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Prince Kolawole Adewusi, the Deputy Governor of Osun-State while delivering his speech at the NULGE annual anniversary.



L-R: Mr Ayanleye Aina, Osun Head of Service; Alhaji Teslim Igbalaye, Secretary to the State Government; Prince Kola Adewusi, Osun State Deputy Governor; Senator Ademola Adeleke, Osun State Governor; Rt. Hon Adewale Egbedun, Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly; Alhaji Kazeem Akinleye, Chief of Staff to Osun State Governor



Opinion

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Adeleke: They were wrong about him after all

By Sarafa Ibrahim

In the heat of the 2022 governorship election in Osun state, those opposed to the choice of Senator Ademola Adeleke as governor came up with a petty argument to downplay his suitability for the role. They played up his hobby of dancing as a weakness that should discourage the electorate from settling for his choice, casting serious doubt on his ability to handle the enormous responsibility that comes with being a governor of a state like Osun, struggling with daunting challenges caused by past maladministration.

What they missed, and now quite evident, is that a happy man will always radiate happiness to the people he leads. This has been the experience with Governor Adeleke in the last 11 months of his assumption of office, not just shattering the wicked expectations of his traducers, but proving the Osun electorate that entrusted him with their mandate right.

The most recent example is the unveiling of a multi-billion infrastructure fund for the state. Massive? That is right, but more appealing is the insight into the future and the ambitious resolve to birth a new Osun that was reflected in the infrastructure plan. Another thing was the spread, which clearly was a departure from the past, which saw projects usually concentrated in the state capital, Osogbo.

In the infrastructure plan, at least five overhead bridges will be constructed in the state, with two of such to be situated in Osogbo, while the remaining will go to the two other senatorial districts. And to note that the infrastructure plan will be funded without any loan from financial institution, to the extent of burdening the future, makes it even more superb.

And not just overhead bridges, but the dualization of identified roads in Ede, Osogbo, and Ilesa in a bid to ease traffic jams and reduce accidents. In addition to this, Governor Adeleke will be undertaking the construction of a total of 45 kilometres of roads across the state, with each local government having at least 1.5 kilometres to improve connectivity and enhance the local economy.

As usual, some people, noticeably from the opposition, tried to introduce their infantile thoughts with the question of why the state needs such infrastructures at a time like this. The limitations those thoughts conveyed were aptly countered by a citizen on X (formerly Twitter) with the handle @ibkzee1 by noting that "Presently now all this flyover doesn't really need but it will be needed in the next 5 years. Maybe! So, if you do it now is a plus (+) for us. No wahala."

Any reasonable mind will share this sentiment. The government should be forward-thinking otherwise will leave the people with the pain of failing to act in time. Most of the challenges we are facing today could have been solved yesterday, and even at a cheaper cost, but reasoning as the one openly expressed by APC elements did not allow it.

To be clear, the infrastructure plan of Governor Adeleke answers the questions of not just today, but also seeks to put Osun in a good standing in the future. This aspiration was loudly echoed by Governor Adeleke at the unveiling ceremony when he said "Osun as the cradle of Yoruba nation must move quickly on the ladder of development. We can and must surpass those presently leading among comity of state." What an ambitious push!

By investing in the rehabilitation of 345 health centres in the 332 wards in the state, Governor Adeleke would be expanding healthcare access to people at the grassroots. Because this would not just be about painting the walls of the centres as we have seen in the past, but a total overall of the facilities and provision of portable waters, new toilets, bedsheets, solar power installation for 24/7 electricity, and more importantly, drugs to ensure that they can serve Osun people better.

This will be complimented by the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach, which according to Governor Adeleke, will now hold every quarter to render needed medical services to the people of the state. So far, the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach has been held twice, and no less than 50 thousand people, mostly residents have benefited from all sorts of medical interventions ranging from free surgeries for Cataracts, Pterygium, Hernia, and some swellings on the body. Persons with medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, malaria, cough, and tuberculosis, among other diseases, were also catered for.

And education sector was not left out of the infrastructure plan. It must be noted that in the last 11 months, Governor Adeleke had embarked on the rehabilitation of public



Gov. Adeleke

schools in Osun state to improve the learning environment. At least, one public school in each of the local governments has seen an infrastructural upgrade, addressing the debilitating state of some of these facilities.

Governor Adeleke, according to the infrastructure plan, will continue in this direction, as one school in each of the thirty local government areas and area office will get a complete infrastructure uplift. Just as done in phase one, identified public schools in Osun state will wear a new look with an infrastructural facelift, and also equipped with essential learning tools, including desks for students. These investments will soon be complemented by the recruitment of competent and qualified teachers as Governor Adeleke hinted that "a need assessment is ongoing to determine the teachers' requirements across subjects and schools. This will help to determine the numbers of teachers to recruit."

The provision of clean and portable water for the people also got the consideration of Governor Adeleke, as the infrastructure plan included the sinking of 332 motorized boreholes in the entire wards of the state. Just as achieved with the first phase of the boreholes project, the new set will avail underserved communities in each political ward with access to clean and drinkable water.

Also inside the infrastructure plan is the lighting up of Osun through the installation of solar-powered streetlights in all major towns, particularly Osogbo, to enhance security and contribute to the economy.

And here is the most fascinating aspect of the infrastructure plan— it will be delivered within 12 months. That is, by this time next year, we should be having the full effect of the infrastructure, and the impact on the people and the economy of the state can be better imagined. Don't also forget the commitment of the Governor to local content in the execution of the projects by declaring that "Osun money will be spent in Osun. We are determined to eliminate capital flight as witnessed in the past."

In short, the last 11 months of Governor Adeleke in the administration of Osun state have been refreshing, and if we consider the bold prospects of the infrastructure plan for the state and its people, the future looks even more promising. This is why it will be so hard not to share the comment of a friend, John Shuaibu, in a WhatsApp group that "He (Adeleke) is doing well. The dancer, the performer." I'm sure the fiercest antagonist of Governor Adeleke will agree in their minds that they were wrong about him, although, may find it hard to say it out.

• Sarafa Ibrahim is a Special Assistant to the Osun State Governor and writes from Iwo, Osun State.



From Emilokan To Enitokanlomo

By Busy Brain

This morning, I picked up my gas cylinder and proceeded to the filling station, on getting there, I was informed that 1 kg of gas cost a thousand Naira. My initial plan to fill 5 kg was reduced to 3 kg with immediate effect. While at the filling station, another customer came to fill her 3 kg cylinder, and she asked the attendant to fill a gas worth five hundred Naira (N500), which is half of 1 kg. Being a familiar face in the neighborhood, I jokingly asked why she preferred to fill N500 gas, and she askance replied, 'Enitokanlomo.'

For my non-Yoruba audience, 'emilokan' is a Yoruba word that depicts 'it is my turn' and enitokan-lomo in this context is another Yoruba metaphorical word which means 'Whoever is affected by the current situation knows where the shoe pinches.' The woman filled what she could afford at that moment and just like her response, she knows where the current economic downturn is pinching her. The current situation is not friendly. Enitokan-lomo!

Kofi Awoonor in his Song of Sorrow poem writes 'Dzogbese Lisa has treated me thus, it has led me among the sharps of the forest, returning is not possible and going forward is a great difficulty...' Nigeria is actually in the sharps of the forest, returning is not possible and moving forward has become a mirage. Nigeria cannot go back to the military regime or the colonial era and despite the independence and democracy, the country is not moving forward. It is the usual lamentation of the 'Nigeria Go Better mantra' over the years.

Recently, it came to light that the current administration spent \$507,384, which is equivalent to nearly 400 million Naira for hotel accommodation in New York when the President and his team attended the UN General Assembly in September. It was also gathered that the federal government has requested a \$1.5 billion loan to buy new cars for government officials, including SUVs for each of the 360 members of the House of Representatives, which will cost N160 million per car. How are we going to move forward as a nation when this sum of money is going for cars in the period of four years?

As usual, in defense of profligacy spending, the Senate has come out to justify the decision to buy imported sports utility vehicles (SUVs) for lawmakers in the two chambers. Sunday Karimi, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Services, explained that the leadership of the National Assembly made the choice for the lawmakers based on considerations of durability and maintenance over four years.

In his counter-criticism of the public outcry surrounding the purchase of the SUVs, Karimi flayed critics to adduce to the ministers who ride about four official vehicles. Where is the difference? All feeding large on the taxpayers' money; of course, we all know that heaven will not fall. It is the story of birds of a feather that flock together.

Nigerians are made to believe that fuel subsidy is evil and anti-masses, while Mr. President at the point of inauguration declared its total removal. Ever since this official pronouncement on national television, the



President Bola Tinubu

gown of our nightmare remains unchanged. Things become more exacerbated. The price of goods and commodities is mounting Mountain Everest and Kilimanjaro. If the subsidy is truly anti-masses as portrayed, the masses are not supposed to be suffering after its removal. Tell the President that the endurance talk and consolation sermon are already falling on deaf ears. People are not smiling.

As reported in Premium Times on October 7, 2023, the National President of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria

“ federal government has requested a \$1.5 billion loan to buy new cars for government officials, including SUVs for each of the 360 members of the House of Representatives, which will cost N160 million per car. ”

(PENGASSAN), Festus Osifo revealed that the Nigerian government has restored subsidy on petrol, despite the official government policy of breaking with the subsidy regime since May.

The Daily Trust report of September 21, 2023, also chronicled the revelation of a subsidy payment of N169.4 billion in August to keep the pump price at N620 per litre.

Similarly, in the Punch news of October 11, 2023, the oil marketers countered the Federal Government's denial of the reintroduction of subsidy. As against the claim of Mele Kyari, the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC who denied the subsidy payment, the marketers claimed that the current pump price of petrol should not be less than N800/litre if there was no subsidy on the commodity. It has been a loggerhead between marketers and the Government on subsidy payment and removal. Who is deceiving who? Why the removal since there will be continuous partial payment? Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, says, "Three things cannot be long hidden, the sun, the moon, and the truth..."

Nigeria's annual inflation rate climbed to 26.7% in August 2023, from 24.08% in July and marking the highest rate since September 2005, reflecting the impact of the removal of fuel subsidies, the devaluation of the official exchange rate, and security issues in food-producing regions.

A Déjà vu of the endurance sermon lasted eight(8) years during Buhari's administration and ended up in disappointment. Many of Buhari's loyalists who preached endurance eventually buried their heads in shame. The reality of today is that the floor of the mandate we are standing on is hot and burning us to the marrow. The poor are no longer breathing, they are gasping heavily as many have been streamlined to the extreme poverty level. Nigerians are not asking for too much. Good governance and better living conditions for all and sundry. Some easement we require.

A quick reminder to Mr. President that it is not yet a victory when the masses are drenched in pains of hunger and insecurity. The renewed hope is still in anticipation; we are anxiously waiting for it to manifest. Lest I forget, congratulations to the President on the Supreme Court victory. May God use him to lead us to the right path.

