

ATS



community. Inset: Ibikunle

PHOTO: TOLUWANI ENIOLA

A community's ordeal

•Continued from page 31

dry in the sun.

Lamenting the poor state of the road, a resident who pleaded anonymity, urged the government to intervene. The source said the situation becomes unbearable whenever rain falls.

CityBeats gathered that the community has dragged the LDMS to court. Addressing reporters in Lagos, one of the community leaders, Prince Toluwalake Megba, shed more light on the issue.

His words: "On March 2011, we noticed the activities of a company, Lagoon Dredging and Marine Services run by one Eugene Anenih who came and erected a big sign board in the area.

"They claimed that the Lagos State Government had contracted them to sweep and dredge the deep waters of the Lagos Lagoon from Ebute-Metta to Epe for easy passage of barges, big canoes and ship to enhance water transport.

"They, thereafter, moved a dredger to the area and began to dredge a part of the shoreline of the village which falls within the approved area for us by the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA). When we approached the company to inquire about the source of their authority and action, they pleaded with us to allow them dredge a small portion of the shoreline to put their barge which will serve as a dump for the sand from the dredging and channelisation of the deep waters.

They assured us at the time that they will replace the sand from the little place where they will dredge to accommodate the barge not to

endanger our lives and business. We were to learn from other sources and the conspicuous sign board erected that the Lagos State government awarded a contract to LDMS for the channelisation of the lagoon to Epe.

"But rather than work according to the plan, LDMS has continued to dig and dredge the shoreline. The shoreline which ordinarily is shallow has been dug so deep that our business and the entire village is currently facing imminent collapse and danger of being overrun by the surging sea as there is no retaining wall separating the shoreline and the offshore.

"We are now faced with the serious danger of being washed away by water apart from our businesses that is already in ruins as a result of the activities of LDMS which is still defiantly digging and dredging the area and reaping millions of naira through the daily sale of sand at the expense of our lives and properties.

"It is not only the digging and dredging that we are worried about, LDMS and those profiting from its illegal operation are depositing tons of sand and organic materials on our land, making it marshy and impassable.

"This is why we are using this opportunity again to alert the Lagos State Government and NIWA to urgently intervene and to stop LDMS from further damaging our shoreline and community. We will await the outcome of our legal suit against the company."

When contacted, Anenih declined giving comment, saying the case is in the court.

Education to curb child abuse

By Toluwani Eniola

eases (STDs) in various degrees.

"More worrisome was the reaction I got on further investigation on the issue within that area on the prevalence of the indecent act.

The police officers asked me which particular sexual defilement case I was referring to. While at the hospital, I saw over 24 cases of children assaulted by adults. Their fathers put nine girls in the family way. One of the cases involved a six-month-old child that was sexually violated; she didn't survive the

inhumanity meted on her.

"We all know that constitutionally, the right of the Nigerian child is guaranteed but how many children enjoy the benefit of this provision? We have cases in court that have been going on for over two years. We call on the police to buckle up.

They must entrust the handling of these cases to experienced men among them and institute disciplinary measures for those who lose case files or caught in other unprofessional act."

Pupil dies in flood

FOR residents of Oremeji Street in Agbado Oke-Odo Local Government, Abule-Egba, these are not the best of times.

According to them, their bad road is a problem as it has claimed the life of a child.

According to the Chairman, CDA, Ifesowapo Ekor Community, Chief Felix Otemuyiwa, before the child's death, residents complained about the bad road's potential to claim lives.

Otemuyiwa noted that over the years, the road had gone from bad to worse. He said when the problem started, they were faced with the challenge of plying the road.

He explained that their predicament was not limited to bad roads. The development, he said, has paved the way for erosion, which has become a nightmare for residents.

On the cause of the problem, Otemuyiwa said since the street's drainage was allegedly blocked by the Lagos State Ministry of Environment in 2009, he said became unpassable.

The child's death was the last straw that broke the camel's back, adding that residents would no longer sit back and watch their children get killed by an avoidable problem.

He also explained that recent at-



•View of Oremeji Street

PHOTO: MUYIWA OMOBULEJO

By Bode Monogbe

tempts to get the former Chairman, Agbado Oke-Odo Development Area, Pastor Kenny Okumuyide, to intervene, failed.

With nowhere else to turn, the residents decided to embark on construction of culverts on the affected side of the road.

The project was stalled by paucity of funds, he said.

The community is appealing to the Chairman, Agbado Oke-Odo Local Government, Dr Augustine Arogundade, for financial assistance to repair the road.

The residents are also appealing to the Ministry of the Environment to help complete the abandoned

project.

"The entire community supported the state government during the past election in Lagos State. We support the party of our choice; now we need to be compensated for our loyalty and support. We are pleading to Governor Fashola to rescue us from this problem," said Otemuyiwa.

EMERGENCY LINES

pas ab date

2. Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC)
Lagos Zonal Command Phone No: 080-77690200/01-7742771

3. LASTMA Emergency

4. KAI Brigade Phone Nos: 080-23036632; 0805-5284914
Head office Phone Nos: 01-4703325; 01-7743026

767 or email: rapidresponsesquad@yahoo.com

6. Health Services - LASAMBUS Ambulance Services Phone Nos: