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## **‘PUBLIC UTILITY LEVY TO FACILITATE A CLEANER, GREENER AND HEALTHIER LAGOS’ – Governor Akinwunmi Ambode**

**Lagos, NIGERIA (January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018)** – In strengthening the commitment to attaining a cleaner, greener and healthier city, the Lagos State Government, working with the Public Utilities Monitoring and Assurance Unit (PUMAU), has introduced the Public Utility Levy (PUL), today 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The PUL is a property related charge billed annually to support the Cleaner Lagos Initiative (CLI) – a multi-dimensional approach aimed at transforming the solid waste management and sanitation system across Lagos State.

The PUL replaces all former waste collection fees previously paid to PSPs. All Lagos State residents and property owners are required to pay their PUL, and funds will be pushed towards addressing the funding gaps that have hindered the State’s development plans.

“The introduction of the Public Utility Levy is strategically targeted at facilitating a cleaner, greener, and healthier environment for all Lagosians. As it stands, efforts have been made towards achieving this but there is room for much more to be done. Taking into consideration the severe challenges facing Lagos State because of rising urbanisation, we acknowledge the urgent need for a world class comprehensive waste management system that addresses this crucial quality-of-life issue. The PUL belongs to the people of Lagos and is an investment in people's health and safety, as we strive to eradicate waste and environmental problems across the State”. Said His Excellency, Akinwunmi Ambode, Lagos State Governor.

The funds generated from the PUL, will be invested in supporting an employment scheme creating tens of thousands of jobs; environmental remediation projects, such as construction and rehabilitation of State facilities, including, transfer loading stations and engineered landfills;

drainage management; maintenance of equipment and machinery; as well as the implementation of a world-class sustainable waste management infrastructure, that is comparable to other megacities across the world.

The PUL funds will go directly to the newly established Lagos State Environmental Trust Fund, an accountable and transparent trustee program. The trustees will oversee the planning and allocation of funds required for the State's waste management and sanitation projects, on behalf of the people of Lagos State.

Speaking further, Governor Ambode added "Stringent measures have also been put in place to ensure that there is total transparency in the management of these funds. The money will be held in the Environmental Trust Fund and managed meticulously by a board of SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission] regulated trustees. The trustees are under strict obligations to the people of Lagos, and will be accountable to the people for every naira spent in line with our overall environmental agenda. Compliance is the key. The burden of the cost of providing these services will remain low if everyone does their part and pays their PUL".

Lagos State residents can now pay their PUL at all major banks across the Nation, via USSD codes, and online at [www.pumau.lagosstate.gov.ng](http://www.pumau.lagosstate.gov.ng), internet/mobile banking or via Quickteller.

The Lagos State Government is urging all residents to pay their PUL. Failure to pay, and anyone caught in indiscriminate dumping of refuse, will be penalised by the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC). The introduction of the PUL is the biggest shake-up towards development and further supports the State's commitment to deliver a world-class waste management system to the 22 million residents of Lagos State.