Seasiders target Prudent league’s top prize

HEAD coach of Lagos Seasiders’ men and women’s teams, Bukola Durna, is optimistic they’ve got the quality to contest against the big sides at this year’s edition of the Prudent Energy Basketball League.

The men and women’s teams finished second and fifth respectively last year, but Durna says their target now is to top the prize in both categories.

She stated that 30 players (16 male and 14 female) as against 36, would represent the state at the phase of the league in Abuja.

She stated that the coaching crew would have loved to have the full complement of their teams, but the inability to secure funds informed the decision to reduce the number of players.

"Funding is a big problem right now but we are sure the Lagos State Sports Council will reach out to us as the league progresses. Our desire is to do the state proud this year and by God’s grace, we will achieve our aim," she said.

Durna is banking on the experience of the players in the men’s team, some of whom were part of the Nigerian team to the All-Africa Games in Durban, South Africa and the BVF Tournament in Kenya.

She added that Claudswill Michael, one of the state’s U-18 players have joined the men’s team, while Ayodele Blessing has joined the women’s team from Civil Defenders.

However, the league begins on Tuesday (today) after most of the teams failed to arrive Abuja on Sunday.

In today’s games, Imo Grasshoppers will take on Osweea Queens, Kaduna Stars play Borros Spiders, Lagos Seasiders vie with Kano Pillars, Eko Dynamos tangle on Plateau Peacocks, Safety Babes battle Desert Queens, Osweea Kings lock horns with D. Defenders, Niger United play COAS Shooters, Kaduna Queens versus Defenders/Rangers, Alfa Valents tussle Seaside Babes, Safety Shooters confront Prison Key Boys, while Plateau Vipers tackle on Sokoto Rima.

Special Olympics Nigeria commemorates World Malaria Day

SPECIAL Olympics Nigeria through its ExxonMobil Foundation sponsored Skills for Life initiative celebrated the 2019 World Malaria Day in Ibadan, Oyo State, May 31 at the Home School for Handicapped, Ijodo.

The event, themed “Zero Malaria Starts with Me,” resulted in a series of activities like the Health and Wellness Forum, Health Visits, Health Talks on Malaria and HIV with demonstrations, Voluntary Counselling and Testing on Malaria and HIV, Distribution of mosquito nets and a unified football tournament.

The Project Coordinator, Special Olympics Nigeria Skills for Life Programme, Sylvester Olumbi, stated that despite the availability of a cure for malaria, it has remained a killer disease across the country, hence, the need for a continued awareness creation and provision of necessary support to communities prone to malaria especially for people with intellectual disabilities.

“We express our profound gratitude to our partners ExxonMobil for their support; we have achieved a lot over the years in helping parents of children with special needs,” he said.

Olumbi noted that the delay in this year’s celebration was to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities in the state’s educational system had the chance to participate in the celebration following the Easter holidays.

The event also recorded a huge turn out with over 350 people with intellectual disabilities and their family members from all over Ibadan and its environs in attendance. Also in attendance were community members from the Ijodo community, who were appreciative of the great work Special Olympics Nigeria was doing with PWIDs in the state.

Also addressing guests at the event on malaria infection, causes, prevention and treatment, was Ralph Olusanya of Royal Heritage Health Foundation.

He exhorted participants to always sleep under insecticide treated nets and to keep their environment clean and free from stagnant water, saying it was the only way to prevent malaria infection.