19,000 retirees to be enrolled to Health Insurance Scheme -Osun Government

By Sola Isola

Osun state Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has ordered the immediate enrollment of all retirees in the state into the Osun Health Insurance Scheme for free.

The Executive Secretary, Osun Health Insurance Scheme, Dr Rasak Akindele, has revealed this on the sidelines of the quarterly meeting of the OHIS management and accredited Health Care Providers, held at the Government Secretariat, Abebe.

Akindele noted that the registration of the beneficiaries, who are 19,000 in number, would begin immediately while Governor Adeleke would present them their enrollment cards later.

He said, "The governor has given the order that we should enrol all pensioners in the state on the scheme. All of them came out in their large numbers to vote during the election and they deserve to



be compensated. It is not even compensation, it is their right because they have a right to good health at that age having served the state for that long.

"In fact, the governor is going to present their identity cards in commemoration of his first-year anniversary celebration. No matter the

location, we have hospitals everywhere in Osun State. The number of beneficiaries is 19,000 in all."

Speaking on the outcome of the meeting with the healthcare providers, Akindele said, "We need to have feedback from them. What are the problems they

are encountering and how we can solve the problems, because they say where there is no law, there can't be crimes.

"If we understand the problems, we can solve the problems together with them. If there are infringements later, then we can now sanction through the means of law."

Osun government flags-off immunization vaccine against cervical cancer

By Sola Isola

The Osun State Government has flagged-off immunization vaccine against cervical cancer called Human Papilloma Virus Vaccine, HPV, for female children between the ages of 9 and 14.

Speaking during the flag-off ceremony in Ede, Osun state, the Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi, who represented Governor Ademola Adeleke said the state government is always passionate about the well-being of all and sundry in the state and will continue to prioritize their health.

He said; "the introduction of the HPV vaccine into our routine immunization is not just a medical breakthrough, it is a beacon of hope for generations to come. By providing our young girls with this vaccine, we are not merely shielding them from a devastating disease, we are empowering them with the promise of a life unburdened by the fear of cervical cancer".

"I will like to urge all parents, caregivers and guardians in the state to

embrace this opportunity by ensuring that every eligible girl receives the HPV vaccine. The vaccine is safe and effective.

"Concerned bodies in the education sector should also incorporate information about HPV vaccination into their curriculum with a view to fostering understanding and dispelling myths.

Adewusi also used the medium to express gratitude to all supporting partners like WHO, UNICEF, Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and Nigeria Red Cross Society, among others, for their commitment towards maintaining good health among human race.

In his remarks, the Commissioner for Health, Barr. Jola Akintola gave an account on the disease vulnerability, tendency and admonished that the most successful long-term intervention for lowering the risk of cervical cancer is adolescent vaccination before the onset of sexual activities.

He also encouraged all Osun indigenes and others residing within the State to take their female children, especially those within the age bracket of 9 to 14 years, to the nearest facilities for the HPV vaccine uptake.

Commendations trail unveiling of infra plan

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, has unveiled a multibillion naira infrastructure plan to revitalize the state's economy while revealing plan to construct five flyovers to ease traffic across the state within the next one year.

During the flag off event in Osogbo the state capital Adeleke noted that the administration is using the project to prove to the world that a new Osun is possible

and the main purpose is to unveil a multibillion infrastructure plan to address the huge deficit the state is experiencing.

"We have used the last 11 months to address the over 90 percent infrastructure deficit our administration inherited. The ambitious plan to launch this plan, covers roads, healthcare, water supply, and education, among others

"Osun can and must

surpass those presently leading among comity of states.

"We must overcome our inherited burden and chart a path of 21st century growth for our people", he said.

The events, according to Governor Adeleke, signifies the state's readiness for business and investments, fostering public-private partnerships without increasing the financial

burden.

He, therefore emphasized that this infrastructure project is fully state-funded.

"Let me declare here that the infra plan I am to about to unveil is purely state sponsored without any load from financial institutions.

"This administration is ensuring localization in the implementation process, as local content is a key focus, and we will

empower the local economy while ensuring infrastructure sustainability.

"We are poised to further boost the state economy as 95% of the projects shall be executed by local content. The Governor also assured that Osun money will be spent in Osun.

The event showcased previous achievements, setting the stage for the unveiling of new projects.

Projects in the Infra-plan includes the rehabilitation of 345 health centres in the 332 wards, Phase two of portable water provision in 332 wards, Phase two of rehabilitation of 31 schools in the 30 local governments of Osun and area Council.

Teacher recruitment to address shortage in schools, Construction/Rehabilitation of 45 roads of at least one kilometre in each of the 30 LGs, Dualization of roads, Construction of flyovers, street lighting, and Imole medical outreach.

The Governor, however pledged to complete all projects within 12 months.



News

PDP Commends Governor Adeleke for his remarkable commitment to transform Osun

By Sola Isola

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has expressed admiration for the unwavering dedication of the Executive Governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, in spearheading transformational development for the state and his consistent delivery of good governance to the people of Osun.

In a statement issued by the Media office of the party, the State Chairman, Hon. Sunday Bisi extolled the achievements of Governor Adeleke, who is now widely referred to as "Mr Performer," for his relentless commitment to uplifting the standard of governance transparency and the initiative of

intimating the good people of the state of his administration's new phase of infrastructural plan, which was unveiled yesterday.

"This comprehensive multibillion-naira project, slated for completion within the next 12 months, will no doubt usher in a new era of measured deliverables and address infrastructure deficit in the state positively which in turn will significantly impact the lives of residents of Osun State."

