

DOING GOOD BULLETIN



A PUBLICATION BY TACT FOR LAGOS EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

OVER 100 YOUTHS
GET AI JOBS AT Awarri AI



IKORODU-ITOIKIN
JOURNEY SO FAR



OVER 25,000 FOOD
PACKS SHARED



“We need to demonstrate more
empathy
towards the people”

- SENATOR TOKUNBO ABIRU, FCA

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SPECIAL BIRTHDAY EDITION
60TH

Grateful Heart!



As I reflect on the remarkable journey that has led me to this moment, the milestone of my 60th birthday, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude to Almighty Allah.

This special occasion, celebrated through the pages of our bulletin **“DOING GOOD,”** embodies a principle that has been my guiding light throughout my life: a steadfast dedication to serving others and making a meaningful impact through philanthropy and empowerment.

This guiding principle has been the cornerstone of my endeavours, particularly evident in the establishment of the SAIL Empowerment Foundation and the SAIL Innovation Lab. This innovation hub is a testament to our commitment to empowering the youths within the Lagos East Senatorial District with knowledge in technology, data science, and STEM education tailored for secondary schools. It is through these initiatives that we seek to unlock the potential of our younger generation, equipping them with skills and tools to compete in our already changed world of technology and innovation.

Beyond the realms of education, this principle has also inspired my vision for supporting small businesses. With over 1,000 small businesses

across Lagos East having access to funds at a concessionary interest rate of 6% per annum through our constituency revolving loan. We have ignited the dreams of countless entrepreneurs, providing them the means to flourish and contribute to our nation's socio-economic development.

At the heart of these achievements lies the unwavering support of my family. To my beloved wife, Mrs. Feyisola Abiru, your love and encouragement have been my anchor. To my children, Fadekemi and Ikepo, who share the joy of celebrating their birthdays on same day with me, your existence has been a constant source of joy and motivation. And to Demilade, your spirit enriches our family even further.

In my political journey, I owe a debt of gratitude to my political leader, the President of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**, alongside other political leaders and constituents, friends, and well-wishers whose support and guidance have been invaluable. Your belief in my potential and vision has propelled me to strive for excellence and dedication in my service to our community and nation.

As we move forward, my resolve to continue this journey of doing good remains unwavering. The challenges ahead are daunting, but the opportunity to make a lasting impact in the lives of those we serve fuels my commitment. Through continued efforts in empowerment, education, and entrepreneurship, we can foster a legacy of positive change.

Together, we can continue to make a difference, shaping a greater and more prosperous future for the Lagos East Senatorial District and the nation.

With profound gratitude and renewed dedication,

SENATOR MUKHAIL ADETOKUNBO ABIRU, FCA
Chairman, Senate Committee on Banking,
Insurance & other Financial Institutions.

Chairman, Southern Senators' Forum
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

THE COPYRIGHT ACT REPEAL AND RE-ENACTMENT BILL 2021

The Nigeria Senate passed a significant update to its copyright law with the Copyright Act 2021, replacing the outdated Copyright Act Cap C28 2004.

This new legislation is designed to address the complexities of copyright protection in the digital age and align Nigeria's framework with international standards, notably the World Trade Organization's TRIPS Agreement. Key features of the updated law include modernizing terminology to reflect current technology trends by favoring "audiovisual works" over "cinematograph films," and introducing a dispute resolution mechanism for copyright issues.

To combat copyright infringement more effectively, the Act increases penalties and introduces new offenses for aiding, abetting, and attempting copyright violations. It also explicitly makes online and digital reproductions subject to copyright laws, thereby closing previous legal loopholes. The law expands copyright holders' rights, notably granting them exclusive online distribution rights, and makes the creation, possession, or distribution of anti-copying technology circumvention devices an offense. Furthermore, it extends customs regulations to combat the import and export of infringing copies and empowers internet service providers to remove or disable access to infringing content. This comprehensive overhaul demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to fostering a legally protected creative industry and innovation landscape.



The Nigerian Senate has recently passed for second reading two significant legislative bills, both championed by Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru of Lagos East and supported by 41 members of the Committee on Banking, Insurance, and other Financial Institutions. These proposals aim to amend the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Act, 2007, and the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Act, marking a pivotal effort to update and refine Nigeria's financial regulatory framework.

Senator Abiru led the discussion on the amendments, highlighting the CBN's evolving role since its original establishment by the 1958 Act of Parliament and subsequent amendments. Despite the last update in 2007, the CBN Act has not kept pace with the dynamic changes in the monetary and financial sector, nor has it adequately addressed the challenges in policy implementation influenced by fiscal dominance and a rapidly evolving financial landscape. The proposed amendments to the CBN Act aim to bolster the bank's capacity for maintaining

BILLS TO AMEND THE CBN ACT & NDIC ACT

monetary and price stability, thereby supporting the federal government's economic growth objectives. Key among the changes is the alignment of the bank's governance mechanisms with global best practices, ensuring its operations reflect the current state of global financial regulation.

The second legislative proposal seeks to amend the NDIC Act to enhance the corporation's effectiveness, autonomy, and alignment with the present-day financial environment. Senator Abiru underscored the broad consensus among stakeholders on the necessity of these amendments, driven by appeals from within the sector. A significant change proposed by this bill is the alteration of the appointment process for the NDIC's Managing Director and Executive Directors. Unlike the current system, where the President's appointment powers are contingent upon recommendations from the CBN Governor, the new bill empowers the President to make these critical appointments directly, a move aimed at enhancing the operational independence and effectiveness of the NDIC.

Together, these amendments represent a comprehensive approach to refining Nigeria's financial legislative landscape, addressing longstanding issues, and positioning the CBN and NDIC to better meet the challenges of the modern financial world.

MOTION ON THE URGENT NEED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE IKORODU-SAGAMU AND IKORODU-ITOIKIN-EPE ROADS

In April 2021, Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, representing Lagos East Senatorial District, spearheaded a legislative push for the urgent rehabilitation of the Ikorodu/Shagamu and Ikorodu-Itoikin-Epe-Ijebu-Ode roads. Through a motion titled "Motion On The Urgent Need For The Rehabilitation Of The Ikorodu-Shagamu And Ikorodu-Itoikin- Epe Roads To Further Bridge The Infrastructure Gap And Enhance Economic Growth In Nigeria," he advocated for significant improvements to these critical transport links.

This initiative was in direct response to the pressing concerns identified by the constituents of Lagos East, as determined by a needs assessment conducted by Senator Abiru. He brought attention to

the historical and commercial importance of these roads, highlighting that the Ikorodu-Shagamu road, constructed in the 1960s before the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, remains a bustling commercial artery that supports numerous educational institutions and businesses.

Furthermore, Senator Abiru addressed the longstanding neglect of the Ikorodu-Itoikin-Epe road, completed in 1975, which had not seen significant upgrades in decades despite its strategic importance. The rehabilitation of the Ikorodu-Shagamu road was particularly urgent, with a 2018 contract for its improvement stalling at just over 24% completion due to financial constraints.

Senator Abiru underscored the vital economic

implications of these roads, noting their connectivity to other parts of Nigeria and their access to the burgeoning New Lekki- Ibeju corridor, an area poised for economic expansion with the Dangote refinery, Lagos Deep Seaport, and Free Trade Zone.

His call to action urged the Senate to ensure allocation of necessary funds for these projects in the 2022 Appropriation bill, a move that was subsequently approved. The motion garnered widespread support, co-sponsored by several senators from both Lagos and Ogun states, reflecting a collective commitment to addressing this infrastructure challenge.

ENDOWMENT



Lagos State Governor, His Excellency, Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu (Centre), Mrs Feyisola Abiru (Left), Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, FCA (Right) at the official commissioning of the SAIL Innovation Lab in Ikorodu, Lagos State

A key plank of my endowment pillar is the establishment of SAIL Empowerment Foundation (co-founded with my wife Feyisola Abiru). The foundation is managed independently by a Board of Trustees who are top professionals in their fields.

The foundation established the SAIL Innovation Lab (**SAIL**) in partnership with a foremost Technology and Innovation company in Africa, **Co-Creation Hub (CCHUB)** in 2021.

SAIL is our human Capital development project, that seeks to broaden the skills and talents of young people, by equipping them with relevant digital and Innovation skills. The goal is to create an environment where young people can access tools, resources and skills to compete effectively in the ever changing global economy. **SAIL** offers the following programmes **free of charge** to qualified participants:

Tech Talent Development: Where tech novices are trained to become entry-level software developers in 6 months.

