



# OSUN SPRING

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# Feature



Arugba Osun at the 2023 Osun Osogbo Festival



## The Magical 2023 Osun Osogbo Festival: A Rich Tapestry of Culture, Tradition, Art, and Spirituality

By Taofik Jimoh

The date was August 11, 2023, as the sun rose over the ancient city of Osogbo, Osun State capital in Nigeria, a vibrant energy coursed through the air, setting the stage for one of West Africa's most enchanting cultural events - the Osun Osogbo Festival.

In August every year, this centuries-old celebration of the river goddess Osun will captivate locals and visitors alike with its kaleidoscope of rituals, art exhibitions, traditional performances, and spiritual ceremonies.

Steeped in myth and tradition, the Osun Osogbo Festival dates back to centuries. It is a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Yoruba people and their deeply-rooted connection to the divine. This year again, as devotees and enthusiasts gathered from across Nigeria and beyond, they partook in a breathtaking display of cultural heritage and honour the revered Osun deity.

At the heart of the festival is the 400-year-old Osun Grove, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nestled within lush forests on the outskirts of Osogbo, the sacred grove is believed to be the dwelling place of Osun, the goddess of fertility, healing, and water. Legend has it that the river goddess once appeared to a group of hunters, promising prosperity and protection in exchange for reverence and stewardship of the natural world.

Adorned in vibrant traditional attire, participants embarked on a spiritual journey during the ten-day festival, seeking the blessings of Osun and cleansing themselves in her sacred waters. The rhythmic beats of drums and chants filled the air as worshippers made offerings of fruits, flowers, and prayers, paying homage

to the goddess and seeking her favour.

Art also takes centre stage during the Osun Osogbo Festival. The event serves as a melting pot of creativity, where local artisans and sculptors display their masterpieces amidst the serene beauty of the grove. Intricately carved sculptures, colourful tapestries, and traditional Yoruba masks draw visitors into a world where art seamlessly intertwines with spirituality.

One of the festival highlights is the grand procession, known as the Arugba procession. This symbolic journey is led by the Arugba, a young virgin chosen as

a living vessel to connect with Osun's divine essence. Dressed in resplendent regalia, she carries the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the community, as she delicately balances a sacred tray filled with offerings.

The 2023 edition of the Osun Osogbo Festival 'delivered on her promises' as it was even more inclusive, embracing contemporary art forms and showcasing the evolving cultural landscape of Nigeria. Visitors had opportunities to witness performances by contemporary dancers, poets, musicians, and emerging artists who added a modern twist to traditional Yoruba culture, infusing it with innovation and creativity.

Beyond the festivities, the Osun Osogbo Festival also serves as a focal point for scholarly discourse and cultural exchange. Attendees can engage in vibrant discussions, seminars, and workshops, exploring the roots of Yoruba culture, its global impact, and the importance of preserving indigenous traditions in a rapidly changing world.

With its rich history, vibrant traditions, and awe-inspiring ceremonies, the 2023 Osun Osogbo Festival was evidently an unforgettable experience that would sustain the soul, invigorates the senses, and awakens the spirit. It would serve as a reminder that cultural heritage is a perpetual flame, nurturing the identity, unity, and resilience of the Yoruba people.

Till August 2024, the echoes of music, dance, and laughter faded into the twilight, the 2023 Osun Osogbo Festival leaves an indelible mark on all who have witnessed its grandeur.

Undoubtedly, Osun Osogbo Festival has the power to connect people across borders, showcasing the universal language of art, the resilience of cultural identity, and the enduring power of spirituality.

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# These Palliatives Are Not Getting There

By Taiwo Adisa

Last week, I witnessed a scene play out in one of the states where agents of the government were busy distributing palliatives to the “poorest of the poor” in line with the lingo that got popularised in recent years by the Muhammadu Buhari administration.

An open-roof truck, call it a minivan was making its way into the premises of a local government, loaded with bags of palliative items. On queue were a few men, women, and children who had apparently been alerted to come and receive the palliatives in the aftermath of the removal of fuel subsidy. Some area boys were also on hand, though they refused to join the queue. As the vehicle conveying the items got close to the queue, a sort of commotion was ignited by the area boys. One of them jumped into the truck, apparently to take care of himself before the vehicle could come to a halt.

Attempts to chase him out of the truck were rebuffed. The truck driver sensed an attack, put his vehicle into reverse gear, and moved out of the local government premises. As he was driving away from the waiting gang of palliative collectors, the area boy in the truck was busy throwing bags of the palliative items to his men on hand. Some of them were on motorbikes. Others soon joined him inside the truck and confusion became bigger than expected. The commotion left the vulnerable women and children empty handed and the truck driver eventually managed to take the few bags that survived the looting to safety.

That happened in a state that attempted to justify the payment of N5 billion palliative largesse given by the Federal Government. So far, the government at the centre said it had released N2bn of the N5billion approved by the National Economic Council. At the end of the exercise in that local government secretariat (name withheld), the men and women who had faithfully joined the queue were the losers. I was even surprised to see that a horde of Okada riders usually trail the palliative trucks, carrying boys who would readily ignite crisis so as to ensure they were able to loot the items.

That much was the scenario that played out in most states that have so far distributed the much talked about palliatives in recent weeks except for the points where the ceremonial flag off of the distribution was performed by either the governor or his designated official.

So how does that address the misery of the poorest of the poor and where does it leave the question of reliable data that informed the decision to transfer the burden of palliatives to the states in the first instance?

I recall that not a few Nigerians rejected the idea of distribution of N8,000 to N12 million households from the planned \$800 million World Bank loan mooted by the administration of President Bola Tinubu. The major issue that made Nigerians reject the idea was that the effect of the billions spent in that manner through the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management during the immediate past administration was not felt by the citizens. Now that the states were saddled with the task of distributing the subsidy largesse via a saner process, what happened to the data collection process and why are we having haphazard distribution being hijacked by area boys?

I am sure if we are to conduct a survey of the actual beneficiaries of the said palliatives, no state will be able to provide a database that would readily provide verifiable contacts that can be classified as the poorest of the poor. I want to believe that the major beneficiaries of that exercise are those who procured the food items and those who re-bagged them as well as the truck drivers who simply do away with remnants of the looted bags.

But how did we get to this point where tokenism in

service delivery is ruling the waves as our people are reduced to beggars? I should think that the idea of palliatives rose from the global experience in the wake of Covid-19, which at the height of its majesty, left most of the country (and the world) practically locked down. Then, countries of the West, East, and where ever, had to find ways to feed their citizens, aside from providing other manners of palliatives. I do not, however, understand how the idea of food palliatives bode with the effects of fuel subsidy removal.

Whereas the effects of Covid-19 are temporary, the resultant effect of fuel subsidy removal is a permanent scar on the individual and national economy. On paper, a citizen is given 10kg of foodstuffs as a soothing balm. But that cannot cure an injury that is permanent in nature. Some elders say it is better to teach people how to fish rather than give them fish to eat.

The removal of fuel subsidy has seen prices of foodstuffs and items jumping beyond the roof. Transport fares had tripled as inflation continued to bite. So, what can the 10kg foodstuff do to take away the pain considering that on a daily basis, the man who has just eaten the rice palliatives will have to pay the exorbitant transport fares to his workplace? Perhaps the whole idea of palliatives should have been well thought out by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) to the extent that transportation challenges and wage issues are better dealt with.

The Oxford Dictionary describes palliative as “a medicine or form of medical care that relieves symptoms without dealing with the cause of the condition.” It further defines palliatives as “an action that is intended to alleviate a problem without addressing the underlying cause” and further provides a usage by stating: “At present available treatments are only palliatives and no curative drugs are available yet.” If palliatives are merely scratching the issue, where are the permanent solutions? The government knows the source of the crisis; it must tug at it rather than attempt to put a temporary smile on the face of its citizens who will still have to confront the harsh economic reality out there.

The government must end the importation of refined fuel by whatever means, including begging Dangote to refine it for us in a special arrangement. It must sell the moribund refineries in Port Harcourt, Kaduna, and Warri so as to find some breather for the Naira and lessen inflation. Those are the real palliatives that can save the masses.

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## Obasanjo and Obas – A Clash of Protocols

By Temitope Oyetomi (Gentle Topman)

Plus, times Minus is equal to minus. + x - = -OBJ delivered a right message (+) in a wrong manner (-). So, we will multiply + by -, which is -. The fact is, there is State Protocol. State Protocol requires that when the Number 1 citizen of the State makes an entry, all present would rise in respect for him. As far as Oyo State is concerned, the Governor of Oyo State is the Number 1 citizen. But If the Head of State Tinubu was visiting, he would take precedence above the Governor and all present would rise for him.

Former President Obasanjo overreacted. It was not his place to either educate or correct the Obas per State Protocol.

He should have stomach his observations and shared his concerns with the Governor who would have gotten the Commissioner for Chieftaincy Affairs



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

to communicate to the Obas about State protocol.

On the hand, there are Royal Protocols just as much as there are State Protocols. For example, I remember asking an Oba if we could organise something for his

birthday. He told me he is restricted from observing his own birthday. He said he never marks his birthday. Many Obas forbid attending funerals. Many Obas forbid meeting their mothers.

I don't buy into the idea of using Obas as “stool dressers” at State events. It's not every event an Oba should attend. We have seen many events in which palace staff would attend bearing the Oba's Staff of Office without the physical presence of the Oba either because the king forbids physically attending such events or because he is willing to attend but unavoidably absent.

Overall, the Obas and the State should meet behind closed doors and exchange notes on State and Royal Protocols.

However, the act of publicly lambasting Obas for breaching State Protocols is quite distasteful – I might say, unbecoming.

# States are broke, nothing done in 100 days

By Dele Sobowale

**M**oney talks"; and virtually all the state government just finishing their first 100 days in office had very little to say because they are broke. In the past, print media was bombarded with 100 days reports from every state. We sometimes had insufficient space for them. Now, we have next to nothing to publish.

As the deadline drew near, I actually got in touch with some Chief Press Secretaries of some states to ask them if they had any press release. Hitherto, the new Governors were too eager to announce what they did in such a short time. In my long experience on these pages, most of what was touted as "achievement" was a lot of malarkeys – hastily implemented decisions later to be regretted. A few were outright frauds. Two famous scams would help to illustrate the point.