"This ambitious timeline serves as a clear testament to his commitment to expeditiously advance the development of Osun State. It reflects a profound understanding of the pressing necessity to address the evolving needs of the state's

populace."

"The people of Osun State are indeed fortunate to have chosen such a selfless leader to steer their state's development.

Mr. "Performer's" infra plan underscores his crystal vision and dedication to enhance the master plans of the founding fathers for the

state.

"In an era where many leaders might shy away from bold moves due to economic constraints, the Governor has demonstrated exceptional determination and foresight. His decision to invest in the state's infrastructure during this period of economic uncertainty is indeed commendable."

"A notable facet of this project is Governor Adeleke's commitment to the utilization of local content in its execution. This approach not only promotes economic growth within the state but also ensures that benefits of this large scale investment remain within the state's economic landscape."

"This approach promises to generate employment opportunities, invigorate local businesses and economic stability, all while advancing the development plan."

"The scope of His Excellency, Mr. Achiever's infrastructure development plan is nothing short of impressive, spanning a wide range of projects that traverse the geographical expanse of Osun State."

"This innovative agenda brings to bear Governor Adeleke's belief that "power belongs to the people," and consequently, the delivery of good governance should extend to every community, village, and city in the state, as evidenced by the strategic project locations."



Opinion

Insecurity and the plight of kidnap victims (2)

By Abiodun Komolafe

Perceived callousness in society comes, chiefly, from the responses of the government to public issues as they affect individuals and the collective. As a country and society, we are perhaps the most cold-hearted people on the surface of the earth. Here, a man who fed his children last night and ... could still afford something substantial as zakat, that's our definition of generosity. An armed robber who is lucky to escape unhurt is the one society worships. In us fated clime, if you don't have money, you are in trouble. In the eye of the nouveau riche, why must you not even have money? Times and things have now gone so bad that those who lived under Ibrahim Babangida would think that Sani Abacha was complete evil, whereas those who lived under Muhammadu Buhari would also think as if this sad and sympathetic country had a better yesterday. Taking the most optimistic view, Abacha's approach would have been one of 'live-and-let-live'.

In 1980, Ogunpa flooding happened to Ibadan. No doubt about it: it was a terrible tragedy, with millions of naira worth of goods either destroyed and/or carted away. Lives in



their preciousness were also lost. Not unexpectedly, the government's response was swift, but only in terms of jingles and advertorials, not that foodstuff and/or clothing were given to the people. In specific terms, there were no physical interventions as in what could truly touch the people. Instead, eloquent words – that the government would see to the sufferings of the people – were in excess of expectations. The late Bola Ige, who was the governor of the old Oyo State at the time, was on hand to mitigate the perceived energy of the enemy, notably Adisa Akinloye and Richard Akinjide, who were not only indigenes of the ancient city but also rubbing and

defending the ego of Shehu Shagari, the then president of Nigeria. To the victims, nothing came; unfortunately, so!

Somewhere along the line, something important happened, but not in the public glare. The Federal Government intervened with N30 million, and the money was shared. Friends and colleagues watched as government officials of specific calibre started building monstrous houses and buying exotic cars; and they were careless with their mouths. Though the victims documented what Ogunpa took away from them, it was just an exercise in futility. When money came, which took several months due to the shape and size of Nigeria's bureaucratic slip-

ups, the people had moved on, obviously without any assistance from anybody. But their children in the civil service saw what happened and news went round. As at that time, Ige was no longer in government. People saw all those anomalies but there was no way they could push their aggression beyond bottling up the resentment they had for the government and government policies; and it was freely discussed among the people. Again, that's where it ended. After all, there's no sympathy for government money, more so as it belongs to no one. Sad therefore that the handlers of Nigeria's affairs have consistently shown sufficient callousness to the extent that nobody pities them again. Sadder

that that policy has been responsible for the depravity in the system, which makes nobody care. The saddest part of it is that it subsists till date, because nobody has attempted to address it.

Look at the parents of the Chibok girls, Leah Sharibu and many others who are still languishing in the terrorists' enclave. Talking seriously, that's sufficient enough to take their faith away from them because, if one has a God who cannot actually save one while one is here, it is useless believing in the afterlife. If one calls on God while one is on earth, and indeed, He hears but cannot save one, then it is as if one doesn't have a Saviour in the first place! With this sad expression staring us in the face, isn't it time our religious leaders called on God again – if, truly, they know how to call on Him – to come down and rescue those who trust in Him? Isn't it time we beheld His real power, because, for those who truly believe in Him, at no time is His power limited?

The pathetic truth is that those who are leading us

on the religious path in Nigeria are unperturbed even as dear fatherland has turned into a fount of uncertainties, a cocktail of misfortunes, a terrible economy and a nation divided. Pastor Adejare Adeboye is fine; Pastor Folorunso Kumuyi is fantastic while Bishop David Oyedepo keeps acquiring jets as if he's buying motorcycles. Remember former President Buhari also rode to Aso Rock on the promise of recovering the Chibok girls. PMB has done his 8 years and gone back to Daura, leaving behind policy summersault, unmet promises, unsettled obligations and, most importantly, the girls at the mercy of Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists. As things stand, nobody remembers poor Leah who is wasting away in the forest for knowing the God she served or her parents who continue to walk the path of their fate. Still, our spiritual fathers continue to use this same God to make money; and it is as if being a Nigerian is a crime. And we ask: isn't ours a terrible tragedy?

For heaven's sake, how did we get to this pass?