Data science for society: Participants are trained on Data Analytics specifically for solving real societal problems through their capstone projects.

Startup Accelerator: We support and incubate youths that have ideas to find product-market-fit and position them for growth through training, mentoring and access to raise required funding for their various startups.



R-L: Nigeria's Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, GCON, The Paramount Ruler of Ikorodu Division, HRM Oba Engr. Kabir Adewale Shotobi, The Ayangbure of Ikorodu, The Apex APC Leader in Ikorodu Division, His Excellency, Prince Abiodun Ogunleye, Member of the prestigious Governance Advisory Council, GAC, Asiawaju Reuben Olorunfunmi Basorun during the official commissioning of the SAIL Innovation Lab in Ikorodu, Lagos State.

Below is a snapshot of our Impact stories from inception (June 2021- March 2024).

Programme	In-Class Cohort 1	In-Class Cohort 2	In-Class Cohort 3	Online Cohort 1	Online Online 2	Online Online 3	Total
Tech Talent Development (inc 3MTT)	32	120	275	600	0	300	1,327
Lagos East Teachers' Fellowship	47	120	150	350	900	850	2,417
BUS 101 for Artisans and Creatives	57	57	0	0	0	0	114
Start Up Accelerator	18	0	20	0	0	0	38
STEM for Senior Secondary School Students (consolidated)	25	30	437	0	0	0	492
Data Science for Society (inc 3MTT)	0	0	229	0	0	0	229
Game Development	50	0	0	0	0	0	50
Total	229	327	1,111	950	900	1,150	4,667
	1,667			3,000			4,667

N:B Items marked as RED are currently on-going

Game Development: Participants are trained on how to create / develop online games using 3D modeling, Animation, Video editing and production skills amongst others.

STEM for Senior Secondary Students: Focused on teenagers from 13-18 years students who are in public schools, out of school awaiting university admission through weekend classes. They are trained on physical computing and the use of Arduino in prototyping.

Lagos East Teachers Fellowship: Teachers in public schools are trained on Inquiry Based learning

approach and the use of modern technology to impact knowledge. The programme runs for 4 months.

To ensure our graduates take advantage of the opportunities in the area of Machine learning, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, SAIL partnered with **Awarri AI** to provide a Job placement pipeline for those trained by SAIL. About 106 participants in Tech Talent and Data Science have secured full time employment with **Awarri AI** at a decent salary of **N200,000 (plus free lunch)** monthly.



Over one hundred young people who had undergone Tech Talent and Data Science training at the **SAIL Innovation Lab** have gotten decent artificial intelligence jobs with **Awarri AI**, a fast growing AI/Robotics firm that is enabling the development and adoption of frontier technology on the African continent starting from Nigeria.

and it is incumbent upon us to seize this moment. The co-founders of **Awarri AI**, Mr. Silas Adekunle and Ms Eniola Edun, said Artificial intelligence is the new wave that should be embraced by Nigeria in its quest to harness opportunities in the current digital and innovation age.

are being hired from the **SAIL Innovation Lab**", the minister said.

The Commissioner for Science, Innovation and Technology, Hon. Tunbosun Alake, disclosed that the State Government will be partnering on the project. He thanked Senator Abiru for driving the initiative..

Over 100 Youths Trained At SAIL Get Lucrative AI Jobs With Awarri AI

The firm chose **SAIL Innovation Lab** in Ikorodu as a launchpad to several locations in Nigeria and Africa, and also pledged continuous talent sourcing for the emerging multi-billion dollar AI industry that is expected to shape all spheres of life in a few years from now.

Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, FCA, in his remarks said the launch of partnership with **Awarri AI** signaled the beginning of a transformative journey in Ikorodu, and Lagos East Senatorial District as a whole.

The **Awarri AI** project, stands as a testament to our resolute commitment to embracing technology and innovation. It heralds a new era where industries will be redefined, jobs will be created, and our youth will be empowered.

We stand on the precipice of the 4th Industrial Revolution, a realm characterized by artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things, biotechnology, and automation. This revolution promises unprecedented opportunities for Nigeria and Africa,

The minister of Communications and digital economy, Dr Bosun Tijani, said the **SAIL Innovation Lab** has been achieving its goals in less than seven months after the state of the earth innovation lab was commissioned.

