ideas to blossom.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while delivering a speech at the 27th Convocation ceremony of The Lagos State olytechnic, Ikorodu, on Thursday, said that Lagos, cognizant of this fact, is investing heavily in the provision of affordable and qualitative education in all public schools in the state.

Stating that education remains one of the cardinal planks of his governance vision, T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda, the governor added that "Polytechnics occupy a very important role, as the bastions of technological innovation and development."

He said that having realised that industrialisation is a veritable path towards job creation, poverty alleviation and sustainable economic growth, the Federal and state governments in Nigeria are striving to join the league of industrialised nations.

"Developing industrial capacity also means that we will be able to offer to the world goods and services that are of greater economic value. We will be able to offer processed agricultural goods, we will ramp up our exports and earn foreign exchange, and we will be in a position to benefit from the increasing shift of global manufacturing capacity from Asia towards Africa.

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Noting that the nation's polytechnics must, therefore, be properly positioned for these opportunities, the governor said, "Technical education must never be seen as playing second fiddle to university education; both must be seen as equally-placed alternatives for young people on the journey to a productive future."

2.262 Sanwo-Olu Vows To Arrest Uniform Men In Commercial Motorcycle Operations

Culled from Independent on March 12, 2020

Lagos State Government has issued a stern warning to uniform men flouting the State's Transport Sector Reform Laws.

It was reported that it is illegal for any security operative in mufti to ride commercial motorcycles on routes where Okada and tricycles have been restricted, the Government said on Wednesday.

The pronouncement was part of the issues discussed during a security meeting held at the State House in Marina.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu chaired the meeting, which was attended by Commanders of all security formations in the State.

In a statement, the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso, said the enforcement of the restriction order would be executed with more force to completely keep Okada and tricycles away from the restricted routes.

Members of the Security Council, the Commissioner said, frowned at a situation in which uniform men flouted the State's Transport Sector Reform Laws, warning security operatives,

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especially police officers and military personnel, to stop taking passengers on their motorcycles on restricted routes.

Omotoso said: "We have just concluded the State Security Council meeting, where we reviewed the ongoing enforcement of Okada and Keke restriction order in the six Local Government Areas. Matters concerning uniform men engaging in commercial motorcycle operation came up in our discussion and there has been an order restricting them from doing that.

"Only a uniform man who is fully kitted and who rides motorcycle as his own personal mode of transportation is allowed. If any uniform man ventures into commercial motorcycle operation or Keke, the action of such a person is illegal and such persons are going to be arrested if they are caught."

The Commissioner reiterated that the State would not relax the laws restricting Okada and tricycles on the highways, praising Lagosians for standing firm behind the Government in the ongoing enforcement of the restriction order.

In April, Omotoso said the State Government would be assuaging the pain being felt by residents by injecting buses of different sizes and capacities into the public transportation space to serve as alternative to Okada and Keke.

"We are using this opportunity to inform Lagosians that the palliatives promised by the Government will be coming very soon, most likely in April," the Commissioner said. Omotoso said the Government was not resting on its oars in providing required infrastructure that would improve traffic situation and transportation across the State.

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He disclosed that the Government would be holding a ground-breaking ceremony on the long-awaited Red Line rail project, which, he said, would be held on March 25. He added that updates would also be shared on the ongoing Blue Line rail project handling by Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA).

On the closure of Eko Bridge, the Commissioner said the Government would work assiduously to lessen the pain of commuters plying the route. He, however, noted that the closure of the bridge was a necessary precautionary measure taken to avert an incident that may result into loss of lives.

The commissioner urged residents to continue to support the government's efforts at securing the State, stressing that the Sanwo-Olu administration would deploy all resources to ensure safety of lives and property in Lagos.

"About security, Lagosians should be rest assured that Government is on top of the situation and that all is well. Every action we take is to show that we put the interest of Lagosians at heart and their welfare is on the front burner at all times," Omotoso said.

2.263 Edo 2020: Sanwo-Olu Pledges Commitment To Athletes' Welfare

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 13, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has pledged his commitment to the welfare of the state's delegation to the 2020 National Sports Festival in Edo State.

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Sanwo-Olu said this when he received the sports festival's Torch of Unity from the representative of the Minister of Youths and Sports Development, Femi Ajao, and the Lagos State Liaison Officer, Bode Durotoye, at his Alausa office on Thursday.

According to the governor, the welfare of Lagos athletes was paramount to the government. He also added that the state deserved to win the biennial games.

"I am receiving this Torch of Unity for Edo 2020 National Sports Festival on behalf of the sports loving Lagosians who have been supporting us.

"I am sure that we will win as many gold medals as we can. I have admonished the Chairman and the DG of Lagos State Sports Commission on this that we are going to be fair, firm and ensure that Lagos comes out tops, because it is deserving of us.

"In the spirit of sportsmanship, we will do our best and ensure that all logistics are put in place for the success at the games," he said.

Sanwo-Olu admonished the athletes to make sure that they put up their best performances to do the state proud, adding that their welfare remained paramount.

"We know that some states do come to poach our athletes, but this time around, we will not allow them to take our pride away. Anything that it takes us we will do.

"We will block all the loopholes and we are sure to make your welfare our priority," he said.

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The LSSC Chairman, Aiyepoku, said that the delegation already had a tall order from the governor to clinch the first position, adding that the commission would use all the resources at its disposal to achieve the goal.

“We already have a tall order to win the games, the governor believes in us that we can do it that is the reason he gave us such.

“We have the resources and the technical crew that can help to achieve that and we also believe in our athletes to make us proud,” he said.

2.264 Breaking: Lagos Govt Frees Isolated ‘Coronavirus’ Patients

Culled from the Blueprint Newspaper on March 13, 2020

Lagos state government on Friday disclosed that all 179 people on isolation who had contact with the index case, an Italian who brought Coronavirus to Nigeria, have been released.

Of the 179 people who had contact with the index case, 40 of them were quarantined in Ogun State while THE remaining were monitored in Lagos State.

Lagos Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, at a news conference to give update on Coronavirus situation in the state on Friday said initially, 179 contacts with the Italian were traced and that since they had exceeded the mandatory 14 days isolation, they had been let go as none of them developed any symptom of the disease.

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He said the index case still remained on admission, but noted that “he is perfectly well now, we are only keeping him because he still has some secretion of the virus.

Test shows that anytime from now, he may be negative. If he is negative, we will conduct another test within 48 hours after and if he is still negative, we will set him free.

“We are close to discharging the index case, we want to be sure he poses no danger to the society anymore.”

On the Nigerian who was initially tested positive to Coronavirus for being in contact with the index case, Abayomi said he had now been tested negative twice and might have been released by now.

“His tests initially showed that he was positive to Coronavirus twice and now, he has tested negative to the virus twice on two consecutive tests carried out.

The remaining contact in Ogun and Lagos State remain symptom-free and they have exceeded 14 days surveillance which means that we have been able to interrupt the transmission between the index case and others. The index case and its threat to Nigeria has been eliminated.

“Those isolated in Ogun State have been discharged, in Lagos, we will not follow up the contacts again because none of them has developed symptoms. We are discharging all,” he said.

On the four children and their teacher quarantined recently, the commissioner disclosed that they had been discharged as

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they all tested negative to the virus, likewise another man from the US who was earlier quarantined.

On the next move, Abayomi said “We believe that by being extremely aggressive, we will curtail the outbreak,” saying that the state government had sent more health personnel to the airport to assist the Federal medical team.

2.265 No Going Back On Construction Of Regional Road – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 14, 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the weekend said despite the encroachment on the right of way of the long proposed Regional Road in Lekki-Ajah axis in Eti-Osa Local Government Area of the state his administration has concluded plans to commence its construction before may this year.

The Governor who disclosed this while on inspection tour of the Regional Road alignment said the government would remove the contraventions to give way for the construction of the road.

He said there was need to remodel the design and alignment for the road in order to reclaim the right-of-way already encroached on by property developers along the corridor.

The Governor accompanied on the tour by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, Special Adviser on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyoye, among others said the road is very strategic.

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He pointed out that it was the second time he would be going round the alignment of the 9.3 kilometre-long, 45 metres wide road, which he described as strategic in the implementation of Lekki Masterplan Development.

Sanwo-Olu said the road would not only bring traffic relief to commuters plying Lekki axis, but improve quality of life for residents of the area. He said: “This is the second time in two months that we are going round the alignment of Regional Road. What it means is that, we are getting close to the reality of developing this corridor, which starts from somewhere close to Victoria Garden City (VGC) and terminates at Freedom Road in Lekki.

“The road, which is parallel to Lekki-Epe Expressway, is strategic for us in our Lekki Masterplan Development programme. While we went round the alignment, we discovered that there are so many estates behind this place. Construction of Regional Road will not only give relief, it would also enhance movement and improve quality of life for our people.

“There has been encroachment on the identified right-of-way. What we are doing now is to see how to resolve all these issues before we go into final tendering process to pick the would-be contractor for the job.”

Sanwo-Olu said much of the right-of-way for the proposed road remained intact from encroachment, adding that properties built within the road alignment would be pulled down to allow the construction. He added that government would be meeting with the owners of the affected properties to discuss relocation plan.

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He said: “We want the people to know that this Regional Road is part of the development that will ease the Fourth Mainland Bridge we will be constructing. It is strategic because it would ease pressure off the Lekki-Epe Expressway. In future, there is another highway that will extend from Freedom Road to Ilubirin and Third Mainland Bridge. We are hoping that before our first anniversary in office, the contractor would have moved to site for the construction of the Regional Road.”

2.266 Awori Hail Sanwo-Olu For Transforming LASU

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 14, 2020 in Education, News, News Update

The National President of the, Awori Welfare Association of Nigeria (AWAN), Alhaji Mohammed Olagbaye, has commended the Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his commitment in making the Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, Lagos a first-class citadel of education in Nigeria.

Olagbaye gave this commendation during the national meeting of the association held at the Ojo Local Government Multi Purpose Hall, Ojo, Lagos.

He said the rapid development witnessed in the institution both structurally and academically was as a result of Governor Sanwo-Olu’s commitment to improve the standard of education in Lagos State.

“Since one of the cardinal objectives of our association is the improvement of the standard of education in the state which Governor Sanwo-Olu is committed to achieve, all Awori in the state and the diaspora will do everything at our disposal to

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support him in order to succeed at making the state a cynosure of all eyes in the realisation of his laudable programmes to make the state a better place.

“We are also using this medium to appreciate the governor for giving the Vice Chancellor of the LASU, Professor Olanrewaju Fagbohun , the necessary support to steer the ship of the institution to an enviable status. “

Earlier in his welcome address, the Vice President of the association, Mr Mubashiru Hassan, appealed to all Awori in the state and the diaspora to contribute meaningfully to the construction of the Awori Lecture Theatre in the Lagos State University embarked upon by the association.

He enjoined all members to stay united for the realisation of the set goals of the association for the betterment of all Awori.

2.267 No Going Back On Construction Of Regional Road In Ajah -Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 14, 2020 in News

Lagos Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday said his administration has concluded plans to commence the construction of the long proposed regional road in Ajah axis in Eti-Osa Local Government Area before May despite encroachment on the right of way.

The Governor disclosed this while on inspection tour of the regional road alignment in Lekki on Saturday.

He said the government would remove the contraventions to give way for the construction of the road.

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Sanwo-Olu said there was need to remodel the design and alignment for the road in order to reclaim the right-of-way already encroached on by property developers along the corridor.

The Governor, accompanied on the tour by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako, Special Adviser on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyoye, among others, said the road is very strategic.

He pointed out that it was the second time he would be going round the alignment of the 9.3 kilometre-long, 45 metres wide road, which he described as strategic in the implementation of Lekki Masterplan Development.

Sanwo-Olu said the road would not only bring traffic relief to commuters plying Lekki axis but also improve quality of life for residents of the area. He said: “This is the second time in two months that we are going round the alignment of Regional Road.

“What it means is that, we are getting close to the reality of developing this corridor, which starts from somewhere close to Victoria Garden City (VGC) and terminates at Freedom Road in Lekki.

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He said: “We want the people to know that this Regional Road is part of the development that will ease the Fourth Mainland Bridge we will be constructing. It is strategic because it would ease pressure off the Lekki-Epe Expressway.

In future, there is another highway that will extend from Freedom Road to Ilubrin and Third Mainland Bridge. We are hoping that before our first anniversary in office, the contractor would have moved to site for the construction of the Regional Road.”

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**2.268 JUST IN: Sanwo-Olu Visits Abule Ado, Lagos
Explosion Scene...Sets Up N2bn Relief Fund For
Victims**

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 16, 2020 in News,
News Update*

The Lagos State Government on Monday setup a N2 billion Emergency Relief Fund to assist victims of Sunday's explosion at Abule Ado area of the state.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu announced the establishment of the "Abule Ado Emergency Relief Fund" after visiting the scene of the explosion at Ado Suba in Abule Ado.

Sanwo-Olu said that three account numbers had been opened at different banks for well-meaning Nigerians to assist the state government in assisting the victims.

He said that the banks with the same account name as "Abule Ado Emergency Relief Fund" included Polaris Bank 4030017510, Zenith Bank 10171845716 and GT Bank 0586615680.

"It is a N2 billion relief fund, and the state government will immediately be putting N250 million in that fund.

"This is certainly beyond what the state government can undertake on its own. This is beyond what the government, be it at the national or state, can undertake on its own.

"So, what this fund would do is to give everybody the opportunity to be part of it and to be able to donate into it," the governor said.

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He also said that the fund would be managed by the Deputy Governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat.

Earlier, the governor also setup a committee to look into the immediate cause of the explosion at Abule Ado. He said that the committee, which would be headed by the Deputy Governor, had two weeks to do an extensive investigation as to what caused the explosion.

According to him, the committee is to map out what needs to be done to ensure that such incident does not repeat itself.

Members of the committee include the Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat, as the Chairman, the Commissioner for Special Duty as Co-Chairman, the Commissioner for education, the Commissioner for finance and the Commissioner for Environment.

Others are the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health; Permanent Secretary, Works and Infrastructure; Nigeria Police; Senior Special Assistant on Security, Chairman of the Local Government, Representative of the CDC and CDA.

Also representative of St. Bethlehem Girls College, the Commissioner for Physical Planning, representative of the NNPC; Mrs Ada Oyetunde, National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), two representatives of the host community, among others.

"Let me on behalf of the government and people of Lagos State express our condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones, to the children that lost their teacher, to everyone in this neighbourhood that has lost one person or the other," he said. (NAN)

2.269 Breaking: At Last, Lagos Gov Sanwo-Olu Visits Explosion Scene In Abule Ado, Makes Pronouncement

Culled from the Blueprint Newspaper on March 16, 2020

Twenty-four hours later, Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led government officials on the inspection of explosion scene in Abole-Ado.

While on the inspection of the area where 17 persons were confirmed dead, Sanwo-Olu announced immediate set-up of N2billion relief fund for the victim of the fire incident.

School Principal and students as well as other residents died as a result of the accidental occurrence which its cause has remained huge concern.

Details loading...

2.270 'It's Like A War Zone', Sanwo-Olu Says Of Abule-Ado Disaster

Culled from the Sun on 16th March 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has visited the scene of the explosion in Abule-Ado area of the state, describing the situation as a war zone.

More than fifteen people are confirmed dead in the blast that shook Lagos on Sunday morning, destroying more than 200 houses and vehicles.

“My trip here this morning is not to immediately begin to apportion blame or to say this was what happened. I am not going to explain to you in graphic details, which truck, which

tank or pipe burst out. that is not my responsibility, there are others that will do that,” the governor said as he surveyed the devastated area.

While expressing condolences to victims of the disaster, Sanwo-Olu lamented the devastating nature of the explosion on human lives and property. “I will confess that I have never seen anything of this magnitude before. It is like a war zone. It rather very unfortunate that as a people we have to get to this for us to be able to make all the amends,” he said.

As at the governor’s visit, fire service officials in the state were still battling to extinguish pockets of the fire emanating from an NNPC pipeline corridor in the area.

Sanwo-Olu, accompanied by his deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, and other officials, also announced the setting up of a N2 billion disaster relief fund for the victims.

2.271 Spare Nobody In Coronavirus Screening, Sanwo-Olu Tells Airport Workers

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 17, 2020

Obviously not amused by the third coronavirus case recorded in the country, Lagos state governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday paid unscheduled visit to the Murtala Muhammed international Airport and urged the health workers, security personnel to ensure everyone coming into the country is properly screened and profiled in order to prevent the spread of the deadly virus in the country. Sanwo-Olu said everyone traveling into the country must not escape being screened and profiled to enable the government to manage the case effectively.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

The governor, who was received by the top management of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria, FAAN and conducted around the facilities at the airport as well as efforts being made to screen those coming into the country, said that the virus has no respect for status, race and colour.

He said: "It's a working visit. Lagos is the biggest border through which people come into the country over 70 percent of travel into the country takes place in Lagos. What this means is that we need to heighten our level of preparedness and monitoring.

"We need to encourage our airport workers on the need to do what is required of them because what they are doing is a national assignment. "Everybody must be properly screened. It is not that I know this somebody or I know that one or this one is a VIP. Everyone one coming into the country must undergo screening"

Speaking with one of the Lagos environmental officers attached to the airport, Governor Sanwo-Olu said: "Please make sure you get the correct information of anyone coming into the country. You must insist on getting their name and address. You must be firm but polite in your demand, right?"

2.272 Lagos Explosion: Sanwo-Olu Sets Up N2bn Relief Fund For Victims

Culled from Independent on March 17, 2020

LAGOS – The Lagos State government on Monday setup a N2 billion Emergency Relief Fund to assist victims of Sunday's explosion at Abule Ado area of the state.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu announced the establishment of the 'Abule Ado Emergency Relief Fund' after visiting the scene of the explosion at Ado Suba in Abule Ado.

Sanwo-Olu said that three account numbers had been opened at different banks for well-meaning Nigerians to assist the state government in assisting the victims.

He said that the banks with the same account name as 'Abule Ado Emergency Relief Fund' included Polaris Bank: 4030017510; Zenith Bank, 10171845716, and GTBank, 0586615680.

"It is a N2 billion relief fund, and the state government will immediately be putting N250 million in that fund.

"This is certainly beyond what the state government can undertake on its own. This is beyond what the government, be it at the national or state, can undertake on its own.

"So, what this fund would do is to give everybody the opportunity to be part of it and to be able to donate into it," the governor said.

He also said that the fund would be managed by the deputy governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat.

Earlier, the Governor also setup a committee to look into the immediate cause of the explosion at Abule Ado.

He said that the committee, which would be headed by the deputy governor, had two weeks to do an extensive investigation as to what caused the explosion.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

According to him, the committee is to map out what needs to be done to ensure that such incident does not repeat itself.

Members of the committee include the deputy governor, Obafemi Hamzat, as the chairman; the Commissioner for Special Duty as co-chairman; the Commissioner for Education, the Commissioner for Finance and the Commissioner for Environment.

Others are the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health; Permanent Secretary, Works and Infrastructure; Nigeria Police; Senior Special Assistant on Security, Chairman of the Local Government Area, representative of the CDC and CDA.

Also representative of St. Bethlehem Girls College, the Commissioner for Physical Planning, representative of the NNPC; Mrs. Ada Oyetunde, National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), two representatives of the host community, among others.

“Let me on behalf of the government and people of Lagos State express our condolences to the families that have lost their loved ones, to the children that lost their teacher, to everyone in this neighbourhood that has lost one person or the other,” he said.

2.273 Sanwo-Olu Advises Lagos City Poly Graduates

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 17, 2020

The Lagos City Polytechnic on Thursday graduated 658 students, comprising 264 National Diploma holders and 394 Higher National Diploma.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEADERSHIP*******

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babatunde Sanwo-Olu, at the ceremony held on the Lagos Television premises, enjoined the graduates to be worthy ambassadors of the school and the state, adding that their various professions were crucial to the development of the state.

The governor, represented at the event by the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Mrs Abosede Adelaja, said, “Today, I congratulate the graduating students of Lagos City Polytechnic. I urge you to ensure you represent your alma mater well and become a good pillar in the society and worthy ambassadors of your school and society at large.

“You must seek to be the best in your chosen profession and project the image of your school. The outside world is highly challenging and competitive, thus, you must prepare yourself to fit into the society, know the child of whom you are and make the institution proud.”

The Chairman, Governing Council, Mr Babatunde Odufuwa, described education as a crucial vehicle for shaping human potential for productive ends.

“In recent years, the promotion of entrepreneurship as a possible source of job creation, empowerment and economic dynamism in a rapidly globalising world has attracted increasing attention. However, despite this attention, there has been no systematic attempt to look at it from the youth angle.

“Nigerian government should pursue the Vision 20-20 mandate that all students in higher institutions, regardless of their discipline, should study entrepreneurship course to create a

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

critical mass of graduates better prepared for employment as well as creators of knowledge-based enterprises,” he added.

2.274 UPDATED: Sanwo-Olu Visits Lagos Airport, Warns Officials Over Coronavirus

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 17, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, was on a visit to the Muritala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos on Tuesday.

Sanwo-Olu’s visit was not unconnected to the new case of Coronavirus recorded in the state on Tuesday.

The PUNCH reports that a British-returnee tested positive for the virus on Tuesday.

Sanwo-Olu warned the officials at the airport not to allow any passenger to slip through unscreened.

He said, “We need to heighten our level of preparedness, our level of monitoring and our level of engagement.

“We have come in here to see things for ourselves, to encourage you and to tell you that we understand that it is a very difficult assignment that you have and that nothing must be put to chance.

“Since we are still friendly and accommodating with our international routes, we need to up our games, we need to reaffirm, we need to be very precise on how we handle this situation.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

“Everybody that goes through the airport must be properly screened. Nobody is an exception. It is not a case of I know this person or this person is above all or this person is a VIP.

“We believe that everybody must subject themselves to the rules and the regulations.

“Everybody must be screened because this thing (Coronavirus) knows no race, knows no colour and so nobody must be spared.

“The private airlines must ensure that everything is done and everybody that has to pass through this corridor must be properly screened.

“As a government, we will not leave anything to chance and it is such an important part of our work and we just have to come here.”

2.275 No society can develop without investment in education –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 17th March 2020

Worried by the state of affairs of the education sector, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described education as the greatest weapon for social, political and economic engineering of any society.

Sanwo-Olu, who is also the Moderator of the Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH) offered job to the overall best graduating, Nkechi Alexandra Kingsley from the School of Engineering. She graduated with a CGPA of 3.93 out of 4.0.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

The governor made the observation at the 27th convocation ceremony of LASPOTECH in which 16, 315 graduates were conferred with National Diploma and Higher National Diploma for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic sessions

Said he: “No society develops without good investment in the education of its citizen, or without the enabling environment for innovative and progressive ideas to blossom.

“Here in Lagos State we are cognisant of this fact and are investing heavily in the provision of affordable and qualitative education in all of our public schools. Let me remind you all that education is one of the cardinal planks of our governance vision, known to all and sundry as the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda”.

The governor observed that on the education landscape, polytechnics occupy an important role and also as the bastions of technological innovation and development.

“You are all aware that Nigeria is striving to join the league of industrialised nations. Federal and State Governments realise that industrialisation is a veritable path towards job creation, poverty alleviation, and sustainable economic growth.

“Our polytechnics must, therefore, be properly positioned for these opportunities. Technical education must never be seen as playing second fiddle to university education; both must be seen as equally-placed alternatives for young people on the journey to a productive future”, Sanwo-Olu stressed.

According to him, the state government would not allow LASPOTECH to lag behind in any way, adding “our vision is to catalyse the development of a world-class tertiary institution

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that will produce graduates who know and are confident of their place in the demanding world of the 21st century”.

He acknowledged the positive and supportive roles played by LASPOTECH management, under the leadership of the Rector, Mr. Samuel Sogunro, in sustaining the institution’s rich culture of academic excellence as handed down by the founding fathers, noting “the quality of students graduating today is testament to the hard work that has gone into moulding them in knowledge and in conduct”.

On Nkechi, the governor said after the completion of her NYSC, the state government would offer her job or grant to start a business of her choice.

Rector of LASPOTECH, Mr. Sogunro said 16,315 well-groomed graduates would be conferred with ND and HND diplomas. He disclosed that 598 obtained Distinction, 5,332 made Upper Credit, 8,268 recorded Lower Credit and 2,117 got Pass.

Sogunro commended the overall best graduating student, Nkechi Kingsley from the School of Engineering with a CGPA of 3.93 on a scale of 4.0. He acknowledged the unending support of Governor Sanwo-Olu in bringing to an end, the six-month-long industrial crisis, which engulfed LASPOTECH in 2019.

The outgoing rector explained that his administration is poised to float 15 new programmes in ND and HND, stating “these programmes, are before the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for consideration”.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

The rector made a passionate appeal to the governor to grant the necessary approval to transmute LASPOTTECH to university status, adding “we have what it takes for us to run a degree programme. If approved, we have decided to name it Lagos State Polytechnic University”.

Sogunro stated that the polytechnic will confer honorary fellowship awards to two eminent personalities, Aare Afe Babalola, founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti and Alhaji Babatunde Rotinwa, Chairman, Lagos State Local Government Service Commission. He said the two personalities have proven to be sources of inspiration who are worthy of emulation.

2.276 Why We’re Honouring Sanwo-Olu, Others –Ogbonna

Culled from the Sun on 18th March 2020

Chief Solomon Ogbonna is the President, Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Lagos State. In this interview, he speaks about achievements of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Abule Ado explosion, issue of regional security and other key national issues.

We heard you are planning to honour some dignitaries including the governor of Lagos State, Sanwo-Olu, what are your reasons?

Yes, we want to appreciate our stakeholders and dignitaries especially those who have contributed immensely to the welfare of Ndigbo in Lagos State. We also want to use the occasion to appreciate the governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu

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and his APC administration for the delivery of dividends of democracy to Lagosians including Ndigbo.

In fact, the actions of the Sanwo-Olu administration is reminiscent of the Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration, when Lagos experienced a massive leap in infrastructural development.

Bola Ahmed Tinubu is the forbearer, torch-bearer and Pathfinder for the new Lagos State. We are happy that Sanwo-Olu is threading on the same path to turn the dream for mega city into reality.

This is an extra ordinary Igbo celebration, meant to recognize and honour individuals and organisations that are making impact in the lives of Ndigbo in Lagos State. One such individual and organisation is governor Sanwo-Olu and his APC administration of Lagos State.

The programmes of Sanwo-Olu administration impact much on the lives of Ndigbo especially with the peace at the markets and places of business in Lagos. Igbo traders at various markets in Lagos will testify to the fact that the markets are peaceful, as activities of area boys and miscreants have reduced drastically.

Furthermore, Ndigbo in Lagos especially widows who are members of Ohanaeze Ndigbo have been benefiting from the empowerment programmes of Sanwo-Olu administration. By and large, Ndigbo are enjoying the benefits of aligning and identifying with the ruling party in the state. In fact, the narrative has changed, as Ndigbo live in harmony with indigenes of our host state, Lagos.

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We are also honouring such Igbo personalities as Chief Ifeanyi Chukwuma Odi (CEO, Ultimos Ltd.), Pauly Emenike (CEO, Nerus Pharmaceutical Ltd), Chief Sunday Nwodo (CEO, New Planet Hotel Ltd), Emeka Onwuka (Former CEO, Diamond Bank).

These are benefactors of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Lagos, supporting us financially and morally. The celebration and investiture is to appreciate the massive support of these individuals to the welfare of Ndigbo in Lagos State.

What is your view on the handling of the coronavirus case by Lagos State government?

The Covid-19 is a plague spreading across the world and world leaders are battling the epidemic. All governments are doing their best to stop the spread of the virus. Lagos State government's response to the index case was prompt and that has restricted the spread of the virus.

So, I give the Sanwo-Olu administration pass mark for the quick response. I equally appreciate the medical personnel and scientists who are working hard to prevent the spread of the Covid-19, thereby protecting us. We should heed the advice and counseling of the scientists in practising personal hygiene especially regular hand wash.

Though, we are lucky, the virus is not spreading, but the government has to step up actions in providing all materials necessary to fight the virus especially test kits and protective wears.

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The protective wears should be readily available at all medical facilities across the country to shield the medical personnel from infection as they attend to suspected cases. I heard of the pandemonium at University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu when a suspected Covid-19 patient wasbrought to the hospital.

The patient was rejected by the hospital, an indication that the teaching hospital was not prepared to handle Covid-19 cases. The teaching hospital might not be the holding facility for Covid-19 patients, but they should have basic testing kits and protective kits to assess suspected cases. Thank God, the patient was admitted at Park Lane hospital, Enugu and the sample taken to Edo State returned negative result.

I use this opportunity to call on all governments in the country to step up arrangements to restrict the spread of the virus. We should be pro-active and not wait for the surge in the cases before acting.

What is your feeling about the gas explosion at Abule Ado, Amuwo Odofin LGA, Lagos, considering the large population of Ndigbo in that area?

It's not just about Ndigbo, but also about Nigerians losing their lives and properties in such horrific accident. My condolences to bereaved families as I pray Almighty God to grant the deceased eternal rest in his kingdom, heaven.

The initial statement from official quarter is that the explosion was from gas pipeline, but we are yet to know what caused the

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pipeline to explode. It's disheartening as innocent lives including those of school children and their principal were lost.

I call on the authorities concerned to probe well and ascertain the cause of the pipeline explosion with a view to stopping future incidents. We are liaising with our people at Amuwo Odofin to get full details of the casualty and the Igbo people affected. We will make time to visit the area and commiserate with the victims.

What is your view on the clamour for regional security outfits?

The question borders on national issue and the most appropriate persons to comment on this, is the President General of Ohanaeze, Ndigbo, Chief Nnia Nwodo and members of the national executive council. Nevertheless, I, as citizen of Nigeria and leader of Ndigbo in Lagos State can express my personal view on the matter.

First of all, security outfits especially the police, army, immigration, etc, are under the watch of the federal authority as stipulated by the Constitution. But the state governors are the chief security officers of their respective states. These elected officers receive security reports and briefings from the national security operatives especially the police in their respective states.

So, they are in better positions to articulate appropriate response to prevailing security challenges in their states. In that vein, state governors at different geo-political zones could come up with regional security outfits or maintain individual state outfits.

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It is their calls to make, and they should do what they deem appropriate to secure the lives and properties of their citizens and all people residing and doing business in their states. If the governors need advice and suggestions from socio-cultural organisations like Ohanaeze Ndigbo, our national executive would articulate and offer such advice and suggestions.

2.277 Screen All Flight Passengers –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 18, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has charged airport workers not to relax the screening process for the coronavirus infection, adding that all air travellers must be checked.

He noted that there must be no VIP passage for anyone and cautioned the response team against stigmatising passengers who might show signs of any infection or ailment.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday during a visit to the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, to assess the screening of inbound passengers for COVID-19.

Top aviation personnel led the governor and his entourage to the airport's arrival lounge for an on-the-spot assessment of the techniques being used to screen inbound passengers by a combined team of airport officials and health workers.

The Lagos State Government had deployed 30 health care workers to the airport to strengthen efforts against the virus. About 30 personnel were said to have been recently added.

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At the arrival gates, Sanwo-Olu watched how passengers were screened by officials, who also demonstrated measures put in place to isolate travellers that showed signs of illnesses.

He was conducted round the testing stations and quarantine facilities built at the airport to manage travellers with infectious diseases. The governor expressed satisfaction at the measures in place.

He said, “We are here to personally ascertain how our officials are working in collaboration with airport authorities to isolate travellers with cases of infectious diseases. “Since we are still being friendly about accommodating international travels, we need to keep up our gird and remain firm on the screening process at the airport.

“We need to ensure that we are not keeping our eyes away from anything. Everybody coming in through our air borders must be properly screened. Nobody must be spared from thorough screening.”

2.278 Lagos Explosion: CAN Hails Sanwo-Olu On Steps Taken

Culled from Independent on March 18, 2020

LAGOS – Amidst several lashes at Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, over his meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja to reportedly give first-hand account and situation report of the Abule-Ado, Ado Soba and environs explosion on Sunday, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has hailed the governor for the steps taken so far, including

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the N2billion emergency relief for everyone affected by the incident.

His Eminence, Rev. (Dr.) Samson Ayokunle, President of CAN, who commended the initiative, insisted on the collaboration between the Federal and Lagos State governments, especially in getting to the root of the tragedy.

“President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev (Dr.) Samson Ayokunle, has expressed satisfaction with the steps taken so far by the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on the explosion of oil pipeline on Sunday at Abule-Ado in Amuwo Odofin Local Government Area of Lagos State.

“It is our position that both the Federal and the Lagos State governments should investigate the disaster with a view to discovering the remote and immediate causes of the incident in order to prevent a future re-occurrence of the disaster anywhere in the country.

“The outcome of the investigation will, as well, allow necessary disciplinary actions to be taken, that is, if it is found that the avoidable disaster has any connection with official act of negligence, complicity or criminality.

“The lives of every citizen of this country are too precious to be wasted in this way,” stated Ayokunle as contained in a statement made available by his Assistant on Media and Communications, Pastor Adebayo Oladeji.

CAN further prayed for Divine comfort for the bereaved, recuperation for the injured and all affected.

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**2.279 AAC Condoloes With Victims Of Abule Ado Disaster,
Tackles Sanwo-Olu Over N2bn Fund Raising Plan**

Culled from Independent on March 18, 2020

LAGOS – The African Action Congress (AAC) on Tuesday condoled with the victims and people of Abule Ado in Amuwo Odofin Local Government of Lagos State over the explosions that killed several people and destroyed properties in its wake.

The party, in statement issued by its Lagos State chairman, Kunle Wizeman Ajayi, and Elias Ozikpu, Publicity Secretary, respectively, said the tragedy was yet another in the dark history of the Nigerian people. It said: “The gas-cause leaves much to behold as the remnants and influence of the attack shows more of a bomb effect. And this brings to the fore why we need a system that will put peoples’ lives more, before profit, whether privately and publicly.

“Lagos AAC believes that what we need to focus now is to understand where the rains started to beat us, as well as what should be done to prevent these disasters. But, in the immediate, we disagree completely with the approach of the Jide Sanwo- Olu-led state government on the aftermath of the Abule Ado tragedy.”

**2.280 Covid -19: Bishop Olumakaiye Orders Compliance
With Sanwo-Olu’s Directive**

Culled from Independent on March 19, 2020

Sequel to the directive of the Lagos State Government banning all religious meetings and gatherings of more than 50 worshippers in Lagos, as part of the precautionary steps

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towards stemming a further spread of the pandemic Coronavirus disease, the Diocesan Bishop of Lagos, the Rt, Rev. Dr. Humphrey Bamisebi Olumakaiye has directed all Anglican Parishes in Diocese of Lagos to ensure immediate compliance.

In a statement issued by the Church Secretary, Venerable Segun Ladeinde, the Syod Secretary on Thursday, 19th March 2020, the Bishop directed as follows:

“All Vicars are directed to ensure strict compliance with these directives in line with the position of the Church as a law-abiding entity.

“All Diocesan Programmes that attract a crowd of more than 50 people have been postponed until further notice.

“Vicars of the congregation of more than 50 members are advised to increase the number of their services to give room for compliance as well as encourage other members to worship with the congregation with less than 50 members located closest to their house. Congregations with members that are less than 50 are to maintain status-quo.

“House fellowship and Bible Study Centres should be encouraged to serve as a place of Sunday worship for the time being. Vicars should organize this.

“Members are encouraged to also join on-line services on all Diocesan online platforms such as Lagoon Radio, Lagoon TV and other existing online platforms of Churches on Facebook and YouTube, ACNN, and so forth.

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“All members are strongly advised to maintain strict personal hygiene including a frequent and thorough washing of hands with soap and running water as well as the use of alcohol-based sanitizers.

“Diocesan authorities will continue to consult with relevant stakeholders on fresh updates on the matter. Kindly await further directives”.

The Diocesan reminded its teeming congregation that they serve a faithful and a prayer-answering God.

He, therefore, charged them to trust God, remain prayerful and not be afraid; even as the highly learned cleric quoted generously from the Bible: (2nd Chronicle 7: 13-14, Exodus 15:26, Exodus 23:25, Matt. 4: 23. Matt. 9:35, John 16:33, James 5:15).

The Diocesan assured prayerfully that by the grace of God, the prevailing affliction would become a thing of the past in no distant time.

Meanwhile, the Anglican Communion is known for its compliance with directives emanating from constituted civil authorities.

2.281 Festac Explosion: Sanwo-Olu Under Attack After Asking For Donations

Culled from Independent on March 19, 2020

On Sunday, March 15, an explosion rocked Abule Ado, Amuwo Odofin local government area of Lagos state.

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The explosion was widespread as it hit schools, houses and office complexes, leaving 17 dead and many injured.

Lagos state governor, Babjide Sanwo-olu visited the site for on-the-spot assessment of the situation, then he made a pledge to set up a 2 billion naira relief fund for the victims.

A day after making the pledge, the governor revealed that N250 million has been pumped into the fund as he released bank details to which well-meaning donors will deposit the remaining N1.75 billion for the victims of the Abule Ado explosion.

Here are some of the comments made by Nigerians:

N250m out of N2bn???

We shud fund the rest???

Na wa o!!! God Dey sha— Jeffrey O (@JefLonDon_9) March 16, 2020

The government shouldn't be asking for donations. This is nonsense. We pay taxes!!!

NGOs may do so but not the state government.— Asegun Tolu Adekolu (@ToluAdekolu) March 16, 2020

What kind of joke is this? Who are you asking to donate ? <https://t.co/QT6dbDOAvY>— Bop Daddy (@falzthebahdguy) March 17, 2020

I would have contributed mine but my transport cost has gone up 300% ever since you banned keke and okada in Lagos

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state. Thank you sir— HIM. Mr. Ola (@ulsherlan) March 16, 2020

Jide, is this really you?

Or it's Sinzu Money?— Ore Afolayan (Mr Miyagi of Marketing) (@TheOreAfolayan) March 16, 2020

They have money in store and they are demanding from the citizens they have imperovished again..arrghh!!! Why are these people heartless? His father "Tinubu" would give out N5B in a blink of an eye, he should go meet him.— A'Rasheed (@OhuRasheed) March 16, 2020

Lmao. A state government shameless asking for money from its poor citizens? Hahaha

They will gladly pay million of dollars for political thugs during elections and steal the entire lump some back + 10000000% interest rate while in office. Asking poor people for money lol.— Topnotch (@topnotchmagic) March 16, 2020

2.282 **Coronavirus: Lagos Lawmakers Task Sanwo-Olu On More Awareness, Sensitization Of Residents**

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 19, 2020

Lawmakers in the Lagos State House of Assembly have Culled on Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to create more awareness on the dreaded Coronavirus with a view to prevent its spread in the state.

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Raising the matter on Thursday during plenary, Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa stated that it would be hard to determine the number of people that have been infected by Coronavirus in the state, adding that the state government should do more on enlightenment to prevent its spread.

According to him," money exchange hands every time. People that enter buses take files to their bosses in the office. Our market men and women should meet regularly and discuss the matter and how to prevent its spread.

"We should not run from those who have the virus or wish them dead. The state government has taken positive steps on the matter by banning religious gatherings and ordering the closure of public and private schools in the state."

Also speaking, the state Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi said "Many people enter commercial buses that several other people board and this virus could be transmitted this way."

Residents of the state were also urged to listen to announcements on issues relating to the virus and ensure compliance so that the spread of the disease could end in the state.

This was supported by all the lawmakers that were present at plenary through a voice vote.

2.283 COVID-19: Lagos Lawmakers Task Sanwo-Olu On More Awareness To Contain Spread

Culled from the Sun on 19th March 2020

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have Culled on the state governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, to engage residents of the state on more aggressive awareness campaigns on the dreaded Corona-virus in order to prevent its spread in the state.

Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, who raised the matter yesterday during plenary, said it would be very difficult to determine the number of people that have been affected by the virus in the state, even as he urged the state government to do more on enlightenment to prevent its spread.

He cautioned against running away from those suspected to have been infected with the virus, saying, “We should not run away from those who have the virus, neither should we wish them dead.

The state government has taken positive steps on the matter by banning religious gatherings and ordering the closure of public and private schools in the state. But, the state government should do more through announcement and publicity on how to prevent its spread.

“Also, the state Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi, should speak Yoruba language when talking about the matter so that residents of the state would have a clearer understanding of what he is saying. Many people enter

commercial buses that several other people board and this virus could be transmitted through that means.

“Again, money exchanges hands every time. People that enter buses take files to their bosses in various offices. Our market men and women should meet regularly and discuss the matter and how to prevent its spread.”

Lawmakers also appealed to residents to always listen to announcements relating to the virus and ensure compliance so that its spread could be contained.

This was supported by all the lawmakers present at plenary through a voice vote. The Speaker then ordered the Clerk of the House, Mr. Azeez Sanni, to send a message across to the Governor on the issue as agreed upon by the lawmakers.

2.284 Explosion: Build Fire Stations Across 57 LCDA, Lagos Assembly Urges Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 19th March 2020

The Lagos House of Assembly has passed a resolution urging Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to set up fire service stations in all the 57 council areas in the event of fire disaster in the state.

The House also resolved that the governor should direct the Commissioner for Special Duties, Mr Seye Oladejo, to ensure that all public and private institutions provided functioning fire extinguishers in their domains.

Mr Akeem Shokunke (Oshodi-Isolo I), Chairman House Committee on Health, who moved the motion during plenary

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on Thursday, said fire incident was becoming too frequent in the state.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Abule Ado gas plant explosion occurred around 9 a.m., on Sunday after a truck hit some gas cylinders in a gas processing plant.

The gas plant was located near the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation's System 2B pipeline's right of way.

No fewer than 20 persons had so far been confirmed dead and several victims were injured.

More than 170 buildings in the area were affected by the explosion, as hundreds of residents were rendered homeless.

Shokunle explained during plenary that there was need for drastic measures to be taken by ensuring that each local government development area in the state had its own fire station in the locality. He said: "There has been incidents of fire disaster in the state and the government has expended huge amount of money on every occurrence.

"The House, therefore, calls on the state governor to direct the Ministry of Special Duties to carry out sensitisation on danger inherent by failure to have fire extinguishers in schools, markets and others.

Contributing, Mr Abiodun Tobun, said fire usually starts on a light mode but escalates if not contained. Tobun said government should compel every household to have fire extinguisher so such equipment could easily minimize the incident of fire disaster.

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On his part, Mr Olayiwola Olawale said there should be adequate sensitisation for residents to take precautionary measures.

The motion was supported by all the lawmakers present at the plenary session through a voice vote.

The Speaker of the House, Mr Mudashiru Obasa, then ordered the Clerk of the House, Mr Azeez Sanni to send a message to the governor on the issue as agreed upon by the lawmakers. (NAN)

2.285 Lawmakers Want Sanwo-Olu To Build Fire Service Stations Across Lagos

Culled from Independent on March 20, 2020

LAGOS – The Lagos State House of Assembly has Culled on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to construct fire service stations in all the 20 local government areas and 37 local council development areas in the state as part of measures to prevent more fire disasters.

This call followed a motion brought forward by Hakeem Sokunle, the member representing Oshodi/Isolo Constituency I, who noted that incidents of fire disasters were too frequent in the state, adding that there was the need for drastic measures for it to be curtailed.

According to Sokunle, "There have been incidents of fire disaster in the state and the government has expended huge amount of money on every occurrence."

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Sokunle explained that there had been fire disasters in the state in recent times, which had led to loss of lives and property.

Abiodun Tobun representing Epe Constituency I, in his contribution, explained that, “fire usually starts on a light mode but escalates if not quickly contained. If government compels every household to have a fire extinguisher, we can easily minimise the incident of fire disaster.”

On his part, Olawale Olayiwola representing Mushin Constituency II, noted that there should be adequate publicity so that residents can take precautions.

2.286 Technology Vital To Disaster Management, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 20, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has stressed the need to adopt technology in tackling disasters.

He spoke at a training by Rotary International District 9110 for disaster relief volunteers’ corps at the Rotary Centre, GRA Ikeja, Lagos.

The governor, who was represented by Director-General/Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lagos Safety Commission, Lanre Mojola, praised Rotary for the training, noting that the corps members would be able to respond to disasters or emergencies.

Specifically, he praised the title of the event: “Impact of modern-day technology on disaster relief and risk reduction

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management,” saying it was timely given the fire at Abule Ado in Lagos at the weekend. “It has become evident that in this modern-day, we cannot effectively manage disasters without the deployment of sophisticated and modern equipment and technology.

“With the advancement in technology, the various innovations being experienced globalisation of the world of the world and also the outbreak of series of new diseases affecting the world today, it has become evident that to effectively and proactively address disasters and risk, we need to embrace modern technology that will help us to be fully efficient in keeping lives and properties safe.”

“Technology innovation,” Sanwo-Olu said, “is bringing digital solutions to sectors that have previously lacked access to technology.

2.287 Assembly To Sanwo-Olu: Build Fire Stations In All Councils

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 20, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

Lagos State House of Assembly on Thursday urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to set up fire service stations in all the 57 council areas as part of measures to check fire disasters.

The House also resolved that the governor should direct the Commissioner for Special Duties, Seye Oladejo, to ensure that all public and private institutions have functioning fire extinguishers in their premises.

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Akeem Shokunle (Oshodi-Isolo I), who moved the motion during plenary, said incidences of fire disasters were too frequent in the state.

He said there was the need for drastic measures to curtail it.

Shokunle said: “There have been incidents of fire disasters in the state. The government has expended huge amounts of money on every occurrence.

“The House, therefore, calls on the State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu to direct the ministry of Special Duties to carry out sensitisation on inherent dangers in the failure to have fire extinguishers in schools, markets and others.”

2.288 Alumni hail Sanwo-Olu Over School’s Rehabilitation

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 20, 2020

The alumni of Eric Moore High School, Surulere, Lagos, have commended the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the renovation of the dilapidated structures in the school.

The association President, Mr Chinedu Nonyelu, while speaking after meeting with the Lagos State Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folashade Adefisayo, said the old students were happy with the renovated buildings.

“The terrible state of the school had spurred the leaders of the association to meet with the immediate past state government official who later ordered the demolition of some of the

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dilapidated structures while the pupils were relocated to a neighbouring college and no activity on rebuilding was taken.

“We commend Governor Sanwo-Olu for his prompt intervention immediately we informed him and believe work on the main building will soon commence,” Nonyelu said.

Nonyelu also urged Lagosians, parents and stakeholders to cooperate with the current government of the state to achieve its set agenda, especially in the education sector.

The association donated whiteboards and school desks for the classes in the renovated buildings. They promise to support the government with such materials when the main building was completed.

2.289 Coronavirus: Lagos Discharges Index Case, As Sanwo-Olu Hails Health Workers

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 21, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday said the first case of Coronavirus in Nigeria, an Italian who flew into the country via Istanbul has been discharged having tested negative and certified fit to go home.

Sanwo-Olu, who is the incident commander for COVID-19 in Lagos State said in a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile on Saturday that after weeks of medical attention by health workers at the Infectious diseases hospital, Yaba that the patient has now tested negative to the virus and has been released to return home.

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He said, “As the COVID-19 Incident Commander for Lagos State, I am glad to inform you that the index case, an Italian gentleman is now negative.

“Through a combined effort of Lagos State, Ogun State and Federal Health Authorities, we were able to limit the transmission of the virus to a single contact. This involved aggressive contact tracing and containment strategies.”

The Governor said that there are new imported cases, saying that he hopes that same contact tracing strategy method can be applied along with social distancing practices to slow down the outbreak which may be brewing from the new cases.

He revealed that index patient graciously donated a unit of white blood before he was discharged, saying the white blood, otherwise Culled plasma is rich in antibody proteins that target COVID19 virus.

The white blood plasma, the Governor explained is frozen in the state’s Bio-bank and will be useful in handling new cases.He said: “the blood plasma will be beneficial for the treatment of new patients in the absence of a defined therapeutic drug for COVID-19”.

Sanwo-Olu applauded the professional handling of the index patient by the Lagos State medical personnel, the EOC team and others who collaborated with the state government and the Federal Government for the success recorded.

The governor urged all residents to keep safe, saying that the COVID-19 is real and it’s with us in the community but

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maintained that it can be defeated if the people follow basic instructions as being sent out daily by the State and Federal Ministries of health.

He enjoined the residents to scale up their personal hygiene habits, by washing their hands regularly with soap and water, avoid large crowds of more than fifty persons and practice social distancing.

He said the index patient appreciated the exceptional care and support given to him by staff of the mainland infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba and all members of the EOC and Lagos State Government.

2.290 Coronavirus: Sanwo-Olu Orders Civil Servants To Work From Home

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 22, 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo—Olu ordered civil servants from grade level one to twelve to work from home for fourteen days to contain the spread of deadly coronavirus in the state rocking the global community.

The governor who expressed worry over increasing rate of confirmed cases in the state at a press conference held in Lagos House Marina, urged the private sector to bench their non –essential services staff to effectively tackle the pandemic disease.

He said it has become necessary for him to address the residents again because of the confirmation of an additional

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six cases within 72 hours he briefed on the disease bringing the total in Lagos State to nineteen confirmed cases.

He said, "First let me say that these confirmations are evidence the system is working, that we are actively and met tracking and testing suspected cases. Let me also reiterate that all confirmed cases have been isolated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Yaba"

Sanwo-Olu added that the state government has been working closely with the Federal Government, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). the World Health Organization (WHO). and the private sector. to halt the spread of this disease.

The governor who hailed Lagosians for obeying his directive on large congregation of people above 50 people, said the state government would arrest anyone, group found to be frustrating government's efforts.

Sanwo-Olu pointed out that the directive was not meant to deprive anybody of his or her freedom, saying," Many mosques were closed on Friday and many churches shut down today."

He said, "In addition to all the previous directives issued so far. I am now hereby directing all public officers in the entire unified public service from Grade Levels 1 to 12 which constitutes 70 percent of the entire public service workforce to stay at home from Monday 23rd of March 2020. for 14 days in the first instance.

"We will review this as time goes on. Members of the public are advised to refrain from visiting public offices. and to transact

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as much business as is possible through the telephone and online channels".

"This stay at-home order does not affect medical personnel. Fire Service. LASEMA. LAWMA and other first respondents and essential services. We are working to ramp up our capacity to take on new cases as they're confirmed; other Health facilities will. In due time be deployed to support the Mainland Infectious Diseases Hospital."

The governor added that the state government would set up more facilities in Yaba to contain a likely upsurge in Coronavirus cases, saying more health workers were being trained and retired health personnel were also being put on notice that they may be reCulled to serve in these trying times.

2.291 Lagos explosion: Governors Pay Condolence Visit To Sanwo-Olu, Donate N200m To Relief Fund

Culled from the Sun on 22nd March 2020

The Nigeria Governors' Forum has donated the sum of N200 million to the Abule Ado/Soba Emergency Relief Fund set up by the Lagos State government.

ReCulled that Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had on Monday announced a N2 billion Appeal Fund for the Abule Ado explosion victims.

The state government had announced the donation of N250 million to the fund and solicited support from all Nigerians, including the private sector.

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The Chairman of NGF, Governor Kayode Fayemi yesterday led a delegation comprising his colleagues from Edo, Godwin Obaseki and Kano, Abdullahi Ganduje to the site of the incident in Lagos, where they are meant to do a review of the situation before reporting back to the house at their next meeting.

Fayemi expressed surprise that with the kind of devastation they saw the casualty figure was low, adding that but for the prompt response more lives would have been lost. He thanked God that few lives that the devastation would have taken was lost.

Fayemi said the sum of N200 million was donated on behalf of the 36 state governors, adding that as the information gets back to the house, there is a likelihood that governors would make more donations according to each state's capacity.

The NGF chairman blamed the explosion on the disagreement between states and Federal Government on ownership of land while commending the Lagos State government for the attention given to the place, he promised that such issues would be addressed going forward.

The governors sympathised and commiserated with those who lost loved ones and property during the unfortunate incident and hope that this never occurs again.

Earlier, Sanwo-Olu took the visiting governors round the explosion site, explaining in details what led to the disaster and how the state government plans to avert a re-occurrence in the future.

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Also in the delegation were the Director General of NGF, Asishana Okauru and NGF's Head, Media and Public Affairs, Abdulrazaque Bello-Barkindo.

2.292 Lagos Assembly Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Measures To Avert Flood

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on March 23, 2020

The Lagos State House of Assembly has enjoined Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to take proactive measures by directing the relevant agencies to clear drainages in order to avert flooding during the rainy season.

The call on the governor was sequel to a motion moved on Monday during plenary in Lagos by Hon. Desmond Eliot under matters of public urgency seeking that the governor should direct the Commissioner for Environment and Human Resources, Mr Tunji Bello to do the needful so as to avert flood.

He said that the need to take proactive measures has become necessary considering the prediction of NIMET that there will 270 days of rainfall between the month of March and April this year. Eliot said that clearing the drainages will save Lagos from another flood and loses that can be preventable through proper flood management.

While commending government in clearing the drainages, he posited that the process of clearing drainages was slow.

Eliot also enjoined residents of the state to cultivate the culture of disposing wastes appropriately and comply with government directive regarding where refuse should be dumped.

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He Culled on government to create awareness on the need to keep the environment clean adding that all emergency units should be well equipped and at alert during the rainy season.

Hon. Abiodun Tobun attributed perennial flood in the state to neglect of government, noting that in the past there used to clearance of drainages before, during and after the rainy season.

While condemning the attitude of throwing refuse indiscriminately, he advocated for constant clearance of the drainage system in order to curb the adverse effect of the anticipated heavy downpour.

2.293 Sanwo-Olu: A Governor As Crisis Manager

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 23, 2020 in Femi Macaulay, News Update

In the midst of challenges, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu continues to show that he is made of sterner stuff. In February, an Italian who works in Nigeria and returned from Milan, Italy to Lagos, Nigeria, was the first to be diagnosed with the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, in the country.

More new cases of the novel disease were confirmed in Lagos yesterday, bringing the number of confirmed cases in the state to 19. As things stand, the Lagos State government, according to a report, “now has more than 1,300 contacts to trace and the numbers of contacts to trace are increasing by the day.”

The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) announced yesterday morning: “Till date, twenty-five (25) cases have been confirmed, two cases have been discharged and there has been no death from COVID-19 in Nigeria.”

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As at yesterday, there were 26 confirmed coronavirus cases in Nigeria, which was the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to record the coronavirus since its outbreak in Wuhan, China in December 2019. The coronavirus has spread to more than 20 countries of the world. Sadly, the situation has worsened in Nigeria.

Lagos is the most hit, but the Sanwo-Olu administration has demonstrated that it is on top of the situation. Indeed, other states are following the example of Lagos to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

Last week, Sanwo-Olu “directed immediately the suspension of gatherings of not more than 50 people.” Promoting “social distancing,” the state government later announced that it had “banned all religious or social gathering of over 20 people within the state.”

Sanwo-Olu also announced “the closure of all our public and private schools in Lagos State with effect from Monday, March 23, 2020. All our tertiary institutions are hereby also directed to shut down immediately.”

The governor added that “gatherings around our event centres and clubs, both day clubs and night clubs, bars etc. are also affected by this directive. We must learn from other examples in South Korea and Singapore. Disease spread largely through gatherings both at religious and other spheres.”

It is noteworthy that the Federal Government has placed travel restrictions on entries into the country from 15 countries with high numbers of coronavirus cases: China, Iran, South Korea, Germany, Italy, the United States, the United Kingdom,

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Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Spain, France, Japan, Sweden and Austria. In addition, the country announced suspension of its visa-on-arrival policy.

The Federal Government's decision to shut down the country's international airports to curb the spread of the coronavirus is logical, considering the fact that most of the confirmed coronavirus cases had entered the country from overseas locations.

After announcing that three international airports, Mallam Aminu Kano Airport, Kano State, Akanu Ibiam Airport, Enugu State and the Port Harcourt Airport, Rivers State would be closed till further notice, the government had added the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja and the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, which it had initially said would be open to flights not from the 15 coronavirus high-risk countries.

The coronavirus pandemic has shown the vulnerability of every country in the global village, which means that COVID-19 could still have entered Lagos and Abuja from other countries not considered coronavirus high-risk countries.

Significantly, the World Health Organisation (WHO) underlined the nature of the coronavirus crisis by declaring it a pandemic. Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) António Guterres reinforced the characterisation in a statement.

"We are facing a health threat unlike any other in our lifetimes," he said, adding, "countries have a responsibility to gear up, step up and scale up."

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According to the statistics, the coronavirus has infected more than 275,000 people worldwide, there have been more than 11, 000 deaths, and 88,000 victims have recovered. Symptoms of the disease are runny nose, sore throat, cough, fever, and breathlessness in severe cases.

This is the situation Sanwo-Olu has to deal with, and his response has been commendable. The proactive social measures introduced by his administration show that he is conscious of the gravity of the coronavirus crisis as well as the urgent need to take action to combat the disease. Importantly, he continues to demonstrate that his administration has a duty to check the coronavirus just as individuals also have a responsibility to ensure that the disease does not continue to spread.

While he grappled with the COVID-19 challenge, Governor Sanwo-Olu's capacity for crisis management was again highlighted by his response to another crisis situation last week when a devastating explosion happened at Abule Ado in Amuwo Odofin local government area of Lagos State, killing more than 20 people and destroying about 50 buildings. The March 15 blast was said to have occurred "after a truck hit some gas cylinders stacked in a gas processing plant."

At the explosion site the following day, Sanwo-Olu announced that his administration had set up a N2billion Abule Ado/Soba Emergency Relief Fund for the victims. He also said the state government had donated N250 million to the fund and appealed for support.

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It is worth mentioning that when the Group Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer of Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Ebenezer Onyeagwu, visited the governor and donated N100 million to the fund, he described the response of the Lagos State government to the incident as “quick, rapid and immediate.”

Lagos State, which is Nigeria’s commercial capital, was in 2015 listed 12th among the world’s largest 35 cities. With more than 23 million people, the city has to grapple with mega challenges. On account of its mega status, Lagos State is exposed to “chronic stresses” and “acute shocks.”

“Chronic stresses,” which are said to “weaken the fabric of a city on a day-to-day or cyclical basis,” include “high unemployment, inefficient public transportation systems, endemic violence, and chronic food and water shortages.”

“Acute shocks,” which are described as “sudden, sharp events that threaten a city,” include “earthquakes, floods, disease outbreaks, and terrorist attacks.” Lagos is faced with resilience challenges, including chronic energy shortages, coastal flooding, disease outbreak, infrastructure failure, overpopulation, overtaxation, underdevelopment, poor and unreliable transportation system, rainfall flooding, rising sea level and coastal erosion.

However, as the Sanwo-Olu administration approaches its first anniversary in May, there is no doubt that it is on course. The point is that, under Governor Sanwo-Olu, Lagos is surviving and thriving, regardless of the challenge. It reflects the governor’s dynamism, and his elasticity to manage change and challenges.

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2.294 Monarch Urges Sanwo-Olu To Probe Lagos Explosion

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 23, 2020

The Baale of the Shoba community in the Abule-Ado area of Lagos State, Chief Jimoh Agbebeji, has urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to order an investigation into the explosion that rocked the community on Sunday, March 15, 2020.

PUNCH Metro had reported that the explosion killed 21 persons, including the Administrator and workers of the Bethlehem Girls College, and also destroyed over 60 buildings.

The fire, which followed the explosion, ravaged the community and burnt many of the buildings.

Hundreds of residents were rendered homeless as a result of the tragedy.

Sanwo-Olu has set up a N2bn relief fund for the victims of the explosion.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation had said the explosion was caused by a truck, which hit a stack of gas cylinders, while some residents of the community faulted the claim, alleging that the explosion was caused by a bomb.

However, Agbebeji urged the governor to send some experts to the community to investigate the matter.

The Baale also urged the Federal Government to support the relief fund set up by the governor.

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He said, “On March 15, 2020, around 9am, there was a tremendous blast in our community and its vibration reached Festac Town, Orile Iganmu, the Lagos International Trade Fair Complex area, Badagry and beyond.

“By our assessment and observation, we are certain that the blast was an act of terrorism, because the incident occurred in the heart of the community; so, the declaration by the NNPC Group Managing Director, Mele Kyari, that the blast was caused by gas cylinders is false and meant to suppress the genuine facts and mislead the people.

“We humbly request the Lagos State Government under the leadership of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to send a high-powered fact-finding delegation to our community to x-ray and investigate the remote and root causes of the blast in the community and avert a further occurrence.

“We want the relief fund set up by the state governor to reach the affected victims and we call on the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd) and other prominent people in Lagos State and our dear country, Nigeria, to support Lagos State and give succour to the affected people in our community.”

2.295 UPDATED: Sanwo-Olu Orders Closure Of Lagos Markets

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 24, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has ordered the closure of all markets not selling essential commodities such as medical supplies, water, foodstuff amongst others.

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The PUNCH reports that the closure, which is effective Thursday, March 26, is not unconnected to efforts to curtail the community transmission of coronavirus.

As of the time of filing this report, of the 42 confirmed cases of COVID-19 recorded in Nigeria, 29 were reported in Lagos.

In a live press conference on Tuesday, Sanwo-Olu said, “All open markets and stores except for sellers of food and medicines, medical equipment and other essential life-saving products are directed to lose from Thursday 26th, 2020 for the next seven days.

“It is not a total lockdown, we still want people on essential services to go about their normal activities.

2.296 Threat To Life: Octogenarian Sends SOS To Sanwo-Olu, CP

Culled from the Sun on 24th March 2020

An 85-year-old woman, Alimot Kifuli, has cried out for help to the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Commissioner of Police over threats to her life.

The octogenarian, who is the landlady of a house at No. 56/62, Church Street, Makoko, Yaba, Lagos State, complained that the activities of Indian hemp smokers close to her house had landed her in the hospital on several occasions.

In her petition entitled: “Threat to my life, assault and attempt to inflict bodily injuries,” she said: “I took ill and was on admission at the hospital for a very long time. I was discharged recently and precisely on January 9, 2020 at about 6pm.”

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According to her, after she was discharged from the hospital she saw a group of boys close to her house smoking Indian hemp.

Among them are Ogun Jelili Ajulo, Afeez Orebeka and two unknown persons on the veranda of her house with wraps of Indian hemp.

“I objected to their using my house as their meeting point. They tore my cloth and pushed me to the ground, I am 85 years of age, my walking stick was forcefully collected from me by Ajulo and was broken,” she said.

She said Jelili also threatened to tear her clothes and have sex with her on the street. She Culled on Governor Sanwo-Olu and the police commissioner to urgently come to her assistance.

2.297 Tinubu Backs Sanwo-Olu’s Measures To Curb Virus Spread

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 25, 2020in

Featured,news-update

All Progressives Congress (APC) stalwart Bola Ahmed Tinubu has commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his stay-at-home order for 70 per cent of the civil servants to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease).

In a chat with reporters after a meeting with the governor at Lagos House, Marina, Tinubu said the leadership of the party, satisfied with the handling of the situation by the governor, assuring that the governor has the full backing of the party.

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He added that the governor will get the party’s backing, if there is the need for him to order a total lockdown of the state.

Tinubu said: “I congratulate the government of Lagos State for what has been done so far about regular information on the mysterious disease. Nigeria needs a lot of education in this challenging period.

“We are facing mysterious enemy in Covard-19. We need to observe that social distancing. It’s a new culture that we have to abide with.

“You must respect the governor’s directive for the workers to stay at home, particularly our students and market women.

“We must obey the government. We thank religious leaders who have asked their followers to follow the governor’s directives, both Muslims and Christians alike.”

Tinubu also urged market women to follow strict hygiene and abide by government’s directives.

“The activities in the market must reflect the new culture. It will teach us a new thing that we are not used to such as hygiene, washing of hands, not having handshakes and eliminating hugging.

“We are to prevent the spread of this mysterious disease. In bus stops or various environment, we must maintain distance, stop handshake and do what is necessary so we can save lives. We don’t have enough hospital spaces.

“It is not only by prayer; it’s by us observing what is necessary to stop the disease that is ravaging the world. My appeal is for

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people to respect the information coming from the Government House. We endorse the position of the governor.

“Stay at home, pray in your house and observe hygiene. To the market women too, it’s very important.”

On possible total lock down of the state, Tinubu said: “If the government decides there is need for total lockdown, I am in support of it. He has our support. We have reviewed it with him and he’s also reviewing it with his cabinet.”

2.298 Sanwo-Olu Orders Partial Closure Of Banks

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 25, 2020

Lagos State Government, on Tuesday, placed a partial closure on banking activities in the state as part of measures to break the cycle of transmission of coronavirus.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu also directed all markets and stores trading in non-essential commodities to close for seven days.

The directive takes effect from Thursday, March 26, a statement from the Lagos State Government added.

Sanwo-Olu advised the organised private sector to take drastic steps as done by the government in the public sector and allow non-essential workers to work from home.

The governor also asked banks and other financial institutions to prioritise online channels for their services to the public, adding that only essential and key senior staff should be allowed to work in the office during the restriction period.

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In a televised briefing after State’s Security Council meeting held at the State House in Marina, Sanwo-Olu said the restriction measures were necessary, given the rise in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lagos. He said the directive should not be seen as a lockdown on business activities in the State.

He said the guidelines would be reviewed after seven days.

He said, “It is only when you are alive that you can talk about economics and finance. We want to encourage the organised private sector to allow their workers to work from home.

“Banks and other financial institutions are encouraged to prioritise online channels for their services to the public with only essential key staff being in the office during this time. Only key staff should be present.

“We are a subset of a sovereign. We are not a sovereign. This is why we cannot completely lock down Lagos. We need to be considerate.”

Other public places shut by the government include markets, parks, playgrounds, and recreational centres within the state, regardless of ownership.

The directives, the Governor said, did not affect pharmacy shops and all markets where foodstuffs are traded.

“Eateries and restaurants must not accept eat-in customers; they are to serve food in takeaway packages. “As much as possible, let us all refrain from inter-state travelling of any kind until the worst of the crisis is behind us,” he said.

2.299 I've Not Ordered Lagos Lockdown –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 26th March 2020

Despite the stringent measures introduced, Lagos Government, yesterday, said the state was not on lockdown.

A statement by the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, described as erroneous the rumour that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had ordered the lockdown of the state.

“The impression created by such reports is erroneous; Lagos is not on lockdown despite the stringent measures introduced by the government,” he said.

Omotoso added that Sanwo-Olu, in his capacity as the incident commander, only urged private sector establishments to introduce measures that will support the government's efforts at curtailing the spread of COVID-19.

2.300 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Gives Out Food Packages To Indigent, Most Vulnerable

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 27, 2020 in News, News Update

To encourage people to stay at home to curtail the spread of coronavirus as directed by his government, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has unveiled economic stimulus package for the indigent and most vulnerable in the society.

The stimulus, which is aimed at cushioning the effect of the 14-day stay-at-home directive, comes in food packs to be distributed to every local government in the State.

Speaking after an on-the-spot assessment of one of the State-owned food banks, located inside the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Agege, Sanwo-Olu said the economic stimulus will reduce the burden of the temporary economic downturn on the citizens caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The Governor said the food packs, which were put together by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, will reach the most vulnerable communities and households across Lagos.

He said that the indigents who rely on daily wages will be given priority.

According to him: “We are here for an on-the-spot assessment, of our readiness, to see how we can fast track some of our stimulus package for our citizens.

“We are all aware that this is a trying time for our citizens and since the partial drop in economic activities, our government deemed it necessary to reach out to the vulnerable ones in the society.

“These people are those that fall below the pyramid, the aged and the physically challenged who need to move from one part of the city to another for them to have a living.

“We felt that as a government, the least we can do is to identify them and give them these stimulus packages immediately.”

Sanwo-Olu said the package will touch at least 200,000 thousand households in the first phase, saying the food packs are produced for a size of six people per household and would last for at least fourteen days.

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“We have packaged dry food stimulus for about two hundred thousand families in the first instance for a household of husband, wife and about four children.

“We would be giving bags of rice, bags of beans, garri, bread, dry pepper and we are trying to see if we can add water and some elements of vitamin C.

“Each ration, we believe is going to be able to last them at least minimum 14 days just so our advocacy around stay at home, stay with your loved ones will be respected. “This is a catalytic initiative of our administration with the hope that well-meaning corporate organisations and private individuals can step up to complement the efforts of the government,” Sanwo-Olu said.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Prince Gbolahan Lawal said the Government would be working with the existing database of the state. He said the economic stimulus is part of Sanwo-Olu’s administration’s initiatives tailored towards ensuring that food security is sustained in Lagos.

2.301 Sanwo-Olu gives food packs to 200,000 households in Lagos

Culled from the Sun on 27th March 2020

Few days after the Lagos State government issued a stay-at-home directive to residents, in order to curtail the spread of the novel coronavirus, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has unveiled economic stimulus package for the indigent and the most vulnerable in the society.

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The stimulus, which comes in food packs, to be distributed to every local government in the State is aimed at cushioning the effect of the fourteen days stay-at-home directive.

Speaking after an on-the-spot assessment of one of the State-owned food banks, located inside the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Agege, Sanwo-Olu said the economic stimulus will reduce the burden of the temporary economic downturn on the citizens caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The governor said the food packs, which were put together by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives will reach the most vulnerable communities and households across Lagos, saying that the indigents who rely on daily wages will be given priority. He stated that the package will touch at least 200,000 households in the first phase, saying the food packs are produced for a size of six people per household and would last for at least fourteen days.

“We have packaged dry food stimulus for about two hundred thousand families in the first instance for a household of husband, wife and about four children. We would be giving bags of rice, bags of beans, garri, bread, dry pepper and we are trying to see if we can add water and some elements of vitamin C. Each ration, we believe is going to be able to last them at least minimum 14 days just so our advocacy around stay at home, stay with your loved ones will be respected.

“This is a catalytic initiative of our administration with the hope that well-meaning corporate organisations and private

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individuals can step up to complement the efforts of the government” Sanwo-Olu said.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Prince Gbolahan Lawal earlier said the government would be working with the existing database of the state – using the Lagos State Social register and 4000 community development association register in 377 wards.

2.302 BREAKING: I May Declare Curfew – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on March 27, 2020

In the ongoing aggressive prosecution of the war against Coronavirus, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has hinted that he might be compelled to declare a curfew across the state if the residents fail to exhibit the level of compliance considered appreciable by his administration as regards the stay-at-home order already issued.

He dropped this hint Friday, March 27, 2020, while giving an update on his government effort to combat the spread of the globally ravaging pandemic.

He also assured that the state would commence the distribution of foodstuff to individual families at prices too low to beat anywhere while the package would also be enough to feed a family of six for two weeks.

Another palliative package of the Sanwo-Olu government in the face of the Covid-19 monster is the decentralization of the market such that there will be small sales outlets at designated places every two days interval so that residents of the state

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could purchase their essential needs without having to traverse long distances around their domains.

The governor passionately appealed for the cooperation of Lagosians in the compliance with the subsisting directives towards curtailing the spread of the disease.

2.303 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Rescue, Isolation Of 14 Students Stranded At Seme Border

Culled from Independent on March 27, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced that he has negotiated the rescue and immediate isolation of 14 Nigerian students who have been stranded at the Seme Border.

The students, according to him, were stranded at the border after the Federal Government ordered the closure of all land borders as part of efforts towards curbing the spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

He made the disclosure while briefing the press on the state government’s efforts at curtailing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

2.304 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Stimulus Package For 200,000 Households As Stay-Home Order Takes

Culled from Independent on March 27, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday announced an economic stimulus package for 200,000 households in the state as the stay-home order meant to curb

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the spread of the COVID-19 global pandemic takes effect across the state.

The Governor made the announcement via his Twitter handle, @jidesanwoolu, disclosing that the package would contain bags of rice, beans, garri, bread, dry pepper, drinking water and vitamins.

He said the package would help “cushion the effect of the Stay at home order of the state government in the next 14 days.

The stay home order took effect yesterday Thursday, March 26 and would last for the next two weeks.

2.305 UPDATED: Shutdown of Lagos imminent, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 27, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said that curfew may be imposed in the state with the increasing cases of coronavirus.

He said this during a live broadcast at the State House, Marina, on Friday evening.

He said, “We are moving to the direction of curfew, but there are indices and numbers we need to see, we haven’t seen that number yet to warrant a curfew.

“The disease is not a respecter of anybody. It doesn’t look at class, gender or race, everybody is at risk, that is why we need to obey the rules and regulations set for ourselves.”

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The Nigeria Centre for Disease Control on Friday said the cases of the coronavirus in the country had increased to 70 – three have been discharged and one dead.

Currently, the majority of cases were imported to the country from high-risk nations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and other European countries.

Among top officials who have tested positive are the Chief of Staff to the President, Abba Kyari, and the Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed.

The disease has spread to eight states and the Federal Capital Territory. There are 44 cases in Lagos; 14 in the Federal Capital Territory; Ogun State, three; Ekiti State, one; Bauchi State, two; Oyo State, three; Edo State, one; Osun State, one and Rivers State, one.

2.306 COVID-19: No curfew in Lagos – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 28th March 2020

The Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu has denied imposing curfew in the state as being rumoured, saying there was nothing like that.

Sanwo Olu had allegedly announced imposition of the curfew during his update on the pandemic Coronavirus in the state on Friday.

But In the official verified twitter account of the Lagos State government, minutes ago, the governor was quoted as saying that there was no curfew in Lagos State, saying the fumigation of the state which had started in earnest was not toxic.

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The state tweeted: “Gov.@jidesanwoolu dropped the idea of imposing a curfew in the state meant to allow the fumigation exercise of public space.

Relying on experts advice, the governor said the disinfectant is non toxic, noting that the exercise has commenced. ‘I am pleased to note that we have taken possession of over 200 disinfecting machines, and starting today, we will be disinfecting all major highways, bus stops, markets, parks and other public areas.’

“The governor also said during a live press conference that if there is a need for curfew, government will not hesitate to impose it. For now, everything remains the way they are.” the governor twitted.

2.307 Lagos: Sanwo-Olu unveils 110-bed COVID-19 patient isolation centre.

The expansive facility, which sits in the middle of Onikan stadium, was built in a week

Culled from the Sun on 28th March 2020

The Lagos State Government has taken delivery of a 110-bed isolation facility in Onikan, where confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) can be managed and treated in the state.

The facility was said to have been conceived and constructed in collaboration with the management of Guaranty Trust Bank (GTBank).

The isolation facility, which sits on an expansive area in the middle of a sports stadium, is divided into operational sections,

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including Intensive Care Unit (ICU), regular-bed wards, pharmacy department, doctors’ quarters and consulting rooms.

2.308 Sanwo-Olu Rolls Out Economic Stimulus For Residents

Culled from Independent on March 28, 2020

LAGOS – Following the Lagos State government’s stay-at-home directive to residents to curtail the spread of Coronavirus, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has unveiled economic stimulus package for indigent and most vulnerable people in the state.

The package, which comes in food packs to be distributed to every local government, was aimed at cushioning the effect of the 14-day stay-at-home directive.

Speaking after an on-the-spot assessment of one of the state-owned food banks, located inside the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Agege, Sanwo-Olu said the economic stimulus would reduce the burden of the temporary economic downturn on the citizens caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The governor said the food packs, which were put together by the ministry, would reach the most vulnerable communities and households across Lagos, adding that the indigents who rely on daily wages would be given priority.

He said: “We are here for an on-the-spot assessment, of our readiness, to see how we can fast track some of our stimulus package for our citizens. “We are all aware that this is a trying time for our citizens and since the partial drop in economic

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activities, our government deemed it necessary to reach out to the vulnerable ones in the society.

“These people are those that fall below the pyramid, the aged and the physically challenged who need to move from one part of the city to another for them to have a living. We felt that as a government, the least we can do is to identify them and give them these stimulus packages immediately.”

The governor stated that the package would touch at least 200,000 households in the first phase, saying the food packs were produced for a size of six people per household and would last for at least 14 days.

“We have packaged dry food stimulus for about 200,000 families in the first instance for a household of husband, wife and about four children.

“We would be giving bags of rice, bags of beans, garri, bread, dry pepper and we are trying to see if we can add water and some elements of Vitamin C. Each ration, we believe is going to be able to last them at least minimum of 14 days so that our advocacy around stay-at-home, stay with your loved ones will be respected.

“This is a catalytic initiative of our administration with the hope that well-meaning corporate organisations and private individuals can step up to complement the efforts of the government,” Sanwo-Olu said.

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2.309 Oyetola, Sanwo-Olu exceptional in fight against Coronavirus – Oluwo

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 28, 2020in News, News Update

The Oluwo of Iwoland, HIM Oba (Dr.) Abdulrosheed Adewale Akanbi, has commended Governor Gboyega Oyetola of Osun State and his Lagos State counterpart, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for their exceptional leadership qualities most especially towards the fight against the pandemic corona virus.

Oba Akanbi, stated competent leaders are known through their address of emergency situations, noting Oyetola and Sanwo-Olu, have thus far demonstrated their administrative prowess to safeguard, protect and manage the governed efficiently most especially against the fatal corona virus.

In a statement released by the first class monarch through his media aid, Alli Ibraheem, Oluwo eulogised the duo as an epitome of trained managers who could see beyond the nose and work round the clock to ensure residents are protected against internal aggression and external tension.

He further affirmed the approach of the two governors to the pandemic corona virus as excellent, saying they effectively empowered all facets of their working organs -executives, local governments chairmen, state legislators, local legislators, ministries and agencies to checkmate and contain the dreaded virus.

He said apart from provision of necessary protective items such as hand sanitizers, washing basins, nose mask, hand gloves and others, the governors have equally moved an edge to ensure full enforcement of temporary law on social gatherings and distancing.

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2.310 Sanwo-Olu receives 110-bed isolation hospital

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 29, 2020 in
Coronavirus, News, News Update*

LAGOS State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday received a 110 bed isolation hospital facility donated to the state government by Guarantee Trust Bank Plc, GTB, at the Onikan Stadium, Lagos Island.

The donation has increased the capacity of the number of people that the state can isolate in the event of infection.

In a brief speech, the governor said it was a collaboration between the state government and the bank.

“The world class facility which was done within a week was put up by Lagos state government and GTB.

“As a government we are very excited with the level of professionalism as well as the level at which details have been followed at putting up the facility.

“We are also very impressed with speed at which all of the various contractors that have worked at multi-level have worked tirelessly 24/7 round the clock to put things together”, Sanwo-Olu said.

2.311 Lagos pays N1.8bn accrued pension right to 418 retirees

Culled from the Blueprint Newspaper on March 29, 2020

The Lagos State Government has again paid the sum of N1.8 billion, being accrued pension rights for past service into the Retirement Savings Account (RSA) of 418 retirees from the

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Mainstream Civil Service, Local Governments, State Universal Basic Education and Teaching Service Commission for the month of March, 2020.

A statement by the Public Affairs Officer, Lagos State Pension Commission (LASPEC), Mrs. Adetokunbo Eko, stated the Director-General Lagos State Pension Commission, Mrs. Folashade Onanuga, said the mode of distribution of Bond Certificates for this month is different from the norm, in view of the order by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to limit large gatherings in a bid to curb the spread of COVID 19 Virus.

According to her, all Bond Certificates for March have been released to the Pension Fund Administrators who will invite beneficiaries in their tens for the exit meeting and grant access to their RSA for computation of their Lump sum and monthly pension.

She also released contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all retirees and contributors in Lagos State Public Service to channel any enquiry on pension matters during this period.

2.312 Sanwo-Olu launches food markets, says tougher measures coming

Culled from the Sun on 29th March 2020

Lagos State Government, on Friday, opened 50 neighbourhood food markets across the state to serve as makeshift groceries for residents to buy food items, as confirmed cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) increases the chance of possible stringent measures.

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Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in a briefing on Friday, disclosed that the initiative was necessary, hinting that the state government may take “tougher decisions” if the confirmed cases of coronavirus surpass the threshold set by the government.

Sanwo-Olu said that there had been a “strange trend” recorded by the state in its response to the viral epidemic, hinting that some of the new infections showed Lagos was on the verge of entering community transmission phase of the disease.

The establishment of the neighbourhood food markets was a follow-up to the creation of 10 food banks strategically positioned across the state, which is targeted at feeding over 200,000 vulnerable households that earn daily wage to feed.

He said: “We have started to see a trend that suggests we may be entering the phase of community transmission of the disease. In response to this, we are formally launching our Neighborhood Markets scheme. We have 50 large public-school premises across the state that can accommodate temporary open markets where we will have essential food items and household items available for sale at affordable rates.

2.313 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu lauds GTB, Mandilas over Onikan isolation project

Culled from the Sun on 29th March 2020

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State at the weekend commended GTBank for partnering with it on the 110-bedspace Lagos Island Isolation Centre built by his government in collaboration with the financial institution in Onikan, with support from other corporate organisations, including the Mandilas Group Ltd.

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Speaking on Saturday while commissioning facility located at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena{formerly Onikan Stadium}, the governor lauded GTB and other supporters of the project for identifying with the Lagos State Government in its ongoing efforts to check the spread of COVID-19 in the state and Nigeria at large.

Gov. Sanwo-Olu said the setting up of the centre in less than one week was a practical demonstration of the “Can-do spirit of Nigerians.”

The array of 32 Carrier brand of ceiling concealed ducted air-conditioning units successfully installed in just two days by the Mandilas Group, did not go unnoticed at the brief ceremony attended by a few guests.

Mandilas Group Ltd, the sole franchise distributor of Carrier Air-Conditioners in Nigeria, donated the products in support of the Lagos State Government and GTBank’s efforts to urgently construct the isolation centre at Onikan ahead of its commissioning over the weekend.

The air-conditioning units are humidity and temperature-controlled with high filtration levels for clean indoor air quality, preventing the presence of stale air in the room.

Commenting on the project, the Group Chief Executive Officer, Mandilas Group Ltd, Ms. Ola Debayo-Doherty, commended the Lagos State Government for deploying global standards in combating the spread of the Coronavirus and lauded the exemplary partnership with GTBank.

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“We are very proud to partner with Lagos State and GTBank in setting up a fit-for-purpose isolation and treatment centre at Mobolaji Johnson Arena,” Debayo-Doherty remarked, stating further, “This will encourage habitation and make individuals at the isolation centre feel more comfortable.”

2.314 COVID-19: Don’t panic, Lagos will halt coronavirus spread, Sanwo-Olu assures Lagosians
Says restriction in Lagos by Buhari is a tough call

Culled from the Sun on 30th March 2020

Amid the escalating cases of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has given his assurance that his administration will leave nothing to chance in the fight against the disease.

The governor, in his capacity as the COVID-19 Incident Commander, in a statement Monday morning, said that the state, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF among other institutions, will stop at nothing to halt the spread of the lethal disease.

While acknowledging that the restriction on movement in the state by President Mohammed Buhari announced Sunday evening was a tough decision, he concluded that it was a necessary step in the battle for life against the pandemic which has no known cure and has killed tens of thousands worldwide.

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2.315 Sanwo-Olu, a hero of COVID-19 war, says Rep

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on March 30, 2020

A member of the House of Representatives, Mr Rotimi Agunsoye, has hailed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State for being heroic in the fight against coronavirus pandemic.

Agunsoye, who represents Kosofe Federal Constituency in Lagos State, also commended the Federal Government for the good leadership provided.

The lawmaker, however, said, “If any man should be adjudged the hero of the war against this plague, he is no other than Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State.

But for the proactive and anticipated moves of His Excellency and his team, Lagos, being the most populated state and second home to all Nigerians, would have ranked as one of the worst hit cities in the globe.”

Agunsoye also lauded efforts by the chairmen of the three area councils in the constituency.

He said in part, “Dear constituents, the pathetic situation we presently find ourselves could have been avoided if the first cases had been patriotic enough in reporting early symptoms to the appropriate authorities and subjecting themselves to tests and treatments. Be that as it may, the onus lies on us to report further suspects to the nearest health authority in our locality.

“Beyond that, it is important we disregard the mischief-makers spreading panic with the exaggerations and outright falsehoods flying around on the streets and social media. I urge you instead

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to rely only on the accurate and timely information from relevant government agencies.

“In my capacity as your elected representative in the National Assembly, I have been working round the clock to complement government’s efforts at various levels and only a few days ago donated hand sanitisers, nose masks and other materials to curb the spread of this highly-contagious disease.

All these measures are being put in place for your use and it is expedient you avail yourselves of these opportunities.

“More importantly, it is in everybody’s interest that you comply with the government’s directives and public health guidelines by the federal and state health authorities bordering on personal hygiene and social distancing.”

**2.316 Update On Covid – 19 Incident Commander,
Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on March 30, 2020

My dear Lagosians, greetings.

1) It has become necessary for me to address you, once again, on the serious challenge of Coronavirus, the lethal disease the world has been battling, following some developments.

2) First, I would like to salute you for your endurance, following some measures we had announced in our desperate bid to fight and defeat this pandemic, which has changed the way we used to see our world. No aspect of human life – education, entertainment, sports, aviation and others – has been spared by this lethal disease, yet we are determined to halt it in its perilous path by joining forces with the Federal Ministry of

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Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF and many others.

3) President Muhammadu Buhari has just made some pronouncements on the nation’s battle-plan against Coronavirus. He has announced that as from 11pm on Monday 30th of March 2020, the movement will be restricted in Lagos State for 14 days. Only people rendering essential services, such as health workers, manufacturers and distributors of health equipment and drugs, food and water companies are expected to go out.

4) Also allowed to move are workers in telecommunications, petroleum distribution and retailing as well as power companies and the media, among others whose jobs cannot be handled at home. I have no doubt in my mind that you will understand that this restriction, tough as it may seem, is a necessary step we must take in our battle against this virus. It is, my dear Lagosians, a matter of life and death. Our choice is clear – life. This means victory over this pandemic, against which there is yet no vaccine. This is why we must co-operate with the authorities as long as this restriction lasts.

5) The restriction, needless to say, will enhance our chances of defeating Coronavirus for the following reasons:

- Our medical workers will have room to move faster to cases that they need to handle;
- The disease will be contained faster as those infected will be easily identified and isolated as the treatment for the disease demands; and

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- Social distancing will be enhanced and more people will be prevented from contracting the disease.

6) I would like to address the fears of those who have expressed some security concerns about your places of work and shops during this restriction. I have directed the police and other security agents to ensure that there are no security breaches. They will ensure that criminals do not take advantage of this important measure.

7) The private sector, our market leaders and traders are advised to use the window of opportunity that we have before 11 pm to move out inflammable materials, such as petrol, kerosene and others, from their offices and shops, which they are free to open before the restriction begins. They are also advised to switch off all electrical and electronic appliances. These measures are to stave off fire incidents during the 14-day restriction.

8) Members of the public are advised to also use this window to make last-minute shopping in readiness for the restriction.

9) You must have noticed our efforts to disinfect our public places, including parks and highways. The exercise will continue and extend to our rural and riverine areas.

10) As I had earlier promised that the poor and vulnerable among us will not be left to their own devices, we have since started our welfare package for this class of people, those who live on daily earnings and the jobless. The hitches noticed in the distribution of the food package are being addressed so as to make the exercise healthier and more dignifying.

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11) Again, let me assure you that there is no need to panic, even as the number of those infected is rising and our fear of community spreading is being confirmed by the cases that are being handled now. This is the time to be more focused on our responsibility in this battle

2.317 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu reiterates restriction of movement for 14 days

****tells residents not to panic, assures of security*

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 30, 2020 in News, News Update

In line with President Muhammadu Buhari's order on restriction of movements in Lagos, Ogun and Abuja in a national broadcast on Sunday, the Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has reiterated restrictions of movement in the state in the next 14 days.

The governor, in a release on Monday, signed by the commissioner for information, strategy and security, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso said as announced by the President the restriction is effective from 11pm, March 30th 2020 and will be on for 14 days.

He noted that only people rendering essential services, such as health workers, manufacturers and distributors of health equipment and drugs, food and water companies are expected to go out.

“Also allowed to move are workers in telecommunications, petroleum distribution and retailing as well as power companies and the media, among others whose jobs cannot be handled at home”, he added.

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While acknowledging that the restriction on movement is a tough decision, the Incident Commander, stated that it is a necessary step in the battle for life against the COVID-19 pandemic which has no known cure till date.

“We must co-operate with the authorities as long as this restriction lasts”, Sanwo-Olu said.

He maintained that the restriction will enhance chances of defeating Coronavirus by giving room for medical workers to deal faster with cases; contain the disease as those infected will be easily identified and isolated; enhance social-distancing while the restriction will prevent more people from contracting the disease.

The governor saluted Lagosians for their endurance since measures to fight the Coronavirus were announced by the government.

Acknowledging that no aspect of human life has been spared by the lethal disease, Sandwich-Olu said that the Lagos State Government, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF among other institutions, will stop at nothing to halt its spread.

“I would also like to address the fears of those who have expressed some security concerns about your places of work and shops during this restriction. I have directed the police and other security agents to ensure that there are no security breaches. They will ensure that criminals do not take advantage of this important measure,” Sanwo-Olu assured.

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Sanwo-Olu advised the private sector, market leaders and traders to move out inflammable materials such as petrol, kerosene and others, from their offices and shops before the restriction begins at 11pm, urging them to also switch off all electrical and electronic appliances to stave off fire incidents during the 14-day restriction.

He reaffirmed that the government will intensify its efforts at disinfecting public places, including parks and highways, maintaining that the exercise will extend to rural and riverine areas during the restriction period.

Speaking on the relief package introduced by the Lagos State Government, Sanwo-Olu said, “As I had earlier promised that the poor and vulnerable among us will not be left to their own devices. We have since started our welfare package for this class of people, those who live on daily earnings and the jobless. The hitches noticed in the distribution of the food package are being addressed so as to make the exercise healthier and more dignifying”.

Assuring residents that there is no need to panic, the COVID-19 Incident Commander averred that “even as the number of those infected is rising and our fear of community spreading is being confirmed by the cases that are being handled now, this is the time to be more focused on our responsibility in this battle. Let us continue to obey the simple rules prescribed by the experts”.

He outlined the precautionary measures including social distancing, remaining indoors, washing of hands with soap and

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water as many times as possible, covering mouths when sneezing or coughing and avoiding any unnecessary gathering.

The Governor thanked the private sector for their comradeship and praised the health workers who have been on the frontlines of the battle against an unseen enemy, describing them as worthy compatriot.

2.318 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu receives N1b from UBA to fight coronavirus

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 30, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Sunday received a cheque for the sum of 1 billion naira from the United Bank for Africa as part of the bank's commitment to help curb the devastating effects of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the State.

Presenting the cheque to Mr. Governor at the State House, Marina, the Managing Director of the bank, Mr. Kenneth Uzoka, said the one billion naira donation is in fulfilment of the five billion naira commitment made by the UBA Group Chairman, Mr. Tony O. Elumelu, early last week.

Uzoka said that as a socially responsible institution, UBA cares for its communities and for Lagos State, which has recorded the highest number of positive cases thus far, needing special attention.

He disclosed that the decision to give Lagos one billion naira was as a result of the important role that the state plays in the economy of not only Nigeria, but Africa as a whole, given its vast population and other key economic factors.

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He said: "Given the population of this state and that it is the business nerve centre, we at UBA are committed to lending our support to the state government. So today, we are giving you and the state one billion naira to support your endeavour in fighting the Coronavirus disease.

"I will not fail to mention that this wasn't an easy decision for us because Lagos is just one of the many states in Nigeria. However, we looked at the importance of Lagos to Nigeria, but more importantly, we looked at the fact that Lagos has set up the right structure to administer whatever it is that we are giving to the state. So, we are rest assured, because we believe without an iota of doubt that the state will use these funds effectively and efficiently,"

The Governor expressed appreciation to the financial institution for the support, saying that the money will go a long way to assist the state in kicking out the pandemic.

He said: "We appreciate UBA. This is not the kind of money that we would want to take for granted. This is really an important intervention and this fund will go a long way to meet all of our needs both now and in the future, to ensure that Lagos continues to remain safe for business.

"And so, we are indeed happy that you decided to make this very bold move to support the health facility infrastructure in Lagos. You can be rest assured that once the structures have been developed, we will call you again to see what we have put these resources to."

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Last week, the bank announced a donation of over 5 billion Naira (USD14 million), through the UBA Foundation, to catalyse a comprehensive pan-African response to the fight against the coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic.

2.319 Don't panic over restriction, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 31, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

IN line with President Muhammadu Buhari's order on restriction of movement in Lagos, Ogun and Abuja on Sunday night, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has confirmed restriction of movement in the state for 14 days.

The governor, in a statement yesterday, signed by Commissioner for Information, Strategy and Security, Gbenga Omotoso, said the restriction came into effect from 11 pm, yesterday, for 14 days.

He noted that only people rendering essential services, such as health workers, manufacturers and distributors of health equipment and drugs, food and water companies were expected to go out.

"Also allowed to move are workers in telecommunications, petroleum distribution and retailing as well as power companies and the media, among others whose jobs cannot be handled at home", he added.

While acknowledging that the restriction was a tough decision, the governor said it was necessary in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

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"We must cooperate with the authorities as long as this restriction lasts", Sanwo-Olu said.

He maintained that the restriction would give room for medical workers to deal faster with cases; contain the disease as those infected would be easily identified and isolated; enhance social-distancing, to prevent more people from contracting the disease.

Sanwo-Olu hailed Lagosians for their endurance since measures to fight Coronavirus were announced.

2.320 COVID-19: Be friendly in enforcing lockdown, Sanwo-Olu charges security operatives

****as Lagos CP promises to be civil*

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on March 31, 2020 in News, News Update

Be friendly in enforcing the lockdown order announced on Sunday by President Muhammadu Buhari.

That was the charge of the Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to security agents on Monday night as lockdown in Lagos commenced 11pm.

The Governor Culled for high professionalism on the part of the enforcement team in dealing with erring persons, cautioning that high-handedness May lead to violation of human rights of residents.

Sanwo-Olu gave the charge on Monday in a discussion with commanders of all security formations in the State during a Security Council meeting held at the State House in Marina.

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President Buhari had announced 14-day cessation of movement in Lagos, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Ogun State as part of the steps to break the cycle of the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country.

Lagos is the worst hit among the three states locked down by the Federal Government.

Briefing the press after the meeting, Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, who spoke on behalf the Council, said the presidential directive would be fully implemented, stressing that commanders of each security agency had resolved to comply with the Governor's entreaty.

He said the enforcement of the restriction order would be executed with human face, but pleaded with residents and inter-state commuters to exercise self-compliance with the presidential directive.

He said: "We have just concluded a Security Council meeting with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and as commanders of security agencies in Lagos, we have fully digested the presidential directive on COVID-19. We have all resolved now to comply and enforce all the restrictions.

"The enforcement of the restrictions and all directives will be done with human face. We want to appeal to members of the public; what matters most is self compliant. They must try as much as possible to comply voluntarily to the laid down regulations, so that we can collectively defeat the pandemic.

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The Lagos police boss said those who had been exempted in the presidential directive would be allowed to move unhindered at any time of the day in the containment period, but added that the exemption was not blanket.

Odumosu said some other professionals and government officials on essential duties would be allowed to move, but said their leadership must obtain clearance from security agencies before sending out staff to work.

He said: "The exemption is not blanket. Some other measurements will still be attached to it and sent to various government ministries in the state. The Commissioners in charge of these ministries will have review and confirm those who are exempted are actually qualified to be exempted."

2.321 COVID-19: Lagosians Lament Nepotism In Sharing Of Sanwo-Olu's Economic Stimulus Package

Culled from Independent on March 31, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had on Friday, March 27, 2020, announced the economic stimulus package, which he said the first stage would target 200,000 households at an estimation of 6 people per household.

According to Sanwo-Olu, "The stimulus package will contain bags of rice, beans, garri, bread, dry pepper, drinking water and vitamins. We want each ration to last for 14 days as we continue to evaluate the impact of #COVID19. "Please stay home with your loved ones. We want the best for you," the governor had said.

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However, some sections of Lagosians on Monday evening took to the social media to complain that those in charge of the sharing the packages have been doling them out to members of a particular political party.

Also, some residents on Tuesday Culled in on “Your View”, a flagship programme on Television Continental (TVC), to complain that the packages have not been going to those who really need them but to political party members.

To this end, they have Culled on Governor Sanwo-Olu to ensure that proper monitoring is given to sharing of the economic stimulus package, so that those who truly deserves it would be the ones to benefit from it.

According to a resident on Facebook, Otunba Deji Bamidele II, “This evening, I drove past Dopemu area, close to Akowonjo where I reside, to my surprise I saw people gathered and rushing to get something being shared....

“Out of curiosity, I tried to know what they are sharing and who is actually sharing them for free, despite the fact that people have been warned to observe social distancing at this period. I was able to learn that free rice is being shared to people....OK THAT’S COOL!

