

KAI Brigade Donates To Physically-challenged Children

By Stella Odueme
SNR REPORTER, Lagos

Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI) Brigade, the law enforcement arm of Lagos State Ministry of the Environment, recently donated food items confiscated from illegal street traders to inmates of Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care and Treatment Home/School, at Akoka Yaba.

KAI Marshal-General, Captain Danjuma Maigeri (rtd) reiterated that the donation was in line with the philanthropic gesture of the state government, adding that it was carried out according to the directive of the Commissioner for the Environment, Muiz Banire, that perishable items confiscated from illegal traders be donated to orphanages.

He stated further that it is the wish of the government to embark on such humanitarian gesture as it attracts God's blessings.

"It is our belief that these items will help in alleviating part of the nutritional problems of the inmates of the home", he stated.

Donating the items on behalf of the State Ministry of the Environment, Public Relations Officer of the Brigade, Tunde Olusesi commended the management and staff of the Home for their humanitarian and welfare service to the inmates.

He stated that the donation was done to encourage them to continue their humanitarian activities; taking care of the inmates, feeding them and ensure their total upbringing so that they can contribute their quota to the nation building in the future.

Receiving the items on behalf of the Management of the Home/School, the Vice-Principal, M. I. Bishi expressed her joy and gratitude to the Honourable Commissioner and the entire staff of the Ministry for its assistance to the less privileged, especially physically challenged children in the society.

Some of the Homes that have

NEC Mourns Ali, Adjourns Sitting

By Chesa Chesa,
SNR STATE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT,
Abuja

National Economic Council (NEC) presided over by Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan, on Tuesday at the Presidential Villa, cut short its sitting in honour of Yobe State Governor, Mammam Ali, whose death was announced at the meeting.

Jonathan, who made the announcement, immediately asked the Governor of Niger State,

Babangida Aliyu, to move a motion for adjournment of the meeting.

The Gombe State Governor, Danjuma Goje, seconded the motion, which was further amended by Rivers State Governor, Rotimi Amaechi, that based on the urgent national matter to be discussed by the NEC, the next sitting be held soon after the burial of the governor.

The motion was passed and it was decided that NEC meeting, which usually holds once a quarter, be adjourned to February 12.

Imo State Governor, Ikedi

Ohakim, told reporters that NEC had wanted to discuss the budget, national economy and the general situation of the country, vis-à-vis the global recession.

He noted that though the meeting was adjourned as a mark of respect for the late governor, the economic issues at hand would now be taken up at the next adjourned date.

No official information was forthcoming on the cause of Ali's death, but a source at the Villa said he died of leukaemia (cancer of the blood) in a Florida, United States hospital, where he was receiving treatment.

Ali was a Senator between 1999 and 2007 on the platform of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), before winning the governorship of Yobe State; an event that was preceded by a contentious ANPP nomination exercise.

Abia State Governor, Theodore Orji described Ali's death as very shocking, saying "he was a very wonderful colleague. We are going to miss him, I mean he was a very friendly person".

Lagos Cardiac Centre To Begin Operation

By Funmi Falobi
REPORTER, Lagos

Lagos State Cardiac and Renal Centre in Gbagada General Hospital would soon begin operation, thus foreign cardiac treatment in the country.

Commissioner for Health, Jide Idris said construction work on the project has reached an advanced stage, with required equipment already purchased.

He stated that refresher courses are currently being provided for staff of the centre.

Idris who was speaking at a press briefing on the forthcoming Cardiac Mission programme of the state government, which commenced on yesterday, said the initiative was aimed at providing corrective heart surgeries to people that require such, but could not afford the cost.

He noted that no fewer than three cardiac missions have been organised since 2004, and that about 25 patients had been treated with 92 per cent success rate.

According to him, the average cost of heart surgery in an overseas hospital is between five and six million naira, adding that heart surgery, apart from being performed by only highly trained medical experts that are in short

Celestial Pastor Renounces Position

By Grace Omoshaba
REPORTER, Lagos

Deputy Pastor of the Celestial Church of Christ (CCC), Reverend Olumuyiwa Oshodi, has formally declared abandonment of his title.

He accused all those currently parading, as pastors of the Church as self-serving impostors.

Oshodi made this declaration on Tuesday at a press conference with the theme: "Declaration for the Unification of CCC", held at the Ayilara, Surulere, Lagos parish of the church.

"I, Samuel Olumuyiwa Oshodi, hereby renounce my titles of Reverend and Deputy

•Says Colleagues Are Impostors

Pastor of the Celestial Church of Christ and now revert to my 1985 title of Evangelist (prophet)."

He added that the pastoral position is not part of the constitution of the CCC.

Oshodi called on other "pastors" and trustees of the church to disrobe and join the CCC Unification Worldwide.

"They should hasten to renounce their titles as and go back to their 1985 ranks, because I am sure we have records at the international headquarters, Ketu. They must take to prayer and fasting, because they have tormented this great church and did not wait for the Lord to

choose for us," he added.

"The late Pastor/Founder, Reverend, Prophet S.B.J. Oshoffa anointed me and conferred on me the titles I now bear. I do this as a personal sacrifice, in order to declare my 100 per cent support for the unification of the church; because he who comes to equity must do so with clean hands".

Until his declaration, Oshodi was Deputy to Pastor Paul Suru Maforikan, who heads the second biggest division of the white garment church.

Lagos Can Rival Singapore, Malaysia -Speaker

By Akinwunmi King
REPORTER, Lagos

Speaker of Lagos House of Assembly, Adeyemi Ikuforiji, on Tuesday stated that the state can be developed to rival Singapore, Malaysia and other developing countries in the world.

According to Ikuforiji, there is nothing done in these countries that cannot happen in Lagos.

The Speaker said this when he paid a courtesy visit to the head office of Lagos State Signage and Advertisement Agency (LASAA) in Alausa, Ikeja.

we have not regretted giving legislative backing to the agency.

"With the kind of atmosphere we now have in Lagos in terms of beautification, I can authoritatively say that Lagos is attaining the Mega City status. "We have been able to do away with illegal and indiscriminate placement of billboards. We now go around seeing electronic billboards. This shows we are getting there little by little," he

added.

Ikuforiji, however, maintained that the House would direct the state executive to allow other agencies in the state to tour the agency.

According to him, what the agency has done is worthy of emulation and therefore, there is the need for other agencies to imitate its operation.

Constitution Review Imperative -Rep

By Dolapo Oseni
REPORTER, Lagos

A member of the House Representatives, Dayo Bushir Alebiosu has declared that for the nation to truly get it right, it imperative that the touted review of the 1999 Constitution be carried out.

The lawmaker who represents Kosofe Federal Constituency said "it is very important we get it right. There is need for us to understand what a constitution is and then, if review come in. It is also good to understand how a constitution affects our day-to-day lives. But we get it wrong, we may have to live with it for so long, perhaps another decade".

He said the constitution is central to every sphere of the nation's life the very reason it must be attended to with every detail required.

His words, "There are flaws that must be addressed. We must understand that the constitution was put together to address peculiar cases as at the time it was being done. So, there are new challenges now that must be attended. Whatever we are doing, therefore must benefit the majority citizenry."

"For instance, there are talks about creation of new states; there are those who are craving for independent candidacy and so on. So, whatever we do must take into consideration, a gamut of all these issues, with a view to solving the immediate challenges posed by the flaws in the 1999 Constitution."

"This is why I believe strongly that to move on as a country, the review is inevitable. We must come to the table as people and address the salient issues with all sincerity. Through energy alone, we cannot achieve a lot, especially the vision 2020. Investors will come; there will be massive job creation and the lots", he said.

