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Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, CON
Governor of Lagos State



The Transporter

**...President Tinubu Joins Governor Sanwo-Olu to
Commission the Red Line Train Project**

...Oyingbo, Yaba, and Ikeja Flyovers come alive

- Olatunji Oke

*His Excellency, President Bola
Tinubu (right) and Governor of
Lagos State, Mr. Babajide
Sanwo-Olu in a train ride during
the commissioning of the Lagos
Rail Mass Transit (LMRT) Red
Line project in Lagos.*

If there was any doubt about Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's capacity and commitment to resolving the seemingly intractable problem of transportation in Lagos State; that doubt was clinically and comprehensively dispelled with the commissioning recently of the Red Line Rail project as part of the Lagos Mass Rail Transit.

- BY ADESHINA OYETAYO
& BABAJIDE OBAFEMI

Some call him 'Mr. Sellable' because of his effortlessly charming persona and a robust catalogue of achievements. Some others label him 'Mr. Infrastructure' because of the huge investments in, and turnaround of Lagos' infrastructures. For another class of discerning Lagosians, Governor Sanwo-Olu has inadvertently evolved from a politician to a 'Transporter'! Not because he has joined the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, but because of the revival of the rail transportation system in Lagos.

On February 29, 2024, Lagos heaved and pulsated with excitement as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu joined Governor Sanwo-Olu, some of Nigeria's preeminent political figures, business moguls, and captains of industries to commission the first phase of the Red Line Rail project in Ikeja, which construction commenced on the 15th of April 2021 and was completed in 30months.

The first phase of the 37km rail line runs from Agbado in Ogun State to the Oyingbo axis of Lagos State. It has eight stations namely Agbado, Iju, Agege, Ikeja, Oshodi, Mushin, Yaba, and Oyingbo with a direct link to the international and domestic wings of the Murtala Muhammed Airport. It is expected to reduce travel time from two or more hours to 40 minutes and improve transportation and logistics in the state while the project holds the capacity to transport an impressive 1.1 million people daily when fully operational.

This is coming almost a year after the state government invited former President Muhammadu Buhari to commission the 13-kilometer first phase of the Lagos Blue Rail Line (Marina-Mile 2) in January 2023. The Blue Line is expected to be 27 kilometres, connecting Okokomaiko to Marina. According to the state government, the train, in its first phase, will transport 250,000 passengers daily and when completed, the entire 27km will transport about 500,000 passengers daily. The first phase (Marina - Mile 2) has five stations -The Marina Iconic station, National Theatre, Iganmu, Alaba, and Orile stations.

Like the Blue Rail Line, the Red Line is part of the Lagos Mass Rail Transit (LMRT), an integrated multimodal transportation system contained in the State's Strategic Transport Master Plan (STMP) developed by LAMATA, which aims ultimately to birth a world-class transportation network that will support the state's profile as the economic capital of Nigeria and Africa.

At the launch of the Red Line, Governor Sanwo-Olu declared that the project will enhance transit, reshape the urban landscape, and set a new pace for development. He said, "The LMRT project is a beacon of progress, illuminating the path to a future where our city moves smoother, faster, and more efficiently. Embarking on the project is more than just enhancing transit; it's about weaving the fabric of our city into a tighter, more connected community. Every track laid, every station built, brings us closer to a Lagos where distance no longer dictates destiny."

Significantly, President Tinubu had first conceived the

idea of this project as governor of Lagos State. He recalled excitedly, "Twenty-five years ago, I was elected to lead Nigeria's most populous state. My team and I toiled day and night to craft and implement a developmental vision that will transform Lagos into the economic powerhouse of Africa and a respected mega city on the global stage. The momentum of greatness we kick-started a quarter of a century ago has become unstoppable progress. Today, we are realising that dream. It is not a crime to dream big. Just stay focused and stay on course, particularly, make development the central fulcrum."



The Newly built Ikeja Red Line Rail project during an inspection tour by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as part of the Lagos Mass Rail Transit.



His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu and Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the Ikeja Train Station during the commissioning of the LMRT Red Line project in Lagos.

After the ceremonies and speeches, President Tinubu and some dignitaries took the inaugural ride on the Red Line from the Ikeja Train Station. President Tinubu acknowledged the success of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) and praised it for demonstrating that an agency can succeed and work for the people if guided by a vision and committed to a larger value.



The Ikeja Red Line Train Station.

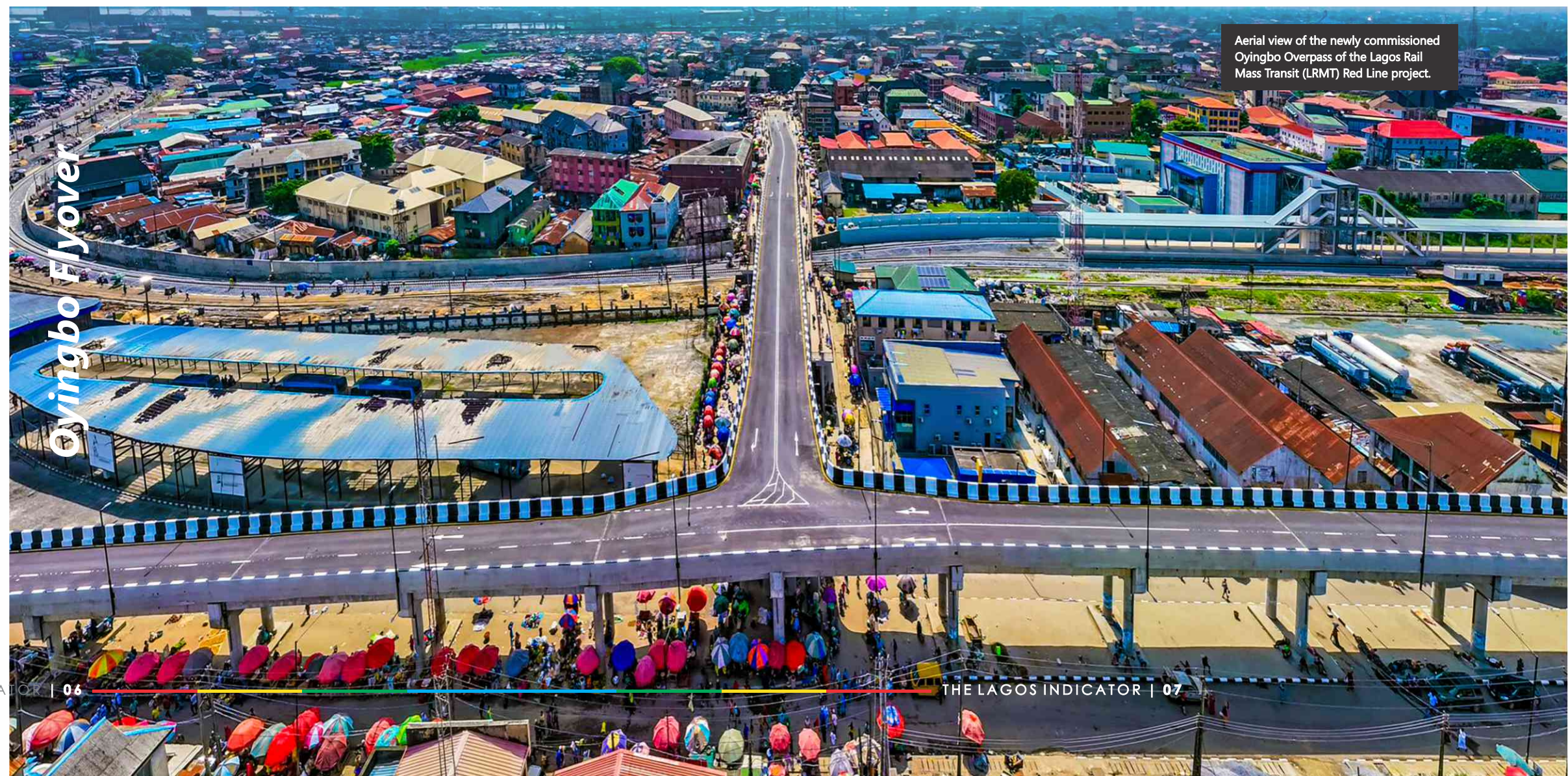
Further, in line with ensuring that Lagos continues to witness unparalleled developments amongst which is the ease of life in the area of movement and transportation for indigenes, residents, and visitors alike, Governor Sanwo-Olu announced plans for the development of two more rail lines within the LMRT system - The Orange Line and the Yellow Line. He would, however, announce the commencement of preliminary work on two additional lines - the Green Line and the Purple Line. The Green Line will extend 71.4 kilometers from Marina to the Lekki Free Trade Zone while the Purple Line will run 53.4 kilometers from Ojo to Mowe in Ogun State.