Dr Tijani said, "We set out to open up the minds of young people to opportunities that are available globally, and these opportunities are no longer the preserve of the developed world. We live in a time when technology now connects each and everyone of us strongly. The technologies have given us the opportunities to overcome barriers and be part of the global economy.

According to him, Artificial Intelligence due to its foreign origin, "We (Nigerians) have not been able to participate fully and harness its benefits. For the first time in the history of Nigeria and anywhere in Nigeria, **Awarri AI** have decided to start a company that will focus on building that knowledge so that computers will also think like us. For the first time in Nigeria, hundreds of people



IKORODU-ITOKIN REHABILITATION: JOURNEY SO FAR



Rehabilitation work commenced on Ikorodu-Itoikin Road

History of the Road

Constructed in 1975 under the regime of General Yakubu Gowon, the 32-Km Ikorodu-Itoikin Road, built by Taylor Woodrow, has served as a critical artery connecting Lagos, Ikorodu, Epe, and Ibeju-Lekki to other parts of Nigeria for nearly five decades.

Legislative Catalyst

The journey toward the road's rehabilitation began in April 2021, when Senator Tokunbo Abiru, representing the Lagos East Senatorial District, moved a pivotal motion in the Nigerian Senate. His proposal, "On The Urgent Need For The Rehabilitation Of The Ikorodu-Sagamu And Ikorodu-Itoikin-Epe Roads To Further Bridge The Infrastructure Gap And Enhance Economic Growth In Nigeria," highlighted the vital role these roads play in the nation's economy. Serving as key access points from Ogun, Edo, and the Northern parts of the country to the New Lekki-Ibeju corridor—a hub for major projects like a refinery, the Lagos Deep Seaport, and the Free Trade Zone—these roads are indispensable for economic growth. The motion received robust support from the Senate and garnered the cooperation of the Ministry of Works and Housing, especially from the Honourable Minister, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, SAN.

A Courteous Acknowledgment

In recognition of these efforts, Senator Abiru, also the

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Industries, made a courtesy visit to Minister Fashola in Abuja. During this visit, he extended the gratitude of his constituents for the minister's commitment to the rehabilitation of the Ikorodu-Itoikin and the Ikorodu-Sagamu Roads. The Minister confirmed that the Federal Executive Council (FEC) had approved the complete rehabilitation of the Ikorodu-Itoikin Road, with a start date set for January 2023.

Preparatory Measures

Ahead of this significant rehabilitation project, preparatory palliative measures were initiated to address the immediate concerns of motorists and residents affected by the road's deteriorating condition. Senator Abiru oversaw the commencement of stabilization work on the road, marking the first step toward the major rehabilitation effort. These initial measures were designed to alleviate the difficulties faced by the community, ensuring smoother transit until the full-scale rehabilitation work begins.

Commencing Rehabilitation

Following these preparatory steps, the full commencement of the rehabilitation project was undertaken by GELD Construction Limited, signifying a new chapter in the Ikorodu-Itoikin Road's history. This effort marks a significant stride toward enhancing connectivity, improving economic activities, and elevating the quality of life for the people in the region. Through the combined efforts of legislative advocacy, government support, and community patience, the journey so far sets a promising trajectory for the road's future.



Dr. (Otunba) Saheed O. Ibikunle (Special Adviser to Senator Tokunbo Abiru on Constituency Affairs) with the Contractors



Over 25,000 Food Packs To Vulnerable Lagos East Constituents

Distinguished Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru, FCA has commenced the distribution of over 25,000 Food Packs to the Lagos East Senatorial District constituents to support vulnerable constituents in light of global economic headwinds.

The food pack distribution exercise was held simultaneously across the 16 Local Governments/ Local Council Development Areas in the Senatorial District. During the Sallah and Christmas seasons, the Senator

usually reaches out to constituents, including party members, trade associations, Community Development Associations, Youth Organizations, and religious bodies. The packed food bag contains Rice, Beans, and Garri.

The Senator also called for nominations from the district's online community to select beneficiaries. This was done to ensure that more residents, mainly young people in need benefitted from the programme.



EMPOWERMENT & FACILITATION

More Schools: Wright Memorial Nursery & Primary School in Somolu receives two new blocks of 22 classrooms



More Transformers Across Lagos East



More Rehabilitation Of Markets In Epe



Epe Sports Complex, Epe



More Primary Health Centres



PHC, Kosofe



PHC, Isiu



PHC, Lagos State University of Science & Technology