A PDP governor from the South-East, in the Class of 1999-2007, pioneered the trick. Within the first 100 days, he had a few schools, primary and secondary, repainted and some renamed. Then each school was photographed from three different angles. Suddenly, the world was presented with about thirty new schools supposedly "donated" to the people of the state. Only people like me who had travelled to the state several times saw through the fraud.

Among the Class of 2007-2015, it was a South-South governor who copied from the playbook of the former; and then added some of his own gimmicks. In addition to declaring that he had increased school enrolment by 200 per cent (when his predecessor has already ensured almost 100 per cent attendance), he went in search of projects that were 80 to 90 percent completed, hastily finished some, commissioned some not completed. He even performed the magic of building and equipping and donating a dialysis unit to a Teaching Hospital complete with 17 machines in a three-bed unit!!! Till today nobody knows what happened to the machines because the unit was built and the machines fully paid for by his predecessor.

The current set of governors is the first whose members have either not shown much interest in the 100 days race or have their hands tied by the hard realities they met on May 29. My hunch tells me that it is probably the latter. Just as Emilokan got into Aso Rock and discovered that the Federal Government's revenue for the next three years has been spent by Buhari, before he left, all the new governors are facing empty purses in addition to mountains of debts to pay.

And, they are all in this predicament just as the prospects for increasing aggregate revenue are poor. Despite the perpetual noise about diversifying the sources of revenue, the FG and states are still largely crude oil revenue dependent. I have bad news for them: Unless President Tinubu can find a way to reverse the downward trend in volume of crude officially and legally exported, the states, already poorer compared to 2015, will become increasingly poorer.

Before explaining why, the states are in increasingly dire straits, it needs to be pointed out that by loosening the exchange rate and inherently devaluing the Naira, Tinubu has done the states a favour. Over N900 billion was distributed in the last two months. That is both good and bad news. The good news first; most states would not have been able to pay their staff and run government without the increased allocation. The bad news now; because the increased allocation was made possible by high exchange rates, it is unlikely rates will come down soon. The most important point to bear in mind is this: Our states are poorer and sliding further into distress. Why?

## VICTIMS OF POOR LEADERSHIP – PAST AND PRESENT

"Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it" – Gorge Santayana, 1863-1952.

Governor Soludo, as governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, temporarily introduced a measure, a certain percentage (if memory serves me correctly, it was 10 per cent) of the monthly allocations of the states was paid in dollars. It was controversial at the time; but I fully supported it. What was fascinating to me was the opportunity for states to develop the knowledge and skills



President Bola Tinubu

needed to operate foreign accounts; to know when it would help them to buy and sell.

Incidentally, the late Governor Segun Agagu, of Ondo State, asked me to come and discuss how to help his government manage its foreign exchange allocations before he was dismissed by the courts; and Mimiko took over. I went to see him for another matter, but the discussion drifted to foreign exchange management. I started by telling him that any government taking foreign loans or getting involved in Public-Private sector deals must open a domiciliary account and actively operate it. The reason for that is simple: Dollar debts must be repaid in dollars; not Naira. As revenue is generated mostly in Naira, governments with foreign obligations need to have an idea of what the rates might be in the short, intermediate and long terms in order to plan properly for repayment.

Permit me to repeat a point made about this year's exchange rate movement. In the first week of January, writing in the VANGUARD WEEK-END paper, I made the forecast that the rates will rise to at least N800/US\$1. A few weeks after, based on certain developments, a new forecast was made – N1000/US\$1 by year end. We are still in September; and despite the attempts by the FG and CBN to bully reality, the exchange rate today has jumped to N950/US\$1 on the street.

Obviously, every government with foreign debts must generate more Naira to repay the debt. Consequently, they will have less Naira to meet their obligations. That is why the states are happy about the high rates. They are repaying workers and contractors with devalued currency. Unfortunately, we are all getting poorer with each upward march of rates. Here is why:

In 2019, former Vice President Osinbajo declared that the FG, states and local governments would have to share N750bn per month in order for them to pay their bills as a group. The exchange rate was about N250/US\$1. So, they shared \$3bn a month. In July and August 2023, N900bn was shared; with exchange rate now officially at N700+/US\$1. So, only \$1.29bn has been shared per month in the two months. That is the stark reality of our existence today.

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Among the Class of 2007-2015, it was a South-South governor who copied from the playbook of the former; and then added some of his own gimmicks.  
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It seems so obvious to me that every state governor, whether or not exposed to foreign debt, must receive forecasts about exchange rates and make use of them in financial planning. Otherwise, their states will continue to be worse victims of a situation over which they have little control.

## BUDGET 2024 AND EXCHANGE RATES

As we approach the final quarter of 2023, governments are preparing the 2024 budgets. States accept the foreign exchange projections of the FG and CBN. On the face of it, there is nothing wrong with using the monetary authority's guidelines as basis for decision making. However, in a situation in which the CBN has been proved wrong, year after year, states must seek expert advice elsewhere in order to make decisions that are in the interest of their people.

Budgets for 2024 have become very crucial for the survival and strengthening of our democracy. People everywhere are hungry and angry as never before. Tensions are rising; and there is a need for governments to be seen to be in control of events. I have predicted, more accurately than the CBN, the direction of foreign exchange in the last three years. Why? Mostly because my calculations are more objective; unlike the CBN, which is under political pressure to produce acceptable forecasts.

Nobody in CBN or any other bank could have announced N800/US\$, not to talk of N1000/US\$ this year without being sacked. But here we are, and leaders in the private and public sectors are grappling with a reality for which they were not prepared. The question is: Will they alter course in 2024; change direction and be more pro-active? I am waiting to read the budgets. But I doubt if our leaders can change. Yet, there is a reason for them to change.

## FORECAST FOR 2024 EXCHANGE RATE

“Winners learn from their mistakes; losers never” – Anonymous

Advanced nations worldwide have one attribute in common. They learn from their mistakes; and they learn from anybody. The backward countries, like Nigeria, seldom learn from their mistakes; and never listen even when lessons are offered free of charge by people outside the establishment. Nobody in government has ever asked me how I get it right every year; while they blunder. I am preparing predictions for 2024 now. It will shock Fellow Nigerians to the bone marrows. It will also be different from the illusions which FG will serve.

Let me give you a hint: N950/US\$1 is only the beginning. Destination? That is a secret for now.

## GIVE THEM A PALLIATIVE TO ENJOY

Is your company still busy bussing staff across the bridges from Lagos Island or Ikoyi? The costs, already unsustainable and unpredictable, produce unpleasant results for all. Bring them to Lagos Island; within walking distance of Broad Street and Marina. That is a palliative they will enjoy and thank you for it.

## OBASANJO AND THE REPERCUSSIONS OF BAD BELLE POLITICS

“The evil that men do lives after them...” – William Shakespeare, 1564-1616.

Nigeria is in this mess with our polity, and partly with our economy, mostly because President Obasanjo, in 2006-2007, made certain decisions which have led us to where we are. I am not alone in this view – which has been sticking in my mind for a long time. The man's observations, regarding Africa and democracy, were akin to waiving a red flag before a bull. His denial of the financial trap into which Agunloye led us was another one. Finally, his condemnation of Buhari's financial recklessness was too much for me to bear.

## I will take them all briefly.

After failing in his third term bid, he decided to impose his successor. That is not what is done in a real democracy. Idowu Akinlotan in THE NATION, on Sunday, September 10, 2023, reminded us of how Obasanjo manipulated medical and financial reports in order to impose Yar'Adua, a man terminally ill, and Jonathan, a man ill-prepared for the presidency, as President and VP respectively. Yar'Adua collapsed under the weight of office. Jonathan stepped in and messed things up. We ended up with Buhari and bigger mess.

# Yoruba Council Worldwide Strips Obasanjo of All Chieftaincy Titles

By Taofik Jimoh

**Y**oruba Council Worldwide, acclaimed apex Yoruba indigenous organization, has stripped former Nigeria president Olusegun Obasanjo of all traditional chieftaincy titles in Yoruba land.

This was unconnected with the outburst of Obasanjo against some traditional rulers who were in attendance at the inauguration of the Iseyin Campus of the Ladoké Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) on Friday, September 15.

The outburst which is described by many as humiliation of a traditional institution, has generated anger and varied responses from Nigerians in all sections of the society.

Yoruba Council Worldwide (Igbimo Apapo Yoruba) conveyed this in a September 18 letter titled "Declaration/Non-recognition As Balogun of Owu Kingdom and any Other Chieftaincy Titles in Yoruba Land" and addressed to the Olowu of Owu Kingdom, Oba Professor Saka Matemilola and Olusegun Obasanjo, respectively.

**It reads: "The above subject matter refers.**

"The Yoruba Council Worldwide being the apex Yoruba indigenous organization, having waited endlessly for your compliance to the 3 days earlier call for sober apology press conference via our widely circulated notice on 16th September, 2023, we hereby declared and seize to recognize your Chieftaincy titles conferred on you by any monarchs in Yoruba Land, including the Balogun of Owu Kingdom, consequent upon your brazen refusal to apologize, degradation and disparaging comments to the Yoruba Obas on the 15th September, 2023 at Iseyin, Oyo State: A Total Sacrilege.

"We see your disrespectful statements at the commissioning of the Ladoké Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Iseyin campus, and had commanded kings from Oyo State to stand up and accord you respect (and subsequent defence in premium times); to the arrays of first-class Royal Fathers and other leading Obas like toddlers or a village



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo

headmaster or Army General talking profusely at his foot soldiers in a most depressing, disparaging and disrespectful manner.

"We reiterate as the leading vanguard voice for all Yoruba Indigenous people globally, we have eternal duty to preserve the aesthetic distinct Omoluabi ethos, Royal stools and ancestral customs and traditions of the Yoruba Obaship. precipitating our earlier demand for immediate apologies within three (3) days which you deliberately ignored blatantly.

"Furthermore, we shall mobilize all market women, youths and leaders of thoughts for onward sanitization and compliance to our declaration forthwith.

"We shall further commence strict legal action at a court of competent jurisdiction for defamation and scandalous libel

"We have emphatically spoken!"

The letter was signed by the President of the Council, Aare Oba Oladotun Hassan Esq, and Secretary General of the Council, Siyanbade Adekanmbi.

On Monday, September 18, Obasanjo stated that he still stood by his "stand up, sit down" order issued to some Yoruba traditional rulers in Oyo State.

Obasanjo added that he would remain firm, unapologetically and uncompromisingly maintain the position that the governor holds the

highest office in the state, which informed his remarks and the 'edide e joko' directive.

The elder statesman, who made this known through his media aide, Kehinde Akinyemi, in a statement, noted that the position, respect, protocol, and dignity that must be given to the office of a governor by virtue of the constitution must not be denied, stressing that to do otherwise is to deride the office and the constitution.

"... the former President has affirmed that he stood firmly, unapologetically and uncompromisingly on the

position that the Governor of a State holds the highest office in the State.

"By that position, the respect, protocol and dignity that must be given to the office by virtue of the Constitution must not be denied. To do otherwise is to deride the office and the Constitution."

Meanwhile, the Oyo State Council of Obas and Chiefs has also reacted Olusegun Obasanjo's outburst.

The Vice-Chairman, Oyo State Council of Obas and Chiefs, Olugbon of Orile-Igbon, Oba Francis Olushola Alao, in a

statement he personally signed on Tuesday, September 19, described the incident as an internal affair that would be properly reviewed at the next meeting of the council.

He said the monarchs involved understood the pain caused by the incident and appreciated the well-placed reactions, adding that the council's silence is not an act of cowardice.

The statement read in part: "I would like to emphasize that the inauguration ceremony was a huge success, while the road and campus projects represent another

milestone in the development strides of Governor Seyi Makinde who has been working hard to take Oyo State to the next level of development.

"All the royal fathers involved understand the pain caused by the incident and appreciate the well-placed reactions.

"I wish to state that the incident is an internal affair, which will be properly reviewed at the next meeting of the Oyo State Council of Obas and Chiefs.

"Let me assure all Yoruba, and other well-meaning Nigerians who have respect for the traditional institution, and who feel concerned about the incident, that our silence since Friday is not an act of cowardice. When we sit down with the governor and hold our next meeting, we will review and respond appropriately.

"Our governor respects us and traditional rulers in Oyo State also hold him in high esteem.

"This is the clear position of monarchs in Oyo State. Any other information from anywhere that is contrary to this should be disregarded," he stated.

The monarch then sued for calm, urging Nigerians to apply decorum in line with the Omoluabi ethos, saying unity is sacrosanct.

## Osun Pensioners Pledge Continuing Support for Adeleke's Gov't, Debunk Protest

By Taofik Jimoh

The Nigerian Union of Pensioners, Osun State chapter has reacted to a misinformation from some elements who claimed to be members of the union, that the state government under the leadership of Governor Ademola Adeleke has reneged in his promise regarding the payment of pensioners in the state.

The union said the information is untrue and can only emanate from those who are being used by the opposition members to discredit the current administration.

Speaking with our correspondent, the State Chairman of the union in Osun, Alhaji (Prince) G.O

Salawu said the governor has been doing well in terms of welfare of the people, especially pensioners in the state.

He stated that Governor Adeleke has been very friendly to pensioners. "Out of all the governors we have in Osun, Governor Adeleke has been very friendly to pensioners in the state. The half salary that he knows nothing about, today he has been paying the money gradually.

"I want to say it unequivocally that on behalf of our members, the Nigerian Union of Pensioners, Osun State chapter, we are solidly behind Governor Ademola Adeleke. He is

trying and he can still do better. We should continue to pray for his government."

In his own remarks, the State secretary of NUP, Elder Lawrence Dele Aina, said the union is not aware of any protest from any member and that whoever that is planning such should desist because the governor has been doing well for the pensioners in the state "unless we want to be an ingrate."

Elder Aina posited that the government is trying and we cannot deny that fact. He said, "This man is trying. We have some people who have occupied the position for twelve years and they did

nothing, rather they added to our suffering."

However, sources within the Pension Office who doesn't want their names quoted revealed that, two members of the said pressure group who claimed fighting for contributory pensioners, do come to the Bureau to demand for documents of the beneficiaries, which they are doing for their own personal gains.

"All they are doing is business. They usually come here to demand for beneficiaries' names. All they do is to get those names, convince the beneficiaries to move from PFA to annuity and this attracts commission for them. This is what they do."



# Obasanjo and the mess of traditional authority

By Busy Brain

In Nigeria, the media space is a mixture of human-interest stories of different categories. From the leaked sex tapes to Mohbad's gruesome death and Obasanjo's powerful command of traditional rulers.

To me, the news that touches the heart most is that of Mohbad's sudden death because of the circumstances that surrounded his demise by his tormentors. His death is not only shocking but alarming and disturbing.

On the other hand, former President Obasanjo's drama is another human-interest story that keeps one to wonder if such effrontery and boldness was a movie scene or it happened in a real-life situation. The command looks exactly like one of the scenes in the much talk about 'Jagun' movie, but it is not. It happens in real life at Iseyin, a town in Oyo State where traditional rulers were publicly denigrated to the lower ebb.

While growing up, the revelation we were fed about kings described them as the second in command to God, we were informed that the kings were sent by Olodumare (God) to come and rule over their subjects and whatever they say is supreme, and final. The revelation of this story has always been the perspective with which I used to see the monarchs in all circumstances. Those days, I was always confused, thinking the monarchs were not born like humans. The predominant opinion dominated my thoughts labelling the kings as creatures from heaven sent down to represent God. My thinking was weak and naive.

Similar to the real-life revelation about kings were the movies I was exposed to at a tender age. In many of these movies, kings were not always installed by any officials but through oracle consultation. In these movies, the least expected candidate always emerges as the king irrespective of his status. The kings were not considered by wealth, it is purely what the oracle says. Kings in the olden



day's movies were always portrayed as a sacred deity with full authority, influence, and affluence over the people in their subjects.

Of course, literature is the mirror of life, and movie as a literary genre mirrors life and reflects society. What normally happens in movies is a real-life situation that pictures how kings were installed in the olden days through oracle irrespective of their status after which they would be secluded for seven days for proper traditional rites.

Sadly, the stories have changed, and things that were considered sacred before have been turned upside down. Nowadays, kings are no longer second in command to God. They have been subjected to watching

their tongues by government officials. The State Governors have replaced oracle and the seven-day seclusion rites are being observed in Dubai, USA, United Kingdom, and the direct consequences of these are public mockery and reproach.

A perfect paradigm of the Iseyin event when Obasanjo commanded monarchs to stand up was captured in one of the scenes in 'Jagun' movie where kings and regents were seen praising the manipulative role of Ogundiji for getting them on the throne. The monarchs admitted they did not merit the throne. They all got to the throne through the backdoor and influence. In actuality, how many monarchs merit the throne today? The royalty has been transformed to the highest bidder through lobby. Obasanjo indirectly commanded the monarchs to pay obeisance to the governor who enthroned them. Only those who were enthroned through the Oracle consultation would have the courage to sit back and dare his command. The kings did nothing wrong to give a standing ovation to the Governor as commanded by the former president. The government has taken over the traditional institutions.

In 2015, former President Goodluck Jonathan while seeking re-election bid knelt before the Kings to receive royal endorsement and prayers. If Jonathan, a non-Yoruba President could be on his knees for the Monarchs, where is the Obasanjo's constitution that mandated the kings to stand and greet the governor or president coming from?

Obasanjo has forgotten the sacred nature of the throne. He has forgotten they are second in command to Olodumare (God).

The Iseyin event has called for the traditional rulers to go back to the drawing board. The monarchs should better realize their stools are not meant for decoration of events. The traditional authority is sacred and should remain sacred. The time is now for our revered monarchs to act fast and save the royalty from public denigration.

# The Death and Resurrection of Mohbad

By Busy Brain

He fought but lost the battle along the line. He voiced out but his voice could not be heard by colleagues. We all gathered to post Rest in Peace. We all could have done better to raise our voices against tormentors. He is dead but the light is on. No excuse, we are all hypocrites.

The above paragraph was my first reaction to Mohbad's death pointing accusing fingers at all of us, sudden mourners who could have ordinarily prevented many brutal attacks and threats against his personality while he was alive. The massive video footage that flooded the media after his death described the debilitating and attenuating status of his existence. He lived in fear and always seemed to be dread of his former record label.

The death of Mohad has further exposed the hypocritical level of human nature. The death in most instances faces rejection and most times gets exposed to mockery and reproach from friends, families, and colleagues, and witnesses unprecedented celebration after demise; this is the exact scenario of Mohbad's public sympathy and echoes of Justice all over the world.

The major background of Mohbad's problem is the family. His first agent of socialization was wobbled and disjointed and affected his subsequent decision to secure a better life for himself, and probably, his family.

Mohbad's family issue is obvious in one of his lyrics, titled 'Sorry' where he referenced the situation of his broken home and poor parental upbringing,

From his lines and lyrics, he said:  
"This kind life e tire me



Daddy no get salary  
Ten years I no see Mummy  
Stepmother no care  
Landlord e dey worry  
My brothers are hungry  
Daddy gather money make I go poly  
I go poly but I no go class  
Daddy, I am sorry"

The above lines are a metaphorical picture of his family's predicament which is liable to push him to take a step further. A step further from this confine led him to the Marlian music.

Going further with his lyrics, the subsequent lines depict the steps he took further to join the bandwagon of Yahoo, drug lords, and cult cliques. He depicts this by saying

"I don dey do Yahoo  
I don dey chop banku  
Omo pastor ti wonu aye"  
Mohbad said at the end of the lyrics that,

"Mummy just dey pray  
Daddy just dey pray for me  
Make e better for me  
Me I no go school  
The thing I fit do  
Music me I choose"

While the end of his verse explains the prayers being said by his parents, it equally shows the parents were praying after he had already joined the wrong caucus.

Obviously, the parental failure contributed to his ordeal and that's exactly what is affecting many who are victims of hard drug cliques, robbery gangs, cult groups, and other social vices.

Broken homes always tell on the children in negative. Family is the first agent of socialization, if a family fails, it endangers the lives of the children and that's why the children matter in all decisions to go on separate ways with a spouse.

Going back and forth, Mohbad' is gone and still alive. This reminds me of the Indian thriller movie, Bahuballi who died as a result of conspiracy from his family and resurrected through his son who revenged the injustice meted to his parents.

Like Bahuballi, Mohbad is survived by a son, Liam Imole. Mohbad's light is on and the light should be guided. The Justice for Mohbad movement should be more focused on his son. That's where his parent's happiness lies and that's the most important thing.

Let Mohbad's spirit continue to rest in the Lord. He has resurrected by giving the world the lights, Liam Imole.

**Rest on Legend...the whole world pays tribute.**

# Your Million Rants Can Not stop Gov Adeleke's Second Term -Osun Leadership Forum

By Taofik Jimoh

A political group under the aegis of Osun Leadership Forum has described the National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Ajibola Basiru as a "ranting bird" over his reported utterances against Governor Ademola Adeleke. Basiru had called on members of Osun APC party to resolve their differences so as to send Adeleke packing from office in 2026. He added that Osun people that voted the current administration in the state were already regretting their actions.

In its reaction, Osun Leadership Forum on Monday said nothing short of those utterances are expected from a loser.

This was contained in a statement jointly signed by Honourable Sola Makanjuola and Comrade Oluwasanmi A. Olabisi, the Chairman and spokesperson of the Forum respectively. It reads, "our attention has been drawn to the criticism made by Sen. Ajibola Basiru, the present National Secretary of the All Progressive Congress at a reception organized for him by the APC Leadership of

Osogbo Federal Constituency declaring Gov. Ademola Adeleke who is from the party that defeated and stopped him from going to Senate for second term incompetent.

"What do we expect from a loser? A loser rants like bird and will never be happy to see something good about a winner. Lest

we forget, that Sen. Ajibola who spent four years at the house of Senate was defeated by Sen. Fadeyi who had never held any post in politics before. This kind of statement against the people's governor can be traced to some of his failure.

Sen. Nurudeen

Ademola Adeleke is not Ajibola Basiru at all. Therefore, he can never fail. The government of Gov. Ademola Adeleke can never be compare to the poor governance of Sen. Ajibola Basiru and his party APC.

"APC permutation in making just defeated Senator Ajibola Basiru

who is the present National Secretary APC to motivate the people of Osun State is just a waste of time and effort in futility.

"Osun Leadership Forum implores the good people of Osun State not to be distracted by the APC, the opposition party that had suffered the state for good twelve

years.

"The story of half salary in Osun State will not be forgotten. The current issue of subsidy removal that has put many people into abject poverty is another lesson and a testimony that APC should be totally avoided.

"If anybody would talk about good governance not somebody like Sen. Ajibola Basiru who lost his Senatorial constituency in second term to Sen. Fadeyi of PDP. However, we want Sen. Ajibola Basiru to always see the result of Osun Central Senator Election, 2022 as payback to his poor performance.

"Gov. Ademola Adeleke second term is unshakeable. His good works and performance will speak for him. PDP has the larger population currently in the state, election is for majority and not for minority like APC or Sen. Ajibola Basiru."

Osun Leadership Forum admonished the good people of the state to brush off Sen. Ajibola Basiru's criticism about the government of Gov. Ademola Adeleke second term.



## Civil Service Week: Osun Labour Union Honours Gov. Adeleke, 68 Others

By Taofik Jimoh

As part of programs lined for the year 2023 Civil Service Week, the Nigeria Civil Service Union (NSCU) Osun State in conjunction with the Office of the Head of Service, on Thursday, 24th August, 2023, honoured the State Governor, Sen. Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke.

In a statement signed by the state chairman of the Nigeria Civil Service Union (NSCU), Osun State, Comrade (Dr) Christopher Arapasopo, a copy which was obtained by our correspondent, said the governor and 68 other eminent personalities who have distinguished themselves in their various

endeavours were honoured.

Comrade Arapasopo stated that the union gave out awards to both civil servants and other individuals, just to let them know that they appreciate them.

While announcing the award giving, Comrade Arapasopo said "as we are celebrating this year Civil Service Week, we have pencilled down some names which include Mr Governor to be awarded."

"It's undeniable fact that in the last few months of this administration, His Excellency, Governor Adeleke has delivered on some of his promises to the people and Osun workers.

"We are going to honour our amiable Governor, Sen. Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke as Most Dependable Governor of the Year.

"Other awardees are: Comrade Hassan Sumonu (Former NLC President) as Pillar of Labour in Nigeria, the Head of Service, Mr. Samuel Ayanleye Aina as Workers Ambassador, Comrade Sunday Adeleye, National President of Nigeria Civil Service Union as Visionary Labour Leader, Comrade Bomo Mohamed Ibrahim, General Secretary.

Nigeria Civil Service Union as Innovative Labour Leader, Comrade Olatunji Jimoh as Exemplary Leadership, among others.

## Adeleke approves payment of terminal benefits for deceased pensioners in Osun

By Taofik Jimoh

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has approved payment of terminal benefits for deceased pensioners of Primary school teachers and Local Government Staff Pensioners in the state.

This disclosure was made by the Permanent Secretary, Local Government Staff Pension Bureau, Mr Akibu Ibrahim in a recent statement.

He directed the relatives of the deceased to come the Local Government Staff Pension Bureau Office to check their names for payment.

Part of the statement reads, "This is to inform the general public that the Governor of Osun State, Sen. Ademola Adeleke has approved almost Four hundred million naira to 670 deceased who were retirees under the old pension scheme, that are Local Government Staff and Primary school teachers.

"Sequel to this, the affected deceased relatives are to visit the Local Government Staff Pension Bureau for proper documentation and payment."

The statement recalled Adeleke's promise not to take with levity the welfare of the Osun people, said that informed his resolve

to continue payment of the inherited debt, as well as offsetting the backlog of workers' salaries and pensions.

It further assured that Adeleke's administration would remain focused and committed to offsetting all outstanding salaries and pensions owed retirees in the state.



## Osun Water Corporation Board Chairman Orders Immediate Evacuation of private properties on government land

By Sola Isola

The Board Chairman, Osun State Water Corporation, Hon. Samuel Oyedotun has ordered an immediate evacuation of all private properties and business on lands belonging to Osun State Water Corporation.

Oyedotun who gave this order while inspecting offices and outlets of the corporation in Osogbo and Ede on Thursday explained that the order became necessary seeing that people are now building permanent structures on the lands without approval.

He added that strict measures will be taken against any individual or businesses found wanting while sending a note of warning to the people of Osun state to ensure that they don't buy lands belonging to the government.

He said "We discovered that a whole community have been built on government land at the Costain area of Osogbo, businesses are operating on government land in Okefia and Otaefun area of Osogbo and some families are now selling government land to people in Ede, just adjacent Adeleke

University High School. "People now build permanent structures on government lands without even approaching relevant authorities for approval on whatever it is that they want to do.

"So, I have ordered an immediate check of all

lands belonging to Osun State Water Corporation and I have ordered an immediate evacuation of all private properties on these lands.

"This will no longer be accepted; we'll evacuate all of them and put the land to proper use in such a way

that it will generate needed revenue for the state.

"This we will start by marking all the houses that are on government lands and we expect all occupants to come forward with relevant documents they have as a proof that they actually own or bought these lands.

"Let me also advise that our people should be careful of the sources they are buying lands from because whoever buys government land from an individual has just thrown money away" he concluded

After the inspection, Hon. Oyedotun promised that this is not the usual check and abandon approach of times past, the agency will come up with sustainable approach that will audit the agency's lands and develop best methods to maximize its utilization.

The Chairman was joined on the tour with the Commissioner for water resources, Hon. Sunday Oroniyi, General Manager Osun Water corporation, Mrs Dupeola Jokotola and departmental heads of the Osun state water corporation.



Hon. Samuel Olayinka Oyedotun, Board Chairman, Osun State Water Corporation.

## Gov Adeleke Is resuscitating Education Sector in Osun

– TESCOCOM Chairman

By Taofik Jimoh

In a bid to resuscitate education section in Osun State, Governor Ademola Adeleke recently organized a 3-day summit.

The Chairman of the state teaching service commission, TESCOCOM, Mr Temitope Mustapha stated this on 'Imole Ayo', a sensitization programme promoting the activities of Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration on OSBC Radio and Television channels.

To promote the accomplishments of Governor Ademola Adeleke's government in Osun state, the office of the governor's spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, established the weekly Yoruba programme that is simulcast.

Mr. Mustapha claimed that the Governor made a commitment to review the education summit report and put its

recommendations into practice in order to revitalize the industry.

He continued by saying that Governor Ademola Adeleke has devised plans to offer incentives for teachers working in rural areas, making it more pleasant for them to reside there and lessening their desire to be transferred to urban areas.

Regarding the topic of teacher recruitment, he stated that key players are already formulating plans to determine the number of subject instructors that are required to be hired and sent to schools around the state.

The TESCOCOM chairman asked parents and guardians to help Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration by paying necessary fees for their children's and wards' education on a regular basis. He said that this money is utilized for the upkeep of schools because the government cannot do it alone.

## Family, Community Bicker over Alleged 'Illegal Demolition' Of Homes in Osogbo

By Taofik Jimoh

The family of Olugun compound of Oja Oba, Osogbo has called on the State government to conduct a proper investigation into the allegation raised by some residents of Iludun community over the lands which belongs to their family.

Speaking with our correspondent, the head of the family, Oseni Aremu; member of the family Basiru Owolabi of Olugun compound, Oja Oba, Osogbo, said what the claim that they are trying to grab land is far from the truth.

He said "Our attention has been drawn to a distorted information from some residents of Iludun community claiming that their lands had been taken over by land grabbers. This is far from the truth.

"They claimed that the land grabbers who demolished structures in the community on Thursday, September 14, were headed by one 'D Law' and flanked by Bashiru

Owolabi of Olugun compound, Akeem Eleja, Muideen Ajibola of Oluawo compound and others who are yet to be identified.