The highlight of the commissioning was the signing of the commencement of phase two of the project by the Managing Director of LAMATA, Engineer Abimbola Akinajo, and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, CCECC, in the presence of the President, Mr. Governor, Deputy Governor Dr Obafemi Hamzat and all dignitaries.

Oyingbo, Yaba, Ikeja Flyovers Inaugurated

To herald the commissioning of the Red Line and enable the effective movement of the trains, the Oyingbo, Yaba, and Ikeja flyovers came alive at different times. Earlier in November 2023, Governor Sanwo-Olu had opened the T-shaped Oyingbo Overpass Bridge to traffic, another ancillary infrastructure of the Red Line. The newly built Oyingbo flyover, which will be a major transit link between the Island and the Mainland, will ascend from Murtala Mohammed Way, Ebute Meta, and drop off at Iddo and Costain, respectfully.



In a statement, the governor said, "Today, I commissioned the Oyingbo Bridge, a significant step in our journey towards completing and opening the Red Line Rail project. A big thank you to the Governor of Ekiti State, H.E Biodun Oyebanji, who joined me today in the commissioning. This bridge links Murtala Muhammed Way to Apapa Road, offering access to Costain, Iganmu Industrial Area, Lagos Badagry Expressway, Herbert Macaulay Way, Third Mainland Bridge, Otto, Carter Bridge, and Ijora. Not only does the Oyingbo Bridge improve traffic flow, but it also enhances safety by separating vehicular/pedestrian traffic from rail traffic, reducing accidents at the railway."

The Chairman of Lagos Mainland Local Government, Hon. Omolola Esein, described the commissioning of the overpass as a momentous event for the local government. She promised to do all in her power to galvanize the people of the area in securing and taking care of the flyover, which she described as a symbol of progress for the Lagos Mainland Local Government.

In his speech, Governor Oyebanji applauded Gov. Sanwo-Olu for delivering on his campaign promises and taking positive steps in making the people he governs happy and that Ekiti State has a lot to learn from Lagos. He was full of praises for President Tinubu for laying the path for progress and drawing the map

for a modern Lagos while commending other governors who had governed the state for not derailing from the progressive path. According to him, the project solves vehicular congestion and delays, which hamper free movement in the vicinity, enhances the uninterrupted flow of vehicular traffic at level crossings along the Red Line corridor, and also improves commerce and the quality of life of the residents.

"Today, we are opening another Overpass Bridge constructed to ensure the safety of lives and uninterrupted flow of vehicular traffic at level crossings along the Red Line. This key project, which is the second of the five bridges undertaken by the Lagos State Government along the rail corridor, has been delivered in Oyingbo famous for being a thriving centre of commerce.

The siting of this infrastructure in this area is strategic and intentional to achieve a seamless integrated intermodal transport system for the people.

"Oyingbo Flyover is an important bridge connecting Oyingbo Station of the Lagos Red Line to the Oyingbo Bus Station. The infrastructure has also opened new connectivity for motorists and commuters going to the Island from the Mainland," he said.



Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu (third right) unveiling the plaque to officially commission the newly built Overpass of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line project at Yaba, with him: Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat (right); Onisabe of Igbobi-Sabe, Oba Owolabi Adeniyi (second right); Olu of Iwaya, Oba Suleimon Owolabi (middle); Managing Director, LAMATA, Engr. (Mrs) Abimbola Akinajo (third left); Opeluwu Onido of Lagos, High Chief Lateef Aderibigbe (second left) and Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Hon. Sola Giwa.

A few days after, the Yaba flyover, one of the four bridges along the Red Line corridor, was declared open. At the commissioning, Governor Sanwo-Olu said, "This modern transportation system is set to transform Lagos, simplify residents' lives, save time on the road, and boost our GDP. The Yaba Bus Station is a key component of our transportation network. Linked

to the Yaba Train Station, it paves the way for pedestrian-friendly spaces, saving time on commute, and improving the lives of Lagos residents. With the Yaba flyover, seamless travel from Jibowu to Ojuelegba, Tejuoso to Muritala Muhammed way, and beyond becomes a reality."

Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; Minister of Power, Mr. Adebayo Adedun; Governor of Ekiti State, Mr. Abiodun Oyebanji; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and others during the commissioning of the newly built Oyingbo Overpass of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line project.



The newly Commissioned Overpass of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line project at Yaba.

The governor said further, "Today, we are witnessing another leap in the fulfilment of our promise under the Traffic management and Transportation pillar of our development agenda. Three years ago, we undertook the task of constructing four bridges across rail lines between Oyingbo and Ikeja. The objective is to bring relief to our teeming residents by reducing congestion and improving travel time as well as the cost of commuting.

"Over the years, we recorded avoidable fatal accidents on railway crossings, most of the time due to human errors. Today, we are formally inaugurating a key component of the infrastructure projects initiated to bring about traffic improvement and solutions to the challenges encountered. This event is, therefore, significant because it signifies the completion phase of the Red Line project."

The governor further said that the projects have been implemented at huge costs. Thus, "We should not feel

unconcerned when societal enemies are bent on destroying our commonwealth. I ask all road users to protect this bridge from vandals and other societal enemies. Let me reiterate that this bridge is not a marketplace; the steps, ramps, and sidewalks are not for displaying wares. Our law enforcement agencies have been given strict instructions to ensure zero tolerance for any misuse of this facility."

It was, however, the turn of Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, chairman of Nigeria Governors Forum

[NGF] and the governor of Kwara State, to join Governor Sanwo-Olu in commissioning the largest overpass of the Red Line project in Ikeja. The Ikeja Overpass, which has a length of 620 meters, according to the LAMATA Managing Director, Mrs. Abimbola Akinajo, was designed to maximize the efficiency of Red Line and NRC train schedules by minimizing delays associated with level crossings.

The newly built Overpass of the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Red Line project at Ikeja during the commissioning by the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu as part of the Lagos Mass Rail Transit.



Ikeja Flyover



Governor Sanwo-Olu reiterated that his administration remained committed to “A transport system that is safe, sustainable, integrated, seamless and with the potential to drive the socio-economic growth and development of the state and indeed Nigeria.” He affirmed further that in the last four-and-a-half years of his administration, “We have prioritized the implementation of our integrated transportation system under the traffic management and transportation pillar of the THEMES+ agenda. As a result, we have delivered life-enhancing transport infrastructures, which are making life easier for the average Lagosian.”

While alluding to development as a process, not a destination, Governor Abdulrazaq praised Mr. President for creating LAMATA during his tenure as a two-term governor of the state and noted that Governor Sanwo-Olu has done excellently well by keeping the fire of development burning in the state. He said, “Lagos has been a beneficiary of bold and

progressive vision built around people’s welfare. Particularly worthy of note is policy consistency and progression in governance. Successive administrations in Lagos have built on one another’s successes and projects that strengthen the state’s economic growth.

“This is adding to the legacy of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. I believe Lagos’ example is worth emulating around the country for faster socio-economic growth, regardless of political affiliation and individual differences. Development agenda should be people-focused as it is being done in Lagos.”

The Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, called on motorists and commuters to adhere strictly to safety rules when using the flyover while emphasizing that illegal activities, such as hawking and selling on and under the bridge, are prohibited.

Riding on the Waves of Tourism & Global Cultural Showcases

In early October 2025, Lagos did more than host a race, it staged a statement. Against the shimmering backdrop of its waterways, the city welcomed the world to the E1 Lagos GP, the first-ever African stop of the all-electric powerboat championship. What unfolded over three days was not just a sporting spectacle, but a powerful

convergence of tourism, sustainability, culture, and global ambition.

From Victoria Island to Ikoyi, Lagos pulsed with energy as sleek electric race boats skimmed across the lagoon. Yet beneath the excitement lay a deeper narrative. Lagos, a city positioning itself firmly on the global map, not only as a destination for entertainment, but as a hub for innovation and environmental consciousness.

At the heart of this historic moment was the E1 Series itself, a championship built around cutting-edge electric marine technology. Its arrival in Lagos marked a significant milestone, placing the city alongside iconic waterfront destinations such as Monaco, Venice, and Jeddah. For organisers, Lagos was not just another stop; it was a bold expansion into a continent brimming with untapped potentials.