Digital Economy Policy: How Governor Adeleke has empowered residents and transformed local economies

The Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke policy in the digital economy has been hailed as a masterstroke that is capable of propelling economic growth for the state and also empower the youth population in creative engagements.

Hon. Talub Adigun Ademola gave the hint while addressing some youths on government policies said the digital revolution has transformed nearly every aspect of our lives, shaping the way we work, communicate, and access information.

He said governments worldwide have recognized the importance of embracing the digital economy, not only to boost economic growth but also as a strategy to improve the lives of their residents.

He explored the benefits of implementing digital economy as a state government policy and how it can positively impact the residents of the state in various aspects.

He said digital economy has many potential advantages such as job creation, increased productivity, improved access to education and healthcare, enhanced government services, and the fostering of innovation and entrepreneurship.

The State Coordinator of the Imole +4 Movement who doubled as the Secretary of Iwo Central Local Government, Hon. Adigun Talub Ademola said the digital era has ushered in new possibilities and challenges, and states that are swift in adapting to this transformation gain a

competitive advantage. Embracing digital economy as a state government policy enables governments to harness its potential benefits and create an environment that encourages innovation, enhanced productivity, and equitable growth.

Digitalization brings well-being to residents, ensuring inclusive growth, and improving the overall standard of living. By prioritizing digital economy policies, Osun State can leverage digital technologies to foster economic development and provide residents with numerous opportunities for advancement.

He pointed out that people of Osun will benefit from the policy in many areas such as:

· Job Creation: Hon.

Adigun said digital economy policies implemented by the Osun State government can act as a catalyst for job creation in numerous sectors. The transition to the digital sphere creates new employment opportunities in areas such as software development, data analysis, cybersecurity, e-commerce, and digital marketing.

By the formulation of this policy, Osun State can attract tech companies and fostering an environment that supports entrepreneurship and start-ups. Osun State can drive economic growth while providing their residents with job opportunities that align with the evolving job market.

· Increased Productivity: Hon. Talub illustrated the intentions of the State government when he said e-governance initiatives of the present administration can automate bureaucratic processes, reducing paperwork and administrative burdens. Furthermore, digitizing services and infrastructure, such as transportation networks and utilities, can enhance productivity, minimize resource wastage, and unlock economic potential.

· Improved Access to Education and Healthcare: Digital economy policies allow residents to access educational and healthcare services more easily and affordably.

Online learning platforms will provide flexible and cost-effective access to education, allowing individuals from all walks of life to enhance their skills and pursue lifelong learning. Moreover, telemedicine enables remote consultation, reducing the barriers to healthcare access for underserved communities, the elderly, and people living in rural areas. By leveraging digital technologies, Osun State can bridge the educational and healthcare gaps, empowering residents with increased opportunities and improved well-being.

· Enhanced Government Services: It is new to say that digital technologies enable efficient and transparent

governance, transforming the way government services are provided, Talub opined. Digital economy policies can pave the way for initiatives such as e-governance platforms, digital identification systems, and smart cities. For example, the implementation of digital government services streamlines administrative processes, reducing bureaucracy, enhancing transparency, and enabling citizens to access services more conveniently. This transformation will improve the relationship between citizens and the Osun State Government, fostering trust and participation in Sen. Adeleke Ademola democratic processes.

· Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Osun digital economy policies will create the ecosystem that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship, providing opportunities for residents to pursue their ideas and build successful businesses. By investing in digital infrastructure, attracting technology-driven investments, and nurturing a skilled workforce, Osun State can become hotspots for innovation. The presence of innovation hubs, incubators, and venture capital funding cultivates an environment conducive to entrepreneurship and encourages startups to emerge. These initiatives promote economic diversification, attract talent, and stimulate economic growth in the state.



Gov Adeleke

Osun launches ID cards, Jackets for commercial motorcyclists

By Sola Isola

Osun State Government has embarked on enforcement of jackets and Identification Cards for all commercial motorcycle riders in the state.

The Commissioner for Transportation, Hon.

Sesan Oyedele, who carried out the enforcement at Igbona market on behalf of the State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, later took the campaign to other places like Owode Igbona, Abaku, Elelede junctions, Oluode

market, Olaiya junction and Old Garage area, all in Osogbo.

Speaking with the commercial motorcyclists at Igbona market, Oyedele stressed that government is enforcing the jackets and I.D cards

for their own safety and benefit.

He said; "It is this jackets and identity cards that will enable government to have your records which will in turn help security agents to perform their functions in curbing

crimes in the state."

The Commissioner, however, noted a warning that it is now a crime to operate without the jacket and Identity card.

In his remarks, the Chairman of Osun State Transportation

Management System, OSTMS, Comrade Ayobami Oyeniya, appreciated the State government for the enforcement, saying it is a step that will make his job easier as the head of the commercial motorcyclists.

News

Osun Monarch suspended for allegedly attacking government officials

By Taofik Jimoh

The traditional ruler of Omun Ilase-Ijesa in Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State, Prince Adejumo Amos Operinmade has been suspended for allegedly sponsoring an attack on some top government officials.

Some hoodlums, allegedly mobilised by Operinmade, were said to have attacked some officials of Obokun Local

Government Area and one High Chief Elegbewa on October 30, 2023 at Elegbewa Estate Mini Hall in Koka Ijesa community.

Angered by the incident, the Alase of Ilase-Ijesa, Oba Isiaka Adesina Ajarabiolu, in a letter of suspension, dated October 31, declared Operinmade suspended until investigation on the matter is concluded.

