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N200

IPADE IMOLE:

I SACRIFICED
600 MILLION
MONTHLY
SECURITY VOTE
FOR OSUN
DEVELOPMENT

— GOVERNOR ADELEKE

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FOOD PRICE SURGES
AFTER TINUBU'S FOUR
MONTH IN OFFICE

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OSUN PEOPLE
HAVE REJECTED
YOUR PARTY
—PDP TAUNTS APC

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Photo news



Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State and Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State at the Ogun State Governor's office, Abeokuta.



L-R: Sir Kunle Adepoju, Special Adviser (General Services) to Osun State Governor; Dr Amos Adepoju; Mrs Elfrida Adepoju; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi; Speaker Osun State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun at the installation of Dr&Mrs Adepoju as Asiwaju and Yeye Asiwaju of Igboora, Oyo state.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Taoreed Lagbaja, at the Ede Country home of the Governor.



L-R: Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Governor Duoye Diri of Bayelsa state at the commissioning Elebele AIT Road in Yenegoa, Bayelsa state.



From Second Left- Reverend Bunmi Jenyo, Osun State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry; Hon Teslim Igbalaye, Secretary to the Osun State Government; Canadian High Commissioner, James Christoff; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, Canadian Deputy High Commissioner, C.J. Scott, Bamikole Omishore, Special Adviser (SDG&Multilateral Relations) to Osun State Governor at the Canadian High Commission in Lagos



Governor Ademola Adeleke holding a peace accord meeting between Ilobu and Ifon communities to settle the communal clash between them at the Governor's office, Osogbo

Opinion

Between mandate and certificate

By Busy Brain

The political terrain in Nigeria in recent times is sloppy and many strong forces are falling into the murky water of the slippery terrain through tribunal weeding. The tribunal has ruled over different elections conducted in the past and the outcome was shocking. Like erosion, the tribunal is eroding the expected and unexpected. In Nigeria, the outcome of the elections announced by INEC is not always the final, the judiciary has always been the last line of action. Many electoral cases are still hanging in courts. It is the era of electoral brouhaha. In whatever way, the lawyers are smiling.

Out of the electoral proceedings going on in courts, the most serious one is between the aged long friends whose friendship clashed with interest. Politics is a dirty game. It has no permanent friend or enemy. What is constant is the interest. Tinubu and Atiku have wined and dined in the era of Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN). They belonged to the same political ideology and caucus. The urge for political power diverged their roads into separate parts. The path they chose differently has landed the old friends in the court of law at home and abroad exposing themselves to the world. A blacksmith who hits the iron on the same spot consistently must have seen some signs. For Atiku to have insisted on digging into the past in a strong term, he must have seen Tinubu's weaknesses as camaraderie.

Like Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of needs theory, the peak of the pyramid of needs is what the duo of Atiku and Tinubu are dragging. That is self-actualization. Tinubu and Atiku only want to be named in the pages of history as President. They have long crossed the border of all pyramids of needs like many other political grandeurs.

I have come a long way to realize the differences between a mandate and a certificate. The masses



Tinubu

Atiku

through election have given their mandate to whom they consider the best for the job. Nigerians did not vote because of the certificates of the candidates during elections, Nigerians voted for their trusted candidate. Whether the trusted candidate is performing to the expectation or not, the time shall count. In positive or negative, the time has started counting. Nigerians chose Buhari massively over Goodluck Jonathan with a PhD. in 2015 without considering a certificate. Many Governors and myriad public office holders were voted in without degree certificates. In an electoral context, the people's choice matters.

Tinubu served as a Governor and a former senator, which certificate did he tender to run for Governorship and senatorial race or certificate did not matter in those periods? Nigeria loses former Finance Minister,

Kemi Adeosun on a flimsy note of NYSC certificate. In Nigeria, we tend to leave what matters to chase a misplaced priority. What should be the most important is good governance that will guarantee progress for all out pangs and pains. Without thinking twice, I will support Tinubu's resignation based on performance; not because of a certificate. If the constitution specifies a school leaving certificate as a minimum requirement for the presidential position, arguing about a University degree while an SSCE holder can occupy the same position is a misplaced priority. If we are ready to be serious about certificates, requirements for political offices should be rejigged from its malformation, and the minimum requirement should be far from SSCE.

While the judiciary is to take its stand on Tinubu and Atiku's case, I maintain the stand of people's mandate. The certificate saga is a distraction; dead on arrival.

Why Osun should appreciate Governor Adeleke for transparency

By Ismail Abdulganiyu

In public office, there is what is called Oath of Secrecy. Its aim is to control the flow of information, in and outside the Government. Past administrations in Osun oftentimes hid under this public service principle to deprive their people accountability and transparency in governance.

However, in the case of Governor Adeleke, the reverse is the case. Since his inauguration on November 27th, 2022, he has consistently emphasized that he will run an all-inclusive and open administration. Even while inaugurating his cabinet members on 19th of July, 2023, he sent a strong warning to them on the need to be transparent and shun any act of corruption.

From the way Senator Adeleke started his administration, it shows he is neither in government for embezzlement nor misappropriation of public funds rather his actions so far demonstrate openness, transparency and accountability. The IPADE IMOLE recently held by His Excellency gave credence to the readiness of Adeleke's administration for a sincere and honest Governance.

During the last administration of former Governor Oyetola, he had a similar program of giving stewardship to the people called 'Apero' but the program is mainly to update the good people of Osun on what his administration has done and is doing. Whereas Governor Adeleke is not only telling the people what he

has done or what he is doing, but also welcoming suggestions in the areas of his administration's



Goy Adeleke

weaknesses, disclosing public funds and how the money is spent.

In contrast, in the last administration, citizens were not even aware of the N600 Million of Oyetola's Security Vote, not to talk of how he spent it, but Adeleke did not only disclose it but also sacrificed it for infrastructural project in the state. This is highly commendable.

Additionally, Governor Adeleke also used the medium to highlight how the N2billion palliative fund received from Federal Government would be spent on three projects and programmes namely; additional buses to ease transportation cost, rehabilitation of health centres and the purchase of food items.

Furthermore, at IPADE IMOLE, Governor Adeleke also disclosed the receipt of N7billion refund on capital project, recently received from Federal Government and how the money would be used for capital project. This openness by Governor Adeleke is not only praiseworthy but also applaudable. This is clearly unlike the last administration where citizens were kept in the darkness on how the commonwealth was spent.

Truly, IMOLE is here in Osun and Adeleke is the Symbol.

Ismail Abdulganiyu Mastermind from Irepodun LG is the Coordinator Osun Light Media Team.

Opinion

Insecurity and the plight of kidnap victims (1)

By Abiodun Komolafe

Temitope Oladipo Fayeahun must be passing through hard times. A native of Ilesa in Osun State, Fayeahun's ordeal started on March 2, 2021, when he, alongside others in his vehicle, fell into the hands of some Fulani kidnapers along Osogbo-Ibokun-Ilesa Road in the state. While some of the passengers were killed and had their corpses dumped in the forest, kidnapers immediately took others into a thick forest. Fayeahun fell into the latter group. But then, that marked the beginning of a journey that eventually lasted 16 days in the kidnapers' den; as expected, under hellish conditions.

Hear Fayeahun, in tears: "as part of the torture, the kidnapers used their boots to stamp on, and mess my eyes up daily. They also sealed them with plasters. My left wrist suffered a dislocation and endured other inhumane treatments that are better left unspoken in public. After my release, which came about following the payment of a N4 million ransom, I found myself unable to perform even the most basic tasks without assistance, turning my life into a nightmare. I received advice to undergo Plaster of Paris (POP) immobilization for my almost-severed wrist to correct the fractured bone. However, I have not undergone the procedure yet.

"I have sold all my property to regain my health, especially my vision. The last diagnosis suggested that I must do an urgent surgical operation on my left eye or risk losing my sight forever, which is never an option. In order to escape this damnation, I need urgent assistance from public-spirited Nigerians so that I can use my two eyes to see clearly again. The first surgical operation on the right eye took place at the Obafemi Awolowo Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, in April 2022, and it cost seven hundred and twenty thousand naira only (N720,000.00). It remains the left eye. But I am at my wits end. So, I pray Nigerians would come to my aid."

Of a fact, Fayeahun is not the only one in this unfortunate mess that has pathetically enveloped Nigeria, our dear Native Land. On Friday, September 29, 2023, reports indicated that unidentified individuals attacked and kidnapped no fewer than 25 choristers from the Christ Apostolic Church, Oke Igan, Akure, Ondo State, in the Ose Local Government Area of the state. Their abductors placed a N50 million ransom on them before they could smell freedom. On October 4, 2023, gunmen also kidnapped 5 female students of the Federal University, Dutsinma in Katsina State.

And the list goes on and on!

Well, like a furious cyclone, insecurity distracts. When a state fails in manifestation in terms of its stately attributes, insecurity becomes an addendum. It is like bread and butter: they go hand-in-

hand. Take, for instance, when a thug discovers that he is beyond the reach of the security agents' handcuffs, those who may wish to whip him into shape will only be labouring in vain. When this happens, one major adverse effect is the initiation of hitherto innocent guys. After all, in a lawless society, being a law-abiding citizen is a taboo.

Referring specifically to Nigeria, we highlight the plight of kidnap victims, who find themselves in powerless situations and are subjected to powerlessness. In such circumstances, everything terrible becomes possible because the victims lack absolute control. The tragedy of our system is that society is becoming increasingly callous. Impliedly, our world is in trouble, should we fail to reconnect with humanity, for no matter how good or fantastic a policy or programme may be, if humanity is missing, then, we a'int seen nothing yet!

Martin Niemoller's famous post-war quote, which begins with "First they came for the socialists and I did not speak out..." aptly captures the complex nature and the uneven texture of our world. When the central issue of what to eat has taken over 90% of the society, society won't have any excuse again. When everybody wakes up and the normal concern of food for the stomach takes pre-eminence, it becomes a social problem so serious even for those in leadership positions to comprehend. But, since they have cold drinks to sip, they'll simply go to their refrigerators to satisfy their thirst while the gathering storm extends its phalanges to other untested areas; and this continues until there are deliberate government interventions.

An assessment of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) highlights a clear lack of unity among Nigerians due to the unaddressed issues within the program. Despite gathering individuals from various corners of the country, the underlying problems remain unresolved. The primary focus has shifted towards obtaining the 'Certificate of Clearance,' symbolizing completion of one's duty, overshadowing the program's original purpose.

Reports suggest that many corps' members receive their participation certificates without fully engaging in the mandatory program as stipulated by the NYSC Act. Some may resort to unethical means, such as engaging in inappropriate relationships or paying bribes to obtain their certificates. Some even manage to acquire their certificates without attending the Orientation Camps or participating in the required activities.

This concerning trend persists year after year, undermining the core principles of the NYSC program and failing to address

the issues that initially prompted its establishment.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, 'peace is a means to reach a goal.' Despite annual funds, NYSC's impact on identity is unclear. Why can't Nkechi from Anambra meet her soulmate in Bukkuyum without NYSC? Surely certainly, until these issues are addressed, the good Lord, we pray: 'save us from a point of no return!'

Niemoller was right: things don't simply occur they must be addressed. Thinking that things will suddenly become bright and beautiful without action is a far-fetched joke. The more reason Nigerians don't have strong support for, or belief in government policies. They don't have reference points or examples of policies that work to fall back on. Many other instances have followed but the results have been similar: creeping frustration and helplessness. People no longer see security as solely the government's responsibility due to inadequate addressing of the current situation. As a result, individuals are becoming accustomed to this reality. Consequently, if you become a kidnapping victim, you must fend for yourself. It is as simple as that!

When former President Olusegun Obasanjo's family faced an attack, Nigeria's entire security apparatus responded with the necessary fierceness and swiftness. Without the convoy attack on Nigeria's First Daughter, Hamani Tidjani, the cross-border robbery kingpin, would remain unknown. But who will do that on behalf of a poor man? Every citizen must create their security measures, invoking Ogedengbe Agbogunboru or summoning Moremi Ajasoro for assistance. Depending on where one places their faith, they need to take action to protect their household. It is now that bad!

The future of communal togetherness is illuminated by analysing government policies and their benefits for the people. These benefits aim to address the citizens' plights, offering insight into the government's commitment to governance.

"Ignorant elites who promoted modernization without preserving local, inner, and moral strengths are the root cause of Nigeria's challenges." These strengths are the foundation of a stable society. Instability in communal living spreads rapidly, transcending geographical boundaries. When selfishness takes hold in a community, it can quickly engulf the entire nation.

Thus, the loss of money by an Ijebuman becomes a universal issue, affecting all tribes. In the case of Ijebu-Jesa, the challenges are doubly evident, underscoring the need to address these issues for societal improvement.

Ipade Imole: A precept for good governance

By Sarafa Ibrahim

Ofentimes, we relish the progress in advanced societies and hope that similar experience be replicable here. As good as those thoughts usually are, we do miss one critical factor, and that is the existence of a proper feedback mechanism that is applicable in those environments that primarily account for the growth and developments we see and cherished.

Accountability and transparency is the heart of good governance. If government is about the people, it is incumbent that they are carried along in the administration of their affairs. This plain logic is what drives the incredible progress we see and cherish in society that embraced accountability and transparency in governance.

And fortune enough for Osun state, this same philosophy defines the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke. From the outset of his administration, Governor Adeleke was pointedly clear that he will be different. Unlike his predecessor who spent most of his time in office evading giving account of stewardship to the people, Governor Adeleke embraced it as the needed catalyst to achieve the needed progress for the state.

Early into his administration, Governor Adeleke did the usual by opening up the financial books of the state to the people through traditional rulers in the state. It was a move that provided a clear understanding of the financial situation of the state to the people, demonstrating a major shift away from the opaqueness and secrecy that defined the past in the administration of the state.

It was in furtherance of his commitment to transparency and accountability that Governor Adeleke hosted Ipade Imole on Thursday October 5, 2023. Just as the name implies, Ipade Imole was a gathering of stakeholders that cut across every segment of the Osun society. It was a platform for the Governor to render accounts of his stewardship to the people and also receive feedback from the public.

"Ipade Imole will be a quarterly event. We have to let Osun people know how we are expending their money," Governor Adeleke disclosed at the event which held at the Aurora event centre in Osogbo, before going on to add that "At this meeting, you can ask any question and we will answer you. You put us in this position."

And true to his assurance, the Governor provided a detailed overview of the activities of his administration since he assumed

office on November 27, 2022. This began with a 45-minute documentary of programmes, interventions and policies executed by the Adeleke administration under 10 months, providing pictures and videos evidence of the monumental achievements that Governor Adeleke recorded in the various sectors during the period under review.