Rodi Basso, Chief Executive Officer of the E1 Series, underscored the significance of this choice. Lagos, he noted, competed with other global cities to secure hosting rights, a testament to its rising international profile. Beyond the glamour of celebrity-backed teams and high-speed racing, the event showcased advancements in sustainable boating technology, demonstrating how innovation can thrive even in the most challenging natural environments.

But if the E1 Lagos GP was about technology, it was equally about people and place. Lagos State officials were deliberate in framing the event as a platform to tell the city's story of resilience, creativity, and economic vitality. For Sam Egube, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, the race symbolised far

more than a competition. It was an opportunity to present Lagos as a “city of aquatic splendour,” where commerce, culture, and innovation intersect. In his words, the event signaled economic opportunity, tourism growth, and global prestige, elevating Nigeria's profile as a forward-thinking nation ready to engage in conversations about sustainability and development.

That message resonated at the highest levels of government. In a goodwill message, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu described the championship as a “statement of intent,” aligning it with Nigeria's broader commitment to clean energy and the blue economy. By investing in coastal infrastructure, marine tourism, and renewable energy, he noted, the country is opening new pathways for job creation, youth engagement, and global competitiveness.

Indeed, the E1 Lagos GP arrived at a time when cities worldwide are rethinking their relationship with water, not merely as a natural resource, but as a driver of economic growth and environmental stewardship. Lagos, with its extensive network of lagoons and waterways, is uniquely positioned to lead this conversation in Africa.



The state government used the event to highlight initiatives such as the Omi Eko project, which aims to introduce electric boats into public water transport. For Commissioner for Transportation Oluwaseun Osiyemi, the race served as both inspiration and proof of concept to demonstrate that sustainable water mobility is not a distant ideal, but an achievable reality.

Tourism, however, remained a central pillar of the event's significance. With hundreds of international visitors, athletes, and media professionals in attendance, Lagos seized the moment to showcase its cultural richness.

From music and cuisine to art and hospitality, the city offered a vibrant experience that extended well beyond the racecourse. Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture Toke Benson-Awoyinka emphasised the ripple effects of this influx. Artisans, traders, fishermen, and hospitality providers were all encouraged to tap into the opportunities created by the event. In this sense, the E1 Lagos GP became a catalyst for grassroots economic participation, linking global exposure with local benefit.

The festive atmosphere that enveloped the city reflected this synergy. A ceremonial boat regatta, shakedown sessions, and viewing centres across Lagos ensured that residents could share in the excitement. Even those far from the waterfront were drawn into the spectacle, reinforcing a sense of collective ownership and pride.

Yet, beyond the celebration, there was a deliberate focus on sustainability. Officials repeatedly stressed the importance of preserving Lagos' waterways, urging residents to maintain environmental standards as the city welcomed global attention. The message was clear: development and responsibility must go hand in hand.

Gbenga Omotoso, Commissioner for Information and Strategy, captured this ethos during an immersion session ahead of the race. He described the event as a “scientific demonstration” of precision and sustainability, highlighting the careful planning required to deliver a world-class experience. More importantly, he called on Lagosians to see themselves as custodians of their environment, ensuring that



future generations inherit a cleaner, healthier ecosystem.

Corporate partners, including major financial and industrial players, also lent their support, recognising the event’s potential to drive growth and global recognition. Their involvement underscored a broader truth, that the intersection of sport, technology, and sustainability is increasingly becoming a powerful engine for investment. As the races unfolded, with teams competing for crucial championship points, the global spotlight remained firmly on Lagos. Millions followed the action from around the world, witnessing not only the thrill of electric powerboat racing but also the story of a city in motion.

In the end, the E1 Lagos GP was more than a milestone for motorsport. It was a declaration of Lagos’ identity as a city that embraces the future while celebrating its heritage. By blending tourism, cultural expression, and environmental innovation, Lagos demonstrated its capacity to host events of global significance, especially, on its own terms.

As the waves settled and the boats departed, one thing was clear, Lagos is no longer just participating in global conversations about sustainability and tourism. It is helping to shape them.





Governor Sanwo-Olu Attends 2026 International Women's Day, Promises Sustained Action For Women Empowerment & Protection

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 joined stakeholders at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena for the 2026 International Women's Day celebration, organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation.

Speaking at the event, the Governor emphasised that this year's theme, "Rights. Justice. Action for All Women and Girls," serves as a call to move beyond rhetoric and deliver measurable impact. According to him, "our work must go beyond words and lead to real results."

Sanwo-Olu noted that the Lagos State Government remains deliberate in advancing policies that protect women and girls, strengthen access to justice, and improve overall quality of life.

"In Lagos, we are focused on protecting the rights of women and girls, strengthening access to justice, and taking practical steps that improve lives," he said.

He further highlighted ongoing efforts in economic empowerment, social protection, and inclusion, stressing that the government is committed to "building systems that work." The Governor commended the Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Hon. Bolaji Dada, and her team for their sustained efforts in driving impactful programmes across the state.

Reaffirming his administration's commitment, Sanwo-Olu assured that Lagos will continue to create an enabling environment where "every woman and girl has the opportunity, safety, and support to thrive."



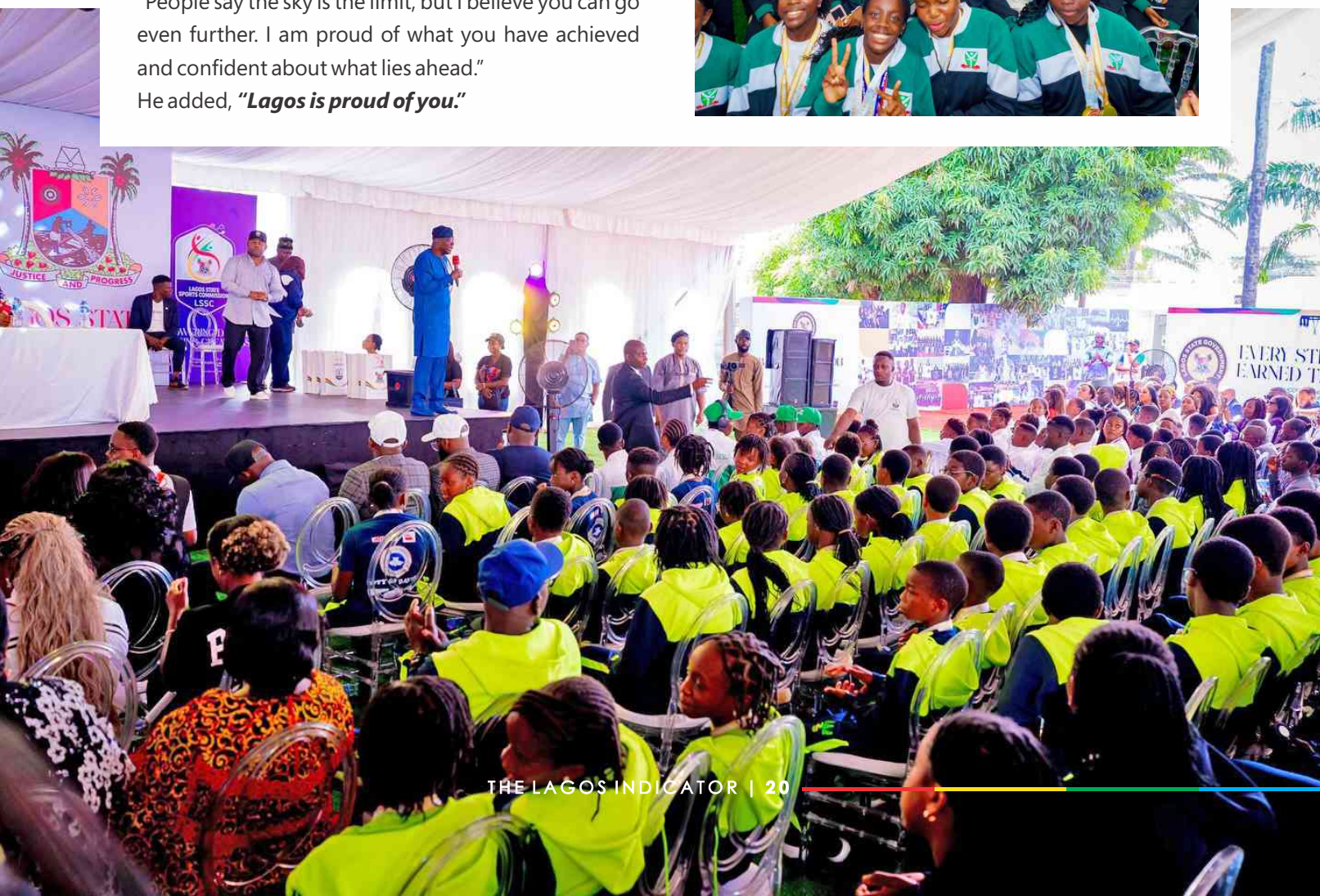
Gov. Sanwo-Olu Hosts Young Athletes At Lagos House, Marina

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu hosted outstanding young Lagos athletes at Lagos House, Marina, following their impressive performances at the World School Games in Doha and the African Youth Games in Angola.

