

NEWS

We'll generate electricity from waste this year -LAWMA boss

Adeola Balogun

The Managing Director of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority, Mr. Ola Oresanya, said that work had started at the Ojota waste dump to generate electricity from the site.

He said that LAWMA, in its recycling effort, had started converting 'pure water' sachets into plastic bags.

He, therefore, urged Lagosians not to throw away the sachets of the 'pure water' they drink, but bring them to the recycling plant to earn some money.

Oresanya told SATURDAY PUNCH on Friday that LAWMA engineers had started digging the dump site for methane, which had accumulated over a period of 19 years and would be converted to electricity. He said the authority embarked on the job, having waited endlessly for foreign bodies to collaborate with it on the project.

He said LAWMA was ready to make mistakes and learn from them in the course of the project.

He said, "If you even look at the history of that dump site, it started operation on November 19, 1992. That is a long time and we have been dumping refuse there since then.

"We have dumped more than 25 million tonnes of waste. When we first started, we were not really compressing the refuse; so, the refuse had enough spaces that would allow oxygen to combust and that was why it was always in flame.

"Right now, we are compressing the waste and there is no more void space, taking it from density of about 0.35 to almost 0.9. So, we've been successfully trapping the methane in that site.

"The methane gets released during the rainy season and the area is filled with obnoxious odour. But right now, the methane and other gasses have been recovered; we have started drilling for gas, which we are going to use to fire electricity generating equipment to be installed this year."

Oresanya said LAWMA was not collaborating with any foreign partner, describing the project as simple science, which Nigerian engineers were capable of actualising.

He said, "We have our engineers; we know what we want to do. The science for it is not rocket science; it is a very simple science. We have geologists; we have civil engineers, electrical engineers.

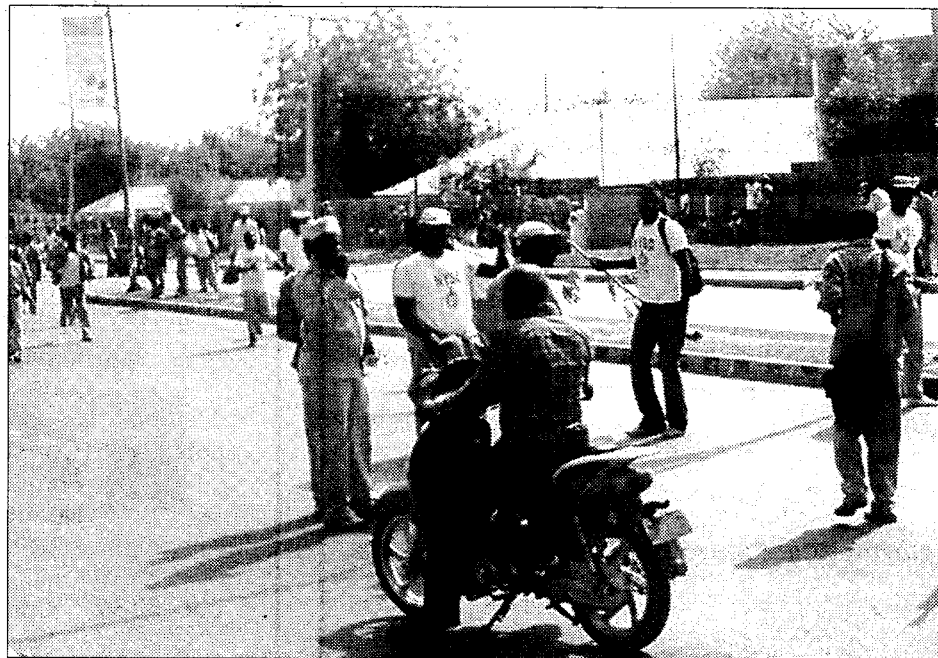
"We know the kind of equipment we are to buy and we know the kind of drilling we are doing. So,

we are doing it basically in-house. Yes, we can ask for one or two professional ideas. We are ready to make our mistakes and learn from them.

"Before now, we were waiting for international bodies to collaborate with us, but we found out that we would wait endlessly because these people are not interested in our progress and we better do it ourselves, make our mistakes and learn from them and make progress."

Oresanya asked Lagosians to earn income by exchanging their sachets of 'pure water' for money instead of throwing them away.

