

LAGOS STATE SUPPLEMENT

DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

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The New Dawn: ATTRACTIVE LAGOS

Lagos has become the foremost commercial hub of Nigeria, offering a massive and accessible market within the West Africa economic zone, as it continues to attract immigrants, startups and entrepreneurs looking for growth.

SINCE ITS CREATION ON MAY 27, 1967, under state creation Decree No 14 of 1967, which restructured the Nigeria federation into 12 states, Lagos has become the economic hub of the country. Home to over 15 million people, the nation's busiest sea-port that controls over 75 percent of Nigeria's imports and 180km coastline, Lagos is no doubt a huge and accessible market within the West African economic zone. Every week, tens of thousands of people arrive in Lagos, heading to neighborhoods where friends and relatives have come before — in search of the proverbial greener pasture. It is reportedly estimated that 86 immigrants enter Lagos every hour — the highest in any city in the world — with no plans to leave.

In an overcrowded neighborhood in Agege, Bitrus Kwange, 36, is pressing shirts with a heavy, old-fashioned iron filled with charcoal. Bitrus is from a rural village in the north-central city of Jos, and he's left his wife and one-year-old child at home and come here to try to make money in Lagos. "This isn't what I intended to be doing. I

want to do business — to buy and sell," he says. "It's not easy to leave your wife, your child, it's lonely, but I have no choice — it's for the future of the family."

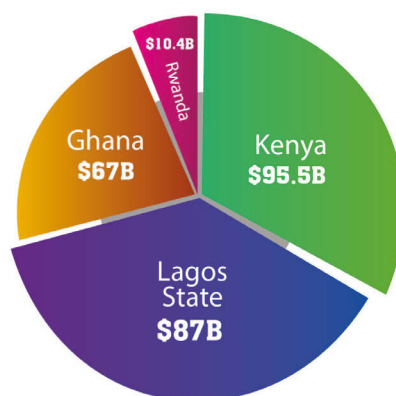
Lagos, fondly referred to as Eko, has become a beacon of hope in Nigeria. The sheer tenacity and audacity of the Lagosian spirit have over the centuries created vast opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation. Lagos has remained over time and

most especially in the last decade, the most attractive destination for those who want to realize and live their Nigerian dream. The ever-increasing population of Lagos, however, means that every administration in the state must double down on the provision of infrastructure to meet the surging population.

For Segun Shittu, a young graduate who recently moved to Lagos from Ondo state, southwest Nigeria, the possibility of getting a well-paid job in Lagos has made the need for relocating more compelling. "I have heard stories of people who came to this city with nothing and got a good job," he says.

"I know mine would not be different because I have my B.Sc. and I know that it might be difficult at the initial stage; it will eventually pay off."

In the last two decades of unbroken democracy, Lagos has seen much evidence of material progress, with successive administrations laying a solid foundation for progress and infrastructure development. The last two decades have also seen the regeneration of several parts of the teeming metropolis. **F**



Gross domestic product of Lagos State compared to some African countries.

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu: A THEME TO RAISE THE PROFILE OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC HUB

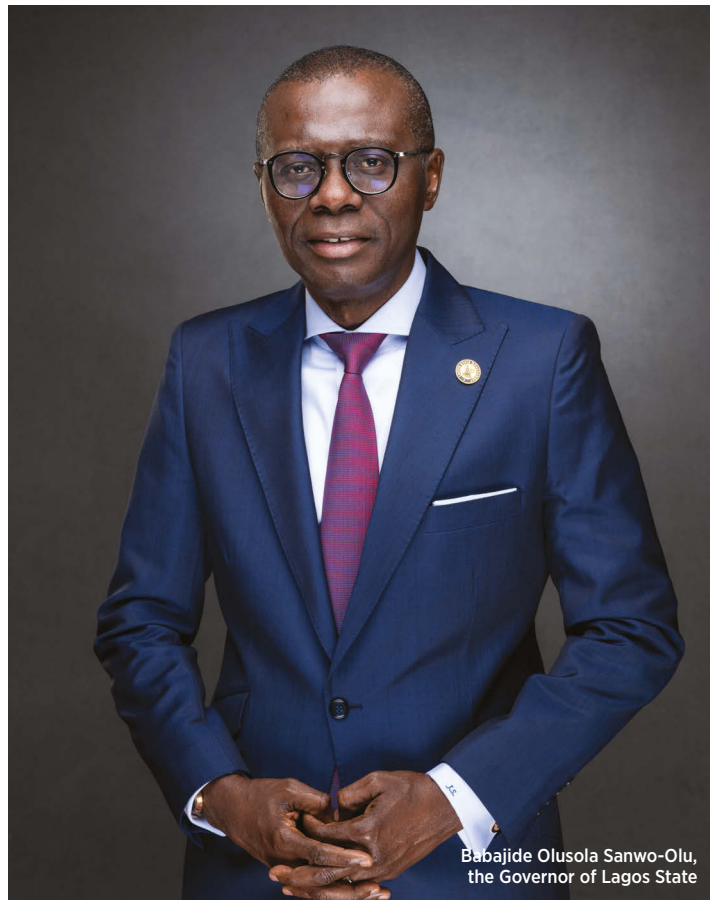
With a career spanning the public and private spheres, it almost seemed a natural trajectory that Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu was chosen Lagos' Governor. He plans to uplift the State with a development agenda titled THEMES covering most aspects of social progress.

ON MARCH 9, 2019, the mantle of leadership fell on Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, having won the Lagos gubernatorial election amongst 44 other contestants in the state, making him the 15th Governor of Lagos State.