"Ministry of lands, town planning office of Osogbo local government and capital territory office came to investigate the matter, at the end, they came up with a report that the proper setback has been given. After this, the remaining lands were taken over by us because we are the real owner of the land.

"Those who are claiming that their lands have been taken over unlawfully were asked to bring their documents to establish the boundaries of their lands, none of them submitted their papers.

"This case is even before the AIG at Zone 11 of the Nigeria Police Force with all our evidences as the real owners and they have been asked to bring theirs but they refused, instead they are going to build both on government land and our

land. We will not allow that.

"We are calling on the state government to conduct a proper investigation to this matter. We are law abiding citizens. We don't take what does not belong to us", the family said.

This was coming at the heels of an appeal by Iludun Community to the state governor to salvage the residents and landowners of the

community from land grabbers.

According to a source that pleads anonymity, the land grabbers who demolished structures in the community on Thursday, September 14, were headed by one 'D Law' and flanked by Bashiru Owolabi of Olugun compound, Akeem Eleja, Muideen Ajibola of Oluawo compound and others who are yet to be identified.



Surely, they are been backed or sponsored by unscrupulous element in the society. And they must be checked by government."

"We made a distress call to Nigeria Police Station here in Iludun, but the officers there could not help us.

"We want to beg Governor Ademola Adeleke to save us from these people. He is the only one who can help us from these people."

"Ministry of Land and Physical Planning has said that claimed these pieces of lands under dispute are not developable, yet these people defy the ministry's instructions and came with thugs to forcefully acquire the land. They were saying the government is not working or using the land anymore. Meanwhile, the ministry of lands states that if for any reason, the government no longer use an acquired land, it will be reverted to the person(s) it was taken from and not land grabbers."

"They all came with a large number of hoodlums. They forcefully demolished people's structures. They went ahead to beat some elderly people and destroyed people's phones. They even blocked other people from gaining access to their own houses.

"If this thugs and land grabbers are not checked on time, they may go out of hands, which may lead to serious crises.



# Adeleke's Performance Deepens Osun APC Crisis

By Sola Isola

The political landscape in Osun State is currently undergoing a seismic shift as the performance of Governor Ademola Adeleke, who was elected on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), continues to send shockwaves through the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state.

Today, there are four different factions within the Osun APC which are at dagger drawn with internal battles worsening. The four groups include of Oyetola's Ilerioluwa camp, the Omisore rescue group, Rauf Aregbesola group, and the fourth led by a group of former senators and former Commissioners.

Osun Spring reports that It became national news sometimes ago that the Osun APC members, in one of their WhatsApp groups, admitted that the strategies so far deployed to counter the rising popularity of Governor Adeleke have failed.

An influential leader of the party from Osun East Senatorial district who spoke under the condition of anonymity noted that all anti-Adeleke strategies the APC adopted so far have failed as the Governor is daily gaining the confidence of the public.

"Truth is bitter but let me repeat -we are failing in our approach to Ademola Adeleke. All our tactics are falling flats. Let us agree that man has outsmarted us. We are yet to understand his strengths. The Ede man appears to have finalized his 2026 re-election arrangements.

"Let us go to the drawing boards. The factions are many and real. Let us face the facts. Osun people see us as a party without focus and sincerity. As we daily mock Adeleke, the Man is delivering on various fronts. Osun people are with the Ede man. We have to fashion new strategies", the leader noted in the quoted WhatsApp message.

Since assuming office, Governor Adeleke has embarked on a series of developmental projects and policy initiatives that have garnered widespread praise from residents of the state. His focus on education, healthcare, infrastructure, and youth empowerment has been particularly notable.

One of the flagship programs of Adeleke's administration is aimed at revamping the state's economy and improving the living standards of its citizens. Under this plan, significant investments have been made in agriculture, technology, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have contributed to job creation and economic growth.

However, while Governor Adeleke's performance has endeared him to many Osun State residents, it has deepened the crisis within the Osun State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC). The APC, which lost the gubernatorial election to the PDP in a closely contested race, has been grappling with internal divisions and leadership disputes. It would be recalled the party also lost at the apex court.

Prominent APC members have voiced their concerns over the party's inability to retain power in the state and have been critical of the party's strategy and leadership. The Governor's governance and popularity among the electorate have exacerbated these tensions, with some APC members reportedly considering defecting to the PDP.

Some, however, stated that they won't leave the APC but work for Governor Adeleke to return as Osun Governor for the second term.

In response to these challenges, the APC has embarked on a soul-searching mission, convening meetings and discussions to address the internal discord. Party leaders are aware that they need to present a strong and united front. This has been extremely difficult and been on nought.

As Osun State continues to witness significant developments under the leadership of Governor

Adeleke, the APC faces an uphill battle in reconciling its internal differences and rebuilding its political capital. The 2023 elections in the state are anticipated to be a pivotal moment in the ongoing political drama, where the performance of the Governor may play a defining role in shaping the future of Osun State politics.

It is on record that Osun APC approached the 2018 and 2022 gubernatorial polls as a divided house. There were Ilerioluwa (loyalists of the former state governor and now Minister of marine, Gboyega Oyetola) and The Osun Progressives, TOP (loyalists of the former state

governor and former Minister of interior, Rauf Aregbesola). Members of the then TOP were vilified and harangued at every opportunity and suddenly became persona non grata within the state chapter of the party. For instance, TOP chairman, Adelowo Adebisi was suspended by the Elders caucus of the party in the state and Rasaq Salinsile faction of the party was recognized in favour of the Gboyega Famodun (now Owa of Igbajo) faction which supported the then state governor Gboyega Oyetola.

As said by Hon Sunday Bisi, the Osun APC has unsuccessfully been trying to

downplay the performance of Governor Ademola Adeleke adding that Osun APC members also know that their denials cannot change the reality of the monumental achievements of Adeleke.

"Sooko Tajudeen Lawal and the remaining members of the distressed opposition in the state were characterized by the Osun PDP Chairman as having a hostile history with the truth. He also noted that the criticism of Governor Adeleke's praise was bad politics pushed too far.

"The successes of the Adeleke administration are evident to everyone, with the exception of those who

consistently deny them, such as Sooko Lawal and his companion, according to Sunday, who stated that Governor Adeleke has achieved enormous strides in the state deserving of the praise that comes his way.

"Mr Tajudeen Lawal would even at times say some achievements Governor Ademola Adeleke claims are either unknowns or belong to Gboyega Oyetola without stating which one in actuality", he said.

Osun PDP Chairman, Hon Sunday Bisi maintained that Governor Ademola Adeleke's performances is a source of nightmares to Osun APC - whichever faction!



L-R: Kogi 2023 PDP Deputy Governorship Candidate-Hajia Habibat Mohammed Deen; Kogi 2023 PDP Guber Candidate-Senator Dino Melaye, Former Kogi Governors Idris Wada and Ibrahim Idris; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Contact and Mobilization Chairman of National Campaign-Professor Jerry Gana at the reconciliation meeting in the residence of Former Governor Idris in Abuja.

# Osun Eyes Benefits from Tinubu Presidency

By Taofik Jimoh

In a strategic move to ensure the prosperity and progress of Osun State, Governor Ademola Adeleke has continuously take steps that shows his readiness to position the state in order to benefit from the administration of President Bola Tinubu, Osun Spring reports.

This is evident in the relationship he has continued to foster with other state governors, ministers, and heads of agencies.

Osun Spring reports that Governor Adeleke, a People's Democratic Party (PDP) Governor has often noted that he believes in maintaining a harmonious political alignment between the federal and

state levels is crucial for the development of Osun State.

A source close to the a Governor who spoke to our correspondent under the condition of anonymity noted that even with the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) at the national level, Governor Adeleke is taking proactive measures to take advantages of Tinubu Presidency Adeleke with an aim to foster a constructive relationship between Osun State and the ruling party.

The source said "Governor Adeleke understands the importance of political stability and collaboration in driving economic growth, he believes that nurturing relationships with key political figures can

leverage the state's resources and promote its development agenda.

"Governor Adeleke's proactive approach reflects his commitment to putting the interests of Osun State above partisan politics.

"By reaching out to other governors and government officials, he aims to foster partnerships that will attract investments, improve infrastructure, and enhance the overall standard of living for the people of Osun".

In his recent statements, Governor Adeleke emphasized the need for synergy between the federal and state governments. He revealed that he believes that jointly leveraging resources and expertise can bring about positive change and improve the lives of citizens.

He also highlighted the potential benefits of Tinubu's government, including increased access to federal funds and assistance in addressing Osun State's specific needs.

Osun Spring reveals that Adeleke's proactive diplomacy and willingness to collaborate with the party at the helms of affairs have garnered praise from various political stakeholders and citizens in Osun State. His efforts to build bridges across party lines demonstrate a commitment to good governance and the well-being of the state's populace.

The governor's approach aligns with his administration's overarching vision of

transforming Osun State into an economic powerhouse, where opportunities abound and the standard of living rises. Adeleke's keenness on fostering relationships at the national level is an admirable strategy that has the potential to benefit not only Osun State but also its people, irrespective of their political affiliations.

As the political landscape evolves, the people of Osun State eagerly anticipate the potential advantages that a Tinubu presidency could bring. With Governor Adeleke's proactive outreach and inclusive approach, the state stands poised to maximize any federal support and collaboration while placing the interests of its citizens at the forefront of its development agenda.

**Governor Adeleke's Osun 32nd Anniversary Speech**

**BROADCAST ADDRESS ON THE 32ND ANNIVERSARY OF OSUN STATE'S CREATION**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY ADEMOLA JACKSON NURUDEEN ADELEKE. HELD ON 27TH AUGUST, 2023.**

**D**ear Citizens of Osun State,

I am honoured to address you today on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of our beloved Osun State. On August 27th, 1991, our state was carved out from the old Oyo State.

Today marks a significant milestone in the history of our great state. As we reflect upon the journey, let us acknowledge what shaped our state and chart a course for a brighter and more prosperous future.

Our state's creation was the outcome of the struggles of our people. The founding fathers worked hard to realize the vision. The struggle started as early as 1950's with a series of commissions of inquiry in the old Oyo State.