“But guess what?... The rice was being shared with POLITICAL PARTY NUMBER, so it simply means if you are not a member of that party sharing rice, then you can’t get rice.”

Ayodeji, a resident, who CulledCulled in to TVC on Tuesday morning, alleged that, “In Agege, only APC members have been

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benefiting from the package, they are asking the people to show their APC membership cards before they can get it.

“I have been monitoring them and I observed that they have not been given those who are not APC members. The governor must put in place a monitoring team to ensure that those who really need these packages are the ones that get them,” he said.

2.322 Sanwo-Olu Salutes Endurance Of Lagosians

Culled from Independent on March 31, 2020

The Lagos State Governor and COVID-19 Incident Commander, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has saluted Lagosians for their endurance since measures to fight the Coronavirus were announced by the government.

In a statement issued to-day, Governor Sanwo-Olu acknowledged that no aspect of human life has been spared by the lethal disease, saying the Lagos State Government in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, among other institutions, would stop at nothing to halt its spread.

Sanwo-Olu reiterated that effective from 11 pm, March 30th 2020, as announced by President Muhammadu Buhari, the movement will be restricted in Lagos State for 14 days and noted that only people rendering essential services, such as health workers, manufacturers and distributors of health equipment and drugs, food and water companies are expected to go out.

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“Also allowed to move are workers in telecommunications, petroleum distribution and retailing as well as power companies and the media, among others whose jobs cannot be handled at home,” he added.

While acknowledging that the restriction on movement was a tough decision, the Incident Commander stated that it became a necessary step in the battle for life against the COVID-19 pandemic with no known cure till date.

“We must co-operate with the authorities as long as this restriction lasts,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He maintained that the restriction will enhance chances of defeating Coronavirus by giving room for medical workers to deal faster with cases; contain the disease as those infected will be easily identified and isolated; enhance social-distancing while the restriction will prevent more people from contracting the disease.

“I would also like to address the fears of those who have expressed some security concerns about your places of work and shops during this restriction. I have directed the police and other security agents to ensure that there are no security breaches. They will ensure that criminals do not take advantage of this important measure,” Sanwo-Olu assured.

2.323 COVID-19: Lawan, Gbajabiamila, Sanwo-Olu Yet To Undergo Test

Culled from Independent on March 31, 2020

LAGOS – As Nigerians continue to battle the ravaging coronavirus pandemic, some prominent political office holders

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are yet to submit themselves for testing to determine their status.

Some among these are Senate President Ahmad Lawan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, and Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State.

President Muhammadu Buhari and Vice President Yemi Osinbajo already submitted themselves to coronavirus test last week. Both results came out negative.

However, it was a different case for Abba Kyari, the President's Chief of Staff as he was positive to the virus.

Other prominent Nigerians who have tested positive are Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna, Bala Mohammed of Bauchi, Comptroller-General of Nigeria Immigration Service, Mohammed Babandede, and Francis Okiye, Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly.

When asked if the Senate President had undergone the test, his media aide, Ola Awoniyi, said he is not aware. However, a source close to the number three citizen said he is certain he has not done the test “since he has exhibited no symptoms”.

Another source in the National Assembly also informed our correspondent that the Speaker of the House, Femi Gbajabiamila, is yet to submit himself for the test in order to determine his status.

When contacted, Lanre Lasisi, media aide of the speaker asked our correspondent to send a text. He is yet to respond as at the time of going to press.

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Also on Monday, Gben-ga Omotosho, Lagos State Commissioner for Information, said he is unsure if Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has gone for the coronavirus test to determine his status.

It would be recalled that the chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) and governor of Ekiti State, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, had implored his fellow governors and all those who attended the Wednesday, March 18 NGF meeting to go for test.

When asked if Governor Sanwo-Olu has also submitted himself for testing, Omotosho said he is unsure but added that other members of the Lagos State cabinet have done the test.

"I don't know if the governor has done the test. But I suspect so because every member of the cabinet has done it. I didn't ask him if he has done it or not," the commissioner said.

Also speaking with Daily Independent, another aide of the governor said while he is uncertain if the governor has gone for the test or not, the governor has been going about his normal activities without showing any symptoms of the virus.

"There is no cause for alarm. Don't also forget that the first lady, Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, is a first class medical practitioner. So, the first family in Lagos will not take lightly any medical issue at all especially a global pandemic like coronavirus", he said.

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2.324 Lockdown: Sanwo-Olu commends Lagosians for compliance on day one

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 1, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday night commended Lagosians for compliance on the first day of the stay-at-home directive of President Muhammadu Buhari in a bid to curb the spread of coronavirus.

In a statement personally signed by the governor, he said, "I would like to note the high level of our people's compliance with this presidential directive. It has shown that we realise the enormity of the challenge that we are facing and the choice that we have made – fighting to stave off a massive attack of COVID-19 and staying alive to reclaim our life that has been disrupted by this unseen enemy.

"The restriction, I would like to remind us, is to contain the community spreading of this disease by enlisting everybody in the fight and ensuring that many more do not contract it.

The governor warned those who may wish to breach the restriction that their action is against the Public Health interest of all Lagosians.

"On the medical front, I have been informed that all our COVID 19 patients are stable. Five of them were discharged on Monday and – by the grace of the Almighty- more will soon be out of hospital.

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“ Our medical staff – exceptional men and women all – are doing their all to ensure that the patients do well, regain their health and return home to their families. We will be doing a lot to encourage them and lighten their burden by staying indoors.”

Sanwo-Olu reminded all that only those rendering essential services, who must be well identified; are allowed to go out when necessary.

“Our welfare package remains on course. As I have often said, those at the bottom of the economic ladder, the underprivileged and the most vulnerable among us, will not be left to fend for themselves at this difficult time.

“Our relief package, which is to reach about 200,000 households in the first instance, has continued. Parts of the following local governments are being covered: Amuwo Odofin, Epe, Ikeja, Badagry, Ibeju – Lekki, Agege, Oshodi-Isolo, Apapa and Lagos Mainland. Others will soon be reached.

“Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May I seize this opportunity to thank those worthy Lagosians, who have demonstrated the true spirit of “A Greater Lagos” by coming forward to help at this time.

“I salute our law enforcement agents who have been working tirelessly to ensure that the presidential directive is enforced. I enjoin them to continue in that spirit. They should be firm but courteous in discharging their responsibilities.

“Again, I have no doubt that if we continue to fight in unity, COVID-19 will be defeated and we will come out victorious as we always do,” he assured.

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2.325 How Sanwo-Olu’s Economic Stimulus Package Ended In Politicians’ Homes

Culled from Independent on April 1, 2020

LAGOS – In a bid to cushion the effects of the stay-at-home directive initially given by the Lagos State government to stop the spread of the deadly Coronavirus, codenamed COVID-19, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday, March 27, 2020, unveiled an economic stimulus package for the indigent and the most vulnerable in the State.

Many Lagosians, especially the indigent and most vulnerable were somehow relieved when this announcement was made by the governor. They were of the conviction that the plan if well executed will cater for their needs throughout the stay-at-home period.

Sanwo-Olu, while speaking after an on-the-spot assessment of one of the State-owned food banks, located inside the premises of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Agege, said the economic stimulus would reduce the burden of the temporary economic downturn on the citizens caused by the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Governor said the food packs, which were put together by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, would reach the most vulnerable communities and households across Lagos. He added that the indigents who rely on daily wages would be given priority.

The Governor stated that the package will touch at least 200,000 thousand households in the first phase, adding that

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the food packs were produced for size of six people per household and would last for at least 14 days.

Sanwo-Olu said: “We have packaged dry food stimulus for about two hundred thousand families in the first instance for a household of husband, wife and about four children. We would be giving bags of rice, bags of beans, garri, bread, dry pepper and we are trying to see if we can add water and some elements of vitamin C. Each ration, we believe is going to last them for at least minimum of 14 days. This is to ensure that our advocacy around a stay at home with your loved ones is respected.”

However, an initiative meant to comfort residents who cannot cater for their own needs for the period, became a largesse and democracy dividends for members of a particular political party.

DAILY INDEPENDENT gathered that in some local government areas in the state, those in charge of distribution of the packages have been doling them out to members of the ruling party in the state.

Some residents, who took to the social media to express their displeasure at the improper coordination of the distribution, decried the lack of proper monitoring of the economic stimulus package put in place by the state government to help residents cushion the effects of the stay-at-home directive to stop the spread of the deadly COVID-19.

Also, some residents on Tuesday Culled in on “Your View”, a flagship programme on Television Continental (TVC), to

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complain that the packages have not been going to those who really need them but to political party members.

To this end, they have Culled on Governor Sanwo-Olu to ensure that proper monitoring is given to sharing of the economic stimulus package, so that those who truly deserves it would be the ones to benefit from it.

According to a resident on Facebook, Otunba Deji Bamidele II, “This evening, I drove past Dopemu area, close to Akowonjo where I reside, to my surprise I saw people gathered and rushing to get something being shared....

“Out of curiosity, I tried to know what they are sharing and who is actually sharing them for free, despite the fact that people have been warned to observe social distancing at this period. I was able to learn that free rice is being shared to people....OK THAT’S COOL!

“But guess what?.... The rice was being shared with POLITICAL PARTY NUMBER, so it simply means if you are not a member of that party sharing rice, then you can’t get rice.”

Ayodeji, a resident, who Culled in to TVC on Tuesday morning, alleged that, “In Agege, only APC members have been benefiting from the package, they are asking the people to show their APC membership cards before they can get it.

“I have been monitoring them and I observed that they have not been given those who are not APC members. The governor must put in place a monitoring team to ensure that those who

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really need these packages are the ones that get them,” he said.

Another resident of Eredo in Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Comrade Adekunle Oluwaseyi, who expressed his displeasure on a Whatsapp group platform, wrote, “Good morning distinguished. On Saturday 28th of March, I wrote an open letter to the council boss, as regards the issue of the state relief materials politely asking that he in his good office ensure it gets to the people it was targeted at, the chairman response was apt and plausible.

“However the entirety of the council leadership has once again proven to us that we are on our own, when the announcement was made on Sunday that the relief materials had gotten to Poka, I suspended all activities to go there and see for myself, what the state government sent was a complete package of food, water and vitamin. However on Sunday in Poka, just less than 10 packs of water were distributed.

“Later that evening we got video clips of how the package that was supposed to go to the poor of the poorest was being shared by few members of the ruling party. It is sardonic that at this period of worldwide emergency, our leadership at the local level can display such act of evil.

“Do you still have conscience at all? How do you sleep at night? Do you even think of the retribution of these inhumane acts on the future of your children? Do you at all think you are safe if this epidemic finally breaks loose in the town?

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“In the response of the chairman to my letter, he noted that the council is also working on relief package on its own, it’s three days today and we’re yet to hear anything or has it also been distributed to wards?

“I was shocked when yesterday I saw the Chief Imam of my community of residence going home with two packs of our relief package while his followers are advised to sit at home to curb the spread of Corona virus.

Which sane mind still thinks of religion, tribe and political party at this terribly terrible period of international panic?

“By the way, has anyone seen our LAHA rep? What of the distinguished rep at the green chamber? Guess they are also obeying the sit home order.

“Ordinarily I would have thought they could jointly raise ₦20million which will be enough to purchase about 500 bags of garri and beans respectively and share it from house to house (Shebi PHCN cut light without missing any house? Then use their data) but what do I know about politics?

“Who will help us tell this people that leadership means service to the people? Mathew 20:26. I hope you read this without any political, religious or racial bias, and of course not minding my Social strata. I am Comr. Adekunle Oluwaseyi. A concerned resident of Eredo LCDA. Thanks.”

Executive Chairman of Eredo LCDA, Adeniyi Saliu in his response to Oluwaseyi’s post, wrote, “Hello Good People of Eredo, I have read a lot of reactions regarding the relief items

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shared to residents a few days ago. It is clear that a lot of the emotions we see now stemmed from the handling of the items and the inadequacy of the relief materials given our population.

“Having discussed with most of the stakeholders involved, let me assure us all that sharing of relief items for the populace by the state government is an ongoing activity, the next phase of the initiative will address a number of the issues already raised by our people.

“Eredo LCDA has in addition Decided to complement the effort of the State Government by reaching out to our people as well, this we have planned with other well-meaning individuals to ensure the support would be far reaching and cover a good number of our people. “Individuals with means are also encouraged to give freely at this time or support any good intentioned initiative to bring succour to people in need especially at this time.

“I therefore appeal for patience and understanding, we should bear in mind that this is not a time to play politics, rather it is a time to pray, listen to experts and support Governments at all levels to totally eradicate this pandemic (COVID-19) from our country and the world.

“All the people and office holders who were part of the last distribution of items should also be accountable to the people and forward their report to my office as well. “I assure you all that we would be guided by this report in applying relief items going forward. Thank you for obeying the restriction directive, keep the social distance, stay safe and seek help if needed. God bless you.”

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Another resident in Epe Local Government Area, who spoke with our Correspondent on the basis of anonymity, alleged that there has not been transparency in the distribution of relief materials. He alleged that immediately the food items arrived the local government, those who were put in charged decided to hand some over to the Chairman of wards chairmen in the local government, while some were handed over to market leaders and community leaders in the area.

2.326 BREAKING: Lagos Discharges 11 Coronavirus Patients – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on April 2, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State has revealed that 11 people have recovered from covid-19 in the state and have subsequently been discharged.

His tweet below :

I am happy to break to you, my good people of Lagos, the news of the release today of 11 more patients from our facility in Yaba.

They have fully recovered and have tested negative to #COVID19 and have been allowed to return home to their families.

— Babajide Sanwo-Olu (@jidesanwoolu) April 2, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State has revealed that 11 people have recovered from covid-19 in the state and have subsequently been discharged.

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They have fully recovered and have tested negative to #COVID19 and have been allowed to return home to their families.

— Babajide Sanwo-Olu (@jidesanwoolu) April 2, 2020

2.327 Sanwo-Olu and battle against Covid-19

Culled from the Sun on 2nd April 2020

The fear of Coronavirus or Covid-19 is now the beginning of wisdom. Its effect on human life is no longer as important as the collective effort to find a solution to this pandemic attack.

Also, the symptoms of Covid-19 are no more news to a large number of people globally. The treatment also has not escaped quite a large number of charlatans and their victims, starting with me, that continue to gulp herbs made of Neem tree leaves, (otherwise known locally as “ewe dongoyaro”) every other day.

The whole world has been screaming from one corner of the globe to another starting from China where the most lethal effect of the outbreak first registered itself before it moved to Italy, Iran, United States, United Kingdom, etc.

Africa has not been left out. Knowing that we are arguably the weakest when it comes to medical health and unarguably the people with the largest share of world ignorance and the private owners of gullibility, it tarried for a while before arriving at our national boundaries.

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Its decision to arrive Nigeria late was probably borne out of the recognition that we have the most porous borders with not less than 109 routes entering northern Nigeria alone.

It definitely would be less costly to enter Nigeria anytime it chose to do so as it finally found out.

It is interesting to note that notwithstanding the state of public information on casualties recorded in other nations as a result of Covid-19, many Nigerians still believe that the virus is a myth and, if it exists at all, it targets the rich and comfortable as it has a lot of consolation for the Nigerian poor who have suffered enough as a result of poor governance and hence does not want to add more to their woes.

Some believe that the temperature of this part of the world would not allow the virus to survive and hence it must die of a natural cause. They forgot that places where the virus has impacted, like Los Angeles in the US or major cities in Australia, also have high temperatures.

Many think it is a veritable source of jokes and lots of music have been waxed to celebrate its arrival. While the knowledgeable are mourning and crying, the ignorant are jubilating.

One promising outcome, however, is that after the pandemic is addressed, our politicians might realize the need to take care of public health, public education and all other necessary utilities for collective existence.

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It is clear that no one has anywhere to run to for medical treatment abroad and we are all in this mess together. The joy of the poor, therefore, is in anyway not totally misplaced. Their centuries of agitations are being attended to by a pandemic that admits of no distinction like the violence of war.

The discussion here centres around the response of governments to the pandemic, particularly Lagos State. While someone somewhere proclaimed that his state is the only state mentioned in the Bible and hence his people are protected from the scourge of Covid-19, some others are imposing dusk-to-dawn lockdowns.

We have those shutting their borders and others restricting influx and exit from their states. I have, however, consistently been following the various steps of the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; “charity begins at home” is the conventional saying.

I, therefore, will concentrate on Lagos State. My home and city of Lagos is not spared at all of this pandemic. We are ranking far first ahead of other states in Nigeria, with over 82 reported cases as at now.

It is not in my character to be sycophantic at any point in time but this time around, I cannot but speak out on the management and responses so far by the Lagos State government under the able leadership of Sanwo-Olu and his team.

In Yoruba language, there is the saying that “yinni, yinni, ki a le se mi si (adequate acknowledgment gives fillip to better performance).” It is in this context that I have chosen to

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commend the pragmatic way the governor and his team have been responding to the challenges.

“Unlike a couple of other states that have been totally draconian in their approaches, the Lagos State governor has been demonstrating balance between compelling, realistic steps and the humanitarian needs of the people.

Inasmuch as there is need for total lockdown, the implications are being appropriately weighed against the existence and welfare of the citizens. Commendable is the regular and encouraging daily communication undertaken personally by the governor with the residents of Lagos State.

Yes, he has commissioners who ordinarily would be expected to be talking to the people, a situation of this nature requires the man elected himself not to abdicate his responsibility but be heard by the people who elected him. To the people, his countenance, body language, empathy and overall appreciation of their existence really matter.

Knowing that we’re fighting a deadly, unseen enemy, the governor ordered that 70 per cent of civil servants should be working from home, the bulk of whom constitutes levels 1 to 12.

This was after immediate closure of schools and some other public spaces to stultify the spread of this most dangerous virus. The government has also embarked on sanitization of bus stops and parks normally patronized by the less privileged who must utilize public transportation, a common receptacle and conduit pipe for spreading the virus.

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The state government has announced a total fumigation and sanitation of the entire state. It is also encouraging the organised private sector to follow suit without being arrogant about it.

All decisions taken by the government so far have been done in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The campaign for reducing number of people in a social gathering to not more than 50, and, later, 20 with social distancing as a government policy of mandatory application among the populace first took root in Lagos, from where other states are copying and implementing with the ferocity it required. A number of churches and mosques with recalcitrant bigots had to be shut down over the last weekend, while some event venues had to be raided to disperse recalcitrant residents.

This has brought about prohibition of social events and closure of a number of places of mass gathering, while permitting essential operations and even expanding them in order to bring them nearer to the masses.

Respect for human rights, unlike false imprisonment being imposed on the people in Rivers and a host of other states, and absolute closure of borders in some states, has earned this government some good measure of public appreciation. A few days ago, food provisions for 200,000 households were put in place. The first law on infectious diseases was signed by him to provide legal framework and backing to steps taken and to be embarked upon in the future. This clearly positions him as a rule-of-law governor.

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that all the steps taken so far are not only considerate of the people, but also substantially

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respects the human rights of the people, particularly corporate citizens. The governor continues to exhort the people to respect the directives in the interest of all. Essentials are being brought nearer to the people by further establishing neighborhood markets. The government, recognizing its inability to fully financially support the system, particularly in the face of the recent explosion that has displaced a large number of people has been treating the threat of Covid-19 largely in a most civil way.

One remarkable thing about the governor is his ability to listen to others. He is ever receptive to suggestions, which he implements after exhaustive interrogation. I recall recently after the gas explosion his responses, which a PDP chieftain in Lagos State could not resist by giving kudos to the Governor Sanwo-Olu for his humility and receptiveness to other people's opinions, unlike some other government officials who wear arrogance like a badge all the time.

By implementing sensible suggestions made by others, Sanwo-Olu is worming his way into the hearts of many critics. He reaches out to people who can make meaningful contribution to the development of the state.

A cheering piece of news is that at least eight Covid-19 positive patients have been discharged, having fully recovered. This is an achievement that proves that infection by Covid-19 does not amount to a death sentence.

A cheering news for the citizens and that which will encourage others who probably want to hide their status to definitely come out as Covid-19 is after all an ailment and not a stigma.

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In spite of all, the battle is not yet over. We are not sure we have not just started. The government must not get weary of the need to still step up the game until this monster is defeated.

The nature of Lagos, as an attraction to all Nigerians of different tribes, faith and professions, calls for a consistent and sustained campaign towards defeating coronavirus. Available facilities and equipment must be multiplied to meet the increasing needs of the state until the disease is finally defeated.

The state government needs to make incentives available to health personnel, too, particularly those in the various other hospitals than the isolation centres. An excited heart stimulates the desire for better performance.

The communication channels should be kept open, while the populace should give the government all necessary support to end the virus. Government officials are definitely at work 24/7 in order to make our stay at home quite productive and effective. They desire our cooperation to overcome the deleterious virus that is threatening human existence.

However, I strongly recommend the offset of all energy costs incurred by households in Nigeria for one month by the Federal Government to encourage the stay at home advocacy.

As recently hinted by one of the brilliant members of the House of Representatives, Hon. Jimi Benson, this is not likely to be beyond the sum of N60 billion. My other thoughts on appropriate measures to be taken are already interrogated elsewhere. As Gov. Cuomo of New York rightly situates it, this is not a sprint but a marathon.

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2.328 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Urges Lagosians To Obey Lockdown Order As Gov, Family, Aides Test Negative

Culled from Independent on April 3, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged Lagosians to obey the current lockdown, just as he order announced that he and his family as well as his aides have been tested for the Covid-19 global pandemic and the results have returned negative for all of them.

The Governor, who made the announcement via his Twitter handle, @jidesanwoolu, also urged Lagosians to continue to observe social distancing as the current 14-day lockdown of the state ordered by the President Muhammadu Buhari enters the fourth day.

As a responsible leader, it was important that I get tested for #COVID19 to ensure nothing distracts me from my role of leading Lagos during this period. I am happy to announce that my result has returned NEGATIVE. My family and aides are negative as well. #StayHomeSaveLives

— Babajide Sanwo-Olu (@jidesanwoolu) April 3, 2020

Sanwo-Olu warned against youths gatherings for sports and religious gatherings which he described as “weak links” that can hinder attempts to “break the chain of transmission” of the deadly virus.

He said: “While we celebrate the small mercies, reports of youths gathering for social and sporting activities as well as those gathering for religious purposes are unfortunate. This

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kind of insensitivity could be the weak link in our collective effort to break the chain of transmission.”

The Governor further urged Lagosians to help the agencies like the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Lagos State Ministry of Health (LSMoH) by observing the stay-at-home order as many carriers of the virus may be asymptomatic.

2.329 Sanwo-Olu, wife test negative for coronavirus

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 3, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and his wife, Joke, have tested negative for coronavirus.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, made this known early Friday morning.

Before announcing the results, there had been fears over the status of the governor who was believed to have met with some positive cases, The PUNCH reports.

But Abayomi said the governor and his aides all tested negative for the disease, thanking Lagos residents for their concern.

He said, “I am happy to announce that COVID-19 Lagos Incident Commander, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the First Lady of Lagos and their immediate family members, as well as aides, have all tested negative for COVID-19.

“We thank Lagos residents for their concern and support. We urge all to maintain social distancing. Together we can defeat COVID-19! Please stay safe.”

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The PUNCH reports that the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control confirmed 10 new cases of Coronavirus pandemic outbreak in the country on Thursday.

The confirmed cases are three in the Federal Capital Territory and seven from Lagos State, making Nigeria’s confirmed cases 184.

It said 20 had been discharged with two deaths.

NCDC said that currently, there are 92 cases in Lagos; Abuja 38, Oyo- eight; Osun- 14; Oyo – eight Ogun – four; Kaduna- four; Akwa Ibom – five, Edo -four, Bauchi- three, Enugu and Ekiti with two cases each, while Rivers and Benue had one case, respectively.

2.330 COVID-19- Restrictions Have Started Paying Off- Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on April 4, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has disclosed that the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) has been able to take advantage of the absence of traffic on the roads to make appreciable progress in their contact tracing of COVID-19 suspected patients.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who disclosed this while giving the Fifth COVID-19 update on Saturday evening, noted that it has been five days since the Federal Government ordered a restriction of movement in Lagos State, as part of measures to help contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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“It has not been easy, but it is abundantly clear that this was a step that had to be taken, a necessary sacrifice, to avoid far more disruptive outcomes.

“The restrictions have also started paying off, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control has told us that they have been able to take advantage of the absence of traffic on our roads to make appreciable progress in their contact tracing.

“I would like to thank everyone who has dutifully obeyed the instruction to stay indoors, resisting the temptation to defy these directives that have been made for the good of all of us,” the governor said.

The Incident Commander, who was pleased to announce more good news about the recoveries among Covid-19 patients in Lagos State, said: “So far, 24 patients have been discharged from our hospital in Yaba, after the experts gave each of them a clean bill of health. The most recent four were released yesterday. You may have seen videos and testimonials from some of them in the media. We are all just as delighted as they are.

Just as we have seen some patients being discharged, we, unfortunately, also have some new ones being discovered in the metropolis.

“On Friday, April 3, 2020, eleven (11) new patients were diagnosed, bringing the total number of confirmed cases in the State to 109. I have no doubt that all the patients will continue to enjoy the excellent care being offered by our

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indefatigable medical officials, who deserve credit for their heroic exploits on the frontlines of this battle,” he added.

2.331 Lagos Is Winning War Against COVID-19, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 5, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Sunday said the state government have discharged additional five patients from the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba bring the total number of patients discharged so far to 29, saying the state is winning the war against coronavirus pandemic.

The governor who disclosed this while giving update on the management of the patients as the chief incident commander of the state said another patient has died of the disease in the state.

He said, “I am happy to inform you that five more patients comprising two males and three females including a 10 year old girl have tested negative twice consecutively to #COVID19 and have been discharged to reunite with their families. “This brings to 29 the total number of patients who have fully recovered and discharged from our facility at Yaba.

“It is however sad that the state has recorded another death, bringing to two the total number of deaths from COVID19 in Lagos State.

“Although, there is a strong indication that the state is winning the battle against the disease which is ravaging several countries across the world but we need to remain steadfast and aggressive to curtail the spread.

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“I need to reiterate that the result of tests conducted by our health workers on the recovered patients is a confirmation that they pose no threat to the community.”

He advised Lagosians against stigmatising the discharged patients as such act could bring feelings of shame, hopelessness and despair, urging the people to do all they can to support them in whatever form to get over the memories as soon as possible.

“As the disease ravages countries all over the world, Lagos State will continue to do the needful in terms of responding to emergencies in an effort to ensure the health and wellbeing of our people.

“ We will do our best to make sure that other patients at the facility receive the best of care and attention so that they can return home to join their families and the community soonest,” he said.

2.332 Sanwo-Olu Can’t Escape Probe After Coronavirus Pandemic – PDP

Culled from Independent on April 5, 2020

Lagos – The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Lagos state chapter has said Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu will be made to account for monies spent during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The party also said it has raised almost N500m in cash and materials as part measures aimed at cushioning the lockdown in the state due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

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The party in a statement signed by its Publicity Secretary, Taofik Gani also described as a ruse the relief packages provided by the Lagos state government to the people of the state.

“We agree that having physical contacts be eliminated or greatly minimised to stop the pandemic, COVID-19. Unfortunately, this style of lockdown was copied from Europe with a better welfare system for citizens and residents, whereas the Lagos state government has rather become propagandists over so- Culled efforts to ameliorate pains of the stay at home, lockdown order”.

“The reliefs claimed to be going to homes and or the vulnerable are all false. Seriously hyped. Sanwo-Olu cannot feign any ignorance of this. Barrage of videos, audios, pictures abound exposing the inhumanity of a government to her citizens by the manner and quantity of reliefs going around the state”.

“The so -Culled agric products and Bread are so dehumanising that we have evidence of a loaf, 3kg Rice, 3kg beans, dried pepper being distributed at ration of a bag to 50 residents.

It is so bad that donors have even raised quarrels with the state government”.

“The Governor cannot escape probe of his spendings during this scourge. He is distracting with frequent media show and telling lies and giving fake promises. Recently he said there would be free surgeries and care for all admitted, especially the pregnant. Lagosians are not excited”.

“They know its political statement. Where are the hospitals?. Where are the motivated health officers in the state? Every

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opportunity has been strikes. Even when you had to pay at Lagos hospitals, you did not get best prompt services, so who will believe his fake palliative?”.

“ We believe Sanwoolu is holding over 56billion Naira, by our estimation, remember that LSSTF should have realised over 500billion over the periods, but we can only thank Gtbank said to have donated the isolation center at Onikan. This government is very Fake in objectives and implementations”.

“Sanwo-Olu should go beyond briefing like a doctor. He should leave much of such briefings to his health commissioner.

Sanwo-Olu Should monitor the reliefs distribution. The few on the streets are given to APC members. Even the APC members have condemned the stuffs in many areas. Less than 15% of the areas in Lagos state is reached. We challenge the government to beat her chest and make public spendings on so Culled food distributions”.

“We are expecting that Sanwo-Olu should put stop to any taxation from March till end of this scourge.

Also he must immediately ensure that every Ward has a market center selling subsidised Agric produce. We ask where are the claimed produce of various agric investments withing and outside the state, as far as Northern States.

He promised to use schools as centres for government food markets, how many of such exist?”

“Again as notorious he has failed in implementation. Only excellent at making promises and getting propagandists.

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Lagosians are not convinced, excited, happy. This governor is only getting deceived by those around him that he is on top of this pandemic in the state.

We reiterate, Sanwoolu will be dragged to relevant Agencies local and international to account for all monies, local & international donations”.

“The Lagos state PDP commends the private (individual and corporate) donors. They have again risen above the government to help situations.

Indeed every household & community had always been state government to itself, providing all amenities: Water, roads, security, information etc”

“On our part as a party with our leader, Chief Olabode George, leading the donations, we have mobilised near N500,000,000 in cash and mayerials.

These are distributed by our members and well wishers to the vulnerable at their various neighbourhood and nearby locations

We pray the Lord save our lives through this period” .

2.333 Lagos to pay medical bills for pregnant women, others during lockdown, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 5, 2020in News, News Update

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday said his government will take full responsibility for the medical bills for some categories of illnesses of all patients in the state

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who fall ill during the period of restriction of movements as a result of the coronavirus.

However, this is only applicable in all the state owned secondary healthcare facilities. The governor stated this during a press briefing after the state security meeting in Lagos House, Marina yesterday.

The categories are: emergency/casualty cases, including registration, laboratory tests, surgeries, and drugs; maternity cases: normal delivery and caesarean sections.

“What this means is that, at this time, patients with the above-listed conditions will not need to pay to access treatment and care at all our 27 General Hospitals across the State. These measures, Sanwo-Olu said is an additional ameliorating measure to complement the welfare packages previously announced by the government which includes relief packages in form of foodstuffs.

The governor said though the program has since begun to make a positive difference in the lives of many of the intended beneficiaries there have however been some hitches and snags in some aspects of the implementation.

“It is not as though, we never envisaged teething problems along the way, but I must tell you that our major focus was to roll out without delay and fine-tune the modalities as we continued with program expansion. “What we however did not reckon with, was the extent to which some people would go to deliberately undermine and sabotage a program intended to bring succor to the poorest among us.

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“This kind of malicious behavior is unacceptable, and we will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that all the culprits are identified and appropriately punished,” Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor also promised that his government will continue to work with the federal authorities, represented by the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19, the Federal Ministry of Health, and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

2.334 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu thanks frontline health workers, urges public not to stigmatise survivors

Culled from the Sun on 5th April 2020

Amid the continuous rise in the number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Lagos, the state governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has openly thanked frontline health care workers for their commitment and dedication to duty which, according to him, resulted in quick recovery of a handful of patients.

The governor in a Twitter message on Sunday, assured the health workers that government was committed to their welfare and other measures that would help to defeat the pandemic.

The tweet reads: “Once again, I wish to thank our frontline health workers, members of the Lagos State Health Family and the Emergency Operation Centre for all their hard work. You all have been nothing short of amazing. Together, we will beat COVID-19.”

He, however, appealed to Lagosians to support the fight against the dreaded disease which has crippled global economic, social, political, religious and other activities. He urged Lagosians to comply with the stay-at-home order and abide by other rules.

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He added: “Dear Lagosians, on Saturday, I announced the discharge of one more patient from our Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba. Today (Sunday), I am happy to inform you that five more patients comprising two males and three females, including a 10-year-old girl have tested negative twice to COVID-19.

“I want to also use this opportunity to advise Lagosians against stigmatising the discharged patients. We need to do all we can to support them to get over the experience as soon as possible.”

Meanwhile, the state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, sadly, on Sunday, in his twitter page, announced the death of a 36-year-old COVID-19 patient who died in a private facility in Lagos.

He said: “We lost a COVID-19 patient, a 36-year-old Nigerian male who died in a private facility on 4th April, 2020. The total number of COVID-19 patients who have died are now two. Also, a case was evacuated bringing total evacuated to two.”

2.35 Sanwo-Olu: We’re winning war against COVID-19

2 female survivors are discharged from IDC, 31 persons make full recovery

Culled from the Sun on 6th April 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu has said that the state is winning the war against the pandemic coronavirus, just as he disclosed that two additional female patients have been discharged from the Infectious Disease Control, (IDC), Yaba, after testing negative for the virus twice.

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The good news came barely 24 hours after five persons, including a 10-year-old girl, were released from the IDC.

The governor, who is also the Incident Commander of the state’s COVID-19 response team, said in a statement that the discharge brought the total number of survivors in the state to 31 people.

While appreciating the cooperation of health workers, whom he said are working hard during the difficult time, Sanwo-Olu said: “Their successful strides in this war against COVID-19 brings us joy and hope.”

“I, therefore, enjoin citizens to continue to listen and obey health advisories issued by our health experts as they coordinate resources to beat COVID-19”, he said.

2.336 Sanwo-Olu hailed for curtailing spread

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 8, 2020 in Coronavirus, News, News Update

THE Chairman of Local Government Area Chairmen in Lagos State, Prince Emmanuel Abiodun Abu, has hailed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his efforts in curtailing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

He also praised the governor for proving his worth as a proactive leader.

Abu, who is equally the All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman in Ikoyi-Obalende Local Council Development Area, said: “We commend the Lagos State Government for the measures put in place to combat the ravaging COVID-19.”

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He thanked lawmakers, corporate organisations and other individuals who had donated to complement the government's efforts to curb the spread of Coronavirus pandemic.

2.337 COVID-19: Mustapha Commends Sanwo-Olu For Setting Up World-Class Facility

Culled from Independent on April 8, 2020

LAGOS – Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), has commended Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for setting up a world-class facility to assist to manage people affected with the COVID-19 disease.

Mustapha, who gave the commendation on Tuesday during a tour by the Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 to the facility set up by the governor in Lagos, said that state government had been on course.

The SGF, chairman of the committee, said the basic strategy of the national response was containment, even as he said that that should spread to tracking of those that had been infected.

This, he said, should be done as much as possible minimised cases of community transmission.

“I think we're doing very well. So far, processes that have been put in place, the plans and objectives are being achieved,” he said.

While thanking newsmen for supporting what the Lagos State governor and his team had been doing, Mustapha said: “We've

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just taken a tour of this facility that has a very important place in anticipation that we'll have to receive patients here.

2.338 Gov. Sanwo-Olu's Stimulus Packages: Transport Union Makes Case For Bus Conductors, Drivers In Lagos

Culled from Independent on April 8, 2020

The Road Transport Employers' Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) has urged Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, to remember bus conductors and drivers in the economic stimulus packages for the poor and vulnerable during the lockdown.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Sanwo-Olu had recently unveiled an economic stimulus package for the indigent and the most vulnerable in the state, following government's order that residents should stay at home.

NAN also reports that the stimulus, which comes in food packs to be distributed to every local government and local council development area in the state, is aimed at cushioning the effect of the 14 days stay-at-home directive which started on March 30.

Alhaji Abdulrahman Amusan, the Lagos State Secretary of RTEAN, who made the appeal in an interview with NAN on Wednesday, said that majority of the bus conductors and drivers were part of the worst hit by the lockdown.

Amusan, who doubles as the National Publicity Secretary of the union, advised the state government to capture members

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of the transport union in its food intervention programme as palliatives.

He said that a lot of daily income earners like bus conductors and commercial drivers, had been 'badly' affected by the lockdown, saying that many of them were already finding it difficult to survive.

"We give kudos to the government, especially in Lagos. The governor is doing remarkably well. We wish him more grace.

"However, we have not received any palliative from the government, not even a dime for our members.

"Our members are complaining but we are still very hopeful that maybe at the second or third batch of the governor's stimulus packages, the government will remember us," the RTEAN scribe said.

According to him, commercial bus drivers and conductors in the state had been out of work since March 30, when the restriction order was issued.

"This must have affected their wives and children also. We appreciate most sincerely and particularly what Gov. Sanwo-Olu is doing in fighting Coronavirus pandemic and giving people welfare packages.

"Sanwo-Olu has been doing well but a lot can still be done in the area of welfare packages, especially for a lot of daily income earners such as our members.

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"We are still hopeful to receive a call from the state government to help these bus conductors and drivers in order to make the lockdown more effective and without hunger," Amusan added.

He urged members to desist from any activity that could spread the deadly virus that had killed over 80, 000 people globally.

According to him, the lockdown order is in the interest and safety of all.

He urged members to maintain social distancing, wash and sanitise their hands regularly and increase their personal hygiene.

Amusan said that the death tolls of COVID-19 in Italy, U.S. and other first world countries, were indications that Coronavirus was not a joke.

"If over 700 people can die in New York in a day where they have better healthcare system and a well organised society, so you can just imagine, this is real," he said.

He said that the leadership of the union had been encouraging members to obey the lockdown order to contain the further spread of the virus.

NAN reports that as at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7, the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country rose to 254, with 44 discharged and six deaths.

In the global count, the novel Coronavirus has infected more than 1.43 million people and killed over 82,000 worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University as at early hours of Wednesday.

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President Muhammadu Buhari, in a Presidential broadcast on the pandemic on March 29, gave a restricting order on movements in Lagos, Ogun and the FCT for an initial period of 14 days with effect from 11 p.m. on March 30.

2.339 World Health Day: Corps member, Sanwoolu, NCDC boss, others make heroes' list against Covid-19 in Nigeria

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on April 8, 2020
Editorial
IINews0

As part of activities marking this year's World Health Day in Nigeria, a popular organisation, ONE in Nigeria, has listed a Corps member, Moribirin Rosemary alongside Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) Dr Chikwe Ihekweazu and the Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwoolu, among 11 others as COVID-19 heroes.

The organisation specifically thanked the fourteen listed heroes for their contributions in the fight against deadly Coronavirus pandemic.

In a post on the organisation's verified Twitter account on Wednesday to commiserate World Health Day, the 14 heroes were listed and appreciated.

For the Kogi born Corps member, Rosemary, she had earlier donated her March allowance and 24 hand sanitizer to Kogi state government as her contribution to support the fight against the deadly pandemic.

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2.340 COVID-19: Lagos Anglican Diocese Commends Sanwo-Olu, Donates N5m Cash, N20m Worth Of Food Items

Culled from Independent on April 9, 2020

The Diocese of Lagos (Anglican Communion) led by Bishop Humphrey Olumakaiye has donated a sum of N5m as part of its own physical contribution to help the Lagos State Government cushion the effect of the globally ravaging COVID-19 on the residents of the state.

Added to the financial donation of the five million naira by the Diocese is a barrage of assorted food items including different sizes of rice bags, spaghetti noodles, a lorry load of bottled water, well-packaged garri, cartons of milk and beverages all worth N20m in cash value.

This is aside from the concerted prayers the Diocese has constantly been engaged, targeted at giving the government a spiritual backing to achieve modelling success.

The Bishop, a Ph.D. holder from the nation's premier university, also commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his government for having risen promptly to tackling the pandemic and without relenting for the past one month even as the state government has passionately kept the citizens and residents abreast of its efforts at curtailing the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

"We commend and appreciate the great work you have been doing, since the outbreak of the pandemic. A great leader is known during the time of crises, you have demonstrated an uncommon leadership strait.

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“We deem it necessary, as a Diocese to lend our own support for the laudable efforts of the government to cushion the unsettling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on many families in Lagos State.

“Apart from the Five Million Naira (N5,000,000.00) already paid by our Province into the designated account provided by the government, we are donating various food and other essential items directly to the weak and vulnerable in the state coupled with medical supplies to support the state in the fight against this pandemic.

- 500 bags of 12.5kg rice
- 500 bags of 5kg rice
- 450 bags of 2kg garri
- 20 bags of 50kg rice
- 43 cartons of different sizes of vegetable oil
- 28 bags of sugar
- 20 cartons of spaghetti
- 50 cartons of noodles
- 9 cartons of Macaroni
- 34 cartons of milk
- 25 cartons of beverage (Milo and Ovaltine)
- Lorry load of water
- 75 cartons of sanitizer and other medical kits.

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“We want to assure you that we are not just supporting you physically, our prayers are assured and we know that we will overcome this challenge soonest.

“We pray that God will continue to give you sound health and wisdom as you lead this state in Jesus’ name. We are always proud of you.”; Bishop Olumakaiye exuded.

2.341 BREAKING: Seven Coronavirus Patients Discharged – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on April 9, 2020

The total of about seven persons who tested positive to the deadly coronavirus was earlier today discharged, after making full recoveries from the Deadly virus.

Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, made the disclosure in a post on Twitter on Thursday afternoon.

He said, “Good people of Lagos, I bring you awesome news from IDH, Yaba, which is as a testament to our resolve to overcome the lethal #COVID19 pandemic ravaging the world.

“Today, we discharged seven more patients who have fully recovered and tested negative twice consecutively for #COVID19.

“This brings to 39 the number of discharged patients in Lagos.

“The patients include one female and six males; three of the discharged male patients are foreign nationals — two Ukrainians and one Italian.”

2.342 COVID-19: ADC berates Sanwo-Olu over inadequate palliatives for Lagosians

Culled from the Sun on 9th April 2020

The Lagos State chairman, African Democratic Congress (ADC), Olayiwola Abisoye, has berated the governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for not putting in place adequate palliative measures and appropriate stimulus packages before rolling out the stay-at-home order over the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to him, nobody can survive a stay-at-home order in a situation where there are no food, electricity, portable drinking water, or hope of getting the essential things of life.

“How do you ask people to stay at home without first putting in place the right palliative measures and appropriate stimulus packages to ensure social and economic stability? Nobody can be patriotic on empty stomach and survive a stay-at-home order in a situation where there are systemic failures and infrastructural decays. No food, no electricity, no portable drinking water, no hope and certainly no visible leadership to calm and assure the people,” he said.

Abisoye questioned the transparency in how the Lagos State government has been disbursing the funds it received from donors and Federal Government to fight coronavirus. He noted that if ADC had been in power, the party would have done better by touching the lives of Lagosians at this critical time of the pandemic.

“Yes, ADC would have done better because it is not in our DNA to be corrupt or play politics with people’s lives. We would have banned health tourism, developed our health care system and boosted our intensive care service delivery to world-class,

so that in the case of coronavirus, we would have used our world-class equipment to do rapid testing of any suspected case, conducted immediate isolation of any confirmed or suspected case, and then quarantine the close contacts for 14 days and have them treated immediately instead of travel ban or lockdown,” Abisoye posited.

He said further: “In ADC, we don’t confuse efforts with results; results are all that count for us because we know too well that activities don’t necessarily mean accomplishments. With all the monies that the state government has received from several donors and the Federal Government, how many people have they reached with their welfare packages? Can we say for sure that coronavirus is being contained effectively when people are not obeying the sit-at-home order because of hunger and adequate palliative measures not being in place? Are there real social safety nets in place to cover or mitigate the impact on the citizens, businesses and governance afterwards? Answers to all of these questions will help people understand why we are scoring the government average.

“This is why we think IPAC was too hasty and generous with their commendation of Governor Sanwo-Olu’s handling of coronavirus situation in Lagos because it is still ongoing. It is not in the habit of ADC to commend an average worker when we can truly celebrate an excellent one.”

While wishing Lagosians a happy Easter, the party chairman also advised them to stay safe indoors while the lockdown lasted.

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“My advice to Lagosians is to stay indoors, keep clean, stay safe, hope for the best and pray. And to the government, containment is better than cure.

Be proactive, not reactive, don't try solving a problem in the middle of a crisis; always plan ahead.”

2.343 COVID-19: Avoid fake news, lockdown hasn't been lifted – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 10, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has asked Lagosians to dismiss the speculations that the two-week Coronavirus lockdown has been suspended.

He admonished the citizens to “think long term” and stay safe while the country is still combatting the ravaging pandemic.

Governor Sanwo-Olu made this announcement while commemorating with the Christian faithful on the occasion of Easter, a significance of the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On his Twitter handle Friday morning, he stated that: “The true meaning of Good Friday and Easter is the power of sacrifice.

“This weekend, the sacrifice of staying at home and social distancing is required to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

“Avoid fake news, the lockdown hasn't been lifted. Think longterm, #StayAtHomeAndStaySafe.

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“The Federal Government has announced a public holiday, do spend time with your loved ones AT HOME,” Sanwo-Olu warned

“We are thankful for technology; I will be worshipping virtually with my family on #Easter Sunday. Kindly say a prayer for all our health workers,” the governor ended.

It would be reCulled that President Muhammadu Buhari on Sunday, March 29, in his national address announced a total lockdown in FCT, Lagos and Ogun states in a bid to halt the spread of Coronavirus pandemic.

2.344 Easter: Sanwo-Olu Felicitates With Christians, Calls For Peaceful Co-Existence

Culled from Independent on April 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has congratulated Christians in the State on the commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, urging them to emulate His virtues of humility, perseverance and compassion.

The Governor also urged Christian faithful in the State to continue to live in peace and harmony with believers in other faiths in the State. He noted that “good neighbourliness, selflessness and patience were among the several lessons taught and exemplified by Jesus Christ.”

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Gboyega Akosile, Governor Sanwo-Olu reminded Lagosians that the events leading to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ were epochal in the annal of Christianity and humanity.

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The Governor therefore enjoined every citizen to reflect on how best to positively impact the lives of friends, colleagues, neighbours and family members.

He added that “as Christians, this period offers us an opportunity to rethink our relationships as individuals, as communities and as a nation.

“The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ typified love, affection and tolerance. It also marked the end of evil and beginning of good deeds.”

With the corona virus pandemic threatening to bring the entire world to its knees, Sanwo-Olu said the occasion of the resurrection of Jesus Christ should be a veritable avenue for all to show more love, kindness and care for one another.

The Governor said the citizens should join hands with the government in the fight against what he described as the common enemy.

“We must brace up and be ready to confront this scourge with uncommon resolve and dedication. We must not be deterred by the speed at which it is spreading, rather we must work harder to eradicate the pandemic and all that it stands for. As a government, we will do everything within our powers to rid the State of this unwanted guest.”

Governor Sanwo-Olu commended Lagosians for their steadfastness, resilience and cooperation with his administration since his assumption of office. He assured them

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of his administration’s commitment to good governance and people-oriented programmes.

2.345 Easter: Sanwo-Olu, Wife Attend Easter Sunday Service Online

Culled from Independent on April 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his wife, Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu shared pictures to show they worshipped online for easter.

2.346 Lagos PDP Carpets Sanwo-Olu For Inability To Check Civil Disobedience

Culled from Independent on April 12, 2020

Deji Doherty, Lagos State chairman of the party, while reacting to the incident which occurred in Alimosho and Ifako Ijaiye Local Government Areas of the state, where bandits robbed residents and looted shops.

While expressing his displeasure, Doherty had in a statement made available to journalists on Sunday, said, “I am unhappy but not surprised about the development. The insincerity of the current administration towards the welfare of the citizens is bearing a bitter fruit.”

“I am sure the governor knows that our restless and unemployed youths will definitely take over the streets if the economic palliatives did not get to them.”

The PDP chieftain stressed that a few days ago he wrote an open letter to the governor where he warned about his observation concerning the distribution of the palliatives given

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to the state by the Federal Government which was hijacked by leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He maintained that even though the governor acknowledged that the process had failed, his administration did not take appropriate steps to correct the abnormally, thereby compounding the existing hunger and frustration already present in the unengaged youths.

He said that the government displayed a lack of awareness when it ordered the lockdown without considering how the large number of informal sector workers would meet their daily needs.

“The governor needs to get rid of the bad elements both in his administration and within the APC who are involved in the palliative process, especially those that are only interested in milking the state dry, taking advantage of the crisis period to exploit the vulnerability, deprive the people of the state of the much needed palliatives”, he said.

The PDP chairman, while urging the governor to reappraise his strategy, stressed that government should know that the COVID-19 cases recorded daily showed that the pandemic hadn’t reached its peak and might be far from it what anyone could imagine in another few months of lockdown.

2.347 COVID-19: Lagos SWAN Salutes Gov Sanwo-Olu, Others

Culled from Independent on April 12, 2020

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter (Lagos SWAN), on Sunday applauded Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his team for their efforts in curbing the spread of the dreaded Coronavirus.

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Debo Oshundun, Chairman of Lagos SWAN, in a statement, saluted the doggedness of the state government in the fight against the global pandemic.

Oshundun said that the governor and his team deserved commendation as their commitment and spirited approach had curbed the spread of the virus in the state and the country at large.

“As at Saturday evening, 50 patients, including an 11-year-old boy, have been discharged from the Lagos State Isolation facilities, having recovered fully and tested negative to COVID-19.

“Without doubt, the governor and his team have done very well and we thank them for giving Lagosians hope with their novel response which have greatly helped in nipping the scourge in the bud.

“We marvel at the speed at which the isolation centres were built and other medical provisions were readily made available. Patients were given the best treatment and promptly discharged after testing negative to the virus.

“On behalf of our members, we thank the governor, his deputy, cabinet members, and the Lagos State House of Assembly, for giving succour to the good people of the state,” Oshundun said.

Oshundun also pleaded with the state government not to relent in its efforts to ensure the state was safe and COVID-19 free.

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He urged Lagosians who engaged in jogging, physical exercises and playing football during the lockdown period to desist from the practice as directed by government.

“It is important to note that some individuals engage in various forms of physical activities in clusters contrary to the government’s stay-at-home and lockdown directives.

“Lagos SWAN hereby appeals to them to stop flouting government directives. Those who desire to engage in keep-fit exercises can do that in their respective homes.

“The stay-at-home directive will only last for few weeks and we will all go back to our normal lives. Government’s social distancing directive is in the interest of us all,” Oshundun said. (NAN)

2.348 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Appears In Live Video With Beejay Sax To Mark Easter

Culled from Independent on April 12, 2020

- Sends Easter Greetings To Health Workers At Isolation Facilities
- Gospel Artiste Sings To Cheer Up, Uplift Patients
- ‘Gesture To Show Gratitude, Boost Frontline Personnel’s Morale’ – Governor

LAGOS- Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu went on live video on Instagram to mark the Easter holiday with the medical workers at the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) in Yaba and the Onikan Isolation Centre, Lagos Island.

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Commenting, Sanwo-Olu said it is a show of gratitude to the medical personnel, who are attending to various health emergencies in Lagos, noting, the current national healthcare emergency occasion led by the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has robbed them of the Easter celebration.

“They deserved to sit in the midst of their family members and feast in this festive period, but the current national healthcare emergency occasion caused by the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has robbed these frontline medical workers in Lagos State of the Easter celebration.”

In the live video streamed at the isolation facilities, the Governor appeared with a gospel artiste, Abolaji Banjoko, popularly known as Beejay Sax, sending greetings and lifting the spirit of the medical personnel with songs of praise, even as they attended to medical emergencies.

As the music played on, the health workers and volunteers excitedly trooped out of the isolation wards, dancing towards the gospel band positioned at a safe distance in the facilities.

The health workers joined the Governor and the saxophonist to pray for divine strength to raise the capacity of the State Government in putting the ravaging pandemic under control.

Patients in the isolation facilities were not left out of the excitement; some of them in the advanced stage of treatment danced to the tunes in their wards.

Others stayed by the windows and waved intermittently to acknowledge the gospel artiste’s musical ministrations.

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Mrs. Bimpe Arowolo, a volunteer nurse, who could not hide her excitement, described the gesture as “motivating”. She thanked Governor Sanwo-Olu for sharing the Easter moments with them, noting that the gesture lightened the mood of the workers and patients in the gloomy period.

She said: “This is the least thing everyone of us expected here today. The atmosphere in this environment has been devoid of any form of cheerfulness, because of the nature of the pandemic we are dealing with. We are all taken by surprise when the band started setting up its equipment. We didn’t know what they were up to until they started singing.

“This has lightened up our spirits and it will motivate us to give our best to this important assignment, which requires everyone joining hands with the Government of Lagos State to stop coronavirus in the State. Thank you Governor Sanwo-Olu for keeping our spirits up in this rather gloomy Easter period.”

The Governor said the gesture was informed by the need to personally demonstrate his gratitude to the health workers and to boost their morale, describing all the frontline health workers engaged by the State Government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as “heroes”.

Sanwo-Olu said; “Today being Easter, I take a moment to identify with all our health workers; the heroes who deny themselves of personal wellbeing and comfort to attend to emergencies we are grappling with at this period. I left every other thing I am doing and thought it necessary to share this moment with those who endure great pain and discomfort to

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save all of us from the agony of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic.”

2.349 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu celebrates Easter with medical workers

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Sunday, marked the Easter celebration with medical workers at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba and the Onikan Isolation Centre, Lagos Island.

The governor appeared, alongside a gospel artiste, Abolaji Banjoko, popularly known Beejay Sax, in a live video streamed at the isolation facilities.

In the video, the Governor and the artiste sent greetings and lifted the spirit of the medical personnel with songs of praise, even as they attended to medical emergencies.

As the music played on, the health workers and volunteers excitedly trooped out of the isolation wards, dancing towards the gospel band positioned at a safe distance in the facilities, The PUNCH learnt.

A screenshot showing some health workers at the Lagos Isolation Centre dancing on Sunday.

Patients in the isolation facilities were not left out of the excitement as some of them in the advanced stage of treatment danced to the tunes in their wards.

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Others stayed by the windows and waved intermittently to acknowledge the gospel artiste's musical ministrations.

Earlier, the governor and his wife, Dr Ibijoke, participated in a church service in commemoration of the Easter season online.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile, said the gesture to boost the morale of the health workers.

He described all the frontline health workers engaged by Lagos in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic as "heroes".

Sanwo-Olu was quoted as saying, "Today being Easter, I take a moment to identify with all our health workers; the heroes who deny themselves of personal wellbeing and comfort to attend to emergencies we are grappling with at this period.

"I left every other thing I am doing and thought it necessary to share this moment with those who endure great pain and discomfort to save all of us from the agony of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic."

A volunteer nurse, Mrs Bimpe Arowolo, described the gesture as "motivating".

She thanked Sanwo-Olu for sharing the Easter moments with them, noting that the gesture lightened the mood of the workers and patients in the gloomy period.

She said, "This is the least thing we expected here today. The atmosphere in this environment has been devoid of any form of cheerfulness, because of the nature of the pandemic we

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are dealing with. We are all taken by surprise when the band started setting up its equipment. We didn't know what they were up to until they started singing.

"This has lightened up our spirits and it will motivate us to give our best to this important assignment, which requires everyone joining hands with the Government of Lagos State to stop coronavirus in the State. Thank you Governor Sanwo-Olu for keeping our spirits up in this rather gloomy Easter period."

2.350 Lockdown: Lagos PDP Urges Sanwo-Olu To Use Extension To Tackle Rise In Robbery

Culled from Independent on April 13, 2020

The Lagos State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has urged Governor Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State to use the period of the extended 14 days lockdown to tackle rise in recent cases of armed robbery in the state.

The party had in a press statement made available to journalists on Monday by the Lagos State Lagos Publicity Secretary of the party, Gani Taofik, stressed that Sanwo-Olu should at this time deliberately domesticate the modus operandi, if need be. It suggested that the governor should demand for adequate relief supports from the Federal Government for Lagos state.

The statement reads in part, "For sake of clarity, we suggest that governor Sanwo-Olu should immediately summon security meeting of all security agencies and possibly include Community Development Associations (CDAs).

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He should also consider the imposition of curfew in the state from 8pm till 8am. This is most appropriate now to frontally and strategically stop this robbery and violent attacks arising from effects of the lockdown”

The main opposition party in Lagos State could be reacting to the recent rise in armed robbery across the state, during the period of the lockdown, where residents have been reported to have organized themselves into vigilante groups to protect themselves from menace of armed robbers.

2.351 COVID-19: Olu Of Epe Commends Sanwo-Olu, Calls For Patience During Lockdown

Culled from Independent on April 13, 2020

Lagos – Oba Shefiu Olatunji Adewale, Bangbopa, Eshinlokun I, the Olu-Epe of Epe Kingdom has commended Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his rapid responses to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in the state.

He gave the commendation while addressing newsmen in his palace in Epe on Monday while imploring Nigerians to strictly obey all guidelines issued by relevant authorities to curtail the spread of the deadly virus.

He also praised Sanwo-Olu for the consistent daily updates on the pandemic in the state stating that his daily update is a right step in the right direction.

“I want to implore all Lagosians and Nigerians at large to follow the safety measures. It is for our own good. Ensure you regularly wash your hands with soap under running water and use hand sanitizer immediately.

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“Ensure you also maintain social distancing and keep your environment clean always,” he said.

He added: “It is our collective responsibility to defeat and put an end to this deadly virus. It is in our hands. There are sacrifices that must be made including the stress of the lockdown, though, painful but it is the safest containment measure,”he said.

“Please let us bear with the government at this time, it is for our own good and what they are doing is in the best interest of everyone in the state. I am sure that very soon by the grace of God all will soon be over, but let us obey so that we can stop the spread of the virus.

“I appeal to you all to continue to cooperate with government because it is the sacrifice we have to make at this time and it is in the best interest of every one of us.

Speaking on the relief package distributed to Lagosians, the Epe Monarch appreciated the government for the initiative stating that it is part of measures to ameliorate the suffering of the people during the period of the lockdown occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He assured those that have not been reached to be calm as the government will reach out to them with the relief package in no time. He said that the political leaders, the elected representatives both at the state and national level, Non-Governmental Organisations, individuals have displayed what Epe is known for, the spirit of kindness and compassion.

He expressed his appreciation for the succour given to the people of Epe both in kind and in cash. He prays that God will replenish their pockets plentifully.

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He, however, Culled on the state government to intensify effort at reaching out to rural communities by coming up with campaigns on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

2.352 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Discharge Of 6 More Patients

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 13, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Monday announced the discharge of another six patients, who tested negative twice to the Coronavirus disease.

Sanwo-Olu, in a statement, said that the numbers of discharged patients from the isolation centres in the state had gone up to 61.

“Good people of Lagos, I have more great news from our isolation facilities.

“Today, six more persons; one female and five males have been discharged to join the society.

“The patients, all from the Mainland Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba, have fully recovered and tested negative twice consecutively to COVID-19.

“This brings the numbers of patients successfully managed and discharged from our facilities to 61.

“For us, this is significant and indicative of our will power to triumph in this war against the lethal COVID19.

“We won’t be deterred, and we will not relent until victory is achieved.

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“I thank you all for your continued perseverance and patience, especially at this critical time.

“This sacrifice of ours, I am most certain will not be in vain,” Sanwo-Olu, the COVID-19 Incident Commander said. (NAN)

2.353 COVID-19 Lockdown Unrest: Sanwo-Olu Orders Clampdown On Robbers, Hoodlums

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 14, 2020

Obviously not amused by the alarming rate of robbery and looting said to have been triggered by lockdown of the state to contain spread of coronavirus pandemic, Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu Tuesday ordered total clampdown on the robbers and hoodlums terrorising the state.

The governor who dangled the axe while giving update on on the COVID-19 management in the state described the robbers as opportunistic saying anyone caught in the act would have himself to blame.

To douse tension among restive youths, Sanwo-Olu said,” In the next couple of days, we will commence a daily “Food Kitchen” program which will see us aim to feed about 100,000 people daily. This will largely target the youths. We are identifying local food vendors who will pilot this program and ensure that the process of cooking and serving of the meals adhere strictly to public health guidelines.

“This brings me to the issue of the seeming rise in unrest in the metropolis and boundary communities.

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It is very apt that we have just concluded an emergency Security Council meeting this afternoon, in which all the various heads of the state's security agencies were present. At this meeting, we discussed the increasing reports of crime and criminality across the metropolis as cultists, miscreants and other criminals have sought to take advantage of the lockdown to unleash havoc on our people.

“One of our key responsibilities as an administration is the safety and security of the lives and properties of all citizens, and we will not abandon this responsibility at any time. There is no room whatsoever in Lagos State for criminal gangs or miscreants of any kind.

“In fact, over 100 suspects have been arrested in the last 72 hours on account of disturbances. All the suspects have accordingly been charged to court.

“Let me assure you that those miscreants that you may have seen in the videos going viral are not hungry people; they are not acting on the basis of hunger. They are opportunistic criminals, and they will be treated as such by the law enforcement agencies.”

He said the state have been in close and constant communication with the Federal Government on the issue, saying the IGP has deployed a Deputy Inspector General of Police, who is a seasoned crime fighter, to Lagos as our Intervention Squad Coordinator to help devise and superintend over a superior strategy to curtail and stem the perceived and actual threat of violence.

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The governor added that with the new rapprochement Lagosians will see an increase in mobile police deployment in all trouble spots in the metropolis; as well as the police intensifying their patrols around residential areas, boundary communities, and other critical areas of activities during this lockdown period.

He added that this will also be carried out in conjunction with other security agencies – Army; Navy; Airforce and Directorate of State Security Service.

Harping on the other palliatives he said they were able to reach 200,000 households which include the vulnerable, physically challenged and the elderly first and second phase of the programme.

“During this time as well, we were also able to feed a large number of the organized informal sector; junior members of the military and police force in Lagos; as well as minimum wage earners in the State's public service.

“As you are also aware, we announced a medical palliative for all those needing to access medical care during this lockdown as well as free childbirth services for expectant mothers. I am pleased to announce that over 18,000 people have accessed free medical services in line with this directive, and we have recorded over 600 childbirths – all free of charge.”

The governor said they are also cleaning up our data from its various social registers to get a clean list of truly vulnerable and economically challenged persons to enable us remit some cash to them.

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“We aim to do these cash transfers by the end of the week to a minimum of 250,000 indigent citizens.

“Thirdly, I have just issued an order to the Police; LASTMA and the VIO to release all impounded vehicles arrested for minor traffic offences from the 1st of March 2020 to date. This directive takes effect following the end of the lockdown.

“I am also pleased to announce that all the MSMEs and SMEs who have taken LSETF loans and other government program loans will enjoy a three months moratorium. This will further help to cushion the effect of the lack of economic activities occasioned by the lockdown.”

2.354 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Discharge Of Another Six Patients

Culled from Independent on April 14, 2020

LAGOS – Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Monday announced the discharge of another six patients who tested negative twice to the coronavirus disease.

Sanwo-Olu, in a statement, said that the numbers of discharged patients from the isolation centres in the state had gone up to 61.

“Good people of Lagos, I have more great news from our isolation facilities.

“Today, six more persons; one female and five males have been discharged to join the society.

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“The patients, all from the Mainland Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba, have fully recovered and tested negative twice consecutively to COVID-19.

“This brings the number of patients successfully managed and discharged from our facilities to 61.

“For us, this is significant and indicative of our will power to triumph in this war against the lethal COVID19.”

2.355 (UPDATED) COVID-19: Lagos Discharges Nine More From IDH– Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on April 14, 2020

...With Death Of 56-Year-Old Nigerian Male Returnee From US, State's Death Toll Now Seven

Lagos- Lagos State Government on Tuesday said it has discharged eight more Coronavirus patients from its Infectious Disease Hospital(IDH) Yaba, Lagos, bringing the total number of patients recovery in Lagos to 69.

Giving the details of those discharged, the State Governor Jide Sanwo – Olu said they are two females and six males who have tested negative and fully recovered from COVID19 and are free to rejoin their families.

Announcing via his official Twitter handle @jidesanwoolu, Sanwo-Olu tweeted; “More great news today from our Mainland Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba. Eight more people; two females and six males have tested negative and fully recovered from COVID19. They have been discharged to return to their families.”

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“This brings the number of patients successfully managed and discharged from our facilities to 69. Please, let us continue to adhere to all the safety advice from our health experts.”

Earlier, Prof. Akin Abayomi, Commissioner for Health in Lagos State gave further details on the latest victim who died of the dreaded Coronavirus Monday.

He made the disclosure while confirming that it recorded 13 new cases of Coronavirus. He said the patient who died was a 56-year-old Nigerian who visited the United States.

According to him, this brings the number of COVID-19 deaths recorded in the state to 6, adding that the state has so far recorded 192 cases.

Abayomi wrote; “A 56-year-old Nigerian male who recently returned from the United States has died of COVID-19 related complication.” “This brings the total number of COVID-19 related deaths in Lagos to six.”

2.356 Lockdown: Lagos Govt plans to feed 100,000 youths daily- Gov Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 14th April 2020

The Lagos State Government says it is targeting to feed 100,000 youths daily, as part of the measures to cushion the effect of the extended lockdown due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State made this known on Tuesday at a media briefing on the update of COVID-19 pandemic.

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Sanwo-Olu said that his government would continue to roll out various palliatives to cushion the inevitable and harsh economic effect of the lockdown on the citizens.

“ I am pleased today to announce additional palliatives for our citizens to further ameliorate the inconvenience occasioned by this extended lockdown. “In the first instance, we will be rolling out measures. In the next couple of days, we will commence a daily “Food Kitchen” programme, which will see us aim to feed about 100,000 people daily.

“This will largely target youths.

“We are identifying local food vendors who will pilot this programme, and ensure that the process of cooking and serving of the meals adhere strictly to public health guidelines,” he said.

According to him, government is also cleaning up its data from the various social registers to get a clean list of truly vulnerable and economically challenged persons to enable it to remit some cash to them. The governor said that the state government intends to do the cash transfers by the end of the week to a minimum of 250,000 indigent citizens.

Sanwo-Olu said that an order had been issued to the Police, LASTMA and the VIO to release all impounded vehicles arrested for minor traffic offences from March 1, 2020 to date.

He said that this directive took effect following the end of the initial lockdown.

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“I am also pleased to announce that all the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who have taken the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) loans and other government programme loans will enjoy a three months moratorium.

“This will further help to cushion the effect of the lack of economic activities occasioned by the lockdown,” the governor said. He said that when the first stay-at-home directive was given, a welfare package for the indigents and vulnerable segment of the society was announced, which encountered some hitches.

According to him, in the first and second phases of the programme, government was able to reach over 200,000 households, which include the vulnerable, physically challenged and the elderly.

“During this time as well, we were also able to feed a large number of the organised informal sector; junior members of the military and police force in Lagos, as well as minimum wage earners in the state’s public service.

“As you are also aware, we announced a medical palliative for all those that need to access medical care during this lockdown, as well as free childbirth services for expectant mothers.

“I am pleased to announce that over 18,000 people have accessed free medical services in line with this directive.

“We have recorded over 600 childbirths, all free of charge,” the governor said. (NAN)

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2.357 18,000 benefit from free medical services in Lagos with over 600 childbirths, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 15th April 2020

No fewer than 18,000 people in Lagos State have benefitted from free medical services being offered at all state-owned primary and secondary health care centres during the period of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who disclosed the information in a tweet on Wednesday, confirmed that over 600 childbirths were recorded and no financial cost was attached.

The tweet reads: “A few weeks ago, I announced that we would be footing the medical bills for cases at all our primary and secondary health care centres during this period. I am happy to announce that over 18,000 people have accessed the medical services with over 600 childbirths, all free of charge.

“This medical intervention will continue as part of our multi-sector approach to cushioning the effect of the lockdown on our residents. The state government will continue to do more as we stop the spread of COVID-19 in Lagos. We thank our medical workers for all their efforts.”

Opens Tweet on Twitter in a new tab

He announced additional measures to cushion the effect of the extended lockdown in Lagos.

“We have begun the distribution of relief items to 250,000 vulnerable residents of Lagos. In addition to that, 100,000 youths

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will be provided one meal per day across LCDAs via our food kitchens,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Governor said he met with the State Security Council to address the increase in armed robberies and other unrest in boundary communities and some decisions were taken to control and end the unrest.

He appreciated the increased help from the Inspector General of Police with a special force who are already addressing the elements breaching the peace in the affected communities.

“We have the responsibility of ensuring the security of the lives and property of all residents in Lagos. We would not abandon that responsibility at any time. We would definitely see an increase in mobile police deployment in all trouble spots across the metropolis,” he said.

He promised that security agents would intensify patrol around residential areas, boundary communities and other critical areas of activity during the lockdown period.

“I urged residents to cooperate with them and thank you for your resilience during this extraordinary time,” he added.

2.358 Coalition Of Political Parties Hail Sanwo-Olu On Fight Against COVID-19

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 15, 2020

The Conference of Registered Political Parties in Lagos, on Wednesday passed a vote of confidence on the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his administration’s forthrightness and commitment in containing the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic in the state.

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The group who through its Chairman, Engineer Taiwo Fatai at a press conference held in Lagos decried the activities of certain individuals who they said are using various platforms to criticise and detract the government.

The coalition pointed out that the traducers have not added any value to the polity of Lagos State and would stop at nothing to pull Lagos State down.

Fatai said, “We commend Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu Governor of Lagos State for the steps he is taking to stop the spread of COVID 19 within the state. His motivating, proficient and consoling reaction to the pandemic in the state is highly commendable.

”We are satisfied with his response to the dictates of the times, by reactivating Lagos State profile banking and bio-security research facility at the infections sickness laboratory at Yaba.

”Without any doubt, the recent events that have locked down the Nations of the world, the monstrous COVID 19 have shown that leadership earned in an unusual trying moments as the COVID 19 represents. CRPP have been vindicated in our assertion that Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu embodies the true yarning and aspiration of the people of Lagos State,” the group said

The CRPP also commended the First Lady of Lagos State _Mrs ibironke Sanwo-Olu who “has continued to give her Husband, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, the Governor of Lagos State the needed and necessary support that informed the successes achieved within one year in office in the history of Lagos State.”

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

2.359 Sanwo-Olu promises Lagosians more police deployment

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 15, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, promised the deployment of more policemen in the state to secure the lives and property of residents of the state during the lockdown period.

Sanwo-Olu, at a briefing on Tuesday, said miscreants terrorising residents of the state during the lockdown period would be dealt with.

He said, “We have been in close and constant communication with the Federal Government on this issue, and the Inspector-General of Police has deployed a Deputy Inspector-General of Police, who is a seasoned crime fighter, to Lagos as our Intervention Squad Coordinator to help devise and superintend over a superior strategy to curtail and stem the perceived and actual threat of violence.

“With this revised strategy, you will see an increase in mobile police deployment in all trouble spots in the metropolis; as well as the police intensifying their patrols around residential areas, boundary communities, and other critical areas of activities during this lockdown period. This will also be carried out in conjunction with other security agencies — army, navy, air force and the Department of State Services.”

The governor said over 100 suspects had been arrested in the last 72 hours on account of disturbances and would be charged to court accordingly.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

2.360 Lagos cab operators commend Sanwo-Olu over release of impounded vehicles

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 15, 2020in News

The Lagos State Taxi Drivers and Cab Operators Association on Wednesday commended Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for ordering the release of all vehicles impounded by law enforcement agencies from March 1.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Sanwo-Olu gave the directive during a Lagos State COVID-19 update and palliatives’ programmes of his administration on Tuesday.

The governor said that he had directed the Police, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and Vehicle Inspection Services (VIS) to release vehicles impounded for minor offences free of charge.

Sanwo-Olu said that the exercise, billed to start after the lockdown, was aimed at reducing the financial burden of the offenders, following the stay-at-home order, to curb further spread of COVID-19 in the state. The governor, however, said that the gesture would not be extended to vehicles with capital offences.

In his reaction, Taiwo Omolekan, General Secretary of the association, described Sanwo-Olu as a compassionate administrator, adding that the directive was a relief to so many operators whose sources of livelihood were seized over disobedience. Omolekan, who noted that some motorists defied the government’s sit-at-home order because of hunger, lauded the governor for being humane and compassionate.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

“Gov. Sanwo-Olu is a compassionate governor, he is a governor of the people. He has really done well.

“That singular directive changed the dynamics of everything, because people are suffering as a result of the lockdown, especially those who deal in transport.

“The hardship was the reason why some people took out their vehicles to go and look for daily bread, the development that led to the arrest and seizure of their vehicles by law enforcement agencies. “Our association sincerely appreciate the governor for this compassion. For this singular act, we are so much in love with him, “ Omolekan said.

He, however, said it would take some time after the lockdown, for people to get back on their feet. (NAN)

2.361 Kudos Sanwo-Olu, but...

*Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 16, 2020 in Letters,
News Update*

Sir: The commendations showered on you and your team as you strive to tackle the Corona Virus are clearly well deserved. The damage has been global while the devastation has been profound in Nigeria, especially in Lagos State. The leadership qualities you have displayed have been exceptional.

This has prompted my firm to suggest that while the frontline belongs to the health professionals, the least we can and ought to do is plead with you to commence PLANNING now for the second wave of the deadly pandemic which is only a matter of time.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

We are dealing with a very aggressive virus which does not require a passport to cross borders or airline ticket to board flights whether first, business or economy class (not to mention cargo/baggage); customs / passport control are not a barrier; it is not even amenable to bribery or susceptible to intimidation by the rich and powerful not to talk of pleas for leniency by the poor and the weak. We are confronted with a crisis of monumental proportions. The first wave crept up on us and almost took us unawares and largely unprepared.

In order to prepare adequately for the second wave, we recommend a war chest of at least ONE BILLION NAIRA. We believe that it is perfectly feasible to persuade ONE MILLION Lagosians and friends of Lagos State —within Nigeria, the diaspora and beyond to contribute ONE MILLION NAIRA each to demonstrate that they care.

The fund will be devoted to building CAPACITY to deal with mitigation and prevention evidenced by state of the art (World Class): Isolation / Quarantine facilities; Intensive Care Units; Research Centres for infectious diseases, and specialist hospitals.

In addition, we need to accelerate our local production of masks, goggles, gloves, drugs, sensitizers, Personal Protection Equipment, ventilators, testing equipment etc.

We need to have in place an exit strategy that is ahead of the curve in an anticipation of the vaccine which would hopefully be safe and effective .

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

We cannot afford to be behind the curve in the endeavour for antibody and massive testing with the emphasis on incubation/asymptomatic/symptoms.

The main item on the agenda is the complete overhaul and thorough re-evaluation of: (1) the medical defence architecture, (2) medical defence assets and locations; (3) medical supply chain, and (4) medical control and command.

Separately, we shall deal with specialist training for doctors, nurses, health carers etc.

We shall also deal separately with aligning with global strategies by WHO and other international initiatives and Nigeria's national strategy as well as computer modelling and projections plus data gathering and containment strategies.

What we have inherited is chaos and lack of co-ordination along with fear and uncertainty in the midst of ignorance and poverty.

Now is the time to replace them with a real time situation room.

% Bashorun J K Randle, Lagos.

2.362 Sanwo-Olu approves three-month moratorium on MSMEs loan worth N2.8 billion

•Govt to feed 100,000 youths

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 16, 2020 in

Coronavirus, News, News Update

THE three months moratorium on loans to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) granted by Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is a reprieve of about N410 million, it was learnt yesterday.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEADERSHIP*****

There will be no interest payment on the N2.8 billion loans given out by the Lagos State Employment Trust Funds (LSETF).

Sanwo-Olu broke the news as he announced the State Government's new palliatives to cushion the effect of the coronavirus pandemic on micro and medium-scale businesses.

The loan beneficiaries, who cut across various sectors of the economy, now have their repayment of principal and accruing interest deferred.

Announcing the relief, the Governor said: "We are supporting small businesses. At LSETF, we have 1,170 SMEs and 2,160 Micro Enterprises across sectors in Agriculture, Education, Information Technology, Food Processing, Transport etc with total outstanding loan balance of over N2.8 billion.

Meanwhile the governor rolled out bumper palliatives to cushion the effects of the ongoing lockdown of the state on its residents. The new palliatives were unveiled less than 24 hours after President Muhammadu Buhari, in a nationwide broadcast, extended the restriction of movement in Lagos, Ogun and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Sanwo-Olu announced the social intervention programmes during a briefing that followed Security Council meeting held at the State House in Marina, on Tuesday.

The new scheme came on the heels of the commencement of the second part of Food Stimulus Packages being distributed to 250,000 vulnerable residents since the lockdown directive came into effect.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

The Governor disclosed that the State Government was moved by the need to support and ameliorate the inconvenience being experienced by vulnerable people as occasioned by the extended lockdown.

The Government is opening food kitchens in all the local councils in the State with a target to provide one meal per day to 100,000 youths. Sanwo-Olu also announced unconditional cash transfer of undisclosed amount to 250,000 vulnerable residents and economically challenged persons who have identification numbers with Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA).

2.363 COVID-19: Discharged Olopade thanks Sanwo-Olu, Nigerians

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 16, 2020 in Sports

FORMER Ogun State Commissioner of Youth and Sports, Bukola Olopade, has been discharged from the Lagos COVID-19 Isolation centre after his second test confirmed negative to the coronavirus.

Olopade was confirmed positive on March 26, after returning from United Kingdom (UK) and in a video post yesterday, he thanked Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the state medical team for their efforts. He was expected to join his family yesterday after three weeks in the COVID-19 Isolation centre in Lagos.

“I want to thank the Lagos State Governor, Commissioner for Health and particularly the media team for their selfless service to humanity. I must also thank those who culled me and most especially my family for their unflinching support,” he said.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

2.364 Patients who lie about travel history will be prosecuted – Sanwo-Olu

At Easter, Sanwo-Olu makes Lagos Ohanaeze, others happy

•Donates truckloads of foodstuff to groups to ease lockdown pain

Culled from the Sun on 16th April 2020

As the entire world reels under the excruciating pain of the lockdown caused by COVID-19 pandemic, Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, recently came to the aid of residents with truckloads of foodstuff to the needy. Among the beneficiaries was Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Lagos State, with its six million-strong members. The president of the apex Igbo socio-cultural group, Chief Solomon Ogbonna, who couldn't hide his joy, described the governor as a man with a heart of gold.

The Ohanaeze Ndigbo leader said since the COVID-19 episode started, the governor had been up and doing, giving succour to the needy. He said even though the lockdown in Lagos had exacerbated the suffering of indigent residents, Sanwo-Olu had done well with his relief package.

“Governor Sanwo-Olu made the greatest difference in the lives of Lagosians, including Ndigbo, as he shared relief materials, especially food items, to people of various ethnic nationalities in Lagos. The Igbo community in Lagos also benefited from the COVID-19 palliative from the governor,” he said.

Ogbonna said Ohanaeze Ndigbo is the umbrella organisation for all Igbo in Lagos, adding that the package from Lagos

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government to Igbo community was channelled through this apex body. He spoke further: “The governor’s gesture at this crisis period attests to his vow to run inclusive governance. Babajide Sanwo-Olu demonstrated that he is a true born-again Christian, a man whose word is his bond. He is a man of the people. And God Almighty will continue to guide him in his determination to transform Lagos, protecting the lives and property of all Lagosians. “The popular axiom is: ‘one good turn deserves another.’ So, I call on all Lagosians to show appreciation to the governor by cooperating with his administration to make Lagos greater and safer. We should abide by all the rules and recommendations to stay safe and stop the spread of the virus.

“This is the first time in the history of Ohanaeze Ndigbo Lagos that the organisation is in tandem with the Lagos State administration, and the difference is clear. We are now doing things differently, enjoying our pride of place in the scheme of things in Lagos State. We are really reaping the benefit of identifying with the ruling party in the state. Ohanaeze Ndigbo Lagos calls on all Igbo people in Lagos to key into the fraternity, rally round Ohanaeze Ndigbo and support the Sanwo-Olu administration.

“Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Lagos State, is a unit of the larger family, Ohanaeze Ndigbo Worldwide. Ohanaeze Ndigbo is the apex Igbo socio-cultural group in Nigeria. The group represents all Igbo communities within and outside Nigeria. Although the group is not a political party, part of its objectives is to foster unity among its members in order to better allow them to be representative within the political scenario of Nigeria.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

“Though, there are many Igbo social clubs, trade unions, town unions and business organisations in Lagos State, the umbrella organisation is Ohanaeze Ndigbo. So, Ohanaeze Ndigbo has the onerous task of overseeing the wellbeing of all Igbo in Lagos. It therefore, means that all other Igbo unions are under the watch of Ohanaeze Ndigbo which supports, guides and ensures ethical conducts of Igbo; as well as ensuring harmonious relationship with people of other tribes and nationalities in Lagos. Every Igbo person, no matter his/her social leaning and association belongs to Ohanaeze Ndigbo.

In our respective towns in Igbo land, there are social clubs, age grade unions, village unions and other associations, but the town union is the umbrella organisation for all people of the town. So, all associations and unions in the town are subsets of the town union. In turn, the town union is a subset of Ohanaeze Ndigbo. Same is applicable to the relationship between all Igbo unions and Ohanaeze Ndigbo in Lagos State. All Igbo social clubs, unions and associations in Lagos State are subsets of Ohanaeze Ndigbo. It therefore behoves all Igbo in Lagos to pledge allegiance and show commitment to Ohanaeze Ndigbo. In the same vein, all Igbo across the globe should pay allegiance and show commitment to Ohanaeze Ndigbo.”

Ogbonna added that an Igbo person in Lagos, Ndigbo in the state have the right to belong to other Igbo organisations in Lagos, including their town unions.

He said: “This year’s Easter celebration in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, calls for sober reflection. We should use

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

this period to cultivate the habit of living in peace with our neighbours. The Covid-19 pandemic will definitely blow over, but we should learn some lessons from the crisis. We should emulate the good examples of our governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu who delivers dividends of democracy to all Lagosians not minding your tribe or religious background.

I am reminded of God's unconditional love for His children; a love so strong that His Son had to die in order for us to be reconciled with him.

"In sharing our resources and being hospitable to strangers, we awaken the presence of God around us. In fact, we can only recognise godliness through the way in which we interact with each other, since Christ's consciousness is something that must be lived and embodied," he said.

2.365 Sanwo-Olu: Test is free in Lagos

Culled from the Sun on 17th April 2020

Lagos Government, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said COVID-19 tests in all approved testing centres in the state were carried out free of charge.

The governor, in a statement was reacting to an online report which alleged that patients paid as much as N30,000 the pandemic tests.

"I want to state unequivocally that there is no designated COVID-19 testing centre in Lagos that collects or is allowed to collect money for the test.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

COVID-19 tests at the designated testing centres are free of charge. I want to assure the public that activities at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba and other approved centres for COVID19 screening are effectively monitored in accordance with the strict guidelines of the Lagos State COVID-19 Response under which no fees are collected for the tests.

"Furthermore, we urge Lagos State residents to call 08000CORONA to report any health worker and or anyone who demands and or requests fees to conduct COVID-19 tests at any of our designated testing centres".He also urged residents to be wary of misleading reports, which he said were targeted at discrediting frontline health workers who were committed to ensuring that COVID 19 is contained in the state.

He warned that any health worker or personnel discovered to have engaged in any illegal activities will be sanctioned in line with extant provisions of the law and rules guiding their duties.

2.366 Against Sanwo-Olu's order, Alimosho, Ikorodu general hospitals charge us for treatment —Patients

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 19, 2020

Residents of Alimosho area of Lagos and other persons who had sought to take advantage of the free medical treatment promised by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu have expressed frustrations and disappointments as the Alimosho General Hospital allegedly charges them for treatment.

The same is the situation at Ikorodu General Hospital where pregnant women are expected to buy Personal Protective Equipment before they would be taken in.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

The hospital, findings revealed, also engaged in selective patient treatment, as against Sanwo-Olu's express order for state-owned hospitals to treat emergency and casualty cases, as well as pregnant women and children.

The state government had, on Saturday, April 4, announced free medical care in all its 27 hospitals in the wake of the Federal Government restriction order on Lagos, Ogun and FCT as Nigeria battles the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Sanwo-Olu had promised that free medical services will be offered to pregnant women and other persons with health emergencies in all its 27 healthcare facilities, as well as the maternal & child health clinics.

"The Lagos State Government will, for the duration of this lockdown, in the first instance throughout the month of April, take full responsibility for the medical bills of all patients who fall under the following categories and present themselves: Emergencies and casualties.

"Cases, including registration, laboratory tests and surgeries, will be treated free of charge," Sanwo-Olu said.

On April 15, the governor via his tweeter handle announced that no fewer than 18,000 residents had benefitted from the free medical care, with 600 childbirths.

Cletus receiving treatment at home. Photo: Tessy Igomu

"I am happy to announce that over 18,000 people have accessed the medical services, with over 600 childbirths, all free of charge," Sanwo-Olu had tweeted.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

However, what obtains at Alimosho General Hospital, which serves the entire Alimosho Local Government Area, reportedly the largest in Lagos, with a population of about 2 million, is far from the reality painted.

Most of the complainers were traders, artisans, and indigent persons, including nursing mothers and pregnant women. During a covert visit by PUNCH HealthWise on Thursday, our Correspondent discovered that only emergency cases were being attended to, and it was not free, as patients were made to pay for all the services, including tests and cards.

Patients' — including our Correspondent's — attempts to register and obtain a card from a heavily pregnant cashier at the pay point were futile, because patients were only expected to pay after they might have seen a doctor. And they could not see a doctor unless they were deemed to be an emergency case. Our Correspondent was not deemed to be an emergency.

At the outpatient unit, most patients said they had arrived at the hospital as early as 6.am.

One of them was a woman whose wailing toddler had a swollen hand oozing pus. As of 11: 30am, none of the now pensive crowd had been attended to by any health worker.

Some of the patients told our Correspondent that they were referred to the hospital from primary healthcare centres. They alleged 'neglect.'

2.367 **BREAKING: Sanwo-Olu Makes Face Masks Compulsory In Lagos**

Culled from Independent on April 20, 2020

The Governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has announced a new directive in the fight against COVID-19 in the state.

Sanwoolu in a statewide broadcast on COVID-19 efforts in the state ordered the compulsory wearing of protective face masks in the state.

He also warned against Stigmatization of people who have recovered from the deadly virus.

Details Later...

2.368 **Covid-19: Lagos talks tough on ‘insincere’ returnees, begins enforcement of face masks**

Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on April 20, 2020
Editorial
IVNews0

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday said the state would begin the enforcement of compulsory wearing of face masks in public places from next week as coronavirus bites harder.

He also harped on possible prosecution of returnees who hide their identity.

Just yesterday, Lagos recorded 70 new cases of Coronavirus, the biggest it has recorded in a single day.

Speaking at a news conference at the State House, Marina, the governor stated that one million of locally made face masks had been contracted to tailors and would be distributed during the week.

the governor said “ from next week, we are going to be enforcing wearing of face mask in public places. Over a million has been commissioned to tailors and will be distributed during the week. Its important we do not panic. This pandemic will be over and sizeable number of our people will get well.”

The governor also warned against discriminating against those who had been treated and discharged, saying they were free to relate with their families and community.

He added the state has recorded 14 deaths but urged the citizens not to panic..

Sanwo-Olu appealed to people feeling the symptoms of the virus to present themselves for test, adding two more isolation centres at Landmark Centre and Gbagada, would be opened on Tuesday.

“We have seen increase of infected people from our neighbouring countries.

We have a responsibility to take care of them and they are in our isolation centre. The increased in numbers is evidence of our strategy to rip off the virus.

“We have seen that people that are suspected to have the virus have declined to present themselves or going to private hospitals. The isolation centres are not death centres,” he said.

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According to him, “The society should desist from stigmatisation. Once certified negative, they are free to join their families and society. We are hoping to open two isolation centres at Landmark Centre and Gbagada.”

On security, the governor said the government will continue with “show of force day and night” adding “ our people should be able to go to bed with their two eyes closed.”

2.369 COVID-19: We are increasing health workers allowances, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 20, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says the allowances of health workers in the state would be increased.

He said this during a televised media briefing on COVID-19 updates in Lagos monitored by our correspondent on Monday.

He also commended the health workers for their sacrifices and professionalism in fighting coronavirus in the state.

He said, “Because their (health workers) workload has been increased, there is a plan that we are going to increase their individual allowance for this month for each of our health workers irrespective of if you are at the frontline of COVID-19 or you are just treating somebody that has malaria.”

The governor also warned against panic, noting that “isolation centres are not death centres. It is important for us not to panic but to obey the regulations that have been put in place.”

He also urged Muslim faithful in the state to obey social distancing directive during their month of fasting, Ramadan.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

“As we prepare to observe Ramadan, let us continue to obey the laws of the land. Any gathering of people numbering above 25 is not acceptable,” he added.

2.370 Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu of Lagos has said patients who lie about their travel history will be prosecuted.

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 20, 2020 in News, News Update

He disclosed this during a press briefing at the State House Marina on Monday.

He said “These patients do not only endanger their lives but the lives of our front line medical personnel, we already have some names and they will be prosecuted duly”. “We would therefore like to appeal to our health workers to raise alarm as soon as they notice anything of sort,” he stated.

Details shortly.....

2.371 COVID-19: It'll get worse before it gets better - Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 21, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor and the incident Commander of COVID-19 team in Lagos, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said that due to the testing procedures that have been intensified in the state, the COVID-19 outbreak in Lagos will most likely get worse before it gets better.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

The governor disclosed this while responding to questions from journalists during a press briefing at the State House, Marina on Monday.

Sanwo-Olu lamented the low compliance level of Lagosians during the lockdown and said this will only worsen the situation of the pandemic. He emphasized that he is only trying to prepare the minds of Lagosians because of the testing capacities that have been intensified.

He assured Lagosians that the best is being done to flatten the curve, he, however, enjoined them to “be cooperative with the government in this regard”.

2.372 Breaking: In Lagos, Sanwo-Olu announces massive allowance increase for health workers

*Culled from The BluePrint Newspaper on April 21,
2020EditorBreaking News, News, Top Stories*

Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has just announced his readiness to increase the hazard allowance of health workers up to 400%.

Details loading...

2.373 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Commissions 70-Bed Isolation Centre In Eti-Osa

Culled from Independent on April 22, 2020 5:35 PM

Lagos- In a bid to boost the fight against COVID-19, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has commissioned a new isolation centre in Eti Osa Local Government Area of the state.

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The facility is a 70-bed emergency treatment and isolation centre in Eti-Osa, located at the Landmark Exhibition Centre, in Eti-Osa, to provide additional capacity for treatment, including intensive care facilities. Ten beds out of the 70 beds are dedicated to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), which is equipped with four ventilators.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while speaking at the event on Wednesday, noted that the project is a Public and Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative Project with the Young President Organisation (YPO), Lagos chapter.

The governor, who explained that trained medical personnel are fully prepared to start receiving emergency cases, added that the facility is fitted with monitors, respirators, mobile x-ray, ultrasound and oxygen piping.

2.374 Sanwo-Olu approves increment of hazard allowance for health workers

Culled from the Sun on 22nd April 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has approved the increment of hazard allowance for all health workers in the state public service for this month from N5,000 to N25,000.

The governor had yesterday, while giving update on the pandemic coronavirus at the State House, Marina, Lagos, promised to increase the allowance of the health workers, whether in the frontline of the COVID-19 duty or not.

In a circular No. 045, dated today and released by the Head of Service (HoS), Hakeem Muri-Okunola, the governor

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

appreciated the dedication of the workers, particularly their fight against the pandemic as well as their daily hazardous exposure to the disease.

The HoS said the gesture was an incentive to health officers as frontline responders in the fight against the pandemic.

“We believe the officers will reciprocate same with more doggedness and enthusiasm towards duty in all health facility state-wide,” he said.

2.375 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Lauds Ecobank’s Food Items Support

Culled from Independent on April 23, 2020 12:03 AM

The Lagos State Governor, Baba-jide Sanwo- Olu has commended Ecobank Nigeria for donating food items to support the state govern-ment’s relief efforts to mitigate the effects of the lockdown on citizens due to the coronavirus.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Prince Gbolahan Lawal, who received the items and spoke on behalf of the governor, said Ecobank has always been a good corporate citizen of the state. He assured that the items would be deployed for the purpose they are meant for.

“I want to place on record that as a government, we are pleased with Ecobank, the pan African bank for identifying with the good people of Lagos state at this moment of need. We will ensure the distribution is transparent and the items get to the indigent people who are vulnera-ble and therefore most affected by the lockdown. I enjoin Lagosians to continue in their cooperation

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

with the state government’s sever-al initiatives at checking the spread of the global pandemic such as the lockdown and social distancing campaign. There is light at the end of the tunnel”. The Governor stated.

Earlier, Patrick Akinwuntan, Managing Director, Ecobank Nige-ria, who was represented by Head, Agribusiness, Moji Oguntoyinbo, said the donation is part of the bank’s corporate social responsi-bility (CSR) initiatives to support those in need within the environ-ment where the bank does busi-ness. He disclosed that the Bank is doing similar donation.

2.376 Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Adequate Security, Unveils New Lagos Area ‘J’ Police Command

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 23, 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu on Thursday promised to continue to provide requisite security apparatus in the state to help law enforcement agencies in the discharge of their duties.

Sanwo-Olu stated this at the opening of the new Area ‘J’ Police Command administrative building at Elemoro town in Ibeju-Lekki area of the State, urging Lagosians to remain law abiding and follow government directives during the COVID-19 pandemic period so as to assist the security operatives in maintaining peace.

Dwelling on the newly commissioned building, the Governor said that the building, which has several offices, will serve as a functional holding bay for the police as they carry out their duties even in this lockdown period.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

He said: “Our security operatives are doing their job, they are doing a good job and crimes have come down because they have come out. We as a government need to encourage them, we need to give them all of the things they need to function effectively.

“We know there are people who will always want to foment trouble, people with ulterior motives are everywhere but the police are also there to protect lives and property and as the Governor, I am supposed to give them the support they require to make sure they do their job without fear or favour.”

Expressing optimism on the overall output of the State Police Command, Sanwo-Olu said the new facility would further boost the morale of the men and officers who would have one thing or another to do there.

He said other complementary facilities like the conference centre, blocks of residence for the Area Commander, officers’ apartments and equipment are still under construction, saying when completed, Area J police command would be having the full complements of operational base for the efficient policing of the axis. “It is a befitting Area Command Headquarters, it comes with a complementary office that is furnished, with equipment like CCTV Cameras for them.

“They need to have a conducive work environment for them to be truly committed to what we ask them to do even in the period of lockdown. We think it’s important to handover this facility to the Police so that they can begin to put it to immediate use,” the Governor noted.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

The State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hakeem Odumosu thanked the state government for providing the building, promising that security operations within the axis will be improved upon.

He described the gesture as a challenge to the police to do better, noting that with the equipment provided along with the facility will make policing from Maroko to Epe very easy to achieve.

He said: “I want to thank Mr Governor on behalf of the Inspector General of Police for providing the Nigerian Police with this edifice and we want to assure him that security in this axis will not be the same.

“With the equipment provided alongside this building, communication will be better and we shall provide more men to join in the security of this axis from Maroko to Epe to complement the development which is also coming up fast in this area,” he added.

2.37 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu insists use of face masks compulsory in Lagos

Sanwo-Olu donates 400 bags of rice, garri to boat operators in Lagos

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 23, 2020in News, News Update

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos has donated 100 bags of rice and 300 bags of garri to the Association of Tourist Boat Operators and Water Transporters of Nigeria (ATBOWATON).

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Mr Oluwadamilola Emmanuel, the General Manager, Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), disclosed this in a statement in Lagos on Thursday.

Emmanuel noted that the official distribution of the palliatives to the organised registered body of boat operators in Lagos was carried out on Thursday at the Victoria Island Head Office the association.

According to him, the gesture is part of the state government's palliative programmes to cushion the effect of the lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19.

"The food items presented to the association through the office of Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA) was to help members of the association and their families to cushion the effects of the lockdown.

"The association, with over 1,000 members scattered around the six zones of Lagos State, was affected by the lockdown directives. "Their services were withdrawn on waterways to prevent the spread of the infectious disease, hence the need for these palliatives," the LASWA boss said.

Emmanuel said that Sanwo-Olu believed that the association deserved the care and love of the state in a time like this, considering the huge sacrifices they had made and expected to make.

"The governor, the transportation commissioner and all of us at LASWA appreciate ATBOWATON members. "Notably, this intervention is the message of the future. Our intention is to sustain the relationship and all, to the glory of God," the LASWA boss added.

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The general manager quoted Mr Gani Tarzan-Balogun, National President of ATBOWATON, as expressing the deep appreciation of the members of the association to Sanwo-Olu.

According to him, Tarzan-Balogun also donated cartons of sanitisers to members of his association to support the governor's gesture.

"The governor has worked really hard to convince boat operators in the state that their welfare and services are important and appreciated since he came on board.