The Osun State Commissioner of Police,

Area Commander, Ibokun, Obokun Police Divisional Office Ibokun, Department of State Services, Obokun, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Obokun, Obokun Local Government Council, Obokun Chieftaincy Committee, Ilase Ijesa Kingmakers, Ilase National Union (INU) Ilase Ijesa, Arojojoye Royal Family, Anibijuwan/Operinmade Royal Family, Ajarabiolu Royal Family, and Baale Odu

Ilase Ijesa (Chairman, Ilase Ijesa Baale) were copied in the letter.

A copy of the letter of suspension obtained by Osun Spring and signed by Oba Ajarabiolu reads, "Following the incident that occurred on Monday 30 October 2023 at the Elegbewa Estate Mini Hall in Koka Ijesa, where some top officials of Obokun Local Government Area and High Chief Elegbewa faced an attack and harassment by a

group of individuals believed to be sponsored by Prince Adejumo Amos Operinmade (The Olomun of Omun of Ilase Ijesa)

"In response to this unfortunate incident, the Ilase Oba-In- Council expressed their strong disapproval and formally distanced itself from the events and such an unbecoming conduct, especially by an Oba in Ilase Ijesaland.

"As a result, the Oba-In-

Council of Ilase Ijesa Kingdom has taken decision to temporarily suspend Prince Adejumo Amos Operinmade from his chieftaincy position as Olomun of Omun Ilase Ijesa pending the outcome of a thorough investigation into the matter as from this period you should not parading yourself as Olomun/Loja or any Ilase Ijesa Chief

"This correspondence hereby serve as a medium to inform you of the Oba in Council decision, Thanks."

Osun government begins distribution of relief items to vulnerable persons and flood victims

By Tomi Lala

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun state has flagged off the distribution of relief items to the flood victims and the vulnerable persons from 2022 in Osun.

Representing the Governor, the Deputy Governor of Osun state, Prince Kola Adewusi, noted that the distribution of Special National Economic and Livelihood Emergency Intervention Items (SNELEI) was designed by the federal government to provide immediate and sustained assistance to the flood victims and vulnerable individuals in the state through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Adewusi commended the federal government for its prompt support assistance over the years while advising beneficiaries to make judicious use of the items.

"I urge all stakeholders to ensure that the aid reaches the intended beneficiaries promptly and transparently. Let us work hand in hand to ensure that the support provided today leads to the recovery and rebuilding of the lives of those who have been affected", he said.

Earlier in his welcome

address, the Osun State Emergency Management Agency (OSEMA) General Manager, Mr Jide Falade expressed delight at the kind of leader Osun State is blessed with at this time. He described Governor Adeleke's compassionate intervention in the support and provision of succours to those affected by the 2022 flood disasters and vulnerable as a welcome development at this trying period.

Falade added that a total of 5,305 people has been identified to benefit from the gesture adding that items to benefit from include sewing machines, grinding machines, farm inputs and food items.

Also speaking, the team led by the NEMA representative, Mr Yohanna Aliyu appreciated the warmth and support of the Osun state government which ensured the smoothness of the distribution exercise. He similarly advised the beneficiaries to make use of the items for the purposes meant for in order to improve their socio-economic condition saying, the gesture is not only limited to Osun but all states across Nigeria.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke

Governor Adeleke is passionate about the development of Osun –Aide

By Sola Isola

The one hundred billion naira infrastructure plan, unveiled by Governor Ademola Adeleke is borne out of his passion for economic growth and development of Osun state

Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on the Bureau of Social Services, Mr Akintunde Bello stated this while featuring on Imole Ayo, a

sensitization programme which promotes the activities of governor Ademola Adeleke's administration on OSBC Radio and Television channels

The weekly Yoruba simulcast programme is put in place by the office of the spokesperson to the Governor to showcase the achievements of the present administration in Osun State

Bello expressed the confidence that, when completed, the projects would turn the State around to an investment destination and address huge infrastructure deficit in the state

Dispelling the rumours being peddled around that the execution of the multi billion naira projects will affect regular payment of workers' salaries, the governor's aide emphasized that,

Senator Adeleke prioritizes the welfare of the state workforce and retirees, therefore, the infrastructure plan would not in any way hinder the salaries and allowances of workers and pensioners in the state

According to him, "it is the duty of a responsible government to pay the salaries of its workforce as and when due, hence the governor has been living up to the task in this regard."

Governor Adeleke Dissolves Statutory Commissions

By Sola Isola

Osun state Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has approved the dissolution of statutory commissions.

A circular by the Secretary to the State Government, Hon Teslim Igbalaye, noted that the

dissolution takes immediate effect.

The circular reads in part "the affected commissions according to the SSG are the State Civil Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission, Osun State Independent

Electoral Commission and Osun State House of Assembly Service Commission.

"The Secretary to the State Government conveyed the appreciation of Mr Governor to members of dissolved commissions for the selfless and meritorious service to the state.



News

Governor Adeleke, Osun PDP mourn PDP National Women Leader

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun state has mourned the passage of the National Women Leader of People's Democratic Party, Professor Stella Effah-Attoe.

Osun Spring reports that Professor Stella Effah-Attoe who died on the 29th of October, 2023 is also the wife of Alhaji Shuaib Oyedokun, a member of the Board of Trustees of People's Democratic Party.

In a statement personally signed by him and made available to Osun Spring, the Governor noted that her demise is devastating and has created a huge vacuum for the party.

The statement reads "Prof. Stella Effah-Attoe was not just the leader of the womenfolk of our party, but a reflection of the limitless potential of our women considering her energy and strong zeal for success.