What followed was even more encompassing, as the Governor's speech outlined not just what has been done or currently ongoing, but also future plans of the administration in delivering for the people. Remarkably, the Governor made it abundantly clear that "this administration has not and will not borrow to fund ongoing infrastructure upgrades. From bridges to dualisation of existing roads among other infrastructures, we are pursuing value for money and public private partnership. Our financial plan is sustainable."

Also, Governor Adeleke elaborately answered questions on the costing of projects executed by his administration, particularly providing clarity that against the erroneous cost of N14 million per borehole quoted by the opposition, each of the borehole in the 332 wards across Osun state cost the government N1.5 million. This disclosure on the cost per borehole, not only deflate the circle of lies of the All Progressives Congress (APC), but also underscored the financial prudence in the Adeleke administration. Because, similar project under the Oyetola administration was done at a cost of N1.925 million per borehole, even though, none of it came with a generator set as it is the case with the one executed by the Adeleke administration.

Away from this is the recurring questions on the whereabouts of the N2 billion palliative fund received by the State Government from the Federal Government. For some weeks now, the APC had mischievously created an impression of abuse and misapplication. But Governor Adeleke defused the main opposition ignoble narrative, pointedly noting that the N2bn is safe and will be applied for the benefit of the people of the state.

Governor Adeleke explained to the people that his government is careful not to repeat the mistake of the previous government that dragged the state into financial mess that it is struggling with at the moment, hence, not rushing the application of the palliative fund. "The N2 billion palliative fund by the Federal Government will be spent on three projects.

One of them is the purchase of additional buses to complement the buses in the pool of the state, which has been repaired and soon to be unveiled for use," he disclosed.

The two other projects to be funded from the palliative fund, as disclosed by the Governor, is the rehabilitation of health centres in the state and the purchase of food items for distribution to the people of the state. Not only did this erase the erroneous conclusion of the APC on the fund, Governor Adeleke was able to stress the commitment of his administration to allocate resources for meaningful interventions.

This is further evident in the disclosure of the Governor that the state is in receipt of N7 billion refund from the federal government for projects executed by State Government on its behalf and that it will be used solely to fund infrastructural projects across the state. In the past, refund to the state from the central government is usually shrouded in controversy going by the lack of openness and transparency by the previous government. Governor Adeleke did not only disclosed the received fund, but also provided clear direction on how and on what it will be utilized.

Projects ranging from the dualisation of at least two roads in each senatorial district, construction of flyovers in Osogbo and some other towns, installation of streetlights on newly constructed roads, fresh installation of boreholes in the 332 wards, Imole Housing Estate at 500 units in each federal constituency and Imole Transport service outlined by the Governor are likely to benefit from the fund.

However, the highlight of the Ipade Imole was the moment when Governor Adeleke disclosed that he has not accessed security votes as it is the practice with his predecessors. Governor Adeleke said his decision not to access monthly security votes is on principle and a personal sacrifice for the state, noting that "I do not take security votes which my predecessors do take. I said the money should be used for the good of the people." This disclosure is a further affirmation of Governor Adeleke's commitment to the service of the people, and not about self benefit. For a Governor to sacrifice at least N500 million every month, which utilization is hardly questioned, showed how passionate he's about progressing the state.

• Sarafa Ibrahim is the Special Assistant to the Osun State Governor on Print Media.

News

Osun is open to partnerships for tourism development –Speaker

By Sola Isola

The Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun, has expressed the State Government's willingness to partner with the private sector in exploring the potential of its tourism industry, declaring Osun as the home of some of the choicest tourist sites in Nigeria.

He made these assertions at an event hosted by Sterling Bank to commemorate World Tourism Day at the Tafawa Balawa Square in Lagos, on Saturday.

The Speaker highlighted the interventions of the State's legislature under his leadership that will contribute significantly to the development of the tourism sector in Osun State. These include the sponsoring of two Private Member Bills, soon to be passed into law, and the review of the Osun State Council for Culture Law and the Centre for Black Culture & International Understanding (Amendment) Law, 2012, to



Osun Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun

bring them in line with the realities of the 21st century.

He also praised the enactment of the Centre for Black Culture & International Understanding (Amendment) Law, 2012, for its contribution to the rebranding of the tourism sector in Osun State.

"We will be conducting extensive oversight activities on the management of the state's major tourist sites, as well as collaborating with the private sector to achieve desirable outcomes in the tourism and creative sectors in our state.

"I want to encourage the

private sector to reach out to us so we can provide the relevant legal and institutional frameworks that would make it easier for the execution of their ideas and actions, as well as help them better understand the societies and communities they will be operating in", Egbedun added

I will resuscitate adult literacy in Osun — Adeleke

By Taofik Jimoh

Senator Ademola Adeleke, the governor of Osun State, has pledged to reopen the state's shuttered adult literacy centres and to make it easier for everyone, particularly women and young girls, to acquire new skills.

The governor, who was represented by the state Commissioner for education, Dipo Eluwole, made this disclosure at the International Conference of the Nigerian National Council for Adult Education (NNCAE) held at the University of Ilesha in Osun state.

According to Governor Adeleke, adult education is more important than ever before in the history of the nation.

"More skills must be learned in order to ensure sustainability and success because there are new technical ideas and inventions to learn on a daily basis.

"Due to the increase of teenage pregnancy, early marriage, child labour, irresponsible parenthood and societal violation of the Universal basic education ethics, adult education is the only way out", he said.

He further appealed to the association to expedite action with adequate collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Education to ensure that Nigerians are given second chances to achieve basic literacy and numeracy.



Ipade Imole: Governor Adeleke applauds Osun people, says actions ongoing on citizens' viewpoints

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has expressed his gratitude to the people of Osun state over their positive turnout and feedback at the Ipade Imole, assuring that actions are ongoing on the various recommendations and viewpoints from the people.

In an appreciation statement, Governor Adeleke said he remain ever excited and encouraged by the positive review of his records of the last 11 months as well as the candid identification of areas of attention by the

participants.

The statement reads, "It was a truly engaging four hours of interaction with people drawn from all walks of life. It is really gratifying that the event took place under a largely informal setting with mutual exchange of ideas between the people and their elected Governor. The formal barrier was removed and I was able to reach my people in heart to heart exchanges.

"I cherish the rare opportunity of a hall full to the brim listening attentively and contributing as to where

our administration has done well and which areas, we should place more emphasis on. The frank down to earth questions and comments further strengthen the resolve of our team to deliver more dividends of democracy and amends in areas of interest to the people.

"I thank our royal fathers, the representatives of various associations from students to civil society associations. The media particularly proves strong channels for ventilating our records. We pledge to remain accountable and responsive.

"I have subsequently directed my team to analyse the questionnaire from the participants and create a sectoral tracker. We will ensure action are taken in areas of weaknesses and strengthen areas of accolades. We must be able to show the people that Ipade Imole is not a mere jamboree.

"I have also directed my



The Maiden edition of Ipade Imole, a quarterly accountability programme of the Ademola Adeleke-led Osun State Government held on the 5th of October, 2023 at Aurora Events Centre, Osogbo



team to put up a website for Ipade Imole. All proceedings of the maiden edition must be documented and an interactive platform be created. In this digital age, my team will also set up a WhatsApp chat room. I will be in that chat room as your Governor, we will

ensure continuous interaction.