The doggedness of the founding fathers was rewarded on August 27th 1991, when General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida created nine states including Osun state with Osogbo as the capital. This marked the recognition of our unique cultural heritage, rich history. The creation of Osun State was a testament to our collective determination to

achieve self-governance and development

Over the past three decades, Osun State has demonstrated its strength in various fields. Osun has been growing from strength to strength. We have achieved a lot under our five-point agenda on workers welfare, gratuities and pension; education, affordable health care, state and social security and human capital development has yielded a skilled workforce that contributes significantly to the growth of our state and the nation.

We are building a digital ecosystem that deploys technology for development. We are laying a strong foundation for tech driven industrial development. We seek to harness our huge academic potentials for state growth. We are working hard to upgrade our infrastructure. Our focus includes growing the state economy to generate jobs and build the commonwealth.

In our push to achieve dreams of our founding fathers, we recognise the

challenges facing our state. We regard developmental setbacks as tools to resolution of societal problems. I don't want to report problems but solutions to our common setbacks.

My dear good citizen of Osun State, at this point this

is a clarion call-in order to propel Osun State towards sustained economic growth, we must collectively focus on several key strategies ranging from:

- Strengthening our transportation networks, energy systems, and digital

connectivity will attract investment, facilitate trade, and improve the overall quality of life for our citizens.

- Continued emphasis on modernizing our agricultural practices, supporting farmers with training and access to markets, will enhance food security and drive economic growth.

- Nurturing a culture of learning and innovation through improved educational facilities and partnerships with research institutions will fuel the emergence of a knowledge-based economy.

- Leveraging our cultural heritage and natural beauty, we can develop sustainable tourism offerings that create jobs and stimulate local economies.

- Providing financial incentives, technical assistance, and access to markets for SMEs will foster entrepreneurship and diversify our economic base.

- Implementing eco-friendly policies and sustainable practices will

not only protect our environment but also attract eco-conscious industries.

- Collaborating with the private sector to develop infrastructure projects, such as energy, transportation, and healthcare, can leverage resources and expertise for mutual benefit.

In conclusion, the 32nd anniversary of Osun State's creation reminds us of our shared commitment to progress and development. Let us honour the sacrifices of our forebears by embracing our strengths, addressing our weaknesses, seizing opportunities, and confronting threats.

By working together with determination and unity, we can build an Osun State that thrives economically, socially, and culturally. As we embark on this journey, let us remain unwavering in our resolve to leave a legacy of prosperity for generations to come.

Thank you, and may the light of progress continue to shine upon Osun State

**God bless Osun State.**



**How Gov Adeleke Is resuscitating Education Sector In Osun – TESCOM Chairman**

**By Taofik Jimoh**

In a bid to resuscitate education section in Osun State, Governor Ademola Adeleke recently organized a 3-day summit.

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**By Sola Isola**

The Osun State chapter of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) carpeted the All Progressives Congress (APC) over its criticism of the state's finance, clarifying that Governor Adeleke has been sustainably managing state economy and finance.

A statement by the Chairman of the party, Hon Sunday Bisi noted that APC leadership is suffering from undiagnosed political ailment that has destroyed its soul adding that it is reprehensible for a party that plunged the state into a voidable debt cumulatively close to N100 billion to accuse the successor party of misdemeanour.

Bisi added that Osun's financial management model is superbly sound stressing that all over the

country, people are asking how Governor Adeleke is so smartly governing despite the financial liabilities.

He said "A Governor who inherited over N500 billion debt and is still paying salaries, pension debt and delivering on major projects cannot be accused of running the state aground. Anybody making such allegations is likely financially illiterate.

"Osun state inherited from the APC government was financially wrecked. Yet, Governor Adeleke manages to pay monthly salaries without default till date. He has paid over N17 billion naira from inherited N56 billion naira debt. He is paying half salary debt instalments.

"The Governor has constructed over 50 kilometres of roads. Several bridges and channelisation projects

**Adeleke Is Managing Osun Finances Sustainably – OSUN PDP**



cumulatively close to N100 billion to accuse the successor party of misdemeanour.

"In saner climes, APC and its jobless and frustrated hatchet writer will by now have quitted partisan politics. By now, they should be facing a probe for destroying a buoyant state economy handed over to the APC 12 or so years ago. "Governor Adeleke is however more concerned about stabilizing the ship of state. He rejected the possibility of probing those who plunged the state into current debt, choosing instead to salvage the state finance and economy".

He warned APC to desist from its lies so as not to force the PDP government to revisit its policy on book of the past, adding that "looters of yesterday risk being unmasked to face the consequences of their maladministration"

are completed. Free medical surgeries are being held with over 50,000 beneficiaries.

"Osun's financial management model is superbly sound. All over the country, people are asking how Governor Adeleke is so smartly governing despite the financial liabilities. The record of the administration in financial prudence is astounding.

"For us in PDP, we believe APC leadership is suffering from undiagnosed political ailment that has destroyed its soul. It is reprehensible for a party that plunged the state into avoidable debt

# Editorial

## OSUN SPRING UNVEILED: OUR MISSION AND AGENDA

If you are reading this, you must have gotten for yourself a copy of the maiden edition of the newest and the latest newspaper outfit in Osun.

Osun Spring is a newspaper publication that will be coming your way twice a month with exciting but truthful and thoroughly investigated content.

We have an unwavering commitment to delivering accurate, relevant, and thought-provoking content with our focus extending across a wide spectrum, ranging from breaking news and pertinent current affairs to the exhilarating world of sports.

Our dedicated team of writers and reporters would tirelessly conduct comprehensive coverage that captures the pulse of events and developments, ensuring that our readers are informed and engaged at all times.

We believe that journalism is not just a business, but a public service. We believe that journalism is not just a way of reporting facts, but a way of exposing injustices, challenging corruption, and promoting democracy. We believe that journalism is not just a matter of opinion, but a matter of evidence, logic, and fairness.

Our mission is to provide our readers with accurate, credible, and relevant information that they can use to make

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informed decisions and participate in civic life. Our agenda is to investigate and expose the issues that affect our society, such as human rights violations, environmental degradation, political scandals, economic inequality, social injustice, and cultural diversity. Our methods are based on rigorous research, verification, analysis, and storytelling. Our standards are guided by the principles of honesty, integrity, independence, accountability, and respect.

We invite you to join us in our quest for truth and justice. We welcome your feedback, suggestions, and criticisms. We value your trust, support, and loyalty. We hope that our newspaper will not only inform you, but also inspire you.

# Interview

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## “WE MET OSUN MINING SECTOR IN DISARRAY... IT IS NO MORE BUSINESS AS USUAL - GOVERNOR ADELEKE’S AIDE

Professor Lukman Adekilekun Jimoda is the Special Adviser to Governor Ademola Adeleke on Mining and Mineral Matters, in this interview; He speaks with Blessing Adegbite on the state of things in the mining sector, challenges, opportunities for economic growth, steps Governor Ademola Adeleke is taking to support and develop the mining sector and plans to sustain the legacies of Governor Ademola Adeleke lives beyond this administration.



### What was the state of things in the mining sector when this administration started?

I am Professor Lukman Adekilekun Jimoda, the Special Adviser to Governor Ademola Adeleke on mining and mineral matters. When this administration started, Governor Ademola Adeleke set up a committee to reposition the mining sector and the recommendation of the committee had really helped us a lot. When I was appointed as a Special Adviser, it was so easy for me because I was a member of that committee, and what we are trying to do is to ensure that we put all those recommendation into place. We met the mining sector in disarray, in the sense that the accumulated service charges that must be paid for all the mining licenses were disregarded and also area of important need of upgrading from exploration lices to mining lices, were not given attention by the last administration. There is need for this office to visit all our licenses; we have six licenses in Osun, we have five in Kogi, we have one in Zamfara, we have two in Ebonyi, we have one in Niger and one in Kaduna, all those licenses were abandoned in the sense that there is need for us to revisit them, this was the state of things we met.

### What are the challenges facing the mining sector in Osun State?

The last administration did excavation almost everywhere without taking care of environmental degradation, there was also no proper planning for mineral exploration, there are some things that have to be put in place before you allow miners to be mining and these are areas, this office has done a lot of restructuring.

### What are the opportunities for growth in the mining sector in Osun State?

A: Mining is not like buying and selling, you have to invest and with time the investment will be bringing money, Investment in the area of allowing joint venture participation, the model in most cases is that you allow people to come and you now fix together at an agreement and I can assure you that this government is ready to do it well, which this government is doing very well unlike before and I believe once we do it well, a lot of opportunities will be coming in terms of a bogus internally generated revenue (IGR), which we are already witnessing gradually. This office is now having revenue generation from quarry operation, revenue from laterite, we are also trying to generate revenue from ticking on a daily basis for artisanal miners, we now have IGR from registration of miners and very soon we will be having IGR from mining using excavators and mining using cord drilling.

### What steps is Governor Ademola Adeleke taking to support and develop the mining sector in Osun State?

Governor Ademola Adeleke has paid over one hundred million naira of the accumulated service charges, it's unfortunate that the last administration were just doing mining and disregarding what is bringing money, when you have a license and you are getting money from it, you have to make sure you do all the needful, we have paid all the accumulated service charges, we are not owing anything, its available online for fact check and kudos to our own Governor for that. Apart from that in management you have to plan, you do fore-casting, this office

has done a lot and I am doing all this together with my executive secretary, we now have exploration lices (EL), we are trying to upgrade exploration leases to mining leases at the end of the operation we will be having forty-two mining leases and two exploration leases, the implication is that we need more investors, we now have enough licenses to accommodate investors.

### What are the benefits of mining for the people of Osun State?

Mining is a process that generates IGR, we have three main methods of doing mining; we have the traditional mining, we have the air recruitment artisanal mining method and we have mining using excavators and cord drilling. There is no way the three methods is not going to bring money, we are running a strategy that will bring more IGR and we have increase our signature bonus from twenty million naira to thirty million naira for mining using excavators, mining using excavator is working between four to ten metres, mining using cord drilling entails working between several metres downward, we have increased the signature bonus for cord drilling from one hundred million naira to two hundred and fifty million naira, investors have started coming but we don't want to rush, we are screening them, there are something things they must bring before we allow them, this are the due diligence we are taking presently.