The athletes, drawn from St Saviour's School, Corona School, Lagos Preparatory School, BIS, Riverbank School, Grange School, and Team Nigeria's U-15 squad, were commended for making Lagos proud.

"Your hard work, discipline and determination stand out," the Governor said, urging them to remain focused and keep pushing.

"People say the sky is the limit, but I believe you can go even further. I am proud of what you have achieved and confident about what lies ahead." He added, **"Lagos is proud of you."**





From China With Promises

On a recent working visit to China, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had successful deliberations with the management of the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation and the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, promising that traffic congestion would soon be a thing of the past in the state and that the fourth mainland bridge will see the light of day before the end of his tenure.

- BY SAHEED RABIU

Committed to fulfilling his promise of delivering a multimodal transportation system for guests and residents of Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu was on a courtesy visit to the headquarters of China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation in Dalian, China, recently where he concluded deliberations on the purchase of rolling stock for the Blue and Red rail lines in the state.

At the meeting, Governor Sanwo-Olu expressed his government's commitment to reducing the traffic congestion in Lagos in line with the Traffic Management and Transportation pillar of the THEMES+ developmental agenda. He also charged the company to deliver additional rolling stock for the Red and Blue lines before the end of the year.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said, "Given the number of rolling stock we are procuring, there is a need for us to have a joint maintenance conversation. And we have seen that, indeed, when we collaborate like this, we are not just doing procurement, we are actually doing knowledge and skill transfer. Lagos still expects a whole lot more.

"A train is not something you just buy off the shelf. We were not as lucky as when we were in Milwaukee, which was produced for a particular city, but we had to pay the premium and take it off. It usually takes between two and three years for you to finish the manufacturing because each of them has its specifications, the platform, and the load that you require.



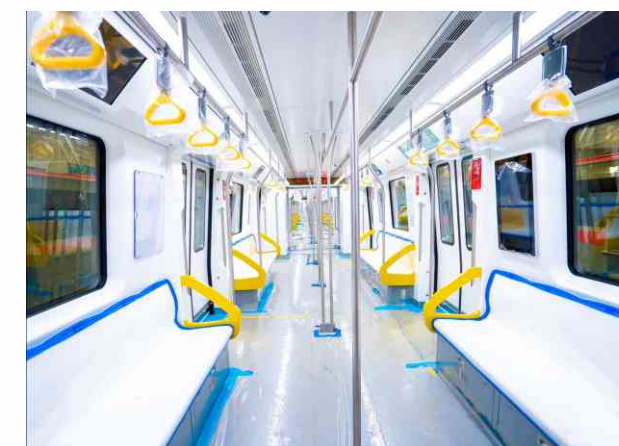
"They have done the Blue line before. So, in less than a year, we will still have a tough discussion with them. Before the end of the year, we are expecting that some of the rolling stock will start coming in. And the final bid should come in early next year. We are ready for them. This is the best we can get in terms of delivery time."

Also, on the working visit to China with some government officials, Governor Sanwo-Olu visited the famous Dalian Urban Planning Exhibition Centre in Xigang District and was conducted around the three-floor building loaded with historical changes in the city's ongoing construction, its current conditions, and the blueprint for future development.

The Dalian Urban Planning Exhibition Centre provided an opportunity for the guests to learn about the city's past, transition to the present day, and a demonstration of what the immediate future would look like.

Also, during a high-level meeting of Lagos State Government officials with the President and management of the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation at its headquarters in Beijing, China, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the construction giant for the several roads and bridges they had constructed in different parts of Lagos and added that the state government will continue to partner with them.

"The Fourth Mainland Bridge is one of our legacy projects. We are committed to that project. We want to do that project like yesterday. We have assured



Lagosians that this administration will do it. We are working with your team back in Nigeria to see how best we can start that project as soon as possible. We don't have all the funding to do it, but we have a lot of pressure from different people. So, if CCECC can help us, we can sit together and try and see how much funding we can raise and start the project.

"I have to deliver this project. I have only three years to go and you (President of CCECC) have to help me ensure that we provide the Fourth Mainland Bridge. It is what we need in the state and want to do. We have been talking about it for a long time, and I want to put it behind me.

"It has to start very soon. I made a commitment before the end of the first quarter; if I can achieve that, I will be very happy. I want to break ground maybe in March or April to start that project. I will be happy if Mr. President of CCECC helps me to achieve this. It would be one of my greatest joys as a governor in the state."

More Decent, Affordable Houses Coming for Lagosians

At the unveiling ceremony of Greenwich Gardens in Agboyi-Ketu LCDA, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu reiterates his administration's commitment to delivering decent and affordable houses for Lagosians.

- BY SUNMIBOLA ALUKO

Every administration mouths its commitment to delivering quality housing, which they agree is vital in shaping the well-being and quality of life for individuals and communities. However, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu is paying more than lip service to that all-important need of every human. At the unveiling ceremony of the Greenwich Gardens, a 101 housing units project at Ajelogo in the Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area (LCDA) of the state

recently, Governor Sanwo-Olu commended the Mayor Dele Oshinowo-led Agboyi-Ketu LCDA for completing the housing estate as a show of commitment to the well-being of its people.

The Greenwich Gardens comprises 66 two-bedroom flats, 20 three-bedroom terraces, 14 three-bedroom semi-detached houses, one four-bedroom detached house, and 65 residential plots (sites and service scheme). Governor Sanwo-Olu said that the project will provide not just more decent homes for Lagosians residing in the metropolis, but also another livable community that adds value to the ambiance of the environment, which will catalyze improved economic activities in the community. He said that the project was brought to fruition through direct budgetary allocation and will be a valuable addition to the home stock of Lagos State.

The governor said further, "As a government, we understand the challenges of housing in the state, and this is why this administration has embraced a global

Aerial view of the newly commissioned Greenwich Gardens.



Gov. Sanwo-Olu unveiling the plaque during the commissioning of the newly built Greenwich Gardens, a 101 housing units project at Ajelogo in the Agboyi-Ketu Local Council Development Area.

housing policy in which people can become homeowners through an inclusive and convenient financing system based on their income. The housing sector in Lagos State, as a mega city, offers huge opportunities for real estate investors, given the increasing population and the demand for decent and affordable shelter.

"Let me use this opportunity to encourage private investors to partner with us in bridging the housing deficit in the state. On our part, we are determined and committed to completing all the ongoing housing projects and significantly add to the 19 housing schemes that our administration has completed and which currently provide a decent abode for the residents."

He used the opportunity of the occasion to call on all the council chairmen in the state to focus on housing projects in their respective councils while reiterating his administration's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the private sector, partnering with developers to provide more decent and affordable houses for Lagosians, and completing all the ongoing housing projects while significantly adding to the 19 housing schemes that his administration had completed

and which currently provide decent abode for some Lagosians.

Speaking earlier, Hon. Osinowo said the housing project represents his administration's vision to establish a new voyage of grassroots development, emphasizing that Agboyi-Ketu LCDA is the first grassroots government in Nigeria to embark on a housing project and sites and services scheme through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative.

"The project significantly contributes to the THEMES+ agenda of the Lagos State Government, revitalising a once notorious spot and boosting local economies. The completion of Greenwich Gardens addresses housing deficits, enhancing the overall well-being of the community."

"This project exemplifies the potential of local governance in Nigeria, demonstrating that with visionary leadership, local government can undertake substantial projects for their citizens and the greater good of the nation," Oshinowo said.

For **More Prosperity,** Lagos Embraces New **Investments**

Determined to ensure that Lagos becomes the economic nerve centre of Africa and the world, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has disclosed that his administration has created an enabling environment for new businesses and investments.

- BY FELIX OGWEZI

More than ever before, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has said that Lagos is ready for more investments from local and international companies as his administration had created an enabling environment that would enhance productivity and prosperity.

The governor spoke during a courtesy visit by the management of the Daewoo Engineering and Construction Nigeria Limited led by its Group Chairman, Mr. Jung Won Ju, at the Lagos House, Ikeja,

where he disclosed that the state government is ready and willing to partner with the company in automobile, real estate, and technology.