"Ipade Imole should be a continuous exercise. Before we meet physically again the feedback mechanism must be operational on a 24 hour basis". the Governor was quoted as saying.

Governor Adeleke further implored various associations that participated at the event to be gracious enough to host a secondary Ipade Imole by briefing their groups' general meeting on the maiden edition of the accountability platforms.



News

We will invite Osun labour on implementation of 35,000 minimum wage – Information Commissioner

By Taofik Jimoh

The Osun State government has declared that it will soon invite organised labour in the state to negotiate the implementation of N35,000 minimum wage.

The new minimum wage was recently announced by the Federal Government in a bid to avert an impending strike by the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, and the Trade Union Congress, TUC. The Bola Tinubu-led administration also announced several palliative packages for workers.

Among these is the payment of N25,000 to all levels of low paid workers for the next six months. The President thereafter increased it to N35,000 for all civil servants for the next six months.

Speaking on the

development, the state Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Kolapo Alimi, noted that it may be too early to comment on the issue.

"The government will definitely invite the labour leaders for negotiation on the issue", he said.

On their part, the organised labour in Osun State urged Governor Ademola Adeleke to implement the N35,000 minimum wage.

This was contained in a letter addressed to the state governor, Ademola Adeleke on Friday, October 6, and jointly signed by the acting state NLC Chairman, Modupe Oyedele, the Chairman Osun TUC, Bimbo Fasasi and Joint Negotiating Council chairman, Lasun

Akindele.

The union's leadership expressed confidence in

the Governor Adeleke's ability to take swift action.

The labour leaders argued



Osun Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment Hon. Kolapo Alimi

that paying these new salaries would significantly lessen and soften the misery that employees were experiencing as a result of the elimination of the fuel subsidy and its accompanying harsh economic impacts.

"The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress has directed that all State Councils to immediately engage their respective state governments in effecting the agreed sum of Thirty Five Thousand Naira (N35,000) only wage rewards to all categories of workers across board in the state service.

"Your Excellency will recall that the state Labour Movement had already written to you on the subject matter earlier

sometime in the month of June and a follow up reminder was also sent in July to that effect.

"The Labour Movement in the state is not in any way in doubt of Your Excellency's kind disposition towards the workers in the state. We are confident that worker's welfare is important and very dear to your heart.

"It is therefore in this spirit that we urge Your Excellency to graciously approve the agreed sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Naira (N35,000) only wage rewards to all categories of workers across board in the state service commencing from the

month of September, 2023 as contained in the signed memorandum of understanding that averted the proposed strike."

Canada, Osun government strengthen economic collaboration

By Sola Isola

The Government of Osun State and Canadian High Commission has consolidated economic partnership with a follow up bilateral talks between Governor Ademola Adeleke and the Canadian top diplomats in Lagos.

The Canadian High Commissioner, James Christoff had led his team at High Commission to Osun state five weeks ago during which sectoral teams of the Osun state government made presentations on potential partnership and collaboration between the state and Canada.

Governor Ademola Adeleke led his team which comprises of Hon Teslim Igbalaye, Secretary to the State Government; Rev. Bunmi Jenyo, Commissioner for Commerce and Industry; and Bamikole Omishore, Special Adviser on Sustainable Development Goals and Multilateral Relations.

Governor Adeleke said his visit was designed to reinforce conclusions

reached during the High Commissioner's visit to Osun State and to brainstorm on his upcoming trip to Canada to meet Canadian sectoral investors.

"Today, I had the honour of visiting the Canadian High Commission in Lagos to discuss shared interests and my upcoming trip to Canada, where I plan to engage with investors, development partners, and Osun State natives residing in Canada", the Governor explained after the closed door meeting.

The Governor reaffirmed his administration's unwavering commitment to fostering a conducive environment for businesses to thrive in Osun, sharing with the diplomats the remarkable progress he has made in just 10 months, including plugging revenue leakages, maintaining transparency, and involving our citizens in the decision-making process.

"I also highlighted



L-R: Canadian High Commissioner, James Christoff; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke

Osun's strategic location in the Southwest, which facilitates the movement of agricultural produce", the Governor was quoted as saying, adding that "our plans for a cargo airport, the presence of a sub-power station that will

be a major benefit to be a manufacturing hub with the right investments, a free trade zone, and an economic zone.

"I assured the High Commissioner of our dedication to providing investors with a secure

and supportive atmosphere for their ventures to flourish", the Governor noted.

The delegation was received by the High Commissioner James Christoff, Deputy C.J. Scott, and their team in the trade and political

section.

The High Commissioner reiterated his earlier assurance of the Canadian government to deepen economic partnership with subnational entities across Nigeria and Africa.

Osun water corporation board chairman commends Governor Adeleke for prioritizing water provision

• Says past administration abandoned all Waterworks

By Sola Isola

The Board Chairman, Osun State Water Corporation, Hon. Samuel Oyedotun has commended Governor Ademola Adeleke for prioritizing the provision of potable water to the people of state.

He added that this commendation became necessary because the last administration in the state had abandoned the waterworks in the state and left them in a horrible condition.

Oyedotun who spoke in Yoruba made this known on Tuesday while featuring on Imole Osun, a weekly sensitization program on OSBC promoting the achievement of the Governor Ademola Adeleke's led administration, from the office of the Spokesperson to the Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed.

He said, "I want to sincerely commend

Governor Ademola Adeleke, Imole Osun for prioritizing the provision of potable water to the people of Osun state.

"This is because before the coming of Governor Adeleke, all our waterworks were abandoned and left in a

horrible condition as at the time we got into office.

"You will even notice that during the first 100 days in office, Governor Adeleke ensured that provision of water was included, this is because we now have a Governor

who understands the plight of his people."

Oyedotun stated further that his goal as the Board Chairman of Water Corporation is to ensure that potable water returns to the home of all Osun residents and call on the people of the state to support the government and stay clear of illegal tapping of water pipes, vandalization of water pipes or encroachment of lands belonging to water Corporation.

"My goal as the Board Chairman of Water Corporation is to ensure that all our waterworks are revitalized and water returns to our homes.

"So, I want to call on the people of Osun to support the government in all our activities, pay for government services, stay clear of illegal tapping, vandalization of water pipes or encroachment of lands belonging to the government", he added.



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

Osun government is fully ready to support south west rail project – Transport Commissioner

By Taofik Jimoh

Osun State Commissioner for Transportation, Sesan Oyedele has declared the state government is 'fully' ready to support the South West Rail Project.

He stated this at a meeting hosted by Development Agenda of Western Nigeria (DAWN Commission) in Ibadan, Oyo State.

The Commissioner said, "Osun State is prepared to work with other South-West States to put together a step by step road map that will improve rail transportation in the region.

"Nigeria's railway system over the years has played a significant role in the country's transport sector and

economic development spanning across different regions of the country.

"We need to sustain this by fast tracking development of the transport sector; the population of the country is growing rapidly; Nigeria is going to have close to an extra 100m people in about 10 years' time.

"Realising this vision needs a collective approach and a methodological planning, we need to get our acts together and put together a railway development plan that will cater for the needs of our people in future," the Commissioner stated.

According to reports, the Development Agenda of Western Nigeria (DAWN Commission) is promoting the South West Rail project.