As a loyal party member in his mid-50s with a progressive ideology, Sanwo-Olu's leadership seems to have endeared him to major stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the State. He has also enjoyed a career in the private sector.

During the administration of Babatunde Fashola, Sanwo-Olu was appointed commissioner for Establishments, Training, and Pensions. He was also the managing director of the Lagos State Development and Property Development Corporation (LSDPC) under the Akinwunmi Ambode led administration. Notable public sector achievements include the supervision of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), privatization projects, and becoming the Pioneer Board Chairman of the Lagos Security Trust Fund. The LAGBUS System and the Control and Command Centre in Alausa were established under his directives.

Leading to his election, Sanwo-Olu shared his vision with Lagosians promising to revamp the State's infrastructure, rejuvenate the economy and enthrone a



Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu,
the Governor of Lagos State

mega city-state that is clean, where the pace of life is smooth and seamless, among other lofty plans.

After his inauguration as governor, Sanwo-Olu unveiled his developmental agenda called THEMES. The acronym encapsulates his vision: Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education, Making Lagos a 21st Century State, Entertainment and Tourism, and Security and Governance.

Elected alongside Sanwo-Olu was his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, who shares the

same vision. He too has vast experience in both the private and public sector and has served in important roles under the Lagos State government.


Some of his notable assignments were as Special Adviser to the Minister for Works, Power and Housing and as Commissioner for Science and Technology during the tenure of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and when the administration was changed.

Hamzat's vision for the State made him the right candidate to run alongside the governor.

Speaking about her decision to vote for the APC candidates Sanwo-Olu and his deputy in the last gubernatorial election, Alhaja Hafisat Adeyooye, a trader at the popular Ipodo market in Ikeja, says Sanwo-Olu has a better grasp of the challenges Lagosians face.

"He has been around for some time now and he's someone we all know very well," she says. "I had no doubt that he was going to deliver when I voted for him, and he hasn't disappointed the people [who] voted for him."

According to Adeyooye, the impact of Sanwo-Olu's administration cuts across party lines for which people are grateful.

"Look at that big flyover in Agege where I stay, even though the past administration started it, he has completed it and we are enjoying it because traffic has now reduced around Pen Cinema," she says. 

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

A former banker, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, with his team, is now aiming to make the lives of Lagosians easier and better.

GOVERNOR BABAJIDE Olusola Sanwo-Olu boasts experience in both the private and public sectors.

An alumnus of the John F. Kennedy School of Leadership, the London Business School, the Lagos Business School, and the University of Lagos, Sanwo-Olu's leadership model is about qualitative direction and

creating deliberate policies, using his managerial and administrative skills.

Born on June 25, 1965, Sanwo-Olu holds a B.Sc. in Surveying and Geo-Informatics and an MBA from the University of Lagos. He had his early education at Government Demonstration School, Gbaja, Surulere, Lagos, and at Ijebu-Ife Grammar School, Ogun State.

He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), Nigerian Institute of Directors (IOD) and a Fellow of the Nigeria Institute of Training and Development (NITAD).

He was a former treasurer of the Lead Merchant Bank from 1994 to 1997 before joining United Bank for Africa (UBA) as Head of Foreign Money Market.

He subsequently moved to First Inland Bank Plc (now First City Monument Bank), from where he retired as a Deputy General Manager and Divisional Head.

His wife, Ibijoke, is a medical professional who has been working to make sure that the healthcare sector in Lagos is the best in the country.

Family is a focal point in the quest to make Lagos a great city. It is evident in how close-knit the governor's family is and how they share the same goals in making Lagos State better.

To Sanwo-Olu, the future of Lagos would be built on the family unit, where families can thrive, succeed, and reach for goals together.

Sanwo-Olu is seemingly down-to-earth. At public events, he is often

taking selfies or dancing with guests.

The governor recently invited chess champion, Ferdinand Maumo from Makoko, Yaba, to a game at the Lagos House Marina. Maumo, despite his struggle with cerebral palsy, had become a chess champion at the age of 10.

The governor also recently displayed his football skills as he played host to Asisat Oshoala, a Nigerian footballer who plays as a striker for Spanish side FC Barcelona Femení.

Oshoala, a four-time CAF women's player of the year, is making plans to set up her own foundation in the commercial city.

The governor has now appointed youth to the state executive cabinet while women also occupy prominent positions in his administration.

During the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, he came up with a response plan, which was reportedly emulated by the presidency and he provided key inputs to the national response plan.

With huge economic potential, Lagos has a great future.

The Sanwo-Olu administration is keen to advance the frontiers, the upliftment of Lagosians and the construction of bridges and platforms of peace and security for residents.

But he hasn't done this on his own. Surrounded by a team of visionaries, the governor has worked hand in hand with several ministries, from the Ministry of Health to the Ministries of Agriculture, Transport, Infrastructure, Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation; and including organizations such as the Lagos State Resident Registration Agency, the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund, the Lagos State Public Procurement Agency and the Lagos State Resident Registration Agency, to make his vision possible.

These determined men and women have worked together with Sanwo-Olu to make sure that Lagos State is not only achieving the resolutions set at the Ehingbeti Summit but working in line with the governor's vision of creating a 30-year plan that will make the lives of Lagosians better, easier, and more fulfilling.

Although some of these projects have been fulfilled and some are underway, the governor and his team have no intention to stop at the moment until Lagos is a mega city that every person in the world would want to live in. **P**



Ehingbeti: THE LAGOS 'THINK TANK' SUMMIT

The Ehingbeti Lagos Economic Summit, held virtually in February due to the pandemic, continues to birth solutions for the development of Lagos State and drive transformation.

THE LAGOS ECONOMIC Summit, also known as Ehingbeti, was created as a platform where members of the private and public sectors meet to discuss ways to drive socio-economic growth, innovation and infrastructure development in Lagos State.