He said, "The relationship between South Korea and Nigeria dates back several decades and we all know how the Daewoo Industry is worldwide. We are aware of your strength and capacity. Lagos is ready for business and it is open for new investments. I know Daewoo Nigeria has been here for a while but this is an opportunity for you to take that relationship to another level.

"So, on this, your visit, don't let it just be a visit to show; let it be a visit of commitment and real partnership. Let it be a visit where there will be real transactions on the table that both of us can take away. We are here to create the enabling environment for investments and businesses to grow. So, whatever you need from our side for your investments within our means, you can rest assured that we are willing to do it for as long as we see a mutually beneficial relationship.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, making his remark, Chairman of Daewoo Engineering & Construction Nigeria Limited, Mr. Jung won Ju; MD - Daewoo Nigeria, Mr. Yeon Jung during a courtesy visit at the Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja.



"Our city is open. We are ready and willing to create that partnership with you in automobile, real estate, and technology because we have a very strong and capable youth population that is dynamic. They are very professional and they are ready to work."

Speaking earlier, Mr. Jung Won Ju, said his company will be investing in real estate and infrastructure in Nigeria, saying Lagos has been identified as one of the major investment areas because it is the economic capital of Nigeria.

The company's General Manager, Contract and Business Development, Mr. Adekunle Ilesanmi, commended Lagos State for accommodating a lot of investments, adding, "We are going to be investing in housing, real estate and infrastructure. Daewoo has over 40 years of commitment in Nigeria. We are trying to increase our investments in the country and Lagos has been identified as one of the major investment areas because Lagos is the economic capital of



L-R: Chairman of Daewoo Engineering & Construction Nigeria Limited, Mr. Jung won Ju with Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu during a courtesy visit at the Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja.

Nigeria. The chairman is willing and has assured Mr. Governor that we will make that commitment in a short time, especially in real estate and housing.

"It is very commendable to see Lagos State accommodating a lot of investments and giving an enabling environment to all the investors coming in and ensuring that there is a return on investments. That makes Lagos attractive because when you invest here, you are sure of a return on your investment. The government is going to support you to be able to have a return on your investment."

Expanding The Frontiers And Fortunes Of Nollywood With The \$100m Lagos Film City

- BY FELIX OGWEZI

The groundbreaking of the \$100m Lagos film city in Ejirin town in Epe is another tangible pointer to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's passion and commitment to expanding the frontiers of African films and harnessing local talent and creativity to create new economic opportunities for talented youths across Nigeria and beyond.

Steadily, the proposed \$100m Lagos film city located in Ejirin town in the Epe area of the state is beginning to see the light of day. Last November, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu laid the first foundation block for the project acclaimed as an ecosystem of creative cinematography, tourism, leisure, entertainment, and learning.

Sited on 100 hectares of vast land, the film city is a legacy infrastructure initiated by the Sanwo-Olu administration to harness local talent and creativity to create new economic opportunities for talented youngsters in the culture and entertainment industries.

The state government had sealed a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with entertainment investors facilitated by Del-York Group to develop the one-stop campus for learning, film production, post-production, visual effects, and other ancillary services that support the filmmaking process. Entertainment powerhouses, Ogidi Studios and EbonyLife Cinema are among the indigenous partners that would work on the project to bring the governor's vision to reality.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held at the coastal boundary town with Nollywood stakeholders, veterans, and raves of the moment including Adebayo Salami popularly known as Oga Bello; Prince Jide Kosoko, Tade Ogidan, Prof. Sola Fosudo, Adewale Elesho, Femi Adebayo, Saheed Balogun, Kunle Afolayan, and Raymond Anyiam-Osigwe among others in attendance. Traditional rulers and members of the diplomatic community were also present.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said the occasion marked a significant milestone in his administration's journey to creating a thriving film industry in Lagos that would have a global appeal while contributing to the economic growth and cultural development of the state. "Today, we embark on a journey that will redefine the landscape of the film industry in Lagos. As we break the ground for this \$100million project covering a land area of 100 hectares, which will be executed through the PPP model, we are laying the foundation for a creative hub that will catalyze innovation, talent discovery, and storytelling excellence. This is a testament to our commitment to nurturing the arts and supporting the dreams of aspiring filmmakers, actors, and technicians.

"It is our strong belief that the film industry has the power to transcend boundaries and bring people together. It has the ability to inspire, entertain, and

educate. Through the magic of cinema, we can showcase the rich cultural heritage of Lagos, while telling stories that reflect our shared experiences and amplify the voices of our diverse communities. This film city will serve as a canvas for these stories, providing a platform for our talented artists to shine on both local and global stages," he said.

When delivered, Governor Sanwo-Olu disclosed that there would be no need for filmmakers to take their creative contents out of the country for final production because all required infrastructure and equipment needed to produce a globally-accepted production would be available in the Film City. The governor also appealed to the host community to support the project, noting that the Film City would turn around fallow assets of the town to create wealth for its inhabitants.

L-R: Chairman, Lagos State House of Assembly committee on Tourism and Culture, Hon. Bonu Solomon Saanu; Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Mr. Idris Aregbe; Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka; Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Elejinrin of Ejirin, Oba Rafiu Babatunde Balogun; Founder and Chairman, Del York International, Mr. Linus Idahosa; Secretary to the State government, Barr. ABimbola Salu-Hundeyin; Chairman, APC Lagos, Hon. Cornelius Ojelabi and Alara of Ilara-Epe, Oba Olufolarin Ogunsanwo during the official groundbreaking ceremony of the Lagos Film City project in Ejirin, Epe





Through the project, Sanwo-Olu said Lagos would tap into the global entertainment GDP and create job opportunities for young cinematographers while stimulating economic growth and attracting more foreign investment into the sector. "The Film City is not just about bricks and mortar. It is about the people who will walk through its doors and breathe life into its spaces. It is about the dreams that will be realised, the stories that will be told, and the impacts that will be made. Our creative community is the beating heart of this film city, and we are committed to providing them with the resources, support, and opportunities they need to thrive. This is an ecosystem that will nurture creativity, foster collaboration and empower artists to push their craft beyond the local boundaries," the governor declared.

Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, noted that the Film City idea was initiated during the governor's transition period in 2019, adding that the project required committed investors and partners to bring it to life. She said the commencement of construction further testifies to the commitment of the Sanwo-Olu administration to invest in infrastructure and create an enabling environment for the creative economy to thrive in Lagos. "By the time the Lagos Film City comes on board, the spiral effect on Lagos's profile as a tourist



Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu flanked by Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka (right) and Special Adviser to the Governor on Tourism, Mr. Idris Aregbe (left) during the official groundbreaking ceremony of the Lagos Film City project in Ejirin, Epe..

destination of choice would be appreciated beyond the entertainment sector," the commissioner said.

Founder of Del-York Group, Linus Idahosa, said the allocation of private equity to investors in the project development underscores the governor's understanding of key partnerships required to deliver the vision and enhance growth in the creative sector, adding, "This idea of strategic collaboration between the government and stakeholders is what it takes to push the country forward. The future of this country will be determined by the creative energy we are about to harness through the Film City project."

The Elejinrin of Ejirin, Oba Rafiu Balogun, said the occasion marked a new dawn for the natives, describing the Film City as the "first modern project"

to be brought to the town decades after the colonial masters left. "Talents and endowment deposited in Ejirin can now be enhanced for national development," the monarch said, thanking the governor for siting the project in the town. Celebrated movie star, Femi Adebayo, who spoke on behalf of Nollywood, said the project represents the collective enthusiasm of theatre practitioners and the creative community, and that the infrastructure would elevate professionalism in cinematography and entertainment.

Before the groundbreaking ceremony, Governor Sanwo-Olu had disclosed during the 12th African International Film Festival (AFRIFF) press briefing held at the Banquet Hall, Lagos House in Marina, that the state government was committed to providing resources and time to promoting anything that would put Lagos and the country on the global map.

He said, "We are also going to be doubling the state government's support for the training of young industry players. We will also double the grants being given to creative young talents for the production of short stories. We have supported over 5,000 people in the creative sector with different kinds of capacity-building opportunities and film production grants to scale up the numbers in the sector."

Governor Sanwo-Olu added that there was no better time than now for all stakeholders to work collaboratively and churn out quality content that would confirm the position of the country as a global player in filmmaking while attracting foreign investments.