Why consumers must support local businesses, boost economy - Senator Fadahunsi Reveals

By Taofik Jimoh

Senator Francis Fadahunsi has appealed to Nigeria, Osun residents in particular, to embrace subsistence farming and reduce craving for imported good to survive the current high cost of basic daily needs.

Fadahunsi stated this in Ilesa at the closing ceremony of an empowerment training he organised for hundreds of Osun East Senatorial District tagged: 'Entrepreneurship Training and Provision of Start Up Grants to Youths in Selected Community Of Osun East Senatorial District'.

The programme, which was in conjunction with Nigeria Public Complaint Commission, had participants drawn from 10 local government areas in the Senatorial District.

According to Fadahunsi, consumers must support local businesses because of Nigerians' low purchasing power and the need to boost the local economy.

Commenting on the training, Fadahunsi, who was represented by his Legislative Assistant Chief Femi Fadipe, said that the participants, who had received training in the production of shoes, bags, and soap among other things, as well as the conversion of fuel-powered generators to gas, would make a respectable living if people would purchase their goods.

The legislator added that Nigerians must change their consumption habits by producing basic food staples and using goods made in their country because efforts by various levels of government to address the myriad economic problems the nation faces have not had the desired results.

He said, "All tiers of government are coming up with various strategies to solve the country's economic challenges, but

unfortunately, the impact of their efforts is not being felt by the people yet.

"That is why I am suggesting to Nigerians to embrace agriculture, if only to feed yourself and family, it is important we are start growing our food. More importantly, let's all start using only products we manufacture here in Nigeria. We should reduce cravings for imported goods to survive this harsh economy.

"Once we start patronising local products, people that are learning various vocations will sell their products, and they will be able to produce more. This kind of empowerment initiatives will achieve the target behind it when we all choose to that. We all need to make that decision as individuals for the country to survive the current economic crises," he said.

Governor Adeleke bags 'the most pensioner friendly governor of the year'

By Taofik Jimoh

Governor Ademola Adeleke has been honoured with the award 'The Most Pensioner Friendly Governor of The Year' by the Osun State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP).

The award was in recognition of Governor Adeleke's innovative leadership style which has translated into the successes recorded in many strata of the society; the pension sector inclusive.

The Osun State NUP also passed a vote of confidence on Governor Ademola Adeleke.

This was done at a programme to commemorate International Day of The Elderly, held at St Marks Grammar School, Osogbo on Thursday.

The statement by the Pensioners in respect of the award of excellence on Governor Adeleke reads; "The entire body of

retired but not tired civil servants under the umbrella of Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Osun state, is glad and happy to associate with the present administration in Osun state led by a populist oriented and Pensioner Friendly Governor (P.F.G), Senator Ademola Adeleke.

"To express our delight publicly and convincingly and to further convey our sense of immense gratitude and appreciation, informed the collective decision, by all of us, Pensioners in Osun state to pass a vote of confidence on Senator Ademola Adeleke.

"Finally, as we mark this occasion of International Day of the Elderlies, the entire pensioners in Osun state are also pleased to use this avenue to further affirm and reaffirm our love and solidarity to the governor of Osun state, Senator Ademola Adeleke and the crop of wise men and women in his cabinet, who, are

assisting him to pilot the affairs of Osun state.

"We pray that the present administration will continue to wax stronger and stronger in its genuine and strong commitment to make Osun the envy and pride of other states in Nigeria, especially for Pensioners", the statement concluded.



Obasanjo tasks Leaders of Good Governance as Ogun Governor Commends Governor Ademola Adeleke

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo has called on elected leaders at all levels of government to recommit to good governance to entrench democracy.

Speaking while hosting Governor Ademola Adeleke at his Abeokuta Hilltop home,

Obasanjo cautioned leaders to be loyal to the people by meeting and satisfying their people.

"What is my advice to leaders? Well, let them serve the people. Let them ensure governance. That is the way to make democracy strong",

the former leader affirmed.

Citing positive development in Osun state under Governor Adeleke, the elder statesman repeated his earlier commendation of the Osun state Governor, declaring that leaders have obligations to deliver democratic dividends to the

people.

Responding to an invitation to commission projects in Osun state, the former Head of State who accepted the invitation also tasked aides of leaders to be loyal to their bosses for them to perform.

According to the Otta

farmer, leaders need a cohesive team to perform and the aides must demonstrate absolute loyalty to their leaders for successful governance.

Meanwhile, Osun State Governor Senator Adeleke who was in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital paid an

unscheduled visit to his counterpart in his office at Oke Mosan, Governor Dapo Abiodun.

Receiving the Governor of Osun State and his entourage including his Deputy, Prince Kola Adewusi, Governor Dapo Abiodun commended Senator Adeleke for doing a wonderful job in Osun State.

Osun 2026: Perish Your Fallacy Of Comeback Osun People have Rejected You and Your Party, -Osun PDP Taunts APC

By Taofik Jimoh

The ruling party in Osun State, People's Democratic Party (PDP), has advised the former Osun Central Senatorial District Senator, Ajibola Basiru, and the All Progressives Congress in Osun to cease entertaining illusions of the party's return to governance in the state.

In a press release from the party's Media Unit, the State Chairman of the party, Hon. Sunday Bisi, labeled a statement credited to Basiru's as a fallacious illusion that is far from in Osun now or in any foreseeable future.

The statement reads "Basiru's statement overlooks the commendable progress and positive transformations in Osun State under Governor Adeleke's administration after the good people of Osun emphatically discarded him and his useless tissues of political misfits, whose sole business was to loot and destroy the state"

"It is evident that Basiru is still reeling from the shock of his rejection in the elections. His recent statement only reaffirms his current state of heartache, ensnaring him in a colorless dream.

"In sane climes, empty parrots like Basiru have no business in governance as all he dreams was to use political office as a tool of oppression and garrulous showoffs. That is why his assertions are often off-track, self-serving, and patently irrational.

"In Osun Central alone, Basiru should come around and compare the realities of the PDP government's impact on the life of the populace to that of his APC's era of wheelbarrow-eclipsed solar light.

"For the first time in 13 years and in less than a year of PDP administration, Osun State is witnessing a semblance of responsible and empathic governance. Governor Adeleke has steered the state towards sustainable development in road infrastructure, upscaled healthcare, revamped education, and unprecedented

water provision among many people-oriented strides. All these are being achieved in an atmosphere of transparency and accountability, away from the bossy and looting style of the past.

"The Governor has taken the initiative in keeping the public well-informed about the workings of the government as required in a democratic setting. Funds are being judiciously utilized for the good of the people such contrary to ego massaging Administration of APC. Osun people are the kings in democracy as that pride of place remains non-negotiable.

"Yes, we are not unaware that Basiru is habitually inclined to politics of poverty in order to keep the people down to his apron of oppression, which he has enjoyed over time as an ungrateful opportunist. However, Osun have since scaled up their taste bud against such a sad period of their history and they will not go back to it.

"Basiru's assertions regarding APC's resurgence in power in 2026 reveal a deficiency in grasping the current state of affairs in Osun. His disregard for the ongoing positive transformations in the state further highlights his detachment from the needs and aspirations of the populace."

"The financial quagmire he and his party inflicted on the state during their better forgotten years of economic horror, which brought untold hardship in the land, is now being steadily tackled with many SMEs opening up again from brinks of hapless collapse.

"Instead of advocating for a return to power, it would be prudent for Basiru to humbly seek forgiveness from the people even if he lacks the moral stamina to address the carnage of his party's reign in the state.