The summit has witnessed 193 implementations out of 203 resolutions suggested by those in attendance.

What started as an annual event in 2000 has evolved into a biannual conference.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Ehingbeti 2021, the 8th event, was held virtually from February 16-18.

The Chairman of this year's summit, Dr Yemi Cardoso, explained that with the pandemic came challenges and also responsibilities.

"We see clearly that it cannot be the public sector alone handling these challenges or the private sector handling these challenges. There has to be a marriage between both sectors to make sure that the State can grow and thrive," he said.

This was why Ehingbeti came to the fore, bringing investors to Lagos who can also



see the vision the public sector has and help make it happen, as Lagos is a State that has huge potential.

Cardoso, alongside Sam Egube, chairman for the public sector for the 2021 summit, reminisced how he was on the other side of the chair 20 years ago and how starting the Ehingbeti summit was a great thing that has seen growth.

He also emphasized that getting the people to trust the public sector is important and it is because of this trust that people would be able to invest, put in manpower and push for the success of the state.

Cardoso, as chairman of Citibank too has a wealth of experience in not just growing investments but economies. According to him, Ehingbeti is a platform for the discussion of very serious issues about socio-economic and infrastructural development.


Cardoso, like every other leading member on the Ehingbeti team, is serious about the transformation of Lagos into the best State in the world.

The 2021 edition, titled 'For a Greater Lagos: Setting The Tone For The Next Decade', saw 150 speakers from across the globe speak on various themes.

These included Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and Mohamed Yahya, UNDP resident representative.

The three-day summit, which was structured into segments, had experts speak about specific themes such as 'Destination Lagos: Becoming the World's Best Investment Destination', 'Eko to the World: Shaping the Future of Trade and Economic Independence', 'Lagos, the Industrial Hub', 'Made in Lagos: Shaping the Future of Media, Entertainment, Culture and Tourism', 'Security, Law and Order (Balancing Regulation and Economic Growth)' and 'Citizens Participation in Governance'.

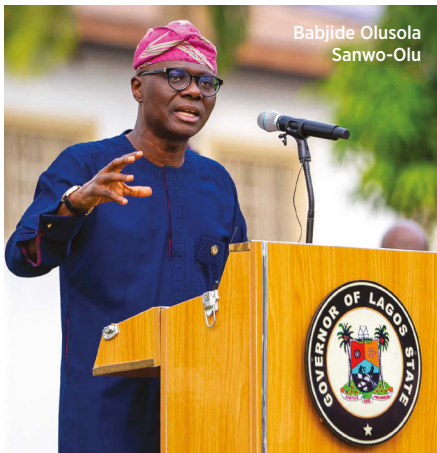
Other themes discussed at the conference included 'The Role of Transparency, Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability in Governance', '4th Industrial Revolution: The Imperatives and Prospects for Digital Economy', 'Digital Transformation for Smart Cities', 'Unleashing Disruptive Innovation for Development', 'Shaping the Future of Governance with Technology' and 'Roadmap to Shared Prosperity – Ensuring Inclusive Human Development'.

Also present at the summit was the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Obafemi Hamzat, who said that one of the major issues the State government experienced was raising revenues. "The present Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has made it a mission to not only advance the State, but also draw investments that add to the growth of the State. And that is why the team behind Ehingbeti works so hard to make sure the summit is always a success," he said. 

Ehingbeti: PUSHING ON

From education, transport, housing and the plight of the vulnerable in society, the 2021 Ehingbeti Summit proposed innovative solutions for each. Behind these proposals is a group of leaders now eager to bring out the best in Lagos State and its people.

AT THE CLOSING OF THE Lagos Economic Summit, also known as Ehingbeti, the Lagos State Deputy Governor Obafemi Hamzat listed 11 resolutions passed by stakeholders for collaborative execution after dialogue during the three-day summit.



Babajide Olusola
Sanwo-Olu

These were:

1. Recognizing the dramatic shifts that have been brought about by the realities of the 21st century as well as the roles of technology in all aspects of our lives. It is recommended that Government continues to provide an enabling environment and support of technology hubs. It was also requested that the State continue to provide venture capital to budding businesses and SMEs to boost their start-up capacity as well as sustain them. We, as a government, will look to deepen our work in this area through existing and new programs at LSETF, LASRIC and the Ministries of Wealth Creation, WAPA and Youth and Sports Development and welcome collaborators to work with us.
2. The need to harness the power of youth and to put policies and programs in place to unleash the potential of our teeming youth population was strongly highlighted. Policies must be robust and treat youth as assets. There should be a concerted youth-focused capacity building in digital literacy, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), the arts, entertainment, sports and other sub-sectors must be created by the Government in partnership with the private sector. We recognize that they are different from us and capable of making their own way in the world, therefore, we must seek to understand them and how to adequately support them.
3. Another overwhelmingly emphasized point was the need to improve the State education system through a thorough overhaul of the curriculum with a view to providing an education that meets 21st century realities, thereby reducing youth unemployment.
4. It is recognized that Lagos State plays a critical role in the industrialization of Nigeria, and indeed the success of Africa. Hence, the State was mandated to venture audaciously in projecting its brand and take advantage of the upcoming large united African market.
5. Some of the conspicuous infrastructure development, especially increased road networks, housing schemes and optic fiber investments were appreciated and encouraged to be scaled up to cater for its demographic endowment. Stakeholders in Lagos must collectively invest in the infrastructure of the future i.e. telecommunication, the green economy and renewable energy.