### What are you doing to curb the menace of illegal mining and its effect on the environment?

Once you have your own personal license, you are not an illegal miner, it is the responsibility of the Federal government to give licenses, but once they work here, the State government wants to know them, we want to romance them, we want to tell them the does and don't in our State. Illegal miners are those people doing excavation without having license and without having romance with the host community, because the mining act says that you mine with the community development agreement, but once you have your license, you have an interaction with your host community, then you can do your mining legally but illegal miners are those person that don't exit, they just want to do mining, this government will not tolerate anything like that and that is why we have been able to get all the list of miners in the State, we have their names, we now know their cadastral unit and areas they occupy, with this we can easily manage and avoid illegal mining, we are managing and studying them and the state government is giving us enough logistics to be able to do our work effectively.

### Can you give us update on the ongoing effort by the Osun state government to clean up Osun River?

I am Professor of chemical engineering and I specialized in environmental engineering, as a chemical engineer we are more verse in the area of mineral processing and mining in a safe environment. I have a lot of relevant publication in the area of water pollution and waste management, that is why I have the responsibilities of showing that you don't just mine, if you are a cord drilling miner you must mine by showing prerequisite to your mining is having an environmental impact as a state.

We want to know the condition of the environment before you get there and the condition of the environment after your operation or progressively as you are doing your operation, so that we can monitor what is happening to our environment and this office is on top of that, we don't tolerate anything that will affect the water of the Ijesa people, there is what we call environmental management plan (ENP), they must do ENP, at the level of ENP I will be there, my executive secretary will be there, Commissioner for environment will be there, PS environment will be there, Commissioner for water resources and PS water resources will be there, we will look at it together, we will ask questions, we will scrutinizes what they are bringing, so that an agreed ENP will now be used for them to go to the field and for mining with excavator you do a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. We are on top of it and we don't want to tolerate mining that will affect the environment and our people's health.

### What's your plan in ensuring that the steps taken under this administration lives beyond the administration?

We met Segilola, Segilola is an independent miner, mining within the state, we added that the Government have a shareholding, I was given an assignment to trace the shareholding of Segilola, I am happy to tell you that this office has been able to do the nitty-gritty of that assignment and we have been able to claim a shareholding of Segilola, the actual percentage will be communicated to the Governor, it is a great achievement and the implication is that a lot of IGR will be coming to the state.

We are looking the at the sector in the area that we want more licenses, we also need to manage the existing one to bring more investors, which we are working on that, as a state we are encouraging more investors to come, recently the Governor directed me to interact with investors from United Kingdom and United State of America, and we have assured them that Osun state is one hundred percent okay for investment.

We are looking at this office in such a way that will attract enough investors, we are looking at a state that we will ensure our miners carry out their mining in a safe environment, zero tolerance for air and water pollution and we are looking at a state in such a way that we should be able to interact with people that has enough thinker capacities, most of our licenses don't have data, very soon we will have a group that will continually be having the data collection, so that we can have information, when we have a license and you have data, it becomes very good market for investors, Data acquisition this office will work on that and by implication it is going to attract more investors.

I also seize this opportunity to thank the entire citizenry of Osun for their support for the People's Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, I want to assure us that it is not more business as usual, we now have an office of mining and mineral matters that is looking at Osun state having enough IGR, a lot of money is now coming in unlike before and we are also trying to plan in such a way that it will attract more investors and they are already coming, but we are taking our time to screen them and the final agreement will be done by the Ministry of Justice, our own is to ensure that they comply with the direction we are going. I want to assure us that very soon we will have enough IGR for the state.

# Interview

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## IMOLE MEDICAL

### OUTREACH HAS COME TO STAY, OSUN SA PUBLIC HEALTH, DR AKINDELE

**Dr Akindele Adekunle is the Special Adviser to Governor Ademola Adeleke on Public Health, in this interview; He speaks with Tomi Lala on the state of things in the Osun Health Sector as well as steps Governor Ademola Adeleke is taking revive public health sector in the state and ensure the plans are sustained.**

**H**ow has the state government been working to improve healthcare access and quality in Osun, especially in rural areas?

You'll agree with me that one of the cardinal points of Governor Adeleke agenda is health care delivery, since he came on board, and he has set up machinery to actualize that. When we came in, the state of health care in Osun state was shambolic and quite worrisome and so far, we've been able to start addressing those challenges, in the likes of economy situation in the country, accessing health care of our people in the country has been difficult, so the governor has graciously approved the Imole Medical outreach for our people. So far, we've had the first phase and we would continue and this week we will be concluding the first phase and it's really a success and it has even surpassed our expectations, we expected to attend to about 18,000 people and eventually we have more than 30,000 people which is very commendable.

**Equipment and personnel is a major problem in our primary health care centres, what the plans of this administration in solving this problem?**

A: We realized that the previous government was not actually paying personnel that left the service. We're actually working on how to improve on personnel in the health care. And we've started with Uniosun Teaching Hospital. As we speak there's an ongoing employment at the Uniosun Teaching Hospital for health professionals over there.

We have equally started embarking on revamping our medical facilities at the secondary and primary health care levels, we're hoping to build in more quarters for health professionals. Aside that, salary of health personnel is promptly paid, and all their needs has been attended to, so far, since governor Adeleke came into power.

The essence of all these is to elevate the standard of health care in the state and discourage what is called medical tourism by the time we put our health care facilities in proper shape with adequate drugs, medical equipment, and when we see to the welfare of the personnel, we are going to have less exodus of medical personnel from the state.

**What are your plans to ensure Imole free medical outreach program is sustained and get to the right audience?**

Most times, some of these policies depends on the body language of leadership. The governor in his various submission has said, it's going to be continuous. He's a caring governor and he believes the health of the people is very paramount, because when people are well, they become productive.

The medical outreach has come to stay and as long as we're in government by the grace of God, for the first four years, and second four years, it is sustained.

And for any other government that's coming after this, we hope the other government that will be coming after us will follow so, because it's a very laudable program that has really helped our people. Beyond that, you will see a lot of people coming from a



neighbouring state coming to Osun state to have a feel of the program.

**How does the govt plan to leverage technology and data in public health management and monitoring?**

As we speak to you, very soon we'll commence electronic medical records where most of the activities in the hospital will go digital, it will really help to reduce patients waiting time in the hospital and enhance productivity of the Personnel. We're going to start with a pilot program in Asubiaro Hospital very soon, and it has been approved by the Governor. By this time, we are going to extend it to most of health facilities across the state.

**Aside from Imole free medical outreach, are there any upcoming Public Health programs or initiatives that residents of Osun should be aware of?**

we have numerous ones apart from Imole free medical outreach, there are non-governmental organizations that comes to partner with the state and for us too, when you talk of health, it's quite limitless. For example, we embark on routine immunization regularly, we call it outreach too, to immunize the populace against most of the infectious and communicable diseases, so it's all encompassing and something that we will continue to do to improve healthcare delivery system in the state.

And I also want to encourage our people, especially those that are not in the formal sector please endeavour to enrol into Osun state health insurance scheme.

It will go a long way to alleviate them. Sometimes you may be sick, you don't have money in your bank or pocket, once you're enrol in the scheme, you go to the hospital and treatment will be given to you. It's a very essential part of health care system, I want every son and daughter of Osun state to key into it so that they can from time-to-time benefits from the scheme.



# Governor Adeleke Assigns Portfolio to Commissioners, Special Advisers

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, on Wednesday swears in 25 commissioners as well as Special Advisers charging them to be efficient and effective in moving the state forward in line with his administration's plans and policies.

While congratulating the newly appointed Commissioners and Special Advisers, the Governor calls on them to discharge their duties diligently, listen to the concerns of the people and work towards addressing their concerns, adding that any form of indiscipline will not be tolerated.

Governor Adeleke maintained that they are a product of stakeholders' choice and are all merit based.

He said, "Our team of commissioners are therefore a product of stakeholders' choices.

"It is important to affirm that my preoccupation throughout the process was a merit-based pathway.

"This passion of mine for putting together qualified hands was reflected in the template the party applied throughout.

"Now that the team is assembled, let me share a brief about my vision for the state. I seek a very responsive government that listens and satisfies the wishes of the people. So, your goal must be really service to the people."

Governor Adeleke stated further that it is expected of all commissioners to act with integrity and honesty, adding that no corrupt practice will be tolerated.

"I value honesty and integrity in public service. You must be above board. Corrupt conduct will be heavily sanctioned.

"I love thinking out of the box in governance. As political heads of your ministries, be very innovative. Generate and implement new ideas.

"In times of national economic emergency, I love achieving much with little resources. Be prudent and adopt measures that reduce cost of projects and services.

"As we all know, I am a team player. There won't be any room for solo actors in our cabinet. You must work as a team with a common goal to make a difference in the lives of our people.

"Above all, my leadership is about due process and rule of law. You must not cut corners. I will not compromise transparency and accountability.

"As you are coming on board, the task before us is enormous. We have a duty to turn our adversity into assets. We must re-engineer our economy, generate wealth, engage our youth, deepen our economic base, embrace the digital economy and implement our climate action agenda", Governor Adeleke maintained.

The Governor promised to support and give a level playing ground to all commissioners adding that the five points agenda of the government should be focused on all ministries serving as a guide in all plans and projects.

"You will find in me a receptive and supportive head of administration. To harness our potentials and capacities, an executive retreat is in the making for all top appointees and officials.

"At that event, an expanded five point agenda of the administration will be a focus. We will leave the retreat better equipped to deliver on our mission and vision as a

government.

"The people of Osun have high expectations from this administration. We have not and will not disappoint them. My team will redouble its efforts to deliver on our election promises. We will sustain our high performing rating", he added.

The Governor also noted that only 10 out of the Special Advisers will be cabinet members.