L-R, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; Former Nigerian President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo; Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi at the former president's residence in Abeokuta.

Two women die as church collapses in Ikirun

By Taofik Jimoh

Two women were on Thursday reported dead as a building used as a church collapsed in Ikirun, headquarters of Ifelodun local government area of Osun State.

It was gathered that the deceased according to

findings were among the four victims trapped under the debris while the building collapsed on Wednesday evening.

It was gathered that the building was still under construction with workers on sight when it collapsed.

This was revealed by Nigeria Security and Civil

Defence Corps, NSCDC, Public Relations Officer, Osun state command, Kehinde Adeleke who confirmed the incident on Thursday, said the building located behind Eweta community primary school collapsed around 7pm on Wednesday.

She added that the four

victims buried under the debris were rescued by concerned resident in the community and taken to hospital critically injured.

"Two of the rescued victims died at the hospital on Thursday, including the owner of the building", she added.

Boreholes cost us N1.5million Each -Governor Adeleke

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has revealed that his administration spent N1.5million each on the 332 boreholes drilled across wards in the state.

The Governor made this known during the maiden town hall meeting tagged 'Ipade Imole', held at Aurora Events Centre, Osogbo.

He maintained that the boreholes are functioning and serving the immediate needs of

the Osun people.

He said, "Our administration conceived of 332 boreholes across the 332 political wards as an intervention measure.

"Each borehole costs one million, five hundred thousand naira. The boreholes are functioning and serving the immediate water needs of our people."

Osun Spring recall that the Governor Adeleke led administration had embarked on the borehole project as part the project for his first



News

Surge in food prices after Tinubu's four months in office

By Tomi Lala

In a recent data released by Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) Nigeria inflation rate rose to 0.38%, and reached 22.79% immediately after President Tinubu emerged President of Nigeria.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was sworn in on May 29th after coming out victorious and sweeping highest percent of votes in the last presidential election in Nigeria.

Osun Spring reports that during his inauguration program Abuja, Tinubu announced removal of fuel subsidy to take place with immediate effect.

After the announcement of removal of subsidy in May, there has been constant inflation of food Prices, and also a highest month-to-month increase in the history of Foods prices in market.

• Prices of foodstuffs before and after 29th May

In a recent market survey by our correspondent, the survey which includes major food items, like Rice, Beans, Spaghetti, indomitable, among others revealed that skyrocketing in food price is

directly attributed to the fuel subsidy removal, devaluation of the Naira in the exchange rate market and controversies surrounding tax, transportation cost, and household electricity tariff.

According to our data, Nigerians paid N36,000 for a bag of rice before May, and now N50,000 for same bag of rice, a 38.9% increase in the same year, 2023.

Before May 29th, Nigerians bought a bag of honey beans for N33,000, which has now increased by 6.1% to N35,000.

A 25kg keg of vegetable oil rose with 12.9% from N31,000 before May, to N35,000 after May.

Likewise, the cost of Yam Pouno before President Tinubu inauguration was N990, and it jumped with 122.2% to N2,200 after May 29th.

The current price of a carton of noodles is N5,000 from N2,100. It increased with 138.1% after May 29th inauguration.

Gaari was being sold for N400 before May, it has now rose with 22.2% to N600.

• Level of patronage by Nigerians

During a market survey by our correspondent in Osogbo markets, traders and consumers complained bitterly about their dissatisfaction on the high prices of food stuff in market.

Aside from, hike in transportation charges, the rising costs of food commodities has contributed to financial burden experienced by average Nigerians.

Consumers complained of high increase of market goods, while Traders and

market women complained of low patronage.

One of the market women who spoke with our correspondent, stated that "the price of food items is now almost double compared to what it was been sold before May. And

most customers now buy in credit because their money is not always enough to buy the normal quantity of foodstuffs that would be enough for their family".

While some customers, also blamed traders and market women for increasing the price intentionally.



I sacrificed 600 million monthly security vote for Osun development -Gov Adeleke

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has revealed that he has sacrificed his monthly security vote for the development of the state.

He made this known while addressing participants at the maiden edition of 'Ipade Imole' a quarterly accountability programme of the state government.

The governor told delegates that represented every segment of the that he has not borrowed a dime to finance his projects, noting that his administration has no plan to borrow in the nearest future.

Governor Adeleke also noted that the N600 million is a huge sum of money but he has decided to channel it into funding other projects in the state rather than keeping it as personal benefit.

"Development of Osun is paramount to me and hence decided to take huge sacrifice by adding my security vote to fund the project in the state rather keep it to myself like others before me", he said.

While disclosing the intention of his

administration to construct a flyover in the Osogbo, the state capital, the Governor Adeleke disclosed that the N7 billion infrastructure support fund the state government received so far will be expended on some very viable

projects across the state. "We intend use the N7billion to fund some projects, including; dualisation of roads at two per senatorial districts; flyover bridges at Osogbo and some other towns; street lights for newly constructed roads; second stream of

332 boreholes across wards; commencement of Imole transport service; and Imole Housing Estate at 500 units per federal constituency", he said.

Commenting on shortage of teachers in the state, he said: "I have directed the Ministry of

Education to conduct needs assessment as a basis for recruitment and filling of vacancies in schools. I believe the report will soon be ready. Our government is also committed to the implementation of the report of the Education Summit."



Editorial

New Osun is possible

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has taken the centre stage to become unarguably the most popular Governor in this dispensation, not only for his dancing skills but also for taking steps considered impossible but former Governors or better said as solving problems creates by out-gone administration.

Its going to be one year in a couple of weeks and the people of Osun had gotten for themselves a new Governor in Senator Ademola Adeleke.

In accolades, Chief Omololu Olunloyo, Former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Governor Dapo Abiodun had consistently praised Governor Adeleke as a man who was underrated, this would mean that a large number of people did not actually expect Governor Adeleke to perform in office as much as he is doing.

As Governor Adeleke spends one year in office, it is the view of Osun Spring that a commendation is well deserving, majorly for daring what was termed impossible, some of which include payment of backlog of arrears, payment of severance package of out-gone public office holders, just to mention a few.

It is the view of Osun Spring that Governor Adeleke and his team ensures effective monitoring of projects and ensure sustainability of all projects started and embarked upon.



It is worthy to note that at the maiden edition of Ipade Imole, a quarterly accountability programme of the Osun state government, Governor Adeleke revealed that he has sacrificed his 600million monthly security votes to the development of the state, this gesture is novel and unprecedented.

Osun Spring wants to advise that the implementation of these gesture should be made separate from that of other projects so that the people of Osun State are aware of the progress.

Osun Spring also wants to advise the people of Osun State to support the government in all its plans and action, it is also important to make requests known to the government such that things are handled early and as fast as possible.

It is the view of Osun Spring that with the style of government Osun now has, a new Osun is possible.

“

As Governor Adeleke spends one year in office, it is the view of Osun Spring that a commendation is well deserving, majorly for daring what was termed impossible, some of which include payment of backlog of arrears, payment of severance package of out-gone public office holders, just to mention a few.

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Interview

www.osunspring.com

What inspired you to become an entrepreneur

Alot of things inspired me, but it started way back, 8 years ago, but the one that brought me out started 3 years back when I started the Oroki pap.

Share with us the journey of starting your own business?

Oroki pap started during COVID period. It happened that almost all my friends were just selling one thing or the other, so I wasn't doing anything and at a point it was as if I was the only one not serious with my life.