"Her sudden demise is devastating and has created a huge vacuum for our great party given her contributions and depth of service while she was alive.

"On behalf of the people of

Osun state, I commiserate with the Acting National Chairman of the PDP and the entire National Working Committee (NWC) for this irreparable loss.

"My heartfelt condolences to my leader, Baba Shuaibu Oyedokun for the loss of his darling wife, the children left by the deceased, and hope that the elder statesman and the entire family left behind can be comforted by the fact of a life full of accomplishments that she lived.

"In this frightful and moment of darkness, I convey my sincere thoughts and prayers to everyone touched by Prof. demise while offering the support of the people to help them overcome this moment of sorrow and pain.

"It is my sincere prayer that Almighty God repose her soul, grant her peaceful rest, and give everyone hurt by this painful incident the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

Meanwhile, the State Working Committee of the Osun State Chapter of the People's Democratic Party

(PDP), under the chairmanship of Hon Sunday Bisi has expressed sadness over the news of the demise of the National Women Leader of the party,

Professor Stella Effah-Attoe who passed on to the great beyond after a brief illness.

Bisi in a statement made available to Osun Spring

noted that the news of her dead is shocking adding she was a great leader while she was alive.

The statement reads "The death of the erudite

mother of great repute hurts the more here in Osun PDP family as she was a loving wife of one of the great leaders and a member of the Board of Trustees of our party, Alhaji Shuaib Oyedokun.

"Though, our party is devastated by the loss of Professor Stella Effah-Attoe, we cannot but submit to the will of Almighty Allah, the supreme giver and taker of life, who has chosen to take such a loyal thoroughbred party stalwart at this crucial time.

"Our party in Osun State shares this moment of grief with our leader, Alhaji Shuaib Oyedokun, children and the entire family the late National Women Leader left behind.

"We also express deep sympathy with the PDP National Chairman and members of the National Working Committee over the ultimate exit of one of the most important members of the team.

"May God in His infinite mercy repose the gentle soul of Professor Stella and grant all affected by her demise the fortitude to bear the loss."



Governor Adeleke Of Osun suspends foreign trips for government officials

By Tomi Lala

The Executive Governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke has announced the immediate suspension of foreign trips for government officials from the state for the rest of the year, 2023.

He also directed that the state's expenditure should prioritize the execution of critical and important projects across various sectors.

This announcement was disclosed in a statement signed by the governor's spokesperson, Olawale Rasheed, which was made available to newsmen in Osogbo, the state capital.

According to the statement, the decision was made at the end of the State Executive Council meeting held on Monday, 23rd October.

"Foreign trips for top officials for the rest of the

year is hereby suspended unless there is a direct emergency to be authorized by the Governor.

"The Governor directed the immediate suspension of foreign travels by top officials. He urged application of virtual meetings for attendance and participation at international business and investment events.

"We must sustain the momentum of our service delivery by avoiding excessive spending on recurrent and overheads," the statement said.

The governor, however called for due diligence on the budget preparation process, reading out key policy directives on the governance of the state.

He, also emphasized

the need for personal sacrifice from cabinet members, stating that they and all members of the administration must show their willingness to make sacrifices in light of the state's challenging financial circumstances.

"Our needs from office to accommodation are much but our resources are limited. So, we have to devise a coping mechanism pending the time our funding situation will improve," he stated.

"While memos by Special Advisers must pass through the Permanent Secretary to the Commissioners, the Commissioners must ensure fair play and accommodating spirit," the Governor declared in a move to pre-empt possible rivalry among top appointees.

Reassured His Commitment to Enhance Educational Institutions in Osun

By Tomi Lala

Governor Ademola Adeleke, of Osun state has reassured and emphasized his total commitment to improve education in state-owned higher institutions.

The governor, who stated this during his speech at the Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke, Alumni Reunion in London, United Kingdom, disclosed myriads of problems facing educational sector in the state.

In a statement released on Sunday, Adeleke, acknowledging the rising demand for quality education, emphasized his obligation to ensure that state-owned higher institutions are

sufficiently equipped to meet present-day requirements.

Represented by the Chairman of the Governing Council of the



Polytechnic, Prince Diran Odeyemi, the governor, also, seek the cooperation and support of the ex-students to further improve the facilities available for teaching and learning at the institution.

"In my capacity as the Executive Governor of Osun State, I am acutely aware of the challenges that our educational institutions face.

"The demand for quality education continues to rise, and it is our duty to ensure that our institutions are adequately equipped to meet these demands.

"I am committed to working tirelessly to enhance the infrastructure, faculty, and curriculum of OSCOTECH and other educational institutions in Osun State," he stated.

Editorial

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.
 ”

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.

It's 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.

Governor Adeleke also recently unveiled a multibillion naira Osun Infrastructure plan highlighting the projects to include, construction of 5 flyovers, rehabilitation of health centres, construction of 332 boreholes, dualization of roads among others.

He also emphasized that the project is fully state funded and purely state sponsored without any loan from financial institutions, while promising that 95 percent of the project will be executed by local content, stating that Osun money will be spent in osun.

THE TEAM

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Interview

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What inspired you to become an entrepreneur

A lot 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?

A lot, a lot, Is it the electricity or inability to meet up with orders to deliver and money, financial... A lot 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?

A lot, 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.

News

Surge in food prices after Tinubu's five 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 a 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 Pounded 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.



Boreholes cost us N1.5million Each

– Gov 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 100 days in office.



Suspected Kidnapper, Murderer Arrested By Amotekun

By Taofik Jimoh

A 31-year-old suspected kidnapper and murderer, Banji Olaniyi Julius has been arrested by the Osun State Security Network Agency (Amotekun Corps).