6. Given the importance of the ease of doing business, Government was implored to reinvent its processes and operations to improve transparency and accountability and secure the trust and confidence of stakeholders sustainably. The State also needs to continue promoting accountability through responsible and responsive revenue institutions as well prudent deployment of tax policy that can be accurately determined.



Sam Egube,
Public Co-Chairman, Lagos State



EHINGBETI IS THAT ONE BIG PLATFORM THAT ACTUALLY CONNECTS OUR PARTNERS TOGETHER INTO A CONVERSATION AND THIS IS A VERY BIG EVENT THAT CONTRIBUTES TO LAGOS ON A CONSTANT BASIS. THIS SHOWS IT IS A VERY VERITABLE TOOL TO DRIVING DEVELOPMENT."

7. The invaluable role of data in economic growth and development was noted and Government was enjoined to upgrade the functions of the Lagos Bureau of Statistics to be an independent, professional bureau to boost data management for development. The capacity of the State to conduct rigorous qualitative and quantitative research must be strengthened.
8. Lagos State Government was commended on its commitment to gender balance in public appointments and advocated continuous improvement on it. The Summit also recommended greater attention to be paid to matters of women and children and emphasized that Government must continue to pay attention to the inclusion of people with disabilities, the poor and vulnerable in the society. With the establishment of our State Social Register and Social Protection Policy enacted in 2020, we will work to make the required social investments, alongside our many partners in the private, civil society and development sectors to meet the needs of our people. Above all, we recognize the place of citizens as critical stakeholders and commit to according to them their pride of place in our business processes and service delivery.
9. The State Government must continue to build strong law enforcement institutions, develop zero-tolerance for law-breaking and indiscipline as well as hold its Public Officers accountable for unethical behavior. Investment in technology to drive e-government, e-commerce and security must be intensified.
10. The current level of public enlightenment and publicity of Government's plans, projects and programs needs to be improved. There is a need to ramp up and find new ways of creating public awareness and improving participation in government programs.
11. All parties stressed the importance of and renewed commitment to improved partnerships and collaboration across national, state and other sub-national governments, the Private Sector, Civil Society and the international community.

Some specific achievements from the 2021 Ehingbeti Summit include: the Lagos Blue Line and the Red Line rail projects, the 4th Mainland Bridge, the Lekki Toll Road Concession Project, and the Lekki Deep Sea Port Phase I.

In the area of housing, the notable ideas conceived at the summit include the Ilubirin Foreshore Estate Projects, 492-Flat Jakande Gardens Housing Estate in Igando, Lagos Rent-to-Own housing scheme for over 4,000 residents.

The Lagos EKOEXCEL that empowers 450,000 pupils in Lagos with Personal E-Learning devices, Lagos Energy Academy to provide hands-on vocational training on the Power Sector Value Chain, Lagos Agriculture-based Youth Empowerment Scheme are all products of the economic summit.

In the health sector, the 110-bed Maternal and Child Centre in Eti-Osa Local Government Developed 10-Storey Doctors Quarters at General Hospital, Lagos and refurbished Onikan Health Centre, Lagos State Health Financing Policy are ideas that emerged from the summit.

Sam Egube, Public Co-Chairman of the 2021 Ehingbeti Summit, said: "Ehingbeti is that one big platform that actually connects our partners together into a conversation

and this is a very big event that contributes to Lagos on a constant basis. This shows it is a very veritable tool to driving development."

He highlighted some of the ministries run by women that have supported the Ehingbeti Summit thus far and have worked side by side to make sure that the resolutions come to reality. These include the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry and many more.

Since his appointment as the commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget by the Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2019, Egube has been passionate about the economic growth of Lagos State by engaging industry giants locally and internationally to see how they can come together and create a great Lagos.

Egube uses his experience as a life coach to understand the needs of people and this has helped him create ideas that have increased productivity in Lagos.

He has increasingly been a mouthpiece for education, encouraging young people to reach their full potential by embracing the education scheme and opportunities created by the Lagos State government.

He believes that together as people, Lagos State can be turned into a place that rivals any other city in the world. **E**



Traffic Management And Transportation: ON TRACK FOR PROGRESS

The easy movement of people in any area from point A to B is at the heart of economies across the world. Yet, the streets of Lagos are packed with vehicles creating congestion and chaos. The solution is a multi-pronged approach using rail, boats or ferries, and buses for people to easily commute in.



A view of Lagos Bridge

AN ESTIMATED 1.6 MILLION vehicles use Lagos' roads daily with the highest national vehicular density of over 226 vehicles/km against the country average of 1/km, according to the August 2019 Nigerian Bar Association general conference in Lagos. This means tackling traffic congestion in the State is a priority.

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu signed an executive order to address issues of traffic control, potholes, and sanitation in the State.

The order is to ensure the attainment of zero tolerance for the indiscriminate dumping of refuse and the construction of structures on drainage points and setbacks.

The governor directed the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) to operate a minimum of two shifts by

managing traffic until 11PM daily. Also, as a way of ensuring a corrupt-free LASTMA, the Governor announced a 100% increase in their allowance.

Motorcycle and tricycle riders were also banned across 15 local councils as a stop-gap solution to the endless traffic jams. To solve the traffic jam problems, Lagos State, in partnership with Choice International Group Motors (CIG Motors), plans to establish a plant for the production of GAC motors to run the government's new taxi scheme initiative with a pilot fleet size of 1,000 vehicles.

Sanwo-Olu also launched the Uber Boat Water Transportation Service, a partnership between the global ride-hailing company and the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), which is exploring the State's abundant waterways, reducing the pressure on the roads.