So, at a point I said I want to start selling something, I thought of selling shoes and bag but I'm not a fashionable person, as you can see me. I'm not someone that is good with fashion. So, I started praying, I started hoping, what can I do, what can I sell? I can just say that Oroki pap is like something that is divinely ministered to me. I just heard it, OGI, and I was like Ogi? ogi of all things, how will I be selling ogi? Ogi bawo?

But in the first 3 weeks, it happened that I was just seeing everything ogi, online; ogi, in my brain, Ogi, in my dream is Ogi, okay I just said let me give it a try and I took #2000 or so, I just went to the nearby market and I got few grains, one congo of corn, one congo of millet and I produce the first set, I did the graphics myself, I put it on my status and before I know it everything got sold off.

I was like okay, after that one, let me give it another trial, I did another production again and in the next day, sold out, before I know it, people started knowing me up and down, they want pap, they want pap, that's how I become popular Oroki pap.

What unique challenges have you faced as a female entrepreneur, and how have you overcome them?

Ok, let me say in the concept of female entrepreneur I don't think I have, because I hardly meet my customers, that's the truth, in fact 90% of my customers, I don't know them, I've not met them. All I do is, transact with you online, on messenger or my WhatsApp, after the transaction, pay my money and I will just call a dispatch rider to deliver my goods. So, most of my customers they don't know me, physically I don't know them, but on social media, we know each other, so I don't really have any challenge when it comes to female entrepreneurship.

Can you describe a specific obstacle or setback you encountered in your entrepreneurial journey?

Alot, a lot, Is it the electricity or inability to meet up with orders to deliver and money, financial... Alot of challenges, a lot, but the main one I'm facing presently now is inability to meet up with orders because of the facilities I'm using. The machines I'm using, presently my orders are more than the facilities I have, so that's one of the challenges I'm facing.

Then electricity too is not really helping, fine! The light in Osogbo is still far better than some other state, but it's still one of the challenges because most of the machines are electricity base, so once there's general blackout, me too, I will have to be on a spot, so that's one of the many challenges I'm facing.

In your experience, what opportunities have you found that are particularly beneficial for female entrepreneurs?

Alot, I dropped teaching job to become a business woman. One of the things I use to say is that, most of the people I've known through my business, I wouldn't have met them through teaching line, it's not even possible, I can't.

I can say one of the things I've benefited as a female entrepreneur in business is meeting a lot of people and by this, I've known a lot of people that we've been friends, even customers turn friends, customers turn family, far and near, I've had a lot of links, most of the people that are selling my product outside the country, I met them through online as a business person.

I wouldn't have met a lot of people like that if I were to be in the school business.

How do you balance the demands of entrepreneurship with other aspects of your life, such as family and personal commitments?

It's not easy, I must not lie, I am a student, I'm doing my PhD, I'm a wife, I'm a mother of three, I'm the first born in my family, I'm a daughter, I have a lot of things. So, you can imagine sorting all those things in between 24hrs in a day, it has not been easy but God has been faithful.

Let me just say Foresight and being focused, I know where I'm going to, so, it's not been easy but God has been faithful.

Can you share a story about a significant milestone or achievement in your business that you're particularly proud of?

Yeah, about not up to 5 weeks that I started Oroki pap. All thanks to God and social media, I use social media very well, God helped me in that aspect, it really worked for and it's still working for me.

So, one day, I was sitting down somewhere, in fact I went for a medical check-up, I just saw an international number on my phone, as I picked the call, the person was like 'is that Oroki pap'? I said



Yes. The person said "Wow, why will I use Oroki? That, the name was the thing that attracted her to me. She said she's from Osogbo, and that Oroki alone made her remember a lot of places in Osogbo, how do you sell your pap? I gave her the price and she said okay, I want to be a distributor for you in USA, I was like, ah, are you serious? Is this one joking or playing and before you know it, we negotiated and she sent me over #100,000 then, so I did her production, I sent it out to her, within few weeks she placed another order.

The first one I experienced was that call, her call, she was the first person that put me into that line, especially an international line, I can never forget that experience, from the name OROKI

Q: What strategies have you used to foster growth and scale your business, and what lessons have you learned along the way?

Like I said earlier, social media, I'm a very shy person, you can see me I can't even look at your eyes, I'm a very shy person but I made use of social media very well.

I do tell people, it's surprising when I tell people that 90% of my customers are from social media and I don't even know them, I've not met them. So, if you ask me that question again, I would say, it's social media, social media really helped me, in fact, now on my way, inside the market, people will call me "Oroki! Oroki! Oroki!" - I don't know half of these people but they know me through social media.

Social media really helped me a lot, and one of the lessons I've learnt, I've learnt a lot, because of my marketing strategy, I use a

lot of things, me talking naughty on social media, being too playful. But one of the major lessons I learnt is that no matter how you try to be friendly with everybody, let there be a gap, that's the major lesson I learnt recently because it's social media. I don't know half of these people, but the moment you start rolling with pigs, they will drag you in the mud, so because it's social media, because of the fact that I don't know half of them, I was being dragged partially into some muds, but as the question says, it's just a lesson and I've learnt my lesson, everything is still on social media, we move.

Do you have any female mentor or role model who have influenced your entrepreneurial journey?

Yes, a lot of them. One of them is Abebi Foods, she's an aunty, she's a boss, she's a mother, she's everything. I really appreciate her, she's always like "ah, you can do like this, do like this" I really appreciate her, she's my major role model.

What advice would you give to aspiring female entrepreneurs who is just starting?

Upcoming female entrepreneur, it's not easy out there, a lot of trash will come, a lot of insults. But one thing I'd just advise is, wear this thing with pride, and let people know where you are going to, be focused and never compare yourself with someone that has been in the business for over five years, no, Rome was not built in a day, a million miles start with a step and a drop of water makes an ocean, so you too start and grow. With God all things are possible.

Opinion

Transformational leadership in the 21st century

By Muideen Adebayo Ibrahim

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.” Warren Bennis

I sincerely welcome you all to the maiden edition of this column and by His grace it will be a weekly affair going forward. I just had a brainwave to embark on this journey simply because I observed with dismay that there is serious dearth of leadership in our dear Nation as we speak and it cuts across all strata.

It is indeed sad and disheartening that things are no longer going on as expected simply because we lack good leadership that can deliver effectively and efficiently to the people. In summary, there is no ‘Servant Leadership’ again. Unfortunately, our leaders are enmeshed in What is in it for me (WIIFM) syndrome. Why? What went wrong? What can be done to ameliorate the dearth of leadership? These are some of the issues that I will be looking at in this column and also proffer solutions on how we can get good leadership so that we can have a virile society in particular and a better nation in general.

All the great nations became very great due to the fact that they had and are still having good leaders/leadership. This is the 21st Century but I can’t just phantom why we still have dearth of leadership in our dear country. But the reasons are not farfetched and I will be looking at the reasons as we go along.

The importance of good leadership cannot be over emphasized and, on that note, you will enjoy every bit of this column.

There are two key words in my write up “Transformational and Leadership.” What is Transformational and what is Leadership?

Transformational was defined by Collins English Dictionary as “a change or alteration, especially a radical one.” It is a truism that we need a radical change in this country so that things can be better for all and sundry.