The governor urged the practitioners to use their ingenuity to create Africanised contents that would change the continent's socio-cultural narrative, adding, "(The) Lagos State Government, by itself, bears all the hallmarks of excellence in all aspects. Excellence starts from everything we can imagine; the creative community sits right in the middle. As a government, we have committed to anything that puts Nigeria on the global map and supports our creative citizens on the world stage."

Responding, the Consul General of the United States Consulate in Lagos, Mr. Will Stevens, said digital technology had transformed the Nigerian film industry over the last decade and that it was time for practitioners to benefit from it. Given the quality content and advanced production capabilities of African films, the envoy said the second half of the 21st Century would be 'Africa's moment' to expand the growth of its cinema industry.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu with participants during the official groundbreaking ceremony of the Lagos Film City project in Ejirin, Epe.





Lagos' Waste-To-Energy Dream Project Finally Takes Off

- BY FUNSHO AROGUNDADE

As Nigeria's population continues to surge and urban centers experience unprecedented growth, the need for robust and modern infrastructure has become more pressing than ever. Nowhere is this need more evident than in Lagos, the nation's economic powerhouse and one of the World's fastest growing cities.

With a population swelling above 20 million and seemingly on a steady rapid growth in the next decade, the sheer size and density of Lagos brings serious challenges. Meeting the city's infrastructure needs—from transportation to water and sanitation to renewable energy—need significant investment which is not currently being met. Amidst this, Waste management remains one of the most essential challenges the state contends with.

In recent years, the daily waste generation in Lagos has steadily increased from 9,000 metric tonnes in 2014 to 12,000 metric tonnes in 2018, with an individual generating an average of 0.5 kg/day and 0.72 kg/day, respectively. Currently, Lagos produces between 13,000 and 15,000 metric tonnes of waste equivalent to about

490 trailer loads daily, with each Lagosian generating an average of 1.2kg/day, a figure expected to rise to 1.4kg in the next 15 years. But there have been inadequacies of proper waste disposal practices in the state; a bane many administrations struggle to contain.

A significant portion of this waste remains uncollected, cluttering sidewalks, open spaces, and waterways. This growing crisis in waste management not only poses a threat to the environment but also significantly impacts the health and well-being of Lagosians. Without effective solutions and attention, Lagos faces the risk of becoming overwhelmed by its own waste.

Experts have posited that proper waste management is required for safety, health, economic or livability reasons. Therefore, taking a major step towards turning these tonnes of solid waste generated in the metropolis to usable energy, Lagos Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu

recently witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the State Government and Harvest Waste Consortium from the Netherlands.

The partnership with the Amsterdam, Netherlands-based firm was at the instance of the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources led by very resourceful Barrister Tokunbo Phillip Wahab, while the agreement was signed under the supervision of the Lagos State Office of the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

The MOU—a very bold move to ensure that Lagos successfully delivers its first waste-to-energy plant—will bring about the introduction of a waste treatment solution that will ensure conversion of almost 3000 tonnes of waste daily into energy.

The Dutch firm will construct a high efficiency Waste-to-Energy plant on Epe landfill, which will utilise advanced technology to generate clean energy from municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste. When fully operational, the innovative waste management solution is expected to take some 40,000 homes off the national electricity grid, as the technology would enhance energy security and diversification, generating between 60 and 75 megawatts of base load electricity annually.

Aside from this, the partnership will also bring about innovative alternatives towards reducing environmental pollution, improving air quality, stemming degradation and contamination of water resources that pose threats to the life quality in the State.

Governor Sanwo-Olu said the partnership represented a monumental step forward of his administration's waste management strategy, stressing that the move marked another milestone in the journey to build a clean, healthy, and more sustainable city.

"The growth of our population signifies progress and opportunity, just as it presents challenges, particularly in managing the increasing volumes of municipal solid waste. We sought innovative and sustainable solutions through extensive consultations, visits, and a thorough exchange of information with our partners from the Netherlands.

"We are thrilled to announce the construction and operation of a High Efficiency Waste-to-Energy plant in Lagos. This state-of-the-art facility will be built with the capacity to process 2,250 tonnes of waste daily, representing a monumental step forward in our waste management strategy. The plant will not only provide a



sustainable alternative to the current practice of waste dumping, it will also divert more than 95 per cent of our waste from landfill sites.” Sanwo-Olu said the initiative would significantly reduce the environmental footprint of Lagos waste disposal methods, with the plant expected to trap about 550,000 metric tons of Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted daily from the dumpsite.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the Governor said the project, which has over 25 years operational lifespan, would stimulate economic activities around the initiative, while attracting major investments to the State and creating jobs. Sanwo-Olu said the technology had not only proven reliable but had also been tested by the European Commission as the best available technology in terms of efficiency.

Lagos —with 62 per cent of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) being wet, biodegradable, and organic— faces a unique environmental challenge. This situation is further aggravated by a lack of proper waste disposal education, leading to an increasing trend of organic waste being improperly mixed with recyclable materials in landfills. According to experts, when a facility generates waste, those discards can be classified according to the following: Recyclable materials typically includes paper, plastic, glass, metal; Organic waste such as food waste and green waste; Hazardous waste which represents health or safety risks including solvent-based paint, mobile phone batteries, motor oils; and General and non-hazardous waste with no or little recyclability which is considered as final waste.

Recently, Lagos has ramped up activities for improved and timely waste-clearing efforts all over the state. The State Government also signed an MOU with a Ghana-

based firm, Jospong Group to ensure the identification of existing Dumpsites/Transfer Loading Station as potential candidates for conversion/upgrading to Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and Compost Facilities.

The collaboration between Lagos and JOSPONG technical teams will also re-engineer the solid waste management system in Lagos State and ensure the creation of job opportunities in the Waste to Wealth value chain. However, Wahab, the State Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, said the new Waste-To-Energy partnership fully backed by the Dutch government has created a new mandate for Lagos to seek solid waste management solutions.

He said the partnership would make the State turn its burden to wealth and create new value from waste conversion. “This project will not only enhance public health and well-being but also contribute to the circular economy by reducing landfill dependency and promoting recycling,” Wahab said.

Amsterdam and Lagos share similar challenges in managing population and waste. The new MOU with the Dutch is poised to facilitate exporting of knowledge on managing waste properly. Deputy Consul General of the Netherlands Consulate in Nigeria, Ms. Leonie Van der Stijl, said the Dutch Government is fully committed to the project.

She noted that the partnership presented the possibility of international collaboration to solve local challenges. According to the Envoy, Lagos, through the pact, became the first partner of the Dutch waste management and gave assurance of their government’s commitment to the success of the agreement.



MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR LAGOSIANS

Amid widespread hardship across the land, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has introduced a plethora of relief measures to make life easier and better for Lagosians, including reduced work days for civil servants, reduced fares on public transports, the Lagos Market Trader Money for 15,000 beneficiaries, and the novel Sunday market in 42 communities across the state where food items are sold to residents at reduced prices among others.

- BY ADESHINA OYETAYO & BABAJIDE OBAFEMI

It was on Valentine’s Day; the day globally set aside to celebrate love and lovers. For Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the auspicious day was set aside to spread love while also fulfilling his campaign promises to Lagosians by commencing the distribution of N750million financial intervention scheme tagged “**Lagos Market Trader Money**” for 15,000 beneficiaries who received N50,000 each.

Speaking during the launch of the Lagos Market Trader Money held at De Blue Roof, Agidingbi, Ikeja, Governor Sanwo-Olu said the initiative was conceptualized as a stop-gap measure to empower small-scale traders in the Food Systems by providing them financial support to expand their businesses thereby fostering economic growth and improving the lives of many within the state while stimulating economic activities in various food markets in line with his administration’s THEMES+ developmental agenda.

He said: "This will ensure sustainable livelihoods and facilitate business expansion for 15,000 traders who occupy a strategic position in the State's economic pyramid and food distribution network.

"Lagos State, which has a growing population presently estimated at over 24 million has a food system transaction value of over N6trillion annually, is in the process of establishing a dynamic food market system under the Food Systems Transformation Agenda to promote the preservation, storage, transportation, and presentation of wholesome food to the populace, to reduce food waste, improve affordability, guarantee food safety, quality and accessibility.

"This initiative led to the implementation of key projects such as the establishment of the Lagos Central Food Security System and Logistics Hub, Ketu-Ereyun, Epe, and the Mid-Level Agro Produce Hub, Idi-Oro, Mushin. As a mark of our resolve to follow through with the Agenda, work has commenced on three additional Mid-Level Agro-Produce Hubs at



Sangotedo, Agege, and Abule-Ado, while the first phase of the Lagos Central Food Security System and Logistics Hub will be commissioned by December 2024."