"We at ATBOWATON believe the governor meant well and his commitment to us and visible interventions through the state transportation ministry and regulatory agency, LASWA, are part of the ongoing efforts to help ATBOWATON remain strong and relevant.

"To send us these palliatives, further reinforced the love to our families affected by the lock down.

"ATBOWATON will endeavour at all times to work closely with the government to grow and improve the business of water transportation in Lagos and the country," Emmanuel quoted Tarzan-Balogun as saying.

According to the general manager, Tarzan-Balogun requested for small repayable loans for members in order to purchase water taxies to meet with best global standard and to also drive water-based recreation and visits to beaches and resorts after lockdown.

(NAN)

2.378 Sanwo-Olu inaugurates Lagos Area 'J' Police Command Hq

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 23, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday inaugurated the Elemoro Area 'J' Police Command administrative building at Ibeju-Lekki area of the state.

Speaking during the inauguration, Sanwo-Olu said that government would continue to beef up the security apparatus in the state by providing the required support to the police for effective discharge of their duties.

He said that the building, which had several offices, would serve as a functional holding bay for the police as they carry out their duties even during this lockdown.

The governor urged Lagosians to remain law abiding and follow government directives during the COVID-19 pandemic period so as to assist the security operatives in maintaining peace.

“Our security operatives are doing their job, they are doing a good job and crimes have come down because they have come out.

“We, as a government, need to encourage them, we need to give them all of the things they need to function effectively.

“We know there are people who will always want to foment trouble, people with ulterior motives are everywhere but the police are also there to protect lives and property.

“As the governor, I am supposed to give them the support they require to make sure they do their job without fear or favour,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu said the new facility would further boost the morale of the men of the police force.

He said that other complementary facilities like the conference centre, blocks of residence for the Area Commander, officers' apartments and equipment were still under construction.

According to him, when completed, Area 'J' Police Command will have the full complements of operational base for the efficient policing of the axis.

“It is a befitting Area Command Headquarters, it comes with a complementary office that is furnished, with equipment like CCTV cameras for them.” They need to have a conducive work environment for them to be truly committed to what we ask them to do even in the period of lockdown.

“We think it is important to handover this facility to the police so that they can begin to put it to immediate use,” he said.

The Commissioner of Police in Lagos, Mr Hakeem Odumosu, thanked the state government for providing the building, promising that security operations within the axis would be improved upon.

dumosu said that the gesture was a challenge to the police to do better, as the equipment provided along with the facility would make policing from Maroko to Epe very easy to achieve.

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“I want to thank Mr Governor on behalf of the Inspector General of Police for providing the Nigerian Police with this edifice and we want to assure him that security in this axis will not be the same.

“With the equipment provided alongside this building, communication will be better and we shall provide more men to join in the security of this axis from Maroko to Epe to complement the development which is also coming up fast in this area,” he said.

The Paramount Ruler of Iwereku Kingdom, Ibeju-Lekki, Oba Tajudeen Afolabi-Adebanjo, commended Gov. Sanwo-Olu for completing the project which was initiated during Gov. Babatunde Fashola’s administration.

Afolabi-Adebanjo said the land being occupied by the command belonged to him, adding that he gave out about four acres to government for the development of the community and the local government as a whole. (NAN)

2.379 Obasa to Sanwo-Olu: enforce laws to end coronavirus

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 24, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos Speaker Mudashiru Obasa has Thursday Culled Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to ensure enforcement of necessary enabling laws to check the continuous spread of the coronavirus disease.

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Obasa made the call when the House received Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi and some officials and representatives of 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the state.

The Speaker, who noted that all hands must be on deck to deal with the pandemic once- and -for -all, pointed out it was neither the time to relent nor take the back seat.

He also Called for new ideas to confront looming challenges.

While commending the executive arm for the role it had played so far in combatting the pandemic, the Speaker maintained that necessary laws must be applied to stop the continuous spread of the deadly virus.

The speaker said; “I believe we should come up with new ideas to deal with the coming challenges.

“There is a law which we have passed and people must obey these laws. If there is need to amend certain parts of the law, let us do that.

“People who are infected should not refuse to go to isolation centres. They should be arrested, that is why we have the laws.”

While imploring the local government and local council development areas officials to join in the fight aimed at bring an end to the pandemic, the Speaker said: “As local government officials, this is the time to show action and convince your people at the grassroots.”

Commissioner for Health, who briefed the lawmakers on the challenges in dealing with the deadly virus, disclosed that a

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very large number of people have been infected with the disease but because they are asymptomatic, they have been going about infecting others.

Abayomi also lamented the inaccessibility of drugs used in treating those in the isolation centres, saying: “One of the major problems we are having is the access to drugs used in treating the patients. Because the drugs are not produced locally, it has been difficult getting them and because this pandemic is a global thing, the demand for these drugs are in excess.

“Also, we have about 35 ventilators that have not been fully activated because we don’t have the personnel to man these gadgets.

“For one ventilator, you need about six different medical personnel to handle it. But in a matter of days, these ventilators will be activated for use,” he said.

2.380 Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says there is no going back on the government’s decision on mandatory use of face masks by residents of the state.

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 25, 2020

Sanwo-Olu made this disclosure on Saturday during a COVID-19 briefing in Lagos.

In the video address uploaded on Twitter, the governor said the state had started the massive production of face masks for distribution to residents while urging the private sector to contribute a quota in the provision of the essential protective materials for use by Lagosians.

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He said, “Face masks like I did mention earlier in the week will now become compulsory that we must wear at any gathering. We are currently producing millions of these face masks from our various tailoring companies and it presents a great opportunity for businesses to contribute to COVID-19 (containment) and it is also a task for them to good of their businesses and to end some money.

“Once we collect the first batch which I think will be coming in tomorrow or next, we will start distributing to our citizens free.

“Everything cannot go round everyone and that’s why I want to appeal to members of the organised private sector to please patronize first these local manufacturers for distribution to the members of their staff.”

According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control as of Friday night, more than fifty percent of the over 1000 confirmed coronavirus cases in the country were recorded in Lagos.

The state has also recorded 123 recoveries and 19 fatalities, most of whom, it said had underlying health issues.

The PUNCH reports that the nation’s commercial capital has been on Federal Government-ordered lockdown since 11pm, March 30, as part of efforts to curb the spread of the virus.

2.381 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu approves e-lecture portals for 7 state-owned tertiary institutions

Culled from the Sun on 25th April 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved special e-portals that will enable Lagos State tertiary institutions

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commence online lectures as part of measures to reduce the impact of Coronavirus disease on education.

The seven schools that will benefit from the initiative are: Lagos State University (LASU), Lagos State Polytechnic, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Michael Otedola College of Primary Education, Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM), Lagos College of Health Technology and Lagos State College of Nursing and Midwifery.

A statement by the Special Adviser to Governor on Education, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said Sanwo-Olu approved the virtual classes to ensure physical distancing among students and their lecturers.

According to him, the move will also help in the maintenance of the state's tertiary academic calendar despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wahab urged all students in the seven institutions to maximise the unique opportunity to keep themselves engaged while the lockdown arising from the pandemic lasts.

"Our special thanks must go to Mr. Governor for this approval and for making Lagos the pacesetter among 21st century knowledge-driven societies," he stated.

Four weeks ago, the state government started online teaching for primary and secondary pupils including those preparing for the May/June 2020 West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) conducted by National Examinations Council (NECO).

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2.382 Sanwo-Olu Frees 209 Correctional Centres' Inmates In Lagos

Culled from Independent on April 26, 2020 9:00 AM

LAGOS – Following the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Prerogative of Mercy, Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has signed a release order freeing 209 inmates serving in the various correctional centres across the state.

Sanwo-Olu, who disclosed this while briefing the press on Saturday at the Government House, Marina, Lagos, said this was done to decongest the correctional centres in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He added that it was also part of the larger effort to bring a lasting reform to the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria.

The governor said: "The beneficiaries of these releases are some who are over 60-years-old, those who have less than six months to go on their sentencing, those who have served over 95 percent of their sentencing, some who are serving for just minor offences, and some found to be physically or mentally challenged are part of the list of 209 whose release have been signed."

Also, the governor appealed to residents, who have corpses of their loved ones who died before or during the pandemic, to go ahead and schedule burial ceremonies for them.

"I am constrained to appeal to all Lagosians who have corpses of their loved ones in the mortuaries to go ahead and schedule their funerals," he advised.

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He said the only reason the mortuaries had been getting filled up was because funerals had not been held in the last two months or thereabout. He added: “One of the outcomes of the lockdown is that many families and households have had to postpone funeral plans for their loved ones who have passed away before or during this period.” He warned, “if the state is unable to see a decongestion of the mortuaries within the next two weeks, Lagos government will be compelled to seek to have mass burials and we don’t want to force it on anyone, which is why we are asking for the cooperation of all of us. “We will give two weeks, and expect a lot of people to comply after which the state government might have to take other directives or decisions in that manner. “Because of the inability to hold funerals, occasioned by restriction of movements, mortuaries in Lagos State are now getting to the peak and there is a need for us to have a decongestion. “These are not COVID-19 deaths in any form. Mortuaries are getting filled up not because of COVID 19; in Lagos we have recorded 18 deaths,” he said.

The governor, who said that funerals were exempted from the activities in the lockdown restrictions, stated: “You can hold and attend your funerals in Lagos State as long as you comply with the requirements that we have laid out.”

He emphasised that only 20 persons, including the officiating religious leaders, and the deceased’s relatives would be allowed to hold funerals, adding that physical distancing must be maintained at all funeral ceremonies.

“All attendees or mourners must wear face masks, and must ensure they wash their hands before or after the ceremonies.

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There must not be any form of parties or reception that will accompany the final ceremonies. “As long as you keep to these directives and fully comply with them, funerals will be allowed and encouraged to take place immediately.”

2.383 **[BREAKING] COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Announces Compulsory Use Of Face Masks For Lagosians**

Culled from Independent on April 26, 2020 5:21 PM

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced the compulsory use of face masks as an additional measure to curb the further spread of COVID-19 among residents of the state.

The Governor, who made the announcement via his Twitter handle @jjidesanwoolu, on Sunday evening, tagged the new campaign, “#MaskUpLagos” adding that the measure is compulsory as an additional strategy along with social distancing, regular handwashing and others measures, to help stop the spread of the virus in the state.

He said: “Dear Lagosians, even as we observe the lockdown, we are kicking off #MaskUpLagos; the COMPULSORY wearing of face masks in Lagos Face masks help to protect us from droplets and secretions from coughing, sneezing etc as not everyone that is infected will show symptoms.

“Face masks, combined with frequent hand washing, being conscious about NOT touching our face as well as #SocialDistancing are effective in slowing the spread. The state government is currently producing about 3 million facemasks for distribution to the vulnerable.

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N95 & surgical masks help our medical workers stay safe while cloth masks made to specifications that will be released by @LSMOH combined with other guidelines will help protect our residents from #COVID19 The virus is in our communities, let's take this seriously. #MaskUpLagos.

Lagos is currently the epicentre of the COVID-19 in Nigeria with about 33 new cases confirmed yesterday Saturday, making the state's total 703 cases, 545 active cases and 123 discharged. Nineteen persons have died from the disease.

2.384 Sanwo-Olu threatens mass burial for unclaimed corpses within two weeks

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 26, 2020

the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said on Saturday that people who have corpses in public mortuaries in the state have two weeks to bury them, after which he said the state would do mass burial for all unclaimed corpses.

The governor lamented that even though funeral was not on the list of activities exempted from the lockdown restrictions, mortuaries in the state had become congested and the state needed to act.

He explained that the inability of many families to bury the corpses of their loved ones was due to Lent and the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease.

The governor noted however that deaths as a result of coronavirus are exempted. The Minister of Information, Alhaji

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Lai Mohammed, had said that corpses of people who died of COVID-19 would not be released to families.

Speaking at a media briefing at the Government House, Sanwo-Olu also said he had approved the release of 209 inmates from prisons in the state, adding that government was doing all it could to contain the spread of the virus in the state.

As of Saturday, out of the 1,182 cases in the country, Lagos has 689, out of which 116 had recovered and 20 had died.

The governor said, "I'm constrained to make this appeal to all Lagosians who have the corpses of their loved ones in the mortuaries to please go ahead and schedule the funerals.

"Due to the inability to hold funerals, occasioned by the restriction on movement, the mortuaries in Lagos State are now full and in urgent need of decongestion. Let me make it clear at this point that these are not COVID-19 deaths.

"If we are unable to see a decongestion of the mortuaries across the state in the next two weeks, the Lagos State Government will be compelled to carry out mass burial to achieve this. We do not want to be forced to do this, which is why we are asking for your cooperation in this regard."

The governor pointed out that families were free to hold or attend funeral service but such burials could only be done in Lagos due to the interstate lockdown imposed by governors.

He, however, stressed that the attendees must comply with safety requirements. "The total number of persons at the funeral, including officiating religious leaders, must not exceed

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20; physical distancing must be maintained; all attendees/ mourners must use (face) masks and ensure they wash their hands before and after the ceremony,” he said.

He added that there must be no receptions or parties to accompany the funerals. Sanwo-Olu also said he had approved the release of 209 inmates remanded in various correctional centres in the state.

He said the inmates released from prisons were persons above 60 years; those with less than six months to complete their sentences; those who have served 75 per cent of their sentences; those serving terms for misdemeanours and minor offences; and those with physical and mental health issues. “I have signed the order for their release,” the governor said.

The governor also said the use of face masks had become mandatory, adding that non-compliance would attract punishment. He said millions of face masks were being produced to be distributed free of charge across the state. “I also want to urge everyone to please leave the N95 masks for the use of medical workers who need them most,” he added.

2.385 COVID-19: Pick Your Corpses Now Or Risk Mass Burial, Sanwo-Olu Tells Lagosians

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on April 26, 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday said the state’s mortuaries are getting filled and congested, urging owners of corpses in the state morgues to pick them for burial in line with the protocol established in the management of COVID-19 in the country.

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The governor who is the Chief Incident commander of COVID-19 pandemic in the state stated this while giving update eight in the series on management of the highly dreaded disease in the state, saying owners of the corpses has two weeks to claim it or risk mass burial by the government.

Sanwo-Olu stated emphatically that the corpses were not those killed by COVID-19 and explained that corpses of those that died during Lenten period left unburied as a result of Christian faith coupled with the current lockdown of the state congested the mortuaries.

The governor added interstate movements for burials will not be tolerated, saying the state borders had been toughened to restrict those not providing essential services from entering the state. Sanwo-Olu said, “Still on this matter of essential movement, I would like to speak concerning funerals.

One of the outcomes of this lockdown is that many families and households have had to postpone funeral plans for loved ones who have passed away before or during this period. “As you might know, many Christian denominations do not carry out funerals during the Lenten Season. Funerals are typically kept on hold during this period, and scheduled for the period immediately following the end of Lent.”

2.386 Let’s Assist Sanwo-Olu Decongest Mortuaries, Group Appeals To Lagosians

Culled from Independent on April 27, 2020 8:30 AM

LAGOS – The Congress of Pro-gressive Youth (COPY), a pro-democracy group, has lent its voice to the call by Babajide

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Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, to the relatives of corpses deposited in the mortuaries in the state to expedite actions to-wards giving their deceased loved ones befitting burials so as to decongest the facilities that are needed for emergencies occasioned by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Adebayo Oyenekan, the convener of the group, in a statement made available to Daily Independent on Sunday, said the call was necessary to assist the governor, who made it known during his usual briefing on COVID-19 that mortuaries in the state are filled up, not because of Covid-19 deaths, but because burials have not been carried out in Lagos State for two months now, due to the lockdown order.

The group reasoned with Governor Sanwo-Olu, in his appeal to the family members of deceased at morgues to ensure they carry out the funeral within the next two weeks, stating that through that, the facilities could be de-congested to give room for fresh utilisation.

According to the statement, Sanwo-Olu deserves maximum support in his onerous task of eradicating the monster from the state, reminding that his effort at confronting the deadly virus has curtailed its spread to the hinterland faster than expected.

The group also thanked the governor for his good gesture through distribution of free face masks to the residents, just as it appealed to well to do individuals, corporate bodies, social and religious organisations as well as Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to also mass-produce the preventive gadgets for the people.

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2.387 Wearing face masks not excuse to flout Lockdown order – Sanwo-Olu's aide

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 27, 2020

Gawat Jubril, Senior Special Assistant on New Media to Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says his principal's directive compelling all residents of the state to wear face masks in public spaces is no license to defy the lockdown order currently in place.

Jubril made this known via Twitter on Sunday shortly after the governor kicked off the "Mask Up Lagos" campaign as part of efforts to curb the circle of transmission of the coronavirus disease in the state.

Sanwo-Olu said, "Dear Lagosians, even as we observe the lockdown, we are kicking off #MaskUpLagos; the COMPULSORY wearing of face masks in Lagos. Face masks help to protect us from droplets and secretions from coughing, sneezing, etc as not everyone that is infected will show symptoms.

"Face masks, combined with frequent hand washing, being conscious about NOT touching our face, as well as #SocialDistancing, are effective in slowing the spread.

"The state government is currently producing about 3 million facemasks for distribution to the vulnerable. N95 and surgical masks help our medical workers stay safe while cloth masks made to specifications that will be released by the Ministry of Health combined with other guidelines will help protect our residents from COVID-19."

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Subsequently, the governor's aide tweeted, "Some people are automatically translating Mr Governor's directives on compulsory face masks in public as "freedom of movement" You are on your own ooo..."

The PUNCH reports that the state has been on Federal Government-ordered lockdown since 11pm March 30 as part of efforts to reduce the spread of the pandemic.

According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control as of Sunday night, more than 50 percent of the over 1000 coronavirus cases in the country were reported in Lagos State.

2.388 COVID-19: Ooni Of Ife Presents Three Motorized Fumigators To LASG, Commends Sanwo-Olu, Others

Culled from Independent on April 28, 2020 10:36 PM

As part of his contributions to the fight against the novel coronavirus global pandemic, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Ogunwusi, on Tuesday presented three locally made motorised modular to the Lagos State government.

The monarch also handed over a large size drone sprinkler to the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu-Olu. The drone sprinkler-fumigator is meant for the aerial fumigation purposes.

The Ooni commended the activities of Governor Sanwo-Olu and other world leaders as they continue the battle against the global pandemic. He said this encouraged him and the palace to throw their hat into the ring by coming up with the disinfecting machines to help protect the environment.

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The Ooni, who said the fumigators, which were locally fabricated are environmentally-friendly, added that the equipment converts the liquid sanitizer to fog, travels faster and stays longer to fight Corona and any other virus in the community.

He noted that Lagos, as epicenter of the pandemic in Nigeria deserves all the support and commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for giving regular updates to Lagosians on the steps being taken by his administration to contain the virus.

Oba Ogunwusi, however, charged other Nigerians to join hands with the government in the fight against COVID-19.

He also urged the people to look beyond palliatives by coming up with more local solutions to save lives during and after the COVID-19. He said: "Our people should look inward for solutions that are social and local as the present situation calls for home-grown interventions to support our doctors and other frontline warriors."

Sanwo-Olu thanked the monarch and described him as an enabler and a notable part of governance in Nigeria. He added that Oba Ogunwusi has equally helped government in educating the rural people not only on the presence of the pandemic as a reality and not a myth but also by encouraging them to provide local answer to the scourge.

He said: "Thank you your majesty for showing our people the can-do spirit, thank you for using your office and institution as a strong enabler to be able to communicate and pass on this strong message to our citizens. You are a critical part of governance because you are one of our traditional institutions.

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“I want to commend you for using your office as an institution to let our people know that what we are going through is real, it is not something that anybody has conjured, but it is something we can come together and solve collectively.

“It is good that you are leading this conversation today. You are the first that would be able to tell our people that COVID19 is real, you have shown we can also look inward and take up a local solution, and you have taken it upon yourself to not just sit back and criticize, but to give back and encourage our local industry and economy, to be very creative and see what kind of local solutions you can bring about.”

2.389 Partial lockdown: Continue to work from home if you can – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 28, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu
Kayode Oyero

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advised the working population in the state to take advantage of working from home even as the partial lockdown of the state begins Monday, May 4, 2020.

The PUNCH had reported that the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), on Monday evening ordered the “gradual easing” of lockdown in Abuja, Lagos and Ogun States but imposed an 8pm to 6am curfew as part of measures to curb the spread of the pandemic. Following the presidential directive on Monday night, Sanwo-Olu advised workers in the

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state to restrict commute time to-and-from work to between 8am and 6pm.

He reminded Lagosians that the use of face masks remains mandatory in public places as stated by the President in his address to the nation.

“Work hours will be pegged between 8am and 6pm, with adequate time allocated for commuting.

Lagos is the epicentre of COVID-19 in Nigeria. For a lot of industries, the lockdown has shown the many potentials of working from home, please take advantage of this, even as we expand testing, contact tracing and continue to stop the spread of the virus,” he said.

According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, over 50 percent of the total COVID-19 cases in the country were reported in Lagos, the highest by any state.

2.390 Sanwo-Olu orders markets, restaurants to reopen

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 29, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has directed the reopening of markets on selected days in the state. He spoke during a televised press conference on Wednesday.

The Governor’s Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile, in a series of tweets, said the governor also ordered that schools should remain closed.

He tweeted, “Eateries and restaurants to open between 9 am -3 pm and are to do only takeout. No eat in. Also, 9 am – 3pm

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only! Take note! Must wear gloves and masks. Markets to open from 9am to 3pm on selected days.”

He also instructed that entertainment centres within private estates be closed for two weeks starting from May 4. “All entertainment centres including gyms, spa, recreational facilities inside private estates are to remain closed for two weeks post lockdown in Lagos. This would be reviewed after two weeks,” he added.

Sanwo-Olu also said tricycle operators must only take two passengers in areas where they are allowed to operate.

“Commercial motorcycle operation (Okada) is also suspended across the state during the period of lockdown while tricycles (Keke Napep) is limited to two passengers only.

“All commuters to wear masks and gloves. Handwashing equipment and thermometers must be provided. Buses to load 60 per cent capacity. No standing.”He also said only 20 people are allowed to attend a funeral.

“Funerals are permitted. Only 20 people permitted and that includes the officiating ministers and Imams. No party to follow it,” the governor added.

2.391 COVID-19: Whistleblowers to report curfew defaulters – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 29, 2020 in News, News Update

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has announced the setting up of a whistleblower strategy in order to track the

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defaulters of the new lockdown directive. He disclosed this at a press briefing in Marina on Wednesday.

According to him, the whistleblowers would be responsible for alerting the authorities on any organisation that doesn't comply with the new curfew directives. He also mentioned that the general public would be carried along as regards how the whistleblower strategy would run later on.

This is following the ease on the lockdown and consequent deployment of curfew as announced by President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday.

Details shortly...

2.392 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu announces gradual easing of lockdown

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 29, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced gradual and controlled easing of the lockdown in the state in line with President Muhammadu Buhari's nationwide broadcast on Tuesday.

The Governor made the announcement in a media briefing at the Lagos House, Marina, Lagos

According to Sanwo-Olu all offices business places, open markets and stores will be allowed to open daily from 9am till 3pm on selected days and only 60 per cent of staff strength should report for duty. He added they must observe precautionary measures including social distancing, use of face

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masks, regular disinfection, provide hand-washing equipment, temperature checks and 60% maximum capacity.

For civil servants, the Governor said: “public officers in the entire unified public service from grade levels 1-12 are to remain and work from home; unless otherwise directed by their Accounting Officers.

“For those on Grade Levels 13 and above, Accounting Officers will carry out a Needs Assessment of critical staff, identify essential officers and draw up a Flexible Work Roster in compliance with Social Distancing principles. The Head of Service will provide further details via a circular.”

However, schools, all entertainment centres, cinemas, arcades, bars, casinos, day clubs, nightclubs and beaches, swimming pools, gyms, barber-shops, spas, beauty salons and all public parks, including those in private and residential estates will continue to remain closed for another two weeks in the instance.

“Let me, however, say this: as many of us that can continue to work online and remotely from the office, please let us do so. Online and Work-from-Home arrangements are highly encouraged to continue as much as is practicable.

“Businesses/Companies are encouraged to make adequate arrangement for the transportation of their staff to their places of work to reduce the risk of contagion and exposure while traveling on public transportation.

“Companies transporting their staff to work in their private transportation arrangements shall be expected to strictly adhere to the principles of social distancing as well as enjoin their staff to practise very high levels of hand and personal hygiene.

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“We will continue to monitor the public health situation; the economic impact of the lockdown and always adjust our responses accordingly,” Sanwo-Olu assured.

The Governor advised “all elderly persons, as well as all persons with underlying or pre-existing health conditions to stay indoors as much as is practicable; and request the assistance of those not in the vulnerable or elderly category to procure essential items needed.”

2.393 Sanwo-Olu’s development agenda for Lagos

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on April 30, 2020in News Update, Politics

The sprawling megacity of Lagos, with over 20 million residents, is the cultural and economic heart of Nigeria. For over two decades, the state has embarked on audacious infrastructure renewal projects that are capital intensive. The execution of ongoing projects alone, let alone the challenges of urban sustainability in the context of Lagos make governing the state a herculean task. In this article, Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat unfolds the agenda of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration. Deputy Political Editor RAYMOND MORDI reports.

At the outset, the perception of many Lagosians about the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration was not entirely a positive one. Based on the performance of his predecessors in office since 1999, Lagosians were not convinced that he could step onto their shoes.

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Given the mountain of work in all sectors in Lagos somehow Governor Sanwo-Olu's gentle mien did not fit into the mold of a performer in the eyes of some residents. But, almost one year after, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Lagos has once again proved critics wrong.

Since the inception of the administration, Governor Sanwo-Olu has been working quietly in several sectors; to continue from where his immediate predecessor in office, Akinwunmi Ambode stopped, and also to initiate new policies to up the ante in the development of Lagos.

Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat recently unfolded some of the blueprints of the administration, sector by sector, in an interview with the editorial team of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

In the education sector, for instance, Dr. Hamzat said the administration has embarked on a policy reform, which is dubbed 'Eko Excel', the state is re-engineering its teaching methods and also adopting a holistic approach to tackling challenges in the sector, to bring out the best in the pupils.

He said: "We started with 300 schools. What that means is that all the primary school teachers will have a tablet that allows them to concentrate on teaching so that they do not need to do all the teachers' note that needs to be done and schedule of work.

We have trained them in knowing the essence of teaching. Just changing the essence of teaching and even how they talk to the children/address them.

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Even if a child does something wrong, there are ways of correcting them.

"Around the world, the focus has always been on the provision of equipment for the classrooms and to have a great classroom for learning but those things don't teach children as it does not mean the children will come out well. You might have a great classroom but it does not make anything.

So over time, what the state government has done is to focus on the teachers as they are the common denominators. It means we must concentrate on the teachers. They are the common denominator.

"After six years the children will go but the teachers remain over and over again. So we realise that the best thing to do is to concentrate on the teachers, their welfare, skills, their training and the way they approach it. That is what Eko Excel is doing."

The deputy governor said it is too early to assess the impact of the scheme. He added: "In two to three years' time, we would see how the teaching method has changed. We would see how it has affected the culture of our education, the children and everything.

We would also be able to gather information better through the equipment that will help us to geo-reference. So, we can know, for instance, in class 4A in Agidingbi Primary School, 20 students came to class or 21 children came at 9 am. – so why are they coming to school late? Is it that they are living far from school?

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“All this information will help us to plan well. Also, it has helped us in monitoring the time the teachers resume work.

Also, if a teacher is coming late to school, why is it so? For example, a teacher teaching in Ikorodu and living in Oworonshoki, so why can't we just move the teacher to around the place he or she lives for convenience and good delivery on the job.

“We are also finding out that some schools have only seven children while in some schools they have up to 60. So it tells us that in some cases, May be we are building in the wrong places.

So, May be we need to build more classes in such areas because, in some local governments, the number of children in school is extremely small compared to some others.”

Another component of Eko Excel, the deputy governor said, would address malnutrition among school children. He said primary education is the foundation of development and that it is important to fix it. He said studies show that 52 per cent of children under five years of age in the northern part of the country are malnourished. He said in the south the percentage is about 20.

Hamzat said while it is necessary to build roads, provide amenities and other things that it is equally important to take care of the younger population by addressing malnutrition among children between the ages of zero to five because, as doctors have told us, this is the time the brain develops.

He said: “So we have a committee on nutrition and also a department on nutrition but what is surprising is that study shows that it is not the children of the poor that are mostly malnourished. The children of the rich and middle class can

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actually be malnourished as well if they are not eating right because as children they like to eat anything.

“If we can reduce that number, it would be a fantastic achievement even though it is not something that people like to talk about but the impact will be good because we would now build children that are healthy and intelligent thereby the future of our country will be secured.”

On the health, he said the Lagos State Government has increased the budget to the sector by almost 70 per cent and are planning to build new hospitals across the state.

He said: “We want to make sure that every part of Lagos is covered in terms of healthcare delivery services. For instance, we are planning to build a General Hospital in Ojo; that axis doesn't seem to have any at the moment.

We are also planning to build a spinal injury hospital somewhere in Gbagada.

We are also getting people to help us design as we have been made to understand that a lot of our General Hospitals needs to be redesigned.

“For example, you go to UCH, Ibadan at night without air conditioner (AC) you feel cold because of the architectural design. It is designed so that air can pass through... that is cross ventilation. We have gotten people that design hospitals for the tropics.”

Hamzat said the government is not just interested in building new structures, but building ones that are easier to maintain and allows for ventilation.

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He added: “Part of the challenge in most hospitals is that you go for the treatment of one ailment and later get infected with another thing. So these are the questions we asked our medical team. We are not medical doctors but we know these things happen. So, we are redesigning our hospitals.”

On the hardship imposed on residents by the ban on commercial motorcycle and tricycle operators, otherwise known as Okada and Keke by the government, Dr. Hamzat said the underlying motive behind the policy is to reduce accidents on the roads and thereby preserve the lives of Lagosians.

He said: “The most important thing for us is that people must be alive before they can do anything. When life is lost, then there is really nothing else. It’s the dead end.

So for us what is important is how do we secure this society? There are details and information that the government sometimes has that you can’t even share with citizens because they won’t be able to sleep if you divulge such information.”

The deputy governor said critics of the policy have been insisting that alternatives ought to have been put in place before the ban came into effect.

He said: “But, I disagree because it will have been too late if we delayed further; if we failed to secure the lives of our children we will be very irresponsible. That is why it was restricted in certain areas where we saw the upsurge.”

On the menace of members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) on Lagos roads, the deputy

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governor said the challenge is that it is a national union recognised by law.

He said like the Association of Academic Union of Universities (ASUU), there are many things that members of the union do that the state government does not support, “but as a union recognised by law in our country, we will keep engaging them in dialogue.”

He said: “Whether we like it or not, they have some roles that they play in the transportation sector because you know what, the transportation sector is not something that private people go into without subsidy from government all over the world.

But they are doing it without such assistance, so we must find a way to make it better for them and for us as a people. The engagement must continue for us to have a peaceful society.”

The deputy governor spoke extensively on the traffic gridlock in Lagos, attributing it, for the most part, to the breakdown of vehicles, which impede the free flow of traffic.

The Lagos number two citizen also attributed the traffic gridlock to ongoing road constructions in various parts of the city. He said: “For instance, at Ojota, we are replacing the whole stretch of Ikorodu Road with concrete. At Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, we are also doing concrete.

The problem is that on that corridor, we are doing 300 metres every day but it takes 14 days to execute it properly.

So, because it takes 14 days, no vehicle can pass within those number days. It means that for a long time, that corridor would

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continue to experience traffic while the project is ongoing. a challenge about there.

“In fact, it is one of the reasons that we are talking to the company that May be we should use reinforced bitumen rather than concrete, particularly as the construction work approaches Oworonshoki.”

Alaka, he added, is also experiencing a similar traffic gridlock because of the expansion project also ongoing there, it is a problem.

Because a lot of these things are happening, there will be (gridlock). “But, I think it is better to do it once and in another six or seven months, everybody will be okay,” he added.

Hamzat said the administration is taking advantage of the body of water that surrounds Lagos, by developing water transport. He said 14 boats were recently purchased and are being used to convey people in a most comfortable way.

He urged many residents along the coastal line to take advantage of the waterways to get to their destinations, and thereby reduce pressure on the roads.

His words: “We need the water not just to farm but also for transportation.

The Lagos State Government just procured those 14 new boats. The beauty of it is that all those boats were built in Nigeria. Of course, we brought the engine, but we have been able to build that capacity to build boats.”

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Hamzat said Lagos deserves a special status because of the nature of the responsibilities it is shouldering within the Nigerian federation. He said the state is pursuing it through a bill on the floor of the Senate initiated by Senator Oluremi Tinubu.

He said: “We are pushing it; May be we are going about it in a different way. It might not be in the newspapers. It is by talking to everybody that is involved in the process. It is really going on but in a different way. If something is not working in a particular way, you try another approach.”

On the perceived heavy borrowing in Lagos and the debt profile, he said there is no way the government can meet up with the huge infrastructural deficit without borrowing. He said: “There is a musician in Epe in the 1970s; he is dead now.

His name is Ligali Mukaiva; he was not educated, but he said something profound that has stuck to my memory since. I was in primary school then.

The man sang a song that any businessman that doesn’t use other people’s money will not succeed. So, the reality is, where do you get resources to build for today?

“I remember during Asiwaju Tinubu’s government when they took a bond of 15 billion. The opposition said Oh; he has mortgaged the lives of the young people.

That loan has been paid. During BRF government, we took 375 billion bonds, that bond has been paid. Without that, we cannot build the Lekki Link Bridge.”

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He said Lagos gets only N8 billion or N9 billion monthly from federal allocation. “By the time you pay salaries, you only have N1 billion left. What can you do with N1 billion? So, the reality is, how do you source the find for infrastructural development?” he said.

2.394 Sanwo-Olu Suspends Okada, Lagos Tests 1.5 million Households

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 30, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has directed the suspension of commercial motorcycles, popularly known as okada in all areas of the state till further notice.

Sanwo-Olu, at a briefing on Wednesday, said the suspension was to check the spread of COVID-19 in the state.

The governor also said the state had covered over 1.5 million households in its house-to-house active case search.

He said, “Commercial motorcycles, popularly known as okadas, are to suspend their operations statewide, except for those motorcycles used for courier and logistics purposes.

“Tricycles (kekes) operating in unrestricted areas, must not carry more than two passengers per trip and must ensure appropriate social distancing is maintained between passengers.”

Sanwo-Olu said the state government would be implementing the dusk-to-dawn curfew announced by the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), from Monday. The governor ordered commercial motorists to use face masks and not to take more than 60 per cent of their full capacity.

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“There will be a dusk-to-dawn curfew from 8pm to 6am daily. This means that we expect all Lagos residents to stay in their homes in these hours, except those in essential services.

“All commuters are mandated to wear face masks at all times, sanitise with alcohol-based sanitizer or wash their hands with soap under running water before and after every trip.”

The governor urged banks to open all their branches and offer full complement of their services to the public.

He, however, said banking operations must fall within the stipulated hours of 9am to 3pm.

“Companies that choose to operate within this controlled easing phase are to operate between 9am and 3pm. They are also directed to operate at a maximum of 60 per cent of their staff capacity.

“All entertainment centres, such as cinemas, arcades, bars, casinos, day clubs, nightclubs and beaches shall remain closed till further notice,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He added that the government’s whistleblower channels would be fully opened to report companies that would flout the new directives.

On the 1.5 million households covered in its house-to-house active case search, Sanwo-Olu said, “So far, we have covered over 1.5 million households; and we are also continuing to scaleup our isolation and treatment capacity. The isolation centre at Gbagada opens tomorrow (Thursday), and we are currently working on building three additional isolation centres in the state.”

2.395 Sanwo-Olu Blames Late Airport, Border Closures For COVID-19 Spread

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on April 30, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the delayed closure of the country's borders, seaport, and airports, including the failure of returnees to self-isolate, caused the spread of COVID-19.

He said this during an Instalive interview with CNN on Wednesday.

According to the governor, Lagos was prepared to curb the spread of COVID-19 but had to wait for the Federal Government to shut airport, seaport and land borders.

The PUNCH reports that though Nigeria recorded its first COVID-19 death on February 27, the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), officially shut the country's airports, seaports, and borders on March 29.

As of March 29 when president shut the country's airports, seaports, and borders, Nigeria had recorded 111 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and one death.

When asked about the state's preparedness, Sanwo-Olu said, "Given the population that we have, we are a bit ahead in terms of preparation, as a state, but we are sub-national. We couldn't give directives as to when Nigeria should close the airport, seaport, or in-land border. "We don't have control over that. We were just wrapping up our own facilities and the training

officials, and that was why we were able to track the index case over two months now.

"In the country, 33 or 34 states have had one case or the other. For us, it is a double X thing. The population is huge, so we will be a fool of ourselves to just think that it is going to be a spike and we will be out of it.

Because we did not close all of the importations early and people were not also doing full isolation when they came, it was really difficult for us to do contact tracing before it got to the community – which is where we are now."

The governor also reiterated that Lagos may be recording large cases "soon", adding that over 7000 samples had been tested in the state.

He said, "We are pretty much getting to the peak season. We will soon see a large number because testing is now wrapped up. It is a public health issue and we needed to take our protocols from NCDC and other international organisations.

"Testing kits were rationalised and we could not do more than we were given. Even the accreditation requires processes. We have learnt it now and we are applying it."

Meanwhile, state's Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, said Lagos has recorded 947 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

He said, "87 new #COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Lagos on April 29, 2020. The total number of confirmed cases in Lagos is now 947.

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“The good news is that 49 additional #COVID-19 survivors have been discharged following their full recovery. The total number of discharged patients in Lagos now stands at 187.

“We regret to announce additional #COVID19 related death involving a 25-year-old male who at the time of admission was in a state of severe breathlessness. The total number of COVID-19 related deaths in Lagos is now 20.

“I again urge Lagos residents to remain committed to observing necessary precautionary measures to stop COVID-19 infection. Let’s be vigilant and report any concern about COVID-19 infection in our communities.” However, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control on Wednesday announced that Lagos had recorded 21 fatalities from COVID-19.

2.396 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates 118-bed Isolation Centre In Lagos

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 1, 2020

As the coronavirus cases in Lagos State near 1000, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Friday, opens a new 118-bed Isolation Center in the Gbagada area of

3.397 Sanwo-Olu Dedicates 2020 May Day To Frontline Workers

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 1, 2020 in News

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday dedicated the 2020 Workers day celebration to health workers on the frontline of the battle against COVID-19 describing them as true heroes of this season.

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The governor stated this in his address to commemorate 2020 May Day celebration on Friday at the Lagos House, Marina.

Sanwo-Olu said, “Since this virus began to ravage our communities and disrupt our lives, these heroes have not just been going to work daily, they have been going to war daily against this unseen enemy.

“To you our courageous doctors, nurses and paramedics, I render the heartfelt gratitude of the government and good people of Lagos State”.

The governor also commended the security agencies who go out daily, defying the fear of the virus to keep lives and property safe, saying “this day belongs to you.

“Let me pay a special debt of gratitude to another special set of workers. Our street sweepers, medical waste handlers and our PSP operators. We will never forget your toil and the risk you are bearing during these very unusual times in our history.

And “To those corporate bodies whose workers provide essential services so that our people can work from home and stay safe, your place in history is assured! Someday, the story will be written and told in its fullness, of how we tamed this plague, and you will find your names written in gold,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He said that his role as the Incident Commander on Covid-19 and Governor is to lead strategic onslaught against the unseen enemy from the front. “My role as your elected Governor is to lead you in this battle. I am proud to be in this battle with you.

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I am proud to be fighting shoulder to shoulder with our frontline workers,” he said.

“Moreover, as part of ongoing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the State, I approved a four hundred percent (400%) increment in the Hazard Allowance of Health Officers in the State for the month of April 2020.

We have also introduced a Covid Allowance for all our frontline workers, which is a very generous amount that takes cognizance of the heightened risks of the jobs they have to do. All these are intended to appreciate the dedication of all our Health Officers in the fight against COVID-19.

“I should also mention that we have put in place additional health and life insurance for all our frontline health workers in the state to ensure that they are adequately insured. This gives them insurance protection on two levels.

The governor described the workers of Lagos State, across public and private sectors, represented by various Labour Unions, as the engine-rooms of the economy of the state, and the nucleus of wealth generation. “This is why as an administration we will always seek harmonious relationship with the workers, for the progress and prosperity of our State.

He commended the labour unions for their understanding and cooperation with his administration in the last one year adding that the industrial harmony and peace enjoyed in the State is in large part due to the maturity and cooperation of the labour unions.

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“I, therefore, applaud the leadership of the various unions in the State for adopting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms rather than resorting to combative measures.

I am proud of what we have so far achieved together, and I am grateful for the cooperation and support that you have given me and my colleagues. Together, we have given the people of Lagos State productive service.

“The need to continue along this path is essential. I further assure you that working together, this administration will protect workers’ rights and promote incentives for greater productivity.

“Our journey to the full reopening of our economy has resumed gradually, but we also know that there is still a long way ahead of us, and a great deal of sacrifice and selfdiscipline. The greater the level of sacrifice and discipline, the faster we will emerge on the other side of this challenge, triumphant and thankful”.

According to Sanwo-Olu, the pains of this present struggle are a necessary precursor to the emergence of a banner of victory over the State and indeed the nation.

“We are a resilient people. Invincibility is etched in our DNA. We will not bow to a virus. Let us maintain the pace of this great March to victory. Let us renew our commitment to working harder than ever to achieve our dream of a Greater Lagos.

“On our part as a government, we shall leave no stone unturned in our bid to improve the lot of our people,” the governor assured.

2.398 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Releases Names Of Lagos COVID-19 Response Donors

Culled From The Nation Newspaper on May 1, 2020 in News

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday released the names of individuals and corporate organisations that donated to the State Government towards the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic.

According to him, this is in line with his administration's commitment to transparency and accountability.

The donations, which are in cash and materials such as hospital items, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), Ambulances, respirators, isolation facilities and food items to support the vulnerable and the needy during the period of lockdown were acknowledged by the Governor in a widely circulated advertisement published in some major national newspapers.

It will be recalled that Governor Sanwo-Olu said during his last televised update on COVID-19 that the state government would release the names of all the donors so that Lagosians would know who they are and what they have done to support the fight against the virus.

He also said the government would name the public spirited individuals and corporate bodies for recognition and appreciation for their show of love and magnanimity. "Let me specially thank everyone who has donated to the Lagos State COVID-19 response, by way of cash, medical equipment and other essential materials.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated. From Friday, May 1st, the Lagos State Government will be acknowledging all of you,

our worthy partners, in newspaper advertisements that will outline all that we have received, in the spirit of full transparency and accountability." he disclosed.

There are a total of two hundred and one donors as advertised in the newspapers.

2.399 Workers' Day: Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Protection Of Employees' Rights, Promoting Incentives For Greater Productivity

Culled from Independent on May 2, 2020 11:13 AM

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured of his administration's commitment to protecting the rights of work-ers and promoting incentives for greater productivity in the state.

Governor Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance while delivering his speech to mark the Work-ers' Day celebration in Lagos on Friday.

Sanwo-Olu said the com-memoration of Workers' Day annually provides Lagosians an opportunity to remind themselves that development must be far-reaching and inclu-sive for it to benefit the society in general.

He said that the state's ad-ministration will always seek harmonious relationship with the workers for the progress and prosperity of the state.

Commending the Labour unions for their understand-ing and cooperation with the current administration in the past one year, Sanwo-Olu said: "I must stress that the industri-al harmony

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and peace we enjoy in the state is in large part due to the maturity and cooperation of the Labour unions.

2.400 PDP Hails Lagos Workers, Tasks Sanwo-Olu On Better Conditions

Culled from Independent on May 2, 2020 10:16 AM

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Lagos state chapter, has joined in felicitating with the generality of workers in the state as they commemorate Workers' Day with their counterparts across the world.

According to the PDP in a statement signed by its Publicity Secretary, Taofik Gani, workers in Lagos are worthy of being celebrated for their selfless services which has kept the state moving in spite of obvious discouraging government policies, particularly in the areas of salary taxation, delayed and sentimental promotions, unsecured pensions and gratuities to mention a few.

The Party charged the workforce to remain committed, selfless and productive as ever, stating that the welfare and other needs of the Lagos workers remain paramount on her mind.

The PDP hints that as a people-oriented party, it shall re-awake discipline in the civil service and also regularise workers recruitments, promotions, bogus taxation, provide cars and housing mortgages, give free medical services, payment of N68,000 as minimum wage, technological supports, introduction of free lunch tickets, etc.

Similarly, the tax paying informal sector shall be entitled to direct tax rebate and stimulus every 10th month of the year.

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"We are serious about these largesse and many more under research. This is no political statements. This is doable. All that's needed to be done is make the state monies, IGR be for all and not for any few"

Governor Sanwo-Olu should be dedicated enough to start implementing these proposals. We have many more being researched," the party said.

2.401 COVID-19: Ooni Of Ife Presents Three Motorized Fumigators To LASG, Commends Sanwo-Olu, Others

Culled from Independent on April 28, 2020 10:36 PM

As part of his contributions to the fight against the novel coronavirus global pandemic, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Ogunwusi, on Tuesday presented three locally made motorised modular to the Lagos State government.

The monarch also handed over a large size drone sprinkler to the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu-Olu. The drone sprinkler-fumigator is meant for the aerial fumigation purposes.

The Ooni commended the activities of Governor Sanwo-Olu and other world leaders as they continue the battle against the global pandemic.

He said this encouraged him and the palace to throw their hat into the ring by coming up with the disinfecting machines to help protect the environment.

The Ooni, who said the fumigators, which were locally fabricated are environmentally-friendly, added that the equipment converts

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the liquid sanitizer to fog, travels faster and stays longer to fight Corona and any other virus in the community.

He noted that Lagos, as epicenter of the pandemic in Nigeria deserves all the support and commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for giving regular updates to Lagosians on the steps being taken by his administration to contain the virus.

Oba Ogunwusi, however, charged other Nigerians to join hands with the government in the fight against COVID-19.

He also urged the people to look beyond palliatives by coming up with more local solutions to save lives during and after the COVID-19.

He said: “Our people should look inward for solutions that are social and local as the present situation calls for home-grown interventions to support our doctors and other frontline warriors.”

Sanwo-Olu thanked the monarch and described him as an enabler and a notable part of governance in Nigeria.

He added that Oba Ogunwusi has equally helped government in educating the rural people not only on the presence of the pandemic as a reality and not a myth but also by encouraging them to provide local answer to the scourge.

He said: “Thank you your majesty for showing our people the can-do spirit, thank you for using your office and institution as a strong enabler to be able to communicate and pass on this strong message to our citizens. You are a critical part of governance because you are one of our traditional institutions.

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“I want to commend you for using your office as an institution to let our people know that what we are going through is real, it is not something that anybody has conjured, but it is something we can come together and solve collectively.

“It is good that you are leading this conversation today. You are the first that would able to tell our people that COVID19 is real, you have shown we can also look inward and take up a local solution, and you have taken it upon yourself to not just sit back and criticize, but to give back and encourage our local industry and economy, to be very creative and see what kind of local solutions you can bring about.”

2.402 Let’s Assist Sanwo-Olu Decongest Mortuaries, Group Appeals To Lagosians

Culled from Independent on April 27, 2020 8:30 AM

LAGOS – The Congress of Pro-gressive Youth (COPY), a pro-democracy group, has lent its voice to the call by Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, to the rela-tives of corpses deposited in the mortuaries in the state to expedite actions to-wards giving their deceased loved ones befitting burials so as to decongest the facil-ities that are needed for emergencies occasioned by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Adebayo Oyenekan, the convener of the group, in a statement made avail-able to Daily Independent on Sunday, said the call was necessary to assist the governor, who made it known during his usual briefing on COVID-19 that mortuaries in the state are filled up, not because of Covid-19 deaths, but be-cause burials have not been carried out in Lagos State for two months now, due to the lockdown order.

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The group reasoned with Governor Sanwo-Olu, in his appeal to the family members of deceased at morgues to ensure they carry out the funeral with-in the next two weeks, stating that through that, the facilities could be de-congested to give room for fresh utilisation.

According to the state-ment, Sanwo-Olu deserves maximum support in his onerous task of eradicat-ing the monster from the state, reminding that his effort at confronting the deadly virus has curtailed its spread to the hinterland faster than expected.

The group also thanked the governor for his good gesture through distribu-tion of free face masks to the residents, just as it ap-pealed to well to do individu-als, corporate bodies, social and religious organisations as well as Civil Society Or-ganisations (CSOs), to also mass-produce the preven-tive gadgets for the people.

2.403 Workers Day: Sanwo-Olu Doubles Life Insurance For Lagos Health Workers

Culled from the Sun on 2nd May 2020

The atmosphere was sombre yesterday at the State House in Marina, where the Lagos State government and leaders of organised labour unions held a low-key event to commemorate the 2020 Workers' Day.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu used the opportunity to appreciate frontline health and emergency workers, whom he described as heroes for sacrificing their personal wellbeing for the efforts at combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor said the commemoration of Workers' Day should be a reminder to stakeholders that the concept of development

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must be far-reaching and inclusive for it to benefit the society in general.

Describing labour force as “a critical stakeholder” in good governance and “engine-room” of the economic growth, Sanwo-Olu said his administration, since inception, had prioritised payment of new minimum wage to workers as a demonstration of his government’s commitment to improving their welfare.

He also said his administration had continued to assist families of workers who died in the line of duty, adding that the state had not relented, despite COVID-19 pandemic, in paying 418 pensioners for their pension bond arrears.

He said: “It is only fitting that I dedicate this year’s commemoration of the Workers’ Day to celebrating the true heroes of this season, which are the health workers on the frontline of the battle against Covid-19.

Since this virus started to ravage our communities and disrupt our lives, these heroes have not just been going to work daily, they have been going to war daily against this unseen enemy.

“Workers across public and private sectors, who are represented by various labour unions, are the engine-rooms of our economy, and the nucleus of wealth generation.

My administration will always seek a harmonious relationship with workers for the progress and prosperity of our state. The prompt approval and payment of the new minimum wage is proof that we care about the welfare of our workforce.”

2.404 COVID-19: TAMPAN Dubai Commends Sanwo-Olu's Leadership Role

Culled from the Sun on 3rd May 2020

The Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has been commended for his leadership role in battling the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring it does not wreak havoc in the state.

In a statement issued by the Governor, Theatre and Movie Practitioners Association of Nigeria (TAMPAN) Dubai Chapter, Mr. Adeolawale Balogun, Sanwo-Olu has displayed absolute leadership in his management of the coronavirus pandemic in the state.

“Our praises go to the Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu who has shown absolute leadership as regards the way he has managed the COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

We want to use this opportunity to appreciate and commend him for his leadership and role model initiatives. With his unique combatant style, the governor risked everything in this unprecedented circumstance to battle the coronavirus pandemic in our dear Lagos State and the nation in general,” he said.

TAMPAN Dubai, however, enjoins Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora to adhere to the government directives by staying safe at home, keeping social distance and maintaining high level of hygiene.

“Words cannot be enough to describe the effects of COVID-19, as it is worst than war. But I strongly believe that we shall

all survive to tell a good story when the pandemic ends,” Balogun concludes.

2.405 Don't Resume On Monday, Sanwo-Olu Orders Civil Servants

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 3, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has ordered all civil servants in the state to stay away from work on Monday, May 4.

The PUNCH reports that the five-week-old total lockdown imposed on the nation's economic capital terminates on Sunday night, May 3, and the new phase of gradual easing starts on Monday, as ordered by the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd.).

But the governor in a statement on Sunday evening asked all its civil servants not to resume work immediately, noting that the delayed resumption is a deliberate attempt to prevent overcrowding in the state.

He, however, added that emergency workers and those on essential duties would be allowed to work on Monday.

Sanwo-Olu said, “In amending the work guidelines earlier issued, which stopped members of the public service from Grade Level 1 to 12 from going to work; we have had to review this position and we are extending the directive to all civil servants, regardless of level.

All civil servants must stay away from work on Monday.

“On Tuesday, only officers from Grade Level 15 and above have express permission to come to work. All other essential

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officers that may need to be at work will be informed by the Accounting Officer of each Ministry as may be required.

“From Monday on, there will be a curfew from 8 pm to 6 am and all movements within these hours are prohibited, except for people on essential services, which are agro-products, petroleum products, relief materials, and food supplies.

“We want to use this as a demonstration of our commitment to the gradual easing of the lockdown. We do not want people to rush out tomorrow and see the easing of the lockdown as an attempt to believe that the spread of the pandemic is all over.”

According to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control on Saturday night, of the total 2388 coronavirus infections reported in the country, 1068 cases were recorded in Lagos with about 30 attendant fatalities and 247 recoveries, the highest by any state in Nigeria.

The PUNCH reports that Sanwo-Olu recently launched the #MaskUpLagos campaign to sensitise the about 20 million population of the state on the need to wear face masks while in public places, observe social distancing and practice good hygiene as part of collective efforts to curb the spread of the lethal virus.

2.406 Relaxing Lockdown Not Licence To Flood Streets – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 4, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has warned residents of the state not to flood the streets with the easing of the lockdown which begins today (Monday) in the state. Sanwo-Olu, at a briefing on Sunday, urged residents of the state who

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could work remotely to remain at home unless it was necessary for them to be in their offices.

He said, “As I have always said, we are not in normal times, and these challenging times will very likely be with us for some time to come. As long as this pandemic is with us, the disruptions we have seen will continue in one form or another.

We do not know when we will be able to resume what we once regarded as our normal lives, or even whether those times we are now nostalgic about, will ever come back.

“What we, however, know is that the only way forward is the path of discipline and sacrifice; strict adherence to all directives and guidelines regarding personal hygiene, movement, and public behaviour.

“We also know that we cannot plan far out into the future; instead, we must, for the time being, live our lives in short phases of time, and continue to adjust our behaviour and our responses as we go along.

“In these difficult times, let us strive to retain the essence of our humanity; kindness, selflessness, service. We must never take advantage of the uncertainty of the season to cheat or exploit people. Whether as employers, businesses, or service providers of any kind, we must do everything in our power to extend kindness and consideration to those we are dealing with.”

The governor reiterated that schools in the state would remain shut, while the curfew imposed by the President, Major General

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Muhammadu Buhari (rtd.), in his nationwide broadcast would commence today.

“Starting today (Monday), May 4, 2020, for the next two weeks, there will be a curfew across the state from 8pm to 6am daily. All movements in and out of Lagos is prohibited, except for people carrying out essential services or transporting essential products such as agro products, petroleum products, relief items, construction materials and registered courier.

“All open markets and stores will be allowed to operate on alternate days between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Markets and stores selling food items will open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, while markets and stores selling all other items, excluding food, will open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.407 Lagos Using Private Properties As Isolation Centres – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 4, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says the state is making use of some private facilities as isolation centres.

He, however, clarified that some of the facilities were unknown to the public.

This, the governor said, was to ensure that the facilities used were not stigmatised after COVID-19.

Sanwo-Olu made this known during a televised briefing on Sunday at the State House in Marina.

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He explained that easing the lockdown was to maintain a “delicate balance”.

While reacting to a question on the availability of bed spaces in Lagos, Sanwo-Olu said, “There have been several conversations. People wrote that Lagos is out of bed spaces, but the very next day we opened another isolation centre. We are opening another isolation centre for the health workers.

“We have other isolation centres that are not known to the media because they are private properties. They are private hotels. We do not want a situation where post-COVID, it becomes a stigmatised place. people are going there and they are getting well.”

The PUNCH reports that the Director-General of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control, Chikwe Ihekweazu, earlier raised an alarm that there was a shortage of bed spaces in Lagos, Kano and Abuja.

During one of the daily Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 briefings last week, the NCDC boss said, “Concerning the availability of bed spaces for the management of patients, there is no doubt that we are struggling in certain places especially in Lagos State, and to an extent Kano and Abuja.

But the biggest challenge right now is in Lagos where bed spaces are really tight.”

Sanwo-Olu urged members of the public to report any erring company to the government through the State’s whistleblowing policy.

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The governor, however, said that there was no financial gain for whistleblowers in the state.

2.408 COVID-19: Nearly 3,000 Samples Not Yet Tested – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on May 4, 2020 8:09 PM

The Lagos State Government has said about 3,000 samples are yet to be tested for COVID-19 in the state, due to absence of lack of reagent for molecular testing.

Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor, while disclosing this in a statement on the Lagos State Government website, confirmed that the development was due to a lack of reagent for molecular testing.

Sanwolu who made the disclosure further said that the State is hoping to get the reagent soon so as to test the samples collected.

His words; “We have 3,000 samples collected, but we have not been able to carry the test because of the global shortage of reagent for molecular testing.” “We are hoping that some of the reagents will be supplied tomorrow and Tuesday.”

He, however, assured that “We are improving the capacity of our isolation facilities in preparation to take care of more patients.”

The Governor also mandated the release of vehicles seized for disobeying the COVID-19 lockdown order to their owners free of charge, including vehicles seized not later than April 14.

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2.409 Nigeria Needs Data To Plan For Emergencies – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on May 4, 2020 9:20 AM

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Baba-jide Sanwo-Olu, has said data is a very critical component for economic planning and good governance.

According to a statement issued by Gboyega Akosile, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor at the weekend, Sanwo-Olu said the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus pandemic has shown that Ni-gerian leaders need to place a premium on gathering of data if the country truly desires to move forward socially and economically.

Sanwo-Olu said the ab-sence of data on the identi-ties of residents slowed down planning activities as the nation grapples with several issues that emanated from the COVID-19 pandemic. He said data is critical to planning during emergencies such as COVID-19.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while answering questions as a guest on the digital edition of the platform, a Covenant Christian Centre socio-po-litical programme, said no nation can maximize her full potential without data.

He said: “It is what happens to us post covid-19 that deter-mines who we are as a people and not what we do at the mo-ment. We need data. We need the identity of every citizen in this country. There’s noth-ing like being over prepared in this kind of situation. You can make mistakes in times of crisis but you must learn from them.”

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Lagos Lawmaker Commends Sanwo-Olu's Efforts Against Coronavirus Pandemic

Deputy Majority Leader of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Noheem Adams has commended the efforts put in place so far by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

The lawmaker noted that going by the number of those that have been discharged after treatment and declared free of the virus in Lagos, shows that the state government is efficient and effective in dealing with the pandemic.

Adams, who said this while distributing 5000 packs of relief packages to some residents of Eti-Osa Constituency I, stated that while the COVID-19 death rate is minimal in Nigeria, countries like Italy, Spain and the United State of America are still counting loss of lives in thousands.

"I want to commend Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi for being on top of the situation.

"I urge everyone of us to repose our trust in this government for they have been commissioned by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to ensure the security of lives and properties of the populace.

"My counsel is that you stay indoors, let us adhere strictly to all the precautionary measures advanced by government at the three tiers; Local, State and Federal levels because what the

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government is trying to do is to say is 'it is when you are alive that you can say you want to do so many things'.

"Government is trying to protect our lives and property as it is clearly stipulated in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that the main purpose of government is the protection of lives and properties of the citizens and that is what they are doing," the lawmaker said.

Speaking on the reason for distributing the relief packages, which was distributed through the Community Development Associations (CDAs) and Traditional Rulers in the Constituency, Adams explained that initiative was meant to complement the efforts of the State Government and to ameliorate the hardship posed by the ravaging scourge of COVID-19 pandemic.

He also commended the Speaker of the State Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, for his forthrightness in bringing to fore the Bill to combat and stop the spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Lagos State.

He explained that the speedy passage of the bill into law by the House of Assembly has given the Governor enough backing to tackle the situation head-long.

2.410 COVID 19: Sanwo-Olu Commissions 118-Bed Gbagada Isolation Center

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide San-wo-Olu, on Friday, commissioned a 118- bed Isolation and Treatment Center located within the premises of Gbagada Gener-al Hospital for management of #COVID19 cases.

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Within the three floor Iso-lation and Treatment facility are dedicated intensive care isolation unit, ventilators, monitors, respirators, mo-bile x-ray, ultrasound, oxygen amongst other ultra-modern medical equipment.

Speaking at the unveiling, Sanwo-Olu said an existing facility within the Gbagada General Hospital complex which was not in use was con-verted to the 118-bed bio-secu-rity complaint Isolation and treatment facility after an extensive renovation and up-grade was carried out.

He added that the facility was revamped and converted to an Isolation and Treatment Centre in order to provide ad-ditional capacity to already existing isolation centres in the State.

He said, “We have had to do extensive builders work and renovation of this health fa-cility and make it conform to a biosecurity isolation facility. We are indeed happy and ex-cited at the level of work done by the contractor and the su-pervising Ministry.

“This facility as you know, used to be the Cardiac and Renal Centre but has not been used for sometimes now, so what we have been doing in the last two and a half month is to upscale the facility, finish up with the builders’ work and revamp the entire place to conform with an Isolation Centre.”

The Governor explained that the facility which is now designated for management of COVID19 cases has been demarcated into Green, Yel-low and Red Zones in line with Infection Prevention and Control management.

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2.411 Sanwo-Olu: Lagos Using Private Buildings As Isolation Centres

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 4, 2020in News, News Update

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has revealed the state has been using some private buildings as isolation centres.

He however said the converted buildings are unknown to the public. Speaking during a media briefing on Monday, the Governor said the government has decided not to disclose the private properties so that they will not be stigmatised after the pandemic.

There have been several conversations. People wrote that Lagos is out of bed spaces but the very next day we opened another isolation centre. We are opening another isolation centre for the health workers. “We have other isolation centres that are not known to the media because they are private properties. They are private hotels.

“We do not want a situation where post-COVID, it becomes a stigmatised place. People are going there and they are getting well.”

2.412 Sanwo-Olu Delays Resumption Of Civil Servants, As Lockdown Directive Expires

Culled from the Sun on 4th May 2020

As the lockdown imposed by the Federal Government expires, Lagos Government has asked all its civil servants not to resume for work immediately.

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Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, in a briefing yesterday, said the delayed resumption is a deliberate attempt to prevent a development that may lead to crowding on the roads and public places.

Sanwo-Olu said civil service offices would be re-opened for business tomorrow, but only officers from Grade Level 15 and above would be required to be in the office. If any junior-ranked officer must be at work, he said the accounting officer of the ministry must give clearance to the officer.

“We want to use this as a demonstration of our commitment to gradual easing of the lockdown. We do not want people to rush out tomorrow and see the easing of the lockdown as an attempt to believe that the spread of the pandemic is all over.”

As part of the moves by the government to prevent crowding in public places, the governor directed all markets to open for three days weekly in alternation. Food markets are to open only on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am to 3pm, while non-food markets only open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays within the stipulated hours.

He said all traders must put on face mask and provide hand sanitizers in their markets.

It is compulsory for any resident that must be in public places to face mask, he said.

Also, banks and other private firms must open businesses with 60 per cent of staff strength, while also operating within the hours of 9am and 3pm.

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The governor enjoined the privately-owned companies and manufacturing firms to arrange for the transportation of their essential staff that would be at work.

He, however, extended the operating hours for eateries and restaurants from 9am to 7pm, due to Ramadan fasting. But the Governor said restaurants and eateries must not allow their customers to eat-in. Food must be served food only take-away packs and delivery, Sanwo-Olu directed.

All regulations initiated by the state government must be strictly adhered to by public and private companies and members of the public, he warned.

2.413 ‘Battle against COVID-19 shouldn’t slow down the justice system’ – Sanwo-Olu charges judicial officers ...as Lagos appoints 8 High Court judges

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday appointed eight new judges of the High Court of Lagos.

The eight judges took the oath before the governor and members of the State’s cabinet at a swearing-in held in the Executive Council chamber in the State House, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu said the continuity of judicial services in the period of public health emergency remained vital to boosting people’s confidence in the administration of justice system and to ensure adequate enforcement of regulations initiated to stop the spread of the pandemic.

He said: “This chamber we are holding the swearing-in has just been opened for the first time in the last two months. This

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is the reality of the global coronavirus pandemic, which has evolved new culture in our interactions at homes and offices.

“In this period of public health emergency, we need the judiciary to keep the wheel of the justice system moving. The administration of justice system must not be halted because of the health crisis. Our judicial should fully adapt to the evolving culture and be at the services of those who seek redress and justice at the court.

“I have no doubt that the Lagos State Judiciary, under the leadership of My Lord Justice Kazeem Alogba, will be an arm of Government that we can continue to rely on as a partner in boosting people’s confidence in Government and justice system.”

Sanwo-Olu said the appointed judges earned their nominations and appointments to the High Court of the State based on their sterling credentials and experience in the respective areas of engagement.

The governor charged the judges to dispense justice without fear or favour, advising them not to soil their hard-earned reputation and family names in the course of discharging their duties.

He said: “Having gone through your resumes, I know you have all distinguished yourselves in the the legal profession and we expect you are bringing your years of experience and service. We are convinced this journey would raise the standards of our judicial service.

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“I congratulate our newly sworn-in Honorable Justices and we believe you all have what it takes to be fair and equitable in dispensation of justice to our citizens.

By being sworn in as judges, you have brought honour to your family names. However, you must ensure that your names are not tarnished in the course of discharging your duty.”

The Governor thanked National Judicial Council (NJC) for the painstaking vetting of the appointed judges’ credentials, noting that he was convinced that quality and calibre of the new judges would improve judicial process in the State.

The Governor used to occasion to re-emphasise his commitment to ridding the State of the ravaging pandemic, giving assurance that the State Government would continue to collaborate with stakeholders on the frontline and coordinate response strategy to battle the virus. He also promised to maintain transparency in communicating the response activities to the public.

Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo, described the event as “special occasion” in the evolution of judiciary in the State. The quality of credentials of the appointed judges, the State’s chief law officer said, will be brought to bear in fast-tracking administration of justice system.

Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Ms. Titilayo Shitta-Bey, disclosed that the process of nomination of the judges was transparent and extended to different areas of legal profession, public service, private sector and the magistracy.

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She said: “The transparency in the selection process of the new judges has deepened our trust in the leadership of Governor Sanwo-Olu. The appointment of these eight judges, having passed through the rigorous competence assessment and selection process, will strengthen the capacity of the Lagos Judiciary which in turn will translate to an improved service delivery in the justice sector.”

Hon. Justice Dorcas Olatokun, who spoke on behalf of the appointed judges, appreciated Governor Sanwo-Olu for finding them worthy of the appointment, which she described as a “unique privilege” to contribute their quota in deepening justice system.

She pledged to be upright and fearless in the discharge of the duty.

Other judges sworn in are Hon. Justice Yahqub Oshoala, Hon. Justice Omotola Oguntade, Hon. Justice Olufunke Sule-Amzat, Hon. Justice Rasul Olukolu, Hon. Justice Sharafa Olaitan, Hon. Justice Ezekiel Ashade and Hon. Justice Adeniyi Pokanu.

Meanwhile, members of the judicial arm of Government have a duty to keep the wheel of justice administration turning in this period of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic by fully acquainting themselves with the new culture of justice dispensation being driven by technology.

2.414 Sanwo-Olu Seeks Amendments To COVID-19, Amotekun Laws

Culled from Independent on May 6, 2020 3:41 PM

LAGOS- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has written to the Lagos State House of Assembly seeking

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amendment to certain sections of two bills recently passed to law.

The bills are the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps 2020 and the Law to Combat and Stop the Spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Lagos State and for Connected Purposes.

The request for amendments to the two laws, was contained in a letter written by the state’s Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Moyosore Onigbanjo, calling the attention of the State House of Assembly to few observations in the bills yet to be signed into law by the governor.

While reading the contents of the letter, Clerk of the House, Mr Azeez Sanni said the request for ammendment of certain sections by the legislature is to further ease Governor Sanwo-Olu’s administration.

The sections are sections 2 sub section (1,3, 2b), 4 sub section (2) and section 5 of the Law to Combat and Stop the Spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic in Lagos State and for Connected Purposes and section 20 subsection (1,3) of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps law.

igbanjo, in the letter, urged the House to look into the observation and amend as appropriate, as that would enable Governor Sanwo-Olu to carry his responsibilities effectively.

The Speaker Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, afterwards, asked that the House Committee on Health to considers the observation on the COVID-19 law while the House Committee on Information Security and Strategy looks through the

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observation on the Amotekun law and report back on Thursday, 7th of May the next adjourned date.

2.415 COVID-19: Media Group Hails Sanwo-Olu On Excellent Leadership

Culled from the BluePrint Newspaper on May 6, 2020

The Executive Director of Media Against Impunity Nigeria, Prince Meshack Idehen, has commended the Lagos state government over its distribution of palliatives to residents as the state moves towards gradually easing the lockdown.

President Muhammadu Buhari, it would be recalled had in a nationwide broadcast on April 27 directed for the gradual easing of the corona virus outbreak induced lockdown in Lagos, Ogun and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In a statement on Sunday, Idehen said the proactive strategies engaged by the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu in managing the corona virus outbreak in the state has not gone unnoticed by the international community.

He particularly praised the state for the rice delivered as palliatives to the Hausa Community through the Arewa Council of Chiefs in the State, saying the Lagos State Governor has set a benchmark in leadership and peoples driven initiatives which many states in Nigeria were trying to emulate.

According to the media activist, the palliatives delivered to the Hausa Community in Lagos is part of ongoing efforts by the state government to ensure residents are provided palliatives as the federal government's lockdown orders are complied with, due to the COVID-19 outbreak in Nigeria.

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He commended Architect Ahmed Kabiru Abdullahi, the Lagos State's Commissioner of Waterfront Development for ensuring the rice were delivered by him in person on behalf of the State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to the Arewa Council.

The Chairman of the Arewa Council in the state, Alhaji Sani Kabiru, who was represented by Sarkin Hausawa of Idi-Araba, Alhaji Hassan Auyo and Dan-Iya of Lagos, when the palliatives were delivered, was also commended for acknowledging the demonstration of magnanimity and goodwill by Governor Sanwo-Olu, and for their promise that the items delivered by the state government will reach members of the community.

2.416 You Will Account For COVID-19 Donations, Lagos Assembly Tells Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 7, 2020

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have culled for a separate account for donated funds for COVID-19.

The Assembly also said the appointment of the Amotekun Corps Commander by the state governor must be scrutinised by the lawmakers. A statement said both issues were discussed at the Committee of the Whole on Thursday during the presentation of the observations on the Coronavirus Pandemic Emergency Law 2020 and the Neighbourhood Watch Law 2020, sent from the Office of the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice.

Member representing Badagry Constituency II, Setonji David, while concurring with the recommendations of the House on the issues, said lawmakers must uphold the constitution and hold the executive accountable.

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Also, member representing Ikeja Constituency II, Adedamola Kasunmu, said funds donated in the cause of the coronavirus pandemic must be properly accounted for.

Member representing Mushin Constituency II, Olayiwola Abdul-Sobur, maintained that the donations and grants accrued to the state government should be domiciled in the Consolidated Revenue Funds and the executive must be reminded that no money should be withdrawn from any public funds without the authorisation of the House.

“There should be transparency and trustworthiness on the part of the executive and they should be mindful of the funds which are donations and grants that are not budgeted for,” he said.

The Clerk of the House, Mr. Azeez Sanni, on Monday, announced the receipt of letters from the Office of the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Onigbajo, who wrote on behalf of the governor and urged the House to effect amendments in certain sections of the two laws.

The Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa, had committed the observations raised in the letters to the Committee on Health, chaired by Abdul-Hakeem Sokunle, and Committee on Information, Strategy & Security, headed by Tunde Braimoh.

2.417 Sanwo-Olu Makes Public Names Of COVID-19 Palliative Donors

Culled from Independent on May 8, 2020 5:46 PM

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's of Lagos State has proved true his avowed commitment to transparency and accountability

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in governance by releasing the names of individuals and corporate organizations that donated to the State Government towards the fight against the novel coronavirus pandemic as demanded by the state house of assembly.

The various donors have responded in diverse forms ranging from cash, food items to expensive medical equipment such as Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), ambulances, respirators, isolation facilities.

Recall that Governor Sanwo-Olu said during his last televised update on COVID-19 that his administration would release the names of all the donors so that Lagosians would know who they are and what they have done to support the fight against the pandemic.

2.418 Sanwo-Olu Warns Against Non-Compliance, Threatens Lockdown

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 9, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has threatened to order another lockdown of movement and business activities should the residents fail to adhere to the public health guidelines issued by the state government in response to the fight against coronavirus pandemic.

Sanwo-Olu said the government would be forced to review terms of easing the lockdown if there was no improvement in the adherence to the guidelines initiated to break the cycle of transmission of the dreaded virus.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

The governor spoke on Saturday during a maiden briefing after the ease of a five-week lockdown imposed by the Federal Government.

He complained that residents went about their businesses in the last five days after the ease of lockdown without complying with the public health guidelines despite massive advocacy.

He said the crowd observed at various banks and markets across the state flouted the public gathering directive, noting that the government would not watch while people violate the State's guidelines towards combating the pandemic.

A statement from the LASG quoted the governor as saying, "As a Government elected to uphold the security of its citizens, which include health security, we will not hesitate to review the terms of the easing of lockdown if we do not see an improvement in adherence to our public health guidelines in the next couple of days.

"We will be forced to take a painful decision of bringing the entire system under lockdown if we continue to see evidence that Lagosians are determined to flout the rules."

Sanwo-Olu said the State Government's order restricting the operation of commercial motorcycles, popularly known as Okada, had been defied, directing the police to confiscate any commercial motorcycle seen flouting his directive.

The Governor also instructed security personnel to strictly enforce the ban on inter-state movement, directing the police

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to turn back all pedestrians trekking to Lagos from boundary highways.

He said, "We are at a critical point in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic where every citizen of the state needs to take responsibility for their health and wellbeing.

"As citizens, we have a great burden upon us, to behave responsibly. These times demand a lot from us, in terms of actions and behaviours that may not be comfortable. To stay alive and well, we have to abandon old habits and customs, and adopt new ones."

2.419 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Vows To Re-Impose Total Lockdown If...

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 9, 2020 in News, News Update

The Lagos State Government says it will not hesitate to re-impose total lockdown in the state if residents continue to violate guidelines on the easing of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu made the announcement on Saturday while giving an update on the management of COVID-19 and review of the lockdown in the state.

On May 4, Lagos State commenced a gradual easing of the lockdown imposed on the state as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Lagos, the economic hub of Nigeria is the city most affected by the coronavirus in the country.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

Sanwo-Olu said that the level of compliance with guidelines on the lockdown easing was unacceptable.

He said that the compliance level for commercial transport operators was regrettably low.

According to him, yellow bus transport operators, failed to comply with capacity restrictions outlined in the guidelines and many commercial motorcycle operators had also openly and indiscriminately defied the suspension.

He said that the ban on inter-state travel, except for essential goods and services was also consistently flouted. “Trucks and other vehicles carrying items designated as essential, have also played major roles in flouting the guidelines by conspiring to conceal and smuggle people in and out of the state.

“Reports about mask usage in public places have also not been encouraging. Many people are still choosing to go out without masks or face coverings of any kind. This is simply unacceptable.

“Let me reiterate that the success of this gradual easing of the lockdown is dependent upon the compliance of each and every one of us.

“As a government, elected to uphold the security of Lagos State – and this includes health security – let me make it clear that we will not hesitate to review the terms of this easing if we continue to see evidence that Lagosians are determined to flout the rules.

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“I am aware that the Presidential Task Force has also made this point: that the continued maintenance of this easing is only guaranteed when people consistently comply.”

Sanwo-Olu said the increasing number of coronavirus cases seen should stand as a warning for people to comply with the guidelines. “What we are seeing is child’s play compared to what we could be seeing if we continue to be irresponsible.

“Let me finally use this opportunity to remind us all of the Whistleblower Hotlines that we have established for people to report violations of the orders and restrictions we have issued.

“The numbers are 09010513197; 09010513198; 09010513199.

“We are guaranteeing strict confidentiality of all reports and the full protection of the identity of all whistle blowers. Let us all play our part in protecting Lagos from this pandemic.”

2.420 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Threatens Total Lockdown Over Poor Compliance

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 10, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has threatened to impose a total lockdown on the state if people continue to violate the safety guidelines issued to contain the spread of the virus in the state.

He said the compliance with the use of face masks and social distancing directive had not been fully complied with and that the state had been recording more cases.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

He said, “If we do not see an improvement in the next couple of days, we would be forced to evoke the very painful decision of bringing the entire system under a lockdown again.

“I’m aware that the Presidential Task Force has also made this point and very importantly that the continued maintenance of this ease is only guaranteed when people consistently comply. Let the numbers we have seen this week stand as a warning to all of us because we are monitoring and checking this on a daily basis. “We all must take responsibility, which is what this time demands of us. Government will not shy away from its own responsibilities.”

The governor regretted that the crowds that besieged commercial banks and the poor compliance by danfo drivers violated the social distancing directive, noting however that the Lagos Bus Service and water transportation showed some level of compliance.

He added, “The yellow buses scored below average but we are working with them. We are certainly not happy with their level of compliance and we are hoping that in the few days ahead we will see significant improvement.” On the level of compliance in open markets and stores, he said there was need for improved compliance with social distancing rules and other safety protocols.

“I have also given strict instruction to the police to confiscate motorcycles defying this order,” he added, noting that the ban on interstate travel remained active.

He appreciated the frontline health workers for their sacrifices.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

2.421 Farmer Writes Sanwo-Olu On How To Avert Food Crisis

Culled from Independent on May 10, 2020 12:02 AM

LAGOS – Prince Wale Oyekoya, an agriculturist and Chief Executive Of-ficer of Bama Farms Limited, has affirmed that farmers in Lagos State need government assistance just like any other farmers in other states or country in order to avert food crisis and to contribute meaning-fully to the food security of the state.

He made the call in an open letter addressed to Ba-bajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor on post COVID-19 pandemic and effect on food security in the state.

In the letter which was made available to Sunday In-dependent, Oyekoya said this is not the best time to pay lip service to farmers’ need in the state.

He said that the letter was based on what will happen and solutions to Lagos State citizens after the eradica-tion of the deadly disease in terms of food supply as there is no doubt about it that the pandemic has threatened the food security in the world as indicated by WHO, IMF and World Bank.

“The truth need to be told that Lagos State is not ready to feed the uprising popula-tion of 25 million people in the state. There is food cri-sis in the state already that threatened the food security of the state.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

There have been so much fraud and deceit with the way farming have been showcased and portrayed by the government as if every-thing is okay with the food security in the state.

“There has not been so much assistance to the farm-ers in the state as portrayed in the public domain. I want your administration through your good office to realize that the only way we can get out of poverty is to empower our own people to prosper and build an economy.

“We need to empower peo-ple and guide them to become what we want. A system can be put in place to monitor any-one government invest in. Mo-dalities can be set up to make this succeed.

Oyekoya further stated that the Ministry of Agricul-ture had tried its best based on the availability of porous funds allocated to it but a lot still needed to be done to avert waste, to be prudent in spending and invest in local farmers.

“Some of the ministry pre-vious initiates are the Agric YES at Araga Epe and the pro-totype of Songhai farms lo-cated at Badagry established with billions of naira of tax payers money by the former governor, Babatunde Fashola which turned out to be mon-umental wastes. Some of these moribund agric projects could be concession to private sectors to manage and report back to the government.

I will use my farm as an example, Bama Farms Limited established in 2005 with over one hundred acres of land, is an integrated of prototype of Songhai farms in Benin Republic, located at Afero Epe, developed with no government assistance

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but was forced out of business in 2014 by the Lagos state Government to build Lekki International Airport.

Prom-ises and agreements were made and signed by the gov-ernment and Afero farmers to relocate and compensate us and also to provide us with good enabling environment such as providing us with Certificate of Occupancy, bulldozer to clear the new farmlands and tractors to as-sist us with weeding, harrow-ing, planters and harvesters, roads, and other government assistance for smooth opera-tion of our farms.

“Six years later, after allo-cating over one hundred of acres of farmlands to Bama Farms at Itoikin-Epe road by the former governor, Baba-tunde Fashola, nothing has happened since then.

“In fact, no Certificate of Occupancy as promised to assess loans from the banks or investors.

“With well over one hun-dred acres of land and with Lagos state government as-sistance and intervention, Bama Farms as an integrat-ed farms is guaranteed of contributing meaningfully to the food production in the state, providing training and capacity building to the young farmers, providing of over five hundred direct jobs and improving on the host community social life and welfare.”

He also lamented that the last time Lagos state distrib-uted farming tools, tractors to his farmers was over ten years ago during the adminis-tration of Fashola’s first term in office.

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“Presently, Lagos state government and the twenty local governments does not have a single bulldozer or tractors to assist the farmers in the state and which adversely affect food production in Lagos state.

“To avert food crisis and with one billion of naira, bulldozers and tractors can be purchase and distribute to Lagos farmers on a subsidized rate to revolutionize and mechanize agriculture in the state,” he said.

2.422 Lagos Assembly Okays Sanwo-Olu’s Request To Amend Amotekun Bill

Culled from Independent on May 11, 2020 5:53 PM

LAGOS- Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have passed the Lagos State Neighborhood Safety Corps Agency Law (amendment) 2019 bill into Law.

This was done after the report of the Committee on Information, Security and Strategy was presented on the floor by the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Tunde Braimoh.

In the amendments, “Section 20 (1), which subjects the appointment of the Lagos Amotekun Corps Commander to the confirmation of the House is retained as it is in the practice and procedures of the House that sensitive appointments must be subjected to the confirmation of the House; more so, as it is expedient that appointment of the Amotekun Corps be properly scrutinized.”

After voice votes in favour of the amendments, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa directed Mr. Azeez Sanni, the Clerk

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of the House to forward a clean copy of the Bill to Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his assent.

“Section 20(3) of the amended bill, which subjects the removal of the Lagos Amotekun Corps Commander to the concurrence of the House be deleted as the Committee agrees and that there should be a single line of discipline in accordance public service establishment and engagement.”

After voice votes in favour of the amendments, the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa directed Mr. Azeez Sanni, the Clerk of the House to forward a clean copy of the Bill to Mr. Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his assent.

2.423 Lagos Appoints Eight High Court Judges, Sanwo-Olu Urges Efficient Justice Delivery Despite Pandemic Threat

Culled from Independent on May 12, 2020 4:33 PM

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, gave the charge while appointing eight new judges of the High Court of Lagos on Tuesday.

The eight judges, including Justices Yahqub Oshoala, Omotola Oguntade, Olufunke Sule-Amzat, Rasul Olukolu, Sharafa Olaitan, Ezekiel Ashade, Adeniyi Pokanu and Dorcas Olatokun, took the oath before the governor and members of the state’s cabinet at the Executive Council chamber in the State House, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu said the continuity of judicial services in the period of public health emergency remained vital to boosting people’s

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confidence in the administration of justice system and to ensure adequate enforcement of regulations initiated to stop the spread of the pandemic.

He said: “This chamber we are holding the swearing-in has just been opened for the first time in the last two months. This is the reality of the global coronavirus pandemic, which has evolved new culture in our interactions at homes and offices.

“In this period of public health emergency, we need the judiciary to keep the wheel of the justice system moving. The administration of justice system must not be halted because of the health crisis. Our judicial officers should fully adapt to the evolving culture and be at the services of those who seek redress and justice at the court.

“I have no doubt that the Lagos State Judiciary, under the leadership of My Lord Justice Kazeem Alogba, will be an arm of government that we can continue to rely on as a partner in boosting people’s confidence in government and justice system.” Sanwo-Olu said judges earned their nominations and appointments to the High Court of the state based on their sterling credentials and experience in the respective areas of engagement.

While charging the judges to dispense justice without fear or favour, the governor advised them not to soil their hard-earned reputation and family names in the course of discharging their duties. Sanwo-Olu said: “Having gone through your resumes, I know you have all distinguished yourselves in the legal profession and we expect that you are bringing your years of experience and service. We are convinced this journey would raise the standards of our judicial service.

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“I congratulate our newly sworn-in Honorable Justices and we believe you all have what it takes to be fair and equitable in dispensation of justice to our citizens. By being sworn in as judges, you have brought honour to your family names.

“However, you must ensure that your names are not tarnished in the course of discharging your duty.”

The governor, who thanked National Judicial Council (NJC) for painstakingly vetting the appointed judges’ credentials, noted that he was convinced that quality and calibre of the new judges would improve judicial process in the state.

The governor used to occasion to re-emphasise his commitment to ridding the state of the ravaging pandemic, assuring that the state government would continue to collaborate with stakeholders on the frontline and coordinate response strategy to battle the virus. He also promised to maintain transparency in communicating the response activities to the public.

Moyosore Onigbanjo, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, described the event as “special occasion” in the evolution of judiciary in the state, adding that the quality of credentials of the appointed judges will be brought to bear in fast-tracking administration of justice system.

Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Titilayo Shitta-Bey, disclosed that the process of nomination of the judges was transparent and extended to different areas of legal profession, public service, private sector and the magistracy.

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“The transparency in the selection process of the new judges has deepened our trust in the leadership of Governor Sanwo-Olu. The appointment of these eight judges, having passed through the rigorous competence assessment and selection process, will strengthen the capacity of the Lagos Judiciary which in turn will translate to an improved service delivery in the justice sector,” she said.

Justice Olatokun, who spoke on behalf of the appointed judges, commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for finding them worthy of the appointment, which she described as a “unique privilege” to contribute their quota in deepening justice system.

She pledged to be upright and fearless in the discharge of the duty.

2.424 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Not Doing Enough To Enforce Order On Facemasks, Okada – Sagay

Culled from Independent on May 12, 2020 12:00 PM

Lagos – Professor Itse Sagay (SAN), Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC) on Tuesday said Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is not doing enough in enforcing the safety guidelines aimed at curb the spread of COVID-19 in Lagos state.

The governor at the weekend announced plans to revert to full lockdown if there is no improvement in adherence to the public health guidelines.

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He noted that in the first week of the easing of the lockdown, there had been a repetitive and flagrant disregard for the earlier announced health guidelines.

However, speaking in a chat with Daily Independent, Sagay said aside ignoring the directives on facemasks and social distancing, okada riders which have been banned in all parts of the state are now moving about flagrantly without anyone arresting them.

Sagay said: “It is my view that the Lagos State government is not making enough efforts to enforce its own directives. It has been very laid back in that regard.

“Because of that, we now find that people refuse to wear facemasks, they fail to observe social distancing and also gathering together very tightly at banks and other places.

“Also, we are now also seeing commercial motorcycles (okada) that has been banned riding in areas where they have been banned without anybody challenging them.

“I have seen okadas in Surulere, Eko Bridge, Lekki Phase 1 and in several other places. Some even carry two passengers holding tightly to themselves in areas where the state government said they have been totally banned and there is no LASTMA, RRS, Police or any Lagos state official to arrest them.

“In other words, the ban on okada which was being observed is now being flouted in addition to others who are not even observing the safety guidelines on Coronavirus.

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“So, it is a double problem now in Lagos. Okada men are now riding recklessly on the roads without any arrest whatsoever. I blame the Lagos state government for that.”

While supporting the governor’s threat for a total lockdown, Sagay said in view of the non-compliance of the safety guidelines, Lagos should be locked down for at least one month and should be extended if at the end, people still fail to comply.

He, however, appealed to Governor Sanwo-Olu to give Lagosians time to restock food at home.

2.431 Sanwo-Olu Extols Justice Oluwa’s Virtues

Culled from Independent on May 12, 2020 11:40 AM

LAGOS— Lagos State governor, Ba-bajide Sanwo-Olu, has expressed heartfelt condolence to the family of the late Hon. Justice Isiaka Ishola Oluwa, who died at 102.

Sanwo-Olu described the late Oluwa as an illustrious son of Lagos State, who was godly, disciplined, courageous and loyal in his stewardship to the judiciary.

In a statement, Sanwo-Olu said the contributions of Justice Oluwa, prior to his retirement from the Bench in 1983, would always be recognised and acknowledged by members of the judiciary, especially the state High Court, which he served for many meritorious years.

“Justice Oluwa, as an illustrious son of Lagos State, has indeed etched his name in the annals of our state, not only as the oldest retired justice, but more importantly, as a renowned

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member of the team that blazed the judicial path of excellence that our Judiciary has been known for,” Sanwo-Olu stated.

2.425 Don’t Sack COVID-19 Patients, Sanwo-Olu Warns Employers

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 12, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has warned employers in the state against discriminatory practices towards coronavirus survivors and patients.

This was contained in a statement on Tuesday by Oreoluwa Finnih, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Health.

According to the statement made available via Twitter, the governor condemned the actions of Human Resources Managers who asked workers to take COVID-19 tests as a condition for the continuation of their appointments.

He noted that HR Managers should rather focus on educating their pool of talents on precautionary measures to take at workplaces and everywhere as part of collective efforts to stamp out the pandemic.

Sanwo-Olu said, “It is futile to ask people to take COVID-19 tests if you are not going to sequester them after. It is also useless because your test is only as good as the period of time within which you’ve taken it. As long as people are going home every day it is pointless.

“Please focus on educating your workforce on preventive measures, reiterate the need for frequent hand washing, ensure that visitors and staff coming in are complying with the

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#MaskUpLagos and within the offices work stations are placed at a good distance apart.

“Ensure that stationery is not shared, common areas and all surfaces are cleaned more frequently. Encourage and enable remote work. COVID-19 testing is very serious business, testing reagents are scarce and are used strategically. Be wary of those peddling kits up and down.

“If someone falls ill from COVID-19, they will be issued a certificate of wellness from the accredited facility where they were treated and this should enable them to resume at work as soon as they feel fit to do so.

“Please do not sack anyone because they came down with COVID-19, it is discriminatory and stigmatises people.”

The governor stressed that the fight against the pandemic is collective but objected to employers asking employees to get COVID-19 test results as it gives a false sense of security to organisations and employees.

He, however, asked employers to report to the appropriate quarters should anyone display symptoms of the virus at work.

2.426 Sanwo-Olu Hailed For Being Proactive On COVID-19

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 13, 2020 in News, News Update

The Founder of Real Acts of Kindness (RAK) Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende, has hailed Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for being proactive in curbing the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

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Ogunlende, who spoke at the weekend while distributing 250 food items received from Victim Support Fund (VSF), to indigents and widows in Badagry, Lagos, said the government had worked hard to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

The RAK Foundation founder, who visited the VSF Covid-19 Task Force Chairperson, Mrs. Toyosi Akerele-Ogunsiji, advised Lagosians to adhere to the regulations made by the government to prevent the spread of Coronavirus by maintaining social distancing and washing their hands regularly with soap under running water.

He assured Badagry residents that the NGO would collaborate with more Private Public Partnerships (PPPs) to ensure a better living condition for widows and indigents.

Ogunlende said that VSF COVID-19 food relief package distribution had been very effective and transparent.

Items comprising 10kg of rice, 10kg of beans, 10kg of garri, 10kg of salt and four litres of vegetable oil were packed in 50kg bags.

Ninety bags were distributed in Olorunda Local Council Development Area (LCDA), 50 bags in Badagry West LCDA and 50 bags in Badagry Local Government.

“The NGO also distributed 39 bags in riverine communities from Ojo to Badagry, while the remaining 21 bags were given to select widows within the city,” Ogunlende said.

He hailed the task force for their timely intervention at a critical time.

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Mrs. Hannah Azon, one of the beneficiaries, thanked VSF for their support.

2.427 Sanwo-Olu Hailed For Being Proactive on COVID-19

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 13, 2020 in News, News Update

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He hailed the task force for their timely intervention at a critical time.

Mrs. Hannah Azon, one of the beneficiaries, thanked VSF for their support.

2.428 Lagos Assembly Rejects Sanwo-Olu’s Nominee For Audit Service Commission

Culled from Independent on May 14, 2020 4:49 PM

Lagos- Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly on Thursday, rejected one of the five nominees of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for the State Audit Service Commission.

The House, however, confirmed three others, with one of the nominees absent from the exercise.

The rejected nominee is Mr. Abiodun Oladipupo Akhigbe, while the absentee was Mr. Jimoh Akerele Ibrahim. Though no reason was given for Akhigbe’s rejection but virtually all the members voted against him when his name was Culled by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa.

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The nominees confirmed by the Assembly included the Chairperson, Mrs. Oluwatoyin Adepeju Adegboji-Onikoyi; Mr. Emmanuel Sunday Kappo (member) and Mrs. Jokotola Ojosipe-Ogundimu (member).

A letter containing the names of the five nominees was sent to the Assembly by the Governor on Wednesday 13th May, 2020 as read by the Clerk of the House, Mr. Azeez Sanni. The three nominees were confirmed after a voice vote supervised by the Speaker.

Mrs. Oluwatoyin Adepeju Adegboji-Onikoyi, the Chairperson, was born on 14th February, 1956 and she attended the University of Lagos and graduated with Accounting degree and later got MBA. Adegboji-Onikoyi worked in many local government secretariats in the state for 23 years.

She worked at the Ministry of Finance as Director of Audit and later became the Permanent Secretary before she retired in 2016. She is married with four children.

2.429 Lagos Assembly Approves Sanwo-Olu's Request For Unification Of Fibre Infrastructure

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 16, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State House of Assembly has approved Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's request for Unified Fibre Infrastructure and Connectivity Project under the state's Public Private Law.

The project is being handled by Messrs Western Telecommunications And Engineering Services Metro Ltd. The

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approval was sequel to the report of the House Committee on Public Private Partnership (PPP) presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Lukmon Olumoh (Ajeromi/Ifelodun 1) during plenary on Thursday 14th May , 2020.

Olumoh revealed during an interview that the project was about laying of fibres by the concerned company and that it had nothing to do with 5G or Coronavirus.

A letter signed by the governor on the project had been read at plenary on Thursday 7th May and the Speaker of the House, Hon. Mudashiru Obasa committed it to the Committee on PPP for scrutiny before ratification by the House.

The letter was titled; 'Request for Ratification by the Honourable House Of Assembly of the Lagos State Unified Infrastructure And Connectivity Project'.

The project, Olumoh stated in the report would involve the deployment of unified fibre duct infrastructure for carrying telecommunications cables and other wired infrastructure to support operators of telecommunications and other relevant utilities, as well as provide infra and connectivity requirements for Lagos State.

"The agreement further stipulates that the project partnership will last for an initial term of twenty-five (25) years, which May be extended by the parties, in writing, prior to its expiration or by effluxion of time, on mutually agreed terms and conditions.

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“By agreement, the company is to pay to the state coffers a fee of ten (10) percent of the revenues generated from the lease of the ducts to operators.”

2.430 Sanwo-Olu urges religious leaders to sensitize residents on obeying safety measures

*****Fn first Ever Virtual Meeting With Religious Leaders**

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 18, 2020 in News, News Update

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu over the weekend urged religious leaders to sensitize residents on measures to curb the spread of coronavirus and stay safe.

He said their role in the sensitization is very vital because what is happening now is community transmission and many of the residents in the State worship under them either as Muslims or Christians.

The governor made the appeal in the first ever virtual meeting he held with religious leaders in the State. He briefed the leaders on efforts of his Administration since the coronavirus pandemic landed in Nigeria on February 20th, 2020, Lagos State being the epicentre of the Corona virus, because of the strategic position it occupies.

Welcoming the religious leaders to the meeting, the Governor described the pandemic as a global scourge. He observed that sadly, the Lenten and Ramadan Seasons have also fallen under the lockdown period.

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He however informed that the State was already at alert immediately the news about the virus broke in China in December, 2019 bearing in mind the experience of the Ebola virus.

The religious leaders were informed that, since all borders have been shut, the infection and transmission of the virus is now spreading at the community level, hence the urgent need to sensitize religious leaders as many of the residents in the State worship under them either as Muslims or Christians.

The Governor reiterated that the “0 – Congregation” stance of government for religious worship centres was still in force, to ensure social/physical distancing and that moving forward, all hands should be on deck to do more sensitisation and monitoring in complimenting with government efforts.

The Governor Culled for continued and intensified prayers of the religious leaders to successfully navigate this perilous period.

The Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria-CAN, Lagos State Branch, Apostle (Prof.) Alexander Bamgbola, thanked the Governor for being pro active, dogged and pragmatic in his approach to the situation which he believes has saved so many lives and promised on behalf of Christian faithfuls in the State to continue to support efforts of government in sensitisation and enlightenment.

Speaking on behalf of the Islamic and Muslim leaders, the Grand Chief Imam of Lagos, Sheik (Engr.) Suleiman Abu-Nolla, described this period as a time of collective survival, when all

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religions must put everything to work in order to ensure survival of all.

Some of the notable religious leaders online with the Governor were, Pastor W.F. Kumuyi (Deeper life), Pastor Joseph Obayemi(RCCG) Dr. D.K. Olukoya(MFM), Rev.Mrs.Mercy Ezekiel(CPM), Amb.Mrs. Elizabeth Onajobi of WOWICAN, His Eminence Samuel Kanu Uche and other leaders in the five Christian Bloc and CAN Executives.