Below is the full list of commissioners and portfolios:

1. Kolapo Alimi Esq- Commissioner for Information and public enlightenment.
2. Dosu Babatunde Esq – Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.
3. Moshood Olagunju – Commissioner for youth Affairs
4. Hon. Soji Ajeigbe – Commissioner for Government Affairs and Protocol
5. Jimi Bada Esq – Commissioner for Justice & Attorney General
6. Mrs Ayo Awolowo – Commissioner for Women affairs
7. Hon. Eluwole Sunday Adedipo – Commissioner for Education
8. Hon. Olusesan Oyedele -Commissioner for transport
9. Dr BT Salam – Commissioner for Internal Integration and Special Duties
10. Hon. Olufemi Oroniyi- Commissioner for Water Resources
11. Prof Moruf Ademola Adeleke – Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning
12. Hon Maruff Dele Ayofe – Commissioner for Science Information Communications and Technology.
13. Mrs. Adenike Folasade Adeleke – Commissioner for Federal Affairs
14. Rev. Bunmi Jenyo – Commissioner for Commerce and Industries
15. Mr. Shola Ogungbile – Commissioner for Finance
16. Hon Tola Faseru – Commissioner for Agriculture
17. Barrister Jola Akintola – Commissioner for Health
18. Hon Mayowa Adejorin – Commissioner for Environment and Sanitation
19. Hon. Festus Adeyemo- Commissioner for Energy
20. Hon. Aderibigbe Rasheed – Commissioner for Home Affairs
21. Hon. Ojo Fafa Abiodun – Commissioner for Culture and Tourism
22. Alh. Ganiyu Olaoluwa Asejere – Commissioner for a Rural Development and Community Affairs
23. Hon George Alabi – Commissioner for Land and Physical Planning
24. Hon. Bayo Ogunbangbe – Commissioner for Cooperatives and Empowerment
25. Hon. Biyi Odunlade – Commissioner for Political Affairs and Intergovernmental Relation
- His Excellency, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke – Works
- His Excellency Prince Kola Adewusi – Sports and Special Needs

**LIST OF SPECIAL ADVISERS – CABINET RANKS**

1. Azeez Badmus – Information and Communication

**Technology**

2. Hon Moshood Yakubu- Transport
3. Dr Adekunle Akindede- Public Health
4. Hon Moji Omisore -Rural & Community Development
5. Hon Kamoru Ajisafe- Tax Matters
6. Hon Ropo Oyewole- Legislative Matters
7. Hon Emiola Fakeye- Investment (OSICOL)
8. Bank Omisore – SDGs
9. Hashim Abioye Esq- Legal Matters
10. Mallam Olawale Rasheed -Spokesperson/Special Adviser on Media

**LIST OF SPECIAL ADVISERS: NON- CABINET**

1. Femi Carena- Office of Surveyor General
2. Hon Stephen Olaniran Akanfe Atidade- Agriculture-OSSADEC/OSSADEP
3. Mr Tunde Balogun- Sanitation
4. Mr Eniola Odeniyi – Public Enlightenment
5. Alhaji Muniru Adebayo Raji- Political Affairs
6. Mr Goddey Olijeh- Local Government Affairs
7. Mr Seyi Babatunde- Osun Road Maintenance Agency
8. Sunday Komolafe – Secondary Education -SSEE
9. Tope Victor Anjorin- Tourism
- 10 Princess Oyeboade Rasheedat Oyewale Afolabi-STOWASSA/Water Regulatory Commission
11. Odelade Sarafat Olanrewaju- RUWESA
12. Nurudeen Emiloju- CSDP (Community & Social Dev't Projects)
13. Hon Yemi Ayodele- Home Grown School Feeding
14. Mrs Halid Sekina Temilade- Children Affairs
15. Ajetunmobi Akinwale – School Monitoring (Education District Offices)
16. Alhaja Hawa Ahmed- Federal Affairs
17. Durojaiye Isaac Kolawole. Empowerment & Cooperatives
18. Princess Adebimpe Koyi-Diaspora Affairs
19. Alhaji Abiodun Olaniran-Waste Management
20. Alhaji Adam Akintunde Akindere- Lands (Property Development)
21. Yemi Owolade – Global Investments
22. Teniola Lanlehin – Education
23. Felix Lekan Olatunji – Trade and Investment
24. Dr Michael Oyerinde – Primary Health Care
25. Ademola Adeshina – Technical and Vocational Studies
26. Olusola Ajala – Public Communications/Compere
27. Bukola Onifade – Boundary Matters
28. Fausat Sarumi – Assets Management
29. Eniola Omotosho – Market Women Affairs
30. Kehinde Alexander Oloke – Traditional Matters
31. Kamal Adekilekun – Regional Integration
32. Olubi Adejobi – Intergovernmental Assignments
33. Prof Lukman Jimoda – Mining and Mineral Matters
34. Sir Adekunle Adepoju – General Services
35. Odejobi Akinkunmi Abiodun- Special Duties
36. Princess Doyin Laoye- Skills Acquisition and Training
37. Olaniyi Akinlabi-Special Adviser on Protocol Matters

# News

## Under Tinubu, Yoruba Stamps Presence on FG

By Blessing Adegbite

**W**ith a little over 100 days on the saddle, the appointment made by President Bola Tinubu have appeared to have special consideration for people from his South-West region, especially those with links to Lagos State.

Key appointments traversing the nation's crucial security, judicial and economic sectors under the administration of President Tinubu shown the Yorubas stamp presence of the Federal government.

A quick, non-exhaustive check-list would include: Petroleum Minister: Bola Tinubu; Chief of Staff: Femi Gbajabiamila; Minister of Justice: Lateef Fagbemi; Minister of Finance and the Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun; Acting Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Folashodun Shonubi who now gives way to a substantive CBN boss Olayemi Cardoso.

Others include: Minister of Marine & Blue Economy: Adegboyega Oyetola; Minister of Communication,

Innovation & Digital Economy: Bosun Tijan; Minister of Power: Adebayo Adedun; Minister of Solid Minerals: Dele Alake; Chief of Army Staff: General Taoreed Lagbaja; Police IG: Kayode Egbetokun; Comptroller-General Customs: Adewale Adeniyi; Comptroller-General Immigration: Adepoju Carol Wura-Ola; FIRS Chairman:

Zacchaeus Osun Spring recall that the central driving mantra and foundational philosophy on which the ruling All Progressives Congress sold its presidential candidate Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, now President, to Nigerians, was "Renewed Hope." Nigerians bought into it and voted the Asiwaju and APC to power because it deeply

resonated with the populace.

Before now, Nigerians have often noted with caution how different past Presidents in the country often favoured one tribe or the other, however Yorubas have seem to stamp heavy presence on President Bola Tinubu administration.

While some experts argue that this could have a toll on government majorly

because of federal character, some other persons argue that the President can only appoint people in his circle that he is sure of their capacity to deliver the desired result.

Segun Olaifa, a Public affairs analyst argued that it is unhealthy for a President to appoint people from a tribe only especially when it is his own tribe considering the

fact that he is for the entire nation.

He said, "I am not sure the reason President Tinubu has loaded his different appointment with Yorubas but I don't think its healthy for a nation.

"Nigeria is filled with many tribes and it follows federal character for the President to appoint people from different tribes so as to drive the unity of this nation.

Speaking with Osun Spring, Patrick Oluwanifemi, another public affairs analyst deferred from the other analyst, he said the President has a prerogative of choosing whoever he deems fit as appropriate for any position adding that what is important is the appropriateness of such persons for the office.

"I think President Tinubu is still in order because he has a right to appoint whoever he thinks is appropriate for any office he feels like.

"What should matter to us is if such persons qualify to hold the office in the first place, every other thing is secondary."



OLD LOGO



NEW LOGO

### Governor Adeleke holds maiden 'Ipade Imole'

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke is set to hold the maiden edition of Ipade Imole, a quarterly accountability and transparency program of the Osun state government.

The program is set to hold at 10am on Thursday, 5th October, 2023 at Aurora Events Centre, Osogbo, the Osun state capital.

Osun Spring recall that the Spokesperson to Osun State Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed had earlier declared that the forum will be held on a quarterly basis with a focus on detailed reports of government finance, revenue inflows, expenditure and ongoing and completed projects.

He added that the "Ipade Imole" will involve relevant government agencies delivering reports of activities of each ministry to give details of ongoing projects, how much it costs, stages of

completion and other contractual details to the public through the forum.

In another chat with Journalists on Wednesday, Spokesperson to Osun State Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed reaffirmed that "It's part of the transparency of this Government to carry the people along in the decision-making process and to gain valuable insights from the residents of Osun State."

"The Ipade Imole event promises to be an important occasion, where Adeleke will interact with the public, highlighting the progress made under his leadership and the direction in which he intends to steer the state in the coming years. This initiative demonstrates the commitment of the Osun State Government and the Governor to run an inclusive government."

### Adeleke Raises Alarm Over Brain Drain in Health Sector, Expresses Willingness to Work with Pertinent Parties to Enhance Healthcare Services

By Taofik Jimoh

The governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke has stated that all stakeholders should be concerned about the declining number of medical specialists.

The Governor made this known at the 9th Annual International Oncology Multidisciplinary team symposium organized by the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Clinical Science, College of Health Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife.

The Governor enjoined professional and prospective medical practitioners to use the three-day symposium to discuss removing obstacles to training and developing more qualified personnel in order to stop the brain

drain and shortage of medical professionals in the healthcare industry as well as to cut down on Nigerians traveling abroad for medical treatment.

The Governor, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Public Health, Dr. Akindele Adekunle, reaffirmed his willingness to support any ground-breaking solutions that Nigerians come up with to combat the rising tide of cancer-related disorders.

"The rate of cancer related cases, as you must be aware, is becoming troubling and more troubling is the dwindling number of experts in the medical field to combat the menace.

"Osun State government under our healthcare

agenda, would leave no stone unturned to partner with lifesaving institutions like this great body, to breathe life to dying cells", he said.

Governor Adeleke praised the doctors, surgeons, and oncologists for saving lives and making a significant contribution to the survival of humanity via the performance of their duties and obligations.

"We salute the

oncologists, the cancer specialists, be it medical, radiation, or surgical oncologists. Like I mentioned earlier, this brainstorming assembly wouldn't have come at a better time than now", he added.

He declared that the state is prepared to work with pertinent parties to enhance healthcare services in the state and focus on delicate medical conditions like cancer and other related terminal diseases.