The Lagos Ferry Services (LAGFERRY) launched its operations in February 2020. In its fleet are 14 boats with a capacity of between 30 and 60 passengers. Apart from the Badore Ferry Terminal in Ajah, other modern jetties are being built in areas such as Ijegun, Badagry, Lekki, and Ajegunle.

In June, the governor handed over the seven newly-procured, high-capacity passenger boats and the Launch of Cowry Card for Water Transportation at the Five

Lekki Toll Gate, Lagos



Cowries Ferry Terminal, Falomo Ikoyi Lagos. The new boats were all built by Nigerian boat builders, in fulfillment of the promise made by the governor to support local content.

Sierra Craft Limited, V-Craft Limited and Niger Benue Transport Company (NBTC), have all indicated a strong interest to establish their boat factory in Epe, Lagos.


A big boost for residents is the commencement of construction work on the 37km rail mass transit Red Line across the State. The project is expected to traverse from Agbado to Marina, while the rail corridor will be constructed in three phases, with a target of conveying more than a million commuters daily.

The implementation of the Red Line is being supported under the Differentiated Cash Reserve Requirement (DCRR) program; a financing package put in place by the State government through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). The first phase (Agbado-Iddo), which will be completed in 24 months, will share a track with the



federal government's Lagos-Ibadan railway modernization project up to Ebute-Metta. There will be a dedicated track to run from Ebute-Meta to Oyingbo, which will reduce travel time from about two-and-a-half hours to 35 minutes.

Interestingly, the unique characteristic of the Red Line is its integration with the Ikeja Bus Terminal, Oshodi–Abule Egba Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane, the future Orange Line, which goes from Ikeja to Agbowa. The Red Line also integrates with the State's bus terminals at Oyingbo, Yaba, Oshodi, Ikeja and Iju, giving modal options to Lagosians in their daily commute.

Other rail lines on the drawing board are the 68km Green Line from Marina through Victoria Island, Lekki Phases 1 and 2, Ajah, Ogombo, Lekki Airport to Lekki Free Trade Zone; the 60km – Purple Line from the Redemption Camp through Ogba, Iyana Ipaja, Igando and ending at Ojo; and 34 kilometers Yellow Line from Otta through Isheri Osun, Ejigbo Mafoluku, Isolo to National Theater. There is also the 48km Orange Line from Ikeja crossing through Mile 12, Ikorodu, Alapadi, Eligana, Isiwu, Imota and ending at Agbowa. 



Improving staff and patient welfare

Health And Environment: CARE FOR ALL

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted not only the need for a robust healthcare system, but one that is able to serve all citizens equally. Lagos State has made progress in improving its policies, infrastructure and the morale of its medical professionals.

“HEALTHCARE IS A HUMAN right, no one should face bankruptcy or death because of lack of healthcare,”

famously says Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior.

To overhaul Lagos State's health sector, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his administration unveiled a blueprint for a total upgrade of infrastructure in the state-owned healthcare facilities, a project being executed under the Medical Project Implementation Unit (MPIU).

This is part of a strategy to build resilient healthcare in Lagos and increase residents' access to quality universal health coverage, with the comprehensive refurbishment being carried out on a short-, medium- and long-term basis. This is expected to bring about fit-for-purpose healthcare facilities that would raise the capacity of the State to respond to

contemporary and future health challenges.

]The Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has launched 'Ilera Eko', a call to action for all residents to prioritize their health and buy into the Lagos State Health Scheme (LSHS).

A 149-bed Maternal and Childcare Centre (MCC) in Alimosho General Hospital was recently commissioned; the specialist center is equipped with ultra-modern equipment to aid the prompt delivery of maternal and childcare services.

Another four-floor 110-bed MCC was also recently commissioned in Eti-Osa. Specially designed to provide integrated healthcare for mothers and children, the facility has four operational surgical theaters, defibrillators, ventilators, and oxygen therapy and photo therapy units.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the maternal mortality

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Deb Haaland, United States
Secretary of the Interior


rate in Nigeria is 814 (per 100,000 live births). Evidence suggests that the high rate of maternal and neonatal mortality in Nigeria is linked to delay in making critical decisions to seek maternal healthcare.

The Healthy Bee Initiative of the Lagos Government, a free healthcare program aimed at combating organ impairment and life-threatening ailments in children, saw over 25,000 residents benefiting from free treatment and surgery recently.

The governor has also approved the construction and equipping of a 1,500-bed Psychiatric Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre at Majidun in Ketu Ejinrin.

The government completed the construction of a four-story Faculty of Basic Medical and Clinical Sciences Office Block at the Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM) and plans have been concluded for renovation and upgrade of some facilities at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH).

