

The Governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu has ascertained Lagos State's readiness to host the inaugural National Intermediate Sports Festival, scheduled from 1 to 15 October, 2026.

He expressed his certainty during an inspection visit to assess the ongoing rehabilitation works at Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, on Saturday, 8th August.

The Governor, during the visit, revealed that Lagos accepted the opportunity to host the first National Intermediate Sports Festival after the National Sports Commission awarded the hosting rights to the state, describing the event as a chance to enhance grassroots sports development and motivation for young athletes to remain in the Nigeria.

"We are going to be the first state and the first host of this sports festival that would help us do what we are all talking about. We want to hold grassroots sports. We want to encourage the young people before they begin to jump out and run away. We want to hold and develop all the children." He stated.

He also added that around 14,000 to 15,000 participant athletes are expected, utilizing facilities such as Rowe Park and other sports centres across Lagos.

According to him, the project forms part of a broader strategy began by his administration about three years ago, aimed at rebuilding and upgrading sporting infrastructure in various locations, including Surulere, Ifako, Bagada, Ikorodu, Epe, Agege and Badagry.

During the visit, he examined the main football and athletics arenas, the indoor sports hall, the volleyball court, and the swimming pool, expressed confidence that the stadium and other venues would be of International standards before the National Intermediate Sports Festival, while adding that pending works will be completed in due time.