Also present were Imam Dr. Abdulrahman Ahmad (Chief Missioner, Ansar udeen) Sheik Abdulhakeem Lawal, Imam Abdul Akeem Lawal, Dr.(Mrs) Egberongbe of FOMWAN, Sheik Uwais, Chief Imams of the various Divisions of the State, MSSN and other top religious leaders.

2.431 **Sanwo-Olu Seeks Resumption Of Lagos-Abuja Flights**

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 23, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the state government is trying to get the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 to allow flights from Lagos to Abuja to operate, following the increasing impact of the closure of the airports on the state's economy.

The governor lamented that the aviation industry, as well as the entertainment, hospitality and transportation sectors, had been "significantly" affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

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The Federal Government on March 23 shut all international airports in the country before it later extended the closure to all airports in the country, banning all local and international flights.

Sanwo-Olu spoke as a panellist at a webinar hosted by FSDH Merchant Bank on Friday. The webinar, titled, 'A global pandemic: local realities and peculiarities – a view from the frontlines', was anchored by the Chairman, FSDH Holding Company, Mr Hakeem Belo-Osagie, and the bank's Managing Director, Mrs Hamda Ambah.

Other panellists included the Governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai; his Edo State counterpart, Godwin Obaseki; Senior lecturer and consultant, Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Dr Alero Ann Roberts; Director, Centre for International Development, Harvard University, Prof Asim Ijaz Khwaja, and Assistant Professor, Harvard Business School, Dr Jaya Wen.

The governor said, "In terms of direct economy, I know that the entertainment industry has been affected badly. I know the hospitality industry has been affected greatly, especially as people could not go out. It affected those sectors badly. Transportation business and the aviation sector have been affected significantly and these are large employers of labour.

We all know that Nollywood employs many people, so we are thinking through how to reset these economies very quickly but in a very gradual manner.

"So, the aviation industry has been badly hit and just this (Friday) morning, I spoke with a major player in that industry and we are trying to get the Presidential Task Force on COVID-

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19 to see whether we are going to resume Lagos–Abuja flights before we get to other sectors. There has to be some gradual process in lifting the lockdown.

“We will continue to have engagements with all of the players down the value chain. At the right time when we see that the t’s have been crossed and the i’s have been dotted, we will do that and you can hold us to that.”

**2.432 We’ll Assist Companies To Prevent Job Loss –
Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 24, 2020

In light of the disruptions and hardship caused by the coronavirus pandemic in the business environment, Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, hinted that the state would help big companies operating in the state to prevent job loss.

He added that the state was also considering giving grants to some Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in the state given the impact of COVID-19 on their activities.

Speaking as a panelist at a webinar hosted by FSDH Merchant Bank on Friday, the governor noted that the government was already compiling the data of the MSMEs to see how they could be assisted.

The webinar, titled, ‘A global pandemic: local realities and peculiarities – a view from the frontlines’, was anchored by the Chairman, FSDH Holding Company, Mr Hakeem Belo-Osagie, and the bank’s Managing Director, Mrs Hamda Ambah.

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The governor said, “Lagos State has a lot of MSMEs and we realise that the sector has been extensively affected. Some of them employ three to five persons each and a lot of them need some sort of support. Part of the things we are planning to do under the Register-to-Open is to see how we can come in.

“We are compiling data and we are trying to see what kind of support we can give them. We have asked the ones currently with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (portal) not to pay the interest on their (credit) facilities with the state government. We have suspended the payment of interest.

“We want to see if we can do some grant for some of them over the next two to three months so that we can cushion the effect it has on their business. That is on one part.

“The other part is that we are asking the big companies the requirements they want from the state government, to ensure that they do not retrench their staff members. That, for us, is also important.

“They are mainly affected given that they have had to slow down their production lines. We want to ensure that they are not retrenching or shutting down their facilities.

So, they have given us a list of the kind of things they want us to do for them and such things would affect our Internally Generated Revenue but we are willing to bend backwards for them and see how we can collaborate.”

Speaking on the gradual opening of the economy, Sanwo-Olu said construction industry and heavy manufacturing companies

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with huge staff strength would be the first areas that would need to open up.

He added that the hospitality industry, aviation industry and public transportation had been sending bills to seek government's support and that they would follow in the second line of intervention.

2.433 Sanwo-Olu To Mark One Year In Office With Launching Of Projects

Culled from Independent on May 24, 2020 6:46 PM

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos attains one year in Office on May 29, 2020.

To commemorate the event, a number of programmes have been slated, starting with an address by Mr. Governor.

During the week-long ceremonies, Mr. Governor will embark on virtual and on-site commissioning of Housing, Education, Transportation and Road projects in fulfilment of his promises to renew infrastructure in critical sectors of the economy.

According to Gbenga Omotosho, the state Commissioner for Information, the governor will visit Ikorodu to commission the 360 units Lagos Homes, Igbogbo Baiyeku IIB Estate. In Lekki, the Courtland Villas in Femi Okunnu Estate will also be launched to mark the first year anniversary of this administration.

In the Education sector, Governor Sanwo-Olu will conduct virtual commissioning of completed classroom blocks in Maya

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Secondary School, Ikorodu; Eva Adelaja Junior School, Bariga; and Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye, among others.

The virtual commissioning of completed works such as the Concrete Jetty in Baiyeku, Ikorodu; the Aradagun – Ajido – Epeme Road in Badagry; and the Maryland Signalisation Project also form part of Mr. Governor's itinerary to commemorate one year in office.

However, prior to May 29, Governor Sanwo-Olu will deliver a Children's Day address on May 27, which coincides with the 53rd anniversary of Lagos State.

The anniversary commemorative events are instructively low-key to reflect the realities and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not a time to engage in any elaborate celebrations.

Mr. Governor, however, considers it essential to render an account of his service to Lagosians since he was voted into office a year ago.

In the next few days, the anniversary programmes will begin at the J.J.T Park in Alausa, with Press Briefings by members of the Executive Council. The Honourable Commissioners and Special Advisers will present their scorecards in tandem with the six pillars of the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

At the sessions, EXCO members will address journalists accredited to cover the daily briefings scheduled to run from Wednesday, May 27 to June 3, 2020, with two sessions daily, starting from 10a.m and 1p.m respectively.

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The briefings will kick-off with the Honourable Commissioners for Transportation, Dr. Frederic Oladeinde; Health, Professor Akin Abayomi; Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tunji Bello; and Education, Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo presenting their scorecards to members of the public. Other EXCO members will also take turns to address the Press on a daily basis throughout the period scheduled for the Ministerial Press Briefings.

Three special publications highlighting the achievements of the Sanwo-Olu administration as well as testimonies of beneficiaries of various initiatives of the government are slated for presentation to the public by Mr. Governor and his Deputy, Dr. Obafemi Kadri Hamzat, on May 29.

Governor Sanwo-Olu remains focused on fulfilling his campaign promises to Lagosians and is determined to accomplish set targets, despite the temporary setback occasioned by the economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be an interesting alteration to our ways of life, and also provided Lagosians with the opportunity to confirm the enormous capacity of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu Administration to lead a people-centred government.

Gbenga Omotoso
Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Information and Strategy

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2.434 Sanwo-Olu Tasks Muslims On Spirituality, Peaceful Coexistence

LAGOS – Lagos State Governor, Baba-jide Sanwo-Olu, has congratulated Muslims in the state on the successful completion of this year's Ramadan fasting and the celebration of Eid-el- Fitri, urging them to continue on the path of spirituality and peaceful co-existence among every Lagosian.

Sanwo-Olu in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile, on Satur-day, said the occasion of Eid-el-Fitri is very significant to Muslims across the world as it marks the end of one month of abstinence from worldly pleasures with fasting and prayers, observed in accordance with the Islamic injunctions.

He said: "Today, I join millions of people around the world, to wish our Muslim brothers and sisters in Lagos State and in Nigeria happy Eid-el-fitri."

"For Muslims, today's celebration is very unique. It is a feast to mark the end of a month long spiritual renewal following 30 days of fasting and other religious acts." "Ramadan was a period that you denied yourselves the worldly pleasures, turned to your Creator for total cleansing and upheld other religious values."

Sanwo-Olu urged Muslims to continue on the path of spirituality, respect for one another and peaceful co-existence among all Lagosians. "As Muslims celebrate this year's Eid-el-Fitri, we must remind ourselves of the need to further reflect spiritually and build communally."

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The governor reminded the Muslim faithful of the new reality caused by the global coronavirus pandemic, saying it has altered the way we live, work and celebrate.

He said: “Traditionally, the end of Ramadan is marked with fanfare, where thou-sands of worshippers head to various designated praying grounds in their localities for special Eid prayer, followed by festive gatherings, visits to families and friends, gift ex-changes, feasts among friends, neighbours and relations.

2.435 Lockdown: Sanwo-Olu’s Re-Registration Policy Will Inhibit Businesses – Nwachuku

LAGOS – Chuks Nwachuku, a lawyer and presidential candidate of All Grassroots Alliance (AGA) in the last general elections has said that the re-registration of business-es, as planned by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of La-gos State, as a condition for the total reopening of the economy would lead to in-hibition of businesses.

While reacting to Lagos State governments state-ment on Sunday, that busi-nesses ready to start op-eration would go through a form of re-registration and space management, the lawyer told Daily Inde-pendent on Monday in an interview that it was wor-risome that government, which should put mea-sures in place to support businesses, that suffered so much set back as a result of COVID-19 pandemic, would consider policy capable of causing more damage to the economy.

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2.436 Lagos to close Marine Beach Bridge for five months

Culled from the BluePrint Newspaper on May 25, 2020

The Lagos state government Sunday announced a plan to effect partial closure of the Marine Beach Bridge, Apapa, to vehicular movement, from May 27 to October 21.

The state Commissioner for Transportation, Frederic Oladeinde, made the disclosure in a statement in Lagos.

He said the closure would be to enable repair of the bridge which, he said, was long overdue. “The repair by the Federal Ministry of Works is long overdue and is vital for the safety of the people of Lagos state, especially motorists that ply the bridge to access different parts of the state.

“Necessary palliative works have been carried out on all alternative routes around the construction site to make them to be in good condition to ease movement during the construction period. “The repair work, which comprise bearing and expansion joint replacement, is planned to be executed in two phases, with each phase focusing on one lane of the bridge at a time. “The first phase will be handling the lane inbound Apapa while the second phase will be designated to work on the lane that conveys vehicles outside the axis,” he said.

Mr Oladeinde said the partial closure of the bridge by Total Gas, inward Apapa, would last for five months.

The commissioner also said the repair was in line with the vision of providing a seamless transportation system in the metropolis. He stated further those motorists inward Wharf Road would be diverted to the other section of the bridge toward Apapa.

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2.437 Sanwo-Olu to mark one year in office with projects inauguration

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 25, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Government has lined up a-week long programme to commemorate Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's one year in office. He was sworn in on May 29, 2019. To commemorate the event, a number of programmes have been slated, starting with an address by the governor.

During the week-long ceremonies, Governor Sanwo-Olu will embark on virtual and on-site inauguration of housing, education, transportation and road projects in fulfilment of his promises to renew infrastructure in critical sectors of the economy.

He will visit Ikorodu to inaugurate the 360 units Lagos Homes Igbogbo Baiyeku IIB Estate. In Lekki, the Courtland Villas in Femi Okunnu Estate will also be launched to mark the first year anniversary of this administration.

In the education sector, Governor Sanwo-Olu will conduct virtual inauguration of completed classroom blocks in May at a Secondary School, Ikorodu; Eva Adelaja Junior School, Bariga; and Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye, among others.

The virtual inauguration of completed works such as the Concrete Jetty in Baiyeku, Ikorodu; the Aradagun – Ajido – Epeme Road in Badagry; and the Maryland Signalisation Project also form part of Mr. Governor's itinerary to commemorate one year in office.

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However, prior to May 29, Governor Sanwo-Olu will deliver a Children's Day address on May 27, which coincides with the 53rd anniversary of Lagos State.

The anniversary commemorative events are instructively low-key to reflect the realities and challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is not a time to engage in any elaborate celebrations. Mr. Governor, however, considers it essential to render an account of his service to Lagosians since he was voted into office a year ago.

In the next few days, the anniversary programmes will begin at the J.J.T Park in Alausa, with a news briefing by members of the Executive Council.

The honourable commissioners and special advisers will present their scorecards in tandem with the six pillars of the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

At the sessions, EXCO members will address reporters accredited to cover the daily briefings scheduled to run from May 27 to June 3, with two sessions daily, starting from 10am and 1pm.

Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi; Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tunji Bello; and Education, Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo presenting their scorecards to the public. Other EXCO members will also take turns to address the press on a daily basis throughout the period scheduled for the ministerial press briefings.

Three special publications highlighting the achievements of the Sanwo-Olu administration as well as testimonies of beneficiaries of initiatives of the government are slated for

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presentation to the public by Mr. Governor and his Deputy, Dr. Obafemi Kadri Hamzat, on May 29.

2.438 Rector: LASPOTECH unions urge Sanwo-Olu to appoint ‘credible’ candidate

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 26, 2020 in City Beats

The Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Polytechnics (SSANIP), and Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) in the Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH) have appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to appoint a popular candidate for the vacant Rector position.

The Nation learnt that the tenure of Samuel Oluyinka Sogunro ends at the weekend.

A joint statement by the unions also urged the governor to constitute a Governing Council for the polytechnic.

They cautioned against appointing allies of the outgoing Rector.

According to them, it will be suicidal to give these Sogunro’s compatriots any iota of consideration on their applications.

The union said: “The unions do not expect them to scale the first hurdle in the process. Any mistake of appointing anyone of the two will bring final doom on the polytechnic.

Besides, our investigation revealed that these two applicants have deficiencies in their academic qualifications and career progression requirements for the position. “We are also aware that some of the applicants are not from the polytechnic sector.

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These sets of applicants are not to be given consideration because the vacancy advertisement specifically requires applications from those in the polytechnic sector.

“Sir, while we are not making a case against a Rector coming from outside our polytechnic, we do not desire any legal obstructions in the appointment process. We consider it appropriate that the rules of the game are adhered to. Also, bringing a Rector from outside the polytechnic sector limits the career advancement of eligible academics in the polytechnics.”

According to them, Governor Sanwo-Olu should appoint a Rector that will command the loyalty and respect of all stakeholders in the institution.

They said: “Sir, it will not be out of place if the usual final three candidates selected are subjected to a further rating by the staff and students which will inform the choice of the Visitor. We know that this is a ‘tall’ request, but you will agree that no amount of efforts is too much to sacrifice for peace.

“These will go a long way in limiting the persistence crises bedevilling our tertiary institution. It is of public knowledge that virtually all the tertiary institutions in the state are into a form of crisis and some of which arise from bad governance. Towards this end, we sincerely recommend that a clause addressing acceptability of the head to be appointed should be included in Laws establishing our tertiary institutions.”

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2.439 Lagos attracts US\$250 million for new industrial-residential development – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 28th May 2020

In a bid to boost the economic prosperity of the state, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said it had attracted investment worth US\$250 million for its new industrial-residential development.

The governor disclosed this during the ministerial press briefing to commemorate his administration, revealing that the total value of the 24 companies within the zone is estimated to be US\$250 million.

Speaking through the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr Lola Akande, he said: ‘The companies will engage about 2,050 employees in the first phase of their operations.’

He described the project as a public-private partnership, mixed industrial-residential development where the state government owns 40 per cent as land equity while Messrs Rendeavour, Africa’s largest estate developer owns 60 per cent.

‘The project, located at Epe on a 2,000-hectare piece of land comprises a mix of industrial concerns, homes, offices, healthcare facilities, schools, hostels etc.’

According to him, there are 24 new companies at various stages of development in the zone with the very first factory to set up there, Ariel Foods, opening for business in January 2020.

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‘Ariel Foods is the largest ready-to-use therapeutic food factory in Africa. Its investment in Alaro is a US\$15 million multi-sector investment, including investment in housing, soap and detergent production.

‘The ground-breaking ceremonies for other investors at Alaro City such as ASB Valiant, Starium (BUA Group), Kenol, HMD, Loatsad, Sana and Universal Homes also took place in 2020.’

Infrastructure in place includes roads which will open up access to 55 per cent of the site, a 1.4km dual carriageway asphalt road with a four-meter median, stormwater drains, street lighting and cycling lanes which are 90 per cent completed.

The governor expressed delight that the investment in the Lekki Free Trade Zone Development Company is yielding result as US\$30 million goods were exported in the last 12 months while 19 new companies are at various stages of deployment.

2.440 Anniversary: RTEAN commends Gov. Sanwo-Olu on road reconstruction, COVID-19 response

Culled from the Sun on 29th May 2020

The Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Lagos State Chapter, on Friday commended Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on how his administration had been reconstructing roads and combating COVID-19 pandemic in the state.

Alhaji Mohammed Musa, RTEAN State Chairman, gave the commendation in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria

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(NAN) in Lagos, while speaking on Sanwo-Olu-led administration 's performance in his first year in office.

Musa said: “We cannot forget that most roads were impassable when Sanwo-Olu assumed office as a result of the continuous rainfall which compounded hardships faced by motorists.

“We can all see how the governor has put machinery in place to ensure continuous road repairs while construction work is ongoing in others. We must thank the governor for that.

“Also, we cannot forget the quick response of Gov. Sanwo-Olu to the coronavirus problem in the state. We thank him for all his actions and steps whugh have curbed the explosion of the infections.”

On COVID-19 palliatives, Musa said that the governor did well by extending the gesture to drivers and conductors whose businesses and sources of livelihood were totally paralysed during the five weeks' lockdown.

“We got stimulus packages from the governor for our members. When we added that to what the association also provided as palliatives, it went a long way to reduce the sufferings of our members.

“So many lives and families of the poor and the vulnerable were touched when the governor decided to distribute economic stimulus to various associations and groups,” he added.

Musa, who also commended Sanwo-Olu for not abandoning projects that were not completed by his predecessor, urged

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the governor to expedite action on completing the construction of the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

The RTEAN boss assured the governor of the support of his members in all his welfare and infrastructure programmes to improve the condition of living of the residents of the state.

“We want the governor to always carry us along and we will continue to play our role in supporting this administration in all its programmes and policies,” he said.

NAN reports that May 29,2020 marks the first year in office of Babajide Sanwo-Olu as the incumbent Govenor of Lagos State. (NAN)

2.441 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu honours 10 health workers

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on May 29, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has honoured 10 health workers for their dedication and commitment towards the coronavirus pandemic, The PUNCH learnt.

The 10 health workers received the plaques at a simple ceremony held at the State House in Marina as part of the low-key events marking the administration's first anniversary.

The honoured few, according to a statement by the government are; Sunday Adesola, a principal medical officer; Basirat Adeoye, a senior nurse; a pharmacist, Folarin Amosun; a virologist, Sunday Omilabu; and a medical waste cleaner, Olufemi Akinade.

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Others are a public health expert, Bisola Adebayo; a laboratory scientist, Olanrewaju Aladetuyi; a hospital administrator, Abiola Adeloju; an ambulance driver, Alaba Anago; and a gateman, Tajudeen Bankole.

The governor presented them with plaques of honour in appreciation of their resolve in the battle against the pandemic.

He said, “As demonstration of our commitment to winning the battle, we felt the least we can do on the occasion of our first anniversary is to select representatives of the frontline health workers for appreciation.

“The selected personnel are not the only persons deserving of the honour, but this is a testimony to our resolve to show appreciation to all the frontline workers. We have not come out of the pandemic or reach the peak, but we certainly cannot wait until the crisis is over before we start acknowledging the sacrifices of the committed people.

“Each team of medical personnel deployed has played its roles well and we will not forget your sacrifice. On behalf of the people and Government, I thank all frontline workers for their sacrifice.”

2.442 My best is yet to come – Sanwo-Olu

% Dedicates first anniversary to COVID -19 frontline workers

Culled from the Sun on 30th May 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo Olu has assured residents of the state that the best of his administration was yet to come. The governor spoke on the occasion of virtual

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inauguration of projects and official presentation of books to commemorate his administration’s one year at the Lagos House, Marina, yesterday.

The virtual commissioning, according to the governor was in line with the reality of situations the world over at this time of COVID 19 in which the state remains the epicentre in the country. He recalled that upon the inauguration of his administration exactly a year ago, he made a solemn pledge to take the state to new heights. “Therefore, the virtual commissioning of some vital projects on the occasion of the 1st year of our administration clearly amplifies our resolve to build first class infrastructure across the state.

The projects that were inaugurated and cut across various sectors, included 18 classroom blocks at Muslim Junior College, Egbe, 18 classroom blocks at Maya Secondary School, Ikorodu, 18 classroom blocks at Eva Adelaja Junior Secondary School, Bariga.

Others, were blocks of 20 classrooms at Bashua Military School Primary School, Shomolu, 13 classrooms at Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA, blocks of 20 classrooms at Ayanleye Memorial Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA.

The governor who also dedicated his first year in office to frontline workers in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic at another ceremony honoured 10 of their representatives at Lagos House Marina.

At the commissioning of the projects which included a concrete jetty with shoreline protection at Ikorodu, rehabilitation,

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upgrading and construction of road projects at Somolu, Mushin and Badagry; over 500 houses and apartments in various parts of the state and construction of classroom blocks in both primary and secondary schools in different local government council areas of the state; an elated Sanwo-Olu said even though the last four months have been very challenging in view of the COVID 19 pandemic, the cardinal part of his Greater Lagos vision is infrastructure development.

2.443 Sanwo-Olu flags off construction of Regional Road

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on May 31, 2020 in News, News Update

ON Saturday, the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu flagged off the construction of the long-awaited Regional Road in Lekki region, a critical infrastructure proposed in the Lekki-Epe master plan aimed at decongesting traffic gridlocks in the entire Eti Osa Local Government Area. At a groundbreaking ceremony held on the project site, the Governor described the development as “a manifestation” of his administration’s commitment towards improving socio-economic activities on the Lekki-Epe axis by the provision of supporting infrastructure.

The construction of the 8.75 kilometre-long road, being undertaken by Messrs Hi-Tech Construction Company Limited, will link Lekki-Epe Expressway at Victoria Garden City (VGC) Junction to the Freedom Way in Eti Osa. The road is also said to be a precursor to the proposed Fourth Mainland Bridge that is expected to take off from the axis. When completed in the next 24 months, Sanwo-Olu said the Regional Road would not only change the entire landscape of Eti Osa and improve

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journey time for commuters, he said it would also drive up the efficiency of Government’s traffic management strategy.

“With the flag off of the construction of this critical road infrastructure, we are keeping the promise we made to Lagosians. As a Government, when we give commitments to our people, we do not shy away from it. Our word is our bond. Today’s event is a manifestation of our pledge to address infrastructural challenges on the Eti Osa axis. We know what people go through on the Lekki-Epe Expressway as a result of traffic. We are moved by the pains to hasten the process of putting the Regional Road in place to bring the long sought relief to our citizens working and living on this axis.

Today, we are here for the groundbreaking ceremony to start work on this critical infrastructures,” he said.

In tough tones, the Governor said sanctions awaited property developers and state officials who undermined the State’s planning approvals and encroach the alignments of the Regional Road. Sanwo-Olu directed the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to sanction any State official found culpable in compromising the the planning approval and right-of-way of the road. He appealed to residents to cooperate with the Government and the contractor towards making the project a reality, pointing out that the construction work May bring about temporary period of hardship. He said the relief that would follow the completion of the project would assuage any feeling of pain experienced by residents on the axis.

The Governor also assured that the multi-million dollar Fourth Mainland Bridge project would take off before the end of the

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current dispensation, adding that the completion of the regional road necessitate the need for the bridge. The Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Mrs. Aramide Adeyoye, said the Regional Road remains strategic address the infrastructural need of the Lekki sub-region as the new economic centre in the State. The completion of the road, she said, will bring about competitive business environment and ease traffic off Third Mainland Bridge and serve as alternative to Lekki-Epe Expressway.

2.444 Sanwo-Olu inaugurates community policing in Lagos

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 3, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Wednesday inaugurated community policing in the state, The PUNCH reports.

He said the launch of the State Community Policing Advisory Committee and its operations arm, the State Community Policing Committee was geared towards improving security in the state. The governor instituted members of the two committees at a ceremony held at the State House in Alausa, according to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile.

The SCPAC is co-chaired by the state Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, and the Chairman of Council of Obas and Chiefs in Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu.

Sanwo-Olu said, “The work that the Police are expected to do becomes more difficult when they are expected to do it alone. No matter how well-resourced or technologically advanced a

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Police Force might be, there might be no progress without the trust and support of the communities in which they operate. Every citizen has a role to play in ensuring that the security architecture functions optimally. “We are implementing this policing initiative with the sole objective of creating a platform for citizens’ participation towards improving security in our communities.

“Community policing, in its ideal implementation, will take a lot of pressure off the Police Force and allow them to focus their energy and resources where it matters most. It will give citizens and residents a strong sense of participation in governance, and strengthen the social contract between the Government and the governed. A citizen-centric approach to tackling crime and criminality is a big plus for democratic practice and governance.”

Also, the Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Training at the Force Headquarters in Abuja, David Folawiyo, who represented the Inspector-General of Police, Muhammed Adamu, said the nation had reached a point where the police must interface with community members in maintaining social order. “It is a bottom-up approach that shifts focus on reactive law enforcement to proactive problem solving,” he said.

2.445 Worship centres to reopen in Lagos June 19 – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 4, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State says worship centres in the state will be allowed to reopen, The PUNCH reports.

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The governor stated this on Thursday during a briefing at the Government House, Marina.

He said mosques are to reopen from June 19 while churches are to begin services from June 21.

He said hotels are allowed to reopen while gyms, night clubs, and cinemas would still remain closed, adding that the decision to reopen them would be reviewed in the next two weeks.

Sanwo-Olu said, "There will now be restricted openings of religious houses based on compliance that we have seen and reviewed with the Safety Commission.

"From 14 days time, precisely on the 19th of June for our Muslim worshippers and from the 21st of June for our Christian worshippers, we will be allowing all of our religious bodies to open at a maximum of 40% of their capacity and we'll be working with them as being expected by the Lagos State Safety Commission.

"But we know that these places of worship have different sizes but even if your 40% capacity is really so large, you cannot have beyond 500 worshippers at once, and keeping that maximum 40% capacity is really important.

"We will be encouraging people to have more than one service and ensure that they keep their premises clean, disinfect before another round of worship can take place.

"We will also be advising that there should only be mandatory Fridays and Sunday services. All other night vigils and services must be put on hold for now until we review our current situation.

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"We will also be advising very strongly that persons below the age of 15 because of how well they walk around and difficult to hold down should be excused from the places of worship and citizens that are above the age of 65 should not be allowed into these places of worship.

"We will also advise that there should be no food sharing and communion from a common dish should be discouraged during this period.

"Sharing of kettles during ablution should be avoided, prohibited if possible.

"We also encourage the use of stationary collection boxes and electronic payments."

The governor said religious leaders should ensure that worshippers wear face masks, maintain social distancing and high-level hygiene, noting that state government officials would visit churches and mosques unexpectedly and those found not complying would be dealt with.

**2.446 Schools In Lagos State May Re-Open In Two Weeks
Time – Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Independent on June 4, 2020 8:22 PM

•Discharges 24 More COVID-19 Patient

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday said there is no signal to re-open schools yet, noting that discussions is still ongoing.

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Confirming this, Mr. Gboyega Akosile, Chief Press Secretary to Lagos State Governor, said that the State is still meeting with stakeholders to agree on protocols for school resumption.

This, he said, is expected to be finalised in two weeks.

Akosile Tweeted on his Twitter handle, @gboyegaakosile

Tweeted; “Besides, Sanwo-Olu said the State had not got clear signals for the re-opening of schools, pointing out that the Government was still meeting with stakeholders to agree on protocols for school resumption. This, he said, is expected to be finalised in two weeks.”

He said; “These developments were announced at the Governor’s 13th briefing held at the State House in Marina.”

He also Tweeted the discharge of additional 24 COVID-19 patients from the Isolation centres on Wednesday.

2.447 COVID-19: FG Urges Civil Servants To Get Tested

Jul 25, 2020 1:29 PM

He wrote; “Today, 24 more fully recovered #COVID19Lagos patients; 15 males and 9 females, all Nigerians were discharged from the Onikan, Gbagada, Agidingbi and Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Isolation facilities to reunite with the society.

The patients, four from Onikan, one from Gbagada, one from Agidingbi and 18 from LUTH Isolation Centres were discharged having fully recovered and tested negative to #COVID19.

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With this, the number number of #COVID19 confirmed cases that have been successfully managed and discharged in Lagos has risen to 952.

2.448 BREAKING: Sanwo-Olu Gives Date Mosques, Churches Are To Re-Open

Culled from Independent on June 4, 2020 5:25 PM

Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced the reopening of religious centers.

Sanwo-Olu who made the announcement during a briefing at the Government House on Thursday has asked Mosques to open on June 19 and churches on 21.

He, however, stated that must not be more than 40% capacity

Recall that the State Safety Commission had earlier mandated religious and social centres in the state, to register in preparation for full reopening.

In a statement signed by its Director-General, Lanre Mojola, the commission said, “Further to the directive of Mr Governor, with respect to the Register-to-Open initiative of the Lagos State government, we hereby confirm that all religious and social centres (social clubs, event centres, restaurants, bars, night clubs, spas, cinemas and gyms) within the state can commence the registration process on the designated portal immediately.”

According to her, work is ongoing on Ijede road in Ikorodu, while the Pen Cinema Bridge and Lagos Badagry Expressway will be completed by July/September, respectively.

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Adeyoye, however, urged residents to desist from throwing refuse in drainages and burning tyres on the road, saying it affects the durability of the roads.

Adeyoye also noted that burning of tyres on road did not only affect the durability of road infrastructure, but also led to pollution and environmental hazards.

“It behoves on all to keep the road in good condition and we should all be responsible and take ownership of those assets.

“When drainages are cleaned regularly, the roads are likely to last longer,” she said

On Abule-Egba-Oshodi Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) road, the special adviser said that contractors were working and that the project would be completed.

“LAMATA is up and doing on the supervision of the project and it will be completed soon. I assure you that all projects will be completed, government is a continuum,” she said.

Earlier, the host, Israel, said that the decision to host the cabinet members on CovInspiration (Online) show was to ensure sustenance during COVID-19 partial lockdown.

Israel, who is a Board Member of State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), said that the show afforded cabinet members opportunity to stay in their comfort zones and speak with viewers.

Gov. Sanwo-Olu has announced plans to commission some projects in the state to commemorate his first year anniversary

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on Friday. (NAN) According to her, work is ongoing on Ijede road in Ikorodu, while the Pen Cinema Bridge and Lagos Badagry Expressway will be completed by July/September, respectively. Adeyoye, however, urged residents to desist from throwing refuse in drainages and burning tyres on the road, saying it affects the durability of the roads.

Adeyoye also noted that burning of tyres on road did not only affect the durability of road infrastructure, but also led to pollution and environmental hazards. “It behoves on all to keep the road in good condition and we should all be responsible and take ownership of those assets.

“When drainages are cleaned regularly, the roads are likely to last longer,” she said On Abule-Egba-Oshodi Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) road, the special adviser said that contractors were working and that the project would be completed.

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Gov. Sanwo-Olu has announced plans to commission some projects in the state to commemorate his first year anniversary on Friday. (NAN)

2.449 Sanwo-olu to reclaim land for Lekki regional road

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 4, 2020 in City Beats

The Lagos State Commissioner for Urban and Physical Planning Dr. Idris Salako has announced a directive by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to reclaim the encroached alignments of the Lekki Regional Road.

The State Government has also revoked the land titles and planning approval on sections of Elegushi Royal Family land. According to Salako, the affected sections of the land fall within the designated Right-of-Way (RoW) of the road which is about to be constructed and the revocation is intended to remove all impediments to the ongoing construction.

Salako noted in his statement that the ministry is acting on the governor's orders to remove all structures including private housing estates and shanties that encroach on the Right of Way, and directing the all cognate sections to cancel the planning approval on layout captured in the affected parts.

2.450 Sanwo-Olu Appoints Lekan Fatodu SSA On Sustainable Development Goals

Culled from Independent on June 5, 2020 1:23 PM

Reputable development expert and communications strategist, Lekan Fatodu has been appointed the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

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Fatodu has over 18 years of experience in the areas of International Development, Strategic Communications and Diplomacy garnered through his early years of engagement in global actions focusing on common good in different parts of the world, particularly his illustrious undertakings in the third sector and social entrepreneurship in the UK and Nigeria.

Prior to this appointment, Fatodu was the publisher of Checkout magazine, a business and development-focused publication; the lead consultant at Leeman Communications, a development, digital solutions and strategic communications firm and the producer of the highly successful entrepreneurship forum, the Africa Shapers Initiative, a platform for the exchange of great ideas between established and aspiring entrepreneurs on the continent.

Notable for his predilection for pro-people causes and extensive global network, Fatodu has been facilitating greater support and initiatives from the international development space to Africa and Nigeria in particular, thereby opening up the country to invaluable skills and resources that will enable it confront its development challenges more effectively.

In 2017, Fatodu convened the 1st African Roundtable on Business and Sustainable Development in the British Houses of Parliament, London, a high-level engagement that played host to the then British Prime Minister's Envoy on Trade to Nigeria, John Howell and the Private Parliamentary Secretary on International Trade, Iain Stewart and other influential stakeholders in International Development towards engendering better outcomes from actions.

2.451 Delta APC Press Release Meant To Score Cheap Political Point – PDP

Jul 25, 2020 8:30 AM

For his numerous positive and exemplary endeavours, Fatodu has received many recognitions and awards.

He was the recipient of the Most Outstanding Entrepreneur Award by Strides Media UK in 2011 and was awarded for his ‘outstanding achievement and exemplary public endeavours’ by the University of Lagos Alumni Association, Lagos State Chapter in 2013 amongst other honours.

Fatodu is a graduate of the University of Lagos, Nigeria where he had his B.Sc in Mass Communication. He also attended the University of Westminster, London for his Master’s degree in Diplomatic Studies. He is also a PRINCE2 Certified Project Management Practitioner from the UK.

2.452 Safer, Peaceful Lagos Is Paramount To Sanwo-Olu’s Administration – SSG

Culled from Independent on June 5, 2020 9:00 AM

LAGOS – Secretary to the Lagos State Government (SSG), Fola-shade Jaji, has emphasised that safer and peaceful existence of Lagosians is paramount to the present administration of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his team.

Jaji re-emphasised that the team would not relent despite the hazards posed by the COVID-19 pandemic that had been ravaging the entire world.

The SSG made the pro-nouncements on Wednesday, during the 2020 Ministerial Press briefing at JJT park, Alausa, in commemoration of the one year anniversary of Sanwo-Olu, as governor of Lagos State.

She maintained that as the Secretary to the state govern-ment, especially in tandem with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda of the governor, responsibili-ties of ensuring security and peace of each and every resi-dent of the state falls within the jurisdiction of the office.

2.453 Community to Sanwo-Olu: Save us from fire disaster

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 6, 2020in News, News Update

The Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has been Culled upon to avert possible outbreaks of fire which May destroy lives and property of the residents of Ajara Town in the Badagry Local Government Area of the state.

The residents of the community under the umbrella of the Ajara Concerned Citizens Association of Badagry made this call in a Save-Our-Souls letter sent to the governor of Lagos State dated June 2 and signed by the chairman of the association, Chief Michael Sunayon.

Chief Sunayon said this call became necessary in view of the “questionable and illegal establishment of petrol and gas stations springing up in the township.”

He said: “Many illegal petrol and gas stations are springing up daily and carelessly everywhere in Ajara. This is a threat to

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lives and property in case of an outbreak of fire reminiscent of a gas explosion which rocked Ajara Vedo in which so many lives and property were lost last year.”

He said in Ajara Topa alone, there were more than six filling stations located inside residential areas while additional “six petrol stations are now springing up in the township. The establishment of these mushroom filling stations without putting in place measures to guard against fire outbreaks is unacceptable. This portends a great danger to the security of lives and property of residents. Our lives are in danger since the petrol and gas stations are now built at any available space in the township. “

The chairman of the association pointed out that as a result of the imminent danger, the residents had no choice, but to call on Governor Sanwo- Olu to save “us from avertable danger looming over our heads . We do not want an outbreak of fire or gas explosion again in the town.

2.454 Sanwo-Olu presents staff of office to Lawal as 15th Oniru

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 7, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Sunday presented the Staff of Office and Instrument of Appointment to Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II) making him the 15th Oniru of Iruland.

Presenting the insignia of office to the new king at a coronation ceremony in Lagos on Sunday, the governor said, “The people and government of Lagos State have the honour to present

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the Staff of Office to his Royal Majesty, Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II), the Oniru of Iruland.”

The event, which was graced by some personalities, had musician Wasii Ayinde Marshall, perform virtually.

Sanwo-Olu had on Friday announced that the State Executive Council approved the selection of Prince Gbolahan Lawal as the new Oniru-Elect of Iruland.

“The new Oba-elect until his election was the Commissioner for Agriculture of our state and one of the longest-serving members of the state cabinet. As the new Oniru of Iruland, he will take over the illustrious throne and build on the worthy legacy of his forebears.

“On behalf of the government and people of Lagos, I wish the new Oniru a successful reign that will usher in progress and development of Iruland and our state,” he said.

2.455 One year in office: Sanwo-Olu delivers over 1,576 home units

...to complete 2,284 before Q1, 2021

Culled from the Sun on 9th June 2020

The Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu led Administration in Lagos State has delivered over 1,576 home units going by the number of commissioned projects in the State’s Housing Ministry.

Following the speech presented by the Ministry during the ministerial presentation of scorecard for the first year in office, the list of the completed projects included; six Housing Schemes located at Igando in Alimosho Local Government

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Area; Igbogbo in Igbogbo Baiyeku Local Council Development Authority, Igbokushu; Lekki Phase 1; Idale in Badagry; Iponri in Surulere Local Government and Lekki Phase 2 also in Eti Osa Local Government Area.

It was gathered that 120, 252, 124, 132, 96 home units situated respectively at Courtland Luxury Villa in Igbokushu; Lekki Phase 1; Lagos State Affordable Public Housing Scheme in Idale Badagry; Iponri Housing Scheme; and Lekki Phase 2 Scheme in Eti Osa local Government Area, were achieved through Partnerships with the Lagos State Property Development Corporation, Le Grand Property Development Company, Step Development, Echostone Housing and Messrs Lekki Ultimate Constructions respectively.

Moreover, no less than 2,284 home units are expected to be delivered before the first quarter (Q1) of 2021 based on estimations of more housing schemes undergoig constructions.

On the list of the ongoing projects are LAGOSHOMS Sangotedo clusters with 1218 homes in Eti-Osa LGA; 660 homes at Lagoshoms Odo Onosa/Ayandelu in Agbowo Local Council Development Area; Egan Igando Scheme with 270 homes; and Lagoshoms LASU in Lagos State University main Campus with 36 units. Also on Government owned Housing schemes undergoing development include Epe Housing Scheme in Itamarun Epe local Government with 112 home units.

According to the State's Commissioner for Housing, Hon. Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, the provision of Housing schemes in major parts of the State are in line with the Sanwo-Olu led Administration's

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T.H.E.M.E.S. Agenda, categorised under the pillar of Building a 21st Century Economy. "Provision of decent housing for Lagosians is an integral part of the transformation agenda of the present administration. Housing being a critical need of humans forms the bedrock of other developmental efforts hence the great attention given to it by the present administration,"he said.

Speaking at the ongoing ministerial briefing on the strides of the Sanwo-Olu led Administration in one year, Akinderu-Fatai, disclosed that the strategies deployed in meeting the agenda of completing existing housing schemes are channeled through Direct Budgetary allocations and Public Private Partnerships.

According to him 492 of the homes located at Lateef Kayode Jakande Gardens Housing in Igando and 360 at LagosHoms Igbogbo 2b were actualized through Direct Budgetary allocations while the rest were effected through Joint Ventures with Private investors. The Commissioner who appreciated the efforts of the Partners, Culled for more serious minded investors to join hands with the State Government for speedy remedy to the housing deficit challenge in the State.

He also affirmed that the State Government is working assiduously to increase manpower development through upgrading the skills of about 1000 artisans in the Building sector for an improved capacity as well as enhanced income generation.

On the accessibility of the homes to the public, the Commissioner pointed out that according to the State Government Housing policy, the homes are targeted at first

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time prospective home owners who are residents of the State, and could acquire the homes on a convenient mortgage system or make outright purchase of the homes.

He said: “The State Government has strengthened its convenient mortgage system under the Rent-to-Own Scheme under the Lagos State Mortgage Board to bring as many people as possible on the Home Ownership ladder. ”Within the period under review, a total of 1,332 Lagosians benefited from the Rent to Own Scheme. With an initial payment of 5 per cent of the homes and monthly payments spread over 10 years, more Lagosians can become homeowners without experiencing serious financial hardship.”

2.456 Lagos Commuters Groan Over Hike In Transport Fare, Beg Sanwo-Olu To Intervene

Culled from Independent on June 10, 2020 10:30 AM

LAGOS – Following COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant adjustments in sitting arrangements in commercial vehicles, to curb the spread of the disease, Lagos commuters have complained over the attendant hike in transport fare as they begged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State to intervene.

Commuters who spoke with our reporter said it was worrisome the way commercial vehicle operators hike transport fares, even when the pump price of fuel had been adjusted downwards and urged the government to control the activities of commercial vehicle operators before the situation leads to inflation. The commuters were of the view that commercial vehicle operators took advantage of the safety guideline of

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government to exploit passengers, maintaining that it was unreasonable that short distance journey should have its fare increased by as much as 300 per cent.

Mike Adebayo, a commuter told our reporter that the government should be concerned about the plight of Lagosians, wondering why it found it difficult to enforce laws, adding that had the government given guidelines to commercial vehicle operators the level of extortion May not exist.

“I paid N400 from Dopemu Bridge to PWD bus stop, a straight road that used to cost N150. This is a very serious problem because it would lead to inflation, if not checked. A trader who buys wares and pays over 300 percent increase in transport fare would transfer the cost to consumers. Even the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) has increased fare astronomically”.

2.457 Sanwo-Olu Lauds First Bank’s 20,000 Device Donations For Students

Culled from Independent on June 12, 2020 8:50 PM

Receiving these commendable items at an official presentation and handover ceremony held at Lagos House, Marina on Thursday, Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu expressed sincere appreciation to the Management and Board of First Bank Plc, adding that the gesture was in line with the education and technology vision of his administration.

The Governor revealed that in achieving quality education and learning outcomes in schools, technology is very essential and plays a crucial role in 21st-century education.

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Kayode Abayomi, Head, Public Affairs Unit, Ministry of Education, in a statement said the governor commended First Bank for supporting the state government in actualizing a vision the state had even before the herald of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

“Everybody has a role to play in actualizing the vision and mission of the government,” he stressed. The governor charged the Tutor General/ Permanent Secretaries of the Six Educational Districts and Education Quality Assurance Team to ensure that students use the mobile devices judiciously to improve learning, adding that he expects more distinctions and improvement in their academics.

Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, First Bank Plc, in his presentation, highlighted that the e-Learning devices were the focus of the bank to instil that academics continue irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that the future of the children must not be affected.

He commended the Governor for his resilience and passion towards fighting the pandemic, adding that banking is not all about making profits but supporting economic growth, which is why they are partnering with Lagos State Government in actualizing their Visions through the THEMES agenda.

Earlier, the Honourable Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo disclosed that other private organizations have shown interest to join in the revitalization process of the Education Sector through BOS Education Transformation Plan to support the actualization of 1 million devices targeted by the State Government.

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“This is a major milestone in our journey to provide quality online education for students in Lagos State,” She said.

2.458 Blocks Of 113 Classrooms In 7 Schools Ready For Commissioning — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on June 12, 2020 2:01 PM

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Friday said blocks of 113 classrooms in seven schools in the state were ready for commissioning.

Sanwo-Olu made this known in his Democracy Day speech tagged: “Great Leap Towards A Greater Lagos.”

He said that education was the third pillar of his administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda, and investment in the education sector would continue toward a better learning experience.

“In the area of Education, our Third Pillar, our investment in revamping and upgrading infrastructure in the sector continues with these completed projects ready for commissioning, 18 Classroom Blocks at Muslim Junior College, Egbe and 18 Classroom Blocks at Maya Secondary School, Ikorodu.

“Also, 18 Classroom Blocks at Eva Adelaja Junior Secondary School, Bariga, Block of 20 Classrooms at Bashua Military School Primary School, Shomolu and 13 Classrooms at Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA.

“Ready for commissioning are also Block of 20 Classrooms at Ayanleye Memorial Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA and Block of 6 Classrooms at Ansar Ur Deen, Ibonwon, Epe,” he said.

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Sanwo-Olu said that his administration had equally made remarkable inroad in the training of teachers for 21st century competence. He said that through the EKO EXCEL training initiative, 3,000 primary school teachers had been trained on how to competently utilise technology in teaching, for better educational outcomes for the children.

“The results have been amazing. Enrolment rates into our public primary schools have risen, while attendance rates have also improved remarkably. “I have visited some of our public schools to see EKO EXCEL at work, and I am happy to report that we are on a transformative journey in public education in Lagos State,” Sanwo-Olu said. In the area of technology, he said that with the current trend in the globe, his government was also keen on making Lagos the fortress of digital enterprise.

Sanwo-Olu said that his administration was geared towards making Lagos State an urban hub of technology-driven creativity, innovation and commerce. This, he said, would in turn become a magnet for domestic and foreign investment. According to him, the government has set up the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC), with start-up funds in excess of \$600,000.

“The fund is to drive investment in research and development of tech-focused solutions across the six pillars of our administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S agenda.

“With this structure in place, tech start-ups and young innovators in the state now have the opportunity and available funding to push their entrepreneurial skills to the next level,” he said.

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2.459 June 12: Sanwo-Olu To Host Tinubu, Soyinka, Blair, Others On Democracy Day Webinar

Culled from Independent on June 12, 2020 10:10 AM

To commemorate this year’s National Democracy Day celebration, the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, his deputy, Dr Obafemi Hamzat will on June 12 hold a Democracy Day webinar for youths in Lagos.

The national leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Asiwaju Bola Tinu-bu and Nobel laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka will be joining the Lagos State helmsman and his deputy at the event which will hold via Zoom at 12 pm.

The Special Adviser to the President on Political matters, Babafemi Ojodu; former Commissioner for Information and Strategy in the state, Chief Dele Alake; publisher of Ovation inter-national magazine, Basho-run Dele Momodu, and daughter of Chief MKO Abi-ola, Dr Hafsat Abiola-Costel-lo and Cherie Blair, wife of former UK Prime Minister will be among the person-alities lined up to mentor the youths and explain how they contributed immensely to the democratic system the country enjoys today.

2.460

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 12, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said technology is important in achieving quality education and learning outcomes in schools. Sanwo-Olu said this on Thursday during the presentation of 20,000 mobile devices to the Lagos State Government for public school pupils in the state by First Bank Plc.

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The governor, according to a statement by the Head, Public Affairs Unit, Lagos State Ministry of Education, Mr Kayode Abayomi, expressed appreciation to the management and board of First Bank Plc, adding that the gesture was in line with the education and technology vision of his administration. He said, “In achieving quality education and learning outcomes in schools, technology is very essential and plays a crucial role for the 21st century Education. Everybody has a role to play in actualising the vision and mission of the government.”

Sanwo-Olu urged the Tutor General/ Permanent Secretaries of the Six Educational Districts and Education Quality Assurance Team to ensure that pupils use the mobile devices judiciously to improve learning.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, First Bank Plc, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, said the E- Learning Devices were the focus of the bank to ensure that academics continue irrespective of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo, said other private organisations had shown interest to join in the revitalisation process of the education sector in the state.

2.461 Democracy Day: Sanwo-Olu reiterates commitment to ‘Greater Lagos’

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 12, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured Lagosians that his administration was on course to deliver the ‘Greater Lagos’ he promised residents at inception.

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He said the ‘Greater Lagos’ is a Megacity that is fully and confidently a 21st century economy with modern infrastructure where everything works. The governor reiterated his promise in a statewide broadcast to celebrate June 12, Democracy Day on Friday, titled: ‘Great Leap Towards A Greater Lagos.’

Sanwo-Olu said much has been done in fulfilling that promise in the past one year and that more still remains to be done to take Lagos to that envisioned great heights.

His dream of a greater Lagos, Sanwo-Olu said is hinged on his THEMES developmental agenda, which covers Traffic Management and Transportation; Health and Environment; Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century state; Security and Governance.

“Dear Lagosians, the future, no doubt, looks bright. We are taking sure and steady steps towards the realization of the ‘Greater Lagos’ of our aspirations.

“While we are not yet where we want to be, it is clear that we are not where we used to be. We must use the successes we have recorded in the last one year, to inspire us to even greater collective effort to make life better for all of us.

“And as we make progress in our quest for a ‘Greater Lagos’, certainly more challenges lie ahead. Of what essence is life without obstacles?”.

On Security and Governance, Sanwo-Olu said the goal is transformational security, using technology. “We are revamping our Security Command-and-Control Center, and investing

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heavily in security cameras and improved data-gathering and processing, to stay permanently ahead of crime and criminality.

We are sending a strong message of deterrence to all potential criminals. The Lagos State Security Trust Fund will continue to be the arrowhead of our interventions in security in Lagos State.

“We are also partnering with neighbouring States, and one important step in this regard is the establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN), which has been codenamed ‘Operation Amotekun’. You will begin to see the full operationalization of the scheme in the coming months.

Sanwo-Olu expressed satisfaction with the quality and progress of work on the transport infrastructure projects across the State, urging the people of Lagos to remain patient as “we work to complete all of them to give you a better motoring and commuting experience.

“In order to sustain current momentum in the public transportation sphere, we ask for the cooperation of every resident of the State, especially in obeying Traffic Laws, for our collective good.”

“In the area of agriculture and food security, we have done so much, with initiatives such as the Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support Project (APPEALS) which is designed to build the capacities of actors in the Rice, Aquaculture and Poultry Value Chains, enabling them to become large scale producers and processors of rice, fish, eggs, and poultry. When the Imota Rice Mill is completed at

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the end of this year, it will be a game-changing addition to Nigeria’s ongoing rice revolution.

“Being the smallest State in Nigeria, we May not have the land potential that other States have, but that will not stop us from maximizing the development of what we have as well as the full development of our great potential as a processing hub with ready access to the largest market in West Africa.

“We are also strengthening the capacity of our farmers through the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme (LAP), the Sea Food Festival and the Eko City Farmers Food Market. The provision of extension services to farmers is also a priority,” Sanwo-Olu said.

The governor said It has been a very challenging period because of the covid-19 pandemic as Lagos State remains the epicenter of the pandemic in Nigeria.

“We are still seeing an increase in infection figures, and this trend is likely to continue for a while longer, before we are able to succeed in flattening the curve.

He however advised residents that there is no reason to panic or be alarmed as the current situation does not mean that things are out of control. “It rather reveals the effectiveness of the new testing, tracing and tracking approaches and strategies we are adopting.

“One clear testimony to our doggedness in combatting this pandemic is in the over 555 patients we have discharged since the Index case.

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“Between now, and the months ahead, we need to be very cautious in the way we act and attempt to resume life and business. We cannot afford, at any time over the next few months, to make a mess of all the hard work we have done,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.462 Blocks of 113 Classrooms in 7 schools ready for commissioning — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun on 12th June 2020

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Friday said blocks of 113 classrooms in seven schools in the state were ready for commissioning.

Sanwo-Olu made this known in his Democracy Day speech tagged: “Great Leap Towards A Greater Lagos.” He said that education was the third pillar of his administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda, and investment in the education sector would continue toward a better learning experience.

“In the area of Education, our Third Pillar, our investment in revamping and upgrading infrastructure in the sector continues with these completed projects ready for commissioning, 18 Classroom Blocks at Muslim Junior College, Egbe and 18 Classroom Blocks at Maya Secondary School, Ikorodu.

“Also, 18 Classroom Blocks at Eva Adelaja Junior Secondary School, Bariga, Block of 20 Classrooms at Bashua Military School Primary School, Shomolu and 13 Classrooms at Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA.

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“Ready for commissioning are also Block of 20 Classrooms at Ayanleye Memorial Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA and Block of 6 Classrooms at Ansar Ur Deen, Ibonwon, Epe,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu said that his administration had equally made remarkable inroad in the training of teachers for 21st century competence.

He said that through the EKO EXCEL training initiative, 3,000 primary school teachers had been trained on how to competently utilise technology in teaching, for better educational outcomes for the children.

“The results have been amazing. Enrolment rates into our public primary schools have risen, while attendance rates have also improved remarkably. “I have visited some of our public schools to see EKO EXCEL at work, and I am happy to report that we are on a transformative journey in public education in Lagos State,” Sanwo-Olu said.

In the area of technology, he said that with the current trend in the globe, his government was also keen on making Lagos the fortress of digital enterprise.

Sanwo-Olu said that his administration was geared towards making Lagos State an urban hub of technology-driven creativity, innovation and commerce. This, he said, would in turn become a magnet for domestic and foreign investment.

According to him, the government has set up the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC), with start-up funds in excess of \$600,000.

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“The fund is to drive investment in research and development of tech-focused solutions across the six pillars of our administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S agenda. “With this structure in place, tech start-ups and young innovators in the state now have the opportunity and available funding to push their entrepreneurial skills to the next level,” he said. (NAN)

2.463 Lagos families hail Sanwo-Olu on good leadership

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 13, 2020in News

The families of Bakare Odedina Odebiyi; Seidu Ogunleye; Idowu Bakare and Amoja Oseni have congratulated Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his one year in office. They commended him over the peaceful emergence of the new Oniru of Iruland.

They said the achievements of Sanwo-Olu in one year was due to his resourcefulness and sense of purpose, adding that God will grant him good health to continue steering the ship of the state.

According to the families, Sanwo-Olu deserves commendation for the approval of the nomination of Prince Gbolahan Lawal as the new Oba-Elect of Iruland. They said: “We are pleased with your approval of Lawal to succeed the late Oba Idowu Abiodun, former Oniru of Iruland who passed on in 2019 at the age of 82 “.

The families pleaded with Governor Sanwo-Olu to use the occasion of his successful one year in office to release their land situated at Olokonla in Eti-Osa Local Government Area of the state.

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In a statement, the families appealed to Sanwo-Olu for the release and excision of their land situated at Olokonla, Ogo Mbo Road in Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The families noted that the land is 48.297 hectares, contained in a composite plan no: HSL/LA/COM/2083/02/2017.

The Families said they had earlier on July 3, 2018, through their counsel, Omotayo Aransiola & Co-written an appeal letter to the office of the former Governor Akinwunmi Ambode on the same subject matter, but that the former governor was unable to act on the letter of appeal before he left office in 2019.

‘We hereby humbly appeal to His Excellency, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to please save our souls and let us drink from the milk of his kindness by releasing and excised our land situated at Olokonla, Ogo Mbo Road in Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State.

“We wish him a successful tenure and God’s guidance. Please assist us, the land is the only legacy our families can be proud of,” the statement added.

2.464 Appraising Sanwo-Olu’s strides in public transportation

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 15, 2020in Comments, News Update

A major pledge of Lagos State governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is to attain a ‘Greater Lagos’. In realization of the strategic role of transportation as a key driver of economic development, the Sanwo-Olu administration made Traffic

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Management and Transportation a foremost part of its T.H.E.M.E.S (acronyms for Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21ST Economy, Entertainment and Tourism and Governance and Security) Developmental Agenda.

This informed the signing of his first Executive Order on Indiscriminate Refuse Dumping, Traffic Management, and Public Work. In order to improve the state of roads in the state, a state of emergency was declared on roads by the governor.

This led to heightened road construction projects across the state. Some of the critical highways and roads being constructed include the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Ojota stretch of the Ikorodu Road, Motorways-Kudirat Abiola Way, Agric/Ishawo Road and Ijede Road in Ikorodu, and Lekki-Epe Expressway from Abraham Adesanya to Eleko Junction among others.

The speed at which work is advancing on the Lagos-Badagry Expressway is particularly impressive. On January 3, the governor commissioned the newly constructed four kilometres stretch of the highway from Agboju to Trade Fair, while also declaring the commencement of construction work on the Phase II of the project, which will take off from Trade Fair to the main gate of the Lagos State University (LASU) in Iba Town.

The construction of the Phase II of the expressway is expected to be completed in October, after which the final phase will take off.

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A major highlight of the state government's intervention in roads was the commissioning of 31 network of roads at Ojokoro area of the state. The Sanwo-Olu administration moved to complete the roads to relieve residents of the agony brought about by perennial traffic gridlock in the area.

Equally, on May 29, the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) for Bus Reform Scheme at Ikeja and Oshodi Bus Terminals, Oyingbo Bus Terminal, Concrete jetty with shoreline protection and waiting shelter at Baiyeku, Ikorodu LG, Fadipe/Salami/Eyiowuawi/Odubanjo Streets in Shomolu LGA, Alhaji Akinwunmi Street, Mushin LGA and Adagun-Imeke-Iworo-Ajido-Epeme Road, Badagry LGA were all commissioned for public use by the governor.

Work is equally ongoing, in conjunction with Access Bank, on the five circular roads within Victoria Island and Lekki axis that will de-clog that part of Lagos. Work is also steadily progressing on the Agege-Pen Cinema flyover. The flyover, which is at 60 percent completion stage, will ease traffic along the axis when completed.

Re-configuration of strategic roundabouts, in order to reduce traffic gridlocks, is equally ongoing. The affected roundabouts are Allen, Lekki 1st/2nd, Ikotun, and Maryland Junctions and roundabouts. The junctions are being reconfigured because their capacities can no longer meet the vehicular demands due to increased population and vehicles on the roads.

In order to enhance traffic management in the metropolis, morale of LASTMA officials was uplifted through 100 per cent increase in their monthly allowance. Also, 1,017 newly recruited

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LASTMA officers were inducted by Mr. Governor and deployed to strategic locations to achieve better flow of traffic.

Also, in order to fill the noticeable space created in the transport sector by the restriction order on commercial motorcycles and tricycles, the Sanwo-Olu administration rolled out 65 High Capacity buses to augment the existing fleet.

The fully automated Ultra-Modern Vehicle Inspection Operational Headquarters in Ojodu, Berger was also commissioned while a cashless toll payment at Lekki-Ikoyi Link Bridge has also commenced. It is aimed at reducing traffic gridlock/queues often experienced on the corridor while making cash payments. Integrated mass transportation initiative has also recorded a huge progress with the successful completion of the elevated sea-crossing track of the Blue Line Mass transit project.

Construction work has since begun on the final phase. This project is a top priority for the current administration, as it is critical to the achievement of its prioritized pillar of traffic management and transportation in its six-point development agenda.

Similarly, ongoing work on the Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT lane and Blue/Red line rail, is in line with the aspiration of the present administration to solve the traffic gridlock through an effective and efficient intermodal transport system, which is also key to the building of a 21st century economy which is central to the attainment of a 'Greater Lagos'.

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Also, to effectively integrate a sustainable intermodal transportation system, Governor Sanwo-Olu recently commissioned eight new state- of-the-art ferries, with a pledge to totally explore the tourism and economic potentials of the waterways in the State for the overall benefit of all.

While commissioning the boats at the Badore Ferry Terminal, Ajah, on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020, Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration's commitment to the implementation of the integrated transport management system designed to scale up water, rail and land transportation, saying that the grand plan is to divert at least two million passengers on the waterways daily, thereby reducing traffic on the road.

Much emphasis is particularly being placed on safety of the water ways. This is why lots channelization and dredging are being done in order to make the waterways safe and secure for all stakeholders.

There are also plans to connect water terminals and the roads, especially in places such as Badore, Ajah, Mile 2, Badagry, Ikorodu and other places where there are terminals.

With current level of investment in water transportation, Lagos, no doubt, stands to experience appreciable upsurge in socio-economic activities. For instance, the expansion of trade to the Lekki Free Trade Zone will be easy to access by water from international waterways to local inland waterways.

Also, inter-costal trade will experience ease such that traders will be able to move their commodities via ships and other water

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transport modes. Therefore, the menace of tankers and heavy-duty trucks on the roads will be drastically reduced.

Presently, the Lagos Ferry Services Company (LAGFERRY) is facilitating cargoes movement and providing innovative solutions to logistic challenges of industries, importers and manufacturers. It currently conveys trucks from its Mile 2 Jetty to Apapa Seaport to load containers. The hassles of doing same by road are being greatly reduced by the option of moving them on water via LAGFERRY's badges.

It is important to stress that more private investors with interest in the sector are, however, still required to partner with the State government in order to fully enhance the prospect of water transportation in the State.

It is in doing this that Lagos can truly become a 21st century economy. On its part, the state government should ever willing to embrace more creative and strategic enterprises geared towards improving the unlimited potentials of the state's waterways. On the whole, given the complex and vital nature of public transportation in Lagos State, the Sanwo-Olu Administration has done well by investing in and developing intermodal transportation.

By the time the Lagos light rail project becomes effective and expanded, coupled with renewed efforts to improve water transportation in addition to numerous on-going road projects across the state, a more effective and reliable public transportation system will emerge. Lagosians, however, need to cooperate with the government to make this prospect a reality

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by protecting public infrastructure as well as obeying traffic laws.

% Olushola, a public transportation expert, wrote in from Lekki, Lagos.

2.465 Lagosians Groan As VIOs Violate Sanwo-Olu's Directives

Culled from Independent on June 15, 2020 7:00 AM

Some residents in Lagos State weekend expressed dissatis-faction over the violation of the directives of Governor Ba-bajide Sanwo-Olu by officials of the Vehicle Inspection Ser-vices (VIS) in the state.

VIS is a state traffic reg-ulating agency that ensures presence of sound vehicles on the road. The agency is a directorate of the Ministry of Transportation.

The governor, in Novem-ber 2019, ordered the state's Vehicle Inspection Officers (VIOs) to desist from oper-ating during the morning period. According to the governor, the move is to curb traffic gridlock experienced during the peak periods as it is per-ceived that VIOs contribute to the gridlock as they normally stop vehicles during peak pe-riods to demand for vehicle documents.

According to him, the of-ficers would now operate be-tween 12.00p.m and 3.00p.m.

Based on the governor's directives, the VIOs adjusted their schedules and were only seen in operation between the hours of 12p.m and 3p.m, a move many Lagosians ap-plauded.

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However, since the commencement of the partial lock-down in the state, VIOs have been seen on the roads operating as early as 9a.m in places like Ojodu Berger, Surulere, Ojota, Abule-Egba, Victoria Island, and other areas. Speaking with our correspondent, Ogunwale Alabi, a businessman, said he challenged some VIOs operating in Surulere on what they were doing on the road in the morning but they couldn't provide a satisfactory answer. "I saw them at Alaka area of Surulere on Wednesday. They were arresting vehicles and there was a long queue due to their operations.

"When I got to where they were, I asked them why they were on the road but they said they were enforcing traffic guidelines on COVID-19. That, to me, is not convincing enough as they were stopping private vehicles, too."

Also speaking on the development, Barr. Monday Ubani, former Second Vice-President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), said Governor Sanwo-Olu should address Lagosians on why the directive he gave concerning the operation of VIOs was being flouted.

"My take is that our laws and our pronouncements are obeyed. It is not in the interest of any leader to make a pronouncement after which that directive will be observed in breach. That is not how to move the country or the state forward. "I think the right thing is to remind the governor – and I want you to put this particular question directly to the commissioner or any of the governor's aides.

"What has happened to the pronouncement which the governor has made on the operation time of VIOs which is now being

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observed in breach? "But what I will say at the moment is that it is very condemnable for a governor to make a pronouncement and people who are his workers will be disobeying that particular order."

When contacted, Engr. Akin-George Fashola, Director, Lagos State Vehicle Inspection Service, admitted that his men were operating in the morning but added that their activities are not illegal. "They are not violating the law. You will also recall that there is a restriction of movement, the lockdown has not been fully lifted.

"They are working to ensure that commercial vehicles adhere to the traffic guidelines that have been laid down by the government in terms of passenger capacity." Also echoing Fashola's position, Bola Ogunmola, Public Affairs Director, Lagos State Ministry of Transportation, said: "I think it is because this is a special period that we didn't bargain for.

"When you see them on the road, it is not that they are controlling traffic."

2.466 Sanwo-Olu Suspends Re-Opening Of Churches, Mosques Indefinitely

Culled from Independent on June 16, 2020 4:24 PM

LAGOS- Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has suspended the reopening of churches and mosques indefinitely.

The governor had earlier announced June 19 as the set date for reopening of worship centers before the latest development

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which may be due to the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Details later...

2.467 Strike: Doctors Issue 21 Days Notice To Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on June 16, 2020 6:53 PM

Doctors, under the aegis of the Medical Guild, has issued three weeks strike notice to the Lagos State Government on the alleged shortcomings of the state's COVID-19 response.

Dr Oluwajimi Sodipo, Chairman, Medical Guild, said on Tuesday in Lagos that the notice was issued based on the challenges as it concerns COVID-19 test for healthcare workers and patients in hospitals.

Medical Guild is the association of doctors under the employment of the Lagos State Government.

Sodipo added that reducing availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) in isolation centres and hospitals across the state was also an issue.

According to him, the non-inclusion of the Guild and other healthcare workers unions in decision making with attendant increase in healthcare workers' infection, morbidity and mortality is another ground of their grievances.

Other issues included the non-implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Federal Government and national associations/unions of health workers by the state government on health insurance, hazard allowances and other palliatives for health workers.

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According to him, the acute shortage of doctors is also another issue that necessitated the strike ultimatum.

"The Guild has reiterated to the government on number of occasions, our resolve to dialogue on these issues.

"We strongly believe that the concerns noted above can be solved and further action averted by proactive measures from the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, especially Health as indications are that Mr Governor is ready to do all things necessary to mitigate these challenges," he said.

Sodipo said that members of the Guild would withdraw their services after expiration of the ultimatum, if there was no dialogue and resolution of the issues.

He added that the Guild was worried about the increasing infections and mortality among the populace and health workers.

Sodipo urged the public to maintain the guidelines of facemasks, social distancing and handwashing to reduce the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

2.468 Accolades For Sanwo-Olu As OAAN Donates Safety Jackets To LASPARK

Culled from Independent on June 16, 2020 5:34 PM

The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has been commended for taking appropriate steps to protect the environment against the vagaries of nature, anthropogenic causes of degradation and enhance the overall aesthetics of the state.

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Emmanuel Ajufo, President, Outdoor Advertising Association of Nigeria (OAAN) remarked during a presentation of 100 units of branded safety vests to the Lagos State Parks & Gardens Regulatory Agency (LASPARK).

Ajufo, who was accompanied by Femi Ogala, OAAN's Vice-President and Chiddy Ibiam, disclosed that the gesture was informed by the conviction of the Executive Council to identify with and support both the Agency and the state government's determination to keep the environment in proper shape, and safe for all the residents of the State.

2.469 Capturing Real Estate Activities Via Unified Database

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 16, 2020 Author

With a vow to sanitise the industry, the Lagos State Government has unveiled an online portal and unified central database for real estate practitioners and their activities in the metropolis. Dayo Ayeyemi reports

Lagos, a former capital of Nigeria, is the commercial and economic nerve centre of West Africa with lots of investment opportunities.

Apart from being the fastest growing city, it is the most populous urban centre in sub-Saharan Africa.

With an estimated population of over 14.5 million people, search for accommodation becomes an herculean task as a lot of accommodation seekers jostle for few available houses at the risk of being duped by illegal individuals masquerading as real estate practitioners, agents and property developers.

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With a pledge to collaborate with the private sector to build more houses while reviving the existing mortgage system, the Lagos State Government has introduced a new programme that will capture a unified central database for real estate practitioners and their activities in the state.

By this, it means that anyone engaging in real estate business/transaction in the state must register with the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring adherence to proper code of conduct in discharge of their functions. To show it meant business, the state authorities unveiled the LASRERA's website and registration database portal, while reading the riot act to real estate practitioners in the metropolis

Speaking on the initiative while explaining a major change in the name of the agency from Lagos State Real Estate Transaction Department to Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA), Special Adviser to the Governor on Housing, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, stated that it was geared towards transforming Lagos into a 21st Century economy.

He said that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu approved the transition of the department to an agency on February 7, 2020.

According to her, part of the mandate of the new office include preparation of rules and regulations for the practice of estate agency and other connected matters in the state.

Others include identification of persons eligible to be licensed as estate agents and renewal of annual licences; sanction of unlicensed estate agency practitioners in the state, as well as

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the investigation of complaints and petitions against licensed estate agency practitioners, amongst others.

Surveyors react

However, no sooner than the state unveiled the initiative, professionals under the auspices of Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers kicked against it, saying they were not liable under the federal law establishing their institution and Estate Surveyors and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria (ESVRBON) to register with LASRERA.

According to them, list of all registered estate surveyors and valuers in all the state of the federation are with these two bodies, adding that if any professional is found wanting government could approach them to seek redress.

Speaking with New Telegraph, a former Chairman of NIESV, Lagos Chapter. Mr. Stephen Jagun, said the the state government had the right to monitor real estate transactions in the state but does not have the power to regulate activities of real estate surveyors and valuers. According to him, NIESV is guided by the federal law establishing it and its regulatory body, Estate Surveyor and Valuers Registration Board of Nigeria, and not state law.

If an estate agent errs, Jagun said the state government had the right to report the case to the professional body or the police, pointing out that NIEVS had a register of all members and ready to discipline anyone caught insharp practises.

“So trying to create any agency is not the solution since there are existing laws and like the EFCC to report to, “he said. He

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also cautioned government not to see the registration of real estate practitioners as an avenue for revenue generation.

He said: “Lagos state needs to take it easy with some of these things because it is only looking at how it will take charges and revenue.”

Another Lagos-based estate surveyor and valuer, Mr. Lekan Akinwunmi, said: “In my opinion, we have professional regulatory bodies. There is no need to register with the Lagos state government.”

He argued that the certificate given to him as estate surveyor and valuer was to practice anywhere in Nigeria.

“By what the Lagos State Government is trying to do, this means that I have to register in 36 states of the federation,” he said.

According to him, estate agency is under estate surveying, saying there is no way to sell a house without carrying out valuation.

Last line: Lagos State government needs to seek the cooperation of the professional bodies to sanitise real estate sector.

2.470 Sanwo-Olu suspends reopening of churches, mosques

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 17, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has suspended the reopening of religious houses indefinitely, saying

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the spike in COVID-19 cases in the state makes the decision inevitable.

Sanwo-Olu said Lagos had got to the point where every resident must take responsibility for their safety, adding that only “sensible personal decisions” taken on a daily basis would defeat the virus. He stated these on Tuesday at the Lagos House, Marina, where he gave his 15th update on the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor noted that as of Monday, June 15, 2020, the state had recorded 7,319 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 82 fatalities and 1,137 recoveries.

According to him, Lagos accounts for 44 per cent of the total number of confirmed cases nationwide, adding that the increase in infection was caused by the community transmission of the virus.

He noted that the earlier announcement that mosques could reopen from June 19 and churches, June 21 had been put on hold. “This is not a decision that we have taken lightly; it is simply in line with our ongoing evaluation of evolving scenarios regarding the course of the infection in Lagos State and the corresponding public health advisory guidelines issued by experts.

“So, let me say this again: we are now hereby suspending, with immediate effect, the plan to reopen religious houses and places of worship in Lagos State, until further notice,” Sanwo-Olu added.

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The governor said social and event centres and clubs would also remain shut. He urged residents to use face masks anytime they were out of their houses, stressing that they must avoid non-essential travel, wash and sanitise their hands regularly.

“As a government, we will continue to do everything in our power to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the people, but that can only be effective when the people themselves act responsibly and do not behave in a manner that undermines public health guidelines and puts the society at risk,” he said.

2.471 Why Lagos can’t reopen schools now – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 17, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has given reasons for the continued closure of schools and tertiary institutions in the state.

Sanwo-Olu gave the reasons two weeks after announcing that guidelines for reopening schools would be made public in the state. He spoke during the 15th press briefing held at the State House in Marina to give updates on Lagos COVID-19 response

The governor explained that the guidelines for reopening schools were not ready. He also said schools cannot be allowed to reopen with the increasing cases of COVID-19 in the state.

Sanwo-Olu said the State Government was finalising the protocols to reopen basic and secondary schools, noting that meetings were currently being held with stakeholders. He said online learning already adopted by the State-owned tertiary

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institutions and secondary schools would go on until stakeholders agree on protocols for schools' resumption.

He said, "Regarding the educational sector, I did mention that by now, we will be expressing a full guideline. Those guidelines are not ready yet because of the engagements we are having with the various stakeholders in that sector. But we will need to continue to encourage the online learning that we have.

"That has started extensively with our higher institutions. We are encouraging other private sectors as well to use as much online capability as a form of intervention in the educational sector until the statistics that we have subsided and we are at a stage that all of these schools can reopen again."

2.472 CAN Urges Calmness As Sanwo-Olu Suspends Opening Of Worship Centres

Culled from Independent on June 17, 2020 10:28 AM

Lagos- The Lagos State Chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has Culled on Christians to maintain decorum as the state government again suspends opening of churches and other worship centres.

Apostle Alexander Bamgbola, Chairman of Lagos CAN, noted that the state's decision as announced by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday was based on available data and trend of the unfortunate manifestation of the pandemic.

He said the association has had different dialogues on the need for the church to reopen but at recent meeting on June 13, where the state government virtually met with quite a number of church leaders, the Commissioner for health and

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professor of medicine explained why it will be unsafe to reopen mosques and churches as originally arranged on June 19 and 21 respectively.

Bamgbola, however, asked that relentless prayers be made for divine intervention in defeating coronavirus (COVID-19) and divine direction for those in authority.

In a statement made available to Daily Independent with caption, 'An Appeal For Intensified Prayers In Peace and Calmness Towards Divine Victory', Bamgbola stated, "Doubtless, many Churches were fully prepared while many others were preparing aggressively for the expected opening on Sunday, June 21, and would have certainly been disappointed. Nevertheless, in all situations, as people of God, we must rest in the grace of God's word."

"Therefore, on behalf of the leadership of C.A.N. Lagos State, I am appealing strongly to all leaders of Churches, Ministers of The Gospel of Jesus Christ and all Christians in Lagos State, for necessary understanding, calmness and peace in this season. Most importantly, we need to intensify our prayers much more now, so that The Lord will hasten to perform His Word, in taking this Coronavirus pestilence away from our land."

"Furthermore, please, let us do all things as guided by our God, through His infallible word. Please, let us continue to intercede for The Church of Jesus Christ and those whom The Lord has put in authority to rule over us, that we may continue to live a quiet and peaceful life, in our dear State of Lagos, to the glory of God."

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Adding, “In patience, we will possess our souls. Our Lord and Master Jesus, will continue to build His mighty Church, and the gates of hell shall never prevail against it. This Coronavirus pestilence, has already been conquered by our God, and will soon be a thing of the past, in Jesus Name. God bless His Church and bless us His people, in Jesus Name, Amen. Thank you and God bless you.”

2.473 Sanwo-Olu administration empowering Lagosians

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 17, 2020 in News Update, Politics

IN line with the resolve of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s administration to ensure safety of all citizens, including students of tertiary institutions, it recently organized a one-day sensitization programme on the menace of social vices in tertiary institutions in the state. Special Adviser to the Governor on Civic Engagement, Princess Aderemi Adebowale disclosed this at a ministerial press briefing in commemoration of the first year of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s administration in office last Wednesday.

The Special Adviser said the programme was organized to create awareness on the social and economic costs of engaging in cultism, drug abuse, sexual harassment and examination malpractices, such as impediment of their academic performance, loss of valuable time as a result of school closure, untimely deaths and disruption of social and economic activities in their host communities.

Princess Adebowale said the government has also fed 11,965 pupils in primary schools across the state in the last one year.

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The pupils, drawn from crèche and primary four to six were fed under the ‘Snacks for Thought’ pilot scheme of the government meant to complement the Home Grown School Feeding Programme of the Federal Government which covered only pupils in primary one to three.

She said this was to ensure that all pupils in the state partake in the school feeding programme, since those in primary one to three are benefiting from the Federal Government’s Home Grown School Feeding Programme. The special adviser said the importance of the initiative could not be over-emphasized as the nutritious snacks and juice were to energize pupils for memory retention of lessons learnt, improve school attendance and academic performance and also serve as an incentive for higher enrolment and retention of pupils in public schools.

Adebowale said the administration also recently organized a financial assistance programme, tagged ‘Eko Cares’, as part of its social inclusion programme. Under the scheme, she said, financial assistance of up to N20, 000 per beneficiary was disbursed, partly in cash and partly in the form of micro-investment.

She said: “In the first phase of the programme, some Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies were on hand to provide instant investment in micro-distributive trade by supplying their goods to the 2000 beneficiaries.

The essence of this is to have a populace that can feed themselves, contribute to the development of the state and promote a stable and secured society. While no efforts would be spared at creating understanding and support for the various

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programmes and policies of the state government, particularly the THEMES agenda, our efforts at promoting civic responsibility of the citizenry will not be relented as it is central to attainment of a greater Lagos.”

She said her Office is also saddled with the responsibility of engendering a very strong cordial relationship among all arms of government towards achieving good governance, timely delivery of dividends of democracy to the good people of Lagos State and attainment of A Greater Lagos through the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda.

She said the Office organized a three-day Executive and Legislative Parley with the theme: ‘Harmonious Relationship among Various Arms of Government: A Necessity for A Greater Lagos’ held from 3rd to 5th March , 2020 at the Orchid Hotel, Lekki Lagos.

The parley, which was chaired by Governor Sanwo-Olu, was attended by legislators in the Lagos State House of Assembly, representatives of the various constituencies at the National Assembly, members of the State Executive Council, Governing Advisory Council members and other key stakeholders in the development of the State. The parley reviewed activities and mandates of each arm of government and developed a strategy for dealing with potential areas of conflicts in the overall interest of the state.

She said her office also organized the Civic Week Celebration, aimed at reawakening the consciousness of Lagosians towards their civic duties and to remind the good people of Lagos State

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that the task of building a greater Lagos was a responsibility for both the government and the governed.

The occasion was also used to sensitize Lagosians on the new development agenda of the State tagged – T.H.E.M.E.S and also admonished the youth on the need to develop productive skills and talents so that they become agents of positive change in their communities and embrace civic responsibilities.

As part of efforts to checkmate the spread of Coronavirus, the Special Adviser said Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu approved the production and distribution of 100 units of handwashing stations at markets, bus-stops, hospitals and other high traffic public places within the state, adding that these handwashing stations were innovatively made by local fabricators with regular supply of dispensable soap and reticulated water supply.

She added that the deployment of these handwashing stations were aimed at fostering the culture and practice of promoting good hygiene among the citizenry towards curbing the spread of the COVID-19 in the state. She however Culled on Lagosians to adhere to all safety measures as directed by the government.

Speaking on the ‘National Democracy Day’, the Special Adviser said it is common knowledge that Lagos State, in conjunction with the Democratic Coalitions, had been at the forefront of sustaining the celebration of June 12 in commemoration of the June 12, 1993 election which was adjudged to be freest and fairest election ever conducted in the country. The office also organized the 2019 “Democracy Day” (June 12, 2019) with the theme, “Democracy and Restoration of True

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Federalism in Nigeria”. Adebowale said the government would continue to associate with all progressive forces by embracing democratic principles and ideals that would engender the wellbeing of Lagosians and attainment of A Greater Lagos.

The Special Adviser stressing the importance of the Office Civic Engagement said the office would continue to work hard to ensure peaceful co-existence among the people of Lagos State through meaningful engagement and amicable resolution of issues that could lead to breakdown of law and order in the state.

2.474 Sanwo-Olu reconstitutes Lagos boards of security, employment funds

Culled from the Sun on 17th June 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the reconstitution of the State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and the State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF).

A statement signed on behalf of the Governor by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Gboyega Akosile explained that the new board appointments, which take immediate effect were necessitated by the vacancies in the two organisations. Sanwo-Olu, while thanking the previous members for their meritorious and conscientious service to the state. he congratulated the new members for accepting to serve and help improve on the achievements of their predecessors.

The new members, Sanwo-Olu said, were carefully chosen based on records of excellence in their chosen fields. The 4-year tenure boards have Mrs. Bola Adesola as chairman and Abisoye Tejumola as executive secretary for the LSETF.

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Other members of the board are Sinari Bolade Daranijo, Mrs. Tatiana Mousalli-Nouri, Segun Ojelade,, Ms. Kofo Durosinmi-Etti, Idris Olorunimbe, Ronald Chagoury Jnr.

For the LSSTF, Kehinde Durosinmi-Etti was appointed chairman with Dr. Abdul Razaq Balogun as executive secretary. Dr. Ayodele Ogunsan, Segun Agbaje, Ebenezer Oneyeagwu, Dr. Adesola Kareem Adeduntan. Emeka Onwuka, Tayo Akinmade Ayinde, Bamgbose-Martins, Agboola Oshodi-Glover (Rtd DIG), Yemi Idowu and Otunba Niyi Adewunmi are members.

2.475 Sanwo-Olu Empowers, Trains 300 PWDs

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 18, 2020Author

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday distributed empowerment materials to people with phisical disabilities and special needs in Lagos State.

The governor described the gesture as part of his administration’s Greater Lagos Agenda.

According to Sanwo-Olu, his administration remains committed to leaving nobody behind in its socio-economic development.

The governor, who spoke through the Commissioner for Youths and Social Development, Mr. Segun Dawodu, said the people with special needs would adequately be catered for by the state government at all times.

Presenting the items to the beneficiaries at a short ceremony held at the Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, LASODA, Alausa Ikeja, the governor said the beneficiaries, drawn from

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various special peoples' associations, had earlier been trained during a five-week programme in various vocations.

Sanwo-Olu said the beneficiaries were trained in various vocations such as bead making, 'autogele,' bag making, shoe making, cosmetology, electrical installation, tie and dye, graphics and design as well as hair dryer, sewing machines, and phone repair.

He said: "It is a fact known to many of us here that until recently many governments and the society in the past had failed to develop ideal strategy by which PWDs could be meaningfully and indeed effectively integrated into their day to day policies and programme thereby giving them opportunities to prove to the world what they are capable of doing, thereby contributing to the growth and development of the system."

2.476 Sanwo-Olu Has Been Fair To People Living With Disabilities – Dairo

Culled from Independent on June 19, 2020 5:01 AM

Comrade Dare Dairo, a human rights activist and public commentator, is the Lagos State Chairman of the National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities. In this interview with AKINWUNMI KING, Dairo gave kudos to the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, who he said still excelled despite all odds within his first 365 days in office. Excerpts:

As a political watcher and public commentator, how can you assess the performance of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in his first year in office?

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Against all odds, my assessment of Governor Sanwo-Olu in his first 365 days in office is of an administrator, who is excelling through the storms to deliver the gains and dividends of democracy. Against all odds means that human endeavours are not crisis-free.

And "when written in Chinese, the word crisis is composed of two characters – one represents danger, and the other represents opportunity." That insight was contained in a speech by one of the greatest presidents in American history – John F. Kennedy. More than half a century of history and human advancements has not changed the truth in that statement.

This past one year has been one of the most turbulent in the history of democracy in Lagos State, more so for a party that contained internal tensions to face one of the worst cases of voters' apathy in a keenly contested general election. But like a phoenix from the ashes, the man at the center of the storm has consistently proven himself worthy as leader of Africa's 5th largest economy.

Sanwo-Olu's emergence as governor of Lagos State is a strong vindication of two critical requirements of democratic leadership – Pedigree and Character.

Like a Yoruba adage has it that when you are born well (pedigree); you should endeavour to "re-birth" yourself (character). It is not surprising that these two qualities have stood him out as he had unarguably contended with more crises in one year than most governors in a whole term in office.

What do you mean by that?

Take for instance when he took off. He took off from an inheritance of dilapidated and deteriorating road network, further defaced by horrifying mounds of smelly refuse everywhere, traffic gridlocks holding the transport system by the jugular and a largely dispirited civil service. With the above mentioned problems, you will agree with me that Sanwo-Olu had quite a full plate on a table set well before formidable “enemies”.

His character showed up as he owned up to the situation by renouncing the title of His Excellency, choosing to be referred to instead as Mr. Governor, until he is convinced to have earned the accolade. He remained articulate, firm and focused as he eschewed controversy with clarity of purpose and a single-minded focus on delivering good governance to Lagosians.

And then the big one struck – the COVID-19 Pandemic. Again, as in moments of crises of this magnitude, what really matters, more than anything else, is leadership. It is good enough that Lagos State has been steadily consolidating on transformational visions of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his political dynasty. Hence, Sanwo-Olu was gifted with a structure that fields a pedigree of some of the best eggheads and technocrats in his administration – from a young, dynamic and perceptive Head of Service, to a celebrated Professor of Medicine as Commissioner for Health, among others no less qualified and decorated.

Perhaps what proves the greater challenge to governance in the face of the global pandemic in Lagos State was not so

much about our moribund healthcare infrastructure, but the underbellies of years of sustained inequality, poverty and a lack of social protection safety nets that would have provided a pathway for addressing the socio-economic dimensions of managing a public health crisis of a global dimension like COVID-19 presented.

The scary security situations that reared a monstrous head seemed to momentarily stun years of steady investment in the State’s security infrastructure. Then again, leadership came to bear as the situation was swiftly and decisively brought under control and peace returned to Lagos State. However, Lagos State might be missing out on a unique opportunity embedded in the COVID-19 crises.

In tackling the serious socio-economic dimensions of what appears primarily as a health challenge, an inclusively robust system of policy and practice in governance has been identified as a critical prerequisite to bridging gaps in service delivery to all citizens, with particular attention to vulnerable groups like people living with disabilities, the elderly and children. This has been a dangerous blind spot in the current administration.

Are the people, both within and outside aware of his dexterity on this and ...?

(Cuts in) Oh yes. on May 6, 2020, the United Nations (UN) Secretary General launched a report calling the world’s attention to the silent dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic as it intensifies inequalities experienced by the world’s one billion people with disabilities.

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In calling for a disability-inclusive recovery and response framework to the crisis, António Guterres Culled governments' attention to the fact that even under normal circumstances; people with disabilities are less likely to access education, healthcare and income opportunities, or to participate in their communities. They are also more likely to live in poverty, and to suffer higher rates of violence, neglect and abuse. It's no gainsaying that Sanwo-Olu's administration has been able to harness the opportunities in the dangers of a global pandemic to revamp the health sector through various infrastructural and human resource investments. The security apparatus has witnessed a significant overhaul; even as normal governance and service delivery to Lagosians has not taken a back seat on account of covid-19. The disappearing gridlocks and cleared refuse are sterling testimonies to this effect.

In all fairness, even people living with disabilities have not been totally ignored by Sanwo-Olu's administration. The various palliatives at mitigating the hardships of the lockdown have been systemically focused on people living with disabilities and the elderly. The lapses are understandable in light of pre-existing challenges of data gaps and absence of articulated policies and practice of inclusion. Even some of the previous gains are being lost to the perceived silence of the governor to disability issues.

As the Lagos State Chairman of the National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities, what do you expect from the government?

What Lagos State needs do urgently is an articulated response aimed at integrating disability and inclusion in the THEMES

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agenda with the sole aim of evolving an economy around disability in ways that will sustainably generate wealth, employment and bridge the inequality gaps recognized in the report by the UN Secretary General. Inclusion is not about charity, and persons with disability should not be seen as a liability to governance and government.

In a nutshell , how well has Sanwo-Olu performed?

Sanwo-Olu has excelled through a turbulent year in office to make a mark for himself as a leader of mettle, character and purpose. He has even more to offer Lagosians as he has definitely not forgotten anybody included in his mandate – including people living with disabilities.

2.477 Sanwo-Olu To Implement Lekki's 20-Year Master Plan

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 19, 2020Author

As part of strategy to ease traffic gridlock in Lekki axis, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said that his administration was set to implement Lagos'1980-200 Metropolitan Master Plan with the construction of Regional Road Project in the area.

The governor, who also assured residents that the road project would be completed in two years as other roads identified included the Coastal Road, Lekki- Epe Expressway, Southern part of Elegushi Land and Lagoon Highway.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting in Eti-Osa Local Government to facilitate speedy execution of the Regional Road Project, Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Idris Salako

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said that the Regional Road was conceived by the Lagos State Government in the Lagos Metropolitan Master Plan (1980-2000) and also identified in the 1991 Layout Approval issued by the state government as strategy to engender the socio-economic development of Lekki corridor.

According to him, 9km road was long overdue as a panacea and strategic link for circumventing gridlock from Mainland Lagos to Island Lagos.

He, however, decided the level of encroachment on the right of way, saying that the objective for which the road was conceived was being threatened following a series of encroachments by some estates buildings and other structures located were on its Right of Way.

He said: “This has made the governor to graciously approve a reduction in the width of the Right of Way in the bid to reduce as much as possible the level of actual encroachments. “In view of the importance of the proposed road project to the socio-economic development of the state, we are determined more than ever to bring everyone on board and ensure seamless execution of the project.

“This we believe will enable us to fulfil our promise of democratic dividends through the THEMES Agenda of Lagos State.” “It is our fervent belief that people in this area are willing to embrace the implementation of the project for the benefit of the generality of Lagosians.

This is because it would make life easier and more meaningful for the teeming population of Lagosians through effective interconnectivity within our dear state.”

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2.478 Lagos: Sanwo-Olu Gives Account Of Stewardship

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 19, 2020 AuthorOur

On May 29, 2019, there were exchanges of batons as well as continuity in some states as 29 governors took oath of office. Among the new governors who took oath of office last year is Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State. He was sworn-in along with his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, in his inauguration speech at the swearing-in ceremony witnessed by thousands of Lagosians who attended the event or those who watched the live broadcast in the comfort of their homes and public places, spoke passionately on his plans for Lagos State, especially his dream of building a Greater Lagos. This passion seemed to have motivated his quest towards providing good governance and dividends of democracy to the people.

Looking at the present state of things, there is no doubt that the governor, with support from his deputy, Hamzat and members of the State Executive Council have fulfilled some of the promises he made to Lagosians while taking oath of office at the swearing-in ceremony held at Tafawa Balewa Square.

Sanwo-Olu, while addressing Lagosians last Friday in a Democracy Day broadcast titled: “Great leap towards a Greater Lagos” in commemoration of his administration’s first year in office, not only listed achievements of his administration in the last one year, but also assured the people of the state that there is no going back on the ‘Greater Lagos’ agenda, using the six pillars policy programme tagged T.H.E.M.E.S to deliver good governance to millions of Lagosians.

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The six pillars are; Traffic Management and Transportation; Health and Environment; Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century state; Entertainment and Tourism; Security and Governance.

The 15th governor of Lagos State is not a novice in Lagos politics and governance, having served under the last three governors. He served as Special Adviser on Corporate Affairs to ex-deputy governor, Otunba Femi Pedro and later commissioner in different ministries – Commerce and Industry, Establishment, Training and Pensions during the tenure of Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and Mr. Babatunde Fashola.

He was also Managing Director/CEO of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) under the immediate past governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode.

The deputy governor is also an active participant in Lagos politics and governance since 2005. Dr. Hamzat served as Commissioner for Science and Technology during the tenure of Tinubu. He retained his position when Fashola assumed office in 2007. Hamzat also served as Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure during Fashola's second term.

Having served together in different capacities, many Lagosians were not surprised when the ruling party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), presented them as governorship and deputy governorship candidates during the 2019 gubernatorial poll. In fact, many were of the view that Lagos is lucky to have Sanwo-Olu and Hamzat as governor and deputy governor in the same administration because of their track records.

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The relationship between Sanwo-Olu and Hamzat, who the governor refers to as “my brother and co-traveler on the Greater Lagos journey,” is very cordial and the combination without any iota of doubt is a model to many states on how a governor and his deputy can govern a state without rancour.

One thing, someone cannot take away from the Sanwo-Olu administration is focus on governance and leadership. Unlike many governors, who have started playing politics at the expense of governance in their respective states, the Lagos governor is committed to providing dividends of democracy to Lagosians and that is why he had records of laudable achievements to show the people of the state during his administration's first year in office.

Sanwo-Olu's first year in office is mixture of the bad, the good and the ugly, considering praises and commendations as well as criticisms and condemnations the governor received from Lagosians over some of his policies.

It is of note that when Sanwo-Olu emerged as governor-elect, Lagos had literally become a dumpsite as heaps of municipal waste littered the streets.

There were also several issues of concern that he faced after he was sworn into office, among which are heavy traffic, bad roads and blockage of drainage.

One year is not a child's play in the life of a state as it is expected for a governor to have put in place dividends of democracy to the people who gave him there mandates. Governor Sanwo-Olu hit the ground running from his first day in office by taking

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bold steps in the early days of his administration to provide leadership and responsive government in the state. Within few weeks in office, he made key appointments to set the ball of governance rolling in Lagos State.

Knowing the task before his government, while some governors were still learning the rope, Sanwo-Olu announced names of members of his cabinet exactly 47 days after his swearing-in and later sworn them in and assigned them portfolios as commissioners and special advisers.

The composition of the cabinet members is infusion of technocracy and political know-how and there was also fair representation of women and consideration of ethnic diversity in the choice of the cabinet members. The decision of the incumbent administration to have square peg in a square role has actually paid off as Lagosians are now reaping dividends of democracy in different sectors.

Within one year in office, Sanwo-Olu's government provided dividends of democracy, which is visible considering several policies and projects executed by the administration toward the welfare and wellbeing of the people. The projects were executed in line with the 'T.H.E.M.E.S' he promised during his campaign.

The laudable projects and programmes by the Sanwo-Olu administration in different parts of Lagos State has made many Lagosians, who criticized the government few months ago to change tune as they are marveled by his performance within one year in office.

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Sanwo-Olu has also shown leadership in managing the affairs of Lagos State and protecting the citizens of the state, especially against COVID-19 pandemic. Since Lagos became the epicentre of the pandemic in Nigeria in February, the governor has been up to the task as Incident Commander in ensuring that the pandemic is well managed in Lagos State.

Speaking during the Democracy Day broadcast, Sanwo-Olu said: "Without doubt, in the last 365 days, so much has happened in our State that we must be proud and thankful for.

"Good people of Lagos, in my inauguration address, I promised you a 'Greater Lagos'. Today, on the first anniversary of that inauguration, it is my pleasure to brief you about the progress we have made in the journey towards a 'Greater Lagos', using the THEMES agenda as our vehicle."

On the issue of traffic management and transportation, the governor disclosed that considering the pivotal role of transportation as a major driver of socio-economic activities, the administration developed a reliable intermodal system of transportation, noting that his government has invested in waterways and a light rail system as alternatives to road transportation.

He also informed Lagosians that several roads have been rehabilitated while others are at various stages of completion, adding that the plan to construct the 4th Mainland Bridge is on course. The administration also recruited and inducted 1,017 LASTMA officers to achieve better flow of traffic and reduction in travel time.

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On health and environment, Governor Sanwo-Olu believed nothing should be spared to give Lagosians quality health care, and that is why the state government has put in place many health facilities, among which are the two Mother and Child Centers (MCCs) at Eti-Osa and Igando respectively, which has already been commissioned. This is in addition to the Badagry and Epe MCCs, which will be ready for public use in the next couple of weeks.

It is also of note that within the first 200 days in office of Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State government, working in collaboration with the BOSKOH Health Mission International and the Benjamin Olowojebutu Foundation, delivered diverse free medical interventions to over 250,000 Lagosians across several locations in the State.

To address waste management and environmental issues Lagos State, he said the state government is “working hard to ensure a flood-free Lagos. We have carried out extensive dredging and disilting on many drain channels across the state, and we will continue to do this even as the rainy season intensifies.”

Education is very crucial in every society, and this is why Lagos State government made a lot of investment in education and technology in the last one year, among which are construction of 13, 18 or 20 classroom blocks in some schools in Egbe, Ikorodu, Bariga, Shomolu, Ifako-Ijaiye and Epe areas of the state.

The administration has equally made remarkable inroad in the training of teachers for 21st century competence. “Through

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the EKO EXCEL training initiative, 3,000 primary school teachers have been trained on how to competently utilise technology in teaching, for better educational outcomes for our children.

“With the current trend in the globe, we are also keen on making Lagos the fortress of digital enterprise, an urban hub of technology-driven creativity, innovation and commerce, which in turn becomes a magnet for domestic and foreign investment,” the governor disclosed.

One of the cardinal programmes of the governor is to make Lagos a 21st century economy. The incumbent government has recorded a milestone in infrastructural development with the signing of \$629 million financing facility aimed at completing the Lekki Deep Seaport project. It has also made significant progress in the area of housing, through four major housing projects that are ready for commissioning, while more housing schemes are expect to be delivered in the coming months.