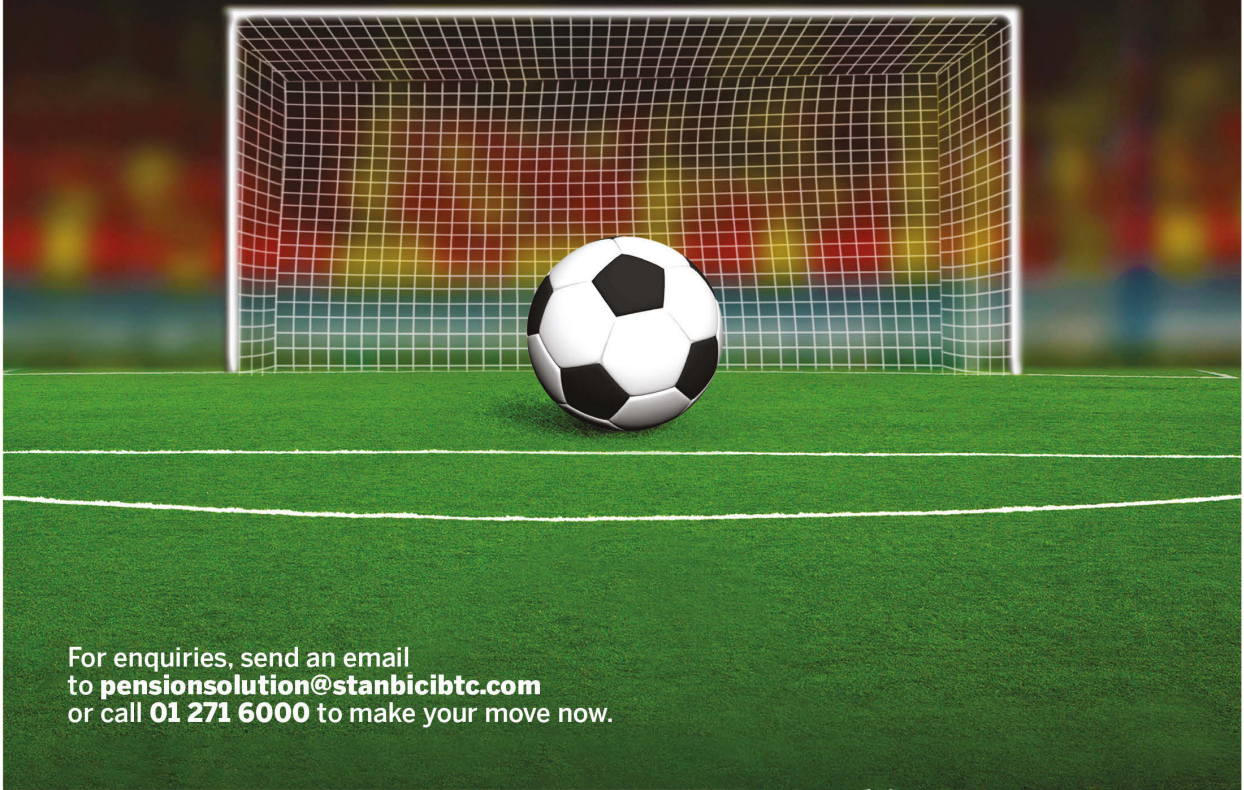
In partnership with the private sector, Lagos State has also completed and handed over an oxygen plant at Mainland and Gbagada General Hospitals and delivered Triage and Oxygen Centers in 10 locations across Lagos.

In raising staff welfare, the state government has also started the construction of a 24-unit doctors-and-staff quarters at Gbagada General Hospital to further boost the morale of medical professionals in the State. 



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Education: KEY LESSONS

A solid education is one of the most basic building blocks for any nation's empowerment and upliftment. Lagos State is making inroads into tackling the challenges of the education system by considering technological changes and basic human needs.

E DUCATION HAS BEEN described as the most important resource for human development. In realization of this, the Lagos State Governor increased the 2020 budgetary allocation to the education sector to 65%, a clear demonstration of the administration's commitment to raising the standard of education in the State.

South Africa's former president, the late Nelson Mandela, described education as the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

As part of the reforms in the education sector, the Eko Excel, an acronym for Excellence in Child Education and Learning, was launched in January 2020.

The initiative is designed to reposition public education in the State and improve methods of teaching to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The broader concept of this initiative is to transform all government primary schools across the state by connecting teachers to a neoteric model of the pedagogical profession, using innovative technology and data-driven platforms.

People live in an information-rich society where the amount of information and knowledge is doubling at a significant rate. Technology is restructuring the educational system, changing teaching and learning in ways that impact all.

And as roles are changing, new skills are required, prompting teachers to find meaningful ways and workable strategies for teaching with technology.

The government is projecting to market this refined business among 500,000 pupils across the 1,016 public primary schools in the State.



Presently, 4,000 primary school teachers and educational managers from 300 schools have been integrated into the cognitive and analytical system of the project.

Sanwo-Olu has since commissioned over 1,097 school infrastructure projects, covering 970 schools across the 20 Local Governments and 37 Local Council Development Areas. About 322 dilapidated public schools were also renovated, providing 87,000 units-dual composite furniture for 775 primary and secondary schools with an additional 300 classrooms and seven new blocks of student hostels.

The administration gave N350 million (approximately \$850,600) bailout for personnel cost and increased the subvention of the Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education from N200 million (\$486,000) to N250 million (\$607,000).

More than three decades after it was established, the Lagos State University (LASU) is set to become a residential tertiary institution as the State government, under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP), has signed a Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement with six property developers to construct 8,272 units of hostels on the school's premises.

The project is expected to be completed within 18 months though the concession will run for 35 years and upon completion, the facility will accommodate 30% of the 26,000-student population. **F**

Waste Management: RECYCLE AND REPURPOSE

Recycling plays a huge role in the betterment of the environment, and Lagos is undertaking an innovative project to encourage the habit among its residents.

T HE LAGOS STATE WASTE Management Authority (LAWMA) acquired 10 boats to boost its marine waste operations. The agency also launched the Lagos Blue Box Initiative. The innovative scheme represents a milestone in waste management in Lagos.

Half of the waste generated in the State contains re-usable resources that could be harnessed and channeled to strengthen the economy of Lagos.

With Blue Box, Lagosians are required to keep two waste bags at home instead of one. Two color-coded bags would be distributed to households by franchised recyclers and environmental volunteer corps.

The blue bag will be for recyclable waste items like plastic, water sachets, cans, and so on, while the black bag will be for general non-recyclable waste.

The several advantages of the Blue Box Initiative include capturing 50% of recyclables upstream, with zero tolerance for scavenging.

It would also attract major investors to strengthen the State's economy, create more jobs, reduce carbon footprints and encourage zero waste generation for a healthier, cleaner and sustainable environment.