Governor Sanwo-Olu implored the beneficiaries to make judicious use of the grant in ways that will contribute to the economic development of the state. "I urge you to let the citizens of Lagos feel the impact of this grant and all the other support that this administration has been providing towards ensuring food security, through reasonable reduction in the cost of basic food items in a way that it will be affordable to ordinary Lagosians," he said.



Speaking on how the 15,000 traders were selected for the Lagos Market Trader Money, Governor Sanwo-Olu disclosed that "The beneficiaries were identified by the state's Agricultural Field Officers serving each LGA/LCDA in collaboration with the Iyaloja/Babalaja General and Market Masters of each Local Government/Local Council Development Area across the state.

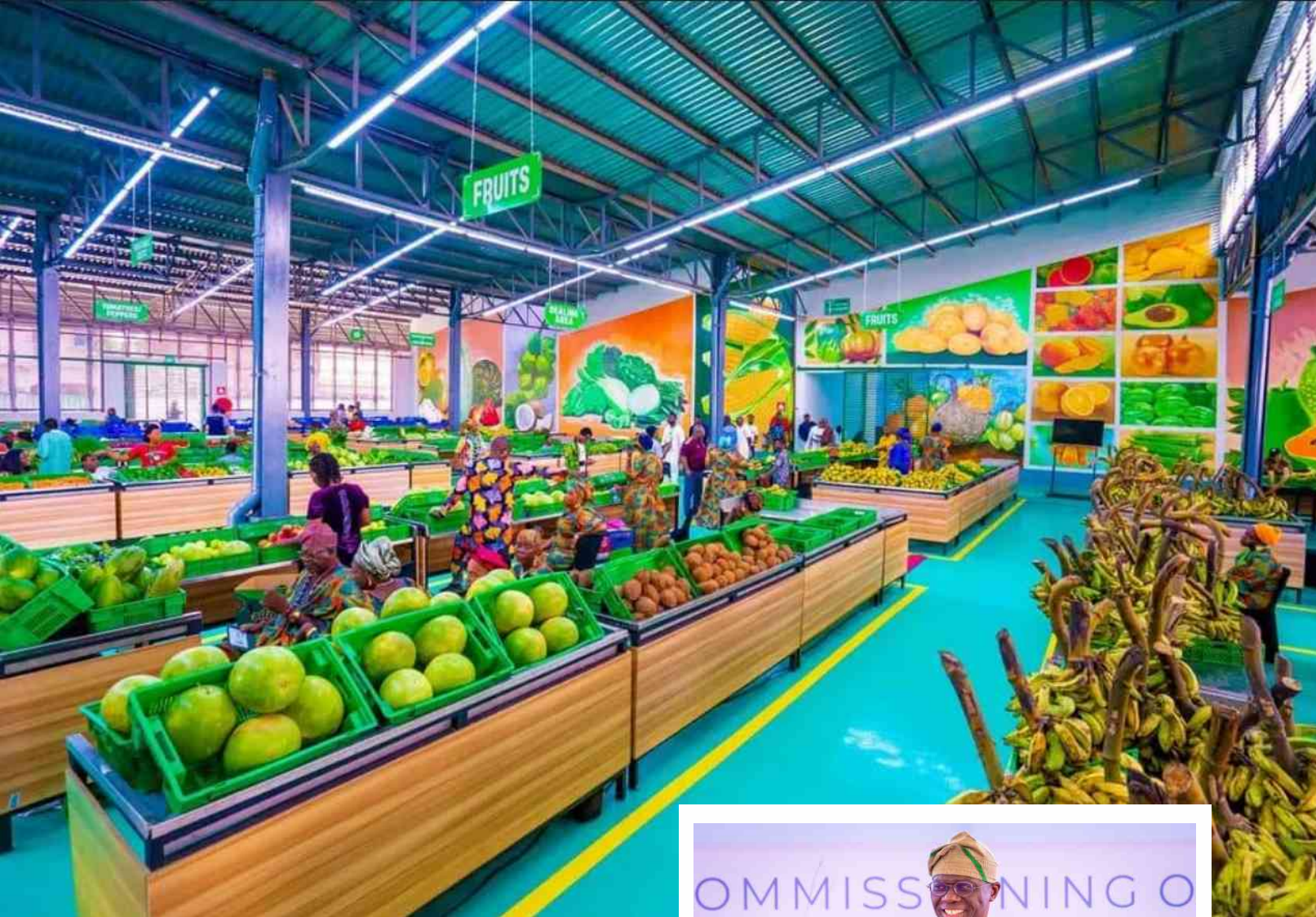
"The beneficiaries were selected through a methodical process targeted at 200 beneficiaries from markets in each LGA/LCDA in addition to 50 beneficiaries that were selected by the Iyaloja/Babalaja General in each LGA/LCDA making a total of 14,250 market traders. Also, 750 beneficiaries were identified from markets within the Barracks and Military formations across the State in collaboration with their respective Iyaloja/Babalaja. This brings the total number of beneficiaries to 15,000."

Governor Sanwo-Olu also noted that 75 percent of the beneficiaries are women while the remaining 25 percent are men, adding that 35 percent of the beneficiaries are below 40 years while 65 percent are above 40 years. He said this goes to show the social

inclusiveness in implementing the initiative.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, said, "This initiative is part of the state government's commitment to the development of the downstream segment of food and agricultural value chains which centre on markets and market access. This is because Lagos is the largest market city-state in sub-Saharan Africa. The support that would be extended today is targeted at expanding the capacity of the beneficiaries to off-take more produce from our farmers thereby catalysing increased food production in and outside the state."





Sets Up Open Market for Cheap, Fresh Food Items

Taking his kindness and listening ears further in helping to cushion the effects of the high cost of living especially in the area of feeding in Lagos State, Governor Sanwo-Olu declared an emergency solution on food and other staple items with the launch of 'Ounje Eko' food markets, offering discounted prices on essential food items across the state.

Under the initiative, staple food items including rice, beans, garri, bread, eggs, tomatoes, and pepper will be available at 25% discounted prices at the 'Ounje Eko' Food Markets, which will open from 11am to 4pm in all local government areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the state. For example, there are 27 locations across Ikeja where 'Ounje Eko' Markets are located and sold every Sunday; six locations in Lagos Island, nine in Ikorodu, five in Epe; and 10 locations in Badagry.



To prevent sharp practices and ensure the foodstuff reaches a large number of Lagosians, a voucher system has been introduced in the pilot scheme. Independent payment solution providers and food vendors have been identified and carefully selected to operate the process.

Governor who called for the cooperation of Lagosians with the operators of this initiative at every location, advised residents to monitor the process and provide useful feedback through the official channels of the Lagos State Government, for improvement if the need arises.





EKO CARES - The interventions, in transportation, education, health and agriculture – are under the umbrella of EKO CARES. Today, in furtherance of our objectives, we gave out 500,000 boxes of food stuff for

free to LGAs and LCDAs. This is to strengthen food security in our state as feeding the vulnerable is our duty of care. It is important that no Lagosian goes to bed hungry. That is our goal.



Reduces Work Days for Civil Servants and More...

For civil servants in the state, the reduction in their workdays was the real deal among the plethora of empowerment initiatives. According to the governor, "Workers from Level one to Level 14 in the state's civil service will now come to the office for a maximum period of three times in a week. This measure will not shut down governance, nor will it disrupt the operations of the government. It will all be calendarised and scheduled. Workers in Level 14 to Level 17 will be required to work four times in a week. All we seek to achieve is to reduce the pressure on our workers and save them from additional stress."

This measure, according to the governor, was not intended to disrupt governance but to reduce the pressure borne by workers in carrying out their duties during economic hardship. Thereafter, the governor announced a 25 percent fare slash across the state-owned public transport channels, including BRT, train, and ferry services.

He said: "I convey our deepest empathy to our citizens over the current hardship occasioned by inflation commodities prices. We are not unaware and unmindful of the current situation, but as leaders, we have the responsibility to bring immediate ease to our people. Given the nature of challenges that we are facing presently, we have designed creative means to

ease the hardship on our people, starting with public servants."

In education, Sanwo-Olu introduced additional transport support for classroom teachers to enable them to keep their work schedule, while pupils across public schools would continue their five-day school attendance. Also, the governor suspended the directive compelling parents to show evidence of tax payment to enroll their wards in school. This is to discourage pupil absenteeism and dropping out of school.