The Sanwo-Olu administration has done so much in the area of agriculture and food security, with initiatives such as the Agro Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support (APPEALS) Project, which is designed to build the capacities of actors in the rice, aquaculture and poultry value chains. Government has also strengthened the capacity of farmers through the Lagos Agripreneurship Programme (LAP), the Sea Food Festival and the Eko City Farmers Food Market.

In the area of security and governance, the administration’s goal is transformational security, using technology, and to

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achieve this, it has revamped the security Command-and-Control Center, as well as investing heavily in security cameras and improved data-gathering and processing, to stay permanently ahead of crime and criminality.

“The Lagos State Security Trust Fund will continue to be the arrowhead of our interventions in security in Lagos State. We are also partnering with neighbouring states, and one important step in this regard is the establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN), which has been codenamed ‘Operation Amotekun’,” the governor said.

Looking at the last one year of the Sanwo-Olu’s government, Lagosians will have difference views about the administration as people will use different yardsticks to measure the performance of the Sanwo-Olu administration. But irrespective of people’s views about the governor, he has done his best for the state as his moves showed the state is on the right path to “Greater Lagos” the governor promised Lagosians.

2.479 Lagos Identifies 400 Distressed Buildings, Approves 100 For Demolition

*Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 20, 2020*Author

Apparently worried by increasing rate of building collapsed in the state, the Lagos State government yesterday said that it has certified 100 distressed structures for demolition out of 400 weak structures identified across the state.

The government said the list of the 100 buildings certified for the removal would be published for the general public to see, adding that the state government would not tolerate avoidable loss of lives resulting from building collapse in the state.

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Speaking while unveiling ‘Green Sticker,’ a new initiative to check illegal building construction and development in the state, the General Manager, Lagos State Building Control Agency (LASBCA), Mrs. Biola Koshegbe, an engineer, said the agency identified about 400 distressed buildings.

LASBCA GM said major thrust of the Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu-led government was to provide a safe, secure, productive and functional state which she described as ingredients for the physical, psychological, social and economic well-being of the people of Lagos State.

She said: “For us in LASBCA, we are aware of the attendant impact of a sustainable, safe, secure and habitable building on the welfare of our people and the quest to generate vibrant policy, plans and programmes based on our assignment responsibilities for well-planned city.” She said the agency would also present the log book to the developer or the site engineer handling a building for proper recording of the progress work in line with the building guidelines in the state. She added that the availability of a green sticker at any construction site signifies that the building complies with all the state government’s requirements

2.480 OAAN Commends Sanwo- Olu On Environment Donates Safety Jackets To LASPARK

*Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 22, 2020*Author

The Outdoor Advertising Association of Nigeria, OAAN, has commended Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu for taking appropriate steps that will not only protect the environment against the vagaries of nature and from

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anthropogenic causes of degradation, but which will also enhance the overall aesthetics of the state.

President of OAAN, Emmanuel Ajufo, gave this commendation while presenting 100 units of branded safety vests to the Lagos State Parks & Gardens Regulatory Agency [LASPARK].

Ajufo who was accompanied by Femi Ogala the association's Vice President and Chiddy Ibiam the General Manager, disclosed that the decision of OAAN to present the gift was informed by the conviction of the Executive Council to identify with and support both the Agency and the government of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu in the determination to keep the environment in proper shape, and safe for all the residents of the State.

The OAAN President was received by Adetoun Popoola the General Manager of LASPARK.

She expressed the Agency's appreciation and commended the association for the gift which she described as being of utmost importance to the Agency.

Popoola, while promising that the items would be put to good use, also took advantage of the opportunity to call on other organizations especially in the private sector to follow the OAAN example and to support governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's desire to make Lagos State both aesthetically fulfilling and safe for all residents.

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2.481 **Sanwo-Olu: technology vital to tackle economic challenges**

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 23, 2020in Business, News Update

Lagos State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has tressed the importance of technology to addressing socio-economic challenges in the country.

He spoke at the weekend during a virtual forum to unveil a platform, HelpNow, designed to support Lagos residents in need due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The platform was initiative of Softcom Limited in partnership with Deloitte, MTN, Ernst &Young and GTBank and Lagos State government and others to pair donors with beneficiaries requiring support.

He said: "That the role of technology in addressing the socio-economic challenges of the modern world is not only important, but also incontrovertible.

This consciousness is the reason technology is a critical component of the THEMES Agenda of our government.

"We are determined to leverage technology and its associated innovations to make governance easier and transform our state. However, like the experience in other megacities in the world, COVID-19 outbreak has shown the fragility of our societies and the need to seek innovative ways for addressing some of our immediate challenges has become more important.

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“With the launch of HelpNow today, we now have a platform that aggregates support for government’s efforts at alleviating the sufferings of the poor and vulnerable in our society. Government alone cannot address the socio-economic problems of any society. It needs the support of well-meaning individuals and corporate organisations to cater for the needy among us.”

Also, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Softcom Limited, Yomi Adedeji, said the impact of the pandemic is not the same across the board. “Softcom is working with the Bank of Industry (BoI), telcos, and Lagos State government to organise the records of vulnerable Nigerians covering people with disabilities, the poorest households and the aged, for this purpose.

These records reduce guesses or duplication of efforts. It ensures that more people are reached, and no individual or family benefits more than once,” he said.

HelpNow, an initiative of Softcom, is a private sector-led collaboration in response to the debilitating effects COVID-19 pandemic has had on the income and livelihood of millions of Nigerians.

The objective is to provide support to at least two million vulnerable people in Lagos through a crowdfunding model that rallies the support of well-meaning individuals and corporates.

Also, to ensure the credibility and transparency of the initiative, Deloitte and Ernst & Young will provide audit, governance and operational risk support, ensuring every naira donated gets to a beneficiary as promised.

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Adedeji encouraged corporates and private individuals in and outside to support the initiative by visiting the [Helpnow.ng](https://www.helpnow.ng) website to donate, saying no amount is too small to help those in need.

He said donors will be able to view the impact of their giving on the website coupled with testimonials of the beneficiaries.

He noted that HelpNow partners are committed to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 on ending poverty, ensuring zero hunger, and ultimately improving the quality of life and wellbeing of all.

2.482 Sanwo-Olu stops congratulatory birthday adverts

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 24, 2020in News

Families, friends, political associates, professional colleagues and well wishers hoping to place congratulatory advertisements in newspapers for Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who turns 55 on Thursday, have been advised to forget it.

In a press statement by the Governor’s Chief Press Secretary, Gboyega Akosile, Sanwo-Olu said such resources should be channelled to take care of the needy and vulnerable in the society.

Promising to spend the day attending to important state matters, Sanwo-Olu said he would however continue with his tradition of reaching out and sharing love with the needy in the society.

“This is to inform friends, families, professional colleagues and political associates of the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide

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Sanwo-Olu that no congratulatory advertisements should be placed in newspapers to celebrate his forthcoming birthday.

“The Governor wishes to continue his tradition of reaching out and sharing love with the needy in the society.

“Mr. Governor believes that an occasion of one’s birthday, especially a milestone such as the age of 55, should be a day to reflect on one’s purpose of existence in life and, this according to him, is “to serve the humanity”. “Apart from the outreach, Mr. Governor is scheduled to spend the better part of the day to attend to many important State matters,” the Governor said.

He thanked his numerous supporters and well wishers, who May have planned to celebrate with him, advising them to use same resources to touch the lives of the most vulnerable people in their spheres of influence.

According to him: “The best birthday gift anyone would give me at this period is to identify those at the bottom of the pyramid wherever they reside, lift them up by putting smiles on their faces-that way, you would have lifted my heart too.

“Finally, there is no plan for any form of celebration other than what has been stated above.”

2.483 Sanwo-Olu Approves N13.75bn To Offset Backlog Of Pensions

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on June 24, 2020

Lagos State governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the sum of N13.75 billion to offset backlogs of accrued pensions to retirees of the state’s civil service.

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The state’s commissioner for Establishment, Training and Pensions, Mrs. Ajibola Ponnle who disclosed this at a press conference said the state government had also flagged off an online verification exercise for over 6,000 pensioners in compliance with physical distancing rule and protocol of COVID-19 pandemic. She said the initiative was aimed at flattening the curve of the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic in the state considering the pensioners’ age.

Ponnle added that the initiative would eliminate the erstwhile Biometric Verification Exercise, tagged, “I am Alive” which involved physical presence of pensioners at their respective local government areas for the verification exercise and revalidation of their documents.

“It is no news that we are now at an era of new-normal in the entire world. Governments are changing strategies, “ the status quo” is being challenged and initiatives are deployed to keep governance and society going despite the threats of COVID-19 poses to human existence,” she said.

She further explained that the state’s bi-annual verification exercise for retired officers would now be held virtually where an online Biometric and Facial Verification would replace the existing status quo of physical presence of retirees.

Ponnle said, “The Y2020 online Biometric Verification Exercise of Pensioners will now be done in the Civil Service Pensions Office with verification of all pensioners in batches of Local Government and Local Council Development Areas. Therein, selected staff will be assigned to conduct online interviews from

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allocated telepoints/telecentres within the Office for respective pensioners based on their local government area.

2.484 Sanwo-Olu Okays N13.75bn To Clear Unpaid Pensions

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 24, 2020 Author

As part of moves to tackle challenges confronting retirees in the state, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved N13.75 billion to pay backlog of accrued pensions to retirees in the state. Speaking on the pension administration in the state, Commissioner for Establishment, Training and Pensions, Mrs. Ajibola Ponnle who disclosed this, said the state government had also flagged off an online verification exercise for over 6,000 pensioners in compliance with physical distancing rule and protocol of COVID-19 pandemic.

Ponnle said: “It is no news that we are now at a new normal in the entire world. Governments are changing strategies, “the status quo” is being challenged and initiatives are deployed to keep governance and society going despite the threats of COVID-19 poses to human existence.

“The Y2020 online Biometric Verification Exercise of Pensioners will now be done in the Civil Service Pensions Office with verification of all pensioners in batches of Local Government and Local Council Development Areas. Therein, selected staff will be assigned to conduct online interview from allocated telepoints/telecentres within the Office for respective pensioners based on their Local Government Area.

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2.485 Sanwo-Olu’s U-turn on reopening religious houses

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 26, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has shown courage and tact expected of a leader, by cancelling indefinitely the plan to reopen mosques and churches billed for Friday, June 19 and Sunday, June 21, respectively. The governor based this on the rising cases of COVID-19 in the state.

According to reports, the governor, the deputy and the Commissioner for Health, at a virtual meeting with faith leaders on Saturday, June 13, carried them along in taking the decision. They saw the gloomy statistics, in Nigeria, and elsewhere in the world. The facts were as clear as day. And they knew the only sensible thing to do.

But it was predicted.

Yet, many Nigerians, especially those who still don’t believe the virus exits, are living their lives with a devil-may-care attitude.

My medical doctor cousin in Imo State, in a WhatsApp chat, said: “We are in for a time bomb.”

“I risked attending a nearby church last Sunday and had to leave the church halfway.”

“The church was filled to capacity.”

“There was no form of social distancing.”

“I counted less than 10 people wearing masks with me.”

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“The priest in his sermon sounded as if he didn’t believe COVID-19 existed.”

“I ran for my dear life!”

On hearing the governor’s announcement to stay action on the reopening of religious houses, a medical colleague here in Lagos said “Thank God!”

As healthcare workers, we have seen for ourselves the upsurge in the number of COVID-19 cases in the hospitals. Unfortunately, healthcare workers themselves are among those who have contracted the virus. I shudder to think what will happen if healthcare workers are overwhelmed by these cases. They are already short-staffed and overworked, because some of their colleagues who got infected can’t come to work. What’s more, the isolation centres are filled up.

It was Sir Winston Churchill who said, “Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

With a chilling sense of déjà vu, the 1918 Spanish flu killed about 50 million people in the world. It was the second wave that killed more people. Pandemics occur in waves. And these waves must be anticipated. I have harped on the same string, that science, and not emotions should determine scientific decisions.

As of May when restrictions were lifted, Nigeria had 245 new cases of COVID-19, with a total of 2,802, with 93 deaths. A brief breakdown showed there were 76 cases in Lagos State; 37 cases in Katsina State; 32 in Jigawa State; 23 in Kano State;

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19 in Abuja; 18 in Borno State; 10 in Edo State; nine in Bauchi State; six in Adamawa State; five in Oyo State; five in Ogun State; one each in Benue, Ekiti, Niger, Osun and Zamfara states.

On June 15, when Sanwo-Olu took this decision, we had 573 new cases, with a total of 16,658, with four new deaths bringing the total number of deaths to 424. In Lagos State, we had 216 new cases, 103 in Rivers State, 68 in Oyo State, 40 in Edo State, 21 in Kano State, 20 in Gombe State, 17 in Abuja, 13 in Delta State, 12 in Plateau State, 12 in Bauchi State, 10 in Niger State, nine in Kebbi State, eight in Ogun State, eight in Ondo State, seven in Abia State, five in Nasarawa State, one each in Kwara, Anambra, Borno and Benue states.

In all this, Lagos is the epicentre, with 7,319 confirmed coronavirus cases, 82 fatalities and 1,137 recoveries. In a recent op-ed, “Perilous reopening of religious houses”, I had argued that it was not yet safe to reopen religious houses. But, some Nigerians countered that if markets were allowed to operate, and people could enter buses, religious houses are “better organised”, so should be allowed to reopen.

Yes, the markets and buses may not be well organised, but you are probably safer in either of them than in a religious house! The market place most times is an open place. Religious houses are enclosed places. In the open, with the air moving, you are less likely to contract the virus. In the buses, with the windows open, airflow may keep the virus away. Again, some researchers think that at warmer temperatures you are less likely to get the virus. The markets being open, people are likely to be under the sun.

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Now, is there adequate ventilation in those religious houses? Often, you see people begin to fan themselves or mop their faces in the church. Some churches may have air conditioners, and might be tempted to use them.

Again, even if the churches decide not to use air conditioners, and use ceiling fans, won't the air be flowing directly on people's heads? And, if they are using standing fans, who will the fans be directed at? Who will the fans not be directed at?

How will the number of people in the religious houses be determined? Religious houses are not like banks, or stores that people stay outside, and enter in batches, while maintaining the maximum number of 20.

How will churches or mosques determine the so-Culled 40% of their capacity? Does it even make sense to be talking of 40% capacity? What if that does not allow for adequate social distancing? Okay, if it's a church and we say they have got the required 40%, the usual thing is for the rest to stay outside, because they are unlikely to go back home.

They will likely cluster outside of course, without social distancing, with their face masks as usual below their mouth. After the service, those outside will wait to exchange pleasantries with their friends inside the church. Next Sunday, perhaps, those who made it early last week might be late this time, while those who came late last time, might make it inside. After the service, those outside, will also wait to exchange pleasantries, with those inside. And, this will be the vicious circle that will propagate the virus.

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An Igbo proverb says "one does not tell a deaf person that war has broken out." Nigerians must take responsibility for their safety. Standing close to someone who is not wearing a face mask is like standing close to a suicide bomber. This is the time you can offend people in the name of protecting yourself, and your family from the virus. Anyone, who won't confirm to the safety guidelines health officials have laid down to protect us all from the coronavirus, is a very dangerous person. And should be avoided. The same people who want the doors of religious houses to be flung open cringe at the thought of their children going back to school now.

I am sorry for those beclouded by religious zealotry, as well as the fool-hardy, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic. They won't understand why Sanwo-Olu had to take the hard decision. It's just too bad that we can't wait for them to understand!

2.486 'We have Sanwo-Olu's backing to reform LAWMA'

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on June 28, 2020in News, News Update,

Sunday Interview, Sunday magazine

The Lagos State Waste Management Agency (LAWMA) has been under spotlights lately following protests by highway sweepers accusing it of inhuman treatment. In an interaction with journalists during the week in Lagos, the acting MD/CEO, Mr. Ibrahim Odumboni, offers official clarifications on the issues at stake. The Nation was there.

Excerpts: Not many knew you until the recent reports of protest against LAWMA by some highway sweepers claiming to be owed arrears of salaries.

What is your background?

To answer your question directly, my training was in financial services management. I attended institutions both in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Before I was appointed as acting Managing Director last month by Mr. Governor, I was serving as the Executive Director of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA). Before then, I had worked with some of the top financial institutions in the U.K including Lloyds Banking Group, HSBC and till date, I continue to cherish those exposures because they provided me a platform to broaden and deepen my hands-on experience at the managerial level. For instance, between 2014 and 2015, the team I led at Halifax Bank was able to grow its baseline revenue performance and over-double that of the preceding year and sustained it.

And between 2016 and 2017 came another opportunity to help reform wealth management team synergies with retail banking outlets across the entire West of England & Wales in Lloyds Community Bank & Halifax Community Bank. For me, those experiences were unique because I believe they prepared one for greater responsibility in life.

There were reports in the media, particularly the social media, of protests by some sweepers that they were being owed six-month arrear of salaries.

What really is the situation?

That is not entirely true. Let us just dismiss that as fake news or exaggerated story. LAWMA was not owing the highway

sweepers and supervisors per se. Our operation is such that we delineate the twenty councils and thirty-seven development areas in Lagos into routes. These routes are in turn contracted out to mangers or contractors if you like. They are the ones who hire the sweepers and the supervisors directly. Our own role is to pay them and carry out oversight to ensure services we pay for are rendered. In this particular instance, what happened was that reports reaching us indicated that the contractors were not meeting their obligations to those they hired.

Aside that, at our end, we discovered that the bills being submitted by the contractors were shooting up as the months rolled by. I think Mr. Governor was not happy with the situation. I was asked to take over in May . By the time I took over, only two months were being owed the contractors contrary to the stories being peddled around that the government was owing six months or so. As soon as I assumed office, Mr. Governor came to our aid and approved money to clear one of the months pending. We need to appreciate that government operates a budget. So, if specific amount was earmarked to pay salaries for a period of time and it turned out that the figures were unduly overshot, it distorts the budgeting process and creates cash flow problems.

As someone who is committed to judicious use of taxpayers money, Mr. Governor wanted to get to the root of the problem. He wanted to know why the wage bills shot up, to the point that LAWMA was having difficulties offsetting the bills submitted by the highway managers.

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But some of the contractors are alleging that since you assumed office, you have mounted a witch-hunt against them.

That is pure blackmail. Of course, upon my assumption of duties, I knew there was no way we could sustain the situation on ground. As a popular saying goes, it is unreasonable to keep doing things the old way and expect different outcome. You have to understand that Mr. Governor is by training and experience a financial guru. He approved that we carried out a forensic audit, to establish the integrity of the figures being claimed by the contractors.

That is the only way we can arrive at something that is sustainable on a monthly basis. Of course, the audit carried out revealed a lot of things. We found out that a good number of the contractors were involved in sharp practices by padding up their bills with ghost sweepers and supervisors. Worse still, they were underpaying them. Some contractors were paying the hardworking sweepers N5000, N12000, N15000, N18500 monthly whilst the state approves N25000 for each sweeper and N40000 for supervisor. That has vindicated Mr. Governor. So, our task is to ensure that an end is put to such misconduct and ensure more judicious utilization of scarce resources.

So, as you can see, it is those who were benefitting from the malpractices that went about sponsoring stories against us in the media to say they were being witch-hunted. They even went to the ridiculous extent of renting crowd to go and lay siege to the Government House in Marina with a view to blackmailing Mr. Governor to stop the audit.

I must commend the auditors for doing a thorough job.

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As a matter of fact, when the auditors got to Ikorodu, they found in many areas that sweepers actually working were less than two-third of the those a particular contractor was making claims for monthly. In one particular location, the contractor had to go and hire people and quickly dress up them in LAWMA aprons to make them look like sweepers. But the secret was revealed when the phone numbers put under their names were found to be either non-existent or duplicated. In one case, when the phones assigned to four different persons were dialed for verification, they were found to be ringing in the pocket of one individual. That is the sort of malpractices auditors discovered.

What the auditors also found are cases of hijack of routes with the use of thugs by some elements from those duly assigned by LAWMA. They carried their impunity to such a ridiculous level. It was like a jungle warfare where survival was for the most powerful or the highest number of thugs. We are resolved to put an end to such unwholesome practices.

Overall, I think every right-thinking person knows that Mr. Governor means well by introducing a number of measures. In principle, the highway jobs are meant to be an inclusive programme for poor widows and other unskilled folks so that they too can earn an income. What what going into the private pockets of the unscrupulous contractors would have covered more widows and youths if honestly applied. So, those who have been pocketing money meant to engage the widows and empower those without skills should be seen as public enemy.

As an agency committed to meeting the vision of Mr. Governor for a more hygienic condition in Lagos, we will not be distracted

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by such campaign of lies and blackmail. Rather, we will focus on doing our job. Some of us are guided by our conscience and will never do anything that conflicts with our high moral values.

One of your most vocal critics has been a contractor named Mrs. Wuraola Williams (alias Iron Lady) who incidentally is known to be the biggest LAWMA contractor with her control of about ten percent of the over 600 routes in Lagos. She pointedly accused you of witch-hunting her for political reasons. In a press conference last week, she claimed innocence of the charges of padding wage-bill. Your reaction?

Well, it is beneath me to start exchanging words with Madam Wuraola Williams in the public. With due respect to her, she is only one of the several highway managers engaged by LAWMA. There is nothing personal about the audit LAWMA carried out. It was to establish the integrity of bills LAWMA was paying. We are comforted that the audit has been able to establish some basic facts which formed the basis for some actions we have since taken to ensure that we get value for taxpayers' money.

By the way, it might interest you to hear that one of the young men hired to publish false and wicked stories against what we are doing has since come forward to apologize. I am talking of the guy who was said to be an asthmatic patient. He was not only induced to post videos on the social media maligning me,

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he went as far as granting interview to a newspaper to cast us in bad lights.

God Knows I don't know him from Adams. I was then a little surprised few days ago when my secretary announced that this same young man was in our office and wanted to see me. I did not hesitate before telling the secretary to allow him access. Apparently, his conscience had pricked him for all he was made to do against me. He was one of those who had said LAWMA was owing backlog of salaries. He came to confess that he was engaged by one of the contractors to lie against me, in order to intimidate and blackmail me into doing their bidding.

He said he realized that it was not even fair to blame me for the two months they were truly being owed since I only just assumed duties in May .

As a Muslim, I told him right there that I bore no grudge against him and had forgiven him for every thing. At the end of our conversation, I only invited him to join us to make LAWMA work better in order to justify the confidence reposed in us by Mr. Governor and, by extension, serve Lagos taxpayers who fulfill their civic obligations to the government.

In a recent statement, your agency said you were going to change the uniform worn by sweepers and their supervisors. Don't you think that is wasteful?

Not at all. As a matter of fact, that is only one of the series of reforms we are planning to implement to reposition LAWMA for better service delivery.

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When LAWMA started, the uniform was green overall. In my own view, I consider the LAWMA orange colour overall donated to us over the years by Sterling Bank Plc the most appropriate for the sweepers in all weather conditions. We believe the short sleeve uniform now abolished is less appropriate most especially for health reasons as it doesn't keep them warm.

Also, we want to end a situation whereby the LAWMA apron is abused by miscreants or unauthorized persons who wear them to carry out illegalities.

Part of the reforms we are introducing is to ensure that henceforth, the wearer will have their names embroidered on the uniform for easy identification. This will help ensure more discipline. Members of the public are encouraged to report anyone found to be engaging in misconduct to our hotlines for investigation and possible sanction.

That is part of the new culture we are seeking to bring on board towards achieving the target given to us by Mr. Governor.

To address some of the anomalies discovered through the forensic audit, we have decided to introduce biometrics to ensure the incidence of ghost workers is effectively a thing of the past.

Your new agenda?

With the support of Mr. Governor, we will ensure that the impact of LAWMA is also felt in other equally critical sectors like the management of marine waste, ensuring better sanitation in

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our markets, public transportation, clearing of silt and disuse tyres from our roads.

LAWMA was not set up by the government only to oversee highway sweepers as being projected lately. Our core mandate also extends to the sectors I just mentioned. We are reviewing the current operations architecture to ensure that these critical areas receive equal attention to achieve Mr. Governor's vision of a more robust and sustainable environment for Lagos.

2.487 School reopening: Lagos must embrace technology, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on June 29, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has said the state must embrace technological avenues to sustain learning amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The governor made this known on Monday while unveiling 5,000 transistor radios and 5,000 face masks donated by the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials at the State House, Marina.

The equipment would be distributed across the state, especially in the hard-to-reach areas and riverine areas.

According to a statement by the government, Sanwo-Olu said, "What COWLSO is donating this morning is to improve and enhance the learning capability of the children and so we are excited that they have been able to put this together for the students.

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“I understand that this is the first batch, others will come in. This is a new norm and so we need to adapt to the new realities of where we found ourselves and so this part of adaptability and innovation has to come to learning.

“What we are doing now is as much as possible, learning can be done offsite and so it is just something to make our children get themselves busy, have a tool, have an app, have a phone and have a radio and whatever it means to communicate such that at the agreed time and in the comfort of their learning environment, they can tune in, they can listen, they can take notes, they can interact and be in tune.”

Schools had been shut in the state since March as part of measures to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease.

The state Ministry of Education had since encouraged online learning while the government maintained that schools remained closed in the state which has recorded the highest number of COVID-19 infections and associated deaths in the country.

2.488 Lagos Boosts Affordable Housing Scheme For Residents

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on June 30, 2020 Author

No fewer than 492 families have benefited from the housing scheme of the state government.

As part of efforts to boost affordable housing in the state, Lagos State Government has opened an arrangement where residents who can part with 33 per cent of their monthly earnings

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can become home owners under the state's rent-to-own and rental housing policies.

Currently, no fewer than 492 families have benefited from the housing scheme of the state government.

According to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the policies are aimed at making housing more affordable and accessible to the citizenry, particularly low and middle income earners in both the formal and informal sectors.

The governor pointed out that an integral part of the policies offered prospective beneficiaries the opportunity to pay the required five per cent of the value of the housing unit as commitment fee while the balance could be spread over 10 years. “It also permits recipients to live on the property while paying towards ownership as a fixed rent within that period of 10 years,” he said.

To qualify for the scheme, applicant must be a resident in the state with a possession of Lagos State Residents' Registration card, being a first time buyer, must be above 21 years of age, must be tax compliant and also be able to cover the monthly rental payments with 33 per cent of his or her earnings.

Lagos state has huge and increasing demand for housing as a result of over 20 million people with an estimated 86 people migrating to the state per hour who have Lagos their home.

This huge population has made housing deficit in the state a real issue with affordability worsening by the day because the

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available limited housing units cannot meet the needs of the huge population.

The governor said his administration had evolved far reaching reforms in the housing sector in a bid to provide affordable housing for the populace, adding that some of them are now ready for commissioning.

These, he said, included LagosHoms, Igbogbo Scheme with 360 housing units comprising 120 one-bedroom, 120 two-bedroom and 120 -bedroom apartments.

According to him, others are housing scheme at Topo -Badagry with 252 two-bedroom apartments; Courtland Villas behind Alhaji Femi Okunnu Estate, Igbohushu, Lekki with 120 units of four-bedroom maisonettes and boy quarters. andd Lekki apartments, Ikate-Elegushi, Lekki.

He added that completion of ongoing housing estates had been prioritised, while at the same time entering into partnership with the private sector in the delivery of new ones.

“More housing schemes will be delivered in the coming months. We are very excited about our housing schemes because not only do they provide homes to people, they also create jobs for multitudes of people who work as artisans, tradesmen and labourers on these projects. This fully ties in with our commitment to resuscitate excellent craftsmanship by making opportunities available for people to be trained and to demonstrate their training,” Sanwo-Olu said.

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2.489 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Unveils 5,000 Transistor Radios To Improve Access To Learning

Culled from Independent on July 1, 2020 12:00 AM

LAGOS – To improve access to educational contents by pupils and students in Lagos State in response to the challenges thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday unveiled 5,000 transistor radios, 5,000 face masks, and cash donation by the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO).

The transistor radios and face masks, which were donated by COWLSO, in partnership with the Office of the Lagos State First Lady to the Ministry of Education, would be distributed across the state, especially in the hard-to-reach areas, including riverine areas.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, while speaking at the event at the State House, Marina, commended COWLSO for the laudable initiative to play up the education of children in the state and expressed optimism that it would enhance access to educational contents on the radio.

“What COWLSO is donating this morning is to improve and enhance the learning capability of the children and so we are excited that they have been able to put this together for the students.

“I understand that this is the first batch, others will come in. This is a new norm and so we need to adapt to the new realities of where we found ourselves and so this part of adaptability and innovation has to come to learning.

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Also, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, COWLSO Chairperson, said the initiative to donate the transistor radios was borne out of the desire to ensure that no child is left behind in the access to quality education in the state, while the 5,000 face masks and the cash donation would help to ease the burden of parents and guardians and the students in this era of the new normal.

She said statistics confirmed that there were over a million children at home during this pandemic period not going to school for the past three months, while students preparing for WAEC and Jamb exams had equally been affected.

2.490 Rename colonial monuments, Assembly tells Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on July 1, 2020

The Lagos State House of Assembly has urged the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd) to issue an executive order for all streets, gardens and notable areas named after colonial masters or beneficiaries of slave trade to be changed across the country.

The House also Culled on the state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to direct the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf, to liaise with the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo, to remove all vestiges of slave trade as a stand against racism.

The Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa, while decrying racist attacks and ill treatment of blacks across the world, said the decision would correct the notion that colonial masters were supreme.

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Member representing Eti-Osa 1, Noheem Adams, who led the debate during plenary on Tuesday, said the killing of a black man, George Floyd, by the police in the United States of America, drew the attention of the world to the “realities of continuous police violence, systematic racism, oppression and domination of the black race by the white in spite of the abolition of slave trade.”

He emphasised on the need to correct the impression of colonial masters’ supremacy and condescension by reviewing aspects of the Listed Sites (Preservation) Law Ch. L.86 Vol. 1 Laws of Lagos State 2015 which is aimed at the preservation, protection and restoration of historical properties in the state.

“We need to delist monuments that depict racism, and promote values and culture, as slave trade is not our culture but a part of our history. Black people should not see themselves as inferior beings because of their skin colour. We must also encourage our children to know that black people are superior,” another lawmaker representing Epe 1, Abiodun Tobun, added.

Member representing Badagry 2, David Setonji, charged blacks to value and uplift each other, as well as look for legitimate ways to utilise opportunities in the western world.

The lawmaker representing Mushin 2, Abdul-Sobur Olayiwola, said, “The basic step towards eliminating racism or racist acts is to promote our indigenous languages, which boost confidence among our people.”

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2.491 Sanwo-Olu promises safe, productive economy for Lagosians

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 1, 2020 in News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olushola Sanwo-Olu has said his administration prioritises safety of Lagosians and will entrench a productive economy for the state.

The Governor, who clocked 55 years on 25 June, was celebrated in a surprise birthday message from grateful Lagosians, well-wishers and thought leaders of the state.

In a continued celebration of excellence, a never before seen interview of the Governor with ace Journalist and Publisher, TW Media –Adesuwa Onyenokwe, was aired on TVC News on 30 June, 2020.

Governor Sanwo-Olu addressed a number of topics in the 15-minute interview related to his office, personal life and dreams of A Greater Lagos –a dream which he is determined to see to fruition.

Emphasising commitment to his primary constituents, the Governor noted, “I am a people’s person, that’s all I’ve done. I share the pain of people and the only reason why I’m in government really is to make life better for them.”

The Governor shared his administration’s masterplan for an integrated system which utilises the land, rail and water modes of transportation.

Sanwo-Olu reiterated the need to develop innovative transport alternatives in Lagos due to the state’s unique topography.

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2.492 NMA Tasks Sanwo-Olu Over Lagos Doctors’ Welfare, Working Conditions

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 1, 2020 Author

Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Lagos State, has urged the Lagos State Government to take advantage of the two weeks extension given by the Medical Guild in resolving all the outstanding issues which include the welfare of the medical professionals.

In a statement from the NMA, Lagos State, signed by its Chairman, Dr. Adetunji Adenekan and its Secretary, Dr. Moronkola Ramon, the association said it was in full support of the demands of the Medical Guild, saying the Lagos NMA had already deployed necessary human and material resources to make the demand a reality.

The medical Guild, an affiliate of the NMA is the association of doctors employed by the Lagos State Government.

Adenekan and Ramon commended the news of allowances being received by the last batch of doctors working with federal health institutions.

The duo attributed the success to the collective resolve by all stakeholders following the initiation and supervision by the national body of the NMA.

Similarly, the NMA Lagos commended the altruistic support and unflinching passion displayed by the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) and the Medical and Dental Consultants of Nigeria (MDCAN) during the struggle.

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In addition, the duo noted that although, Lagos State employed doctors haven't received commensurate allowances even with the massive work done to curb the coronavirus pandemic exacerbated by the shortage of human and material resources, "We believe Lagos State being the epicenter of the pandemic in Nigeria, the government can replicate the same remunerations, if not more."

It will be recalled that the Medical Guild had issued a 21-day ultimatum, threatening to embark on industrial action if the Lagos State Government did not meet its demand after the expiration of the ultimatum. The ultimatum which was issued on June 4 expired on Thursday, June 25, after which the Congress of the Medical Guild met on Saturday, 27 June and extended the ultimatum by two weeks, giving room for the Lagos State Government to meet its demands.

The ultimatum became necessary because of challenges in COVID-19 response especially as it concerns testing capacity for health care workers and patients in hospitals; shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in isolation centres and hospitals; non-inclusion of the Medical Guild and other health care worker unions in decision making with the attendant increase in health care workers' infection, morbidity and mortality.

Other demands of the Medical Guild included non-implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Federal Government and national associations/unions of health workers by the Lagos State Government on health insurance, hazard allowances and other palliatives for health workers, as well as the shortage of doctors.

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In the ultimatum, the Chairman of the Medical Guild, Dr. Oluwajimi Sodipo said, "The Medical Guild has reiterated to government on multiple occasions our resolve to dialogue on these issues, however, we are ready to safeguard the lives of Lagosians and our members with any action necessary for public interest and this included the withdrawal of service after the expiration date of the ultimatum."

2.493 Sanwo-olu and the 'greater lagos' vision

Culled from the Sun on 2nd July 2020

On 29th May, 2019, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, was sworn in as the 15th Executive Governor of Lagos State. Upon his inauguration, he unfolded T.H.E.M.E.S (an acronym for his administration's strategic development agenda namely; Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism and Security and Governance) as a vehicle to achieve his administration's 'Greater Lagos' vision.

Through a combination of ingenious thinking and genuine craving to offer the good people of Lagos progressive governance at its best, the Sanwo-Olu administration has caught a niche for itself as a people-centered government.

Considering its conviction that the entrenchment of a well-oiled social security system is essential for the evolvement of a better society, the Sanwo-Olu administration has put in place several innovative strategies to address the fears of the people in varied scopes.

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Thus, from the ‘BOSKOH Health Mission’ to the ‘Thought for Snacks’ initiative to ‘Sanwo-Olu Cares’ and many other such people-friendly initiatives, the narrative has been that of consistent acts of benevolence to the people.

With the strong impact of the inventive EKOEXCEL training programme, the landscape of public education has been radically altered in the State. An acronym for, “Excellence in Child Education and Learning”, the EKO EXCEL programme is designed to reposition public education in the State and improve method of teaching to meet demands of the 21st century.

In its resolve to develop public education, the current administration also introduced programmes and initiatives such as the home grown feeding for primary school pupils, school rehabilitation, Public-Private-Partnership dialogue, recruitment of 3,000 teachers in public primary and secondary schools and improved welfare schemes for teachers, just to mention but a few.

The administration’s investment in up-scaling infrastructure in the sector has resulted in the completion and commissioning of 18 Classroom Blocks at Muslim Junior College, Egbe, 18 Classroom Blocks at Maya Secondary School, Ikorodu, 18 Classroom Blocks at Eva Adelaja Junior Secondary School, Bariga and Block of 20 Classrooms at Bashua Military School Primary School, Shomolu.

Others are 13 Classrooms at Saviour Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA, Block of 20 Classrooms at Ayanleye Memorial

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Primary School, Ifako-Ijaiye LGA and Block of 6 Classrooms at Ansar Ur Deen, Ibonwon, Epe.

In the area of food security, farmers have also benefitted from partnership with the State Government programme of decentralizing access to inputs such as fertilizer and seedlings as well as access to training in new farming, processing, storage and marketing techniques.

In order to ensure unhindered access to healthcare, two Mother and Child Centers (MCCs) at Eti-Osa and Igando respectively were completed and commissioned for public use. Before the end of this year, the Badagry and Epe MCCs will also be ready. For the current administration, nothing is to be spared in order to give Lagosians quality health care.

The compassionate side of the administration can best be captured by understanding the life changing impact of the free medical interventions it embarked on to bring soccour to many ailing residents. In its first 200 days in office, through the BOSKOH Health Mission International and the Benjamin Olowojebutu Foundation, over 250,000 Lagosians benefitted from diverse free medical interventions across several locations in the State.

In order to bridge housing deficit in the State, new housing schemes such as LagosHoms, Igbogbo Scheme with 360 home units comprising 120 1-bedroom, 120 2-bedroom and 120 3-bedroom apartments, Lagos State Affordable Public Housing Scheme, Topo, Badagry with 252 2-bedroom apartments, Courtland Villas, Behind Alhaji Femi Okunnu Estate, Igbohushu, Lekki with 120 units of 4-bedroom Maisonettes and BQs and

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Lekki Apartments, Ikate-Eleguishi, Lekki were completed and commissioned for public use.

Similarly, on January 30, 2020, 492 allottees received keys to the Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande Gardens, a proof that the rent-to-own scheme of the administration is on course. More opportunities are being created for more residents to own houses, as more housing schemes are on the verge of completion.

Public transportation is equally receiving a boost. A network of 30 roads was commissioned at a go in Ojokoro LCDA. More roads have equally been rehabilitated, while others are at various phases of completion. The Oshodi-Abule-Egba BRT Corridor, the Pen-Cinema Bridge, the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, the Agric-Ishawo Road and the four junctions' improvement projects at Allen Avenue, Maryland, Ikotun and Lekki among others are nearing completion and would soon be ready for public. In order to improve traffic management, 1,017 new LASTMA officers were inducted and deployed to manage traffic at strategic locations across the State.

Since the long-term focus of the administration is the integration of intermodal transportation, it is working hard to optimize the use of other means of transportation such as water and rail. Consequently, eight new state-of-the-art ferries were commissioned on 4th February to improve water transportation, while the historic completion of the Continuous Beam Bridge for the Sea-Crossing of the Lagos Rail Line Project at Marina, Lagos effectively signaled the renewal of efforts towards intermodal transport system.

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In all its plans, policies, programmes and activities, the people is at the core of every move of the administration. Thus, as it repairs and enlarges roads, builds hospitals, clears the drains, invests in intermodal transport, empowers more residents, creates more opportunities for economic enhancement and valiantly confronts the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, the foremost drive of the administration has always been to improve the lots of the people.

This is not really surprising, considering the people-centric philosophy of the administration that safeguarding the interest of the people must always be the driving force of government.

This is because of Governor Sanwo-Olu's conviction that the citizens are the bedrock of democracy. Consequently, the State government has never derided itself of having the monopoly of knowledge with regards to finding the right solutions to the myriad of challenges in the State.

It has, therefore, consistently thrown its doors open to divergent opinions and views from various sources. As a people's government, the Sanwo-Olu administration has established an effective communication strategy between the government and the citizenry.

This is quite fundamental in view of Mr. Governor's promise to Lagosians that the core of his government's policies will be defined by their needs. Consequently, it is apparent that the profound promise to mobilize resources to better the lot of the vulnerable is well on course.

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The visible achievements of the administration in terms of infrastructure development, quality health care delivery, environmental regeneration, employment generation, upliftment of the youth, upgrading of public infrastructure, provision of security, entrenchment of law and order among others, have created a sense of relief among Lagosians and, indeed, Nigerians that, at last, they have a government that is capable of delivering enduring positive change, which they have for long been clamouring for.

According to ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle, excellence does not come by accident; it is achieved by habit and conscious commitment to one's goals and objectives. This has, indeed, been the operational philosophy of Sanwo-Olu since he assumed office on 29th May, 2019.

Abubakar, a public policy analyst, writes from Apapa, Lagos

2.494 Lagos Frees 40 Patients

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 3, 2020 Author

Lagos State yesterday discharged 40 coronavirus patients after they have been treated and certified free of the virus. The Incident Commander, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, announced this yesterday. He said: "Good people of Lagos, today, 40 #COVID19Lagos patients; 17 females and 23 males including two foreign nationals, were discharged from our isolation facilities today to reunite with the society.

"The patients; 19 from Onikan, seven from Gbagada, three from Mainland Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba, eight from

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Agidingbi and three from LUTH Isolation Centres were discharged after full recovery and testing negative for COVID-19. "Let's continue to adhere strictly to #PhysicalDistancing and #handhygiene principles #ForACOVID- 19FreeLagos.

2.495 Churches, mosques remain closed in Lagos – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on July 3, 2020

The Lagos State Government has said worship centres would remain closed in the state. Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said this on Friday during a televised briefing at Alausa Ikeja.

He said the worship centres are to "remain shut until further notice". Sanwo-Olu also reiterated that "all restrictions applying to mass gatherings will remain in force". He added, "Places of worship will remain closed in Lagos State, until further notice.

"All social and events centers, and social clubs, will also remain closed, for now.

"All bars, day and night clubs, cinemas, games arcades, beaches, and beach fronts, gyms and spas continue to remain closed.

"Eateries and restaurants are to continue to open as normal for takeout only. In-dining is still prohibited."

The Governor also directed that hairdressing salons that had been accredited by the Lagos State Safety Commission could open strictly on an appointment only and with a maximum occupancy of 50 per cent of the total floor space at any given time.

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Sports facilities and recreational parks in residential estates, Sanwo-Olu said, would be permitted to operate with a maximum of 20 persons at any given time.

The Governor directed civil servants from Grade Level 1 to 12 to continue working from home and improve themselves through dedicated online Learning Management Systems portals.

Sanwo-Olu stressed that the government would now be strict in enforcing the use of face mask in public places.

He said, "At this phase in the evolution of the pandemic in our society, taking personal responsibility is now more important than ever, not only for self-protection, but also for protecting other people, including your loved ones.

"Mask usage is mandatory in public places. We are asking offices and business and commercial premises to refuse entry to any persons not wearing masks, in line with the Presidential Task Force directive on 'No mask, No service'. Enforcement agencies will from this week charge defaulters to court, as the period of grace is now over."

2.496 Abule Egba Fire: 69 Families Get N225,000 Each, Individuals N150,000

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 4, 2020 Author

Six months after their stay at the Igando resettlement camp, Lagos State Government yesterday reintegrated about 320 internally displaced victims of the Abule-Egba pipeline explosion into the society with financial empowerment. It will be reCulled

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that the Abule-Egba disaster on January 19, left many properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

The Director-General of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr Femi Oke- Osanyintolu, said a total of 69 families got N225,000 each while 25 other individuals displaced by the pipeline inferno were given N150,000. Briefing journalists on the closure of the camp for the Abule-Egba IDPs, Oke- Osanyintolu said that the state government deemed it fit to declare the camp closed after accommodating the IDPs for six months.

He said the state government magnanimously camped the victims when pipeline fire razed their homes and destroyed their belongings. According to him, during their stay at the resettlement camp, they were not only fed by the state government but also enjoyed the medical facilities at the camp. He said that the government also organised minischool for the children of the displaced residents at the camp to ensure that their children don't miss formal education on account of the fire disaster which rendered them homeless and displaced.

Oke-Osanyintolu said: "During their stay at the camp, the state government took care of their needs; lessons coaching were carried for the pupils who couldn't go to school during the period." He said that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was passionate about the welfare of the people such that despite the economic challenges of the state due to COVID-19 outbreak, 69 families were given N225,000 each while 25 individuals got N150,000 each as a starter pack to make them self-reliant. "Despite the financial challenges in the state due

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to the outbreak of COVID- 19 in the state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu still managed to approve the disbursement of the amount to the 69 families each with other individuals badly affected by the inferno,” the Director-General said.”

2.497 Sanwo-Olu: Schools To Reopen For Exiting Classes

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 4, 2020 Author

...to begin arrests of residents without facemasks

Apparently dissatisfied with the rising cases of the coronavirus (COVID- 19) pandemic in the state, Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday hinted that schools would be reopened for exiting classes. The governor, who was apparently irked by the lack of commitment by resident to use facemasks, said the state government would soon begin to arrest and prosecute defaulters of COVID-19 guidelines. On resumption, Sanwo- Olu said schools in the state will remain closed, adding that those affected by the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 directives were students in Primary 6; J.S.3 and S.S.3.

He added that the commencement dates for the opening will be announced after such schools have met the required guidelines and protocols and provision of essentials for both students and teachers alike. He said: “All schools and educational institutions will remain closed. We continue to support online teaching of curriculum during this period.

“However, students in transitional classes, who have mandatory public exams ahead of them are permitted to resume at only day schools as soon as possible for revision classes and

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examination. “All educational establishments are to follow established public health guidelines and protocol for re-opening the schools for these categories of students.

“For the avoidance of doubt, students impacted by this directive are those in primary 6; J.S.3 and S.S.3. Commencement dates for this opening will be announced after such schools have met the required guidelines and protocols and provision of essentials for both students and teachers alike.

“Our tertiary institutions are to continue their online academic activities which are at various advanced stages.” On COVID-19 in the state, Sanwo-Olu said as at midnight of Thursday, Lagos State had recorded a total of 10,639 confirmed cases of COVID-19.

He said: “Mask usage is mandatory in public places. We are asking offices and business and commercial premises to refuse entry to any persons not wearing masks, in line with the Presidential Task Force directive on “No mask, no entry. No mask, no service.” Enforcement agencies will from this week charge defaulters to court, as the period of grace is now over.

2.498 Traders seek Sanwo-Olu’s intervention on rebuilding market

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 7, 2020 in City Beats, News Update

TRADERS at the Alade Market, Allen Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos have appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to intervene in the construction of the N13billion Alade Market Mall being

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undertaken by a developer, Masters Realities International Concepts Limited.

Speaking through their lawyer, Ms Yetunde Fasheun-Souza yesterday at a media briefing, they urged the governor to order the developer back to site to start rebuilding the facility as agreed with the owners of the land, Ikeja Local Government in 2016.

They lamented that four years after Ikeja Local Government signed a-30-year concession agreement with the developers in 2016, the company has failed to rebuild the market.

“My clients want to move back to the old site of Alade market. They are not selling here, business is dull but regrettably, there is nothing on the ground to show the readiness of the developer to commence reconstruction on the land,” Fasheun-Souza said.

The Group Managing Director of Masters Realities International Concepts, Lai Omotola said his company was not at fault.

Omotola said the local government authority did not make money available for periodic maintenance of the temporary site of Alade market, adding, “Out of N71 million owed us between 2017 to date, our company has only received N9 million”.

He said his company has moved to site and that “once we complete the market, they will move back to the new market if they are able to pay for the new shops.”

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2.499 Traders seek Sanwo-Olu’s intervention on rebuilding market

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2.500 UN Writes Governor Sanwo-Olu On Dire Water Situation On Lagos

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on July 8, 2020

The United Nations has expressed grave concern about the Lagos government’s renewed plans to privatise important parts of its water system despite widespread public opposition.

In a letter sent to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on January 15, 2020 which only came to light last week, the UN cautioned against the privatization plans which it said would have negative impacts on the human rights of lower income Lagosians.

The letter, which the Lagos government is yet to acknowledge was signed by the trio of Philip Alston – Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (whose tenure just ended); Leilani Farha – Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, and Leo Heller – Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

They listed privatisation of water services and lack of transparency and public participation among the key factors that make water unavailable for the largest segment of Lagos population.

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“As Lagos continues to grow, residents’ access to water and sanitation is worsening. Current estimates suggest that only 10% of the population has access to water supplied by the Lagos Water Corporation (LWC)..Rather than seek to implement a combination of improved policies that would ensure adequate access to water for all, the State Government has focused only on the possibilities flowing from privatization, through public private partnerships”, the letter read.

It added: “Despite the urging of many civil society groups, the Government has failed to ensure their right to participate in the relevant decision-making process concerning water supply”

The UN special rapporteurs listed several efforts they made to seek information about the plans of the Lagos government which were not acknowledged, including the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe water’s December 22, 2016 expression of fear on the vulnerability which many millions of Lagos people are exposed to due to the water crisis.

They said they are deeply concerned about the impact the planned forms of privatization will have on the enjoyment by all of the human right to water, especially for lower income communities.

They also demanded among others:

- Measures Governor Sanwo-Olu’s government has taken to ensure that the principles of meaningful participation, transparency and access to information are respected in terms of planning for provision of water to all residents of Lagos

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- Undertaking of human rights impact assessment of the LWC's Strategic Business Plan 2019-2024 including impact of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and the human rights to water and sanitation
- Overview of proposed privatization and PPP projects planned for the water sector in Lagos

2.501 Lagos Assembly To Sanwo-Olu: Accredite More Private Hospitals For COVID-19 Treatment

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on July 9, 2020

As the number of people infected with COVID-19 continue to increase in the state, the Lagos State House of Assembly Thursday Culled on the state governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to direct the state Commissioner for Health, Professor Akin Abayomi to accredit more private hospitals to ensure that those infected have access to treatment.

The lawmakers also sought the contribution of traditional medicine practitioners in the research for possible cure of the deadly virus.

In order to achieve this aim, the Governor was also urged to work with the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) on the fight against COVID-19.

This formed part of the resolutions of the Assembly on Motion Number 23, 2020 entitled; "Need To Allow Private Hospitals Participate In The Treatment of COVID-19 Patients," by Hon. Hakeem Sokunle (Oshodi/Isolo 1) during plenary. According to Sokunle, "the House notes the efforts of the Lagos State Government in fighting COVID-19 and the creation of seven isolation.

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COVID-19 keeps spreading based on reports that over 11,000 people have contracted disease.

"If the government involves private doctors and members of the state chapter of NMA, and trains them, it will be easy to handle," he declared.

He averred that the state government should be empowered so that doctors in public hospitals would train doctors that work in private hospitals who would then be certified.

According to him, "After that, we should screen the hospitals and validate their equipment, certify them and accredit the hospitals.

"Such hospitals can now admit COVID-19 patients. The government has approved seven private laboratories so far on COVID-19. Once the laboratories start work, we will have a lot of patients hence the need for more hospitals."

In his comment, Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa said it was important that the NMA join hands with the government to reduce the spread of the disease.

Obasa stated that the doctors that are working with the government should train the doctors in private hospitals adding that, "If we leave it to only doctors in government hospitals, the disease would spread further.

"We need to urge the government to call on the chairmen of local councils to work with CDAs to ensure that people living in crowded houses use face masks as well as those entering buses".

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In his contribution, Hon. Gbolahan Yishawu (Eti Osa 2) said COVID-19 has now become a communal infection.

“People don’t want to go far and some people are avoiding stigma. The Lagos State Governor and the Commissioner are trying, but we need more private hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients,” he said.

2.502 Lawmakers To Sanwo-Olu: Accredite More Private Hospitals For COVID-19 Treatment

Culled from Independent on July 10, 2020 5:04 AM

LAGOS – The Lagos State House of Assembly on Thursday, urged the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu to accredit more private hospitals to treat those infected with coronavirus.

They also appealed to the governor to work with the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) on the fight against COVID-19 pandemic.

These were part of the resolutions reached by the lawmaker after deliberating on the House Motion No 23 entitled “Need To Allow Private Hospitals Participate In The Treatment of COVID-19 Patients”, by Hon. Hakeem Sokunle (Oshodi/ Isolo 1) during plenary.

Sokunle noted in the motion the despite efforts of the state government in fighting the pandemic and the creation of seven isolation centres, the virus keep spreading.

According to the law-maker, “We feel that private hospitals with the necessary facilities should be involved in the treatment.

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“We need to involve private hospitals so that they could support the state government and prevent another lockdown. “If the government involves private doctors and members of the state chapter of NMA, and train them, it will be easy to handle.

“We should screen the hospitals and validate their equipment, certify them and accredit the hospitals. Such hospitals can now admit COVID-19 patients. “The government has approved seven private laboratories so far on COVID-19. Once the laboratories start work, we will have a lot of patients hence the need for more hospitals.

“With this, we will avoid another lockdown to save the economy of the state. It will also encourage private practitioners to join us on the care of COVID-19,” he said.

In his comment, Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa said that it was important that the NMA joins hands with the government to reduce the spread of the disease.

2.503 MSSN Cautions Sanwo-Olu Against Reopening Of Schools

Culled from Independent on July 10, 2020 4:06 AM

The Muslim Students’ Society of Nigeria in Lagos State has cautioned against “hasty” reopening of schools in Lagos State.

The Amir (president) of the MSSN in Lagos State, Dr Saheed Ashafa, made this known in a press statement on Thursday.

He said this while reacting to the Federal Government’s decision not to allow students to sit for the West African Senior

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School Certificate Examinations (WAS-SCE) amid rising cases of COVID-19 in the country.

He cautioned that schools should only be reopened when adequate preparations have been made.

According to him, many schools lack adequate facilities that will enable them to comply with the COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

He also queried the motive of reopening schools for graduating students' over "external pressure" from WAEC.

In his comment, the Speaker of the House, Mr Mudashiru Obasa, said there was need to address the issues raised by the highway workers during the protest.

Obasa said the highway workers were employed to clean the roads based on humanitarian gesture of the state government.

The speaker said that the state government had the alternative of using mechanised ways of removing wastes in the state.

"The state can come up with mechanised ways of removing wastes. We also want to reduce crime, which was why we are doing the job manually.

"We should condemn those behind the video because there are many ways of making their grievances known.

"The issue started during the break out of COVID-19 and everybody was affected. Those behind the video should be brought to book. We should condemn those going to the media to embarrass the government.

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"For those who played roles in the delay of the salaries of the sweepers, the committee should see how they could be held responsible," he said.

Contributing, Mr Rotimi Olowo (Shomolu I), said that policing the canals and primary drainages in the state required more attention.

Mr Kehinde Joseph (Alimosho II), in his comment, said the matter should be investigated but government should not stop the salaries of the highway workers in the process.

Also Speaking, Mr Ajani Owolabi (Lagos Mainland I), said that the pandemic slowed down efforts of the state government to deal with some issues. Ajani said that the major challenge with wastes in the state had to do with plastic wastes.

"The roads are usually being flooded. We can monetise the plastic waste, and we can call on the governor to look at this in a way that we can monetise plastic wastes," he said.

Also, Mr Gbolahan Yishawu (Eti Osa II), said the state government should not ignore the viral video where the highway workers were protesting non-payment of their salaries.

Yishawu, however, supported the motion that their salaries should be paid. He said that the highway workers were among the frontline workers that worked during the lockdown, and that the matter should be investigated as suggested in the third leg of the resolution.

The speaker, therefore, passed the motion through voice votes which was supported by all the lawmakers present in the House.

2.504 COVID-19: Every Nigerian Must Take Responsibility, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 11, 2020 Author

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday charged all Nigerians to take responsibility as the nation joins the global community in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking as a Guest Speaker at the virtual edition of the Lagos Leadership Conference, themed: “Leading in Extraordinary Times”, which was broadcast via ‘Plus TV Africa’, the governor said the firm realisation that Lagos is the Nigerian epicentre of the pandemic, and that the whole of country is looking up to the state for leadership and for accomplishment, has been a driving force for his administration’s response to pandemic.

He said: “COVID-19 pandemic is global and all of us have a role to play. Everybody has a role to play. It is only when everybody plays that role that we can put this pandemic behind us very quickly. As a government, we will continue to lead that conversation.

”We should continue to have various levels of engagement and various levels of communication. Everybody must be seen taking responsibility at this stage. We are fully out there and what is just remaining for us is just to keep this momentum and we believe that we will come out of it stronger and better.

”I will ask each and every one of us to take full responsibility, especially for our loved ones and ourselves. When we are going out, let us ensure we continue to obey the protocols. Let us

wear our facemasks. Let us ensure we keep social distancing or physical distancing and continue to listen to our health practitioners and the advice they give us.

”If you have any symptoms, do not wait until when it becomes very severe; get yourself a test, get yourself into one of our isolation centres and we can assure you that, you will be treated well and you will get well at the end of the day,”

Sanwo-Olu also assured Lagos residents that the state government will ensure that all secondary and primary health facilities in the state become a top notch and available for citizens of the state, adding that his administration will ensure that the lessons of COVID-19 are not lost.”

He said: “As a government, we will stop at nothing to ensure that; one, we scale up our infrastructural capability. We are doing that and we will continue to do that, even post-COVID to ensure that all our secondary and primary health facilities become a top notch and available for our citizens to have access.

“We will ensure that the lesson and the learning beyond COVID-19 are not lost on us as a leader and as a government. We will use the experiences and the issues that have come out of it to better prepare and plan for our citizens and be able to carry out people better going forward.”

Highlighting some of the steps taken by his administration to address the pandemic, Governor Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the state government took proactive, agile and informed decision-making, as well as priotising the consistent and

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transparent communication in managing COVID-19 in Lagos State.

His words: “Without our hardworking, talented and committed people, the situation would be a lot worse. And by our People I mean our frontline health workers, support staff, law enforcement agencies, and the civil and public service. At the top of the chain is a ‘War Room’ cabinet – a small team which I lead which liaises with several parts of government. It is able to speedily process information, and make high-quality decisions. Very importantly also, this War Room cabinet is able to review its decision-making and amend it where necessary.

“Let me add that a big part of managing people is motivating them, and I have made this a priority. For example, we increased Hazard Allowance by 400 per cent, and introduced a special COVID-19 allowance, accommodation and welfare for frontline workers.

“As a leader, your organisation is only as successful as the quality of the decisions you are making or approving for it. We realised early the need to ensure that our decision-making was strongly informed by data modelling.

And that is what we have continued doing, as we seek to strike a difficult but necessary balance between protecting lives and sustaining livelihoods; balancing health and economics.

“I have taken it as a personal responsibility to champion the Mask Up Lagos campaign. I have been a very visible adopter of online meetings. We switched to Virtual Cabinet Meetings here in Lagos even before the UK did.

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Even when you watch our regular press briefing, one thing that stands out is the amount of effort that has gone into physical distancing, because optics are very important too. I want people to do not just as I’m saying but also as I’m doing.

”It is very important to empower team members along their lines of expertise and allow them to take ownership of the activities required of them. Humility on the part of a leader is very critical.”

2.505 Revitalizing National Theatre, Step To 21st Century Lagos – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent on July 12, 2020 6:14 PM

Lagos Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu says the revitalisation of the National Arts Theatre, Iganmu, is a step toward making the state a 21st Century economy.

Sanwo-Olu said this on Sunday, during the handover ceremony of the National Arts Theatre, by the Federal Government to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Bankers Committee, for revamping and regeneration.

He said that making Lagos a 21st century economy, was the fourth pillar of his administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda.

According to him, there is no way the state can be a 21st century economy, if the centre piece Culled the National Arts Theatre is not revitalised.

“There is no way we will make a 21st century economy if this entire massive real estate and land, that we have are not turned from a dead asset to a living asset.

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“It fits with our vision, it fits with our plan, it fits with our thinking of our new Lagos,” he said.

Sanwo-Olu said that the journey of regenerating the National Theatre started about 10 months ago and people misconstrued what the objectives and plans were.

He said that the purpose was not to move people out of job, but to create more jobs and boost the economy.

The governor said that the entire creative industry and Lagos State in particular, would benefit from the revamping of the National Theatre. “It is exactly 410 days that we all got sworn-in as governor of Lagos State and so we are counting.

“We have agreed and said that in a maximum of 22 months, we will be bringing the president here, to walk him round the new, reformed, revitalised National Arts Theatre and all of the adjoining buildings, while we are still in government, there is no better joy for me personally than that.

“Lagos is a signature, Lagos is a centre piece. We have had good times in the National Theatre and it is time to revitalise it.

“I think it will be a shame on all of us, if we are not doing what we are doing today. If people can think about 40 to 45 years ago and put this edifice here, the least we can do is what we are doing here today, to turn it around, to make it happen for another 40 years of people that are going to come behind us.

“With the regeneration of the National Theatre and its environs, we are writing our tomorrow today,” he noted.

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Sanwo-Olu lauded the President Muhammadu Buhari for giving a very strong backing to the vision of revitalising the National Theatre and all of the development that would be coming up there in the next couple of years.

He also commended the CBN Governor, Mr Godwin Emefiele and the Chairman of Banks CEOs, Mr Herbert Wigwe, for pushing the initiative of revamping the economy through the National Theatre. (NAN)

2.506 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu Charges Every Nigerian To Take Responsibility

Culled from Independent on July 13, 2020 5:42 AM

LAGOS – As Nigeria joins the global community in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged all Nigerians to take responsibility.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who spoke as a guest speaker at the Virtual edition of the Lagos Leadership Conference, at the weekend themed: “Leading in Extraordinary Times” via Plus TV Africa said the firm realisation that Lagos is the Nigerian epicentre of the pandemic, and that the whole of country is looking up to the State for leadership and for accomplishment, had been a driving force for his administration’s response to pandemic. He said: “COVID-19 pandemic is global and all of us have a role to play.

Everybody has a role to play. It is only when everybody plays that role that we can put this pandemic behind us very quickly. As a government, we will continue to lead that conversation.

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“We should continue to have various levels of engagement and various levels of communication. Everybody must be seen taking responsibility at this stage.

We are fully out there and what is just remaining for us is just to keep this momentum and we believe that we will come out of it stronger and better.

“I will ask each and every one of us to take full responsibility, especially for our loved ones and us. When we are going out, let us ensure we continue to obey the protocols.

Let us wear our facemasks. Let us ensure we keep social distance or physical distancing and continue to listen to our health practitioners and the advice they give us.

2.507 Sanwo-Olu Commissions 36-Chamber Morgue at Yaba Infectious Diseases Hospital

Culled from Independent on July 14, 2020 4:11 PM

...Commends Private Sector Contributions to Healthcare

Lagos – Considering the absolute necessity to treat the departed with care and dignity until the time to commit them to mother earth, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday commissioned a 36-chamber morgue facility in Lagos.

Speaking at the commissioning of the facility on the premises of the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) Yaba, Lagos, and Sanwo-Olu commended the private sector for its immense support and generosity towards the healthcare sector in Lagos State, especially the IHS Towers for the mortuary facility.

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The governor said: “Today, we are gathered for the handover and commissioning of a 36-Chamber Morgue, donated by IHS Towers to the Lagos State government, specifically the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba.

He said that in recent months, the state government has seen first-hand the immense support of the private sector, Saying that “Significant donations of infrastructure, consumables, and so on, to help strengthen the medical system at a time when it is under great strain from the Coronavirus pandemic, the governor added that the pandemic has no doubt brought all hands- on Deck, to support the efforts of governments, and not just in Nigeria, but globally as well.

He said: “Death is not something we pray for, but we also fully accept its inevitability. And we know that when it happens, it is absolutely necessary for the departed to be treated with care and dignity, until it is time to commit them to mother earth. This is why we have morgues, and why we will never shy away from expanding our morgue capacity. Not because death is palatable but because it is inevitable.”

The governor reCulled that in April, the state experienced congestion in mortuary capacity, adding, “The fact that the Covid-19 lockdown coincided with the end of Lent that month deprived many families of the chance to bury their loved ones. And we had to open a special window for funerals to take place, so as to decongest the mortuaries. “We look forward to more partnerships and support in the future.

“On behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, I say a big thank you once again,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.508 Lagos Traders Seeks Sanwo-Olu's Intervention over Abandoned N13bn Alade Market

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 14, 2020 Author

The Alade Marketers Association, through its lawyer, Ms Yetunde Fashesin-Souza lamented that four years after Ikeja Local Government had signed a 30-year concession agreement with the developer in 2016, the company had allegedly failed to rebuild the market and turn it into a mega mall.

Speaking in Lagos yesterday, Fashesin-Souza said that the Local government also had tried in compelling the developer to move to site, but he only made complaints which were not tenable towards executing the contracts signed since 2016. According to her, the market traders, who were the allottees of the project, were moved in 2016 to a temporary site-Odo Iya-Alaro in order to enable the developer complete the redesigning and rebuilding of the old market.

She said: "The fiscal planning department gave the company a temporary permit to put the marketers in the flood plain area (as a temporary site) pending the completion of the project. "But it's already four years down the line and nothing asides fence work has been done on the project.

So, the traders are now pleading with the Governor to intervene and order the developer to commence construction in accordance with the terms of agreement it entered with the owners of the land, Ikeja Local Government in 2016, so that they can move back to the permanent site of the market."

"As a result of the nature of this area, the shops of these traders are often flooded and due to the activities of the river, most part of the land has been washed away, while the concrete and iron bridges built for vehicles and pedestrians, respectively, have collapsed.

"My clients want to move back to the old site of Alade market as stipulated in their agreement. They are not selling here. Business is dull but regrettably there is nothing on ground to show the readiness of the developer to commence reconstruction on the land."

2.509 Lagos: Call off strike, Sanwo-Olu begs doctors

Says May and June COVID-19 allowance settled

Culled from the Sun on 14th July 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has appealed to the striking doctors in the state to call off a 3-day warning strike, assuring them that the major issue that led to the strike had been resolved.

While lamenting that the strike was due to inadequate communication and understanding, the governor said the bone of contention – non-payment of the May and June supplementary COVID-19 allowances – had been settled.

He explained that the cause of the delay in payment was because of the enumeration which his administration had to carry out to ensure that only those eligible receive it.

The governor spoke while fielding questions from journalists at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba, and Lagos, where he

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commemorated the year 2020 Tree Planting Day and commissioned a 36-chamber morgue donated by IHS Towers to the state government.

Sanwo-Olu further lamented that the pandemic coronavirus had drastically altered the way Nigerians live their lives and do business.

‘There is a new normal, and it is now becoming clear that we may never return to the old ways of doing things,’ the governor stated.

‘It is rather unfortunate that my workers whom I love so dearly would take this much unexpected line to appeal their grievances.

‘It is rather unfair and unfortunate that any of us especially those at this time would want to take an opportunistic approach because of the pandemic crisis we are going through. I think it is rather unfortunate and I think it is utterly condemnable.’

While appealing to the striking doctors, Sanwo-Olu said: ‘I think I owe the system as the Chief Incident Commander to express and to say to you: come back to work, I am still your governor, resume back to work and whatever the issues are we will sort it out.’

The COVID-19 additional allowance, which is different from hazard allowance that the government had earlier increased by 400 per cent, is for all health workers.

The governor explained that the coronavirus allowance was for only frontline workers at the isolation centres, ‘but it became

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an all-comers affair which was becoming a drain on the state’s purse, hence the enumeration.

‘The enumeration was to ensure that only those entitled to it, that is those working in Isolation centres and not all medical staff in the state hospitals and health centres, receive the allowance.’

Other issues that led to the strike like taxes, residential quarters for doctors, shortage of doctors, dismissal of health workers, etc, the governor said are being taken care of and that the doctors are aware of it.

2.510 **Doctors’ Strike in Lagos Opportunistic, Says Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on July 15, 2020

Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday said striking doctors in the state resorted to industrial action amid every other option available to them because of the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging the state.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed this while fielding questions from journalists at the Infectious Disease Hospital, Yaba, where he commemorated year 2020

Tree planting day and also commissioned a 36 chamber Morgue donated to the state government by IHS Towers.

The governor who dedicated the exercise with the theme: “Tree for Life”, to all health and emergency workers on the frontline of the state’s response to the Coronavirus pandemic, said the major issue that led to doctor’s strike in the state had been

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resolved saying it is all due to inadequate communication and understanding.

Sanwo-Olu explained that the major issue at stake was the yet to be paid May and June additional COVID-19 allowance which has now been paid, adding that the allowance was his initiative, “because we wanted to show leadership at the outbreak of the pandemic.”

The governor further explained that the cause of the delay in payment was because the government had to do enumeration to ensure that only those that are supposed to receive the allowances got it.

According to him, the COVID-19 additional allowance is different from hazard allowance which the government had earlier increased by 400 per cent for all health workers. He added that the COVID-19 additional allowance was for only frontline workers at the isolation centres.

The governor pointed out that the need for enumeration cropped up when it became an all comers affair which was becoming a drain on the state’s coffers.

“It is rather unfortunate that my workers whom I love so dearly would take this much unexpected line to appeal their grievances. “It is rather unfair and unfortunate that any of us especially them at this time would want to take an opportunistic approach because of the pandemic crisis we are going through, I think it is rather unfortunate and I think it is utterly condemnable,” he said.

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He, however, urged the striking doctors to return to work in the interest of the state. “And I think I owe the system as the chief incident commander, to express and to say to you that come back to work, I am still your governor, resume back to work and whatever the issues are we will sort it out.”

2.511 Sanwo-Olu urges tree planting, commends health workers

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on July 15, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sabwo-Olu, has said restoring environmental bio-diversity through tree planting is a task everyone must undertake.

According to him, the human race has a duty to protect the natural composition of the environment and embrace actions that will discourage degradation of the ecosystem.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday at an event in Lagos to commemorate the 2020 Tree Planting Day.

The governor dedicated the exercise, with the theme, ‘Tree for Life’, to all health and emergency workers on the frontline of the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He drew parallels between the protective role trees play in the environment, and the roles of health workers in protecting people from diseases and pandemics.

Sanwo-Olu said, “COVID-19 cannot become an excuse for taking our attention away from other issues. One of such is the issue of climate change and environmental sustainability.

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“Lagos has seen its own fair share of climate change. As a coastal city, we are at the mercy of rising sea levels. As Africa’s most populated city, we have seen how demographic pressures have stripped the landscape of significant amounts of its forest cover.”

The Commissioner for the Environment, Mr Tunji Bello, said tree planting remained the effective remedial action against erosion, pointing out that the perennial problem of flooding could be solved if residents fully embraced tree planting as a new culture.

2.512 Sanwo-Olu: I’ve Paid All Healthworkers’ Allowances

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 15, 2020 Author

Being the text of Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu’s address on Tuesday explaining issues that led to a three-day strike by the Lagos chapter of Medical Guild

All health workers’ allowances approved, paid We are in Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) in Yaba and you journalists have asked me question around the ongoing warning strike by doctors and health workers.

One of the first things we need to understand is the responsibility of the Government to cater for the welfare of all workers.

I have met with health workers in this Infectious Disease Hospital and I asked about their wellbeing; they are said they were doing fine.

I have the overall responsibility to ensure that all the State’s entire workforce, be it in the public or private sector, are doing

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well. I also have the responsibility to ensure lives of all residents and their property are secured.

This is paramount to us. The media would agree with me that in the last 412 days we have come on board, security and welfare of the people have been part of our guiding principles

And we will keep doing that as we go along. However, disputes are also natural in human relationship.

People might see things differently from the way others do see it. Personally, I am not upset about the warning strike embarked on by the Medical Guild.

The action is not anything to grieve about; it is really all around communication and understanding. You will understand things when you see knowledge, and wisdom will also come in when you seek knowledge.

These are key guiding principles. The issues of disagreement are very simple; it is because of lack of adequate communication. The first thing they said is that, we owe some workers hazard allowances.

For the benefit of the public, our Government is the first, in March, that started paying hazard allowance to our entire health workers, almost 20,000 of them.

We increased the hazard allowance by 400 per cent and this is verifiable. Lagos is the first to do this. All the entire health workers – doctors, nurse, drivers, and hygienists – got a 400 per cent on hazard allowance as enumerated in their payment structure.

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Above that, we realised we needed to give additional incentive to frontline workers specifically engaged in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic. This is Culled COVID-19 allowance, which is outside their regular salaries and hazard allowances.

The COVID-19 allowance is for over 1,000 medical officers and other auxiliary workers in all of our isolation centres.

On this additional allowance, I do not need to consult with anybody. It is something I felt it was needed. Lagos is the first in the country to create this additional allowance and we are doing it not because we wanted to show off.

We realised Lagos is the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic and I think we should show leadership and commitment to all our frontline staff. So, we created that allowance and paid it.

So, as we go along, we needed to review our strategy, because our strategy at that time when we created the COVID-19 allowance was to contain the pandemic before it would get to the communities. So, we paid the allowance, which, in my view and everyone's view, was roof-top. We actually paid people allowances that were like twice of their monthly salaries.

We had thought COVID-19 is a pandemic we would resolve within one or two months. So, we created the allowance as motivation for everyone on the frontline.

However, all of us have seen that this pandemic has grown from being a street run to a marathon. So, we needed to have a change in strategy. Part of the strategies is to keep all allowances to what we will feel comfortable to pay.

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Just last month, we paid allowances. However, we feel we need to do proper enumeration on the COVID-19 allowance.

We needed to ensure that people that will get the COVID-19 allowance are people that have worked during the period of COVID-19 and those that have worked in one or all of our isolation centres. So, we had a two-month delay, meaning that we have paid two months, but we have not paid May and June.

The only reason for this is that, we want to be sure the right people get paid this COVID-19 allowance. As I speak, most have them have gotten the allowance for two months arrears.

The amount the Government pays as COVID-19 allowance is at my discretion and it is even still more than what the Federal Government pays. But this is not a competition.

Disagreement on tax issues the other concern of the health workers is taxes. Tax is a component of the law of the federation. However, I have been hearing about excess tax since I was Commissioner for Establishment.

Medical workers have been complaining that they are taxed more than necessary.

At that time, the Lagos Inland Revenue Service (LIRS) chairman solved those problems. The salaries of medical workers have since been improved since that time. Maybe the issue now is that, they still feel their salary is small.

Taxation and salary deduction is a function of the law and there are things that are allowable and things not allowable. Even at that, we said let's further look at the salary and asked about the amount of tax can the Government place on the salary of a medical officer.

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At best, maybe it is N5, 000, N7,000 or N8,000 they are talking about. But we agreed that we will meet with the chairman of LIRS and sit with him to look at what we can do. I cannot take unilateral decision on tax. It is the Federal Government's law.

The review cannot be at the whims and caprices of me or anybody; any action to be taken on that must follow the law.

And the independent body Culled LIRS has the responsibility to look at the issue and give us what is applicable and what is not applicable.

Doctors' Residential Quarters With all the best intention, we have two developers we have commissioned to build accommodation for health workers. Even if we start today, the minimum period we can deliver such project is 24 months.

To build an accommodation is not something you can just tell me do within a short period. In this premises we are now (IDH), there is a plan to develop Doctors' Quarters.

There is an international company that has said they want to work with us to build a hospital. I told them what we urgently need is Doctors' Accommodation. As I speak to you, the design of the project is coming up. Same thing is happening in Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH); we have a private sector firm we are already talking to.

We have agreed to build Doctors' Quarters for the health workers, but it is not something that will happen in a day. Space has to be aligned, designs have to be done and funds have to be

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2.513 Lagos Begins Recruitment of 760 Health Workers Including 400 Doctors

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 16, 2020 Author

Appolonia Adeyemi

As part of strategies to address the shortage of health workers in the state, the Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu said he has given approval for the Health Service Commission to employ over 760 health workers of which at least 400 will be doctors.

Sanwo-Olu made this plan known when he intervened in the three-day warning strike, which was declared by Lagos doctors under the auspices of Medical Guild.

The Medical Guild is the association of medical doctors under Lagos State employment and an affiliate of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA). The governor revealed that the employment process that would pave the way for new doctors to come into the state health system, was ongoing and that the first batch of recruitment would be concluded soon. According to him, the state government has had to adjust the recruitment procedure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be reCulled that the Medical Guild in the past years, has been at loggerheads with successive governments in the state over acute shortage of doctors and the non-replacement of exiting doctors.

Medical Guild claimed that the shortage has overstretched doctors in service resulting in over work, stress and other health challenges.

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Daily, doctors resign from Lagos facilities to take appointment in federal health facilities, which pay higher remunerations or travel out to advance economy countries for better wages.

Sanwo-Olu said: “We have given approval for recruitment of 760 health workers of which 400 are doctors alone. Even the capacity to identify the 400 doctors is also a challenge and that process has started.

“It is only the health workers and teachers that have that standing rule to replace upon retirement. I have given approval and the process has started with the Health Service Commission.”

2.514 Sanwo-Olu seeks support for technical education

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on July 16, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advocated an enabling environment for technical and vocational education.

Sanwo-Olu said this at a virtual event organised by the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board to commemorate the World Youth Skills Day on Wednesday.

He said, “We need to create an enabling environment for technical and vocational education for those kids to be able to do well and excel. There is a need to sit down and have a plan that will change the narrative as regards technical education.

“There is always this stigmatisation around technical education where people think that students who go to technical schools are inferior or not as brilliant as those who go to conventional schools. As it is now, we have seen now that there is no blue-

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collar job again, everything now revolves around what you can do with your hands that can create jobs for you.”

The governor added that the state would harness available resources to engage the youths and work towards reducing poverty by 2030.

Corroborating the governor, the Executive Secretary of the Lagos State Technical and Vocational Education Board, Ms. Moronke Azeez, Culled on stakeholders in the education sector to try their best to stop the negative perception of technical and vocational education.

“The negative perception of technical and vocational education must end; it is not a social service. Technical education is one of the paths to achieving learning. It is a path that will enable young people to fulfil their heart desires and dreams. We are targeting over 8,000 students over the next three years to come into our technical colleges to be skilled and be able to be placed for decent jobs,” Azeez said.

2.515 Community begs Sanwo-Olu for school

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 17, 2020in News

The Akeran of Onimoba of Moba in Ojo Local Government of Lagos State, Prince Aliu Adisa Rasak, has implored Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to establish a secondary school in the riverine community.

He spoke during the foundation- Laying of the first secondary school in his domain. The monarch said the community deserved a secondary school, adding that the children were

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being denied their right to education because there was no school in the area.

Rasak appealed to the government to help complete the school project and build more to make it easy for the children to acquire education. He said: “Children in my community go to neighbouring communities for their secondary education because we don’t have one here.

This affects the concentration of our children as they risk their lives while crossing a river everyday to the neighbouring communities to attend school,” he said. “I call on the government to assist us. I appeal to Governor Sanwo-Olu to help us build a secondary school in this community. We are begging the government to help us build this school we have started.

“The dream of the first secondary school is still far from being realised. This May be the situation for a long time if there is no intervention from the government and well-meaning people.”

2.516 Sanwo-Olu Gets 21-Day Ultimatum to Pay Pensioners or Face Protest

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 17, 2020 Author

Retirees across the South-West states yesterday berated Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of refusing to pay gratuities and pension. The retirees under the aegis of Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), who gathered in Akure, the Ondo State capital, during their Council meeting, which was attended by zonal officers, state chairmen and state secretaries, issued a 21-day ultimatum to Sanwo-Olu or face mass protests of members.

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The Zonal Public Relations Officer of NUP, Chief Olusegun Abatan, told journalists after the meeting that Sanwo-Olu had remained the most unfriendly government to pensioners in the South-West, hence the decision to protest against him. The retirees also accused Ekiti, Osun and Ogun state governments of not prioritising their welfare. They advised the governors to be compassionate as old age hazards and health challenges were bitter experiences among pensioners.

They, however, commended Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu of Info State for approving 33 per cent pension increase recently. The retirees also pleaded with Akeredolu to devise means of offsetting accumulated gratuities of pensioners in Ondo State. The NUP zonal officers, who described Akeredolu and his Oyo State-counterpart, Seyi Makinde, as pensioners’ friendly governors, commended them for timely payment of their monthly pension since they assumed office.

They, however, urged Akeredolu and Makinde to be more proactive in settling accumulated gratuities. The pensioners also Culled on the Federal Government to issue a circular on the implementation of pension increment in line with the 2018 minimum wage for workers. Abatan said with the minimum pension increase, some pensioners still received N330 as monthly take home.

He said: “It is unfair and criminal. Government should release a circular on pension increment as soon as possible. “We want to show our displeasure to governors in the South-West that fail to pay gra-tuities and pensions. Mentions should be made of Lagos State government, Ekiti State and Osun State. Lagos

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in particular is the only state that has not addressed the issue of 142 pension increment since 2000, six per cent and 15 per cent since 2003 and 2007. The issue of 33 per cent pension increase since 2010.

Presentation of our union in Lagos has become futile and unproductive.

“We are going to send letters to Governor Sanwo-Olu to please address these issues or the whole South-West pensioners will bombard Lagos in a very serious protest. The South-West caucus has decided that all pensioners in the South- West will go to Lagos because an injury to one is an injury to all.

“We want Akeredolu to address the discrepancies between state pensioners and local government pensioners. “Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, has been paying pensioners in the state as at when due. He has been celebrating his birthday with pensioners by paying pension on every 25th of every month. He has not reneged on that. He has been paying gratuity of retired primary school teachers and local government pensioners that were stopped for over eight years before he became governor.

He has also increased the gratuities of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Oyo State.” On the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, the pensioners cautioned government not to contemplate another lockdown for the country as many people were now dying of hunger since the outbreak of the disease.

As regards the controversy surrounding the resumption of some students amidst the pandemic, the NUP zonal officers advised

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government to put in place preventive measures that would allow Primary 6, JSS 3 and SSS 3 students to sit for their exams, including WASCE.

2.517 Sanwo-Olu Gets 21-Day Ultimatum To Pay Pensioners Or Face Protest

*Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 17, 2020*Author

Retirees across the South-West states yesterday berated Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of refusing to pay gratuities and pension. The retirees under the aegis of Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), who gathered in Akure, the Ondo State capital, during their Council meeting, which was attended by zonal officers, state chairmen and state secretaries, issued a 21-day ultimatum to Sanwo-Olu or face mass protests of members.

The Zonal Public Relations Officer of NUP, Chief Olusegun Abatan, told journalists after the meeting that Sanwo-Olu had remained the most unfriendly government to pensioners in the South-West, hence the decision to protest against him. The retirees also accused Ekiti, Osun and Ogun state governments of not prioritising their welfare. They advised the governors to be compassionate as old age hazards and health challenges were bitter experiences among pensioners.

They, however, commended Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu of Info State for approving 33 per cent pension increase recently. The retirees also pleaded with Akeredolu to devise means of offsetting accumulated gratuities of pensioners in Ondo State. The NUP zonal officers, who described Akeredolu and his Oyo State-counterpart, Seyi Makinde, as pensioners’ friendly

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governors, commended them for timely payment of their monthly pension since they assumed office.

They, however, urged Akeredolu and Makinde to be more proactive in settling accumulated gratuities. The pensioners also Culled on the Federal Government to issue a circular on the implementation of pension increment in line with the 2018 minimum wage for workers. Abatan said with the minimum pension increase, some pensioners still received N330 as monthly take home.

He said: “It is unfair and criminal. Government should release a circular on pension increment as soon as possible. “We want to show our displeasure to governors in the South-West that fail to pay gra-tuities and pensions.

Mentions should be made of Lagos State government, Ekiti State and Osun State. Lagos in particular is the only state that has not addressed the issue of 142 pension increment since 2000, six per cent and 15 per cent since 2003 and 2007. The issue of 33 per cent pension increase since 2010. Presentation of our union in Lagos has become futile and unproductive.

“We are going to send letters to Governor Sanwo-Olu to please address these issues or the whole South-West pensioners will bombard Lagos in a very serious protest. The South-West caucus has decided that all pensioners in the South- West will go to Lagos because an injury to one is an injury to all.

“We want Akeredolu to address the discrepancies between state pensioners and local government pensioners. “Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, has been paying pensioners in

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the state as at when due. He has been celebrating his birthday with pensioners by paying pension on every 25th of every month. He has not reneged on that. He has been paying gratuity of retired primary school teachers and local government pensioners that were stopped for over eight years before he became governor.

He has also increased the gratuities of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in Oyo State.” On the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, the pensioners cautioned government not to contemplate another lockdown for the country as many people were now dying of hunger since the outbreak of the disease.

As regards the controversy surrounding the resumption of some students amidst the pandemic, the NUP zonal officers advised government to put in place preventive measures that would allow Primary 6, JSS 3 and SSS 3 students to sit for their exams, including WASCE.

2.518 Sanwo-Olu to empower one million youths with digital skills by 2023

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 19, 2020in Business, News Update

The Lagos State Government led by Governor Babajide SanwoOlu, through the office of the Special Adviser on Education, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab, has kicked off ‘Jobs Initiative Lagos’ – an initiative targeted at young people in eight Lagos-based tertiary institutions.

The initiative aims at providing complementary training of students in their ultimate and penultimate year in

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entrepreneurship, employability and basic digital skills required for the workplace.

The essence of the programme is to account for the documented gaps in current curriculum that bedevils the employment market and to increase labour employability of graduates in Nigeria's Centre of Excellence.

Candidates who complete the programme will get an opportunity to be featured on a jobs portal from where partner corporate organisations can select fresh graduates for recruitment.

This initiative will run alongside a more robust digital skills campaign 'Digital Skills Initiative Lagos' (www.dsilagos.ng) aimed at empowering over one million young people in the state by 2023 with digital skills, which will invariably position Lagos as the Tech Hub of Africa.

Students in secondary schools in Lagos would have access to well-trained instructors while those out of school would access digital skills training and various internship opportunities as they complete the programmes.

The projects are being coordinated by LoftyInc Allied Partners Limited – an innovation development company that develops start-up teams, manages innovation programmes, and facilitates impact projects in West Africa.

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2.519 Sanwo-Olu Pays N8.7bn To 2,309 Retirees In Six Months

Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 20, 2020 Author

...to pay N1.1bn to 260 pensioners this month

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has paid N8.77 billion to 2,309 retirees in the state public service from January to June 2020, the state Commissioner for Establishments, Training and Pensions, Mrs. Jibola Ponnle, has said.

The commissioner described as baseless allegations by the South- West chapter of the Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) that Lagos State Government was yet to settle all its outstanding entitlements of pensioners in the state, saying retirees in the state were well pleased with the governor for being passionate about their welfare.

According to her, since the inauguration of this present administration, the government, through the Lagos State Pension Commission (LASPEC), paid accrued pension rights of 3,211 retirees the sum of N13.51 billion between May to December 2019. She put the total payment made so far by the Sanwo-Olu administration to 4,877 retirees at N18.89 billion.

The commissioner, who also hinted that Sanwo- Olu would pay accrued pension rights of N1.1 billion to 260 retirees' RSAs through their respective Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs), added that the payment of pension obligations of self-funding agencies in the state was underway to ensure retirees are duly compensated for their services to the government.

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She said: “To set the record straight, these allegations are false, defamatory, unfounded and malicious against the most gracious and generous governor in the whole of the South-West.

His passion for retirees and pensioners is unprecedented since his assumption in office. “For the records, the truth is as follows, from May 2019 to April 2019, the sum of N1.88 billion was paid to pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme, otherwise known as the Pay As You Go.

“One per cent of all pensioners’ benefits are deducted monthly by the NUP. All pensioners under the Defined Benefit Scheme have been paid their monthly pensions till June 2020.

“Under the Contributory Pension Scheme, the Lagos State Government till date has paid over N8.7 billion accrued pension rights to 2,309 retirees between January 2020 and today.” Ponnle added that for clarity sake, over N978 million was recently credited into the Retirement Savings Account of 405 retirees in June 2020 by the state government.

“In addition, all retirement bond certificates for June 2020 have been released to PFAs for onward transmission to beneficiaries. “Also, the governor, in his humane and selfless service, approved last year’s Annual Pensioners’ Day Celebration. This is an annual event to celebrate all pensioners in the state.

It was also a loaded innovation as the pensioners were engaged in various games for male and female,” she said. To further demonstrate his generosity, Ponnle added that Governor

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Sanwo- Olu also distributed stimulus packages to retirees to cushion hardship occasioned by the COVID-19.

The distribution, she said, was done in an effective and efficient manner throughout the five divisions of the state. “The governor, in his wisdom, recently launched the Y2020 online biometric verification exercise for pensioners.

The modalities for the online verification involves the use of Zoom app, Skype & WhatsApp video by pensioners to have access to officials of Civil Service Pensions Office in a bid to have their documents verified and to show that they are alive.

“This initiative is a departure from the usual verification exercise, whereby pensioners are expected to be physically present.”

2.520 Sanwo-Olu Inaugurates Security, Employment Trust Fund Boards, Assures Lagosians Of Safety, Job Opportunities

Culled from Independent on July 21, 2020 5:27 PM

LAGOS- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has inaugurated members of the state Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) and members of the state Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) to ensure security and employment for the residents.

Speaking during the inauguration of the boards at the State House, Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, Sanwo-Olu assured residents of the state of safety of their lives and property and promised that his government would create more job opportunities, as well as assist the small and medium business owners financially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Governor Sanwo-Olu said the inauguration of the two boards was part of his administration's T.H.E.M.ES agenda. He said: "LSSTF and LSETF were created to address security and employment issues in the state.

"These boards are to help facilitate the programmes of government and help government to be closer to the people. Lagos is safe because of the capacity of our security operatives." Governor Sanwo-Olu said that the LSETF board is needed at this difficult time when the Covid-19 pandemic has ravaged many businesses.

"LSETF is needed at this point of COVID-19. We have increased the budget for it."

"Our small businesses need us now so they can sustain their livelihood for their families. We are ready to open further businesses," the governor said.

Some members of the new LSSTF Board of Trustees include Kehinde Durosinmi-Etti, who is the chairman, Managing Director, Guaranty Trust Bank, Segun Agbaje, Managing Director, Zenith Bank, Ebenezer Onyeaboh, Group Managing Director, First Bank, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, Chief of Staff to the governor, Tayo Ayinde, Former GMD, Diamond Bank, Emeka Onwuka, among others.

The LSETF Board of Trustees is chaired by Bola Adesola. Other members include the state Commissioner of Finance, Rabiun Olowo and Commissioner, Wealth Creation, Yetunde Arobieke, among others.

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2.521 Informal Sector Workers Appeal To Sanwo-Olu Over Demolition Of Mechanic Villages

Culled from

LAGOS – Informal sector workers, under the auspices of the Nigerian Automobile Technicians Association (NATA) and the Federation of Informal Workers' Organisation of Nigeria (FI-WON), have Culled on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State to urgently intervene in the on-going demolition of mechanic villages in the state by officials of his government.

The workers, numbering over 2,000, who with their leaders, addressed a press conference in Lagos at the weekend, also urged the governor to arrest what they termed the on-going trampling of their constitutional rights to legitimate pursuit of their livelihood as citizens of the state.

Asiwaju Jacob Fayeun, NATA state chairman, and Comrade Gbenga Ko-molafe, FIWON General Secretary, in their separate addresses to newsmen, maintained that the demolition of the various mechanic villages in the state had thrown thousands of mechanics out of job.

They also revealed that following the demolition, some of the affected mechanics had died, several of them injured and hospitalised, while some had suffered stroke, while life had become unbearable for them and their dependants.

Fayeun stated that the government's action, championed by the Ministry of Transport, had also rubbished several international conventions on the need for informal sector

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workers to access public spaces to do their work and offer needed services to members of the public.

He said: “We appeal that our members be allowed back to their work places with all the seized vehicles and work tools returned to them immediately in the interest of justice and good order in Lagos State, failing which we will continue to use all legitimate avenues to press for justice to be done.”

The union leaders disclosed that the workers had written several petitions and letters to the relevant state authorities, including the governor and the State House of Assembly over the issue, while they had carried out protests to both the Governor’s Office and the legislature to no avail.

The unionists, who displayed several documents and correspondents, accused corrupt officials of the Ministry of Transport, and greedy land speculators, who they accused of conniving to deprive them of the mechanic villages, which were legally and officially allocated to them since the Lateef Jakande administration.

Fayeun stressed that his members had been loyal to Lagos State government right from the days of Alliance for Democracy (AD) to the current dispensation under the All Progressives Congress (APC), adding that they had continued to vote for the party during every election, even when they got nothing in return.

The unionist wondered why the government would turn around to pay them with eviction and demolition of their structures in the mechanic villages, rather than compensating them for their

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loyalty and in the process, rendering them jobless at this critical time in the life of the nation.

Fayeun urged the government to reverse the eviction of the mechanics and demolition of the mechanic villages, or provide the workers with alternative places to carry out their trades.

Lagos – Considering the absolute necessity to treat the departed with care and dignity until the time to commit them to mother earth, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday commissioned a 36-chamber morgue facility in Lagos.

Speaking at the commissioning of the facility on the premises of the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) Yaba, Lagos, Sanwo-Olu commended the private sector for its immense support and generosity towards the healthcare sector in Lagos State, especially the IHS Towers for the mortuary facility.

The governor said: “Today, we are gathered for the handover and commissioning of a 36-Chamber Morgue, donated by IHS Towers to the Lagos State government, specifically the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba.

He said that in recent months, the state government has seen first-hand the immense support of the private sector,

Saying that “Significant donations of infrastructure, consumables, and so on, to help strengthen the medical system at a time when it is under great strain from the Coronavirus pandemic, the governor added that the pandemic has no doubt brought all hands-on Deck, to support the efforts of governments, and not just in Nigeria, but globally as well.

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He said: “Death is not something we pray for, but we also fully accept its inevitability. And we know that when it happens, it is absolutely necessary for the departed to be treated with care and dignity, until it is time to commit them to mother earth. This is why we have morgues, and why we will never shy away from expanding our morgue capacity. Not because death is palatable but because it is inevitable.”

The governor recalled that in April, the state experienced a congestion in mortuary capacity, adding, “The fact that the Covid-19 lockdown coincided with the end of Lent that month deprived many families of the chance to bury their loved ones. And we had to open a special window for funerals to take place, so as to decongest the mortuaries.

“We look forward to more partnerships and support in the future.

“On behalf of the government and people of Lagos State, I say a big thank you once again,” Sanwo-Olu said.

2.522 Sanwo-Olu urges better youth participation in trust funds

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on July 21, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called for better youth participation in the Lagos State Security Trust Fund and the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund.

Sanwo-Olu urged the boards of the two agencies to prioritise the youth in the implementation of their programmes.

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He spoke on Tuesday during the inauguration of the LSSTF and LSETF board members at a brief ceremony at the State House, Alausa, Ikeja.

The governor promised to support the new boards to efficiently steer the affairs of the agencies.

Since the creation of the two agencies, Sanwo-Olu observed, Lagos had improved business activities due to the upgrade in the operational capacities of security agencies.

He disclosed that the State Executive Council had scaled up the allocation to the LSETF in the revised 2020 budget to make more funds available to the micro, small and medium enterprises, with the objective to support young people finance their entrepreneurial skills and create jobs.

“Our young people should be a priority in the design and implementation of the initiatives of both LSSTF and LSETF. The success in delivering on the mandates setting up these bodies will be determined, in large part, by how well we are able to take the attitudes and mindsets of the youth into consideration,” Sanwo-Olu added.

2.523 Lagos Employment, Security Funds Have Become National Models, Says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on July 21, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the security and youth entrepreneurship scheme adjudged to be the twin flagship programmes at the centre of the development agenda of his administration have become national models.

Oluchi, who was devastated as she narrated how her husband was murdered in front of the police, said it looked fishy that it could happen in the presence of the police that he was assisting in crime fighting: “Three years ago, my husband was approached by divisional police officers in Agege area to assist

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in crime fighting as crime rate was becoming too astronomical. My husband and I were running a home at 50, Capitol Road, Agege, for less-privileged children and a school, so he was popular in the area.

“My husband agreed to help the police to sanitize Agege and formed CPS. He assisted the police and the community in reducing crime rate for three years. People would call him at night and he would assist. So, he had many enemies from the underworld but the people and the police loved him.

“During the lockdown, there was restriction of movement. The police needed him to assist on night patrol and they left with two patrol vans conveying the police and other paramilitary agents and some motorcycles, but he was on a bike. When they arrived Akerere area of Agege, where drugs are sold, the people violated the lockdown order, as they were partying, and the police shot in the air to disperse the party makers.

The party makers ran for cover, but two men approached my husband and said that someone must die and one of them stabbed him in his chest, left side, near the nipple. He used his hand to block the wound and he was rushed to the hospital by the police, but he couldn't make it as he was confirmed dead by the doctor on duty.

“He was buried because his mother is still alive. I want the governor and the state commissioner of police, Mr. Hakeem Odumosu, to wade into the matter to see that my husband's killers are fished out. I know that someone sent the killers to assassinate him, because they knew he was the person who gave the police directions to come to the area that is notorious for crime.

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“I am also calling on the government to come to the rescue of over 30 underprivileged children that he was taking care of. I am doing my best, but what can a poor widow do? Our home, though not registered, is Reach Touch International, but I am changing the name to Emmanuel Olufemi-Peters Foundation. We also have a school, Vikella Nursery and Primary School. He was a philanthropist that was catering for the children's school fees and feeding and other things. I am calling on the government to come to the rescue of the innocent kids.”

More importantly, the widow who spoke with Daily Sun at her residence, 50 , Capitol Road ,Agege, demanded justice against her husband's murderers. She said: “I am making a passionate appeal to the Government to arrest my husband killers so he would not die in vain. His death will trigger crime again and his enemies will be happy because he was a thorn the flesh of criminals and evil people in Agege. I don't want him to die in vain. Let his killers be brought to book so that his spirit will rest in peace.”

She added that the late Peter had a dream to give children quality education: “We have two biological children, but there are many other children that we are taking care of. He wanted to reach out to many families.

We don't adopt children, we only assist the kids. Some of their parents are alive, they visit their children and the children go on holiday. We are just assisting some less-privileged ones, including orphans. His motto was, If you light a candle, that one will light another one and that one will light anther, and the world would be filled with light.”

2.525 Sanwo-Olu inaugurates agencies' BoT

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 22, 2020 in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has described the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) and Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) as critical sectors in the realisation of the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda.

He spoke on Tuesday while delivering his keynote address at the inauguration of the newly constituted Board of Trustees (BoT) of the two agencies at Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja.

He said the agencies played important roles in ensuring safety and security as well as providing employment opportunities for Lagosians.

The chairmen and members of the board of the two agencies are: LSSTF- Mr. Kehind Durosimi-Etti, chairman; members are Mr. Ayo Ogunsan, Taylor Bamgbose-Martins, an engineer; Mr. Tayo Ayinde, DIG Oshodi-Glover (rtd), Mr. Segun Agbaje, Dr. Abdurrazaq Balogun (executive secretary), Ebenezer Onyeagwu, Emeka Onwuka and Mr. Niyi Adewunmi.

For LSETF: Mrs. Bola Adesola, chairman, members: Teju Abisoye (executive secretary), Mr. Idris Olorunimbe, Ms. Kofo Durosini-Etti, Mr. Segun Ojelade, Ms. Tatiana Moussalli Nouri, Yetunde Arobieke, Rabiul Olowo and Bolade Daranijo.

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly have described the late lawmaker representing Kosofe Constituency 2, Mr. Tunde Braimoh, as a rare legislator, whose death was a great loss to all.

They held a valedictory session for the lawmaker on Tuesday.

Speaker Mudashiru Obasa said: "I have lost one of the most resourceful members that I depended on for advice, who was always willing to offer his advice at every given opportunity. He never disappointed me. He never had no for an answer and he had a ready answer to any question."

Lagos State Government, through the Lagos State Safety Commission (LSSC), has sealed off over 10 social and religious centres due to non-compliance with the government directive on social distancing and ban on social and religious gathering.

The enforcement team, led by the Director General, LSSC, Mr. Lanre Mojola, said the commission, during an enforcement, shut The Harvest Lagos, Bay Lounge, The Heavens Suites, Angle Villa Bar, Ehi Guest House and Gardens, Egbeda, Mountain Top Hotels and Suites, Ojodu.

The Technical Adviser to the commission, Mr. Seun Awojobi, alleged that while carrying out the enforcement, the team was attacked at a hotel in Ipaja, Lagos. The hotel had over 100 people clubbing, flouting the government directive and contravening the Infectious Disease Law.

Mojola appealed to Lagosians to take responsibility and cooperate with the government to curb the spread of COVID-19.

He enjoined the public to register their businesses in line with the register to open initiative of the government on www.lasgsafetyreg.com to ensure space management when such businesses would be allowed to open.

2.526 Pains of 3rd Mainland Bridge's closure'll be minimal, Sanwo-Olu assures Lagosians

Culled from the Sun on 24th July 2020, National

Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has appealed to residents to exercise patience and bear the discomfort that will be experienced from the six-month partial closure of the Third Mainland Bridge, which starts tonight.

He said the closure of the 11.8km bridge, the busiest in the State, was inevitable, following physical deterioration observed on the structure after an integrity test conducted by the Federal Government.

The closure of the bridge, Sanwo-Olu said, will bring about pain, but the governor said the development was necessary to prevent disaster that may result from the total collapse of the infrastructure. He promised that men of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) would constantly be on the road with their Federal counterparts to ensure seamless movement of vehicles during the period.

Sanwo-Olu spoke, yesterday, while receiving the new Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Lagos, Commodore Olusegun Ogungbemide, in a courtesy visit at the State House in Marina.

The FRSC chief was accompanied on the visit by the Lagos Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Mr. Adeyinka Ayinla.

Sanwo-Olu said government had carried out improvement work on alternative routes mapped out for diversions, while observing that vehicular movements on the Third Mainland Bridge would be disrupted by 25 per cent of its regular traffic.

2.527 Sanwo-Olu urges motorists to be patient as work begins on 3rd Mainland Bridge

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 26, 2020in News, News Update

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Saturday appealed to motorists plying the 3rd Mainland bridge to exercise patience with the partial closure of the bridge as work commenced on Saturday.

The governor made the appeal while addressing press men when he stopped over at the Adeniji Adele axis of the bridge while on inspection tour of the on-going work just about 12 hours after closure and other construction sites.

Work has commenced in earnest as contractors have moved to site and signages on traffic diversion made very conspicuous for motorists and pedestrians.

Sanwo-Olu who said he was there to see how traffic was being managed for the partial closure said all hands were on deck.

“As you can see men are on ground, all of the reflectors and equipment are on ground, I am here to supervise myself and you can see that it is not as bad.

“The part that has been shut down is less than six kilometres, so people coming from Oworonsoki can still have access on to

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Adekunle and they can detour right back in the right hand side like going back to Ikorodu,” Sanwo-Olu said.

He re-emphasised that men are on ground to help out, “it’s just that 10-20minutes that you need before you can come back to your lane and once this is done in no time all of us will get used to it and it would be seamless.

“What motorists need then is patience and in three months time we will move to the other side, so there is absolutely no need to panic.

He also assured that work was in progress on the alternative routes, adding that the government was fixing so many things at the same time and together.

“We need to fix Costain bridge, Alaka end of Eko bridge, Iganmu bridge and others that are reconstructed and remodelled

The governor also visited and handed over the newly reconstructed Allen Avenue roundabout with all the road infrastructure installed, calling on the residents to take ownership of the infrastructure.

Sanwo-Olu also visited the Agege Pen Cinema flyover that is still under construction saying the contractor has assured that the bridge will be delivered by September or October.

He said the contractor could not meet up with the earlier July date because of the covid-19 pandemic that stalled the work for some months.

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Sanwo-Olu also visited construction sites in other parts of the state like Surulere.

He disclosed the government will roll out 600 new set of high and medium capacity buses in August to increase the capacity of buses on Awolowo road, Agege road, Ikorodu road, Abule Egba and other parts of the state.

He was accompanied on the tour by some exco members and the chairman of the Presidential Task Team on Apapa, Kayode Opeifa.

2.528 Sanwo-Olu Assures Residents Of Improved Traffic On Allen Avenue, Others

*Culled from Newtelegraph Newspaper on July 27, 2020*Author

...says 16 highways undergoing redesign

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has expressed optimism that gridlock will improve in some areas of the state as ‘junction improvement projects’ neared completion.

The governor spoke yesterday as he inspected Allen Junction hitherto known as Allen Roundabout on Obafemi Awolowo Way in Ikeja to monitor flow of vehicular traffic at the newly redesigned junction. Allen Junction remained one of the vulnerable spots across the metropolis notorious for gridlock due to the roundabout identified as an impediment to free flow of traffic. Sanwo-Olu, who spent ample time at the popular junction, expressed satisfaction with the new layout of the ever-busy

junction, following the removal of a broad roundabout to create seamless flow of traffic.

New Telegraph gathered that in line with his administration's traffic management agenda, Sanwo-Olu awarded contracts for the redesigning and construction of the identified traffic-prone spots across the state, including sixteen highways already undergoing re-construction and junction improvements. Three of the six junctions captured in the first phase of road improvement programme had been completed.

They are Allen Junction, Ikotun Roundabout, and Maryland Junction. Work is almost completed on three roundabouts in Lekki and Ajah of Eti-Osa area of the state. However, Sanwo-Olu said the state government had considered the road improvement programme as one that would relieve commuters of burden of heavy traffic, stressing that the aim was to reduce journey time and increase productivity.

He said: "I am particularly excited that the famous Allen Roundabout is a lot more befitting now, with the new design and road furniture we have put in place. This project is now completed and there is no need for a formal handover because the junction is ever busy. What is now required of those plying the road is maintenance of the road furniture, because it is a new better experience for the road users.

"Apart from re-designing the junction, there are light traffic cameras installed on this junction from where we can remotely monitor what is happening on this axis any time of the day. These are parts of the improvement we have brought on this road and others we are re-designing.

2.529 Automobile workers seek Sanwo-Olu's intervention over unlawful eviction, oppression ...Accuse state officials of complicity

Culled from the Sun on 27th July 2020

Informal workers, under the umbrella of Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association (NATA), have Culled for the immediate intervention of the Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, over the continuous unlawful eviction and oppression allegedly perpetrated by the officials of the Ministry of Transport and some private individuals.

Chairman of the association, Jacob Fayeun, at a media briefing at the weekend, lamented that, over the years, members of the association, which runs into thousands and cuts across mechanics (automobile engineers), panel beaters, welders, iron benders, metallurgists, painters (auto sprayers), battery chargers, metal, wood aluminium, steel and auto body builders and vulcanizers, have been rendered jobless.

Specifically, the union leader said, in the past 20 years, over 40 mechanic villages, markets and other informal production sites have been taken over by private interests with the active connivance of Lagos State government officials.

But the latest assault on the automobile workers, over which he said the union has written for the governor's intervention and no response has been received, was the violent eviction, willful destruction and confiscation of property mainly motor vehicles at different stages of repair, illegal arrests and detention of mechanics at Odo Aladura Mechanic Village, along the Powerline Corridor/Canal setback at No. 1, Jimade Close, Odo-

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Aladura, off Ladipo Road, Mushin, Lagos State, covering an area of 5193.886 square metres.

“The Nigerian Automobile Technicians Association (NATA), an affiliate of the Federation of Informal Workers’ Organizations of Nigeria (FIWON), is once again crying out against the unlawful, whimsical and oppressive eviction of mechanics from their workplace by moneybags colluding with officials of the Ministry of Transport, employing the services of the police and armed thugs,” he said.

According to him, the site forcefully taken over on July 7, 2020, by men of the Lagos State Ministry of Transport and the Nigerian Police Force, led by one Mr. Lawal, at around 3am was one of the 40 mechanic villages created in 1980 by the government of Alhaji Lateef Jakande.

He recalled that the mechanic villages were created along power lines and canal setbacks as a way of organising auto repair workers in sustainable work clusters while decongesting the city of the scattered presence of auto workers, adding that the powerlines were chosen because no permanent structures were allowed under high-tension electricity grids for safety reasons.

He said, “This action conforms with current international standards, especially Sustainable Development Goals 11 and 10.2, which emphasizes the necessity for inclusivity in city management as well as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation 204 all of which provide for, among other things, regulated access of informal workers to public spaces in the course of their service to members of the public.

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“Unfortunately, several of these mechanic villages have been taken over by private interests with the connivance of certain public officials of the Lagos State government. As we speak, the Babs Animashaun Mechanic Village, from where mechanics were evicted in 2017 under similar circumstances as this one, has been permanently occupied by armed thugs, while various permanent structures, including a petrol station, have been constructed, right under high tension electricity grids, posing grave risks to members of the public.”

Fayeun stated that the land/mechanic village in contention was permanently allocated to some of the members through the Ministry of Transportation on December 16, 1993, upon fulfillment of all the Lagos State government’s conditions and requirements, with letters to back it up.

He expressed dismay that the plight of the workers began in 2017, when the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) wrote that the property had been allocated to its client, Shola Idowu Estate Developers & Company, and demanded that the workers should vacate the space within seven days.

He said when the workers resisted through their lawyer, they were offered on behalf of LSDPC, the sum of N10 million in December 2019 as compensation to enable them vacate the premises within 14 days upon receipt of the said sum, but the offer was rejected.

Equally, he said they were offered an alternative space, but they were pelted with stones when they got there, while their members were subjected to all manner of harassment and

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inhuman treatment, arrest and detention for days by men and officers of the Nigerian Police at Zone 2 headquarters, Onikan, Lagos, all because they refused to vacate the property.

“In addition, they were arraigned on trumped-up charges at the Igboere Magistrate’s Court, Lagos, and were made to spend about two weeks at the Ikoyi Prison before they were granted court bail,” he lamented.

The general secretary of FIWON, Kayode Komolafe, lamented the flagrant oppression and trampling on the rights of the informal workers in Lagos through demolition of their workshops by the officials of the state government.

“When such happens it is worst than closing down a factory because such workers in a factory can still find another jobs, but here it is taking away their means of survival. This has led to premature death of many of such people,” he said. has led to premature death of many of such people,” he said.

2.530 Land allottees seek Sanwo-Olu’s intervention against land grabbers

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on July 28, 2020in City Beats, News Update

Allottees of Ogudu GRA Scheme II, Lagos have appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to intervene in the incessant activities of land grabbers.

Two of the allottees, Adedamola Bamtefa and Mrs Roseline Aina, said they acquired their land from original allottees of

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the state government and then perfected the titles of the land at the state Survey Division and Land Registry.

They also claimed that a leading property developer has been sending thugs to stop work on their land.

“We humbly plead with the government to come to our aid and use its machinery to deliver us from unlawful, illegal and criminal steps being taken by the developer and his company, his thugs and miscreants, to dispossess us of our land within Ojota/Ogudu Government Residential Scheme, Phase 2,” they said.

According to them, the police at Zone II, Onikan and Ogudu Area H have been unable to stop the suspected land grabbers.

Following their petition, Lagos state Task Force on Land Grabbers, acting on the instruction of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, after investigation and due diligence, twice in August and November 2019, carried out enforcement on the disputed land.

Nineteen suspected land grabbers arrested during the August 2019 enforcement are facing trial before Magistrate L.K.J. Layeni of the Special Offences Court, Oshodi.

2.531 South West traders urge Sanwo-Olu to restructure ASPMDA committee

Culled from the Sun on 29th July 2020

South West traders operating at the Auto Spare Parts and Machine Dealers Association (ASPMDA), near Trade Fair Complex, have urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to, as a

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matter of urgency, restructure the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the market for equity, justice and fair play.

According to the traders, this has become expedient as the committee is strategic to ushering in a new executive of the association.

ASPMDA Yoruba Forum Chairman, Akinsola Olatunde, said the IMC recently constituted by the government is unpopular and does not reflect the diversity of the market and the federal character principle. He said: “We wish to bring to the attention of the government that the IMC as presently constituted is unfair, unjust and lacking democratic principles.

“For the records, ASPMDA was jointly formed by the major ethnic groups in the market over three decades ago, so we are all co-founders.

“It is, therefore, unthinkable that government which is constitutionally saddled with the protection of lives and property will fall into the trap of marginalization and manipulation.”

His views were corroborated by the Yoruba Elders’ Forum Chairman, Ibrahim Olaleye, who reCulled that three persons from the South West and two from South East registered ASPMDA.

He said it was unthinkable that the Yoruba would now be made to take the back seat in the running of the association.

Olaleye, who was supported by other leaders, including Nurudeen Adeniye, Lateef Ajisafe and Lateef Adeleke, Culled on Governor Sanwo-Olu to address the IMC composition

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without delay for justice to prevail. He said this was significant to ensure peace and harmonious relationship in the market.

2.532 COVID -19: Sanwo-Olu commends Mouka, others for donations

Culled from the Sun on 30th July 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has applauded Mouka Limited for the donation of 500 mattresses for the equipment of the state’s coronavirus (COVID-19) isolation centres used for the treatment of infected persons with the pandemic.

Sanwo-Olu praised the frontline mattresses and beddings company, in the list of the second batch of 196 donors to the state for COVID-19 relief.

He said the donations were well utilised in the enhancement of the COVID-19 isolation centres and that the assistance was necessary as it came at a crucial time when government’s attention was directed towards boosting the state’s healthcare facilities to eradicate the pandemic.

The governor stated that his administration was taking a giant stride in ensuring that the pandemic is contained in Lagos and also in the treatment of infected persons, as indicated in the number of treated and discharged persons.

The Chief Executive Officer of Mouka Limited, Raymond Murphy, said the company sees itself as a partner of the government during crisis and that the wellbeing of Nigerians is at the core of its mission.

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He mentioned that the donation of mattresses to the isolation centres for COVID-19 relief was aimed at enhancing government's effort in providing appropriate treatment for infected persons and also at curtailing the pandemic.

Last March, a donation of another 200 mattresses was made to victims of Abule Ado gas pipeline explosion by Mouka Limited.

"Mouka exists to provide comfort to Nigerians and we stay true to our mission even at this period of the COVID-19 pandemic."

The foremost manufacturer of mattresses and beddings in Nigeria also donated 200 mattresses to Ogun State government for its isolation centres. It acted likewise with 100 Klinik Hospital mattresses and cartons of insect repellents, Mouka Mozzi, to Oyo State, also for the enhancement of healthcare facilities in its isolation centres.

Recently, the company collaborated with the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (NSP) to educate consumers on the need for quality sleep which helps to boost the immune system against infections like COVID-19.

2.533 Sanwo-olu commissions first indigenous medical face mask factory in Lagos

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 1st August 2020

The first indigenous medically graded face mask manufacturing company has opened in Lagos State.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday, opened the O-Care medical face mask factory in Odofin Park Estate, Amuwo

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Odofin Local Government Area of the State, saying the development was timely.

The factory is a subsidiary of Transgreen Nigeria Limited, a local manufacturer of medical equipment, such as respirator, ventilator, hand gloves and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The O-Care face mask is said to be the first certified medical face mask locally produced in Nigeria in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

The governor said the idea of setting up the factory was necessitated by the shortage of medically treated PPEs experienced in the wake of the outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. He said he was personally elated by the development, in that the first indigenous face mask production factory was built in Lagos.

To encourage the manufacturer, Sanwo-Olu procured 250,000 pieces of the O-Care face mask from the first production batch. He said the materials would be distributed to medical and emergency workers on the frontline.

Managing Director of Transgreen Nigeria Limited, Mr. Cyprian Orakpo, said the idea of setting up the company was born out of the embarrassing situation the nation found itself with the absence of local manufacturers of medical face masks in the country.

2.534 Assembly summons Sanwo-Olu's CoS, others over security helicopters

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on August 24, 2020

The Lagos state House of Assembly has summoned the Chief of Staff to Governor Babajide Sanwoolu, Mr. Tayo Ayinde; Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget;

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Commissioner for Special Duties and management of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) over the whereabouts of three helicopters belonging to the state government.

Raising this under Matters of Urgent Public Importance during plenary Monday, the Chief Whip of the Assembly, Mojisola Miranda, stated that the offices and MDAs in charge of the helicopters should be written to and that the Assembly should know the agreement between the state government and Caverton Helicopters managing the helicopters.

“If you may recall, in 2007, the House of Assembly passed a bill for the establishment of the LSSTF for the state government to equip and strengthen the security agencies in the state.

“In 2015, three helicopters were bought under Governor Akinwunmi Ambode to strengthen security in the state. But, the helicopters are nowhere to be found now.

“I will want us to look at it and get the concerned parties to tell the House the location of the three helicopters to see if they are just lying fallow or if the state government has entered into an agreement with an entity on the equipment and see to what extent the agreement has been working,” she said.

Speaker of the House, Mudashiru Obasa, pointed out that the helicopters were meant for dual purposes, and that they were meant to be used for security purposes and for commercial purposes.

Obasa emphasised that the House should just try to know what has accrued to the state from the helicopters so far, saying that this was the first time the Assembly would be talking about the equipment.

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“What we have said so far has nothing to do with the image of the state or the Assembly. What the Chief Whip has done is not too much. We need to know what has happened to the helicopters,” he said.

In his contribution, Rotimi Olowo (Shomolu 1) said a commissioner told the House then that they had an agreement with Caverton Nigeria Limited to operate the helicopters so that the state government would make some money from the operations.

This was corroborated by Abiodun Tobun (Epe 1), who said the helicopters should be at the reach of the state for security purposes.

2.535 Media group, NGOs laud Sanwo-Olu’s achievements

Culled from BluePrint on August 17, 2020

The Executive Director of Media Against Impunity Nigeria (MAIN NGR) Prince Meshack Idehen, has said the unparalleled developments currently being witnessed in Lagos state under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is not a coincidence.

Idehen said what Nigeria and the world is seeing unfold in Lagos in terms of growth, unprecedented development and proactive policies were the result of hard work, deliberate, well thought out policies and governance administered with the milk of human kindness.

Speaking with a group of Nigerians and foreign nationals in Washington DC on Friday, Idehen, an Award-winning Journalist and publisher, said in just a little over one year in office as governor that, the Lagos Governor has surpassed all expectations due to his resourcefulness and sense of purpose,

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He commended Sanwo-Olu for working towards building the state into a sustainable mega city.

According to him, Lagos is blessed to have a cerebral governor with positive credentials and enviable track record of performance, delivery and accountability.

“We at Media Against Impunity Nigeria (MAIN NGR) Now Nigeria Global Forum (NNGF) and For God and Country (FGAC) are happy that Lagos state has a governor who, among other qualities, possess great belief in positive cause, which means that creative solutions to curb and eliminate problems has receive excellent attention and better implementation.

“Sanwo-Olu’s government’s themes agenda perfectly resonates with 21st century leadership, and the ongoing implementation has put Lagos on the path of sustainable cities and communities. The governor’s vision has become a reference point for good governance and sustainable socio-economic policies”, Idehen said.

Idehen who is the Publisher of Now Africa Media praised the state governor for the daily food kitchen programme targeted at feeding 100,000 youths across various areas in the state, pointing out the leadership and laudable efforts at tackling the spread of the virus in Lagos State by the governor has not gone unnoticed around the world.

“Governor Sanwo-Olu has led proactively and commendably from the front in the battle against COVID-19 in Lagos, to the admiration of all, including the international community,” Idehen said.

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2.536 Breaking: Sanwo-Olu reveals when varsities, other tertiary institutions ‘ll resume in Lagos

Culled from BluePrint Newspaper on August 29, 2020

Governor Babatunde Sanwo-Olu has just ordered reopening of all tertiary schools come September 14. However, the governor said secondary and primary schools will still remain closed.

2.537 Reinstate Consultant Cadre For Pharmacists, Iyiola Urges Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 30, 2020 12:05 AM

LAGOS – Apparently basking on the euphoria of the recent Federal Government’s approval of Consultant Cadre for Pharmacists, Gbolagade Iyiola, Chairman, Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN), Lagos State chapter, has appealed to the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to reinstate the suspended Consultant Cadre for Pharmacists in the state.

The National Council on Establishment (NCE) had at its 41st Meeting held in Asaba, Delta State, from November 4 – 8, 2019, approved the Pharmacist Consultant Cadre for inclusion in the Schemes of Public Service. Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, had said the approval for the cadre which would take immediate effect would be reflected in the next edition of the Scheme of Service.

In a letter to Governor Sanwo-Olu dated September 25, 2020, Pharm. Iyiola complained that the Lagos State Government in 2018 approved the Consultancy Cadre for Pharmacists in Public Sector, but suspended the benefit package on the promptings of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).

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“That is the way it still stands till today under the Sanwo-Olu Administration. We find it imperative to call on His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to without further delay and conditionality lift the unfortunate suspension imposed on the Consultant Cadre for Pharmacists in the employment of LASG in 2018 by former Governor Akinwunmi Ambode,” he said.

Iyiola reasoned that it is timely to address the issue following the discourse of a freshly approved Consultant cadre for pharmacists by the Federal Government.

He stressed; “This is the ideal time to call on the Lagos State Government (LASG), Local Government and Council Development Areas (LGAs/LCDAs) to reinstate the Consultant cadre earlier approved, but suspended across board in the state.

“It is striking to put on record that the May 2018 approval of this cadre was negotiated between JOHESU/PSN (Lagos State) and LASG. Your Excellency, it is tragic that the immediate past administration sacrificed a well-thought-out agreement it had with a coalition of organised labour (JOHESU) and a noble professional association (PSN Lagos) to enhance the whimsical and capricious propensities of NMA in matters that are ordinarily out of its jurisdiction.

“It is imperative to impress it on the progressive Sanwo-Olu-led government that healthcare is driven by international best practices and therefore cannot be restricted to the humongous as well as insatiable appetite to regulate through slowing down the growth and development of other professions by Nigerian Doctors,” he said.

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He alleged; “There is a high incidence of politics in the health sector which has reduced the output in healthcare to a peculiar Nigerian type of Health System as against international best practices, he regretted that the country has failed woefully in the quest to entrench competencies and adequate capacities in its health system.

“Rather strangely, we encourage a structure whereby the various professions in the health sector grow haphazardly. In Medicine, the training is lawfully grounded at undergraduate and post-graduate levels to run through the Tertiary Health Facilities (Teaching and Specialist Hospitals/Federal Medical Centres). Other health professions are denied this same privilege at Federal level and oftentimes, at Lagos State level,” he said.

The Chairman of PSN, Lagos State, explained that the consultancy cadre is a reality across the globe – from the UK, USA, France and Austria to African countries including Ghana, Sierra-Leone, Egypt and South Africa.

He said the essence of the cadre is largely driven by a need for Pharmacists to have the right knowledge to help support patients adding that as challenges come with complications in patient’s therapy where care providers have to deal with multiple diseases states in one patient, Pharmacists must adequately respond by acquiring the competencies to bring deliverables in the value chain of healthcare delivery.

Iyiola also reminded Governor Sanwo-Olu of his campaign promise to establish a College of Pharmacy approved by the PCN in Lagos State.

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He regretted; “It is mind boggling that the famed Centre of Excellence does not have a Pharmacy School when it supposed to lead others in care provisioning for the over 20 million residents of Lagos State.

“Nigeria needs to get it right in its entirety by appropriately and adequately mobilising the totality of its health workforce rather than continue to promote a selective, discriminatory and self-serving professional plan which would only continue to hurt health outcomes in our country.”

On inter-professional rivalry in the sector, he said; “The LASG must appreciate that non-discrimination is a passive characteristic of a relationship between physicians and pharmacists/other care-givers. Respect is something more active and positive that should guide relationships between physicians and pharmacists/other care-givers.

“Today, even the World Medical Association (WMA) declaration of the rights of patients states inter alia: ‘The Physician has an obligation to cooperate in the coordination of medically coordinated care with other healthcare providers in treating the patient,’” Iyiola added.

He advised governments in the country, including LASG, on the need to be familiar with the realities in their dealings with all cadres of health-workers.

The state PSN boss recommended some measures to strengthen the health system in Nigeria and Lagos State specifically. He listed them to include that government at all levels must create the atmosphere for health reforms which focuses on maximising the potential of its workforce.

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“Healthcare is a globally inclined endeavour driven by international best practices. This is why each health professional specialises all over the world.

In the quest to open the restricted borders of progression in healthcare in Nigeria, we strongly urge H.E. Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu to direct unhindered access of training facilities to all health workers in training at undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

“The LASG must recognise and approve the Consultancy Cadre for all deserving health workers to improve competencies/capacities in emergencies and other times. In this light, the suspended Consultancy Cadre in Pharmacy must be re-visited and ultimately activated in public interest.

“We call on Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to improve the manpower needs in healthcare in Lagos State by immediately facilitating the commencement of a degree programme at Lagos State University (LASU) through the establishment of a Faculty/College of Pharmacy immediately.

While appreciating the Governor for the impressive pace which the State is assuming on all fronts under his leadership, Iyiola called for the crucial pharmaceutical sector to be inculcated in the cruising output of the state government.”

He then commended the Lagos State government for its effort in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in the state to ensure that the curve of the infection is flattened in the state.

2.538 Lagos Committed To Making 4th Mainland Bridge Project A Reality- Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 29, 2020 7:11 PM

Lagos- Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor has reiterated his administration's commitment to ensure that the proposed 4th Mainland Bridge project becomes a reality.

He dropped the hint on Tuesday while speaking at a stakeholders Workshop on the proposed construction of the Lagos Fourth Mainland Bridge on Lagos.

Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Dr. Obafemi Hamzat said, "during the electioneering campaign, we deliberately included the 4th mainland bridge project as a key deliverable in our manifesto. As an administration, we decided to upgrade the project and develop a method to deliver this strategic piece of highway infrastructure.

The Governor noted that the proposed 4th Mainland Bridge has been well integrated into the overall Lagos Master Plan in relation to transportation infrastructure.

He added that the project allows for the first time, direct access from the large suburb of Ikorodu to the Island and the Lekki Free Trade Zone area.

Speaking further he said that the stakeholders meeting was organized to open the project to further inputs, comments, ideas and observations for incorporation into the ongoing social and environmental impact assessment.

Babatunde Fashola Minister for Works and Housing, who was represented by Dr. Adetunji Adeoye commended the state government for the construction of the fourth Mainland Bridge

adding that the construction will create a lot of activities and job opportunities for people of the state.

He therefore assured the people and government of Lagos State of his unalloyed support towards the construction of the bridge.

Sharon Ikeazor, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Environment stated that the proposed Fourth mainland Bridge has been described as an endearing project to the good people of Lagos State as the Proposed Second Niger Bridge is to the entire peoples of the South East and South west geopolitical zones.

Ikeazor, who was represent by Oluwatoyin Agbenla said that the proposed construction, which is long overdue couldn't have been proposed at a better moment than now considering the fact that Transportation is one of the cardinal areas of the Next-Level Agenda of the APC led government of President Muhammadu Buhari and the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu respectively.

2.539 Ore Industrial Hub, Masterpiece, Flyover Bridge, Epitome Of London – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 28, 2020 10:10 PM

Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-olu has described the master class of development tailored around industrialization he saw at Ore Industrial Park, built by the Oluwarotimi Akeredolu led-adminitration, as a masterpiece located in an unusual location, saying "I am enthralled".

The Governor, who is the Chairman of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) Governorship National

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Campaign Council, spoke when he joined his Ondo State counterpart, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, on a campaign tour of Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State in preparation for the October 10th Governorship Poll in the State. Akeredolu, the incumbent, is the candidate of the ruling party.

Asides the endorsement of Sanwoolu, Akeredolu also got a unanimous endorsement of the entire traditional institution in Ikale land.

Akeredolu also said: “Electricity Power will be restored to all communities in Ondo South Senatorial District through Omotosho Power Plant”, the Governor declared amidst jubilation from the mammoth crowd that recieved him to the council area.

Sanwoolu, who was taken round the Industrial Park, that currently houses Seven Manufacturing Companies, all multinationals, said history will be kind to Akeredolu for turning obscurity to greatness.

The Lagos Governor also described the Ore flyover bridge built by the Akeredolu government as an epitome of London.

Sanwo-Olu said his deliberate visit to Ikale kingdom is connected with the earlier support he got from Ikale people during his bid for the governorship seat, stating that the Ikale Union of Lagos State gave him one of the best supports prior to his election in 2019.

“Ore Industrial is a masterpiece, sincerely I am enthralled. I am opportune to see the flyover in Ore too. It is an Epitome of London. Mr. Governor, may history be kind to you for turning an obscurity to greatness.

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“My coming here today was historical. It is to appreciate what the Ikale Union of Lagos State did for me when I contested to be Governor in 2019 in Lagos State. They supported me, gave me cars and other needed items for campaign. They gave me one of the best supports.

“Now, I plead with you all, you must ensure that the election is for Akeredolu. I am honored to be here today, I feel very joyous to pay homage to the group that supported me. Akeredolu, from all indications, deserves a second term; his good work will earn him another term,” he said.

Endorsing Akeredolu when the APC campaign train paid homage to them, the Ikale traditional rulers said Akeredolu deserves their support, if not for anything, but for renaming the state owned University at Okitipupa after their son, Olusegun Agagu.

Agagu governed Ondo State from 2003 to 2009 on the platform of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP). He reportedly died of cardiac arrest in 2013.

The university, established by the late Agagu as the “Ondo state University of Technology Okitipupa (OSUTECH)”, was renamed “Olusegun Agagu University of Technology, Okitipupa” by Akeredolu.

In his remarks, on behalf of other monarchs, the Abodi of Ikale Land, Oba G.B Faduyile, lauded Governor Akeredolu’s giant strides, adding that his good deeds will earn him another term in office. The monarch noted that Ikale monarchs are merely towing the path of the earlier endorsement of Akeredolu by the traditional rulers of Ondo State.

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It will be recalled that the traditional rulers in Ondo State had on June 25, 2020, endorsed the Governor.

Corroborating Abodi, the Rebuja of Osooro Land, Oba Gbadebo Bajowa, said:

“I am most delighted to be here today because Governor Akeredolu renamed OSUTECH after our illustrious son of blessed memory, Dr. Olusegun Agagu.”

“Barring this, it is an unassailable fact that Akeredolu has done well, he performed to our expectations. Besides Renaming OSUTECH after Agagu, Akeredolu rejuvenated the institution, making it a centre of attraction”

While appreciating the Governor, Oba Gbadebo stated that the construction of bypass road from Okitipupa to Igbokoda is another reason to support Akeredolu for another term.

Responding, Akeredolu thanked the traditional rulers for throwing their robust weight behind his government and reelection bid.

The Governor, who called for peace ahead of the election slated for October 10, harped on the need for the people to imbibe peace.

The residents, who were filled with happiness, chanted songs and praises, when the Governor assured them that the total blackout in the district will be behind them soon.

Akeredolu assured that assiduous efforts are on, as there is a synergy with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to restore electricity to the entire South Senatorial District through the Omotosho Power Plant in the axis.

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“Let’s go to the industrial hub, you will see our feats, we have five functional industries in our environs now. We have Okitipupa Oil Palm Industry, we rejuvenated the place, we will ensure that there will be light in your area.

“We will end the total blackout in the south. The agreement to connect this community with omotosho power plant will soon be signed with the NDDC.

“Before, we have installed solar powers in our primary schools; Okitipupa benefitted well from this. Okitipupa benefited the most from the schools and hospitals we renovated”, Akeredolu said.

Other dignitaries in the campaign train included Akeredolu’s running mate, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the Campaign Director-General, Rt. Hon. Victor Olabimtan, immediate past Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Ifedayo Abegunde, ex-national Vice Chairman of the APC, Pastor kole Oluwajana and the National Women Leader of APC, Mrs Stellar Okotete.

Others in the campaign train were billionaire business Man, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim, former Governorship Aspirant, Chief Olusola Oke, Chief of Staff to the Governor, Olugbenga Ale, and the Chairperson of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Princess Oladuni Odu, amongst others.

LAGOS – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos state Governor, has said that his administration was work-ing creatively to maximise the potentials of the water bodies in the state by invest-ing in water transportation system for the benefit of the state economy and stakehold-ers in the maritime industry.He said this on Thursday while speaking at an event to mark this year’s World Mar-itime Day with the theme; “Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet”, held on Victoria Island.

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Sanwo-Olu who spoke through Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, his Deputy, pledged his administration's commitment to continue to partner with relevant government agencies and institutions to ensure sustainable shipping business in the state.

He stressed the need to make the shipping industry in the country environmental friendly, stressing that the event came at a time when the nation needed to support the maritime industry to contribute its quota to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030.

Sanwo-Olu stated further that the industry has continued to play a major role in the improvement of living standards as well as contributing significantly to taking millions of people around the world out of acute poverty.

"Without doubt, the achievement of a sustainable shipping process will be critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". LAGOS – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos state Governor, has said that his administration was working creatively to maximise the potentials of the water bodies in the state by investing in water transportation system for the benefit of the state economy and stakeholders in the maritime industry.

He said this on Thursday while speaking at an event to mark this year's World Maritime Day with the theme; "Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet", held on Victoria Island.

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2.540 Lagos Will Back 2020 Christian Pilgrimage, Sanwo-Olu Promises

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 25, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has pledged to continue to support Christian pilgrimage as well as the activities of Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board in Lagos. He noted that the Commission would complement the efforts of the state government through prayer and spiritual guidance.

Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance recently in Lagos while receiving the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission, Rev. Yakubu Pam, who was in the state on a sensitisation visit.

He thanked Rev. Pam for commending the giant strides of his administration, especially in the sponsorship of Christians during the 2019 General Pilgrimage.

He explained that beyond government sponsorship that his administration would continue to create the enabling environment so that intending private pilgrims would have enough resources to sponsor themselves on Holy Pilgrimage.

For him, good governance is about improving the quality of life of the people and it is the reason he said his administration would stop at nothing to make sure that the people of Lagos State enjoy the dividends of democracy through youth empowerment and infrastructural development. He prayed that the tenure of the NCPC boss would experience peace and progress.

Earlier, the NCPC boss told the Governor that he was in the State on a one-day sensitisation visit preparatory for the build-

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up of this year's December General Pilgrimage. He stressed that the Holy Bible enjoined Christians to pray for the peace of Jerusalem and any country that is a friend of Israel would continue to experience peace.

He further affirmed that pilgrimage is the only thing Christian believers enjoy as their own dividends of democracy. He informed the Governor that the Commission would partner Lagos State on agriculture in order to expose the youths to skill acquisition through youth pilgrimage.

2.541 60th Independence: Sanwo-Olu Urges Citizens To Rededicate To Nation's Unity

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 27, 2020 8:48 PM

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Sunday urged Nigerians to rededicate to the nation's unity as the country attains 60th year of independence.

Sanwo-Olu gave the advice during the church service commemorating Nigeria's 60th Independence Anniversary at Chapel of Christ The Light Alausa, Ikeja. Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by his wife, Ibijoke, said that rededication to the unity of the country would ensure the progress of Nigeria.

He said that the fact that Nigeria remained as one in spite of the challenges faced in the past could only be attributed to the faithfulness and the mercy of the Almighty God.

According to him, the church service to commemorate six decades of the country's independence as a nation is a time to express gratitude to God for all the favours He has granted the nation and people.

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"As we join fellow compatriots across the nation to celebrate our nation's Diamond Jubilee, it is my prayer that as Diamond signifies beauty, the Almighty God will beautify our lives as individuals, families, state and country.

"He will continue to guide, direct our path, lead us aright and release His manifold blessings upon us.

"I enjoin us to use this opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the unity of this nation and continue to live peacefully with one another in love.

"Let us support government policies and programmes aimed at moving our nation and state to greater height; remain steadfast; hopeful; focused; disciplined; and pray without ceasing (1Thessalonian 5:17)," he said.

Sanwo-Olu said that government on its part would continue to deliver the dividends of democracy and remain focused on implementing the agenda for the growth, development, and prosperity of the citizens.

"At this point, let me appreciate all our fathers and mothers in the Lord for their ceaseless prayers which have been very beneficial to our nation and our state.

"The prayers of the saints availeth much. I have no doubt in my mind that as we cry unto God today for a healthier and promising future for our nation and our state, He will surely answer us.

"I enjoin us not to relent in our prayers to God to grant us total victory over the challenges we are experiencing presently, especially the novel COVID-19.

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“We give glory to God for the improvement we are recording in terms of the decreasing numbers. “We must however, continue to take personal responsibility for our health by observing all the guidelines and protocols including social distancing, use of face mask, regular hand washing among others,” the governor said.

Rev. Sam Aboyeji, General Overseer of FourSquare Gospel Church, called on Nigerians to show gratitude to God for all He had done in the past for Nigeria, especially during the critical times.

Aboyeji admonished Nigerians to humbly return to God for forgiveness of sin and wickedness so that the nation would experience peace and progress.

He also said that God’s promised restoration was total, extra and enduring, hence, Nigeria and Lagos State in particular should expect divine turnaround of the economy. (NAN)

2.542 Gbajabiamila Applauds Sanwo-Olu Over 377 Road Projects

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 26, 2020 4:31 PM

Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila has commended the Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Sanwo-Olu, for flagging off 377 roads and power projects across the various wards in the state.

Gbajabiamila also lauded the governor for launching of N5 billion post-coronavirus recovery support capital for the education sector to support low-cost private schools in the state.

The Speaker in a statement by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Lanre Lasisi, said such people-oriented projects

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and initiatives must be commended and supported by all Lagosians. He noted that the 377 projects would bring more dividends of democracy closer to the people, which is one of the goals of coming to power.

Gbajabiamila also pointed out that the Governor’s action has once again proven that the All Progressives Congress (APC) led government at both the federal and state levels was ready to impact positively on the lives of the people.

He said when completed, the 377 projects, the first of its kind in the state, would make Lagos go further ahead of its peers nationwide.

On the N5bn support capital, the Speaker said Governor Sanwo-Olu has shown that he has the interest of those in the education sector, both in government and in the private sector, at heart.

Gbajabiamila said the programmes embarked on by the government of Lagos State since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic give up of brighter days ahead. He called on the Governor to ensure the implementation supervision of these initiatives for the betterment of the intended beneficiaries.

2.543 Sanwo-Olu Flags Off Construction Of 377 Roads, Power Projects Across Wards

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 25, 2020

Lagos – In keeping promises made during the electioneering, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Friday, flagged off the execution of 377 state-wide projects across all wards in the State.

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The intervention, which was said to be first of its kind in the State, was initiated at the instance of the Governor. It will bring about the construction of over 250 roads and the installation of 23 power projects across the State.

Members of the State cabinet, All Progressives Congress Local Council chairmen, councillors, and scores of party stalwarts, led by the State's chairman of APC, Tunde Balogun, graced the flag-off ceremony held Adeyemi Bero Hall, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu said the intervention was initiated in response to the series of requests by the various communities across the State to address specific challenges. He said the execution of the projects would change the narrative about what grassroots development and Government's responsibilities are all about.

He said: "The state-wide 377 ward projects being launched today are state intervention projects in grassroots development. The projects are conceived in response to requests by the various communities across the State to address specific challenges. These projects are not universal; they are diverse, reflecting the needs of each ward across the state.

"The implementation of the projects will commence immediately after this official flag-off, as contractors have been fully mobilized to move to site. I urge residents who are the ultimate beneficiaries of these projects to take ownership by monitoring the implementation process and ensure that the job conforms to quality and standard specified in the project design."

Sanwo-Olu said the process of identifying the needs and the design of the projects was in line with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participatory governance in which the people were considered as key stakeholders.

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The Governor described grassroots as "the bedrock of development", stressing that the projects were strategic in promoting the wellbeing of the people across communities. He said his Government would continue to give residents a voice on issues that affect them.

He said: "This administration's development agenda is driven by the spirit to build a Greater Lagos that is livable, and conducive for the growth and development of enterprise.

"The dream of a greater Lagos is not exclusive; it is predicated on the principle of inclusiveness by which development is not considered as satisfactory until it has addressed the yearnings of the greatest number of the people who contribute to the commonwealth."

Sanwo-Olu charged all elected and appointed officials in public offices to be responsible for dealing with people, noting that governance would be meaningless without the input of the people on whose mandate public officers derived their powers.

Chairman of the Projects' Implementation Committee and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, said all contractors would mobilise to sites next Monday, noting that the intervention was in demonstration of the Governor's campaign promise to run an inclusive Government. He said the projects' selection followed a meeting between the Governor and all 377 councillors across the State, during which Sanwo-Olu asked them to nominate specific projects that could be executed in their wards.

After identifying the projects, Hamzat said the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget and professionals in public service evaluated the cost of the projects. This effort, the Deputy

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Governor said, was followed by a re-evaluation exercise by an independent consultant.

Giving the breakdown of the projects, Hamzat said the State Government would be constructing 257 community roads and drainages across the State. He added that 86 public buildings would be rehabilitated, while two jetties, nine water projects and 23 power projects will be installed across the wards.

All the projects, the Deputy Governor said, are distributed across the three senatorial districts in the State, disclosing that wards across the Lagos Central will be having 94 projects, while wards in the Lagos East will have 99 and wards in Lagos West, 184 projects.

Hamzat said: “The projects will be implemented by contractors in collaboration with Government’s Ministries, Departments and Agencies, including the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Directorate of Technical Service, Lagos State Electricity Board and Public Works Corporation. Supervision and monitoring of the projects will be done in collaboration with the ward councillors and party executives.”

The APC chairman, Hon Tunde Balogun described the projects as grassroots-focused, confirming that the Sanwo-Olu administration was the first to embark on such massive projects across wards in a single move.

By directly engaging the councillors in the execution of the projects, the party chairman said the Governor had established strong connection with the grassroots. “The State Government has been investing in provision of infrastructure to make the State’s economy stronger and give people a new lease of life.

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Despite these efforts, the Governor still found the reason to touch the grassroots by initiating these 377 projects. With this, Sanwo-Olu will be leaching lasting impact on the grassroots,” he said.

Chairman of APC in Ikoyi-Obalende Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Prince Abiodun Abu, who spoke on behalf of all the party chairmen across councils, described the intervention “a new dawn” in the history of governance in Lagos.

He said the projects would accelerate development across communities in the State.

Hon. Nurudeen Alimi, spoke on behalf of 377 councillors, saying the Governor, by the gesture, had taken dividends of democracy to the grassroots in a way never seen before in the State.

2.544 Sanwo-Olu Harps On Best Practices For Real Estate Sector

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 25, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Thursday charged practitioners in the real estate sector to ensure that international best practices are observed in order attract direct/ indirect investment from foreign countries to the State.

He emphasised the need to create a home ownership model that will help address the deficits observed in housing market in the State.

The Governor stated this during a Policy Roundtable organised by the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) with key stakeholders in the real estate sector. He said the State Government was ready to bridge the gap by

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partnering the private sector and working with stakeholders to ensure people have access to viable home services.

Sanwo-Olu also disclosed that there would be introduction of legislations that would help curb bad behaviors among tenants and property owners.

The Policy forum organised by the Agency is to ensure that sanity is brought to the real estate sector in the State as they are key drivers to the actualisation of the T.H.E.M.E.S Agenda of the present administration.

The Governor noted that apart from facilitating business relationships between people, the Sector also employ across the State as the real estate sector contributes in no small measure to the State GDP through their activities, hence the determination of his administration to provide the right ambience for the practice of real estate.

The Governor said: “This Present Administration intends to make the Real Estate Market the best in adhering with international practices in terms of Real Estate Regulations.

“A Sector that conforms with global practices where Real Estate professionals will see the profession as an avenue of contributing continuous investment to the economy of the State Government through the Sector”.

Governor Sanwo-Olu therefore implored real estate practitioners to support the State Government in its drive to bring sanity to the property sector by salvaging the present situation within the profession and provide the best service to prospective accommodation seekers within and outside the country.

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The Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on housing, Mrs Toke Benson- Awoyinka, while addressing participants at the event noted that the stakeholders’ forum is in recognition of the importance which the State Government attaches to the involvement of stakeholders in the property market especially as it relates to decision making process.

The Special Adviser noted that the LASRERA portal is a bank where registered practitioners in the real estate sector are stored and can be easily accessed by anyone noting that this will reduce the activities of fraudulent practitioners as the Agency would not compromise on making sure due process is followed in the registration process.

She said: “The reason for always emphasizing registration with the real estate practitioners/property developers is to provide protection for citizens from imposters, fraudsters and reduce sharp practices associated with some unauthorized individuals who are not registered members of any association in Lagos State or Nigeria”.

Benson-Awoyinka also stated that the LASRERA portal will help to maintain a cordial relationship between the agency and real estate practitioners in line with global best practices.

She stated that this will make it easier for potential customers who are willing to either buy or sell property to do so without any fear as they are dealing with licensed practitioners.

According to the Special Adviser, the portal is in accordance with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda for the present administration which is “Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy”, noting that the portal will not fail in its responsibility to the people and

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investors for adequate protection of lives, properties and investment.

The Commissioner for Finance, Dr Rabiul Olowo, who spoke on financial Transparency and Governance in the Real Estate Development, stated that the State Government recognizes the role which a transparent Real Estate industry would play in creating a competitive, efficient and flexible business environment for business in the State.

In his word, Transparency becomes a fundamental factor in the efficient functioning of Real Estate Market, because it will facilitate decision making and coordinates the actions of Market participants.

Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Moyosore Onigbanjo SAN, spoke on sensitizing the public on the Regulatory role of the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA), which he said it is very important to enforcement of laws and regulations on the Real Estate Sector in the State.

He said that the Law which is been review by the State Government will standardize and sanitize Real Estate Business in the State and also protect investors while boosting Market confidence in the Sector.

The Chairman, REDAN, Lagos Branch, Mr Bamidele Onalaja, who spoke on On/Off plan Development, said that the initiative of Lagos State Government creating Lagos State Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA) will regulate the Built Sector in the development process of the Real Estate Industry. He said that Real Estate Developers should follow the approval Building plan from the State Government in order to avoid risks

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and also appreciated the State Government for identifying with the Real Estate Sector in the State.

Another, speaker at the Event is the Founder, Pison Housing Company, Dr Roland Igbinoba spoke on collating data on Property Transactions, he observed that real estate data must be collated for public investment. He emphasized that investors in the sector need to have the necessary data to enhance investment.

He said collation of data will bring an enabling environment for investments in the State.

2.545 Sanwo-Olu Commissions Victoria Island-Lekki Traffic Circulation Project

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 25, 2020

LAGOS – Residents and commuters plying the Victoria Island and Lekki axis of Lagos State can now heave a sigh of relief as the state government on Thursday formally commissioned the Victoria Island-Lekki Traffic Circulation Project.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who spoke at the commissioning of the project, noted that the most critical challenge experienced on a daily basis by residents/road-users along the axis was the heavy traffic volume.

He noted that delivering the project has improved traffic flow, reduced travel time, eliminated the perennial flooding issues, as well as boosted the health and socio-economic well-being of the people.

According to the governor, the Victoria Island-Lekki Traffic Circulation Project, which was flagged-off in December last year, under a Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership

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(PIIP) programme, in conjunction with Access Bank Plc, consisted of dualisation, expansion, construction and rehabilitation of some roads, junction and turn-ing radius improvement of some roads. He added that provision of a new drainage system, re-routing some roads as one way and signalisation are some of the innovative solutions that were care-fully designed to ease the daily gridlock being expe-rienced by commuters in the area.

Sanwo-Olu said that despite the difficult health cum economic challeng-es occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic expe-rienced worldwide in the last one year, his adminis-tration remains fully com-mitted to bringing econom-ic prosperity to Lagosians by developing and facilitat-ing delivery of world-class infrastructure to serve as the critical development driver of a Greater Lagos vision.

Some of the roads de-livered under the project are Ligali Ayorinde Muri Okunola – Aboyade Cole, Yesufu Abiodun Oniru, Li-gali Ayorinde/Akinbolag-be/Okene, among others.

2.546 Lagos Working To Maximise Use Of Water Bodies – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent Newspaper On Sep 25, 2020

LAGOS – Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos state Governor, has said that his administration was work-ing creatively to maximise the potentials of the water bodies in the state by invest-ing in water transportation system for the benefit of the state economy and stakehold-ers in the maritime industry.

He said this on Thursday while speaking at an event to mark this year’s World Mar-itime Day with the theme; “Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet”, held on Victoria Island.

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Sanwo-Olu who spoke through Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, his Deputy, pledged his administration’scommitmentto continuetopartner with relevant government agencies and institutions to ensure sustainable ship-ping business in the state.

He stressed the need to make the shipping industry in the country environmental friendly, stressing that the event came at a time when the nation needed to support the maritime industry to contribute its quo-ta to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of eradicat-ing poverty and achieving sus-tainable development by 2030.

Sanwo-Olu stated fur-ther that the industry has continued to play a major role in the improvement of living standards as well as contributing significantly to taking millions of peo-ple around the world out of acute poverty.

“Without doubt, the achievement of a sustain-able shipping process will be critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustain-able Development”.

2.547 Sanwo-Olu Assures Of Completing Ongoing Projects In Lagos

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 21, 2020

LAGOS- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured Lagosians that his administration would complete all ongoing projects inherited from the previous administration, adding that new projects would also be done before the expiration of his tenure.

Governor Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance on Monday, while declaring open a two-day Retreat for the Executives, some

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Heads of Agencies and Parastatals, to reassess the performance of the team in the last one year and chart a new course of progress for the state.

The governor also maintained that the retreat would heighten the tempo of government through innovative policies and lay a solid foundation for successive governments in the state, as well as to ascertain its position as a government and determine the impact of the administration's policy on residents.

Optimistic that the two-day interactive retreat would serve as a platform for constructive criticism, Sanwo-Olu re-emphasised that the yardstick for performance evaluation would not be based on the amount of money expended on projects, but on positive impact on Lagosians.

Sanwo-Olu said: "Let me reiterate that the yardstick for the performance and evaluation of each Ministry, Department or Agency, would not be based on money expended on the projects but would be on the positive impact of Lagosians".

He pledged his administration's commitment to improving the standard of living of residents through the completion of ongoing projects and implementation of new ones.

Also at the event, the Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat, was optimistic that at the end of the retreat, members of the executive and all key stakeholders in the current administration would have been energised for better service delivery.

Earlier, the state's Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola, listed steps taken by some of the Departments and Agencies to mitigate the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and ensure smooth delivery of service, adding that the two-day retreat

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would afford the administration avenue to conduct a forensic review of how the state fare sector by sector.

"It is therefore expected that this two-day exercise would help the government take stock to determine: how far we have gone with the THEMES Agenda; what has worked well and gone as planned and what could be adjusted within the programmes or initiatives that constitutes the component parts of the agenda; gather data and also determine value for public expenditure; documentation of successful policy implementation for the record and for the purpose of knowledge sharing and replication with other programmes or similar climes; just to mention but a few", Muri-Okunola said.

Folashade Jaji, the Secretary to the State government, in her welcome address, commended the Sanwo-Olu-led administration for the giant strides in the fight against Corona virus pandemic.

She also reiterated that said the programme would help assess the achievements made so far and enable a forensic review of the administration's plan sector by sector

2.548 (UPDATED) Sanwo-Olu Approves Mid-Week Services In Churches, Daily Prayers In Mosques
Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 19, 2020

Lagos- Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the resumption of midweek activities in churches and daily prayers in mosques in the state.

Sanwo-olu disclosed this while briefing newsmen on the 18 Update on Coronavirus in the state on Saturday.

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The governor said, “As regards our places of worship, we are now also permitting the mosques to resume their five times a day prayers; and in the case of churches, they are now also permitted to resume their mid-week services.”

While urging residents of Lagos not forget that the Coronavirus pandemic is still very much with them, Sanwo-Olu said they “must, therefore, strive to prioritise the safety of all our children, teachers, parents, and the entire society”. He noted that the resumption guidelines and protocols must be strictly adhered to by the various stakeholders.

Also, as parts of ensuring the state’s readiness for the resumption of academic activities in Lagos, the governor has ordered the Ministry of Physical and Regional Planning to conduct integrity tests on all school buildings that have three floors and above. This is in the wake of a school building that collapsed in Ejigbo area of the state on Saturday.

On the state of coronavirus, Governor Sanwo-Olu noted that at “Friday, September 18, Lagos State had conducted close to 100,000 tests; and recorded a total of 18,854 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of this Number, 15,598 have recovered in community, 592 are currently active in community, and 207 deaths have sadly occurred.”

He, however, said that it is interesting to note that Lagos has also recorded a dramatic decline in the number of Covid-19 related deaths at the state facilities. He said that patients on the “Home-Based Care track have access to and receive special Care Packs and are also given access to psychosocial support via our Call Centre, 08000CORONA, and to telemedicine services through our Lagos owned EKOTELEMED.

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“They also have the opportunity to receive visits from our doctors, if they require it, to ensure that they are recovering adequately and in a timely fashion. Members of their households also receive regular monitoring to ensure they do not get infected.”

According to the governor, the state is constantly expanding testing capacity to cope with the impending increase in the number of tests, especially following the re-opening of the International Airport.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that following the opening of Nigeria’s International airspace, the Lagos State government has been working closely with the Federal Government through the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and the Port Health Authority to monitor all flights arriving and departing Lagos State.

He noted that since the commencement of the flights coming into the country on September 5 till date, “We have recorded a total of 50 flights – a daily average of six flights – carrying a total of almost 8,000 passengers. Despite this inbound volume of passengers, our positivity rate still remains on the downward trend at under five percent.”

He said that the current guidelines developed by the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 for air travel have made it necessary for travelers to present a negative COVID-19 PCR result within 72 hours of boarding a flight heading into Nigeria.

“All travelers must show evidence of having pre-booked a COVID-19 PCR test at an accredited private laboratory in Lagos. This test must be booked on the Federal Government Portal – nitp.ncdc.gov.ng – prior to arrival in Nigeria, and must

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be carried out on Day 7 of home isolation in Nigeria. “Let me make it clear that the presentation of a fake result on outbound and inbound flights will be considered a criminal offence and will be duly sanctioned,” Sanwo-Olu noted.

2.549 Cinema Reopening: Sanwo-Olu Promises To Work Closely With Creative Industry

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 19, 2020

Following the gradual reopening and resumption of activities in many sectors, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday September 16, reiterated his administration’s commitment to work collaboratively with the creative industry, saying that his government will do all that is possible to ensure that the sector thrives in the state.

The Governor stated this during a virtual meeting with members of the Cinema Exhibitors Association of Nigeria, CEAN and other key stakeholders in the Nigerian film industry, which was moderated by Mo Abudu.

Sanwo-Olu said Government is mindful of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 lockdown on the entertainment industry particularly the cinema sector, promising to work with the association to achieve a win-win situation.

Representatives of CEAN during the meeting, expressed concerns about their sector, appealing to Governor Sanwo-Olu to reopen the cinemas and open up the sector for business. They promised to adhere strictly to the laid down COVID-19 safety guidelines. Speaking on behalf of the association, Mr. Moses Babatope said the cinema owners are ready to reopen. He said: “we are ready to open our cinemas any time today or tomorrow.

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Cinemas outside Lagos are already open and they are complying with all the necessary protocols. We understand that your office is being careful about health and safety of Lagosians but we also assure you that these are top considerations for us too.”

The association also requested that the Governor set up a film office whose function would include liaising with foreign investors while also serving as a major hub for the film industry in Lagos.

A film maker and one of the participants at the meeting, Omoni Oboli appealed to Governor Sanwo-Olu for tax waivers, saying that no one in the film industry has earned a revenue in the past six months.

“Mr. Governor, we want you to help us with some tax break. As you may be aware sir, none of us has earned any revenue in the past six months. We want you to use your good office to help our industry.”

Responding, Governor assured the film industry experts that he would ensure that government continues to protect their interest, saying he is a new convert having seen the level of creativity and economic importance of the sector.

He said: “we would work collaboratively with your industry. I am aware of the enormous challenges you face especially in this period of COVID-19 pandemic. But as you know, we have to do what is right to protect the lives and property of millions of Lagosians.”

2.550 Ebonyi Indigenes Hail Sanwo-Olu For Odii's Appointment

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 18, 2020

Ebonyi indigenes in Lagos State have lauded Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for appointing an Igbo businessman, Dr Ifeanyi Chukwuma Odii, as member of the governing council of the state university(LASU).

They assured Sanwo-Olu that Dr. Odii would use his vast experience and wisdom to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the ...year-old ivory tower.

The indigenes, under the aegis of Ebonyi State Development Association(ESDA) made the commendation when they paid a visit to Odii on Sunday to congratulate him on the appointment.

President of the association, Dr. Felix Nnachi, also applauded the accomplishments of Odii, describing him as 'illustrious son of Igboland'.

Nnachi said: Our gratitude goes to the gentleman governor of Lagos State for making us proud as Ebonyians by appointing our own, an illustrious son of Igboland as member of that prestigious council of LASU. This is historical, It shows that Governor Sanwo-Olu is a detribalised Nigerian and a man that has eyes for identifying and rewarding achievers.

"The governor of this state has made us proud and we have no doubt in our minds that Dr. Odii, will bring his wealth of experience and wisdom to bear on issues concerning the growth of LASU as a governing council member.

"We have absolute confidence that he (Odii) will attain greater height in the government of this country, Africa and the world. Our prayer is for God to sustain and give him more wisdom on his new appointment.

Responding, Odii, who is the co-founder of Ebele-Anyi Chux Foundation, expressed joy with the show of love from his people.

2.551 Sanwo-Olu, Amaechi Visit Train Accident Site Where Two Were Killed In Lagos

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 15, 2020

Lagos State governor, Ba-bajide Sanwo-Olu, has vis-ited the site of Monday's fatal accident involving a commuter train and two vehicles.

Two persons reportedly died in the accident which occurred along the drive-ways into the Nigerian Army Shopping Arena in Oshodi.

According to Gboyega Akosile, Chief Press Secretary to Governor Sanwo-Olu, the Minister of Transportation, Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, was in company of the governor during the on-the-spot assessment of the site.

The victims, a father and son, were said to be driving into the shopping arena when they were caught up by the speeding train. Their Highlander Jeep got stuck on the rail track.

All the six persons in the other vehicle – a passenger bus – escaped with different degrees of injuries after the train dragged the commercial bus 800 meters away from the point of collision.

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Sanwo-Olu sympathised with the families of the victims, while noting that the accident was regrettable. The governor said the incident happened on the day the state government and the Federal Government reached an agreement to close down the shopping complex's gates at the railway line because of safety concerns.

He said: "This incident is regrettable because it happened on the day all stakeholders reached a consensus to close down the gates into the shopping arena. "And this is part of the concerns we have been raising about commuters' safety on this axis.

"We need to act fast. This fatal accident should strengthen our resolve to do the needful and prevent a repeat of the sad incident in the future. "It is also a clarion call on our people to be safety conscious whenever they need to drive across a rail track.

"If there is slow movement of vehicles at any railway bypass, then there is a need to keep a safe distance from the rail tracks.

"We have been rolling out advocacy on this and we will intensify efforts on it. "Safety of the people is paramount and we will do all required to ensure we put a stop to this kind of accident."

Sanwo-Olu disclosed that the state government and the Federal Government were on the move to create alternative entry and exit driveways for the shopping arena and other vulnerable points along the railway corridor.

This effort, the governor believed, would strengthen the safety of commuters and motorists along rail corridors.

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Prior to the visit by the governor and the minister, the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) had evacuated the mangled vehicles from the rail track.

Those injured had been treated and discharged by medical personnel deployed to the site of the accident.

2.552 Osinbajo, Sanwo-Olu, Dangote, Others, Harp On Sustainable Development Of IruLand

Called from Independent Newspaper on Sep 12, 2020

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and President of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, as well as other experts have expressed optimism in the rapid development of IruLand, saying cities in the country can solve many urban-related challenges if they drive innovations and investments that address sustainable growth, urban development and prosperity.

At a virtual conference to mark the first annual sustainable cities' dialogue in commemoration of the coronation of Oba Abdulwasiiu Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II) as the 15th Oniru Of Iru-Land, speakers comprising economic, environment and seasoned administrators hailed the new Oniru's passion about sustainable development for the benefit of Iru-Land with a focus on young people and women.

Vice President Osinbajo, who was represented by the Minister of State for the Environment, Sharon Ikeazor, defined sustainable growth as fostering economic development while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which peoples' well-being relies.

Professor Osinbajo, who described the theme of the conference: "Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

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in the New Normal” as apt, said that the Federal Ministry of Environment is addressing environmental challenges in the country.

He stated that a number of policies and action plans have recently been approved by the Federal Executive Council such as the National Forest Policy (for sustainable management of forest resources and preservation of our ecosystem), the National Solid Waste Management Policy, as well as the National Gender Action Plan on Climate Change, which, he noted, will mainstream gender into the climate change action plans, thereby creating jobs for women, youth and vulnerable persons.

Also, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who spoke through his Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals, Solape Hammond, commended Oba Lawal for coming up with the initiative barely two months after his installation as the Oniru of Iru Kingdom.

He expressed optimism that the conference will engender the development of Iruand and the entire Lagos state.

He added that the thrust of the conference was in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda of his administration.

Sanwo-Olu said that transportation, mainly by road, is not sustainable, adding that this is why his administration has made efforts to ensure the development of inter-modal transportation completion of 27 kliometre Blue Line from Marina to Okokomaiko. He expressed confidence that the conference would come up with new ideas good for further development of the state.

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In his remarks, Dangote, who was represented by Joseph Makoju, said that there is no doubt that the kingdom is in safe hands, adding that the monarch has shown signs of driving the kingdom with lofty ideas that will engender rapid development of not only the kingdom but also the entire Lagos and Nigeria.

Lagos State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Tunji Bello, said given the exposure of the current monarch and the potentials of Iruand, the kingdom stands a better chance to achieve a sustainable development goals.

Other participants in the sustainable dialogue were: Associate Professor of Urban Planning, Universal potentials, Dr. Taibat Lawanson; Chairman, ChapelHill Denham Group, Olawale Edun; Erelu Kuti IV of Lagos, (Dr) Abiola Dosumu; CEO, Contact Consulting, Foluso Olaniyan; Director, Executive MSc. CITIES: London School of Economics and Political Science, Dr. Philipp Rode, and the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Adejoke Orelope Adefulire, among other distinguished personalities.

2.553 Lagosians Are Proud Of Sanwo-Olu’s Achievements-Abiru

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 7, 2020

Lagos- Adetokunbo Abiru, candidate for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the October 31 bye election for Lagos East senatorial district has lauded the performance of Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, saying Lagosians are proud of his achievements so far

Abiru who spoke while delivering his acceptance speech at the APC Secretariat on Monday said Sanwo-Olu has performed

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creditably well in key sectors such as Infrastructure, environment, transportation, health care and security.

While also commending Sanwo-Olu for upholding the tradition of excellence, he said if elected senator, he will join hands with the governor in moving the state forward.

His words “I acknowledge our dear Governor His Excellency Mr Babajide Sanwoolu and I want to commend him for upholding the lofty and admirable tradition of excellence in our state in the past one year”.

“Well-meaning Lagosians are proud of his achievements in various sectors especially infrastructure, environment, transportation, healthcare, security etc. His leadership in the management of the Covid-19 pandemic has been exceptional. I assure him of my support and cooperation in moving the state forward in the years ahead and I thank him. ”

While also thanking Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, the APC National Leader, Abiru said “Most importantly I pay homage to our national leader, my leader the great Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu former Senator and Governor Emeritus of Lagos State”.

“The leadership, vision and stability you have provided since 1999 has led to the rapid and unparalleled development of Lagos State and your political astuteness and commitment has been critical in sustaining progressive politics in the whole of Nigeria and building the ruling party, the APC. I thank you Sir from the depths of my heart”.

“At this point, let me assure our leaders and members that I will never betray the trust they have reposed in me. Rather, as we approach the bye-election and afterwards, I will build on this trust and join forces with all public office-holders elected

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on the platform of our party to build upon the foundation of progressive governance the party has laid for our dear country since 2015”.

“I am fully aware that our party, APC, came into being with a clear vision. At its conception, the party was envisioned to chart a new course for a better future for our nation and people; promote true democratic values in our political space; prioritise the welfare of Nigerians across every social strata; eliminate poverty through job creation and ensure the primary purpose of good governance, among others. Anywhere in the world, these goals constitute the ideals of progressive politics to which I am committed” .

2.554 Sanwo-Olu Reposes Confidence In Oniru To Transform Lagos

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Sep 6, 2020

Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State Governor has affirmed that he has absolute confidence in the ability and capacity of His Royal Majesty Oba Omogbolahan Lawal (Abisogun II), Oniru of Iru land to bring about greater transformation that will benefit everybody and further reposition Iru land with the matrices of development in Lagos state.

He stated this on Sunday while speaking at the coronation reception of His Royal Majesty, Oba Lawal at the Oniru’s palace.

Sanwo-Olu who was represented by Dr. Obafemi Kadri, his Deputy said two months ago he had the honor and privilege of presenting the staff of office and instrument of appointment to the 15th Oniru of Iru land, His Royal Majesty Oba Lawal and today all are gathered to celebrate with the Kabiyesi.

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He said during the installation ceremony he recalled that he enjoined him to strengthen the existing bond of unity within IruLand for the overall development of peace and progress in his kingdom.

“Two months on the throne, I am pleased to note that Kabiyesi took the advice to heart as exemplified by his very impressive actions characterised by wisdom, knowledge and large heartedness.

“My advice to all sons and daughters as well as residents of IruLand is to continue to stand firm and united behind his Royal Majesty in order to advance the development and prosperity of his kingdom for the benefit of all.

“Kabiyesi, I pray that the kingdom will progress in your reign, that God will guide and direct you dearly and that all your prayers for this land will be answered,” he said.

2.555 Residents Applauds Sanwo-Olu For Approving Road Construction In Iba LCDA

Called from Independent Newspaper on Sep 5, 2020

LAGOS – Residents of Ije Ododo Community in Iba Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of Lagos State, have commended the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving the construction of roads linking the area to Ije-gun road and Abule Ado community, down to Lagos/Badagry Expressway.

The traditional ruler of Ije Ododo Community, High Chief Tajudeen Zubair Ododo, gave the commendation in a chat with journalists on Friday.

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While assuring the state government of the community’s preparedness for the contractor handling the construction to commence work, Chief Ododo appealed to Sanwo-Olu and the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development not to reverse the project.

He explained that the construction and eventual completion of the project will bring an end to the sufferings and challenges being faced by the resident especially during rainy season.

2.556 Sanwo-Olu Calls For Remodeling Of Lagos Airport

Called from Independent Newspaper on Sep 2, 2020

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State on Tuesday called for remodeling of the Murta-la Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) to increase traffic and revenue.

Sanwo-Olu made the call in Ikeja when the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) management paid him a courtesy visit, ahead of the reopening of airspace for international flights. He advised the FAAN management on remodelling of the airport’s facilities to become a hub of business and tourism.

According to him, some of the facilities installed in the airport at inception are due for modernisation and upgrading. The governor made a case for the provision of fast free internet connectivity within the airport lounges, as the era of passengers sitting for long without internet access had passed.

He said that the functionality of the airport must be fully explored, hence, the need to invest in facilities that would drive more passenger traffic to the airport.

2.557 Sanwo-Olu Visits Helicopter Crash Scene, Promises To Rebuild Damaged Structure

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 29, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Saturday visited the scene of the helicopter crash at Opebi for an on-the-spot assessment.

The ill-fated chopper on Friday crashed into a fence in-between two residential buildings. Sanwo-Olu met with some residents of the affected buildings and promised that the state government would bear the cost of the renovations and provide necessary support to cushion the impact of the tragic incident. “We sincerely sympathize with the families of the victims.

“On behalf of the government and people of Lagos State and also on behalf of the President of Nigeria, we commiserate with the families that have lost their loved ones, that have lost the breadwinners of their families, the three Nigerians that lost their lives in this unfortunate helicopter crash that happened just about 24hours ago.

“We feel the pain and the grief that their families must be going through right now and our condolences go to these families.

“After the condolences is also to thank God that as painful as the incident might be, it also has not come with a lot of grand collateral damages. “I have ordered an immediate integrity test conduct on both of the affected buildings to know the level of impact.

“We have seen the level of structural damage, the people mostly affected are senior citizens and we have come to see them.

“We will start working on the fence and the government agencies are here to support them, I want to commend all our frontline workers,” he said.

The governor said he would also be working with the federal agencies on the renovation of the affected buildings and on other support for the affected residents, be it physically, psychological or emotional.

The residents of the affected buildings thanked the governor and emergency response agencies for their prompt response when the accident occurred and for the quick evacuation of the helicopter wreck.

One of the owners of the affected buildings, 77-year-old Deaconess Oluwayemisi Oluwole, appealed that the repairs promised by the governor should be done quickly, for her to be able to move back into her residence.

“I thank God for what happened because there was nobody in the apartment affected by the crash. We thank God that the helicopter didn’t land on top of the house. We thank God that there was no fuel in the helicopter when it landed.

“I hope somebody will come and assess the degree of the damage, and that should be done quickly, because I have not entered the house since yesterday because I have been banned from entering the house.

“Since yesterday, a lot of people came here without observing any COVID-19 protocols. In my house now, I can count 20 face masks on the floor. So, I want to appeal to government to come and help us to sanitise the place.

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“I am very happy that you (Governor Sanwo-Olu) have blood that you know something happened to your subjects and you decided to visit them. Your reign will be sweet in Jesus name,” she prayed.

Also speaking, Mr Sesan Kuyoro, a resident, thanked the several agencies of Lagos State for their quick response to the crash scene and clearing it.

Kuyoro said that their response showed the commitment of the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration to the welfare of the citizens of the state.

The chopper, a Bell 206, belonging to Quorum Aviation, was said to have been flying into Lagos from Port Harcourt, Rivers State with two crew members and a passenger when it crashlanded at Opebi area at mid-day on Friday. Two of the victims lost their lives on the spot, while the third person who was evacuated to the Lagos State Teaching Hospital for treatment later died there.

The Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) said that it had commenced investigation into the cause of the crash.

2.558 COVID-19: Alaafin Extols Sanwo-Olu As Hero Of War Against Pandemic

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 27, 2020

His Imperial Royal Majesty, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Atanda Adeyemi III, CFR, Iku Baba Yeye, The Alaafin of Oyo has described the Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Babajide Sanwo-Olu as the hero of the fight against the scourge of the Coronavirus in Nigeria.

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According to the foremost traditional ruler in Yoruba land, the global outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic has brought many economies in the world on their knees and Nigeria is not an exception.

The Alaafin made this statement through his media director, Bode Durojaye, in Lagos over the weekend. The paramount ruler submitted that Nigeria witnessed her first index case in Lagos on February 27, 2020 and since then, Lagos has remained the epicentre of the COVID-19 incidence in Nigeria; noting that Lagos as the commercial hub of the country is home to many as anyone coming into Nigeria today would have one or more commercial activities to do in Lagos.

“We witnessed with delight and hope, how the Lagos State Government under the leadership of His Excellency, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has taken the bull by the horn in the way he has raised up to the occasion of battling the Coronavirus pandemic to a standstill. “He has raised the bar of excellence in the proactive and accelerated manner he has handled the COVID-19 outbreak in Lagos State.”; Alaafin noted.

According to the monarch, the success stories in Lagos means, Nigeria as a country, is winning the war with Lagos as the leading state in the fight against this common enemy that is ravaging the whole the world.

Governor Sanwo-Olu

Despite the non-preparedness of the government to handle a pandemic at this time of our shared history, the Babajide Sanwo-Olu-led government has restored people’s trust and confidence in the leadership of the state.

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Kabiyesi said: “While the Governor has built isolation and biosecurity centres throughout the state to attend to emergencies arising from the dreaded disease, the governor has equally rolled out measures to reactivate the economy of the state which translates into opening of the Nigerian economy as Lagos is unarguably the server to the other states of Nigeria”.

Notwithstanding, however, during the lockdown in Lagos, the governor launched the Lagos Food Relief initiative which attended to the needs of the vulnerable to curtail civil unrest that may be occasioned by the effect of the stay at home policy of the government.

It is sufficient to say that, the improved testing capacity by the Government of Lagos State and the contact tracing approach has yielded a lot of positive results towards ending the reign of the virus in Lagos and by extension, Nigeria.

Alaafin also noted that the reactivation and reopening plan of the economy in Lagos is also another commendable approach by the Sanwo-Olu administration; adding that the mask up Lagos policy is creative and in line to contain the community spread of the virus. “By all accounts, Lagos State has been adjudged as the State taking the lead in ending the war against COVID- 19 in Nigeria.

“The World Health Organisation and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) have described Lagos as the hero of this fight”; Alaafin noted. According to Alaafin, with the sterling leadership qualities and capacities that the Lagos State Government has shown in getting us out of difficult issues, they deserve all the commendation in the world.

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The imperial monarch said, “I want to especially thank His Excellency, the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu for his prompt response and rapid approach in containing the COVID-19 outbreak in Lagos State which is the epicentre of the scourge.

“His Sterling democratic credentials, doggedness and resoluteness is commendable. His timely intervention has assured many of us of his ability to lead us at a critical time like this and I’m particularly proud of the governor’s abilities and courage.”

Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III CFR, said, “Your Excellency, with your everyday innovations, ideas and improvement on the ways to combat this common enemy of humanity, COVID-19, I thought it necessary to show my heartfelt appreciation to you for your consistency in seeing to the eventual defeat of this pandemic.

“The numbers of isolation centres you have established in the last few months and the sort of motivation you have given to the frontline health workers have been responsible for the maximum success of recoveries we have experienced in Lagos State in the course of this crisis. Your Excellency, I salute your courage and strength in this fight especially as you work around the clock to bring life back to normal in Lagos State which is undoubtedly the home of the world.

“The easing of lockdown in Lagos is a pointer to the world that, Nigeria is gradually winning the war against COVID-19. While taking public health safety very crucial, you have furthermore opened the economy of the State to prosperity and continuity.” Alaafin concluded.

2.559 Lagos Assembly Asks Sanwo-Olu To Account For State's Three Helicopters

Aug 25, 2020

The Lagos State House of Assembly has asked Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to explain the whereabouts of three helicopters belonging to the state government.

The matter was raised during plenary on Monday sequel to the matter of urgent public importance moved by the Chief Whip of the House, Mrs. Mojisola Miranda.

The House, therefore, summoned some key government officials to explain to the Assembly the agreement between the state and Caverton Helicopters, the managers of the helicopters.

The state officials summoned were Chief of Staff to the governor, Tayo Ayinde; Commissioners for Economic Planning and Budget, Sam Egube; Special Duties, Seye Oladejo and management of Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF).

“Recall that in 2007, Lagos House of Assembly passed a bill for the establishment of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) for the state government to equip and strengthen the security agencies in the state. “Three helicopters were bought to strengthen security in the state. But, the helicopters are nowhere to be found now.

“I will want us to look at it and get the concerned parties to tell the House the location of the three helicopters to see if they are just lying fallow. “If the state government has entered into an agreement with an entity on the equipment, let's see to what extent the agreement has been working,” Miranda said.

The Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa, noted that the helicopters were meant for dual purposes – for security and for commercial purposes. Obasa emphasised that the House should know the amount that had accrued to the state from the helicopters so far. “What we have said so far has nothing to do with the image of the state or the Assembly.

“What the Chief Whip has done is not too much. We need to know what has happened to the helicopters,” he said. In his contribution, Mr. Rotimi Olowo (Shomolu I) said that the House had approved the purchase of two helicopters during the era of former Gov. Babatunde Fashola.

Olowo said the House learnt that the state had an agreement with Caverton Nigeria Limited to partially commercialize operations of the helicopters on behalf of the state government.

He added that it was important to know how the three helicopters had been managed so far.

Also speaking, Mr. Fatai Mojeed (Ibeju Lekki I) said the assets were purchased for security purposes and to generate money for the state government.

Mojeed said the House needed to know what had happened to the helicopters and urged that a committee should be set up to look into the matter.

Corroborating, Abiodun Tobun (Epe 1) said the helicopters should be at the reach of the state for security, probity and accountability.

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However, Rotimi Abiru (Shomolu II) cautioned that the Assembly ought to have approached the office of the Chief of Staff over the heli-copters before bringing it to plenary.

Another lawmaker, Ola-wale Olayiwola (Mushin II) noted that it was important to call the attention of the state government to the matter.

Olawale said the House needed to know the where-about of the helicopters, adding that many vehicles that were donated for security purposes in the state were also not functioning well.

2.560 Group Lauds Sanwo-Olu's Intervention In Entertainment Industry

Aug 23, 2020

Amb. Felix Duke, the National President, Creative Industry Group (CIG) has commended Lagos State Government for its numerous interventions toward making the state an enviable hub of the entertainment industry.

Duke, in a statement on Sunday in Lagos gave the commendation when he led executive members on a courtesy visit to Mrs Azamat Akinbile-Yusuf, Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture.

According to him, the familiarisation is to establish cordial relationship with the commissioner and to bring the CIG's existence and projects to its notice.

"It is very commendable that the Lagos State Government has the welfare of creative industry at heart.

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"Especially as the state has enacted plans to ensure that Lagos does not just remain the hub of entertainment in the country but also in the continent.

"The CIG offers our services in all areas to partner with the state in ensuring that this reality is achieved for the good of everyone in all ramifications.

"The N1billion intervention loan set aside by the Lagos State government for the creative, tourism and hospitality sector is highly commendable," he said. The CIG president however suggested that CIG members could have access to the loan to ease the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on their businesses and sources of livelihood.

Duke listed CIG's achievements and ongoing projects to include the establishment of creative industry group pacific estate at Ibeju Lekki and the CIG's CUG line to ease communication among members.

He said that part of the achievements was welfare empowerment kit for members in partnership with Capital Express Assurance and Hallmark HMO health services. According to him, the group is working toward the Empress Mandani's World Cinema Academy to be established in Lagos.

Duke said that the group had been undergoing numerous free skill acquisition and capacity building training for members in the year.

In her remarks, Akinbile-Yusuf said: "We can only help ourselves if we know ourselves. This implies collation of the data of players within the state's creative space. "Worthy of note is the Creative Industry Group," he said.

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The commissioner applauded the CIG initiatives and accomplishments within a short time of its existence without government intervention.

The commissioner commended the process and procedure to access the N1 billion intervention loan, assured the organisation of the full support of her office and the State Government.

She said that the all palliative interventions for the industry would begin after total lifting of lockdown caused by COVID-19.

The CIG executive team led by Duke had in attendance, Chief Emeka Ossai, the Director of Strategy and Head of Nollywood Sector, Prince Frank Ehi, the National Public Relations Officer.

2.561 Sanwo-Olu Inspects Iconic Office Projects, Targets December Delivery Date

Aug 23, 2020

LAGOS – Amidst the economic recession and dwindling financial resources occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration in Lagos State at the weekend expressed its determination to reduce the cost of governance and promote inter-communication among agencies through the provision of sustainable office infrastructure for its workforce.

Governor Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance during an unscheduled visit to two iconic structures in the state, the Lagos Revenue House and Multi Agency Building in Alausa, Ikeja.

The governor visited the Lagos Revenue House (formerly Elephant House) building consisting of four wings of seven floors plus a wing of eight floors and a multi-storey structure

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consisting of three blocks on a total area of 2.01 hectares dubbed the Multi-Agency Building.

Sanwo-Olu was accompanied on the visit by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; Head of Service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola; Special Adviser to the Governor on Works and Infrastructure, Engr. (Mrs.) Aramide Oduy-oye and Commissioner for Budget, Samuel Egube, among other top officials.

The visitation was in line with the Sanwo-Olu's government's determination to ensure prompt completion of the projects conceived by Lagos State government out of the twin desire to scale down the incidental costs of premises rentals and accommodate most parastatals of the state within the vicinity of the state's secretariat.

Speaking during the visitation to the Lagos Revenue House at Alausa in Ikeja, Sanwo-Olu observed the need to accommodate the phased delivery of the project so as to meet the delivery of wings A and C by December 2020.

The Lagos Revenue House, located at the Central Business District, Ikeja, is in close proximity to the state secretariat at Alausa, Ikeja, and when completed, it would accommodate all government agencies involved with revenue generations in the state.

The project comprises four wings – A, B, C and D, with three of the wings consisting of seven floors and D with eight floors. Some of the facilities provided in the building included borehole water, storage tank, water treatment plant, central sewage treatment plants, and pumping machines.

Other ancillary facilities included four gatehouses, a generator house, a central open courtyard, four lifts, offices, toilets and

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other conveniences. The contractor handling the project, Messrs, Integrat-ed Projects Limited, prom-ised the delivery of the proj-ect as scheduled.

The multi-agency build-ing comprised two blocks (A and C) of five floors and one Block B of eight floors with a penthouse on each of the last floors for conference and meeting spaces.

The ground and first floors were designed to ac-commodate car parks, while the second to seventh floors were designed as office ac-commodation.

Other features included in the project were two el-evators per block, canteen and kitchens for each block, conveniences, central air conditioning systems and tamp concrete finishes for the carport, among others.

Sanwo-Olu urged the con-tractor handling the project, Messrs Palmyra Construc-tion Nigeria Limited, to accelerate delivery of the project to avoid cost overrun works to enable early com-pletion of the project.

**2.562 Lekki Regional Road: Property Owners Accuse
Sanwo-Olu Of Dictatorship**
Aug 22, 2020

It is no longer news that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has announced the plan construction of a regional road that will link Lekki-Epe expressway at Victoria Garden City (VGC) to the island of Lagos.

This well-hyped project which is being handled by Hi-Tech Construction Company has led to what many have perceived as illegal seizure and appropriation of many landed properties with valid titled documents and government consent.

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It is strange that in the 21st Century, a democratically elected government will arbitrarily seize people's properties without due process, full negotiation and compensation, even when interest in such properties were duly registered at the Lagos State Government.

Many of the property owners have vowed to defend protect their interest in the properties being forcefully encroached upon by the Lagos state Government, in line with Section 2 of the 2016 Lagos State Properties Protection Law which posits that the use of force or self-help or any act inconsistent with the proprietary right of the owner to take over any landed property has been prohibited.

They also pointed out Section 43 and 44(1) of the 1999 Constitution which stipulates the right to own property and also the prohibition of seizure of property without legal authority and compensation.

It is a known fact that government may have rights to make use of private property where there is overriding public interest, but there is are legal steps that should mandatory be followed under the Land Use Act, before such acquisition can take effect. The Sanwo-Olu led administration has deliberately failed and neglected to take into consideration the interest of property owners by ensuring adequate negotiation as well as compensation.

It is quite ironical that the Lagos first citizen would rather overlook the rights of property owners simply because he wants to impress on his performance, using an over-hyped regional road.

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A visit by our correspondent last week saw properties being destroyed and fences being pulled down, including those already occupied without due process.

Also, many of the land owners were deceived to believe they will be engaged in negotiation, with the State Government fixing meetings which their officials did not attend, only for Hi-Tech Construction Company, the state's contractor, to start demolishing people's fences and occupied properties.

This action, according to the property owners, amount to unjustifiable use of power by a democratically elected governor, who it is within its purview to ensure peace and security of lives and properties.

They further affirmed that the statement by Governor Sanwo-Olu at the flag-off of the 8.75 kilometre-long road project which tries to reduce the suffering of Lagos citizens on road congestion, should have also address their plight, as citizens, whose rightfully acquired properties have been destroyed without consultation .

2.563 Sanwo-Olu Unveils E-Library Of Lagos State Laws *Aug 20, 2020*

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has unveiled the E(electronic)-Library of the Laws of Lagos State.

The e-library was launched on the LawPavilion platform at the recently held Legal Tech Conference by the Governor who was represented on the occasion by Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo (SAN), the State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.

Working in collaboration with the Law Reform Commission of Lagos State, the e-library platform will make the Laws of Lagos

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State easily accessible and relevant for the use of Lagosians and the public. The said (annotated) e-laws of Lagos State will also highlight how the courts and populace interact with the laws, leveraging on machine learning and artificial intelligence.

This approach will ensure that new laws and decisions of court are data-driven, with its finger on the pulse of the general citizenry.

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It would be recalled that LawPavilion Business Solutions Ltd, the nation's foremost legal technologies company, in collaboration with Telnet Group had organised the recently concluded 2-day virtual conference where the unveiling was done. The Conference also witnessed the unveiling of the LawRights App from the LawPavilion stable.

The App, which is meant for general public use, will help people to know and understand their constitutional rights.

It'll also help them to have access to lawyers and law firms listed on the app. And, where necessary, it'll help initiate the process of adjudication in cases of rights violation.

While lauding the development, Mr Paul Usoro (SAN), the outgoing President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), pointed out that access to justice and the upholding of rule of law will remain a mirage where the average citizen is ignorant of his rights under the law or is deprived of access to regulatory

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bodies and government agencies that can ensure that citizens' rights are not trampled upon.

He lauded the LawRights App, describing it as a ground-breaking solution which Nigerians generally and critical stakeholders in the administration of justice should take advantage of.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed alluded to the giant strides made by the Supreme Court in recent years in adopting the use of court management software.

According to him, this is a marked departure from the analogue system.

Justice Tanko reiterated the backing of the Judiciary in the uptrend adoption of new technologies in justice delivery in Nigeria.

In his reaction, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo (SAN) who earlier delivered the keynote address on the occasion, expressed his elation at the rapid adoption of technology by the Supreme Court. He commended the stamp of approval which the apex court had given to virtual court sittings in light of its recent rulings in this regard.

He also drew attention to the fact that technology has aided the democratization of law and justice in Nigeria and called for purpose-built solutions for the administration of justice in Nigeria by local legal and technology companies in the country.

He pledged the Federal Government's commitment to supporting tech companies, as Nigerians adapt to the new

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global realities of artificial intelligence (AI) and sophisticated technology solutions.

During the panel discussion, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola (JSC) opined that the judiciary will continue to demonstrate a willingness to adopt technologies and adapt court processes to the emerging post-COVID19 realities, in the bid to ensuring quick justice delivery.

However, Dr Babatunde Ajibade pointed out that there are still significant pockets of technologically challenged members of the Bar and Bench. Hence, there needs to be more thinking about how technology can be harnessed to facilitate the delivery of justice, with the corresponding financial and human resources investments required.

On whether the legal services market and judiciary are walking the talk in terms of using technology to enhance and improve their operations, Mr. Folorunsho Aliu, MD of Telnet Group, took an optimistic view. He said lessons and ideas emerging from the conference will be instrumental towards more widespread adoption and use of legal technology in Nigeria.

On managing law firms and legal departments, Sesan Sobowale of Union Bank Legal Department and Raymond Mgbeokwere of First Bank shared unique insights about the deployment of bespoke LawPavilion Case Management Solution for Legal Departments.

The conference, which had the keynote speech delivered by the Vice President, with goodwill message from the CJN and NBA President, has been praised as a timely intervention on the important role of technology in the administration of justice in Nigeria.

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It also had Gbenga Sesan, CEO of Paradigm Initiatives, as one of the speakers.

The Conference featured pieces of new and existing solutions within the legal services industry.

2.564 Sanwo-Olu Stresses Need To Focus More On Food Production

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 14, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said that focusing on local food production would increase agricultural production that will meet the food needs of the State's growing population, transform agriculture to commercial and export oriented production while at the same time generating employment especially for the youth.

He stated this while speaking in Badagry during an on-site inspection tour of the 279-hectares of land erstwhile Songhai Food Production Center to the Lagos Food Production Center Badagry.

"I have been fully briefed about this project but I considered it necessary to personally embark on this journey to Badagry in order to take assessment and see what exactly we need to do in terms of intervention. "After taking a tour of the project site, what I observed is that the entire project looks more as a job that has not been completed. Therefore, we need to improve on the interventions to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"With very minimal resources, we have seen what the Ministry has done to keep the project afloat. Government will raise the resources and turn around this project to the level it should be.

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He added, "We will need to deploy more resources to revive and scale up all the machinery and systems already put in place. We will complete the project and open it for commercial production". He explained that some of the agricultural projects to be developed for commercial production in the Center include fishing, poultry, piggery and agro-forestry among others.

Sanwo- Olu averred that apart from delivering wholesome food items and training and creating employment for youths, the Center would also provide competitive inputs/raw materials for the Agro-Industry, provide new environmental products and services, and provide feed stock for renewable energy supply.

Speaking further he noted that the project would give rise to similar agro-allied businesses that would open up Badagry's economy for more growth while also boosting its tourism business.

Some of the objectives of the Center according to him include; production that delivers sufficient quantities of safe whole-some food items that assist in disease prevention, healthy living and healthy aging.

Others are providing improved livelihood for the unemployed youths; reduction of dependency on other States to supply the food and fibre to be consumed by Lagosians; complementing the productivity of the ageing farmers which could not sustain or move the State to a comfortable level of self-sufficiency in food production.

"Lagos is a big State in terms of population, but we also can intervene in our food production value chain. What we are also trying to do with the revival of the project is that, we want to produce various agricultural products we can consume

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internally in order to reduce our dependence on external food sources

2.565 Lagos Deserves More Federal Representation — Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 13, 2020

Lagos State governor, Ba-bajide Sanwo-Olu, has expressed displeasure over the low quota reserved for the state's indigenes in the employment scheme of Federal Government's organisations operating in the state.

The governor vowed that his administration would be making necessary moves to address the inadequacy which, he said, offended the spirit of fairness, equity, and federating balance.

Sanwo-Olu spoke against the backdrop of the low representation of Lagos indigenes in federal public institutions when he received the Commissioner representing Lagos State at the Federal Character Commission (FCC), Abdulwasii Bawa-Allah, during a courtesy visit on Wednesday, at the State House in Marina.

The governor wondered why Lagos – the nation's commercial and economic nerve centre – should be short-changed in the distribution of public service employment and political representation in Federal Government's agencies, departments, and parastatals that are based in the state, stressing that the inadequacy should prick the conscience of the FCC leadership.

Sanwo-Olu said the state needed all the help it could get from the commission to reverse the lopsidedness and imbalance

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which, he said, had mounted pressure on government's resources and limited citizens' potential.

He said: "It is a shame that Lagos, which is Nigeria's economic and industrial nerve centre, and which has the largest population has been short-changed in this national commission.

"The popular narrative about Lagos is that, people think we are okay in terms of resources and infrastructure. They think we have been taken care of. This is not the case.

"Lagos is accommodating to all but the resources available are not enough to cater for all. The challenges facing us are enormous.

"Our citizens need to be given their proper space in line with the spirit of fairness and the mandate of the Federal Character Commission."

Sanwo-Olu said he was particularly excited by the nomination of Bawa-Allah as Lagos representative in the commission, noting that President Muhammadu Buhari was buoyed by a sense of fairness and equity for considering it necessary to reconstitute the commission.

He pointed out that Bawa-Allah's appointment was timely and came at a period the state was making efforts to bridge the deficit in its federal representation.

Sanwo-Olu pledged the state government's readiness to work with the commissioner to realise the goal of up-scaling Lagos' representation.

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The governor said: “With your calibre and the knowl-edge of these shortcomings, we are expecting that this unfair narrative will turn around for good for the state.

“Not only will we be working closely with you as our representative in the commission, we will take up the charge and ensure what is deserving of us is taken up.

“We will be giving you all the support required to settle and work to achieve your goals.”

Responding, Bawa-Allah pledged to work with the governor to reverse the in-equitable action against the state.

The commissioner said he was shocked, upon as-sumption of office, to dis-cover indigenes of Lagos only made up 11 percent of the 10,000 employees on Grade Levels 1 to 6 work-ing across over 120 federal organisations operating in Lagos.

He added that Lagos’ rep-resentation in the federal system was not in the stat-utory 2.5 percent, a problem, he said, that was caused by a period of sour relationship between the state and the government at the centre.

He said: “While we can-not turn back the hands of time, I believe it is time to get cracking and address the issue. I stand in focus, cour-age, tenacity and optimism.

“I am determined to work hard, with the confidence of the governor and stakehold-ers, in order to get what is due to our state.

“I seek effective syner-gy and collaboration with the government of Lagos, our representatives in the Senate and House of Repre-sentatives to achieve these goals.”

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2.566 Sanwo-Olu’s Efforts Will Bring An End To Apapa Gridlock- Rep

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 11, 2020

LAGOS- A member of the Federal House of Representatives, Hon. Mufutau Egberongbe has said that the recent visit of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, to the Apapa area of the state, will surely bring an end to gridlock in the axis.

Egberongbe, who is representing Apapa Federal Constituency in the lower chamber of the National Assembly, in a chat with DAILY INDEPENDENT, applauded Governor Sanwo-Olu for deeming it fit to visit Apapa to assess the situation of the area.

According to the lawmaker, the situation in Apapa especially as it relates to traffic, was becoming very unbearable, “and with the governor’s recent visit and the promises that have been made, I believe that respite is coming. “You would recall that the governor disclosed that the state government had made a request to the federal government to prevail on the concessionaire that will be operating the 700-truck capacity Lilypond Terminal at Apapa to open the facility for use without further delay.

“This is an effort worth commending. This shows that Governor Sanwo-Olu is a working governor, who cares about the plight of the people. And for him to have fone further to donate additional 30 hectares of land in Ijora is another pointer to the fact that he is concerned about restoration of sanity to Apapa.

“As the representative of the people of Apapa, I want to specially commend the governor for his visit. From all what the governor said, I can say that in a matter of months, normalcy will return to Apapa.”

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“I personally have the conviction that these steps will be part of the solution of taking those trucks off the Apapa highways,” Egberongbe said.

He, however, appealed to owners of illegal settlements springing up and encroaching the right-of-way of the Blue Line Rail project around Apapa-Iganmu area to vacate the area.

He pointed out that though the governor has given the slum occupants one month to remove their shanties and vacate the space, but advised them to immediately vacate their area and not wait for the one-month given by governor.

It would be recalled that Sanwo-Olu visited the Apapa-Iganmu area on Sunday, where he noted that tress created under the Iganmu intersection has encroached the right-of-way of the rail project. The governor stated that in the next one month, he would be taking a decisive action to eject those creating illegal settlements under the bridge.

2.567 Sanwo-Olu Commissions Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT Corridor

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 11, 2020

Lagos- To address transportation and congestion challenges in Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commissioned the Oshodi-Abule Egba Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Corridor and launched the extended ticketing system.