A waste-to-wealth project such as the Blue Box Initiative will transform waste management into a wealth creation venture that will help tackle the twin issue of poverty and unemployment.

The initiative is being projected to generate over 46,000 direct and indirect jobs for Lagosians. **F**

Information, Communication And Tech: THE BACKBONE OF DEVELOPMENT

Technology has become a cornerstone of societal progress. Lagos State is keeping pace with infrastructure development to enrich the personal and professional lives of its people.

LIKE EVERY OTHER developing country that is investing in technology, the government of Lagos State is also strategically building a formidable future through its massive investment in Information Technology.

To promote a smart city with technology, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu's administration organized the Art of Technology Lagos where he announced a seed fund of N250 million (\$608,000) to the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC) to boost technological innovations in the State. The agency was established with the mandate to facilitate and encourage the development of innovative solutions to solve local problems, using cutting-edge technology.

In a bid to make Lagos the technological hub of sub-Saharan Africa, the State government in conjunction with internet giants Google and Facebook is building the biggest tech campus in Lagos. The tech campus to be situated on a 22,000sqm land in Yaba, is christened KITE, an acronym for Knowledge, Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship.

On completion, the tech campus would be a free zone that allows the growth of funding and financing for innovative ideas generated by entrepreneurs in the tech industry and fintech space.

The governor described technology as "the new oil" for Lagos – Africa's largest mega city – to exponentially generate wealth and jobs for its young population, while also leveraging it in raising the status of the State



to attain the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The government is also currently laying 3,000km of metropolitan fiber optic cables across the State for reliable and fast internet connectivity in homes and workplaces.

These are part of the infrastructure required as the backbone for the tech industry to flourish and empower young people in the space to take their businesses and ideas to the next level of stability.

The unified metro fiber project, which the Sanwo-Olu administration kick-started,

is a multi-year smart city program that will see the installation of 6,000km fiber optic cables across the State in two phases.

In the first phase, which started last year, 3,000km of fiber optic cables are being rolled out within the metropolis.

The State government has also been providing support for startups through the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and LASRIC, which provide grant opportunities to innovators and tech researchers. **F**

Entertainment And Tourism: THE MAKING OF THE CULTURAL ECONOMY

The tourism and entertainment industries can greatly boost any economy. Lagos State has initiatives to uplift these industries, which were some of the hardest hit by the global pandemic.



The creative economy awakens

MINDFUL OF THE FACT that the tourism and entertainment sectors are an integral part of socio-economic development, and the overall wellbeing of its citizens, the Lagos Government has continued to support these sectors.

The State government recently initiated an intervention project that will jump-start the transformation of the entertainment and tourism sectors with the inauguration of the committee on film production empowerment.

The committee will fund youth creativity and entertainment activities in the State, following the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic that impacted negatively on entertainment and tourism.

Veteran filmmaker and Nollywood actor, Richard Mofe-Damijo, is the chairman of the nine-member committee,

comprising five industry practitioners and four government officials. They are selected to drive the governor's vision to actively support youth creativity and entrepreneurship in the sector.

Lagos State Committee For Creativity

The committee's inauguration came months after the governor set aside N1 billion (\$2.4 million) seed capital to unlock the potential in the hospitality and tourism businesses.

The scheme is to support the creative ideas of movie and entertainment producers who are constrained by funds to bring their concepts into reality.

Applicants are supported with funding based on the financial plans of their projects. The grant may be as much as N40 million (\$97,200) for each beneficiary.

The State recently developed a Tourism Master Plan that will serve as a pathway

for the implementation of every tourism activity in the State.

The master plan contains the development of the State's waterfront for tourism purposes under Beach and Leisure captured in the Tourism Master Plan, the exploration of medical tourism, and the focus on MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition) among others.

These implementations were made carefully with the culture and traditions of the Lagos people in mind as Lagos is home to millions of people with different cultural, traditional and religious values and this adds heavily to tourism.

The new implementations were also put in place to ensure that people enjoy all that Lagos has to offer and are safe while doing so.

This is necessary due to some yearly religious events like the Christian Experience organized by the House On The Rock Church, which sees over 500,000 people coming to the State to worship.

Or the Eyo Festival, also known as the Adamu Orisha Play, that brings in hundreds of thousands of people, including foreign nationals, to the State to enjoy the culture. Now, people can go to these events or places without having to worry about their safety or health.

The above seem to tie in with everything on the THEMES agenda that the governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu started at the beginning of his tenure. **F**

Security: SAFE HAVEN

Citizens should feel safe at home and at work. This means a strengthening of national security in an uncertain world.

REALIZING THE SECURITY of lives and the properties of citizens is the first duty of any government. Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and his administration have continued to improve the level of security in Lagos State.

The Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF), a public-private partnership initiative, was created for the sole purpose of raising funds and other resources to support Security Agencies in the State (particularly the Rapid Response Squad – RRS) in combating crimes in the State.

One hundred and fifty units of double cabin vehicles, 30 patrol saloon cars, four high-capacity troop carriers, and two anti-riot water cannon vehicles were part of the crime-fighting equipment donated to the police, on June 10, 2021, by the Lagos government to strengthen security responses across the State which was commissioned by Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari. **P**



Mass Housing And Youth EMPOWERMENT ALSO INCLUDED

A housing project



In January, 264 flats ranging from one to four bedrooms were commissioned for upper- and middle-income earners in two different estates in the Ikate Elegushi and Lekki area of Lagos State.