In health, Sanwo-Olu also reintroduced the free child delivery program for expectant mothers in all the State-owned General Hospitals and special maternity centres. The state government, he said, would take up child delivery costs, including Caesarean Section at all state-owned hospitals and the Mother and Child facilities. He said: "We believe this measure would help reduce pressure on families. We are also working with the State-owned hospitals to reduce the cost of certain drugs, such as hypertension medication.

"All the six health districts in Lagos will roll out bi-weekly community health mission over the next three months, where residents would enjoy free check-ups for diabetes, blood pressure, and eye testing. There will be free medications to be given to patients to manage observed conditions."



Lagos State's Agricultural Surge:

A Testament to Proactive Governance Under Governor Sanwo-Olu

- BY FUNKE PHILLIPS

In yet another resounding testament to visionary leadership and proactive governance, Lagos State, under the stewardship of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has emerged as a lighthouse of agricultural prowess, defying geographical constraints to unleash a staggering contribution of over N7 trillion to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

This revelation, put forward by the State Commissioner for Agriculture, Ms. Abisola Olusanya, during a recent ministerial press briefing, shows the transformative impact of strategic policy interventions in harnessing the full potential of the agricultural sector.

Despite being Nigeria's smallest state by land area and predominantly urbanized, Lagos has leveraged its inherent advantages and instituted a robust food

sustainability and security system. This system, meticulously crafted under Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration, has propelled the agricultural sector to the forefront of economic prosperity, catalyzing unprecedented growth and resilience.

At the heart of this agricultural renaissance lies a comprehensive approach that extends beyond mere food production. Lagos has cultivated a holistic ecosystem encompassing food production, supply chain optimization, and market organization, thereby nurturing a thriving agro-economy. Through strategic initiatives, such as the advocacy for food market organization, the state has addressed critical challenges, including food scarcity and unwholesome practices within the food value chain.

One of the remarkable achievements highlighted by Commissioner Olusanya is the staggering scale of red meat production, with an astounding average of

10,000 herds of cattle slaughtered daily within the state. This impressive feat shows Lagos's pivotal role in Nigeria's agricultural landscape while also demonstrating the imperative of effective logistical infrastructure and regulatory frameworks to ensure quality control and consumer safety.

In a proactive move to enhance meat transportation and preservation standards, the state government is set to inaugurate 50 vans at the Oko-Oba abattoirs in the coming weeks.

This initiative exemplifies Governor Sanwo-Olu's unwavering commitment to fostering innovation and modernization across the agricultural value chain, thus reinforcing Lagos's position as a trailblazer in agribusiness excellence.

The success story of Lagos State's agricultural surge serves as a compelling case study for effective governance and strategic foresight. Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration has demonstrated



Ms. Abisola Olusanya
Commissioner for Agriculture

remarkable leadership in unlocking the latent potential of the agricultural sector, driving inclusive growth, and creating sustainable livelihoods for millions of residents.

As Lagos continues to chart a path towards economic prosperity, stakeholders must recognize the pivotal role of proactive governance and collaborative efforts in sustaining this momentum.

By harnessing the synergies of public-private partnerships, leveraging technology-driven solutions, and prioritizing sustainable development practices, Lagos can consolidate its position as a global hub of agricultural innovation and excellence. Conclusively, It must be said that any state that intends to climb up the GDP ladder must not leave any stone unturned, so long as revenue can be made from there. Lagos is not only focused on entertainment, tourism, brick and mortar infrastructure, she understands that proper feeding is the cornerstone of health and vitality. Hence, despite not having a natural advantage, Lagos continues to seek to sharpen her edge in the agricultural space.

The transformative impact of Lagos State's agricultural sector showcases the power of visionary leadership and proactive governance in driving socio-economic development. Governor Sanwo-Olu's administration has set a precedent for effective policymaking, strategic planning, and bold action, positioning Lagos as a shining example of resilience and progress on the African continent.



For Effective Land Administration, A New Era Of Innovation And Efficiency Beckons

- BY OLATUNJI OKE

The state government has presented digital devices and deployed eGIS tools to herald a new era of innovative, efficient, and effective land administration in the state.





L-R: Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu spotting a place of interest on the e-GIS portal during the launch of the State's Land Administration e-GIS portal at the Lands Digitization and Automation Centre, Lands Bureau, the Secretariat, Alausa.

For the myriad advantages of easing building permit approval, ensuring effective land administration, and reducing the processing time for titles in the state, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has deployed the Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS) tools in the Office of the Surveyor-General and the Lands Bureau. He has also presented ICT devices and other tools to the Physical Planning and Automation Department and Lagos State Planning Information Centre (LASPIC) in the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to ease the automation of the ministry's works.

Speaking during the presentation of the eGIS tools at the Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa, recently, Governor Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Head of Service, Mr. Bode Agoro, said, "The equipment is going to make life a lot easier. It will make it easier to process applications, reduce the time frame in processing applications for titles to a matter of days, and enable members of the public to access the database and apply for titles from the comfort of their home or office anywhere in the world."

The Special Adviser to the Governor on eGIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde, said the eGIS tools will enhance the ease of doing business in Lagos State, particularly, in getting planning permits for individuals and corporate organisations, adding, "We are coming up with what we call the electronic physical planning process system where you can apply for building approval online and get it within 10 minutes all things being equal. Once you have your soil sample and the mechanical, electrical, and architectural drawing, you can turn it in like you are applying for a visa and you will get your approval in 10 minutes. This is where Lagos wants to be."



The Surveyor-General, Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina commended Governor Sanwo-Olu for deploying the eGIS tools, which he said will assist personnel in the Office of the Surveyor-General and Land Bureau to perform efficiently. "We thank our governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu for approving the procurement of the tools. He is one leader who will not give you an errand without providing the tools with which you are going to perform your task. So, I will say that it is a new day in Lagos State. With the procurement of the eGIS tools, officers would be able to perform their tasks and ensure that our service level agreement with our numerous clients can be met.

"This is like a revolution in land administration in the state. Land administration will now be effective and efficient because the tools will help officers perform their tasks and attend to applications submitted remotely. It will allow officers to perform efficiently on their various desks."

Similarly, the state government has presented a plethora of ICT devices to the Physical Planning and Automation Department and Lagos State Planning Information Centre (LASPIC) in the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development for the automation of all physical planning activities in Lagos State, marking a new era of innovation and efficiency.

Dr. Babatunde, who represented the governor at the presentation, said, "In his bid to deliver quality service to the people of Lagos State, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu decided that from the comfort of their homes, our people should be able to visit LASPIC online and get Certified True Copy of approvals that are missing and apply for a building permit online. In Lagos, we have so many buildings without approvals. Lagos State Planning Information Centre (LASPIC) and the Physical Planning and Automation Department have been able to document all those within Lagos State who have approvals.

During the launch of the State's Land Administration e-GIS portal at the Lands Digitization and Automation Centre, Lands Bureau, the Secretariat, Alausa.





L-R: Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu; his special Adviser on e-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Olajide Babatunde; Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat and Permanent Secretary, Lands, Mr. Kamal Olowosago during the launch of the State's Land Administration e-GIS portal at the Lands Digitization and Automation Centre, Lands Bureau, the Secretariat, Alausa.

"We have up to five million properties in Lagos, but we have less than 500,000 properties in the land registry. So, we have less than 10 percent in the land registry. It is only when you have land documentation that you can apply for building approval. That showed that the total number of people who don't have building approval in Lagos is about 90 percent.

"The Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development has said that we are going to give amnesty. So, with amnesty, then comes documentation. So, if we say we are going to give you amnesty because you don't have building approvals, then the best thing is to take advantage of the amnesty that has been announced."

In his address, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Dr. Oluyinka Olumide, said the automation system is to make things easier and, therefore, urged the personnel in charge not to compromise for the system to be a huge success.

According to him, "We want to encourage people from the comfort of their homes to interface with the ministry electronically. They don't necessarily have to be physically here before they get things done. In the

comfort of their homes, they can apply and get approval. The innovation will be very effective because a lot of resources are committed to the venture and, most importantly, it is to eliminate compromise because now people will be interfacing with machines for necessary information, which will enable and simplify the process of building plan."

The Director of the Physical Planning and Automation Department, TPL Musa Okuniyi, added that Lagos residents should look forward to a future where technology and planning go hand-in-hand for the betterment of Lagos State, noting, "As we embark on the transition towards becoming a Smart City, we understand that change is inevitable. I encourage everyone to welcome this change and imbibe the innovations that promise to make Physical Planning activities seamless and efficient.

"These advancements are not just about technology; they are about improving the lives of the people of Lagos State. They are about making our cities more liveable, more sustainable, and more resilient. They are about making Lagos a model for other cities to emulate."