"We are converting 'pure water' sachets into bags and we are buying at N30 per kilogramme. It is right there in Olusosun; take a kilogramme of sachets of pure water there and get N30 on the spot. Seeing



Corps members protesting the non-payment of their accumulated monthly allowances by the Adamawa State Post Primary School Management Board, in Yola... on Thursday

is believing. Let the world know that in Lagos, when you drink 'pure water' and throw away the sachet, you

are throwing away money. "All you need to do is to get in there to the dump site, which used to be a

nuisance. The direction to our recycling plant is there and people are being paid," he said.

Ritual killings near campus: LASU students raise the alarm

Students of the Lagos State University on Friday raised the alarm over growing cases of ritual killing and armed robbery on the LASU/Iba Road and other communities around their main campus at Ojo. Some of the students told the *News Agency of Nigeria* that the frequent killings and robberies posed a great threat to their lives and their academic pursuit.

The speaker of the institution's Students Union Government, Mr. Senapon Ajasa, told NAN that no fewer than 10 people had been killed in the LASU area in the last two months by suspected ritual killers.

The student leader said that the development had thrown the entire university community into panic as students and other people around the campus now lived in fear.

He said, "Everybody, particularly the students, is afraid. Ritual killers who remove body parts of their victims after killing them have made the LASU/Iba Expressway and adjoining communities unsafe.

"They operate from as early as 6 am on that notorious road. On their way to school, students usually find corpses whose body parts have been removed around the campus. It is a scary thing."

Ajasa said that although no student had so far fallen victim, there was a need for the police to take urgent steps to address the feeling of insecurity in the area.

He appealed to the police authorities to declare the LASU/Iba Road a serious crime-prone zone and do all they could to ensure the security of lives in the area.

Another student, Adeyemi Wahab, urged security men in the university to embark

on a regular patrol of the area in order to assist the police in restoring normalcy to the communities.

Mr. Mike Orji, a cybercafé operator at the institution, told NAN that the development was affecting social and academic activities

'Mushin crisis not politically-motivated'

Ada Onyema

The lawmaker representing Mushin Constituency II in the Lagos State House of Assembly, Alhaji Yusuf Ayinla, has said that the constant crises being witnessed in the Mushin area of the state are not politically-motivated.

In an interview with SATURDAY PUNCH on Friday in Lagos, Ayinla said that the insinuation that politicians were responsible

for the crisis was part of the propaganda being orchestrated by undesirable elements bent on tarnishing the image of politicians in the constituency.

Lately, Mushin has been in the news for pockets of crises, which have been threatening the peaceful coexistence of the inhabitants of the area.

Particularly, on November 17, 2010, there was a widespread raping of women in a crisis which recorded the murder of two persons, in addition to the countless number of people injured.

Also, no fewer than 80 vehicles were vandalised and apartments and shops looted by suspected thugs, who were said to have registered their displeasure with the outcome of a reconciliatory peace meeting by the Lagos State Government.

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Policemen injured, 16 arrested as students protest in Ilorin

Emmanuel Addeh, Ilorin

A peaceful protest embarked upon by students of Kwara origin turned violent on Friday as an undisclosed number of policemen were injured and properties destroyed in the mayhem, which lasted for about two hours.

Sixteen suspects have been arrested in connection with the incident, which crippled commercial activities in the entire area.

The protesters, under the aegis of the National Association of Students of Kwara State, were apparently irked by the non-payment of their bursary allowance by the state government for the 2009/2010 session.

The students from various institutions in Nigeria and abroad had given the state government an ultimatum, which expired on Thursday.

They trooped out in their thousands and assembled at the Post Office area of the capital before marching through Murtala Muhammed Way to Challenge Bus Stop, disrupting traffic in the process.

Also, many cars were destroyed in the violence on Ahmadu Bello, the area where the Government House is located.

The students were said to have clashed with the security agencies when they attempted to force their way into the Kwara State Government House,

a development that elicited stiff resistance from the police.

Reacting to the development, the state government said it was disappointed by the action of the students, describing it as shameful.

The state Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Ben Duntoye, who spoke with newsmen in Ilorin, noted that the government had already appropriated the bursary fund to be released next week.

Confirming the incident, the police spokesman in Kwara State, Mr. Ezekiel Dabo, said about 16 students had been arrested and would be charged to court immediately.

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