THE 492-FLAT HOUSING project in the Igando area of Lagos was completed and handed over to its new occupants in 2019. The project, which originally started in 2012 under the Home Ownership Scheme (HOS) of the administration of former Governor Babatunde Fashola is testimony to Sanwo-Olu's campaign pledge to complete and deliver all critical projects inherited from the last administration.

The estate is fittingly named after the first civilian governor of Lagos State, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, who died on February 11, 2021. Similarly, the recently commissioned 132-unit Lagos HOMS project at Iponri in Surulere area was named after Fashola.

There are also an additional 360 units in Igbogbo, 744 in Sangotedo, 660 in Agbowa and 680 in Egan Igando are slated for commissioning soon.

Also under the Agro-Processing Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Support (APPEALS) and the Women and Youth Empowerment Scheme (WYEP), 350 have graduated. Out of these beneficiaries, 165 majored in the poultry value chain, 35 in the rice value chain and 150 in the aquaculture value chain. The thrust of the project is to increase farmers' productivity, production, and improve the processing and marketing of the target value chains, which would foster job creation along identified value chains.

The Imota Rice Mill in Lagos is nearing completion. The 38-metric-ton-per-hour mill will be one of the biggest on the continent when completed.

It is expected to create between 1,000 and 1,500 jobs and positively impact the rice value chain that will produce 2.4 million bags of 50kg rice yearly. **P**

Office Of SDGs:

MAKING LAGOS THE MOST DESIRABLE INVESTMENT DESTINATION

The vision for Lagos State ties in with global goals set by the United Nations to improve the lives of people across the world. Brick by brick, the State is aiming to inch closer to making those goals a reality.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) Sustainable Development Summit held in New York in September 2015, the United National General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the heart of the decision. It is a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030.”

The goals include:

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Wellbeing
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reducing Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life On Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

The Lagos State Office of SDGs was established to enable the realization of the Sanwo-Olu administration’s developmental plan, THEMES (Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education, Making Lagos a 21st Century State, Entertainment and Tourism, Security and Governance) and by extension, the

SDGs. It also serves as the gateway that attracts investment to Lagos and facilitates the ease of doing business.

The office has been granted permission to establish a One-Stop-Shop Secretariat, a centralized office for ease of approval for both potential and existing investors who would like to set up businesses in the State.

Some achievements of the office include the coordination of the Lagos Care Initiative, a World Bank-funded socio-economic intervention program for vulnerable residents designed to impact about 20,000 people, 69 markets, and 2,512 Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs).

The Office coordinated the official launch of the Conditional Cash Transfer Project in vulnerable communities by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in conjunction with the Lagos State Government at Ikoyi/Obalende Local Council Development Area.

It also launched the maiden SDGs Week in conjunction with some organized private sectors with free distribution of food items, instructional materials and medical equipment.

Some 45,000 instructional materials were distributed to primary school pupils across the State; 250,000 medical items donated by Procter and Gamble Ltd. were distributed to selected nursing mothers in Lagos State through the Office of the First Lady, Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu.

Also launched was a women’s initiative called HerVest, a women-focused, easy-to-use financial platform for underserved and excluded women in Africa. HerVest currently serves over 4,000 women. HerVest

has helped women save and offered blended finances to female farmers in excess of \$500,000 in their first year.

The Office successfully trained over 5,000 youth for its skills acquisition program towards the achievement of SDGs 8 and 9: Decent Work and Economic Growth and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.


The program continued this year with a target of training additional 10,000 youths. Solape Hammond, Special Adviser to the governor on SDGs and Investment, says: “There is nothing like working beside a man whose vision extends beyond his tenure.

The Lagos State Governor is determined to make Lagos a 21st century State that he hired great minds and people who would work together with him to make the State great.”

Like the governor, Hammond has both private and public sector experience, working in management consulting, risk management, banking and financial advisory for 20 years before assuming her role as a Special Adviser.

She is a fierce supporter of several macro-economic initiatives; this includes the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Capital Markets Transformation plan and the Central Bank of Nigeria Transformation Program.

For her constant pursuit to make Lagos State better, she has received several awards, one of which is the Nigerian public sector leadership and productivity award.

She intends to do more within her power to draw the youth and people of Lagos in, to make them contribute to the development of the State and show a clear picture of what Lagos can be like 30 years from now. 

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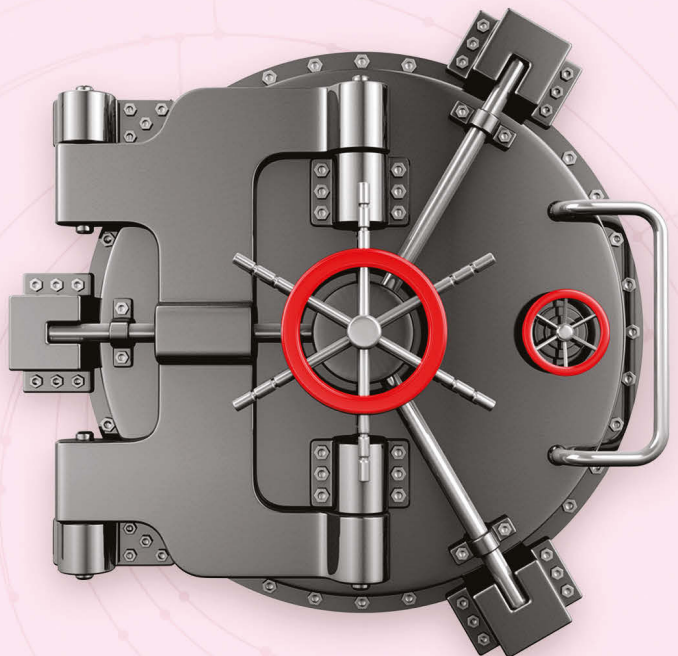


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