Speaking at the commissioning of Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT System Infrastructure, unveiling of 550 high and medium capacity buses, launch of the extended e-ticketing system and commencement of bus operations in Lagos on Tuesday, Sanwo-Olu said the gesture is to reduce the journey time for

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commuters and residents in the area from one and a half hours to less than 30 minutes.

This initiative, the governor said, is to improve the flow of traffic in the axis and assist residents' journey time. He said that his administration pledged to significantly improve traffic management and transportation system which is the very first of his administration's six-point development agenda encapsulated as T-H-E-M-E-S.

He said: “Today, we are here to formally flag-off a very important transport infrastructure – the Oshodi – Abule Egba Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, unveil 550 high and medium capacity buses, launch the commencement of transport operation on the Oshodi – Abule Egba BRT corridor and inaugurate our upgraded e-ticketing system in fulfilment of our pledge.”

He said that although the administration's promise was to deliver the project in May this year, it had to be shifted forward due to the disruption brought about by COVID-19.

Saying that the BRT has proven to be an effective means of achieving a fast, reliable and efficient movement of large number of people across the state, Sanwo-Olu noted that “since March 2008, when the first phase of this new initiative was launched, thousands of Lagosians have continued to enjoy improved travel experience along the designated routes every day.”

This project, Sanwo-Olu noted, is very significant because of its immense benefits to Lagosians in the different communities it straddles and to visitors to the state, adding that the new BRT corridor will bring great relief to over 60,000 commuters who will use this facility daily.

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He said that travel time, which is estimated at an average of two hours during peak periods, will be significantly reduced to an average of about 30 minutes, adding that “this will translate to improved health of our people, a safer environment, and increased value of socio-economic activities in our state.”

The completion of this project which was commenced by the past administration, the governor said, is one of the dividends of this administration’s investment in the transport sector for efficient traffic management and transportation, which is crucial to facilitating the emergence of a smart and 21st century economy.

Commending President Muhammadu Buhari for his efforts to secure the release of about 550 high and medium capacity buses, which had been in bonded warehouse to increase the stock of regulated buses in Lagos State, Sanwo-Olu noted that these buses would be gradually deployed on the primary transport corridors in the state for ease of commuting of the people.

“I will use this opportunity to thank our dear President Muhammadu Buhari for his kind intervention, which facilitated the clearing of some of the high capacity buses that would be deployed on this corridor,” he noted.

“All our actions are geared towards birthing a new commuting order through seamless travel in a near congestion free state,” he said, adding that the “current administration is very keen to seeing all transport modes integrated through all our intervention in traffic management and transportation.”

The governor said that in the quest to integrate all transport modes, the state is also launching an upgraded e-ticketing

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platform that would at once drive automation of the transport fare payment system and smart mobility through a cashless single travel card system. “With the e-ticketing system, we envisage the use of a single card on buses and ferries and later upscale to the railways system when passenger operations commence in 2022.”

“The system promotes a cashless ecosystem, aids personal budgeting and planning and commuters can easily top up. The challenge of ‘no change’ that is very prevalent in our unregulated transport system will be a thing of the past. And using the system is fast, encrypted and secured.”

While congratulating Lagosians on the successful completion of the project, Sanwo-Olu urged residents of the area to take responsibility of the project and ensure that the facilities are kept and maintained. “Dear people of Lagos State, this project is yours, own it, and protect it. If you see something inimical to the infrastructure or operations of the bus system, please say something,” the governor said.

2.568 Sanwo-Olu Gives Hospital’s Management 7-Day Ultimatum To Remove Trucks, Containers

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 9, 2020

The Lagos State Government on Sunday issued a seven-day ultimatum to the authorities of Lagoon Hospital in Apapa, Lagos, to remove trailers and containers in the hospital’s car park.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who gave the ultimatum while inspecting road projects in Apapa, said the hospital’s car park had been turned to a container terminal.

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Sanwo-Olu warned that the land would be revoked by government and turned to public use if within seven days, the hospital failed to convert the property back to its original use as car park.

He condemned the act of turning the car park to a container terminal, saying that the development was obstructing traffic on Liverpool Road.

“I don’t want to destroy anybody’s brand. But we noticed that at the Liverpool Roundabout, a company has a car park and the car park has been converted to what seems like a container terminal.

“Apart from the fact that it is obstructing traffic, it is not what it is meant to be.

“We have gone inside that company and we have given them seven days’ notice that they need to convert it to its original use.

“It is meant to be an ordinary car park for the hospital’s patients and staff. That is what it is meant to be.

“If they don’t comply, we will not only revoke the land, we will turn it to public use.” The governor said that illegal parking of trailers on the road and on other unauthorised places was the main cause of the gridlock in Apapa.

2.569 Sanwo-Olu Charges Lagos Residents On Road Maintenance

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 9, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has charged residents of the state on the need to change their behavior

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towards road, as well as to take responsibility of the infrastructure.

Sanwo-Olu, who gave the charge on Sunday while briefing newsmen during the inspection of the Mile 2 Under-Bridge Road at the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, pleaded with residents of the area to watch their way of life and dispose of their refuse properly, so as to keep the sanctity of the road longer and better for everyone.

Noting that a lot of tax payers’ money has been spent to fix the road, the governor said: “We need to help ourselves, people need to just change their behavior and people need to take responsibility.”

Sanwo-Olu, who said that his administration is dedicated and committed to ensuring that the state brings relief and a long lasting solution, added: “We are committed to doing it and that’s why we have taken out time to be here this afternoon.

“Once again you have seen that we are under the Mile 2 Bridge. You can see that there has been a major failure in this section of the Lagos Badagry express road. Like I was explaining to the resident about two weeks ago, we have cleared out all this drainage over 70trios of blockage.” While lamenting that that residents have begun throwing garbage into the drain, the governor stated:

“The drain gets blocked when it rains. The water does not have a place to go so it stays in the road. You know that bitumen and water are not friends and that is what has given this road a massive failure. This is a major failure we have seen here.”

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He said: “For us, it’s to look for additional solution for people to change their complete habit. So from under the bridge, we are going to do rigid pavement, it will be all concrete payment like the type we see also from the port. So we are not going to be using bitumen again or asphalt.

“And we are going to be doing another outfall, we are going to do a dedicated drainage again, which will take it straight to the Lagoon further down which is about one or two kilometers from here.

“We are going to rebuild this place from today. We are pleading with our residents because we have seen that contractors have moved to the sites.

The same contractors that are supposed to be moving this road to LASU Iba, we have to tell them to come back to set up another one to fix this section.

This section is about 700 to 800 maximum in kilometers, which they are going to be fixing for us. And they will be working towards LASU Iba junction and just to meet our end of the year deadline to meet up to LASU Iba.”

**2.570 N1bn Palliatives: Tourism, Entertainment
Stakeholders Laud Sanwo-Olu For Approval
*Called from Independent Newspaper on Aug 5, 2020***

Lagos – Stakeholders in the tourism and entertainment sector in Lagos State have commended Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving the N1 billion fund for palliatives, which was pronounced during a recent business meeting organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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Briefing journalists on the development on Wednesday, the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf, said the tourism and entertainment industry was one of the major hit sectors by Covid-19, which unarguably had kept the Ministry and indeed the state government on their toes.

Akinbile-Yusuf maintained that she was happy to inform Lagosians that the governor approved the release of N1 billion as seed capital for investment in tourism to drive the growth of hospitality, tourism and entertainment businesses. “Being the ministry that regulates activities in the tourism, hospitality and the entertainment sector, it becomes imperative to provide further insights into the pronouncements of the governor, especially as it affects stakeholders in the tourism and entertainment sector.

“It is my pleasure and honour to inform Lagosians that the governor has graciously approved the release of N1 billion as seed capital for investment in tourism to drive the growth of hospitality, tourism and entertainment businesses,” she disclosed.

She recalled that the governor earlier approved the constitution of Lagos Covid-19 Pandemic Review Committee to critically assess and review the negative impacts of the pandemic on the tourism and the creative sector in the state, adding that the governor was commitment to providing key operators in the tourism sector with soft loans to boost their capacity in driving growth and also position tourism business as a new frontier for job creation and economic prosperity in the post-Corona era.

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“As already stated by the governor, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture will work hand in hand with the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) to administer the single digit loan to practitioners that meet the criteria that would be set by the Ministry and LSETF”, the commissioner stated.

However, the commissioner reminded the practitioners that the palliatives could only be accessed by registered members, while emphasising that recalcitrant facilities risk being shut down by the government. She added that the window of opportunity to register their establishments with the ministry is still open.

Chairman of the Palliative Review Committee, Joke Silva, on behalf of her team, commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for being a responsive and responsible governor that has the love and welfare of Lagosians at heart, especially in creating an enabling environment to promote sustainable tourism that is widely recognised as a key sector for achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), given its major potential to contribute to jobs and wealth creation.

Silva hinted that the governor approved the recommendations presented by the committee and emphasised that the granted fund is for the most vulnerable of their members.

2.571 BREAKING: Sanwo-Olu Revokes Ambode’s Land Use Charge Law

Culled from Independent Newspaper on Aug 5, 2020

Lagos State Government has revoked the 2018 land use charge. This was announced by the Lagos Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Rabiul Olowo, at a press briefing on Wednesday.

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Olowo said the government reverted to pre-2018 land use charges. He said the land use charges for 2017, 2018, and 2019 have also been waived.

2.572 Sanwo-Olu Gets AfriSAFE Award Nomination

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on September 29, 2020

The Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has been nominated as one of the exceptional African leaders in government by the Health, Environment and Safety (HSE) Practitioners, to receive “ICON of the year award” at the Africa Safety Award For Excellence (AfriSAFE), 2020 edition on November 8, and hosted by online media brand, HSEnations.

This information is contained in a press release by the chairman of AfriSAFE board of governors, Rear Admiral Sunny Olukoya (rtd), who said the Sanwo-Olu was nominated for being proactive in Africa’s quest for survival in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The statement read that the Femi Da-Silva, chief coordinator of AfriSAFE, Femi Da Silva said aside Lagos State governor, other leaders in the private sector who were also proactive in the fight against the pandemic were nominated for the display of high standard leadership and for implementing strategies that helped to reduce the negative impact of the virus.

He further said the ICON of the Year Award is one of AfriSAFE’s award categories, dedicated to recognising leaders in government across Africa, who gave the best of innovative response to address the issue of COVID-19 pandemic in their various countries, hence, the choice of Mr. Sanwo-Olu.

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**2.573 COVID-19 Not An Excuse For Low Performance,
Says Sanwo-Olu**

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on September 22, 2020

Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday, assured Lagosians that his administration was committed to fulfilling all his promises despite disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges that were not envisaged.

The governor, who spoke during the opening ceremony of the first Lagos State two-day Ministerial Performance Re-view retreat being held in Lagos, said the pandemic cannot serve as an excuse for low performance.

He said fulfilling the promises in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda for 'Greater Lagos' would be delivered by the incumbent administration, despite the reduction in the budget as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, knowing fully that no excuse will be tenable to the residents of the state.

The governor added that the state government is determined to step up the tempo of governance through innovative and inclusive policies.

He said, "I want to assure you that despite disruption occasioned by COVID-19 and other challenges that we did not envisage, we are still committed as a government to fulfilling the promises we made to people knowing fully that no excuse will be tenable to our citizens". "We must be determined to step forward, heighten the tempo of governance and continue to create opportunities through innovative policies that are not only inclusive but provide sustainable solutions for this present

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administration and lay the foundation for future administrations coming behind us."

He said: "Let me emphasise that our yardstick for performance assessment will not be based majorly on the amount of money expended or budget but the outcome of our various interventions that we have had; what measures the impact that touched the lives of citizens that we swore to serve."

The deputy governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat in his address enumerated all the government achievements in the last one year and four months in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration promised the peo-ple of Lagos State.

**2.574 Sanwo-Olu Tasks Nigerians On Growth, Service To
Humanity**

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on September 8, 2020

The Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has charged Nigerians, especially Christians to pray to God, embrace, serve, and do their best for the growth of their respective faith, state and the nation at large.

Speaking yesterday at the official opening ceremony of the second Session of the 34th Synod of the Diocese of Lagos, Church of Nigeria. (Anglican Communion) at Our Saviour's Church, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, Governor Sanwo-Olu said COVID-19 has shown in reality that people need to pray and therefore implored Lagos State residents to continue to pray.

The governor, who disclosed that Monday September 7, 2020 would be the first day in over six months that he is entering into

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“House of the Lord,’ thanked God for sparing his life and millions of Lagosians, especially members of the Diocese of Lagos to witness this year’s Synod even as Lagos State continues to see a reduction in the numbers of confirmed cases of coronavirus.

Stressing the need for Christians to pray and serve in reference to the Synod theme “Pray, Serve and Grow” with Romans 12:11 as reference scripture, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the theme of the Synod was apt because for all to build a ‘Greater Lagos’ there is a need for people to pray to God, serve and do their best for the growth of the state.

Sanwo-Olu in his Goodwill Message said, “Following the rude, unexpected, and difficult events of COVID – 19 which we have all witnessed in the Year 2020 beginning from early December 2019 in Wuhan city of China, there can be no better befitting theme for our Synod than to “Pray, Serve and Grow (Romans 12:11 says ‘not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.’

“We are to pray in order to acknowledge our limitations as human beings because God remains sovereign. He remains the Supreme God; He knows it all and he is in charge of all circumstances we human beings might face.

“Service to the Lord is serving one another; it is about loving one another, supporting one another. Serving the Lord is serving one another in active ingredients of the work of our faith, which without one another, we are all dead as said James 2:17 ‘Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.’

The governor also commended religious leaders in Lagos State, especially the Diocese of Lagos for their support and

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cooperation in ensuring strict adherence to the directive of the State government in respect of COVID 19 pandemic.

In his address, Bishop Humphrey Olumakaiye, who described Governor Sanwo-Olu as indefatigable and result oriented, said the governor had approved the construction of the road leading to the Centenary City of the Diocese and mobilised contractors to move to site.

2.575 Sanwo-Olu Begins Disbursement Of Research Grant
Culled from Leadership Newspaper on August 19, 2020

Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday, commenced disbursement of research grants to the awardees, urging them to make judicious use of the grant to transform their ideas into reality.

The governor in his remark at the of the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC) grant award ceremony, said his administration had in December 2019, seven months into the tenure of his administration, inaugurated the LASRIC with a seed fund of N250 million, in demonstration of his commitment to developing Lagos into a 21st-century digital economy and Smart City.

He said, “You are all aware of the T.H.E.M.E.S agenda of our administration, which sets out the vision for the work that this administration has been elected to do on behalf of the people of Lagos State”.

The first ‘E’, and the ‘M’ represent ‘Education and Technology’, and ‘Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy’, the twin elements that underpin the work of the LASRICI.

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“One of LASRIC’s key mandates is to facilitate investment in science research, innovation, and STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) throughout the state and to encourage the development of innovative solutions to problems, using cutting-edge technology, including artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, and others.

“I have no doubt that the applications have gone through a thorough review process, overseen by the Council, which is made up of some of Nigeria’s most experienced and successful technology entrepreneurs, academics, and public servants”.

“Every individual and organisation that is a grantee today should feel very proud of the recognition and should commit to making judicious use of the grant to transform their ideas into reality. This responsibility now firmly rests on your shoulders.

LASRIC is making funding available and is also committed to encouraging and supporting you along the way”.

2.576 I’ll Spread Infrastructure To Every Part Of Lagos – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from Leadership Newspaper on August 18, 2020

Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration’s commitment to the fulfilment of his promise to spread infrastructure to all parts of the state including Epe Division.

The governor stated this at the weekend when he presented Staff of Office and Instrument of Appointment to Oba Olufolarin OlukayodeOgunsanwo, the Alara of Ilara in Eredo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of the State.

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The governor said royal fathers were indispensable partners of government due to the roles they play as agents of development, promoters of peace and peaceful coexistence among all people and residents within their domain.

He said Lagos State government would continue to collaborate with traditional rulers in the state to ensure that their welfare is accorded the attention it deserves.

His words: “On behalf of myself, the government and people of Lagos State, I rejoice with Your Royal Majesty as you ascend the stool of your ancestors.

Your choice by the Kingmakers and wide acceptance by your people to lead them and be the custodian of the culture and tradition of this Kingdom is a reflection of their trust and confidence in your ability to positively impact the fortune of this landscape and its people.

“Kabiyesi, your position as the chairman of Epe divisional Council of Obas and Chiefs, as well as vice chairman at the state level, confers on you great responsibility which you are expected to discharge with a high sense of responsibility guided by the overall interest of our dear state.

“You have a responsibility to provide leadership, promote cooperation, friendship and the spirit of togetherness among the comity of Royal fathers and Chiefs within the Division and at the State level.”

2.577 Sanwo-Olu launches UNDP COVID-19 response basket fund

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on September 30, 2020

LAGOS State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday launched the ‘Unconditional cash transfer programme for vulnerable communities affected by COVID-19 in Lagos State’ to support communities and businesses deeply impacted by the pandemic.

The programme, also known as the COVID-19 basket fund, is meant to “cushion the effect of the pandemic through stepped-up action to protect the vulnerable, who are also faced with the loss of income as a result of measures taken by the government to contain the spread of the pandemic by strengthening their capacity for the continuation of livelihoods, employment and businesses”.

It is an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Federal and Lagos State governments, European Union (EU) and some other donor organisations. According to the Resident Representative of UN/EU Ambassador, Dr. Mohammed Yaya, 22,600 families and 5, 500 small and medium enterprises SMEs in Lagos will benefit from the basket through cash transfer.

In his goodwill message at the launch, which took place at Ikoyi, Sanwo-Olu thanked UNDP, EU, the Federal Government and other donors for the gesture.

The governor promised that his government has implemented and will continue to implement measures to ameliorate the effect of the pandemic on the people.

Reeling out his administration’s efforts to cushion the effect of the pandemic on the citizens since the outbreak, the governor assured that the UNDP initiative will be providing cash for some of the most vulnerable areas in Lagos State.

He added that the programme will take them out of poverty for them to start their lives again.

The governor said 800,000 families in the state have so far been touched by its palliatives in the last three months.

Yaya said the project will entail quick implementation as well as transparent and trackable interventions to address the developmental impact of COVID-19 in selected locations and safeguard national progress towards the SDGs.

He added that it would raise awareness, drive community action and galvanise the support of stakeholders, strengthen capacity for pandemic containment in selected hotspots communities.

Dignitaries at the event include the Senior Special Assistant on SDG to President Muhammadu Buhari, Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, Special Assistant to Governor Sanwo-Olu on SDG, Dr. Mohammed Yaya, Resident Representative of UNDP, EU Ambassador, who joined virtually and some members of the state exco.

2.578 Sanwo-Olu: Extending democratic dividends to grassroots

Called from The Nation newspaper on September 30, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has kicked off the building of 377 projects across the wards, thereby turning the Centre of Excellence into a huge construction sites, writes Deputy Editor EMMANUEL OLADESU.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

It is a new dawn in governance in Lagos State. From yesterday, many contractors were mobilised to sites across the local governments in Lagos State for the implementation of projects dictated by local needs.

No ward is exempted, according to Local Government and Community Affairs Commissioner Wale Ahmed, who described the intervention by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu as unique, novel and largely beneficial to the grassroots. He said the initiative is rare, adding that it has never happened before at the federal, state and local governments.

“All the 377 wards across 57 councils in the three senatorial districts are covered. The councillors, following extensive consultations with community leaders, residents and stakeholders named the specific projects, based on consensus. The governor approved them and their implementation has kicked off,” he stressed.

During the campaigns last year, Sanwo-Olu promised to run an all-inclusive administration. The inclusion is not limited to appointments to broaden the scope of political participation, but also extends to fighting infrastructure battles at the grassroots, where the majority of voters reside.

In keeping with the promises, the governor flagged off the execution of the state-wide projects last week. Apart from over 250 roads, there will be installation of 23 power projects. Some wards chose environmental renewal, new buildings and street lighting. Others, particularly riverine wards opted for jetties and other impetus for boosting water transportation. All the ward councillors are to go home to preach the gospel of project

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ownership, which is critical to implementation, evaluation and maintenance.

The comprehensive intervention has been hailed by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) as the first of its kind in the history of governance in the state.

The chairman, Tunde Balogun, a former Home Affairs Commissioner, who witnessed the kick off at the Adeyemi Bero Hall, State Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, lauded Sanwo-Olu for fulfilling his promises to Lagosians. He praised him for his dynamism, hardwork, sensitivity to the challenge of welfare, stressing that he has not let the party and the state down.

To Balogun, the projects have local appeal; they are grassroots-focused, confirming that the Sanwo-Olu administration is sensitive to the yearnings of the local areas for benefits of welfare.

The chairman said Sanwo-Olu, in the process of strategic engagement with the councillors for speedy execution of the projects, had also established strong connection with the grassroots.

He said: “The state government has been investing in provision of infrastructure to make the state’s economy stronger and give people a new lease of life. Despite these efforts, the governor still found the reason to touch the grassroots by initiating these 377 projects. With this, Sanwo-Olu will be leaching lasting impact on the grassroots.”

At the ceremony, where Sanwo-Olu reiterated the motivation and significance of the projects were his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, who shed light on the number, spread and

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implementation strategies; Ahmed who welcomed the dignitaries, Chief of Staff Tayo Ayinde, Information Commissioner Gbenga Omotoso, his Finance counterpart, Senior Special Assistant on Local Government and Community Matters Prince Sola Olusi, permanent secretaries, directors and other government officials.

In the mood of joy were party leaders, including Deputy Chairman Sunny Ajoye, Secretary Lanre Ogunyemi; councillors, led by Nurudeen Alimi, and ward party chairman, led by the Obalende-Ikoyi chairman, Prince Abiodun Abu, who on the spot was appointed by Sanwo-Olu as his Senior Special Assistant on Political Matters.

Hamzat, Chairman of the Projects' Implementation committee, explained that the projects' selection followed a process of extensive consultations.

During the meeting between the governor and all 377 councillors, Sanwo-Olu asked them to nominate specific projects that could be executed in their wards.

After identifying the projects, the deputy governor said the Ministry of Economic Planning and Budget and professionals from various ministries evaluated the cost of the projects. After the internal evaluation, it was also subjected to re-evaluation by an independent consultant.

However, the projects vary according to ward preference. Giving the breakdown of the projects, Hamzat said the state government would be constructing 257 community roads and drainages. Besides, 86 public buildings would be rehabilitated, while two jetties, nine water projects and 23 power projects will be installed.

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Their distribution also reflects equity, balance and principle of inclusion, although certain projects may have been dictated by population. Hamzat said the three senatorial districts are, generally, beneficiaries; Lagos Central has 94 projects, Lagos East has 99 and the vast Lagos West has 184 projects.

In the course of the implementation, government will not be aloof. The execution is a joint duty involving the contractors, ministry experts, councillors and local party and community leaders.

Hamzat said: "The projects will be implemented by contractors in collaboration with Government's Ministries, Departments and Agencies, including the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Directorate of Technical Service, Lagos State Electricity Board and Public Works Corporation. Supervision and monitoring of the projects will be done in collaboration with the ward councillors and party executives."

However, the time frame is not stated. It is believed that since it is a novel intervention project, there will be no default as they are likely to be completed with the speed of lightening. The projects will also generate multiplier effects for local people, particularly artisans and peasants, who will participate and benefit from the chain. The projects have revealed the style of governance adopted by Sanwo-Olu.

To the councillors and party leaders, he is accessible and he has listening ears. The governor gave insight into this popular approach to governance in his speech at the flag off. Sanwo-Olu said the intervention was initiated in response to the series of requests by the various communities to address specific

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infrastructural challenges. In his view, their execution would change the narrative about the linkage between grassroots development and government's responsibilities.

"The state-wide 377 ward projects being launched today are state intervention projects in grassroots development. The projects are conceived in response to requests by the various communities across the State to address specific challenges. These projects are not universal; they are diverse, reflecting the needs of each ward across the state.

"The implementation of the projects will commence immediately after this official flag-off, as contractors have been fully mobilized to move to site." The governor urge residents who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the projects to take ownership by monitoring the implementation process and ensuring that the job conforms to quality and standard specified in the project design."

Sanwo-Olu said the process of identifying the needs and the design of the projects was in line with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participatory governance in which the people were considered as key stakeholders.

Describing the grassroots as "the bedrock of development," he said the projects were strategic in promoting the wellbeing of the people across communities. He assured that his administration would continue to give residents a voice on issues that affect them.

"This administration's development agenda is driven by the spirit to build a greater Lagos that is livable, and conducive for the growth and development of enterprise.

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"The dream of a greater Lagos is not exclusive; it is predicated on the principle of inclusiveness by which development is not considered as satisfactory, until it has addressed the yearnings of the greatest number of the people who contributes to the commonwealth, he stressed."

Sanwo-Olu urged elected and appointed officials in public offices to be responsible in dealing with people, noting that governance would be meaningless without the input of the people on whose mandate public officers derived their powers.

The governor flaunted the profile of the ruling party and the achievements of his administration. He said despite the ravaging Covid-19 pandemic, which created some distractions, his government has been on course and alive to its responsibilities.

Reflecting on the preparations for the Lagos East senatorial by-election, Sanwo-Olu fired salvo at the opposition, saying that it cannot threaten the APC as the dominant party in Lagos.

He charged the councillors and other ward leaders from Lagos East to demonstrate the influence and strength of the ruling party to mobilise effectively for the victory of its standard bearer, Tokunbo Abiru, at the October 31 by-election.

An elated Prince Abu, who spoke on behalf of all the local government party chairmen, described the intervention "a new dawn" in the history of governance in Lagos, adding that the projects would accelerate development across communities.

Echoing him, Alimi, who spoke on behalf of 377 councillors, said by the gesture, Sanwo-Olu had taken dividends of democracy to the grassroots in an unprecedented manner.

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“This has not happened before. Thus, we are giving the governor a new name: Governor Koseleri.”

2.579 Sanwo-Olu’s new legal year gift to judiciary

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on September 29, 2020

THE 2020/2021 legal year got off on a cheerful note for judges in Lagos State last week following Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s provision of 51 Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and eight houses to them.

The donation continued what is gradually becoming Sanwo-Olu’s tradition of looking out for the needs of the judiciary.

Last October, the governor gave out 50 cars to magistrates to aid their duties.

Speaking on Wednesday during the presentation of the cars and houses to the judges at the Ikeja high court premises, Sanwo-Olu reiterated his administration’s continued support to the judiciary to raise the bar of legal practice in line with global standards.

He said: “In handing over these 51 vehicles to our judges and eight houses to the newly appointed judges of the state High Court, we are ensuring that our judiciary has all it takes to seamlessly perform its duties as the bastion of the common man.

“We cherish the work you do; we thank you for justifying the confidence reposed in you; we appreciate you for being independent umpires even when the stakes are high.

He said efforts to build a strong and formidable judiciary in Lagos State were on course. He said no arm of government in

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the state will be deprived of requisite tools to perform its statutory duties.

He pointed out that there would be no good governance and development without a formidable judiciary, re-assuring members of the judicial arm that the executive arm under his leadership would be a dependable partner.

“The judiciary is a major bedrock of our society, and our judges need all the support they can get to effectively perform their duties. In line with this, we have devised a thorough process to overhaul our judiciary in such a way that justice is dispensed without fear or favour. There will be no dividend of democracy for the people if there is no active, independent, impartial and incorruptible judiciary. We will continue to provide the necessary training and infrastructure required to ensure the integrity of the judiciary is not eroded.”

The governor, who toured the Ikeja and Igbosere High Courts last Saturday for facility inspection, said the had already approved complete renovation on decrepit court rooms in the both courts. He said his government would not evade its responsibility to create conducive ambience for the judicial staff to engage their duties. Sanwo-Olu said the support being extended towards the judiciary must be reciprocated.

He charged the judicial officers to deepen the rule of law and accelerate justice administration without compromising its independence.

He said: “I urge members of the judiciary to co-operate with the executive arm by and show highest form of dedication to your statutory duties. We must not forget the important role the judiciary has to play in the building a just and unified society.

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Our success as a government is highly dependent on our ability to entrench the rule of law through continuous collaboration with the judiciary.

“In maintaining your independence, our judges must not forget that their contribution is pertinent to the achievement of my administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S agenda. I am confident that under the Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba-led judiciary, our people are assured of innovative judicial reforms in our state.”

The Chief Judge, Justice Kazeem Alogba, described the event as “double grace” for members of the judicial arm in the state, noting that the magnanimity of the Sanwo-Olu-led executive was unprecedented in the annals of Lagos’ judiciary.

He said: “The kind of support which the judiciary has received from the Government of Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu is unprecedented and today’s event is historic because it is a double grace for our members. It is the first time a Governor will be giving out vehicles to judges and accompanying the gesture with gift of houses.

“It takes a man with a large heart to be committed to satisfying the needs of an arm of Government he is not leading. Since inception of his administration, Mr. Governor has been swift in responding to our requests and this gesture shows he is committed to improving administration of justice in Lagos.”

2.580 Osinbajo, Sanwo-Olu commission fashion hub in Lagos

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 20, 2020

The Federal and Lagos state governments have reaffirmed their commitment to promoting and developing small scale businesses, especially in the areas of skill acquisition.

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Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance on Friday at the commissioning of the Eko Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Fashion Hub-1 in Lagos.

The MSME Fashion Hub-1, which is expected to serve 380 Small and Medium Enterprises daily is a shared facility in Lagos State under the National MSME Clinic Scheme and is situated around Alade Market, off popular Allen Avenue in Ikeja Local Government Area of the State.

Osinbajo who joined the commissioning ceremony virtually from Abuja, reiterated the President Muhammadu Buhari administration’s commitment to supporting the growth and development of MSME during and post COVID-19. The Vice President, who promised to provide two additional MSME Fashion hubs to serve Lagos Central and Lagos East senatorial districts as requested by Governor Sanwo-Olu, said the fashion industry is going to be one of Nigeria’s greatest sources of revenue, bigger than oil in the nearest future.

Osinbajo also charged other state governments and the Organised Private Sector to emulate initiatives that would engender the development of MSME across the country.

In his address, Sanwo-Olu said Lagos State is committed to ensuring that micro, small and medium enterprises in the State have the necessary leverage for the generation of lasting wealth, noting that they have an indispensable role to play in the growth and sustainability of Lagos State economy and any other economy. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Organised Private Sector, especially Access Bank led by Mr. Herbert Wigwe, who have partnered both Office of the Vice President and Lagos State, as well as other various Federal

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Government agencies that have collaborated to make the National MSMEs clinics a success.

He said: “This fully equipped shared facility is a demonstration of our APC-led government’s people-driven agenda. Our ultimate goal is to make life better for our people. We have selfless service as a rare privilege as well as an opportunity to leave a legacy of prosperity for our teeming population.”

Sanwo-Olu appealed to the Vice President to work with Lagos State to replicate the Shared Facility Scheme in the senatorial districts. Also speaking at the ceremony, the Minister of State for Industry Trade and Investment, Ambassador Mariam Katagum, said the shared facility would provide a conducive environment for the SME space.

The Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives, Dr. Lola Akande said the Eko MSME Fashion Hub-1, which was the first phase of the shared MSME Fashion facility, was equipped with state-of-the-art machinery such as industrial button-hole machines.

The Managing Director, Access Bank Plc, Mr. Herbert Wigwe, who acknowledged the outstanding growth of the Nigerian fashion industry, reaffirmed the bank’s commitment to grow the nation’s fashion industry.

“We will continue to partner with the fashion industry, because we believe it would boost local growth of SMEs in that space,” he said.

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2.581 Sanwo-Olu: Technology, digitalisation to drive Lagos
Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 22, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said innovation, technology and digitisation are going to drive the state’s 21st century economy which is the cornerstone of the administration’s T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke at the grand finale of the Lagos Smart Meter Hackathon held at Eko Innovation Centre at the weekend, said the event was a demonstration of the administration’s pursuit to improve the welfare of the people.

He said: “As you are aware, a key pillar of our administrations T.H.E.M.E.S agenda is to make Lagos a 21st century economy and this Lagos Smart Meter Hackathon fits perfectly as it combines innovation, creativity and local capacity to deliver solutions that will improve access to electricity in Lagos.”

He said the settings, the mood and the aura at the ceremony “inspires creativity and innovation, adding that he saw in the participants vibrant energetic youthfulness “that inspires hope of brighter and bigger roles that technology and digitisation would play in the country.

Speaking further, he said Smart Meter Initiative “is another demonstration of promise kept” by his administration as “it aligns with the administrations’ T.H.E.M.E.S agenda to make Lagos a 21st century economy,” and that the result of the initiative would drive local capacity that would find home grown solutions to solve our challenges, which “is a great move in transforming the electricity sector in the state”.

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The two winners of the e-day event are – Team Power Bit Crunchers for the hardware category and Team Zeena Platform for the software group. The two winners earned the combined prize of N10 million. The winners and runners-up will also get working space at Eko Innovation Centre, while the 10 finalists will get mentorship opportunities, among other consolation prizes.

Mr. Olonma Ibrahim and Peter Okonma represented the hardware team, while Oluwasemi Oreoluwa and Adenitire Ayonikun represented the software team at the State Office of Innovation and Technology, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), Africa Fintech Foundry (AFF), the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA), the Nigeria Energy Support Program (NESP) implemented by the German International Development Corporation (GIZ), Oracle, IBM, General Electric, Business Day and Accelerate TV.

2.582 Gbajabiamila applauds Sanwo-Olu's N5bn support for private schools

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 27, 2020

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, applauded Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Sanwo-Olu, for launching a N5 billion post-coronavirus recovery support capital for the education sector to support low-cost private schools in the state.

The Speaker also commended the governor for flagging off 377 roads and power projects across the various wards in the state. The Speaker said Sanwo-Olu's gesture is a clear indication that he has the interest of those in the education sector, both in government and in the private sector, at heart.

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Special Adviser to the Speaker on Media and Publicity, Lanre Lasisi, quoted him as saying the programmes embarked on by the government of Lagos State since the beginning of the COVID 19 pandemic give hope of brighter days ahead.

He called on the governor to ensure the implementation supervision of these initiatives for the betterment of the intended beneficiaries.

The Speaker said such people-oriented projects and initiatives must be commended and supported by all Lagosians. He said the 377 projects would bring more dividends of democracy closer to the people, which is one of the goals of coming to power.

2.583 COVID-19: Sanwo-Olu launches N5bn education recovery support fund ...to mitigate effect of lockdown on schools

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 26, 2020

Lagos State Government in partnership with First Bank of Nigeria Ltd has launched N5 billion post-coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery support capital for education sector to support low-cost private schools across the state.

The intervention fund, which targets over 2,000 private schools, was formally launched by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Friday at a ceremony held at the State House, Alausa, Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu said the N5billion Education Loan Programme was a precursor to many more human development sector-specific support programmes that would be unveiled by the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) on behalf of the State Government next month.

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LSETF collaborated with First Bank of Nigeria Limited to facilitate the matching fund, which will be given as loan to schools and vocational education centres across the State.

Speaking at the ceremony, Sanwo-Olu said the intervention was part of the State Government's sustainable solutions to limit the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both residents and businesses.

As the State gradually unlocks socio-economic activities, following the impact of the pandemic, the Governor said the loan programme would help the targeted beneficiaries accelerate recovery and give them opportunity of painless return to regular life.

He said: "It is no longer debatable that education is one of the sectors that are severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with schools and vocational learning-centres shut since March when we took the tough decisions meant to disrupt the spread of the virus. Given the incidence of the closure of schools in response to the pandemic, it would not be out of context to note that the challenges presently faced by these schools would increase significantly.

"With access to low-cost funding for privately owned schools and vocational training centres in the state, we are confident that this programme will help accelerate sustainable and painless return to world-class learning and skills acquisition of our young population. As a responsible Government, we are obligated to provide intervention that would enable learners in these schools' study in line with the new normal."

The Governor explained that the intervention was necessary, given the importance of education to building human capital.

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He said his administration took education as critical in building 21st century economy and realising objectives set out in the T.H.E.M.E.S. agenda.

The beneficiaries, Sanwo-Olu said, will have access to single-digit loan facilities to fund the provision of the amenities and services needed to aid learning.

He said: "It is thus heart-warming to have First Bank of Nigeria electing to be our exemplary partner for this intervention. With their support, players in the education sector would be getting the financial support they need to boost learning at a single-digit interest rate.

"I also commend the Board of LSETF and the management for this significant accomplishment. They have helped the Lagos State Government build an institution that has engendered public trust and elevated the hope of small businesses and young people, irrespective of challenges faced."

Chairperson, LSETF Board of Trustees, Mrs. Bola Adesola, represented by Mrs. Tatiana Mousali-Nouri, said schools that have a minimum of 100 students and have been in operation for, at least, a year are the ones qualified for the loan facility.

She said: "We are confident that this intervention fund, which is complemented by our free professional and institutional support structures, will ensure that education ecosystem in Lagos witness an improvement in the overall learning outcomes for the children, while positively impacting on the local economy through wealth and job creation."

First Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Dr Adesola Adeduntan, said the Bank went into the partnership, having recognised the role played by education towards the growth of the

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economy. He praised the State Government's efforts towards suppressing the burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on the education, saying Lagos Government had scored another first.

Adeduntan said: "With the single-digit funding targeted at about 2,000 low-cost private schools in Lagos, we are delighted to demonstrate our commitment to the development of education in the State, thereby contributing our quota to realise the mandate of the State Government and LSETF on economic growth, opportunities for employment and bridging societal gaps in education."

The loan scheme will be provided to two categories of applicants, which are Micro-Enterprise (ME) and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME). Those in ME category will receive a sum of not more than N500,000, while those in SME will get N5,000,000.

To apply for the loan facility, applicants are expected to submit their applications via the LSETF portal for screening. Details of the successful applicants will be passed on to First Bank for appraisal and disbursement.

2.584 Sanwo-Olu flags off construction of 377 roads, power projects

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on September 26, 2020

The governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Friday flagged off the construction of 377 projects across all the wards in the state to address specific challenges at the grassroots level.

The projects will lead to the construction of over 250 roads and installation of 23 power projects across the state.

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The flag-off ceremony took place at the Adeyemi Bero Hall, Alausa, Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu said his government initiated the intervention in response to series of requests from the various communities across the state to address specific challenges.

He said the execution of the projects would change the narrative as to what grassroots development and government's responsibilities are all about.

He said: "The state-wide 377 ward projects being launched today are state intervention projects in grassroots development.

"The projects are conceived in response to requests by the various communities across the state to address specific challenges. "These projects are not universal; they are diverse, reflecting the needs of each ward across the state.

"The implementation of the projects will commence immediately after this official flag-off, as contractors have been fully mobilised to move to site. "I urge residents, who are the ultimate beneficiaries of these projects, to take ownership by monitoring the implementation process and ensuring that the job conforms to quality and standard specified in the project design."

Sanwo-Olu said the process of identifying the needs and the design of the projects was in line with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participatory governance in which the people were considered as key stakeholders.

The governor described the grassroots as "the bedrock of development", stressing that the projects were strategic in promoting the well-being of the people across communities.

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He said his government would continue to give residents a voice on issues that affect them.

He said: “This administration’s development agenda is driven by the spirit to build a greater Lagos that is livable and conducive for the growth and development of enterprise.

“The dream of a greater Lagos is not exclusive; it is predicated on the principle of inclusiveness by which development is not considered as satisfactory until it has addressed the yearnings of the greatest number of the people who contribute to the commonwealth.”

He charged all elected and appointed officials in public offices to be responsible in dealing with people, noting that governance would be meaningless without the input of the people on whose mandate public officers derived their powers.

The Chairman of the Projects’ Implementation Committee and Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, said all contractors would mobilise to sites next Monday, noting that the intervention was in demonstration of the governor’s campaign promise to run an inclusive government.

He said the projects’ selection followed a meeting between the governor and all the 377 councillors across the state, during which Sanwo-Olu asked them to name specific projects that should be executed in their wards.

Giving a breakdown of the projects, Hamzat said the state government would be constructing 257 community roads and drainages across the state. He added that 86 public buildings would be rehabilitated while two jetties, nine water projects and 23 power projects would be installed across the wards.

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Hamzat said: “The projects will be implemented by contractors in collaboration with government’s ministries, departments and agencies, including the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Local Government and Community Affairs, Directorate of Technical Service, Lagos State Electricity Board and Public Works Corporation.

“Supervision and monitoring of the projects will be done in collaboration with the ward councillors and party executives.”

Hon. Nurudeen Alimi, who spoke on behalf of the 377 councillors, said the governor, by the gesture, had taken dividends of democracy to the grassroots in a way never seen before in the state.

Among the dignitaries at the event were members of the state cabinet, All Progressives Congress council chairmen, councillors and scores of party stalwarts led by the state’s Chairman of APC, Hon. Tunde Balogun.

2.585 Imota rice mill ready first quarter of 2021, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 25, 2020

Lagos State Government says its multi-billion Naira 32-metric tonnes per hour rice mill at Imota will be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu said yesterday at the FATE Foundation’s 5th Annual Virtual Alumni Conference that the mill, when operational, would ensure a steady supply of freshly processed rice of about 2.4 million bags of 50kg per annum to Lagosians, in addition to over 250,000 jobs to be created in the upstream and downstream sectors of the rice value chain.

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He said his administration's (T.H.E.M.E.S) developmental agenda is to ensure food security and improved nutrition for Lagosians.

The governor said his administration would launch another N5billion support to assist the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and improve the skills of entrepreneurs, with a view to serving residents and creating a thriving small businesses' economy. The founder FATE Foundation, Mr. Fola Adeola, said the organisation was founded to harness the strong entrepreneurial culture of Nigerians by providing business incubation, growth enablement and accelerator support required to explore their innovative potential.

Its Executive Director, Adenike Adeyemi, said the mission of the organisation is to foster wealth creation by promoting business and entrepreneurial development among Nigerians.

2.586 Sanwo-Olu assures Lagosians of better life

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 24, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the government will continue to do everything possible to attract investors to the state with a view to creating more job opportunities and making lives better for the people.

He added that the determination and effort of the government had helped it to attract about \$600million investment into the state even during the seven months of the covid-19 challenge, adding that he would continue to do more in creating the enabling environment for investments to thrive in the state.

The governor who spoke at the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA), Policy Roundtable Dialogue

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with the theme: 'International Best Practice on Real Estate Regulations,' in Victoria Island, Lagos, said that though the covid-19 posed a serious challenge to investment and job creation, he was not ready to use that as an excuse for failing to make the lives of the people of the state better.

According to him, "we want to tell you that from the point where we are at, we are at a level where we are consciously opening the economy.

"We are happy that for direct foreign investment, we were able to attract about \$620million during the covid era on direct equity coming into the state, we are also about to open the biggest rice mill in the country in Imota which will start before the end of the year or in the first quarter of next year, when it opens by January or February, we will be producing about 2.4million 50kg of rice on an annual basis.

"But, it is not the mills that is the good news, it is all the employment that it will create in the entire value chain, more that 200,000 people, direct and indirect, that is some of what we are doing about the reopening of the city and we are doing a lot.

"Some of our meetings now are done virtually, for us we have started what we call the 3000 phase one metropolitan fiber dock initiative that we are doing on a PPP model, when you see the yellow, purple, green, red line, it is not just by chance, we plan to have 6000 kilometers of fiber optic all around Lagos, it is such that the new normal which is telecommunication, which is technology with our internet capability will become something that each and every one of you will have in your offices.

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“Also in your places of residence, so as we go along we are dropping fibers in our schools, we are dropping in all public institutions so that we can see the reality of what covid has caused us and now we are responding very well to some of those challenges.”

The governor also gave an insight into how the state was able to handle the covid-19 challenge, saying, “Over the last seven months, we have had to test over a 100,000 persons and we have had close to 20,000 positivity, meaning the PCR test that we have done have confirmed close to 20,000 of that number and you have seen a lot of isolation centres across the state and we have had to close some down.

“The good news in all of this is that some people thought they will be picking patients in all the streets of Lagos and I am glad to announce to you that less than two percent was the fatality that we recorded, not that any life didn’t matter to us, unfortunately we lost some people, but its less than two percent, in other parts of the world they were doing five or six percent of that number, so you can imagine if we were doing six or seven percent of 20,000, but less than two percent was the fatality in Lagos, so what it meant is that its either we got it very right or God was just good to us or a combination of both, anyhow it is, I take it.”

2.587 Residents hail Sanwo-Olu for road construction

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 22, 2020

The residents of Ijeododo, Ijegan and Ijagemo towns have praised Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving the construction of Ijegan-Ijedodo, Abule Ado road.

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A statement by residents under the Coalition of Community Development Associations, headed by Chief Tajudeen Zuberu Ododo, said Sanwo-Olu did well for considering the road.

The construction, they said, would ameliorate the hardship of residents. Ododo urged Sanwo-Olu to ensure prompt commencement and timely completion of the project.

Upon completion, he said, it would reduce gridlock in neighbouring communities. “This road project will bring succour to inhabitants of these towns, in particular commuters from neighbouring communities as Ikotun, Isheri Oshun and Jakande Estate Isolo.

“The Community Development Associations under the Coalition of Community Development Associations in Ijeododo, Ijegan and Ijagemo towns appreciate the positive impact the road will have on traffic as an alternative route to the congested Egbeda, Igando and Iyana Iba axis,” Ododo said.

2.588 Sanwo-Olu orders demolition of structure adjoining collapsed school building

Culled from The Nation Newspaper on September 19, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has ordered the demolition of a structure adjoining the collapsed school building in Ejigbo.

The Nation earlier reported that a three-storey building housing Excel College at Iyana Ejigbo area of Lagos collapsed at about 8:15 a.m on Saturday morning.

Providing an update about the incident, the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) said the building collapsed on Saturday morning due to “visible distress.”

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“Fortunately, nobody was trapped, no injuries and no fatality has been recorded,” the agency said.

2.589 LASU: Sanwo-Olu to implement minimum wage next month

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 16, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has pledged to pay the new minimum wage and consequential adjustments to workers of state-owned tertiary institutions next month.

This is contained in a statement by the Special Adviser on Education to the Governor, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab.

Academic and non-academic unions in Lagos State University (LASU) on Monday protested the non-implementation of the new minimum wage by shutting down the institution. It was scheduled to resume on Monday following a directive by the governor that tertiary institutions should resume.

“The government therefore expects that normalcy is sustained as we strive to ensure a guaranteed future for our students and the institutions.”

2.590 Pensioners hail Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 16, 2020

NIGERIAN Union of Pensioners (NUP) in Lagos State has hailed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for approving 33 per cent increment for pensioners under Defined Benefits Scheme (Pay As You Go).

NUP hailed him for the approval of the payment of a balance of 25 per cent rent allowance for officers on GL 07 and above, who retired from May 2000 to August 2004.

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The pensioners spoke at Southwest Leader’s Zonal meeting in Lagos. State Chairman Oluremi Johnson described Sanwo-Olu as a pensioner-friendly governor.

“We thank him for our monthly pensions being regularly paid and for the online verification exercise, which was remarkably successful,” he said.

He said they were expecting other health programmes approved by the governor. Johnson lauded the Oyo State governor but called on Ekiti, Ogun and Ondo governors to help pensioners.

At a meeting with NUP Lagos, Commissioner for Establishments, Training and Pensions, Ajibola Ponnle, said the increment would take effect this month and arrears from January to be paid in September.

2.591 Lagos now flattening virus curve, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 8, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday announced that the state has started witnessing the flattening of COVID-19 curve.

He stated this during the official opening ceremony of the second session the 34th Synod of the Dioceses of Lagos, Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion at Our Saviour’s Church, Tafawa Balewa Square, Onikan, Lagos.

He said: “It has been said that we will be picking dead bodies on the streets, but we thank God He kept all of us. We have less than two per cent fatality, when the statistics said that it will be 10 to 15 per cent.

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“We had estimated that by August, the curve would have flat out – meaning that the positivity rate would have flattened and we will begin to see a downward trend. I’m happy to inform the people of God that the curve is coming down, and we are beginning to see a low number in the positivity of the COVID-19 in the state.

“Though we are not out of the woods yet, we need to take precautions as we see the numbers coming down in Lagos. Lagos, the epicentre indeed has risen up to it and we are beginning to see the numbers coming down on a daily basis.”

The governor added: “We sympathise with the people that lost their loved ones, and we pray that God will spare our lives. As a government, we will continue our best to save lives.

Sanwo-Olu urged the church to pray for the state government, noting: “We acknowledge our limitations as human beings. We need the Supreme, who knows all and is in charge of all circumstances man may face.

“As a government, we are indeed lucky because the church stood behind us, understood what the challenges were and you worked with us.”

Making reference to the story of Daniel in the Bible, who survived the Lion’s den through prayers, the governor said COVID-19 has shown in reality that prayers are needed always.

“We need to pray, we need to serve, whatever we find ourselves doing let us do it well with the best intentions because we do not know who is watching,” he admonished Sanwo-Olu said, to build a “Greater Lagos, we certainly need to hold on to God, to continue to pray and use God as an instrument for contact

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for all of us. He urged Lagos residents as well as Nigerians to continue to hold on to God and be thankful for His mercies, particularly at these trying times.

Describing the theme of the Synod “Pray, Serve and Grow”, which was taken from Romans 12 vs 11 as very apt, considering the global pandemic, Sanwo-Olu noted that “serving God is service to humanity”.

He thanked the Anglican Church for its COVID-19 donations and promised to support the N5 billion Centenary City the Church is building in the Ibeju-Lekki area with his personal fund.

The President of the Synod and Diocesan Bishop of Lagos, Rt. Rev. Humphrey Olumakaiye, condemned the fuel price and electricity tariff hike, saying it would lead to more hardship for Nigerians and corporate organisations.

“It is heart-rending that all these are coming up at a time when we are just trying to get over the hassle brought upon us as individuals and collectively by the much-dreaded Coronavirus,” he said.

Bishop Olumakaiye lamented the loss aof jobs occasioned by the pandemic as well as the many businesses that went down and investment yet to yield, saying the crime rate also increased in the country while some even committed suicide when hope was lost. According to the cleric, the poor masses should be able to find solace in the government and not otherwise, with the nation’s refineries made to work at full capacity.

He also urged the government to ensure transparency at all levels.

2.592 Community to Sanwo-Olu: save our soul

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 5, 2020

The people of Ajiran community in Eti-Osa local government area of Lagos State have appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to intervene in the feud between the traditional ruler and head of Ojomu in Council, Oba Tijani Akinloye, the Ojomu of Ajiran land, and the indigenes of the town.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Hon. Yekini Wasiu, who led other aggrieved members to the corporate headquarters of Vintage Press Limited, Lagos, publishers of The Nation newspaper titles, at the weekend, alleged that the people of Ajiran town have been facing neglect for years.

According to Wasiu, who doubles as the Secretary of Ajiran youths under the auspices of Concerned Ajiran/Ojomu Indigenes, this informed their decision to petition Governor Sanwo-Olu in a letter dated, Thursday, August 20, 2020, a copy of which was made available to The Nation.

He said that the vast land of Ajiran belongs to the entire indigenes of Ajiran land; the dead, the living and even generations yet unborn and that the proceeds of the land where sold or occupancy thereof, should be for the benefit of the entire community but the reverse has been the case.

“Ajiran is landlord to many multinational companies including Chevron Nigeria Limited, Shell Petroleum, major real estate companies and other businesses, who have all signed lease agreements with the community and they pay one form of royalty or the other. But no one can account for how these monies are being expended. Our conditions have remained the same.

We lack basic amenities.

“An average member of the community, which offers a lot to non-indigenes in terms of opportunities, is very poor by even Nigerian standards. No shelter, no primary and secondary school, no proper healthcare facilities but traditional birth attendants, no market, no social welfare for the aged and less privileged. We’re suffering in silence.

“We have been on this matter for some time now. We met the Ojomu in council, petitioned the Area J Police Command and held several meetings with the royal father but nothing has changed. Tension is high now and we want to prevent a complete breakdown of law and order, hence we’re counting on Governor Sanwo-Olu to kindly intervene.”

At press time, phone calls made to the monarch’s GSM mobile as well as text messages were yet to be responded to. However, when our correspondent put a call to one of the palace chiefs, Yekini Bakare, the Balogun of Ojomu land, to react to the petition written by the community to Governor Sanwo-Olu on the alleged highhandedness of the monarch amongst other issues, he said he was not ready to entertain any discussion whatsoever.

2.593 Lagos Assembly to Sanwo-Olu: check drug abuse among students

Culled from The Nation newspaper on September 2, 2020

THE Lagos State House of Assembly has called on Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu to direct the Commissioners in the Ministries of Education, Information and Strategy, Youth and Social Development and other relevant agencies to embark

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on anti-drug campaign programmes in primary, secondary, tertiary schools in the state.

Desmond Elliot (Surulere 1), who moved the motion, said during plenary on Monday:

“The State Commissioner of Police should keep watch on the school environment. The Commissioner of Police should direct his men to ensure that there is no sale of drugs around school premises. We should also have anti-drug societies in schools. Parents are also called upon to keep watch on their children to reduce the usage of drugs in our society.”

Elliot said the House noted the increasing rate of drug abuse and alcohol consumption among students of secondary schools in the state, which is one of the problems affecting school-age teenagers. “It was observed that such experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco...started from elementary schools and reached peak in high schools where its adverse effect is remarkably high on the students.

“It was further observed that the unrestrained abuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited drugs used by the students hinder the achievements of their educational attainment and leverage to vices such as gangsterism, gang-rape and cultism.”

2.594 Helicopter crash: Obaseki condoles with Sanwo-Olu, Lagos govt

Culled from The Nation on August 28, 2020

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki has condoled his Lagos State counterpart Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the people of the state over the unfortunate helicopter crash in

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Ikeja axis of the state, which claimed two lives and left one person injured.

The governor, in a statement, commiserated with the family, friends and associates of the two dead victims of the crash.

According to him, “I condole with the government and people of Lagos State over the unfortunate helicopter crash in the Ikeja axis of the state, which claimed two lives. Our prayers are with the families of the departed soul and we pray God grants them the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

“I send condolences to Governor Sanwo-Olu and his team, who are doing everything possible to manage the situation and bring comfort to the families of the deceased.”

2.595 Assembly summons Sanwo-Olu’s CoS, others over security helicopters

Culled from the Nation newspaper on August 25, 2020

Lagos State House of Assembly has summoned the Chief of Staff (CoS) to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Mr. Tayo Ayinde, Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget Mr. Sam Egube, Commissioner for Special Duties Mr. Tayo Bamgbose-Martins and management of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) over the whereabouts of three helicopters belonging to the government.

Raising the issue under Matter of Urgent Public Importance during plenary yesterday, Chief Whip Mojisola Miranda said the offices and MDAs in-charge of the helicopters should be written, adding that the Assembly should know the agreement between the government and Caverton Helicopters that is managing the helicopters. “If you may recall, in 2007, the Assembly passed a bill for the establishment of the Lagos State

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Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) for the government to equip and strengthen security agencies. “In 2015, three helicopters were bought under former Governor Akinwunmi Ambode to strengthen security. But the helicopters are nowhere to be found now.

“I want us to look at it and get the concerned parties to tell the House the location of the helicopters, to see if they are just lying fallow or if the state government has entered into an agreement with an entity on the equipment and see to what extent the agreement has been working,” she said.

Speaker Mudashiru Obasa said the helicopters were meant for dual purposes, noting that they were meant to be used for security and commercial purposes. He said the House should try to know what had accrued to the state from the helicopters, adding: “This is the first time the Assembly will be talking about the equipment.”

Rotimi Olowo (Shomolu 1) said the House approved the purchase of two helicopters during the era of former governor Babatunde Raji Fashola.

He added that one helicopter was bought under former governor Ambode, making them three, and that it was important to know how they had been managed so far and where the money was. Other lawmakers agreed on the need to look into the matter.

2.596 Promote cooperation, Sanwo-Olu urges monarch

Culled from The Nation newspaper on August 17, 2020

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged the Alara of Ilara, Epe, Olufolarin Ogunsanwo, to provide leadership,

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promote cooperation, friendship and the spirit of togetherness. Sanwo-Olu spoke on Sunday at the installation and presentation of staff-of-office to Ogunsanwo.

The governor noted that monarchs were indispensable partners of government due to their roles as agents of development, promoters of peace and peaceful co-existence.

He promised that ‘as a government, we will continue to partner with you and ensure that your welfare is accorded the attention it deserves’.

“I rejoice with you as you ascend the stool of your ancestors. Your choosing and acceptance by your people to lead them is a reflection of their trust and confidence in your ability to positively impact the fortune of this landscape and its people.

“Rest assured of this administration’s commitment to the fulfilment of our promise to spread infrastructure to all parts of the state, including Epe Division.”

The governor urged the people to support Ogunsanwo so that his reign would be glorious.

2.597 Day Badagry stood still for Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on August 14, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu visited Badagry last Friday and his visit was heralded by a lot of funfair and ceremony by the people of the ancient town. It was a heroic welcome as chieftains and members of the ruling party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) as well as the residents of the ancient city, came out in thousands to welcome and familiarise with the governor as he made his first visit to the city since his swearing in as number one citizen of Lagos State.

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Though Governor Sanwo-Olu's scheduled programme was an inspection tour of some facilities and projects in Badagry, the governor and his team got more than what they expected as people of the historic town came out in large numbers to express support for the governor and his administration.

The elderly, youths and children in their hundreds lined up in different parts of the town waving hands and shouting Sanwo-Olu as the governor moved round the city. Security agencies on the roads were not left out as they also saluted repeatedly to greet the governor.

The people of Badagry, who could not hide their feelings for having the opportunity to see their governor for the first time since his assumption of office on May 29, 2019, poured encomiums on Sanwo-Olu, with placards and banners bearing some inscriptions such as "Sanwo-Olu is our Governor!"

"Welcome to Badagry" and "We love Governor Sanwo-Olu!" to express their appreciation and support for the person of the governor and his administration.

As early as 9am, people had converged on the Avia-Igborosun Organic Farm in Mowo, to welcome the governor to Badagry. The arrival of the governor was heralded by loud ovation as his convoy drove into the farm. Sanwo-Olu, dressed in blue jeans, ash colour T-shirt and a jacket with a face cap to match was accompanied on the visit by his Chief of Staff, Tayo Ayinde; the State Acting Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya; Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Bonu Solomon Saanu and member of the Lagos State House of Assembly, representing Badagry I, Hon. Ibrahim Layode, among others.

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After alighting from his car, the governor went straight to meet hundreds of women, men, youths and children as well as APC chieftains and members, who had patiently waited for his arrival at the entrance of the farm. The governor interacted with the people for few minutes before entering the farm for business of the day.

To welcome the governor to the farm was the Permanent Secretary of Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Olayiwole Onasanya and management and staff of the Avia Organic Farm. He later took a tour of the 279-hectare Avia Organic Farm, which was acquired by Lagos State Government in 2012 for commercial agricultural project. The tour reflects Sanwo-Olu's administration's special focus on Badagry, one of the five traditional divisions of Lagos State whose mainstay is agriculture, particularly aquaculture.

Sanwo-Olu's "Greater Lagos" agenda is hinged on a six pillars policy programme tagged T.H.E.M.E.S to deliver good governance to millions of Lagosians. Agriculture is the fourth pillar. To this end, Governor Sanwo-Olu is not leaving any stone unturned hence the pilot agriculture scheme – Lagos Food Production Park – starting with the six-hour visit to the town on Friday.

The governor during the tour spoke passionately on the need to revive the Avia Organic Farm, which has been abandoned for some time with some of the facilities already moribund. According to the governor, some of the agricultural projects to be developed for commercial production in the Organic Farm include fishing, poultry, piggery and agro-forestry, among others.

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Speaking to journalists after the tour, Governor Sanwo-Olu expressed the readiness of his administration to revive Badagry organic farm to boost food security in the state, adding that the government is fully ready to revive the abandoned farmland for the take-off of the State's Food Production Park project.

The governor also disclosed that Lagos State would be engaging private sector to secure an investment into the project, which, when completed, would create thousands of direct jobs and improve the wellbeing of the residents.

He said: "I have been fully briefed about this project but I considered it necessary to personally embark on this journey to Badagry in order to take assessment and see what exactly we need to do in terms of intervention.

After taking a tour of the project site, what I observed is that the entire project looks more as a job that has not been completed. Therefore, we need to improve on the interventions to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"With very minimal resources, we have seen what the Ministry of Agriculture has done to keep the project afloat. Government will raise the resources and turn around this project to the level it should be. We will need to deploy more resources to revive and scale up all the machinery and systems already put in place. We will complete the project and open it for commercial production."

The governor said the revival of the Badagry Organic Farm and creation of more food production parks across the state were part of the strategy designed by his government to increase food security level from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, thereby raising Lagos' food sufficiency.

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He added that the project would give rise to similar agro-allied businesses that would open up Badagry's economy for more growth, while also boosting its tourism business.

"Lagos is a big state in terms of population, but we also can intervene in our food production value chain. What we are also trying to do with the revival of the project is that, we want to produce various agricultural products we can consume internally in order to reduce our dependence on external food sources. The Food Production Park, which we are creating across the state, will be a trigger to other value-added agricultural production our citizens can provide," he said.

As part of the move to turn around the Organic Farm, Sanwo-Olu promised a total rehabilitation of Igborosun Road leading to the farm.

Moved by the love shown to him by some children on the road shouting "Sanwo-Olu" and raising up placards "We love Sanwo-Olu," the governor stopped his convoy to interact with the children as he did at another location along Igborosun Road when hundreds of people were shouting "Sanwo-Olu" while waving their hands at him.

During his tour to the Badagry General Hospital, he inspected some projects, especially a 105-bed Mother and Child Care (MCC) recently completed by the Lagos State Government in the premises of the hospital. There, the governor promised that the MCC will be commissioned in September. He also proposed an expansion of the Accident and Emergency Department. The project, he said, will take off in the next nine months.

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Governor Sanwo-Olu also visited the Marina area of the Badagry town, where the state government will be building a modern jetty. The project, according to Sanwo-Olu is part of his administration's blueprint to promote waterways transportation across the state.

2.598 Why Sanwo-Olu earmarked N1bn palliatives for entertainers, tourism players

Culled from The Nation newspaper on August 12, 2020

Sum of N1 billion seed capital approved as palliatives by Governor Babjide Sanwo-Olu for tourism and entertainment practitioners in the state is ready for disbursement.

The Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf, made this known. She said: "It is my pleasure and honour to inform Lagosians that Mr. Governor has graciously approved the release of N1 billion as seed capital for investment in tourism to drive the growth of hospitality, tourism and entertainment businesses."

The amount was part of other palliative measures approved for practitioners in the industry in order to drive the growth of hospitality, tourism, and entertainment businesses in the State.

Akinbile-Yussuf made this disclosure while interacting with the media. She further said that the briefing was necessary in order to explain and address grey areas in the earlier pronouncement made by the Governor in consonance with the recommendations submitted by the Lagos State COVID – 19 Pandemic Review Committee constituted by the State Government to critically assess and review the negative impacts of the pandemic on the tourism and the creative sector in the State.

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Akinbile-Yusuf stated that the seed capital shows the passion of the Governor in creating an enabling environment that will promote sustainable tourism given its major potential to contribute to jobs and wealth creation.

The commissioner also highlighted other palliatives and efforts by the State Government that will guarantee quick recovery of the tourism sector to include; 50% rebate for license and renewal fees payable to the Ministry by all hospitality, tourism, and entertainment establishments across the State.

2.599 Apapa will open to traffic in October -Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on August 9, 2020

All road constructions and network leading to Apapa, the nation's port city, will be completed by October, Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured.

He said the traffic being experienced in the axis will be cleared once the projects are completed. Sanwo-Olu spoke with reporters after a tour of Apapa and all the network of roads and bridges connecting its environs.

The Governor visited the Costain bridge, Alaka bridge, Ijora bridge, Marine bridge, Liverpool, Lilipond, Mile 2 etc.

He said there was need to overhaul the entire Apapa system to improve journey time in and out.

He said the port authority is building another port in Lekki in collaboration with Lagos State Government, which will be ready in two years to ease the pressure in Apapa.

He said the government is also in discussion with stakeholders and some private owners to create proper holding bay and

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with the call system get trucks out of the way and free the roads for easy movement.

He assured the government, will in a methodical order, develop the whole of Apapa to make it more attractive than it was.

“We are working with various stakeholders and we need to sit together to understand what their challenges are and how best to address the challenges.

“As a government we have a commitment and a sense of responsibility to our people and we must bring about an operation in efficiency system where we do not continue to experience this permanent gridlock that is typical of Apapa and also to be able to regenerate the improvement of the roads and bring proper life back to Apapa,” Sanwo-Olu said.

**2.600 Lagos food production park takes off soon –
Sanwo-Olu...inspects newly completed MCC, others in
Badagry
Culled from The Nation on August 8, 2020**

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu’s pilot agriculture scheme – Lagos Food Production Park – is to take off in Badagry very soon.

The governor is beaming a special focus on Badagry, one of the five traditional divisions of the State whose mainstay is agriculture and fishing.

The Governor visited Badagry on Friday and took a tour of a 279-hectare Avia-Igborosun Organic Farm, which was acquired by the State Government in 2012 for commercial agricultural project.

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Sanwo-Olu said the government was ready to revive the abandoned farmland for the take-off of the State’s Food Production Park project.

He disclosed that the State would be engaging private sector to secure an investment into the project, which, when completed, he said, would create thousands of direct jobs and improve the wellbeing of the residents.

Sanwo-Olu said: “I have been fully briefed about this project but I considered it necessary to personally embark on this journey to Badagry in order to take assessment and see what exactly we need to do in terms of intervention. After taking a tour of the project site, what I observed is that the entire project looks more as a job that has not been completed.

Therefore, we need to improve on the interventions to the Ministry of Agriculture.

“With very minimal resources, we have seen what the Ministry has done to keep the project afloat. Government will raise the resources and turn around this project to the level it should be. We will need to deploy more resources to revive and scale up all the machinery and systems put already in place.

We will complete the project and open it for commercial production.”

The Governor said the revival of the Badagry Organic Farm and creation of more food production parks across the State were part of the strategy designed by his Government to increase food security level from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, thereby raising Lagos’ food sufficiency.

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He added that the project would give rise to similar agro-allied businesses that would open up Badagry's economy for more growth, while also boosting its tourism business.

He said: "Lagos is a big State in terms of population, but we also can intervene in our food production value chain. What we are also trying to do with the revival of the project is that, we want to produce various agricultural products we can consume internally in order to reduce our dependence on external food sources. The Food Production Park, which we are creating across the State, will be a trigger to other value-added agricultural production our citizens can provide."

As part of the move to turn around the Organic Farm, Sanwo-Olu promised a total rehabilitation of Igborosun Road that leads to the farm.

Some of the agricultural projects to be developed for commercial production in the Organic Farm include fishing, poultry, piggery and agro-forestry, among others.

Sanwo-Olu also inspected a 105-bed Mother and Child Care (MCC) recently completed by the State Government in the premises of Badagry General Hospital. The MCC will be commissioned in September, the Governor promised.

During a tour of the hospital, Sanwo-Olu proposed an expansion of the Accident and Emergency Department. The project, he said, will take off in the next nine months.

The Governor also stopped at Marina area of the Badagry town, where the State Government will be building a modern jetty.

The project, Sanwo-Olu said, is part of his administration's blueprint to promote waterways transportation across the State.

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2.601 School proprietors hail Sanwo-Olu for reopening schools

Culled from The Nation on August 8, 2020

The National President of the Private Education Developers' Association of Nigeria (PEDAN), Elder Festus Awodoyin, has hailed Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for reopening schools. Awodoyin, who spoke at a news conference in Lagos, said the governor should also be praised for tackling coronavirus which is seriously ravaging the world.

He said: "Before the resumption of SS3 students this week, the PEDAN had trained its members in how to handle the situation in schools.

"Our members had provided running water and soap which would be used by students and teachers to wash their hands. We had also provided hand sanitisers and thermometers. We had fumigated our schools.

"We had trained our teachers how to check students' temperature. We expect parents to complement our efforts by providing face masks for their children."

The Chairman, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of the PEDAN, Rev (Dr) Usen Effiong Usen, said: "We expect the government to provide education grants for private schools to cushion the effects of coronavirus".

He said the government should grant non-interest loans to private schools to keep them running the post lockdown.

A member of the BOT, Mrs Ojikutu Esebamen, said the government "should suspend interest on existing loans given to provide schools until they reopen fully."

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She said: “We implore the government to suspend taxes, dues and levies charged private schools for one academic session to enable them recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.”. Gani Fawehinmi Prize for Human Rights Reporting) 2011 Nigeria Media Merit Award (NMMA).

2.602 Lagos schools reopen September 14 -Sanwo-Olu

Culled from The Nation newspaper on August 30, 2020

Lagos Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has ordered reopening of tertiary institutions in the state from September 14, 2020.

The Governor announced this on Saturday at a press conference on the 17th update on coronavirus at Lagos House, Marina. He said primary and secondary schools would re-open anytime from September 21, 2020. He however said the decision was subject to a review of ongoing modelling of response to the pandemic.

Restaurants, Sanwo-Olu said, are permitted to open for in-dining services and they must ensure maintenance of 50% maximum occupancy at any point in time.

“They must also have obtained a Provisional Safety Compliance Certificate through the registration portal of the Lagos State Safety Commission: www.lasgsafetyreg.com.

“Social Clubs and recreational centres that have Registered Trustees have also been permitted to open on the condition that they have applied for and obtained a Provisional Safety Compliance Certificate through the registration portal of the Lagos State Safety Commission: www.lasgsafetyreg.com.”

He said the government is sympathetic to the plight of business owners, particularly those in the hospitality and tourism sectors

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but reviewing the permissible opening dates and will advise on this in September. “For the avoidance of doubt, all event centres, bars, lounges, night clubs, spas, beaches, cinemas, gyms and game arcades remain closed for now,” he added.

The Governor was pleased with the easing of the lockdown but warned “the fact that we have been seeing a gradual easing of the lockdown does not mean that we are now returning to our old way of doing things.

“The easing you are seeing is the outcome of a careful and deliberate attempt to ensure that livelihoods are not crippled by the overwhelmingly disruptive impact of the virus. It is certainly not an invitation to carelessness or nonchalance.”

2.603 Sanwo-Olu Flags Off Construction Of 250 Roads, Power Projects

Culled from Newtelegraph on September 26, 2020

As part of the moves to extend his developmental agenda to the grassroots, the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday flagged off the execution of 377 state-wide projects across all wards in the state, saying it will help to tackle challenges at the grassroots level. With the intervention, which was said to be first of its kind in the state, over 250 roads are expected to be constructed with the installation of 23 power projects across the state. Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, Sanwo-Olu said the intervention was initiated in response to the series of requests by the various communities across the state to address specific challenges.

He said the execution of the projects would change the narrative about what grassroots development and government’s responsibilities are all about. The governor said: “The state-wide 377 ward projects being launched today are state

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intervention projects in grassroots development. The projects are conceived in response to requests by the various communities across the state to address specific challenges. These projects are not universal; they are diverse, reflecting the needs of each ward across the state.

“The implementation of the projects will commence immediately after this official flag-off, as contractors have been fully mobilised to move to site. I urge residents who are the ultimate beneficiaries of these projects to take ownership by monitoring the implementation process and ensure that the job conforms to quality and standard specified in the project design.”

Sanwo-Olu said the process of identifying the needs and the design of the projects was in line with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and participatory governance in which the people were considered as key stakeholders. The governor described grassroots as, “the bedrock of development”, stressing that the projects were strategic in promoting the wellbeing of the people across the various communities.

He said his government would continue to give residents a voice on issues that affect them. “This administration’s development agenda is driven by the spirit to build a greater Lagos that is livable, and conducive for the growth and development of enterprise.

“The dream of a greater Lagos is not exclusive; it is predicated on the principle of inclusiveness by which development is not considered as satisfactory until it has addressed the yearnings of the greatest number of the people who contribute to the commonwealth,” he said. Chairman of the Projects’ Implementation Committee and the Deputy Governor, Dr.

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Obafemi Hamzat, said all contractors would mobilise to sites next Monday, noting that the intervention was in demonstration of the governor’s campaign promise to run an inclusive government.

2.604 Sanwo-Olu: Lagos’ Investment In Tourism For Jobs, Wealth Creation

Culled from Newtelegraph on September 25, 2020

The Lagos State government has disclosed that its huge investment in the tourism sector was designed for job and wealth creations for the teeming population of the state. That was even as it has reiterated its commitment to making Lagos State a choice destination in Africa, working in Partnership with the private sector. This was made known yesterday by Governor Babajide Sanwo–Olu, through the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Uzmat Akinbile – Yussuf, while speaking on the state’s preparation for the celebration of this year’s World Tourism Day (WTD), which is billed to hold across the world on September 27.

“We are leveraging on our investment in tourism for job and wealth creation, to curb youth restiveness, discover new tourism potentials and ultimately contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the state,” said the governor, while justifying the reason for his administration’s dedication to tourism as one of its top agenda. On the WTD, he described the theme as timely; “The theme for this year’s WTD ‘Tourism and Rural Development’ is timely and quite apt considering the need to look inward and develop tourism attractions in rural areas as a strategy to make our domestic tourism more vibrant.

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“The ministry will hold a hybrid intense brainstorming and very incisive session as a way of celebrating WTD 2020. Tourism stakeholders who will be participating in the event will join the celebration through Zoom platform, Facebook Livestream on Lagos State Government and from four divisions of state, while a smaller number will join some high profile guests at the physical event taking place in Ikeja.”

He stated that: “We hope that the event would further enhance our road map for the Ministry to going forward in discovering more tourism sites for development, hence the reason we are involving tourism stakeholders across the five divisions of the state to participate in the event.

“This year’s celebration, for obvious reasons, is very unique and at the same time peculiar in the history of the entire world coming at a time when tourism activities is suffering a serious setback due to the inactivity in the sector occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic. “The ministry is working hard to transform Lagos State into a tourism and entertainment hub in Africa by exploring, promoting the potentials that abound in the State, as well as supporting the thriving entertainment and arts industry as a viable platform to attract visitors and also create jobs in the state.”

2.605 Sanwo-Olu Commissions Victoria Island-Lekki Traffic Circulation Project

Culled from Newtelegraph on September 25, 2020

Commuters plying the Victoria Island and Lekki axis of Lagos State will henceforth begin to enjoy easy ride as the state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu yesterday commissioned the Victoria Island-Lekki Traffic Circulation Project, calling on private

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sector join hands with the state in developing and maintaining the infrastructure. Some of the road projects are: Sandfill Junction, Abiodun Oniru Junction, Muri-Okunola Junction, Ligali Ayorinde Junction, Ajose Adeogun Junction and New Extension road among others.

Speaking at the commissioning of the project, which had in attendance, dignitaries including, the Oniru of Iruland, Oba AbdulWasiu Omogbolahan Lawal; Group Managing Director of Access Bank Plc, Mr Herbert Wigwe and other captains of industry, Governor Sanwo-Olu said that delivering the project has improved traffic flow, reduced travel time and eliminated the perennial flooding issues, as well as become a boost for health and socio-economic wellbeing of the people.

According to the governor, the most critical challenge experienced on daily basis by residents/road users along the axis was the heavy traffic volume, adding that the Victoria Island- Lekki Traffic Circulation Project, which was flagged off in December last year, under a Public Infrastructure Improvement Partnership (PIIP) Programme in conjunction with Access Bank Plc, consisted of dualisation, expansion, construction and rehabilitation of some roads, junction and turning radius improvement of some roads.

The governor added that provision of new drainage system, re-routing some roads as one way and signalisation are some of the innovative solutions that were carefully designed to ease the daily gridlock being experienced by commuters in the area. He added that despite the difficult health cum economic challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic experienced worldwide in the last one year, his administration remained fully commitment to bringing economic prosperity to

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Lagosians by developing and facilitating delivery of world-class infrastructure to serve as the critical development driver of a Greater Lagos vision. Some of the roads delivered under the project are Ligali Ayorinde Muri Okunola – Aboyade Cole, Yesufu Abiodun Oniru, Ligali Ayorinde/Akinbolagbe/ Okene among others.

Commending Access Bank Plc for its collaborative efforts in delivering the project, Sanwo-olu noted that with this partnership with the state government, Access Bank Plc has reinforced the importance of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) at delivering public infrastructure.

2.606 Sanwo-Olu To Begin Energy Audit, Develop Master Plan

Culled from Newtelegraph on September 8, 2020

Lagos State government Tuesday said that Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration is set to conduct energy audit for facilities across the state for the development of a comprehensive master plan that will serve as blueprint towards investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

The General Manager, Lagos State Electricity Board, Mr Mukhtaar Tijani, who disclosed this, said that the procedure is expedient as it provides the opportunity to assess the current energy level and needs of the state. He said the move would help in providing means of expanding the capacity to meet the desired energy needs across all sectors of the state.

According to him, the increasing energy demands in the state, due to expanded civilisations and increase in population has led to concerns over the limited energy resources. He added

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that the focus of government is on a sustainable energy supply, which entails optimised use of energy to minimise pollution.

The General Manager explained that the making of Lagos a 21st Century Economy entails enhancing and facilitating access to clean energy technology including renewable energy, as well as advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel energy for the state

Tijani, who said that Lagos has no choice than to embrace the globally acceptable standard on sustainable and renewable energy, said that a sustainable energy future requires structural reform and the facilitation of technology transfer, adding that the state government considered the four pillars of development — economic, political, social and the environment during policy formulation because sustainable energy resources must not only be economically viable but also politically supported, socially equitable and environmentally acceptable.

2.607 Sanwo-Olu: COVID-19 Won't Affect My Devt Agenda For Lagosians

Culled from Newtelegraph on August 29, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State yesterday said the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic won't deter his administration from taking the state to greater heights, saying he would not be derailed from pursuing the T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda.

Speaking through the state's Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, at the 2019/2020 Annual Press Week Lecture of the Lagos State Governor's Office Correspondents (LAGOCO), Sanwo-Olu said despite the COVID-19 crisis, governance never stopped and would not. According to the governor, as soon as the lockdown was eased,

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the piloting of the state commenced which has led to the commissioning of a number of completed projects, while those undergoing execution are set for completion in few months' time.

He said among the projects completed include the rolling out of new buses for ease of transportation, launching new boats and channel-routes for waterways; commissioning of new health facilities; and housing schemes. Speaking also, the state's Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Sam Egube, said the state recorded 81 per cent of the projected revenue for the first half of this year, despite the scourge of the COVID-19 on economic activities. Egube, who was the guest speaker at the event, but represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on Economic Matters, Mr. Lekan Balogun, said the 81 per cent performance of the projected revenue for the period under review was at N432.6 billion.

The commissioner said despite the COVID-19 pandemic that the government had been able to re-strategise to conform with the demands of the present realities, stressing that a good government is one which has the ability to respond when disturbances arise.

He said: "Lagos state economy remains the largest and arguably the fastest growing economy in Nigeria. The state's economy was projected to grow at four per cent prior to COVID-19. However, the COVID-19 has affected the possibilities of achieving such prosperous target. "Having looked at the half of the year budget performance, it showed that despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the total revenue recorded in performance is at 81% of our initial target."

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The commissioner added that the experience of the lockdown brought the state government to the reality of the shortcomings in the state's food storage system, which necessitated the increase of the allocation to Agriculture to 2.8 billion. On his part, the Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to the governor, Gboyega Akosile, appreciated the members of the governor's press corps for the support given to Sanwo-Olu's administration in terms of publicity of government programmes. Akosile, however, assured Lagosians that the governor would deliver on his campaign promises.

2.608 Sanwo-Olu To Unveil 2,160 Lagoshoms' Units, Upgrades Dilapidated Estates

Culled from Newtelegraph newspaper on August 27, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu will unveil 2,160 housing units by the first quarter of 2021 just as the state government would embark on aggressive rehabilitation of the state government's owned dilapidated estates across the state. Commissioner for Housing, Mr. Akinderu Fatai, who disclosed this, said that the government was considering Lagosians in different economic status in the allocation of a new set of housing units as the idea of paying two or three years house rent upfront would be eradicated with Lagos home ownership scheme.

Speaking during a tour of various housing schemes in the state, the Commissioner said efforts had been activated to intensify works on ongoing construction in order to quickly complete the housing units, saying the housing units would be ready before the end of the first quarter of 2021.

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He said: “The following schemes will be completed before the first and quarter of 2021. Sangotedo scheme of the LagosHoms with 1188 homes in Eti – Osa LGA, 774 out of it will be ready. “Also, 660 homes at Lagoshoms at Odo Onosa / Ayandelu in Agbowo Local Council Development Area.

We are also working to ensure 270 housing unit of 630 homes Egan Igando Scheme is completed and ready for the subscribers.” The commissioner said that the 36 units of LASU Lagoshoms in Lagos State University main Campus and 420 units in Ajara, Badagry were part of the housing projects to be completed. The commissioner said that most dilapidated housing estates belongings to the state government would soon begin to wear a new looks as efforts were ongoing to rehabilitate the estates and save them from collapse.

2.609 Yewa Old Students appeal to Sanwo-Olu for senior secondary school

Culled from the Punch newspaper on September 27, 2020

The trustees, executive and members of Yewa Old Students Association have appealed to the Lagos State Government to consider restoring the senior secondary arm of Yewa High School in the Agege area of the state.

They said the school had a pedigree of producing some of the best results in the state in the 80s but that the present practice of transferring students to another senior secondary school easily terminates their interest and gained values, making it impossible for continuity of solid partnership, which the old students had built over the years. They therefore appealed to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to consider their plea, noting that they would be ready to partner with the state to bring back the secondary arm.

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In a statement on Saturday, titled ‘Appeal for the re-establishment of Yewa Senior Secondary School’, the association said, “The above named association is a registered national alumni body of all ex-students of Yewa High School, Orile Agege (now Yewa Junior Secondary School) from 1983 to 2001 sets, when the state government started the new system of junior and senior secondary schools.

“Our closeness, support and various interventions to the school have been a source of inspiration to the teachers and students. We are proud of the impact of the school in our formative years, thus our passion for its continuous existence to raise more successful graduates and contribute to the development of Lagos State and Nigeria knows no bounds.’

“However, despite our intervention, we discovered that it will be difficult to raise ex-students who will continue to support the school and have an attachment to its success in the future. We therefore appeal to the state government to consider providing a senior secondary arm for Yewa High School as it used to be, to ensure continuity of support for the school and the students.”

They said their association, which has members in various fields and are ready to mobilise support for its development, had over the years provided the school with different kinds of support, including donations, computers, generators, monthly pep talks, a submersible water pump machine, and award ceremonies to appreciate retired and serving teachers.

2.610 LASU stakeholders write Sanwo-Olu, fault call for e-voting

Culled from the Punch newspaper on September 24, 2020

A group, Concerned Stakeholders of the Lagos State University, Ojo, has faulted the decision of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olarenwaju Fagbohun, to embrace the conduct of electronic voting for the selection committee for the next VC.

This was contained in a letter written to Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, titled, 'The need for transparency in constituting the selection committee for the next Vice-Chancellor' and signed by one of the concerned members, Bayo Komolafe.

The letter read in part, "We are aware of plans by the Vice-Chancellor to hurriedly convene an online meeting of Senate for September 24, 2020 for the purpose of (s) electing the representatives through a hurriedly staged process to impose some pre-selected members.

"We are reliably informed that notice of Senate meeting has been sent out, but as usual in critical matters as this, without the agenda accompanying it."

He said it was questionable that Fagbohun wanted the election process of the Senate to be done virtually when the school claimed it was ready to reopen and had been so certified by government.

"This established traditional process gives prospective candidates the opportunity to convince Senators that they have integrity, understand the enormity of the burden of trust upon

their shoulders, and can discharge this important duty without fear or favour," Komolafe added in the letter.

He urged Sanwo-Olu to ask the Vice-Chancellor to commence the process that would lead to the emergence of aspirants for membership of the selection committee and to be elected on the floor of a physical Senate meeting. Komolafe stated that such exercise should be conducted in one of the spacious halls of the university in order to comply with COVID-19 management protocols. However, Coordinator, Centre for Information Press and Public Relations, LASU, Ademola Adekoya, described the Komolafe as faceless with no record in the school.

"The person who wrote the letter is a faceless person. E-voting is the best; it'll help us obey the NCDC guidelines. There's no way the VC can manipulate the voting process. He has no anointed candidate. So, he has no reason and power to manipulate."

2.611 Make Lagos another Dubai, Sanwo-Olu tells cabinet members

Culled from the Punch newspaper on September 23, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has asked cabinet members and heads of agencies to deploy their physical and mental resources into bringing his development vision to reality.

According to him, Lagos has all the potential to attain the Dubai development model and this will be achieved when workers are purposeful in the discharge of the tasks assigned to them.

Sanwo-Olu spoke on Tuesday while making his final remarks at the end of a two-day ministerial performance review retreat.

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While commending the public officers for the progress recorded by the state government in the last one year, he said people's expectations of his administration were more than what had been achieved so far. The governor urged the cabinet members and executives of the parastatals to increase their momentum and deploy more resourcefulness to the implementation of policies and programmes that would transform the lives of residents and the state's economy.

"We have many great actions and ideas we have implemented, which probably have not been properly communicated. Now we need to be smarter, more organised and articulate in the way we go about our programmes so that our efforts can be more visible," he added.

Sanwo-Olu also charged all commissioners and special advisers to work together and exchange information for better service delivery.

2.612 We'll fulfil promises despite COVID-19, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Punch on September 22, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Monday promised to fulfil all his campaign promises despite the disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in the budget size.

While stressing that there could be no excuse for non-performance, he said his administration was determined to improve governance through innovative and inclusive policies.

Sanwo-Olu spoke during the opening ceremony of a two-day ministerial performance review retreat held at the Adeyemi Bero

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Auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja. He implored members of the state executive council and other public office holders to be committed to government's efforts to meet the yearnings and aspirations of Lagosians.

"Let me emphasis that our yardstick for performance assessment will not be based majorly on the amount of money expended or budget, but the outcome of our various interventions; what measures the impact that touched the lives of citizens that we swore to serve," he added.

The Deputy Governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, in his address, enumerated all the achievements of the administration in the last one year and four months, saying the government would keep faith with its THEMES agenda.

2.613 Sanwo-Olu orders integrity test on school buildings

Culled from the Punch newspaper on September 21, 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has directed the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to carry out integrity tests on both public and private schools with buildings of three floors and above.

He gave this order after the collapse of a school building in Ejigbo in the early hours of Saturday.

The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr Idris Salako, said the governor gave this directive at a press briefing in the State House later on Saturday.

This was contained in a statement issued on Sunday by the Assistant Director, Public Affairs, Mukaila Sanusi, titled 'School collapse: Sanwo-olu orders integrity test on school buildings above two floors'.

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Salako stated that the move became necessary in order to ascertain the structural integrity of all school buildings above two floors with a view to preventing future occurrence of school building collapse in the state.

The commissioner assured that the ministry would swing into action in earnest so as to actualise the state government's aim of saving lives and property, especially as schools resume after a long break due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Is a meeting with stakeholders to correct the pattern of fixing petrol prices necessary?

He said that the ministry would soon come up with the guidelines and procedure for the integrity test on public and private schools whose buildings fall within the stated range.

2.614 Sanwo-Olu advises teachers to embrace technology

Culled from the Punch newspaper on September 11, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advised teacher in the Lagos State Post-Primary Teaching Service to embrace technology in improving learning outcomes.

Speaking during a virtual training of teachers tagged, 'Eko Educators Webinar Performance Series 3.3,' Sanwo-Olu said teachers were key change agents who would be remembered for shaping future generations of leaders. He said, "This is the era of technology and it is working well for us.

Technology has become a very strong tool that we cannot do away with in our everyday lives. With technology, we can think locally and act globally."

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Sanwo-Olu also pledged 20 cars to deserving teachers across the six education districts of the state.

The governor added that great teachers were always remembered for the lives they shaped and their students becoming role models to be proud of.

The Commissioner for Education, Mrs Folasade Adefisayo, said the quality of teachers was critical to the success of any school system.

Adefisayo appreciated Lagos State teachers for their continuous self-development, advising them to bring the best out of child who may have gone through the different degree of trauma during the pandemic.

The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, Mrs Elizabeth Ariyo, said the webinar was a conscious effort of the commission in improving teaching styles, optimise the teaching profession, turn around the life of children, and ultimately, impact on their future.

"The platform portends to address teachers' wellness and wellbeing, update them with trending facts to update their teaching skill, and has had notable distinguished personalities of interest in the public service and society at large to discuss issues," she said.

2.615 Sanwo-Olu sets up task force on human trafficking

Culled from The Punch Newspaper on September 9, 2020

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday set up a task force to curb the menace of human trafficking in the state.

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Sanwo-Olu, who lamented that human trafficking, had become a profitable venture for criminals who exploited people by kidnapping and selling them into forced prostitution, forced labour and modern-day slavery, urged all members of the task force to see their appointment as a call to service.

He said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many global inequalities and plunged many economies like ours into recession, leaving millions of people at greater risk of being trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriages and other crimes. What this implies is that the pandemic has created more economic difficulties for many, especially women, young ladies and children who are the most vulnerable and might become exposed to the perils of human trafficking in a bid to seek better lives.

“I strongly believe that this initiative of constituting state Task Force on Human Trafficking could not have come at a better time than now when it is needed more than ever that we put human dignity and human rights at the forefront and governments at all levels need to join hands and make collaborative efforts to put an end to the scourge of human trafficking.”

The Director-General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Julie Okah-Donli, in her address, noted that the problem of human trafficking and irregular migration had become a great national concern, especially with a large number of Nigerians trapped in sexual and labour exploitation in various African and European countries.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Justice and Attorney-General of the State, Moyosore Onigbanjo, who is the chairman

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of the task force, assured the governor that his team would fight the pandemic and ensure that people felt the impact of the task force in the state.

2.616 Defend the vulnerable, Sanwo-Olu urges governing council

Culled from the Punch newspaper on August 19, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday asked members of the governing council of the Office of the Public Defender to defend the rights of the less privileged and vulnerable residents of the state at all times.

According to him, their services are important to ensure the rights of every individual are not only guaranteed, but also “vigorously defended.” The governor spoke during the swearing-in and inauguration of the newly constituted governing council of the OPD at the Lagos House, Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu said his administration, in line with the THEMES agenda, would ensure that every resident had equal access to justice, irrespective of means, race, age or gender.

He said, “In constituting this council, we have taken care to ensure the selection of people of proven character and competence, who can deliver on the mandate of the office. “I charge you therefore to see this appointment as a challenge to service.

You are the voice and the hope of multitudes of disadvantaged people across Lagos State. The people of Lagos deserve a state in which the rights of every individual are not only guaranteed, but also vigorously defended.”

2.617 State rules out Sanwo-Olu's examination as commissioner contracts COVID-19

Culled from the Punch newspaper on August 25, 2020

The Lagos State Commissioner for Information, Mr Gbenga Omotosho, has said there is no big deal about the COVID-19 status of the state Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi.

Omotosho said he was not aware if Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu would go for another COVID-19 test.

He said, "Apparently, he (the governor) does not see it as a direct issue of concern; this is not the first time someone who works with him will contract COVID-19. This should not be any big deal; you know there was a time we said 10 people tested positive for COVID-19 at the Lagos House in Marina, I don't think this one will take a different process."

Omotosho, in a press statement on Monday, disclosed that Abayomi had tested positive for COVID-19.

The statement read in part, "Subsequent to close contact with persons feeling unwell and testing positive for the COVID-19 infection, the Commissioner for Health, Prof. Akin Abayomi, has tested positive for the virus.

"Prof. Abayomi became aware of his status following the required testing protocol of contact tracing procedures. However, he is doing well with no symptoms. Adhering to the protocol of the home-based strategy in Lagos State, the commissioner will be isolating in his home for the next 14 days but will continue to discharge his duties both as the Deputy Incident Commander of the Incident Command System for

COVID-19 and most especially, as the Commissioner for Health."

2.618 COVID-19: Lagos may lose N240bn, says Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Punch newspaper on August 29, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said his administration envisaged a N240bn revenue decline in the state, as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Sanwo-Olu said this during his keynote address at the 10th annual public lecture of the Lagos State Public Service Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria tagged 'The Global Economic Realities of COVID-19 Pandemic, Lagos State as a Case Study,' on Thursday.

The governor, who was represented by the state Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Samuel Egube, noted that though the 2020 budget had contingency plans, it did not account for the unforeseen pandemic.

Sanwo-Olu said, "If one accounts for something without an action, then one's proper accounting has not been done because the whole idea of accounting is, first, to account for things, but by nature of the way one has done so, it should be clear to one what kind of actions one should take.

"Once we saw it (COVID-19 pandemic), it was clear that there was going to be an economic consolidation. We saw that our potential revenue might go down by about N240bn.

"We saw that, if we moved and slashed that completely across the board, we would have missed the plot because it was going

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to be important to us to properly account for what was happening at present and what the effect of that would be.”

According to him, due to the imminent fallout from the drop in worldwide economic activities, including falling crude oil prices, naira devaluation, and rise in prices of import-dependent goods and services, the state government had to take measures.

“We needed to take three steps to respond to that: One, we needed to maintain a strong pandemic response. In other words, we were not going to run away from the fight. Two, we wanted to restart the Lagos State economy. Three, we wanted to reimagine the way Lagos operates, going forward.”

2.619 Our proactive plans worked against COVID-19, says Sanwo-Olu

Called from the Punch newspaper on August 28, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday said the proactive plans of the government helped the state withstand the effects of the pandemic.

He spoke at the 10th Annual Public Lecture of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Lagos State Public Service chapter.

The event was themed, ‘The Global Economic Realities of Covid-19 Pandemic: Lagos State as a Case Study.’

Sanwo-Olu, who was represented at the occasion by the Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mr Sam Egube, noted that the government had been proactive before the pandemic began.

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He explained that his administration had a business continuity plan in case of any emergency, hence the impact of COVID-19 was reduced in the state.

He said, “When a crisis happens, everybody cannot converge as normal. If governance or management needs to go on, then there needs to be a business of governance continuity plan.”

This, he noted, enabled the government to make a lot of quick decisions with the aid of technology and support of members of his cabinet.

2.620 Sanwo-Olu seeks cooperation to resolve tank farm crisis

Culled from the Punch Newspaper on August 14, 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has stressed the need for parties in the tank farm crisis in the Ijegan-Egba, Amuwo-Odofin area of the state, to cooperate for amicable resolution.

He noted that all the Federal Government’s regulatory agencies operating in the area must stop working at cross purposes with the state’s agencies in addressing environmental degradation in the community.

Sanwo-Olu pointed out that the tank farm owners and oil tanker drivers must also subscribe to operational regulations that limited the loading of tankers beyond their weight capacities.

According to him, the agitation by members of the host community for the relocation of the tank farms may be far from being over if stakeholders fail to work collaboratively.

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The governor spoke on Thursday at the State House in Marina when he received members of the House of Representatives Ad-Hoc Committee on Relocation of Tank Farms. Sanwo-Olu said the regeneration of Ijebu-Egba was as important to the community as smooth transportation of petroleum products was important to owners of the tank farms.

He said the nation could not afford to allow the host community's agitation to hinder the operations of the tank farms, which, he said, supplied 45 per cent of petroleum products consumed in the country.

2.621 Sanwo-Olu decries Lagos representation in FG agencies

Culled from the Punch newspaper on August 13, 2020

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has expressed displeasure over the low quota reserved for the state's indigenes in the employment scheme of Federal Government's organisations operating in the state.

He vowed that his administration would be making necessary moves to address the inadequacy, which, he said, offended the spirit of fairness, equity and federating balance.

Sanwo-Olu spoke against the backdrop of low representation of Lagos indigenes in federally-controlled public institutions when he received the Commissioner representing Lagos State at the Federal Character Commission, Abdulwasii Bawa-Allah, on a courtesy visit to the State House in Marina on Wednesday.

The governor said, "It is a shame that Lagos, which is Nigeria's economic and industrial nerve centre, and which has the largest population, has been short-changed in this national

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commission. The popular narrative about Lagos is that people think we are okay in terms of resources and infrastructure. They think we have been taken care of. This is not the case.

"Lagos is accommodating to all, but the resources available are not enough to cater to all. The challenges facing us are enormous. Our citizens need to be given their proper space in line with the spirit of fairness and the mandate of the Federal Character Commission."

2.622 Responding, Bawa-Allah pledged to work with the governor to reverse the inequitable action against the state.

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 29th September 2020

For a long time now, residents of Ladaba town, a community in Epe, Lagos, have been experiencing a very difficult situation, as the only road that leads to the community has been in a pathetic state.

The situation has gone worse at the moment with the unending rains devastating the road and affecting the movement and livelihood of residents.