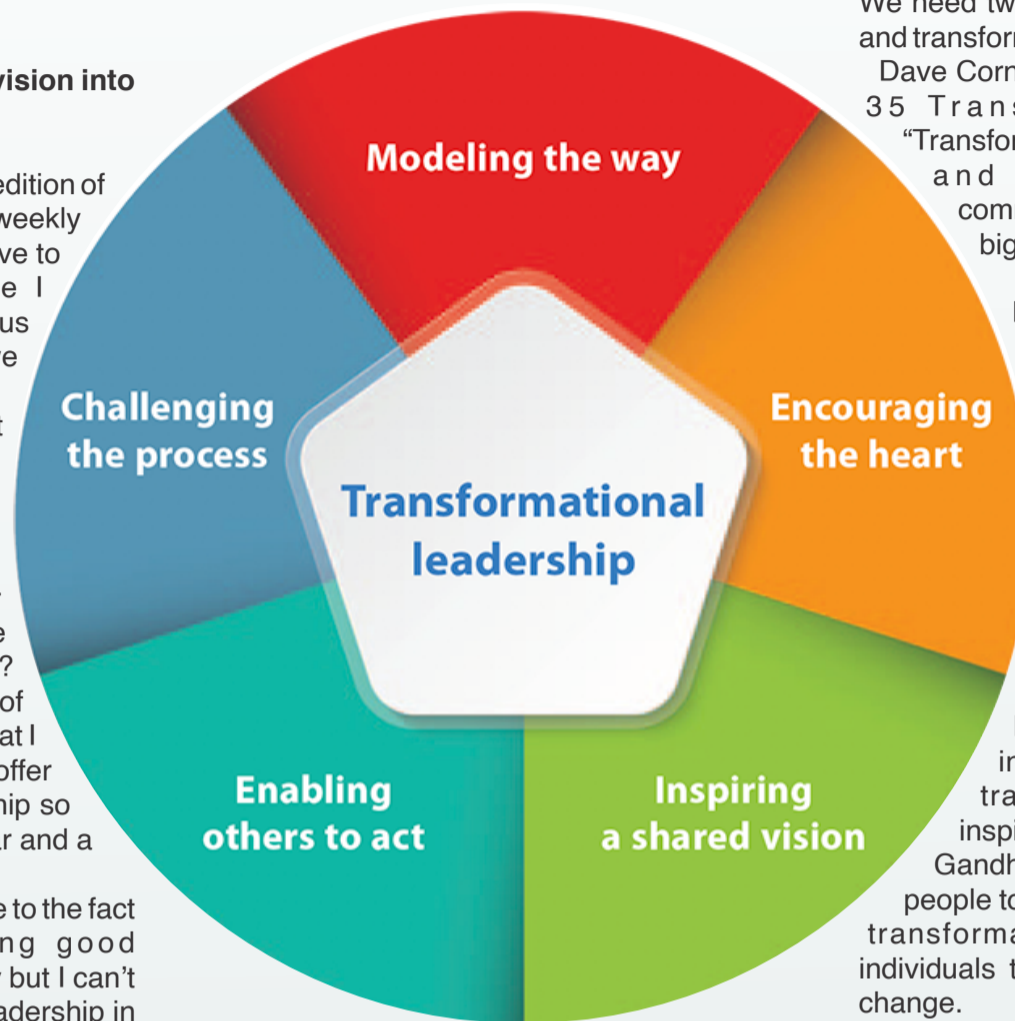
It should be noted that transformational leaders know how to encourage, inspire and motivate people to perform in ways that create meaningful meaning. This is because transformational Leaders focus on making decisions or establishing strategic plans that can drive vision to a logical conclusion.

What then is the meaning of Leadership? Oxford Dictionary defined Leadership as “the action of leading a group of people or an organization.” On the other hand, Nick Barney defined Leadership as “the ability of an individual or a group of people to influence and guide followers or members of an organization, society or team. That leadership is often an attribute tied to a person’s title, seniority or ranking in a hierarchy. However, it is an attribute anyone can have or attain, even those without leadership positions. It is a developable skill that can be improved over time.”

Leadership is the ability of an individual or group of individuals to influence and guide followers or other members of an organization or political group. Leadership involves making sound and sometimes difficult decisions, creating and articulating a clear vision, establishing achievable goals and providing followers with the knowledge as well as tools necessary to achieve those goals.

Leaders are found and required in most aspects of society, from business to politics to region to community-based organizations.

An effective leader must possess the following characteristics: self-confidence, strong



communication and management skills, creative and innovative thinking, perseverance in the face of failure, willingness to take risks, openness to change and level headedness and reactivity in times of crisis.

Great leaders know how to both inspire people and get followers to complete the tasks in order to achieve the leader’s goal.

Brain Tracy in his book entitled; Leadership posited that “There is a need for leadership in our society. There is a need for leadership in our homes, in our business organizations, in our private and public associations, and in our government. We need leadership to take us into the future. We need people who have vision and courage, people with the ability to chart new seas and break new ground.



There is a need for leadership in our society. There is a need for leadership in our homes, in our business organizations, in our private and public associations, and in our government. We need leadership to take us into the future.



We need two types of leaders, transactional leader and transformational leader.”

Dave Cornell and Chris Drew stated in their work; 35 Transformational Examples that “Transformational Leaders are usually energetic and passionate, have excellent communication skills and are able to see the big-picture.”

One of the greatest challenges of our leaders in Nigeria is that, they don’t usually hone their skills or better still go for refresher courses in line with modern trend. Whereas, the world has moved far and beyond what they do now in this 21st century, be that as it may, we can still catch up with dedicated leaders. This is because development is all about leadership.

Some of the examples of transformational leaders according to Dave Cornell and Chris Drew are; Mahatma Gandhi; the leader of Indian independence movement. He was a transformational leader. Through his inspirational vision of nonviolent resistance, Gandhi motivated and mobilized millions of people to fight for freedom and social justice. His transformative leadership style empowered individuals to believe in their own ability to effect change.

Oprah Winfrey; The ‘Media Queen’ started out as a radio host in Chicago, and then made her fame and fortune by hosting her own TV show called Oprah Winfrey Show. It eventually become the highest rated TV Show in history. She was the first African America billionaire in North America and named one of Time Magazine’s most influential people in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Her leadership has been characterized as being focused on inspiring her team to execute her vision, while at the same time acknowledging the role of predecessors, the power of community, and responsibility of helping others.

Richard Branson; When expert in leadership want to provide an example of charismatic leadership, Richard Branson tops the list. His warm and friendly personality makes everyone around him feel welcomed and appreciated. He founded the Virgin Group in 1989 and today it is a multinational company with over 400 businesses and 50, 000 employees around the world. In one of his quotes, he said that “From a young age, I learned to focus on the things I was good at and delegate to others what I was not good at. That’s how Virgin is run. Fantastic people throughout the Virgin Group run our businesses, allowing me to think creatively and strategically.”

Others are, Jeff Bezos; Amazon Owner, John F. Kennedy; Former President of America Nelson Mandela; The former President of South Africa. Steve Job; The Apple Founder. Barak Obama; The First Black President of America and Elon Musk; Owner of X (Formerly Twitter) and Tesla, Jesus Christ, Moses and the Holy Prophet Muhammed (SWA) amongst others.

The aforementioned, inspired, motivated, influenced, idealized and empathized with the people hence they command large followers in a cult like manner.

I believe we can still get it right in this country with good and pragmatic strategy on transformational Leadership.

See You at the TOP!!! It is well!