Some of the residents that spoke with the reporter appealed to the Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to extend the dividends of democracy to their community by fixing the road. They noted that, unless the Lagos State government hears their cries of agony and constructs the road leading to the community, the people would continue to be deprived of good governance. Traditional ruler of the town, Chief Nureni Sikiru Ebudola Alugbin, also lamented the plight of the people, especially in the rainy season.

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While appealing to the Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Baale Ladaba expressed concern that the road leading to over 50 developing communities in the area was in such a deplorable condition. He noted that residents of the town and adjoining communities usually find it difficult to ply the road in the rainy season. He lamented that commuters now find it very difficult to travel along that stretch of the road. In his words, his people are always subjected to prolonged pain trying to move in and out of the community.

“It is horrible plying the road leading to my town, and this has often affected the development of many of the communities in the area. For instance, during the rainy season, the road is always in a deplorable condition, It is not motorable. We often spend hours travelling along the road and it takes God’s grace for residents to ply the road. We need better facilities for proper development. So many people that could not cope with the daily trauma have left the community for another area and farmers and traders are deserting the area because of the situation of the road,

“That is why I am appealing to the Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to help construct the road leading to the town. We are also appealing to him to build the bridge from Abijo to Oko-Abe, as well as the road from Elerangbe to Ito-Omu, which is surrounded by no fewer than 50 communities in both Epe and Ibeju-Lekki local governments,” the traditional ruler said.

Ebudola, who is also the chairman, Association of Baales, Ward C 1, Epe Division, said the situation has adversely affected people living in all the communities.

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2.623 Sanwo-Olu flags off construction of 377 roads, power projects across wards

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 26th September 2020

In keeping promises made during the electioneering, Lagos State governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, flagged off the execution of 377 statewide projects across all wards in the state.

The intervention, which was said to be first of its kind in the state, was initiated at the instance of the governor. It will bring about the construction of over 250 roads and installation of 23 power projects across the state.

Members of the state cabinet, All Progressives Congress Local Council chairmen, councillors and scores of party stalwarts, led by the state’s Chairman of APC, Hon. Tunde Balogun, graced the flag-off ceremony held at Adeyemi Bero Hall, Alausa.

Sanwo-Olu said the intervention was initiated in response to the series of requests by the various communities across the state to address specific challenges. He said the execution of the projects would change the narrative about what grassroots development and government’s responsibilities are all about.

He said: “The state-wide 377 ward projects being launched today are state intervention projects in grassroots development. The projects are conceived in response to requests by the various communities across the state to address specific challenges. These projects are not universal; they are diverse, reflecting the needs of each ward across the state.

“The implementation of the projects will commence immediately after this official flag-off, as contractors have been fully

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mobilised to move to site. I urge residents who are the ultimate beneficiaries of these projects to take ownership by monitoring the implementation process and ensure that the job conforms to quality and standard specified in the project design.”

2.624 SDGs: Sanwo-Olu seeks optimisation of maritime input

Culled from the Sun Newspaper on 25th September 2020

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has stated that the maritime industry is pivotal to Nigeria’s attainment of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), saying Nigeria should put in place deliberate measures for the optimal utilisation of its enormous maritime potential.

Sanwo-Olu said this in Lagos on Thursday on the occasion of the 2020 World Maritime Day, with the theme: Sustainable Shipping for Sustainable Planet.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, commended the Federal Government for its plan to move containers across the country with barges, stressing that it would bring about more efficiency and ease pressure on the roads.

”The theme of this year’s World Maritime Day, Sustainable Shipping for a Sustainable Planet, is apt and timely when we need to pay rapt attention to making our shipping process more environmental friendly. It is also coming at a time when we need to support the maritime industry to contribute its quota to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030,” he said.

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“We need to optimise the potential of the maritime industry by utilising our waterways to transport goods and services from one destination to another locally. In respect of this, I must commend the Federal Government for the plan to begin transportation of containers from Lagos to Onitsha through barges and subsequently, to other parts of the country.”

In his keynote address, the Minister of Transportation, Chibuike Amaechi, acknowledged the security challenge in the country’s waters and called for synergy among stakeholders in tackling the problem.

Speaking also at the occasion, the NIMASA boss, Dr. Jamoh, restated the Federal government’s commitment to the security of the country’s marine environment through the Integrated National Security and Waterways Protection Infrastructure, also known as the Deep Blue Project. He said over 85 per cent of the assets needed for the project’s full take-off had arrived the country, stressing that the training process for officers that would man the various equipment is being concluded.

He added: ”The determination of the Agency to ensure sustainable use of the seas and oceans is clearly demonstrated by our establishment in 2008 of a specialised department in charge of marine environment management.

2.625 Sanwo-Olu hands over 51 vehicles, eight houses to judges

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 23rd September 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide has handed over 51 Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and eight houses to judges of the State High Court.

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Sanwo-Olu while handing over the vehicles and the key to the houses to the state judges, declared that no arm of government in the state would be deprived of requisite tools to perform its statutory duties.

He reiterated his administration's continued support to the judiciary and raise the bar of legal practice in line with global standards.

The governor stated that there would be no good governance and development without a formidable judiciary, re-assuring members of the judicial arm that the executive arm under his leadership would be a dependable partner.

Sanwo-Olu said the support being extended towards the judiciary must be reciprocated, charging the judicial officers to deepen the rule of law and accelerate justice administration without compromising its independence.

"I urge members of the judiciary to co-operate with the executive arm by and show highest form of dedication to your statutory duties. We must not forget the important role the judiciary has to play in the building a just and unified society. Our success as a government is highly dependent on our ability to entrench the rule of law through continuous collaboration with the judiciary.

"In maintaining your independence, our judges must not forget that their contribution is pertinent to the achievement of our administration's T.H.E.M.E.S agenda. I am confident that under the Hon. Justice Kazeem Alogba-led judiciary, our people are assured of innovative judicial reforms in our state", Sanwo-Olu said.

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Meanwhile, the state government has declared that Nigeria 60 years Independence anniversary celebration would be on a low key in the state. But promised to maintain its leading position in the country by continuing to be the face of Nigeria in infrastructural development, industrialisation, trade investments and information technology. Commissioner for Home Affairs, Prince Anofiu Elegushi gave this assurance at a press briefing to commemorate Nigeria's 60th independence anniversary. According to the commissioner, state government opted for a low key celebration because of the scourge of covid-19, saying that "this Diamond Jubilee calls for sober reflection and thanksgiving to the Almighty for keeping the Nigerian state together thus far.

The event to commemorate the anniversary will commence on Friday, 25th September with a Jumat service at the Lagos state community central mosque, Alausa, Ikeja, followed by an interdenominational thanksgiving service on 27th September at the Chapel of Christ The Light, Alausa, Ikeja. The celebration will be rounded up on October 1st with an independence day parade at the Agege stadium.

Elegushi said, "Lagos State has always been in the fore-front of the noble efforts at bringing greater development to the nation. Many creative initiatives in Lagos have yielded tremendous dividends to the state and its people as some of these programs and policies have become templates for other states in their drive to accelerate development in their respective states and quality of lives of their respective peoples.

"Our young people and entrepreneurs alike will be assisted to lead our Nation to fuller progress and to the closer realization

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of becoming economically independent to the point of creating wealth and employment to their fellows both home and abroad”.

Elegushi stated that In the light of this, Lagos State as a leading State in the country believes that in commemorating the day, it would join the rest of other States in bringing to the fore the need to promote peace and unity among the citizenry.

Adding that the grande finale of the celebrations will be held under strict COVID-19 protocols as attendance will be by invitation. “This is aimed at controlling the crowd and avoiding much of human contacts, bearing in mind that we are gradually relaxing all measures put in place to curb the spread of the virus,” he said.

The commissioner for information and strategy, Mr. Gbenga Omotoso said every good thing that comes to Nigeria all began here in Lagos, adding that though Lagos is no longer the administrative capital of the country it however remains the capital in economy, education, technology etc.

Promising that the state will continue to show this excellence and leadership in everything as shown by its response to the covid-19 pandemic, “and it would not be out of place to lead the way even in the celebration of the nation’s 60th Anniversary celebration,” Omotoso said.

2.626 Lagos: COVID-19 won’t deter us from keeping campaign promises – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 21st September 2020

Lagos State Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has assured Lagosians that the COVID-19 pandemic would not deter him from keeping his campaign promises.

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Sanwo-Olu gave the assurance on Monday at the opening ceremony of the first Lagos State two-day Ministerial Performance Review Retreat, held at the State secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja. The Governor said his administration is committed to fulfilling all his promises despite the disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges.

Sanwo-Olu boasted of his administration determination to step up the tempo of governance through innovative and inclusive policies.

The Governor added that fulfilling the promises in line with the T.H.E.M.E.S development agenda for ‘Greater Lagos’ would be delivered by his administration, despite a reduction in the budget as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

‘I want to assure you that despite disruption occasioned by COVID-19 and other challenges that we did not envisage, we are still committed as a government to fulfilling the promises we made to people knowing fully that no excuse will be tenable to our citizens,’ Mr Sanwo-Olu said.

‘We must be determined to step forward, heighten the tempo of governance and continue to create opportunities through innovative policies that are not only inclusive but provide sustainable solutions for this present administration and lay foundation for future administrations coming behind us.’

Governor Sanwo-Olu also implored members of the State Executive Council and other public office holders to be committed to the incumbent administration’s effort to meet the yearnings and aspirations of Lagosians, especially the voters.

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‘Let me emphasise that our yardstick for performance assessment will not be based majorly on the amount of money expended or budget but the outcome of our various interventions that we have had; what measures the impact that touched the lives of citizens that we swore to serve.

‘One of the promises we made at the inception of our administration and in line with the principle of continuity was to ensure the completion of projects that were inherited from the last administration. A significant part of our efforts and resources was devoted towards fulfilling this promise and taking government to another level.’

2.627 Lagos Judiciary’Il soon witness unprecedented development –Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 20th September 2020

Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, declared his administration’s preparedness to refurbish physical infrastructure in the state’s High and Magistrate courts.

The governor made this known to newsmen after a tour of the High Court buildings in Ikeja and Igboere over the weekend, disclosing that his administration would soon set up a joint committee between the judiciary and executive to start work almost immediately.

He said the planned refurbishment was to ensure better service delivery so that people who use the courtrooms would have a feel of new and refreshing atmosphere.

“We will also be seeing a rebranded, renewed physical infrastructure in the Judiciary in the weeks, months and years ahead,” he assured.

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The purpose of this inspection tour is “to see how we can work collaboratively with the Lagos State Judiciary Service led by the Chief Judge and see how we can set up the means by which we will begin extensive renovation of some of our courtrooms, the infrastructure around the court premises, both at the High and Magistrate courts,” he added.

2.628 Sanwo-Olu agrees to pay tertiary institutions’ new minimum wage from October

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 16th September 2020

Following two days of strike by workers of four state-owned tertiary institutions in Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, agreed to pay the contentious new minimum wage from October.

Workers of Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTEC), Ikorodu, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education (AOCOED), Ijanikin and Michael Otedola College of Primary Education (MOCPE), Epe on Monday and Tuesday embarked on industrial action to press home the payment of the new minimum wage.

A statement by the Special Adviser on Education, Tokunbo Wahab, said the governor’s gesture followed a meeting of stakeholders on the agitation for the implementation of the new minimum wage, yesterday.

Wahab said Governor Sanwo-Olu has affirmed his administration’s commitment to paying the new minimum wage/ consequential adjustments to staff of state-owned tertiary institutions with effect from October 2020.

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“Government, therefore, expects that normalcy is sustained as we collectively strive to ensure a guaranteed future for our students and the institutions,” Wahab said.

However, the ongoing industrial action in four tertiary institutions in Lagos State entered day two as the union leaders vowed to sustain the tempo of their action.

AOCOED Non Academic Staff Union (NASU), yesterday joined the strike while two other unions boycotted the action.

As early as 6.00am, NASU executives locked the main gate of the institution. The union’s action disrupted academic and administrative activities on campus.

Returning students and staff of AOCOED were stranded outside the gate as vehicle owners caught in the strike parked their cars in front of the gate and on the expressway.

Daily Sun gathered that the Provost, Bidemi Lafiaji-Okuneye, and her management team stayed away from the institution to avoid what happened on Monday to her counterpart at LASU and MOCPED.

2.629 Sanwo-Olu to reward teachers

Culled from the Sun on 10th September 2020

Lagos Governor, Babajide Sanwo-olu, has pledged his administration’s commitment to reward excellence service delivery in Lagos State post-primary teaching service.

Sanwo-Olu, who made the pledge during the virtual training of teachers, tagged Eko Educators Webinar Performance Series

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3.3 promised to give out 20 cars to deserving teachers across the six education districts in the state.

He described teachers as key change agents who would always be remembered for shaping future generation of leaders.

The governor advised teachers to embrace technology in improving the quality of teaching as it would make them great teachers.

“This is the era of technology and it is working well for us. Technology has become a very strong tool that we cannot do away with in our everyday lives. With technology, we can think locally and act globally,” he said.

2.630 Sanwo-Olu advocates increased banking sector investments in cities, states

...As CIBN seeks new roles for lenders on sustainable future

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 22nd September 2020

Rather than deploying capital to Dubai and other safe havens for investment, the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged banks to put their money into developing Nigerian cities and states, just as the President of Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Bayo Olugbemi, called on the lenders to carve out new roles for themselves in achieving sustainable future for the country.

Sanwo-Olu’s plea may have been informed by the recent collaboration between some local banks and international pimps scouting for Nigerian companies, wealthy families and individuals to invest in Dubai and other investment hubs around the world.

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Just last year, Access Bank in partnership with Dubai International Finance Centre (DIFC) reached out to Nigerians and African businesses to invest in the \$158billion Dubai's economic zone, which, in 2019, had the presence of 2005 African firms with huge investments.

But speaking at the just-concluded CIBN 13th Annual Bankers Conference, simultaneously held in Lagos and Abuja, the two leaders urged the banks to put their resources into the development of Nigerian cities and states with a view to achieving sustainable future.

Sanwo-Olu, who spoke in Lagos as the chief host, stated that the public sector could not do it alone without the cooperation of the organised private sector.

His words: "For us in Lagos, especially for the government that we run here today, it is clear that the public sector cannot do it by itself. One of our primary responsibilities is to expand a space for you, the private sector; to put your money and your resources and creativity into the development of our various states and cities, Lagos inclusive. We must create an enabling environment for you to do what you do best. And as bankers and financial service providers, which mobilise and deploy capital for solving vital problems, I invite you for collaboration in creating a sustainable future.

This requires a financial service sector that is not only dynamic but it is globally competitive; it requires a financial service sector that is not only profit-driven but also willing and able to provide support for various sectors in our economy; and will not see only the financial benefits, short or medium term, but will be critical to providing a solid base for the future economic

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progress, prosperity and improved quality of life for the larger percentage of our citizens.

"At the end of the day, we all must be concerned about the society that works for all of us; where people can realistically aspire to have better life for themselves and for their families".

On the theme of the conference, "Facilitating a Sustainable Future: the Role of Banking & Finance", Sanwo-Olu said, as bankers, COVID-19 have thrown up new normal with critical lessons for the sector.

He stated: "I believe, for us as bankers, the pandemic could have brought lessons about digitalization; about technology; it would have brought challenges around creating innovative ways where we need to engage ourselves, our customers, how do we respond to new business continuity plans. For these are some of the 'new normals' that the pandemic has brought forward.

Speaking in Abuja, Olugbemi challenged CIBN members to uncover and articulate the roles of the banking and finance sector in achieving a sustainable future for the country. He noted that "given the recent disruption caused by the impacts of the Covid-19, the role of banks have become more important now than ever before."

2.631 Sanwo-Olu promises 20 cars to outstanding Lagos school teachers

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 9th September 2020

Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-olu has pledged his administration's commitment to reward excellence service delivery in the Lagos State Post Primary teaching service and

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promised 20 cars to deserving teachers across the six education districts in the state.

Sanwo-Olu made the pledge during the virtual training of teachers tagged Eko Educators Webinar Performance Series 3.3, stressing that teachers are key change agents who will be remembered for shaping future generation of leaders. The governor advice teachers to embrace technology in improving the quality of teaching which ultimately makes them great teachers, indeed.

Said he: “This is the era of technology and it is working well for us. Technology has become a very strong tool that we cannot do away with in our everyday lives. With technology, we can think locally and act globally.”

Sanwo-Olu observed that great teachers are always remembered for the lives they shape, deriving satisfaction in their students becoming role models to be proud of.

In her contributions, the Commissioner for Education, Mrs. Folasade Adefisayo, emphasized that most critical to the success of any school system is the quality of teaching and learning which is exhibited in the quality of teachers with a multiplier effect on our children.

Adefisayo appreciated Lagos State teachers for their continual self development in addition to the government efforts in their development. She commended TESCO board for the idea of the virtual training, which she said was doing well for the progress of the education sector and Lagos State at large.

The Chairman, Teaching Service Commission, Mrs. Elizabeth Ariyo, while welcoming Governor Sanwo -olu during the

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Webinar series, said that the Webinar was a conscious effort of the commission in improving teaching styles, optimize the teaching profession, turn around the life of our children, and ultimately, impact on our future.

She noted that the Webinar has initiated Post Primary School Teachers in Lagos State to be prepared and proactive in teaching and learning to meet the challenges of the ‘new normal’.

“The platform portends to address teachers’ wellness and wellbeing, update them with trending facts to update their teaching skill, and has had notable distinguished personalities of interest in the public service and society at large to discuss issues.”

Ariyo appreciated the magnanimity of Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu for approval of the Teachers’ Exit Replacement programme with over 1,000 new appointees , the Retrospective Course approval for over 700 Teachers which had lingered since 2013, Digital training of all Post-Primary Schools Teachers on Microsoft Teams platform, varying Digital Virtual trainings exposing our Teachers to be digital complaint, various Capacity enhancement of Teachers in Lagos State and a host of others which has up scaled and enhanced proper integration of TESCO in the “new normal”

The Permanent Secretary, TESCO, Mrs. Toyin Awoseyi, while applauding the presence of Sanwo-Olu on the Webinar, affirmed that this was an attestation to the priority placed on teachers and the education sector and opined that to whom much is given, much is expected.

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The facilitator, Mr. Fela Durotoye, CEO, Gemstone Group, delved extensively on the topic “The Making of a Great Teacher in the Centre of Excellence”, emphasizing the importance of striving to become “great teachers”.

”As important as teachers are, teachers cannot be remembered, but great teachers cannot be forgotten,” he added.

2.632 Lagos Assembly tasks Sanwo-Olu to address drug abuse in schools

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 31st August 2020

The Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday called on the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to direct his Commissioners for Education, Information and Strategy, as well as Youth and Social Development and other relevant government agencies to launch anti-drug programmes in all primary, secondary, tertiary institutions as well as for the out-of-school students in the state.

Moving the motion entitled “A call on the Lagos State Government to embark on anti-drug corruption campaign in secondary schools in the state,” a House member representing Surulere 1 state constituency, Mr Desmond Elliot, urged the House to call on the Chairman, Task Force on Environmental and Special Offences (Enforcement) Unit to carry out strict enforcement against the sale of drugs around school premises and mandate the Committees on Education and Legislative Compliance to ensure that the relevant agencies also comply with the resolution of the House.

‘The State Commissioner of Police should keep watch on school environment. He should direct his men to ensure that there is

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no sale of drugs around school premises. We should also have anti-drug societies in schools. Parents are also called upon to keep watch on their children to reduce the usage of drugs in our society,’ Mr Elliot said.

The state lawmaker and former actor said the House has observed that the increasing rate of drug abuse and alcohol consumption among students of secondary schools in the state is one of the problems affecting school-age teenagers.

‘It has been observed that such experiment with drugs, alcohol and tobacco most often starts from the elementary schools and peak in high schools, where its adverse effect begins to show high on the students.

‘It was further observed that the unrestrained abuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited drugs negatively affect the students’ academic performance and achievements because it breeds gangsterism, gang-rape and cultism,’ he said.

In his comment, the Speaker of ye House, Mr Mudashiru Obasa, said described the development as worrisome, even as he urged the House to look at the Child Rights Act and make necessary amendments.

‘The school authority can go round to check the students. We cannot stop people who sell items around schools, but it is a good motion that will correct the attitude of our children in and out of schools.

‘We should also be vigilant about what goes on around us. The parents should be vigilant so as to know when their children start to take drugs.

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‘Parents should also be sanctioned once their children are caught. The gatemen are also culpable as they allow people to use the school premises at night. The government should also look into that and monitor the recruitment of security men in the schools,’ he said.

With supported total support from all the lawmakers in attendance, the motion was passed as a resolution of the House

The House later adjourned sitting to Monday, September 7 at 12 noon.

2.633 Why we developed a five-year master plan for agriculture – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 27th August 2020

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has revealed why his administration developed a five-year master plan that would be guiding the state’s intervention and investment in agriculture for a long-term return.

Sanwo-Olu disclosed this in Lagos, during the courtesy visit of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Muhammed Sabo Nanono

The governor said the master plan would be raising the state’ capacity to be key player in agricultural production, while also creating a marketing platform for export of local agro-allied products and improving food security.

The minister’s visit came on the heel of the recent investment made by the Federal Government to harness Lagos’ marine resources for aqua farming and also the proposed provision of solar power and road infrastructure for the State’s farmers.

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Sanwo-Olu said the state government was ready for collaboration with the federal government to stimulate the growth of agro-processing market for local producers and reduce the nation’s dependency on imported agricultural products.

He welcomed collaboration with the federal government on exploration of marine resources, construction of rural roads and provision of power infrastructure to boost agricultural output.

He said: “We are excited that the Federal Government is coming up with investment in strategic areas of agriculture to transform the sector. It will interest you to know that Lagos has started to take similar step by coming up with a five-year agricultural and food security master plan in response to the challenges we face. This master plan will be guiding our intervention in various areas of agriculture. It will not only improve food security, it will also create market opportunity for local farmers.

“Today, Lagos is building the biggest rice mill in the country to ramp up national agricultural output. Beyond this, our Government is developing initiatives that will catalyse agro-processing market in Lagos, with the objective to reduce food importation and over dependence on finished products from outside the country.

“The state is surrounded by large bodies of water and we are positioning ourselves for collaboration that will enhance effective exploration of our marine resources. We are ready to work collaboratively with the Federal Government to harness the State’s agricultural resources and I promised that you have found the right partner in Lagos for the initiative you have brought forward to change the face of agriculture.”

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The Governor described agriculture as a “major stake” into which any serious government must invest, noting that the lessons drawn from the negative impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on farming and agriculture should not be lost among the current crop of leaders.

The governor praised President Muhammadu Buhari for the choice of Nanono as supervising administrator of the ministry, saying the minister came in with energy and deep knowledge of the sector. He said the federal government’s initiative would increase food accessibility, lower prices and improve the quality of products in the market. He pledged that Lagos would be a willing partner to drive the projects.

Nanono said Lagos had offered the nation the needed industrial backing to boost agriculture, stressing that the State played key role in Nigeria’s rise on the global ranking to become the 13th largest rice producer in the world and first in Africa.

The minister said the federal government was ready to step up its partnership with Lagos for improved agricultural production, confirming that there would be more investment in marine resources. Nanono disclosed that the federal government would also be making funds available for the construction of rural roads and provision of solar power for farmers in Lagos.

2.634 Sanwo-Olu presents 18-seater bus to Lagos SWAN

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 27th August 2020

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has presented a brand new 18-seater bus to the state’s chapter of Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) in fulfillment of his campaign promise.

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The governor had, during his governorship campaign in 2019, promised Lagos SWAN a brand new 18-seater bus.

The Director-General, Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Oluwatoyin Gafar, made the presentation on behalf of the governor to the Lagos SWAN Chairman, Debo Oshundun, on Tuesday, in Lagos.

“The gift is in fulfillment of the campaign promises in the area of sports development in Lagos state and Governor Sanwo-Olu has delivered. He has said that every promise made will be fulfilled.

“The bus is a reward for hard work by the Lagos SWAN members. They truly worked to earn it and this is the recognition of their work.

“The state government is desirous of human and capital development of sports which has formed one of the cardinal blueprints of the present government,” he said.

In his remarks during the presentation, Lagos SWAN Chairman, Debo Oshundun, commended the state government for fulfilling its promise, adding that the bus would be put to optimal use.

“During the campaign tour by the governor, he asked for our needs and we requested for some things, especially a befitting bus, and he has now delivered on his promise.

2.635 Osinbajo, Sanwo-Olu endorse legal technology for improved justice

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 19th August 2020

Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo has commended the management of the country’s legal technology solution provider,

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Law Pavilion, for its endless commitment towards adoption of digital technology for the good of administration of justice.

Professor Osinbajo, who stated this in his keynote address at the 2020 Law Pavilion Technology Conference themed: “A new paradigm in justice delivery” noted that the innovative resourcefulness of Law Pavilion Business Solutions Limited in unleashing digital technology on Nigeria’s judicial sector is laudable, adding that the entire world is now at an unusual time that technology cannot be ignored in judicial processes and other spheres of life.”

“Almost on a yearly basis, the Law Pavilion team has consistently introduced new technology products for justice delivery. We are all extremely proud of your resourcefulness and the hard work that you have put behind all of these through the years. Our world has changed dramatically. In March this year with the COVID-19 pandemic, something happened that clearly redefined everything that we knew to be normal. No nation was prepared for what we are experiencing today,” Osinbajo expressed.

2.636 Excitement as Sanwo-Olu revives organic farm in Badagry

*‘Facility’ will boost food security, tourism, create thousands of jobs’
Culled from the Sun newspaper on 18th August 2020*

Badagry, the sprawling historic city bordering Benin Republic in Lagos, was agog recently. Many residents of the city, including leaders and members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the area, could hardly curtail their excitement. Children in colourful clothes lined the roads in their numbers.

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The residents were excited to see the state governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was visiting the city for the first time since his inauguration as governor on May 29 last year. He was in the community to inspect ongoing projects in the area.

Many residents of the historic city trooped out in large numbers to express support for the governor. The elderly, youths and children in their hundreds gathered in different parts of the town, waving and hailing the governor as he moved round the city.

Banners and placards with messages such as ‘Sanwo-Olu is our Governor,’ ‘Welcome to Badagry,’ and ‘We love Governor Sanwo-Olu’ were in very conspicuous places.

One of the facilities the governor visited was the Avia-Igborosun Organic Farm in Mowo. And he was consistently applauded by the excited people that had thronged the farm even before his arrival.

Attired in blue jeans, grey T-shirt, a jacket and cap, the governor was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, Mr. Tayo Ayinde; Acting Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya; Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mr. Bonu Solomon Saanu; and member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Badagry I, Hon. Ibrahim Layode, among others.

Immediately he alighted from his car, Sanwo-Olu went to meet the crowd comprising hundreds of women, men and children as well as APC chieftains and members at the entrance of the farm. The governor interacted with the people for a few minutes before proceeding inside the farm for the business of the day.

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Waiting for the governor was the permanent secretary in the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Olayiwole Onasanya, and management and staff of the Avia Organic Farm.

The governor subsequently took a tour of the 279-hectare farm. The Lagos State Government, it was gathered, acquired the farm in 2012 for commercial agricultural project. Agriculture development, the reporter gathered, is one of the major thrusts of Sanwo-Olu's "Greater Lagos" agenda, which is hinged on a six-pillar policy programme tagged T.H.E.M.E.S. The six pillars are Traffic Management and Transportation; Health and Environment; Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century State; Entertainment and Tourism, as well as Security and Governance.

With agriculture coming under the fourth pillar – 'Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy,' it was gathered that the governor's pilot agriculture scheme – Lagos Food Production Park – has been scheduled to take off in Badagry.

During the tour, Sanwo-Olu dwelt on the need to revive the Avia Organic Farm, noting that the project had been abandoned for some time, with some of the facilities already moribund. He said some agricultural projects would be developed on a commercial scale in the organic farm. These he said include fishing, poultry, piggery and agro-forestry, among others.

In a chat with newsmen after the two-hour tour, Sanwo-Olu said his administration was ready to revive the farm to boost food security in the state. He informed his audience that the state would encourage the private sector to invest in the project, which he said would create thousands of direct jobs and improve the wellbeing of residents.

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His words: "I have been fully briefed about this project but I considered it necessary to personally embark on this journey to Badagry in order to take assessment and see what exactly we need to do in terms of intervention. After taking a tour of the project site, what I observed is that the entire project looks more as a job that has not been completed. Therefore, we need to improve on the interventions to the Ministry of Agriculture.

"With very minimal resources, we have seen what the Ministry of Agriculture has done to keep the project afloat. Government will raise the resources and turn around this project to the level it should be. We will need to deploy more resources to revive and scale up all the machinery and systems already put in place. We will complete the project and open it for commercial production."

He further explained that the revival of the Badagry organic farm and creation of more food production parks across the state were all part of the strategy of his government to increase food security level from 20 per cent to 50 per cent, thereby raising Lagos' food sufficiency. He asserted that the project would give rise to similar agro-allied businesses that would open up Badagry's economy for more growth, while also boosting its tourism business.

"Lagos is a big state in terms of population, but we also can intervene in our food production value chain. What we are also trying to do with the revival of the project is that we want to produce various agricultural products we can consume internally in order to reduce our dependence on external food sources. The food production park, which we are creating across the state, will be trigger other value-added agricultural productions that our citizens can provide," he said.

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The governor also pledged to rehabilitate Igborosun Road, the major artery to the farm. After completing the tour of the farm, Sanwo-Olu drove in a long convoy with some party dignitaries, community and association leaders to other parts of Badagry to inspect some projects.

As the governor's convoy moved, men, women and children lined the roads, waving their hands and placards, and shouting the governor's name. On more than one occasion, the governor stopped the convoy and interacted with the people, especially children. The governor also visited the Badagry General Hospital, where he inspected some projects. Among the projects was the 105-bed Mother and Child Care (MCC) building recently completed by the Lagos State government in the premises of the hospital.

Speaking during the tour of the hospital, the governor promised that the MCC would be launched in September. He also said that the Accident and Emergency Department would be expanded, with the assurance that the expansion would commence soon.

Before he departed Badagry, Governor Sanwo-Olu also visited the Marina area of the city. He promised that the state government would be building a modern jetty at the place, as the project was part of his administration's blueprint to promote waterways transportation in Lagos State.

2.637 Lawmaker commends Sanwo-Olu's efforts to end Apapa gridlock
16th August 2020

A member of the House of Representatives, Mufutau Egberongbe, at the weekend said Governor Babajide Sanwo-

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Olu's recent visits to the Apapa area of Lagos State would soon bring an end to the current gridlock being experienced by the motorists.

Egberongbe, noting that the traffic situation in Apapa was becoming unbearable, expressed optimism that the governor's visits would end the gridlock. "I sincerely believe that respite is near. You will recall that the governor disclosed that the state government had made a request to the Federal Government to prevail on the concessionaire that will be operating the 700-truck capacity Lilypond Terminal at Apapa to open the facility for use without further delay," he said.

"This is an effort worth commending. This shows that Governor Sanwo-Olu is a working governor. He cares about the plight of the people. And for him to have gone further to donate additional 30 hectares of land in Ijora is another pointer to the fact that he is concerned about restoration of sanity to Apapa," he added.

2.638 Don't divert Lagos funds to Edo guber campaign, PDP warns Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun newspaper on 12th August 2020

The People's Democratic Party, (PDP) Lagos State chapter, has warned the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) not to divert State funds into the governorship campaigns of the APC in Edo and Ondo States.

The Edo State governorship election will hold on September 19, while Ondo State election comes up in October. The Lagos PDP alleged on Wednesday that the APC plans to use funds from the State to fund APC governorship campaigns and elections in both States.

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It said Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-olu was specifically chosen to head the Ondo State Campaign Council, not because of his political experience or sagacity, but so that the APC will filter funds from Lagos State to run the Ondo elections.

Lagos State Publicity Secretary of the PDP, Taofik Gani, made the claim in a press statement on Wednesday.

‘The selection of Gov Sanwo-olu as Head of the APC Ondo State Governorship Campaign Council cannot be for his political experience but because the APC intends to use Lagos funds to run the Ondo elections. Just as we have already hinted that Sanwoolu has approved N25 billion to support Ize Iyamu in Edo,’ the PDP statement reads.

‘The Party therefore urges the Lagos State Commissioner for Finance and the Accountant General to prepare for accountability within this period of Edo and Ondo States elections. We will invite the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and also support legal protest against this selection targeted at diverting Lagos taxes in the face of colossal infrastructure inadequacies begging for attention in the State,’ Gani said.

The party admonished Governor Sanwo-olu to show empathy for Lagosians by rejecting what he called the Greek gift selection as head of APC campaign council, so as to concentrate on his much touted quest to improve the State’s development.

‘Lagos State will be further plunged into avoidable debts and infrastructure deficits if the governor delves into such Party assignments. It is obviously distracting and prodigal at this time. This is the way to Calm Down,’ the PDP said.

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2.639 Transportation: Sanwo-Olu deploys 550 buses in Lagos. •Launches Oshodi – Abule Egba BRT corridor
Culled from the Sun Newspaper on 12th August 2020

Relief came the way of commuters in Lagos, yesterday, as Governor Babajide Sanwo- Olu deployed 550 high and medium capacity buses to the Oshodi – Abule Egba BRT corridor and inaugurated the upgraded e-ticketing system.

The 13.65 kilometre Abule-Egba-Oshodi route, which often lasted an hour, would now be completed in less than 30 minutes with the new buses.

The governor who spoke at the inauguration of the Oshodi-Abule Egba BRT corridor project and the upgraded e-ticketing system, said the project was in fulfilment of his administration’s pledge to significantly improve traffic management and transportation system in the state. “This is the very first of our six-point development agenda encapsulated as T-H-E-M-E-S. This administration made the pledge knowing that you, our people, are the main reason we have been entrusted with the management of your commonwealth”

“Although our promise was to deliver this project in May , it had to be shifted forward due to the disruption brought about by COVID-19,”he said.

According to the governor, the bus transit system had proved to be an effective means of achieving a fast, reliable and efficient movement of large number of people across the state.

“Since March 2008, when the first phase of this new initiative was launched, thousands of Lagosians have continued to enjoy improved travel experience along the designated routes every day. In order to ensure that the BRT service is accessible to

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greater number of our people, and in line with the Lagos state strategic transport master plan which seeks to integrate road, water and rail transportation, new corridors and routes are being opened.” The governor said the project was very significant because of its immense benefits to Lagosians in the different communities it straddles and to visitors.

“This new BRT corridor will bring great relief to over 60,000 commuters who will use this facility daily. Travel time, which is estimated at an average of two hours during peak periods, will be significantly reduced to an average of about 30 minutes. This will translate to improved health of our people, a safer environment, and increased value of socio economic activities in our state,” he said. While acknowledging that the project was started by his predecessor, Sanwo-Olu said it was one of the dividends of his administration’s investment in the transport sector for efficient traffic management and transportation.

2.640 Eko bridge repairs ready next month – Sanwo-Olu

Culled from the Sun Newspaper on 10th August 2020

Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured that the section of Eko Bridge that is currently closed down would be open to traffic by the end of next month.

He also said the contractor handling the repairs of the Alaka to Costain section of the bridge had promised to complete the works next month. The governor, who made the disclosure during a tour of Apapa and Mile 2, yesterday added that his administration was poised to ensure that sanity returns to the gridlock in Apapa and its environ. Sanwo-Olu also said discussions are at advanced stage to have two holding bays that trucks could park instead of the current situations where truck owners obstruct traffic flow.

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While lamenting that some small holding bays around Apapa was not being utilised by articulated vehicles, the governor appealed to truck drivers and owners to have a change of act.

At Mile 2, the governor complained about residents’ act of dumping items in the drainage which he noticed often block the drains. His words: “You can see that there has been a major failure in this section of the Lagos Badagry expressroad. Like I was explaining to the citizens, about two weeks ago, we have cleared out all this drainage with over 70tonnes of silt blocking the drains.

“You see that there is an attempt that they have started throwing garbage back into the drain. The drain gets blocked when it rains, the water does not have a place to go, it stays on the road and you know that bitumen and water are not friends and that is what had given this road a massive failure. This is a major failure we have seen here.”“So, from from under the bridge, we are going to do rigid pavement, it will be all concrete pavement like the type we saw at the port. So we are not going to be using bitumen again or asphalt. And we are going to be doing another outfall, we are going to do a dedicated drainage again, which will take it straight to the lagoon further down, which is about one or two kilometers from here.

“So, for us it’s difficult when we keep coming back and we have spent a lot of tax payers money to fix this road and we need to help ourselves, people need to just change their behaviour and people need to take responsibility.

“That’s why I have to plead with them, if they can just watch their way of life and dispose their refuse properly, then we will be able to keep the sanctity of the road longer and better for all us.”

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NEWSPAPER DATES	HEADLINES	ISSUES
November 13, 2019 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Noise; LASG gives condition for sealed clubs reopening	The Lagos state Government has said night clubs and bar sealed over noise pollution will no Longer be reopened without a clearance letter from the residents' association of the area where the do business.
November 15, 2019 Friday The Punch page 6	LASG plans clampdown on illegal structure	The Lagos state Government has declared zero tolerance for structures without building permit in the state.
November 17, 2019 Sunday Punch page 57	We haven't agreed to pay N35, 000 minimum wage – LASG	Lagos state Government on Saturday said it had not agreed with labor to pay N35, 000 as the new minimum wage for workers, saying negotiation was still ongoing.
November 18, 2019 Monday The Punch page 6	LASG demands standard reproductive medical facilities	The Lagos state Government has said medical facilities offering reproductive service across the state must conform to a minimum set of standard and have the right equipment to operate.
November 20, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page6	Sanwo-Olu pledges support for operation crocodile smile IV	The Lagos state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has pledged his support for the operation crocodile smile IV of the Nigerian Army, saying it was a right move to ensure peace and security in the south-west and the south-south region.
November 21, 2019 Thursday The Punch page 6	To learn, key to economic development-Sanwo-Olu	The Government of state Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said tolerance is essential for economic development.
November 23, 2019 Saturday Punch page 40	Sanwo-Olu seeks \$1bn infrastructure investments from China DFI	The Lagos state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has asked the chain development Bank to increase its investments in Nigeria to\$ 1bn.
November 25, 2019 Monday The Punch page 6	LASG asks pilgrimage operation staff to be vigilant	The Lagos state Government has asked the operation staff for the December pilgrimage to the holy land to be vigilant to avoid any pilgrims absconding the country.

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November 27, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu warns against sexual, domestic violence	The Governor of Lagos state Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has waned against rape, domestic perpetrators will be made to face the full wrath of the law.
November 27, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Governor commends public servants for Lagos development	The Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has commended the efforts of the public servants in facilitating the attainment of developmental objectives of the state.
November 27, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	LASG, NIREC a green on registration of churches mosques	The Lagos Government says it has an agreement with religious bodies on the registration of all churches and mosques in the state.
November 27, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 9	Lagos cultist to get amnesty	The Lagos state Government on Tuesday said it was making plans to grant amnesty to repentant criminals, cultists and to reform those inclinations.
November 28, 2019 Thursday The Punch page 6	Lagos doing better in procurement- Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the state is preforming above other state in the country in public procurement.
November 28, 2019 Thursday The Punch page 20	Lagos begins minimum wage payment this month	The Lagos state Government said it will commence the payment of the new minimum wage to the workers in the state with effect from November.
December2, 2019 Monday The Punch page 6	Lagos seeks special status to honour Mobolaji Johnson	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has told the senate that granting Lagos a special status will honour the first Military Governor of the state, the late Brinq. Mobolaji Johnson (rtd).
December2, 2019 Monday The Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu advises Christian pilgrims	The Lagos state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged pilgrims to become better citizen of the country after their Journey to the holy land of Jerusalem.

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December3, 2019 Tuesday The Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu vows to prosecute killers of LASTMA officer	The Lagos state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has vowed that harsh punishment awaits any one who attacks men of the state's law enforcement agencies in the line of duty.
December3, 2019 Tuesday The Punch page 6	Gov. woos investors, pledges infrastructure in industrial areas	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday said the Government had concluded plans to improve infrastructure in the industrial area of the state.
December4, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page6	Sanwo-Olu renames Onikan stadium after Mobolaji Johnson	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state has named the newly constructed Onikan stadium after a former military Governor of the state, the late Brig. Gen. Mobolaji Johnson (rtd).
December 6, 2019 Friday The Punch page 6	Lagos creates N250m fund for research, innovation	The Lagos state Government says it is providing N250m innovation fund for research and innovation in the state.
December6, 2019 Friday The Punch page	Lagos orders removal of street traders, abandoned vehicles	The Lagos state Government on Thursday said it had inaugurated a strategy to sanitize the red meat value chain and ensure consumption of wholesome meat in the state.
December 5, 2019 Thursday The Punch page 6	LASG begins reconstruction of Ikorodu, VI roads	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has inaugurate the reconstruction and up grade of some roads in the Ikorodu and victoria Island area of Lagos state.
December 11, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu removes LASAA boss, appoints docemo	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has terminated the appointment of the Managing Director of the Lagos state Advertising and singage Agency. Mr bolaji. Sanusi.

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December 11, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Gov promises increase in 2020 education budget	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has promised to increase the allocation for the education and health sectors beginning with the 2020 budget.
December 11, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page6	Sanwo-Olu pledges commitment to health workers' welfare	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos has pledged his commitment to the welfare of health worker in the state.
December 10, 2019 Tuesday The Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu seeks more Jobs for physical challenged	The Governor of state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called on the public and private sector to increase employment quotes of qualified physically challenged Nigerians.
December 9, 2019 Monday The Punch page 42	LASG to upgrade Iru, Victoria Island- lekki roads	The Lagos state Government says it plans to upgrade network of roads, covering Muri Okuniru extention, ligali Ayorinde Akinbolage and seven major Junction in the area.
December 18, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Metro rail will become operation 2021	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the state blue line rail project will be completed in 2020 and become operation in 2021.
December 18, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Lagos offers lake rice for N17,000	The Lagos state Government on Tuesday said it had commenced the sale of lake rice in preparation for the Yuletide celebrations.
December 19, 2019 Thursday The Punch page 6	Lagos operative to enforce illegal structures removal	The Lagos state Government said it had deployed operation of three agencies to enforce the order for the removal of illegal structures in the Onikan and outer marina area of the state.

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December 20, 2019 The Punch Thursday page 6	LASG, Labour hold talks on staff welfare	The Lagos state Government has expressed commitment to the welfare and development of workers in the public service.
December 21, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Reflect Govt agenda, finance manager urged	The Lagos state Government has asked finance and account office in the state to ensure that the THEMES agenda of their activities.
December 25, 2019 Wednesday The Punch page 6	Lagos automates vehicle inspection demands traffic law enforcement	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the Lagos state vehicle inspection service will now discharge its statutory duties with the use of technology.
December 27, 2019 Friday The Punch page 6	Lagos spends Boxing Day with Patients	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Thursday visited the pediatric, emergency and orthopedic wards of the Lagos island General celebrate Christmas and Boxing day with the patient battling various health conditions.
December 30, 2019 Monday The Punch page 6	Treat trauma patients without police report, Lagos tell hospitals	The Lagos state Government has urged all the health facility in the state to attend to trauma patient before requesting a police report or the need to provide evidence of funds, adding that it would not hesitate to sanction erring facilities.

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December 31, 2019 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to decide Okada riders' fate soon	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said a major decision would soon be announced on the fate of motorcycle and tricycle rider in the state.
January 1, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	LASG to convert dumps into energy plants	The Lagos state Government says it has started the process of decommissioning land-fill and refuse dumps located on the Lasu-Isheri road in the Igando area of the state.
January 1, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos closes road for rail project	The Lagos state Government said on Tuesday that it wall be closing the Adejobi end of the Agege Motor Road on January 4,2020, form 6pm to 12pm of the next day, following the Nigerian Railway corporation's modernization project (Lagos Ibadan section) with extension to Laqos port at Apapa.
January 1, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos Gov sign N1.6tn budget into law	The Lagos state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has signed the state's N1.168tn 2020 budget into law.
January3, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to pay three months minimum wage arrears	The Lagos state Government has promised to pay public servants three moths' arrears of the new minimum wage the implementation of which took off in November 2019.
January 3, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG urges volunteerism for social development	The Lagos state Government has urged residents to embrace volunteers to contribute to social development and improve the societv.
January 3, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 9	Sanwo-Olu to expand Lagos- owned IPP's capacity	The Lagos state Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday said his Government planned to expand the capacity of the state-owned independent Power Plant.
January 5, 2020 Sunday Punch, page 4	Sanwo-Olu cautions Lagosian's of fire out break	Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has advised Lagosians to take precautionary measures to prevent fire outbreak during the harmattan season.

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January 6, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Gov caution resident against fire incidents	The Lagos state Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has advised residents to take precautionary measures to prevent fire disasters during the harmattan season.
January 7, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	LASG, Jehovah's witnesses clash over blood transfusion for baby	The Lagos state Government has rescued a 14-day-old baby girl after her parents refused to allow her parents refused to allow her have blood transfusion, citing religion belief.
January 8, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu empowers women, artisans	The Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, empowered over 1,050 vulnerable women and artisans in the state.
January 9, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos threatens to sanction environmental, traffic offenders	The Lagos state Government has said the
January 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos supports fish farmers, empowers 40 youths	The Lagos state Government on Thursday said it empowered youth fish farmers in Afowo community, in the Badagry area of the state, with 40 cages, each containing 1,000 Juvenile catfish.
January 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Stop discriminating against physical-challenged say Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has appealed to residents of the state to stop discriminating against people living with disabilities.
January 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu lauds Airtel for supporting tourism, entertainment sector	Lagos state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has commended one of the nation telecoms, Airtel, for supporting the state's efforts at boosting the tourism and entertainment sectors.
January 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG tackles okada riders, begins full traffic law enforcement	The Lagos state Government on Sunday lamented the rising rate of crashes and robberies with motorcycles.
January 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu promises to deliver Oshodi BRT corridor in may	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the ongoing construction of the bus Rapid Transport Corridor from

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January 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu promises to deliver Oshodi BRT corridor in may	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the ongoing construction of the bus Rapid Transport Corridor from Oshodi to Abule-Egba area of the state will be completed in may 2020.
January 14, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	No decision yet on Okada, Morwa-LASG	The Lagos state Government has said it will not be taking any definitive action against the illegal operation of commercial motorcycle and tricycle riders on restricted routes across the state.
January 15, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Sawo-olu seeks private support for infrastructural challenges	The Lagos state Governor Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu , has his administration will partner the private sector to tackle infrastructural challenges in the state.
January 16, 2020, Thursday, The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu urges sacrifice for peace, unity	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday asked Nigerians to sacrifice for peace and desist form action that could divide the country.
January 16, Thursday The Punch, page 6	Test materials before building LASG tells residents	The Lagos state Government has urged residents to test material before embarking on any construction work to reduce the spate of building collapse in the state.
January 20, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Full cash-less toll begins on Iekki/ Ikoyi Bridget today	The Lagos state Government on Sunday said full implementation of the cashless policy at the Iekki/ Ikoyi Bridge toll plaza would commence on Monday (today).
January 21, 2020 Tuesday, The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seeks equal partnership between Africa, UK	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide sanwo-olu has called for equal partnership between united kingdom and African countries saying it will aid genuine global development.

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January 23, 2020, Thursday Punch page 6	Sanwo-Olu urges private support for health care	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has called for increased private sector partnership with the state Government to revamp health infrastructure across all levels of care and attain universal health coverage.
January 27, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG trains, 4,000 teachers pledges investment education	The Lagos state Government has completed the training of 4,000 schoolteachers for the Eko Excel, a primary Education Transformation initiative.
January 27, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos frowns on illegal land reclamation, arrests 14	The Lagos state Government on Sunday said 14 illegal sand dredgers had been arrested on the shoreline of Ikoyi-Ileki during an enforcement exercise by officials of the Ministry of water front infrastructure Development.
January 28, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos bans okada, marwa in Ikeja, Surulere, 13 LGS	The Lagos state Government on Monday proscribed the operation of okada and tricycle riders in six local Government and nine local council development area of the state.
January 29, 2020 Wednesday, The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seeks more opportunities for women	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said women must be given more space to operate and explore their abilities.
January 29, 2020 Wednesday, The Punch, page 6	LASG plans market to boost farmer's profits	The Lagos state Government has revealed plans to establish a market to increase the productivity of farmers and create avenues for them to make more profit by selling directly consumers.
January 31, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seek LG's cooperation on smart city	The Lagos state Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday urged the local Government administrations to cooperate with the state Government to deliver the vision of a greater Lagos.
February 3, 2020, Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG targets 480,000 ferry passengers daily	The Lagos state Government says its ferry operation will life 480,000 passengers' daily on waterways.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******

February 3, 2020, Friday The Punch, page 6	Govt advocates conservation of wetlands	The Lagos state Government has said it is making efforts to conserve wetland resources in the state, adding that they are a critical part of the environment.
February 3, 2020, Friday The Punch, page 6	Quarantine yourselves, Lagos advises returnees from china	The Lagos state Government has advised travelers returning from china and country where cases of Corona-Virus have been reported to observe self-quarantine on arrival in Lagos.
February 5, 2020 Wednesday, The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu inaugurates ferries, says Okada, Marwa an irreversible ban	The Governor of Lagos state Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday inaugurated 14 commercial ferries at the Badore ferry. Terminal, Aiah.
February 5, 2020 Wednesday, The Punch, page 6	Gov unveils strategy 70 to transform Lagos	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday unveiled a document, which he said represented his vision to transform Lagos into a prosperous city.
February 4, 2020, Tuesday, The Punch, page 6	LASG to honor winners of Hadassah STEM competition	The Lagos state Government has announced plans to honour the pupils of New Era girl senior secondary school, who recently won all the prizes at the just-concluded science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics competition.
February 6, 2020 Thursday, The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seek solutions to youth unemployment	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has asked state Governments organized private sector and international development agencies to proffer strategies for Job creation for the country's young and productive population.
February 6, 2020, Thursday, The Punch, page 6	Lagos recruits 1,077 worker for LASTMA	Lagos state Government has recruited 1,017 new workers for the Lagos state Traffic Management Authority.
February 7, 2020, Friday The Punch, page 6	Govt to close another road for railway project	The Lagos state Government on Thursday said it would close down Jonathan Coker Road on Saturday from 8pm to 6am on Sunday, for the installation of rail panels.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

February 10, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Don't violate environment laws on valentine day	The Lagos state Government on Monday appeal led to residents of the state, particularly the leisure and entertainment business operators, to be compliant with environmental during the forth coming valentine's day celebration.
February 10, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seeks youths' inclusion in employment plan	The Lagos state Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has promised to ensure the inclusion of youth in the employment plan of the state.
February 11, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	LASG pledges free legal service for the poor	The Lagos state Government has promised continued financial and other forms of support for the Lagos public interest law partnership in order to ensure that indigent residents, who so desire, have access to free legal representation.
February 12, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Infrastructural devt to attract investment, says Sanwo-Olu	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state has said the ongoing infrastructural development programme of his administration is a deliberate effort to make the state attractive to foreign investors.
February 12, 2020 Wednesday Punch page 6	Lagos to plant one million coconut seeding	The Lagos state Government says it will plant one million coconut seedlings along the 135-kilomere Badaqrv-Ibeju Lekki coastlines.
February 13, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu commends 2019 Christian pilgrims	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state has commended Christian pilgrims for their conduct during the 2019 general pilgrimage.
February 13, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Performance will henceforth determine promotion in Lagos civil service	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos state on Wednesday charged civil servants percent performance in their Various duty schedules.
February 13, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	LASG seeks support for water service regulatory guidelines	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Wednesday sought the by-in of major stakeholders and other Nigerians in the provision of water service to ensure the success of the regulatory guidelines in the water sector.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

February 14, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos eyes more revenue gets new art theatres	The Lagos state Government on Thursday took delivery of four art theatres it commissioned Terra Kulture studio Limited to building parts of the city.
February 14, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG launch new number plate for articulated vehicles	The Lagos state Government said it had launched newly designed number plates for articulated and allied vehicles.
February 17, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos impound 215 vehicles prosecutes 98	The Lagos state Government says it has so far impounded 215 vehicles and arrested 98 people since January 10 when it commenced the clean-up of the high brow Ikoyi and Victoria Island.
February 15, 2020 Saturday The Punch, page 6	Lagos Govt inaugurates 11 roads, 12 classrooms in Bariga	The Lagos state Government on Friday inaugurated 11 roads in Bariga local council Development Area of the state.
February 17, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos holds fashion show to support empowerment beneficiaries	The Lagos state Government recently held a fashion show to support some of the beneficiaries of its empowerment initiatives.
February 18, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Let's reduce dependence on federal allocation, Sanwo-Olu tells Govs	The Governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has advised his fellow Governors to diversify the revenue base of their states from sole dependence on federal allocation.
February 19, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Nothing like multiple Taxation in Lagos, says Sanwo-Olu	The Governor Lagos state Babajide Sanwo-Olu has dismissed the fear by small business owners operating in the state that they rise paying Multiple taxes tax.
February 19, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Be fair your demands Lagos tells LABOUR leaders	The Lagos state Government has told Labour union leaders to be fair in the demands on Government.
February 20, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to close two roads for railway Construction	The Lagos state Government on Wednesday disclosed its plan to close two roads in the metropolis for the ongoing Lagos-Ibadan railways project.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

February 21, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG extends e-procurement to seven addition MDAS,	The Lagos state Government says it has just converted the procurement processes in seven of its ministries, department and agencies from manual to electronic.
February 21, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos food market will eliminate post-harvest losses Olusanya	The Lagos state Government on Thursday inaugurates a new food market to promote structured agricultural produce marketing for traceability and quality assurance.
February 24, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG to build 21 st century economy through farmers market	The Lagos state Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said his administration aims to build a 21 st century economy for Lagos through smart agriculture
February 24, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos advocate health meal for pupils	The Lagos state Government has urged all stakeholders involved in the homegrown school feeding programme to priorities the well-being of the beneficiaries of the initiative.
February 25, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Real estate practitioners' registration not negotiable-LASG	The Lagos state Government has insisted that the registration of real estate practitioners across the state is not negotiable.
February 28, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	42% of patients in our hospitals not Lagosians-LASG	The Lagos state Government has said statistics show that 42 percent of patients in the state hospitals are from other states.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

March 2, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG ask youth to embrace agriculture.	The Lagos State Government has asked the youth to embrace agriculture to become self-reliant in view of the economic situation of the country.
March 2, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 41	Building collapse: LASG calls for training of artisans	The Lagos State Government has called for continuous upgrade of the skills and competencies of artisans in the building and construction industry to help in the fight against building collapse.
March 4, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Government connect farmers consumers to support agriculture	The Lagos State Government said it had created a platform to connect farmer and boost agricultural produce in the state.
March 4, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos sensitize religious leaders to COVID-19	The Lagos State Government on Tuesday sensitized religious leaders to the COVID-19 urging them to educate their members about the virus.
March 5, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu, Obasa seek executive, legislature unity	The Government of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and the speaker of the state. House of Assembly, Mudashir Obasa on Wednesday said there was the need for a harmonious relationship between the executive and legislative arms of Government in the interest of the state.
March 6, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG closes PWD for railway project	The Lagos state Government on Thursday said the PWD level crossing would be shut from 6pm on Saturday to 6am on Sunday
March 9, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos promises to make artisans globally competitive	The Lagos State Government has promise to invest in the development of infrastructure and improve the global competitiveness of artisans.
March 9, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 7	I visited Buhari on our efforts against COVID-19 Sanwo-Olu	Lagos state Government, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has explained his mission to the presidential villa, Abuja. On Sunday.
March 12, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	LASG plans 'intensive' fumigation against Lassa fever	The Lagos State Government says it will on Friday begin deracination and fumigation of no fewer than 27 model colleges with hostel facilities; abattoir and slaughterhouses, agricultural produce markets, as well as regular market in the state.
March 12, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 10	Policeman, soldiers operating Okada will be arrested –Laqos	The Lagos State Government has said alternatives to cushion the effect of the ban and restriction on

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

March 12, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 10	Policeman, soldiers operating Okada will be arrested –Lagos	The Lagos State Government has said alternatives to cushion the effect of the ban and restriction on motorcycle and tricycles in the state will be release in April.
March 16, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG warns against tree felling threatens sanction	The Lagos State Government has said violators of the greening laws of the state will be penalized to protect the environment
March 16, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos plans enforcement of plastic waste policy	The Government of Lagos State has said it will put in place policy guidelines for plastic utility to ensure sustainable management of plastic waste.
March 17, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	LASG advises CDAC officers on Govt. projects	The Lagos State Government has asked member of the community development advisory council to take ownership of all Government project in their communities.
March 17, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Government closes Adejobi street for railway project	The Lagos State Government has announced that Adejobi street, in the Agege area will be shut between Tuesday (today) and Thursday
March 17,2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 41	Lagos, Ogun team up on Agriculture Infrastructure	The Lagos and Ogun State Government have formed a joint commission on agriculture and infrastructure development
March 18, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Screen all fight passengers- Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has charged airport workers not to relax the screening process for the corona virus infection, adding that all air travelers must be checked.
March 18, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to restrict participants for regatta	The Lagos State Government on Tuesday said it would restrict participant in the greater Lagos regatta, earlier schedule
March 20, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG suspend farmers event over corona virus	The Lagos State Government has suspended the Eko city farmers market due to the spread of the corona virus disease.
March 23, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to tackle climate change via tree planting	The Lagos State Government unveiled a plan to plant 230,000 trees before the end of the year as part of its effort to enhance agro-forestry in the state.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

March 23, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Government advises residents on water usage	The Lagos State Government has urged resident to ensure the proper usage of fresh water to ensure its availability and sustainability in the future.
April 6, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lockdown: Lagos assures resident of adequate food supply	The Lagos State Government has assured resident of the state of adequate food supply at all the designated COVID-19 emergency food marks.
April 8,2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	LASG begins relief package distribution second phase	The Lagos State Government has said it is ready to commence the second phase of its emergency food response package distribution.
April 8,2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos make shift market to hold on Tuesday	The Lagos State Government has fixed Thursday for the next make shift market in the state.
April 9, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	LASG refutes alleged looting of relief package store	The Lagos State Government says none of its warehouse where COVID-19 emergency food response stimulus package is stored was vandalized
April 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG set to reorder N1.168tn budget	The Lagos State Government on Thursday disclosed plans to reorder the 2020 N1.168tn budget following current economic challenges as a result of COVID19 pandemic
April 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Pardon Funke Akindele, street joggers, Adegboruwa urges Sanwo-Olu	Human right lawyer, Mr. Egun Olu Adegborwa(SAN) has urged the Lagos State Government Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to offer state pardon to popular actress Funke Akindele ,aka Jenifa, her husband , Abdul Rasheed Bello, and street joggers who were arraigned for violating the social distancing directive of the Government to curb the spread of coronavirus
April 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos urges social distancing at food markets	The Lagos State Government has urged the resident of the state to comply with the social distancing rule while shopping at the COVID19 emergency food markets.
April 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG extends food package to informal sector	The Lagos State Government said it had extended the distribution of its emergency food package to the informal sector in the state

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

April 15, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu promise Lagosians More police deployment	The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday promised the deployment of more policemen in the state to secure the lives and property of resident of the state during the lockdown period.
April 16, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos begins food kitchen target 100,000 youth daily	The Lagos State Government on Wednesday began the food kitchen initiative designed to feed vulnerable resident of the state during the lockdown period.
April 16, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Impounded vehicles will be released after lockdown- LASG	The Lagos State Government explained on Wednesday that vehicles impounded for minor traffic offences will not be released to their owner until after the lockdown
April 17, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos records two Covid19 deaths, discharge five more	The Lagos State Government on Thursday recorded two more Covid19 related deaths and discharged another five other patient who have tested negative twice.
April 20, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos to pay Abule explosion victims	The Lagos State Government has said it will soon commence the payment of monetary compensation to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in the explosion that rocked the shoba community in the Abule Ado area of the state on Sunday, March 15, 2020
April 20, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos distributes food packages to Ajegunle residents	The Lagos State Government said it has distributed more emergency food response stimulus packages to resident in Ajegunle area of the state.
April 21, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos food market Ramadan edition holds Wednesday	The Lagos State Government said it will hold the Ramadan edition of its make shift foodmarket on Wednesday
April 22, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos begins online medical care for resident.	The Lagos State Government has inaugurated online medical care for residents of the state to reduce their chances of contracting the COVID19.
April 23, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu opens 70 bed isolation Centre	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has inaugurated a 70 bed COVID 19 isolation and treatment Centre in the Eti-Osa local Government area of the state.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

April 26, 2020 Sunday The Punch, page 3	Sanwo-Olu threatens mass burial for unclaimed corps within two week	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu said on Saturday that people who have corpses in public mortuary in the state have two week to buy them, after which he said the state would to mass burial for all unclaimed corpses.
April 30, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 16	Sanwo-Olu suspends okada, Lagos tests 1.5million households	The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has directed the suspension of commercial motorcycles, popularly known as okada in all area of the state till further notice.
May 1, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu blames late airport border closure for COVID19 Spread	Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has said the delayed closure of the country's border, seaports and airports and the failure of returnee to self-isolate, caused the spread of Covid19
May 1, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos issues guidelines for transport operations	The Lagos State Government on Thursday said commercial vehicles, from May 4, 2020 will operate from 6am – 7pm daily
May 4, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Relaxing lockdown not license to flood streets - Sanwo- Olu	Lagos State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has warned resident of the state not to flood the street with the easing of the lockdown which begins today (Monday) in the state.
May 4, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos sensitizes grass roots residents to COVID19	The Lagos State environmental protection agency and the Lagos state, safety commission has extended their sensitization to Covid19 to grass roots communities in the state.
May 7, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos issues guidelines for restaurant operators	The Lagos State Government has said operators of restaurants and eateries in the state must put in place measure to check the spread of Covid19 in the state or risk heavy sanction
May 8, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos begins digital literacy training for teachers	The Lagos State Government has commenced online digital literacy training for post primary school teachers
May 10, 2020 Sunday The Punch, page 6	Covid19: Sanwo- Olu threatens total lockdown over poor compliance	The Governor of Lagos sate, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has threatened to impose a total lockdown on the state, if people continue to violate the safety guideline issued to contain the spread of the virus in the state.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

May 11, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG shuts hotel, club for contravening Covid19 guidelines	The Lagos State Government has shut a hotel and a club in the badagry west local council development area for alleged contravention of the new guidelines issued by the Government to operators of hotels, club and other entertainment outfits in the state
May 13, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	We won't dehumanize people over Covid19 regulation – LASG	The Government of Lagos State has said residents will not wear face masks, adding that it will rather adopt advocacy to drive compliance with Government regulations.
May 13, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Corona virus shouldn't delay justice, Sanwo-Olu tells judiciary	The Governor of Lagos State Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has asked judicial officers not to allow the Covid19 pandemic to show down the administration of justice in the state.
May 13, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos urges companies to restructure operations	The Governor of Lagos, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has asked companies in the state to restructure their operations in order to curtain community transmission of Corona virus
May 14, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	LASG release 98 years old corona virus patient, 25 other	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has announced the discharge of 26 Covid19 patients from three Isolation Centre in the state.
May 14, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos Farmers get seedlings as palliatives	The Lagos State Government on Wednesday said it had given no fewer than 650 farmers one-ton of Dowry Mildew Resistant (DMR) and leaf streak resistant (LSR) hybrid maize seedlings as palliatives for the planting season.
May 15, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Lagos discharge 541 pandemic kills over 85,000 in US	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said a total of 541 Corona virus patient has been discharged from the state isolation Centre.
May 18, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG promises to support tourism sector	The Lagos State Government has promised to support practitioners in the tourism sector to reduce the negative impact of Covid19 on their business.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

May 18, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 7	Lagos quarantine 53 returnees from Ghana, other w/African countries	The Lagos State Government has quarantined 53 Nigeria returnees from Ghana and other west African countries
May 18, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 11	LASG gives conditions to reopen churches, mosque, others	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said Government officials will be visiting churches, mosque, and companies to evaluate their preparedness to fully reopen.
May 19, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Covid19 Sanwo-Olu briefs religious leaders seek support	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Monday held a virtual meeting with religious leaders as part of effort toward curbing the spread of corona virus in Lagos
May 20, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	LASG to continue clearing drainage till September	The Lagos State Government on Tuesday stated that the ongoing clearing and dredging of all drainage channels across the state would continue till September
May 21, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	LASG to manage simple COVID19 cases at home	The Lagos State Government has said mild corona virus cases will be managed at home, adding that only critical cases will go to isolation Centre
May 22, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Reduces budget to N920bn	The Lagos State Government has reduced its 2020 budget from N1.17trn to N920bn.
May 25, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos closes marine beach for five month	The Lagos State Government on Sunday said the marine's beach bridge inward Apapa area of the state would be shut for five months.
May 25, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG plans to promote reading culture	The Lagos State Government has introduced an initiative to stimulate the interest of school children in reading books
May 29, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	LASG increase Covid19 testing to 2,000 daily	The Lagos State Government said it had increased its testing capacity to 2,000 people per day.
May 30, 2020 Saturday Punch, page 8	Sanwo-Olu marks first year, honors medical personnel	Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Friday honored leaders of various medical teams deployed in isolation facilities across the state to tackle the corona virus pandemic, while commemorating his first year in office.
June 1, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	LASG shortlists nine contractors for forth mainland bridge	The Lagos State Government shortlisted nine contractors for the fourth mainland bridge project.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

June 2, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Government deploys 100 hand washing stations	The Lagos State Government on Wednesday said it deployed 100 units of hand washing facilities across the local council development areas of the state.
June 3, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	LASG revokes lekki houses permit over roads encroachment	The Lagos State Government on Tuesday said it had discovered that some estates, building and structures in the lekki area of the state encroachment on the right of way of regional road
June 5, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	We paid N16.75bn to retirees in one year – LASG	The Lagos State Government has said it paid N16.75bn into the retirement saving account of 4,104 civil servant in the last one year
June 17, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu suspend re-opening of churches, mosques	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has suspended the re-opening of religious houses indefinitely saying the spike in Covid19 causes in the state make the decision inevitable.
June 18, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 6	Lagos warns against illegal borehole drilling	The Lagos State Government warned operators has borehole drilling industry against working without requisite permits from the Government
June 21, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu, makeinde felicitate Jemibew on at 80	The Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and his oyo state counterpart, seyi makeinde on Monday congratulated a former Governor of the old western state and later oyo state, retired general david jemibewon, on the occasion of his 80 th birthday.
June 22, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Government shortlists 20 school for fruit orchards	The Lagos State Government has shortlisted 20 secondary schools in the state for the planting of fruit orchards.
June 22, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 9	CACOL calls for investigation into LAWMA fraud	The Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership has called on anti-graft agencies in the country to investigate allegations of fraud in the Lagos state waste management authority.
June 22, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 30	Lagos approves N1.16bn to pay retirees	The Lagos State Government has approved the release of N1.16bn for the payment of accrued pension right to 368 public service retirees.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

June 25, 2020 Thursday The Punch, page 7	TI, CACOL knock Lagos lawmaker over wives N80m Dubai trip	Anti- Corruption groups including Transparency international and the Centre for Anti-Corruption and Open Leadership have condemned the Lagos state, house of assembly for sending wives of the state lawmakers to Dubai at the cost of N80m.
June 30, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Government seals off bars, clubs over COVID19 rule violation	The Lagos State Government on Sunday said it sealed some lounges, bars, Spas and night clubs after their owners flouted the shutdown order of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu due to the COVID19 pandemic
July 4, 2020 Saturday Punch, page 9	Lagos schools resume Aug 3, churches, mosques remain closed	The Lagos State Government on Friday, directed that schools should reopen on Monday, August 3, for only senior secondary school class 3 and technical school class 3
July 6, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Government asks residents to stop dumping refuse in drains	The Lagos State Government has appealed to resident to desist from indiscriminate dumping of refuse into drains, saying it is the only way state roads can be sustainable.
July 6, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Lagos produces solar powered kiosks for farmers	The Lagos State Government on Sunday said it had produced solar powered kiosks that would ensure effective market access for farmer and aqripreneurs.
July 8, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos trains sales officers to boost farmer's profits	The Lagos State Government has started training sales officers in the various farm service centers across the state.
July 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	Flood: Lagos warns residents of four council areas	The Lagos State Government on Thursday warned residents of four local Government areas, namely Lagos mainland, mushin, ibejulekki and ikorodu, with high flood risks to the
July 10, 2020 Friday The Punch, page 6	COVID-19: Government asks intending pilgrims to be patient	The Lagos state Government has asked intending pilgrims to the holy land of Jerusalem who could not make the spiritual exercise in faster due to coronavirus to be patient.
July 11, 2020 Saturday Punch, page 7	2,191 COVID19 patients yet to report for treatment- Lagos Government state to decide on WASSCE Monday	The Lagos state Government has said that 2,191 COVID19 patient who are located across communities have yet to submit themselves for treatment at the care centres.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

July 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Acquire skills for better opportunities, Government advise graduates	The Lagos state Government has asked young graduates to harness the opportunity of the COVID 19 pandemic to re-strategies on how to cope with the future of work.
July 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 6	Ministry trains entrepreneurs to profit from coconut waste	The Lagos State Government said it would on Monday (today) begin training 450 young entrepreneurs how to cope with the future of work.
July 13, 2020 Monday The Punch, page 38	LASG warns Lekki developers against violating	The Lagos State Government has warned property owners and developers in Lekki, Ajah and Eti-Osa not to violate the master plan for the area
July 14, 2020 Tuesday The Punch, page 6	Lagos urges doctors to end strike, resume work	The Lagos State Government has urged striking doctors, under the aegis of medical guild, Lagos to suspend their strike.
July 15, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Government opens new morgue at COVID19 Centre	The Lagos state Government has opened a 48 chamber morgue at the infectious diseases hospital,
July 15, 2020 Wednesday The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu urged tree planting commends health workers	The Governor of Lagos state, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said restoring environment bio- diversity through tree planting is a task everyone must undertake

Thursday July 16, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu seek support for technical education	The Lagos State Governor Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has advocated enabling environment for technical and vocational education.
Friday July 17, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos Pays indigent residents N20,000 for business	The Lagos State Government has starts disbursing funds to indigent residents as startup capital for small scale business.
Wednesday July 22, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu urge better youth participation n trust fund	The Governor of Lagos State Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has called for better youth participation in the Lagos State trust fund and the Lagos State employment trust fund.
Wednesday July 22, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government to empower 2,743 farmers	The Lagos State Government has said no fewer than 2,743 farmers in the state will next week receive agricultural inputs and assets.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

		experienced during the six week partial closure of the third Mainland Bridge, which start today.
Friday July 24, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos State ask workers to prepare for challenges	The Lagos State Government has asked the civil servants as the world confronts an uncontained future caused by Covid-19 pandemic
Friday July 24, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu felicitates Jakande at 91	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has congratulated the former Governor of the State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande on his 91 years birthday celebration.
Monday July 27, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos plan e-commerce hub for agric export	The Lagos state Government on Sunday said its plan to set up an e-commerce hub for farmers to work in a hygienic condition for export purposes.
Tuesday July 28, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Third Mainland Bridge; Lagos commend commuters, says traffic s smooth	The Lagos State Government has commended the compliance of commuters with guild line issued on the partial closure and use of alternative route since the closure of the Third Mainland Bridge.
Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Observe Eid- Kabir at home, Lagos advises residents	The Lagos State Government has asked Muslim faithful in the state to celebrate the Eiid-Kabir on a low-key due to the existing Government protocol on Covid-19.
Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Govt plans food centers, empower 2,743 farmers	The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has unveiled Government plan to establish two-food production Centre in Epe

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Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Observe Eid- Kabir at home, Lagos advises residents	The Lagos State Government has asked Muslim faithful in the state to celebrate the Eiid-Kabir on a low-key due to the existing Government protocol on Covid-19.
Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Govt plans food centers, empower 2,743 farmers	The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has unveiled Government plan to establish two-food production Centre in Epe and Badagry to ensure food production and supply in the state.
Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Govt supports indigent pregnant women with food packs	The LAGOS State Government has started weekly distributions of food packs to indigent pregnant women to encourage attendance at the state health care facilities.
Wednesday July 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu congratulates Obanikoro at 60	The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu congratulated a former minister of State for Defence, Mr. Musiliu Obanikoro, on his 60 th birthday.
Thursday July 30, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos approves N1b as loan for tourism business	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved the release of N1bn as seed capital for investment in tourism business.
Thursday July 30, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos prohibits ram sale on highways, park	The Lagos State Government has prohibited the sale of rams on highways and parks, saying anyone caught will face the law.
Friday July 31, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos to improve diction of public pupil	The Lagos State Government has promised to support public speaking and diction tasks in public schools to boost the confidence of pupils in the state.

*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

Friday July 31, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos to improve diction of public pupil	The Lagos State Government has promised to support public speaking and diction tasks in public schools to boost the confidence of pupils in the state.
Saturday August 1, 2020 The Punch, page 8	Sanwo-Olu opens Lagos face mask factory	Lagos state governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Thursday, opened the first indigenous medically graded face mask manufacturing company in Lagos State
Sunday August 2, 2020. The Punch, page 7	Lagos worship centres re-open Friday, Covid-19 killed 194- Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, says worship centres in the state will be allowed to re-open from Friday, August 7
Monday August 3, 2020. The Punch, page 6	Lagos discharges six foreigners from isolation in centres	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Sunday said six foreign nationals were discharged from COVID 19 isolation centre in the state.
Thursday August 6, 2020. The Punch, page 6	Lagos approves 50% discount for tourism licenses	The Lagos State Government has said practitioner in the hospitality, tourism and entertainment establishment will get 50 per cent rebate for license and renewal fees across the state.
Friday August 7, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government seeks synergy among security agencies	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has called for synergy among security agencies to make Lagos safer for residents and visitors
Monday August 10, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Apapa gridlock: Lagos donates land for trailer park	The Governor of the Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has stressed the need to overhaul the terminal system at the ports, nothing that there is no reason for trucks to park on high ways if their dedicated terminals are operational.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

Monday August 10, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government rewards information officers, urges professionalism	The Lagos State government has recognized outstanding information officers in the civil service, urging them to continue maintain professionalism in the discharge of their duties.
Monday August 10, 2020, The Punch, page 6	Lagos plans to revive badagry food production centre	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said the Lagos state government set revives the 279 hectare song hai food production centre now known as the Lagos food production centre, Avia Badagry.
Tuesday August 11, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu felicitate Adeola at 51	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has congratulated senator Solomon Adeola, aka Yayi who clock 51 on Monday
Wednesday August 12, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu inaugurated BRT corridor, 500 mass transit buses	The Governor of Lagos State Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu has inaugurated the Oshodi Abule-Egba Bus Rapid Transit Corridor
Wednesday August 12, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos opens mental health centre for public servants	The Lagos State Government has inaugurated on employee wellness centre to cater to the mental health of its workforce
Wednesday August 12, 2020 The Punch, page 7	Stop withdrawing rape cases, Lagos warns victims' families	The Lagos State Government has warned relative of rape victims to stop withdrawing such cases from courts.
Thursday August 13, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu decries Lagos representation in FG agencies	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has expressed displeasure over the low quota reserved for the state's indigenes in the employment scheme of federal government organization operating in the state.

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Thursday August 13, 2020 The Punch, page 6	COVID 19: Government empowers indigent residents	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babjide Sanwo-Olu has empowered 50 indigent residents, including the elderly, nursing mother, youth and small-scale business owners.
Thursday August 13, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government begins Agric school for public students	The Lagos State Government has said the 2020 Agricultural youth empowerment scheme (Agric- yes) summer school programme for public senior secondary schools will begin on Monday August 17.
Wednesday August 19, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Defend the vulnerable, Sanwo-Olu urges governing council	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday asked members of the governing council of the office of the public defender to defend the rights of the less privileged and vulnerable residents of the state at all times.
Friday August 21, 2020 The Punch, page 6	LASG considers traditionalists request for public holiday	The Lagos State Government has assured the association of African Tradition Religion, Nigeria and oversea, Lagos State chapter, that it has not forgotten the practitioners, request to declare August 20 as a public holiday in their favor.
Monday August 24, 2020, The Punch, page 6	Lagos deploys safety guards in jetties	The Lagos State Government on Sunday said it deployed 48-trained volunteer as safety marshal to jot ties across the state.
Friday August 28, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Our proactive plans worked against COVID-19 says Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday said the proactive plans of the government helped the state withstand the effects of the pandemics.

*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****

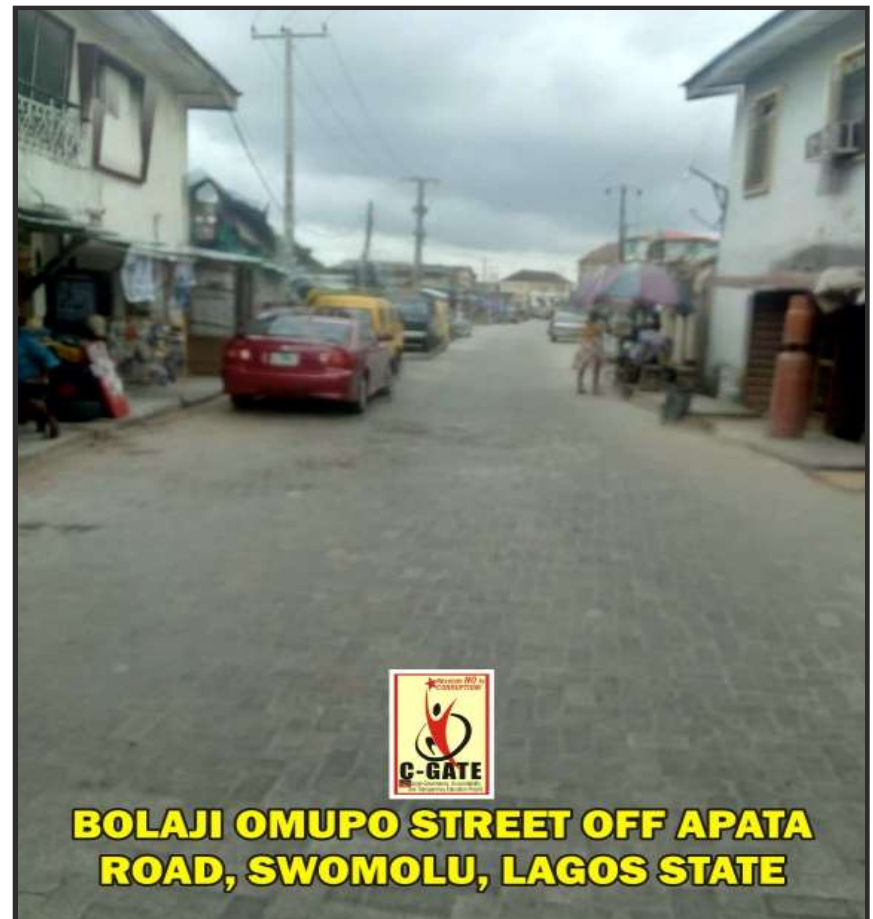
Saturday August 29, 2020 The Punch, page 6	COVID-19:Lagos may lose N240bn,says Sanwo-Olu	The Government of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-olu has said his administration envisaged an N240bn revenue decline in the state, as a result of the corona virus pandemic.
Sunday August 30, 2020 The Punch, page 6	COVID-19 care pack	The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has launched a free care pack for COVID-19 positive patients who prefer home based care.
Monday August 31, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos begins closure of illegal abattoirs on Tuesday	The Lagos State Government will begins the closure of illegal abattoirs across the state from Tuesday, September 1
Wednesday September 2, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu calls for upgrade of Lagos airport	The Governor of Lagos State Babajide Sanwo-Olu has asked the management of the federal airport authority of Nigeria to remodel facilities at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport.
Thursday September 3, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos seeks support to build new towns	The Lagos State Government has unveiled plans to open up new towns in Ito-Omu and its adjoining communities in ibeju-lekki local council development area in order to fast track the development of the area.
Thursday September 3, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government plans coconut factory in Badagry	The Lagos state government says it will establish a coconut-processing factory in badagry to optimize the use of coconut and harness the economic potential in the value chain.

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Saturday September 5, 2020 The Punch, page 8	Sanwo-Olu suspends director for imposing 5% levy on Netflix, Iroko TV, others	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has suspended the executive secretary of Lagos State film and video censors board, Bamidele Balogun for imposing a five per cent tax on digital platforms including Netflix and Iroko TV
Tuesday September 8, 2020 The Punch, page 6	COVID-19: Lagos low death divine, says Sanwo-Olu	The Governor of Lagos State Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said residents should be thankful of God for the less than two per cent fatality rate of COVID-19 in the state.
Wednesday September 9, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu sets up task force on human trafficking	The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday set up a task force to curb the menace of human trafficking in the state.
Tuesday September 15, 2020 The Punch, page 7	Lagos berate LASU management, protesting workers lockout VC, others	The Lagos State Government has berated the management of the Lagos state university, Ojo, over its failure to pay salary increment to its workers from the monthly subvention as well as the internally generated revenue.
Wednesday September 16, 2020 The punch, page 13	Lagos promises to pay minimum wage in October	The Lagos State Government has promised to pay the new minimum wage to all tertiary institution in the state with effect from October
Tuesday September 22, 2020 The Punch, page 6	We'll fulfill promises despite COVID-19, says Sanwo-Olu	Governor Babajide Sanwo-Sanwo-Olu on Monday promised the fulfill all his campaign promises despite the disruption occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in the budget size.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

Tuesday September 22, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Government asks judges to be fair,	The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has urged judges in the state judiciary to ensure fairness in the adjudication of cases before them, pointing out that justice and fairness are the bedrock of societal development.
Wednesday September 23, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Make Lagos another Dubai Sanwo-Olu tells cabinet members	The Lagos State Governor, Babjide Sanwo-Olu has asked cabinet members and heads of agencies to deploy their physical and mental resources into bringing his development vision to reality.
Thursday September 24, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Lagos government gives judges 51 SUVs, eight houses	The Governor of Lagos State Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Wednesday handed over 51 Sport Utility Vehicles and eight houses to judges in the state high court.
Thursday September 24, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Independence: Lagos calls for sober reflection	The Lagos State Government has said due to the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic, it will have a low key celebration of the diamond jubilee of the country's independence.
Friday September 25, 2020 The Punch, page 6	Sanwo-Olu open seven reconstructed roads in victoria island	The Governor of Lagos State Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday inauguration the victoria Island- Lekki traffic circulation project, saying it would bring relief to residents and road users around the victoria island area of the state.

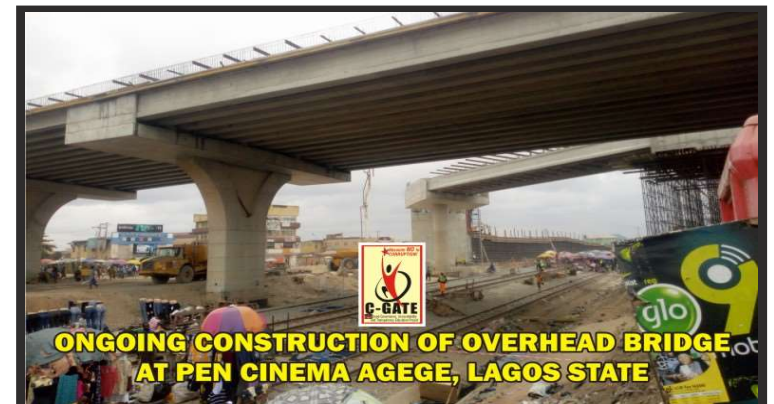




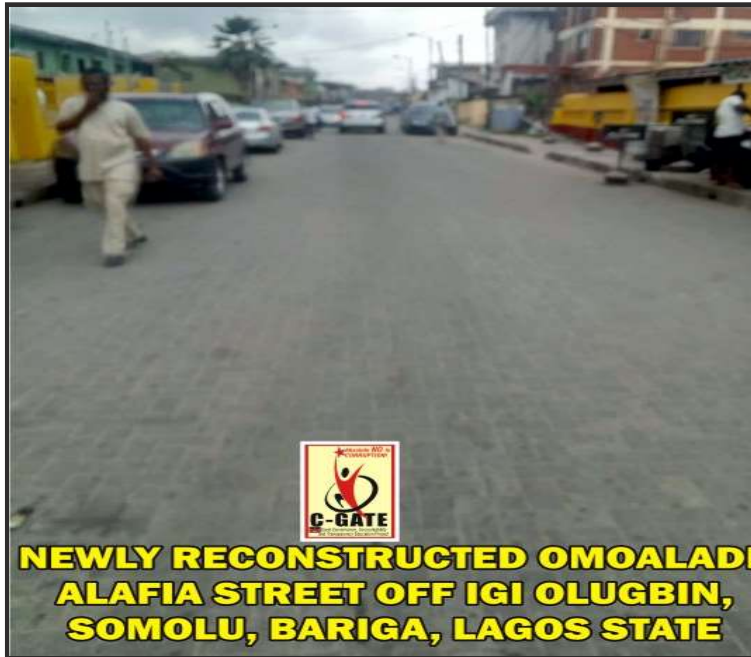
*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****



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*****LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*****



*****CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*****

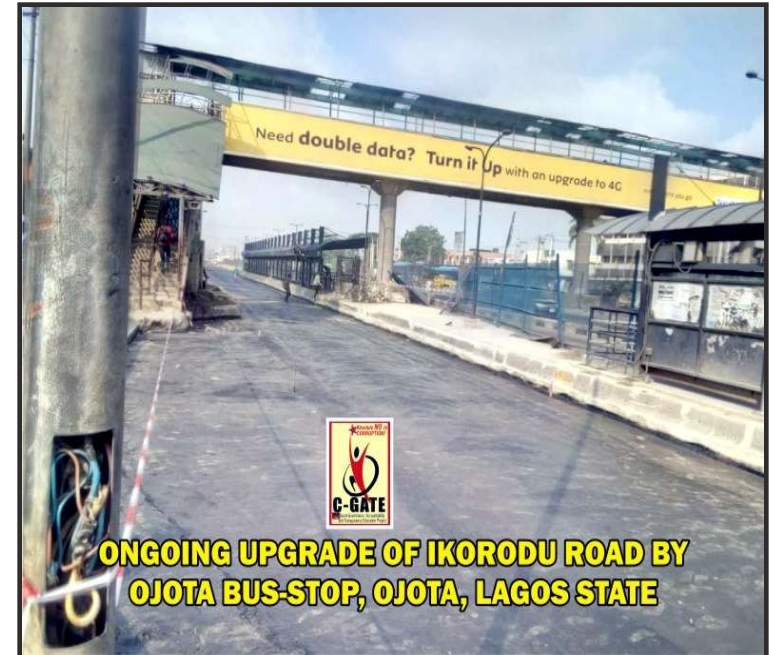




NEWLY TARRED OLUFUNMILAYO STREET, MUSHIN, LAGOS STATE



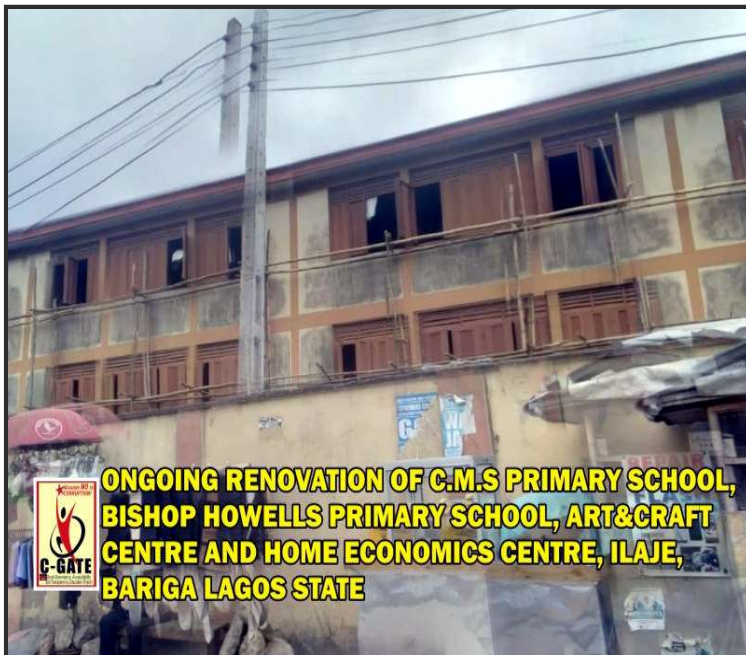
ONGOING DRAINAGE PROJECT AT DADA ITAIYALODE STREET MUSHIN LAGOS STATE



ONGOING UPGRADE OF IKORODU ROAD BY OJOTA BUS-STOP, OJOTA, LAGOS STATE



ONGOING ROAD PROJECT AT ADEKUNLE FAJUYI GRA IKEJA LAGOS-STATE



POSTSCRIPT

This chapter is a postscript. It is a short chronicle of governance in Lagos and a summary of the publication. It presents an insight into the contents of chapters one to four.

Lagos has a colourful history which to a large extent is inextricably tied to that of Nigeria. It is located along the western section of the nation's sea-shore. Its territory is the smallest in Nigeria but in terms of population it is the largest .It is the sixth most populous city in the world. The indigenous peoples of the state include the Aworis, Binis, Ijebus, Eguns and returnee slaves from Brazil and Cuba. The Lagos population is believed to be a microcosm of the Nigerian populace because people from every part of the country are represented in the megacity.

Lagos' contemporary history began with its annexation as a colony by a British Naval Force in August, 1861. Thereafter, the British Government appointed William McCorsky as the first Acting Colonial Governor of Lagos. Colonial Governor Cornelius Alfred Moloney established telephone link between Lagos and London in 1886 while electric street lighting installed in 1898 under Colonial Governor Henry Edward McCallum. Lord Lugard who championed the amalgamation of Nigeria in

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

1914 initially wanted the capital of Nigeria to be in Kaduna, but he eventually decided that it should be Lagos.

The city became Nigeria's capital after the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern protectorates in 1914. The status of Capital city attracted huge migrations to Lagos from the hinterland.

Lagos remained Capital of Nigeria for 77 years. Ever since, it has been the nation's economic hub and most populous metropolis in West Africa. The State has also played a leading role in almost every human endeavor in the country; this applies to the fields of politics, education, industry and commerce. For instance, the first post-primary and tertiary institutions in Nigeria were both established in Lagos under the British Colonial Administration.

Up till date, about half of the electricity generated in Nigeria is consumed in Lagos alone and the state also houses the largest population of most professionals in the country.

Lagos has been a megacity for decades. It is a huge human settlement with its peculiarities and challenges. Over time the city became associated with problems faced by large cities all over the world. The most daunting has been human and vehicular congestion which resulted in the Federal Capital Territory being relocated to Abuja in 1991 to escape traffic snarls. The loss of the status of the federal capital in hardly changed anything in the sprawling city.

Lagos has been a cosmopolitan city for a long time. Residents of the city have always craved for the provision of certain basic necessities of life.

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CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is obvious that based on the findings of our research using our grassroots members of the CACOL'S Good Governance Accountability and Transparency Educators (CGATE) during the proceedings of Lagos Open Parliament Seven, the administration of Governor BabajideSanwo-Olu made reasonable impact on the lives of residents for the period under review.

The Government's performance during the period is reflected in the media survey that was carried out by our field researchers. The media survey indicated that there was marginal improvement in the delivery of infrastructures by the state government. It is on record that Sanwo-Olu's administration continued with the execution of most ongoing projects of the previous administration in the State. Among the sectors in which improvements were noticed include security, transportation, education and health.

The security situation in the state improved remarkably during the period under review. Security agencies have been better equipped and their personnel motivated to tackle the previously high crime rate in the state. The members of the Lagos NeighbourhoodSafety Corps were used to ensure the safety of lives and properties in different parts of the State.

Transportation sector also received the administration's attention. Some of the critical highways and roads being constructed include the Lagos-Badagry Expressway, Ojota stretch of the Ikorodu Road, Motorways-KudiratAbiola Way, Agric/Ishawo Road and Ijede Road in Ikorodu, and Lekki-Epe

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

Expressway from Abraham Adesanya to Eleko Junction among others. More mass commuting buses were also purchased to further ease road transportation while considerable interventions were also put into water transportation so as to decongest the roads in the state. For instance, the expansion of trade to the Lekki Free Trade Zone will be easy to access by water from international waterways to local inland waterways. Also, inter-costal trade will experience ease such that traders will be able to move their commodities via ships and other water transport modes. Therefore, the menace of tankers and heavy-duty trucks on the roads will be drastically reduced. Presently, the Lagos Ferry Services Company (LAGFERRY) is facilitating cargoes movement and providing innovative solutions to logistic challenges of industries, importers and manufacturers. It currently conveys trucks from its Mile 2 Jetty to Apapa Seaport to load containers. The hassles of doing same by road are being greatly reduced by the option of moving them on water via LAGFERRY's badges.

In the area of Education, this administration again reiterated its commitment to closing learning gaps in public and private schools in the state for effective delivery of qualitative and quantitative education. The Governor expressed government's resolve to collaborate with the private sector to drive tailored policies and programmes toward creating an enabling environment for teaching and learning in Lagos schools below tertiary level and build processes and structures that will ensure sustainability aimed at improving quality education in the state.

In the Health Sector, Governor BabajideSanwo-Olu increased the state government's allocation to the sector in order to meet

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the health needs of residents of the state. The governor while presenting the budget to the state lawmakers disclosed that the 2020 budget is fully consistent with his administration's THEMES agenda, and gives priority to the completion of ongoing projects. Moreover, Governor BabajideSanwo-Olu, also made efforts to woo more insurance bodies to partner with the state government to ensure the successful implementation of the newly introduced Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme (LSHIS).

The harmonious relationship between the state government and its employees has been consolidated upon. This prevailing atmosphere of harmony has greatly enhanced public service delivery in Lagos State.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Babajide Sanwo-Olu's led administration has in the last one year or thereabout initiated some laudable policies and embarked on projects that would bring succor to the teeming Lagos population.

There is need to encourage the administration to remain committed in executing projects that are designed to improve the welfare of the people of the state.

The principles of participatory governance should be fully embraced and incorporated into the state's budgetary system by ensuring that it commences with a needs assessment and ends with a performance assessment. This would ensure that the content of the appropriation bills emanate and terminate with the inputs of the people it is meant to serve.

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

The government should also ensure that local council elections are regularly held to avoid the past undemocratic tradition of appointing sole administrators to run this tier of government.

Considering the population of the state, there is a dearth of decent accommodation for the people of the state especially the low-income populace. The government need to address this as shelter is one of the basic necessity of life.

There was also acute water shortage in the state at some point. The Lagos State Water Corporation which is the agency of government saddled with the provision of portable water for the people of the state could not provide enough water for the residents of the state. This forced the people of the state to source for alternatives by digging of boreholes which has its environmental implications. The government needs to address this issue head-on to forestall future calamitous consequences.

The government also needs to continue in the upgrade of primary and secondary educational facilities in the state. Some schools in the state have no furniture while the toilet facilities in others are nothing to write home about. There is an urgent need to resuscitate the inspectorate division in the State's Ministry of Education in order to bring the challenges being encountered in the schools to the fore for adequate attention.

Moreover, the government needs to come up with policies and programmes designed to create more employment opportunities for the teeming youth in the state. The growing number of miscreants and hoodlums who daily chores is limited to the use of hard drugs in various parts of the state calls for concern. There should be a policy that would engage this

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category of people as was done by the administration of Colonel BubaMarwa who named them "the good boys and girls of Lagos" and engaged them in the direct labour agency.

The interface between residents of the state and the state government needs to be strengthened. This would require a more active involvement of the Office For Civic Engagement which was created for this purpose by the present administration. The purpose of this constant interface is to expand transparency, accountability in governance and to bridge the communication gap between the government and the governed.

Multiple taxing and associated internal revenue generation matters which are relevant to accountability, law enforcement and rule of law require amendments to curb corruption in government.

The state government should domesticate the Treasury Single Account policy of the Federal Government for the purpose of blocking leakages in the state's financial system thereby ensuring that more funds are available for the development of the state.

The current administration needs to revisit the light rail project to facilitate easier transportation within the state. For Lagos to become a modern mega city, the light rail project must be completed and expanded.

The government also needs to implement policies and programmes that are people-oriented. Attempts to ban street trading and hawking; the over taxation of the poor and the

*******LAGOS OPEN PARLIAMENT 7*******

under-employed and the lack of a comprehensive programme to address unemployment would have adverse effects on the socio-economic future of the state.

The state government needs to develop pragmatic policies that would benefit its huge population that has earned it the status of a mega city. It is therefore antithetical to the progress of the state for the government to adopt depopulation antics as a strategy to address its huge challenges. The government should rather adopt policies and programmes that would expand infrastructural facilities to accommodate the huge population of the state.

*******CENTRE FOR ANTI-CORRUPTION AND OPEN LEDERSHIP*******