The security agency stated that Banji is responsible for the sudden disappearance of Damilare Akinranti, a native of Moro, Ife North Local Government Area of Osun State, who disappeared on November 6, 2022 after the suspect lured him.

This was confirmed by the Osun Amotekun Corps Commander, Brigadier General Bashir Adewinmbi, rtd, saying that the suspect had been under surveillance for

some time after the family of the missing individual filed a complaint with the Ife North Command of the Corps.

The suspect was apprehended in Jagun village within the Irewole Local Government Area.

According to Adewinmbi, "Eleven (11) months ago, Sunday, November 6, 2022, at about 0900hrs, Banji

Olaniyi Julius convinced Damilare Akinranti, age 24, to follow him to a farm in Iguede, Area 5, a distant farm in that same local government area; only for Damilare to get missing till date.

"The suspect who lured his victim to a farm in Iguede without his family members' knowledge had since absconded from home when it was discovered that he took

Damilare to a farm in Iguede and did not return with him. Aside from changing residence, he has changed his mobile phone number.

"Luck ran out of Banji, following a tip-off from our extensive intelligence gathering network.

"The suspect, after extensive investigation, has been handed over to the National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) for further interrogation and prosecution as the law stipulates."

The Osun Amotekun reaffirmed the Corps' dedication to actively identifying these criminal elements in the state so they can be held accountable by the law.



Interview

www.osunspring.com

Egbeichi Egwu Okoro of Zinn Arts Gallery is a Nigerian Lawyer and an award-winning Fine Artist, currently based in the United States.

She draws and paints on commission and for exhibitions. On many occasions, she has taught art as a private teacher, and has sensitized persons in art in organized forums as an invited facilitator/special guest.

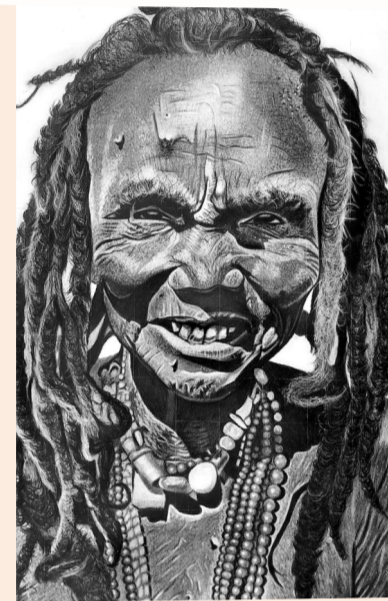
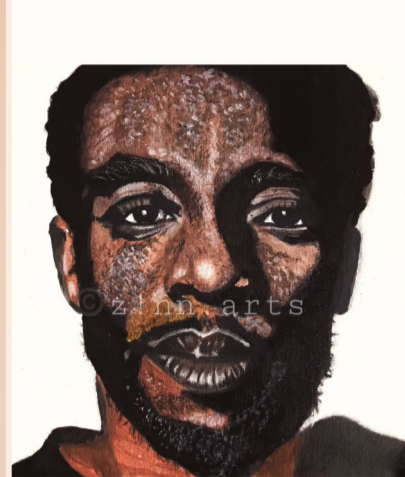
She has had several informal shows of her works in Nigeria, she has exhibited formally with different groups in America, and her works have been showcased at the Nigerian Embassy in Japan.

She participated in the Women of Color exhibition in 2022 at the United States, where she exhibited her Read my Mind piece, and was presented a certificate of artistic excellence alongside other selected female artists.

Egbeichi has been combining her law studies and career in law with her career in art over the years and continues to manage the conflicts that arise from doing so. As a self-taught fine artist, she always encourages people to pay attention to their talents and never let them lie fallow.

She believes that a person can be so many things and do so many things, if they are able to find a good balance by planning strategically, understanding the mechanics of prioritizing, and developing multitasking skills.

According to her, exploring your abilities and maximizing your potentials gives you a good understanding of the fact that what you are good at may be different from what you love. This understanding serves as a guide to people who are on a journey of talent discovery and development.



so they are not confined to a particular circle.

I have created artworks under the themes, futility of life, grateful heart, ije-uwa (which means journey of life in Igbo language), African traditional hairstyles, read my mind, strength of a woman, dreaming my best life, etc.

In 2015 when Nigeria experienced its lowest drop in GDP since 1999, I drew a ruffled naira note to signify a crumbling economy. Today, this drawing is instrumental in discussing the issue of cash scarcity in Nigeria, and ultimately, the subsisting decline in our economic development statistics.

How applicable are your arts to contemporary happenings in Africa?

My arts are focused on different issues associated with humanity, so they are to a large extent, applicable to contemporary happenings in Africa.

One of the themes I have worked on is African Traditional Hairstyles. It is a series made up of four different hairstyles. I chose this theme to contribute positively to the debates associated with African hair. My aim was to add to the existing awareness created of this type of hair, highlight its beauty, and showcase the different styles that it could be made into, with and without extensions added, to reduce the stigma around its texture, styling, etc. African hair is quite challenging to handle, and this is part of the many reasons why lots of Africans resort to wig wearing. My arts answer questions that other races have of some of the ways we wear our hair as Africans. Interestingly, they have been showing at the Nigerian embassy in Japan from 2021 till date. I applied the hyperrealistic art technique to make the drawings look incredibly lifelike because of the message I was trying to communicate. They are in fact, often mistaken for real hair.

I HAD NATURAL APTITUDE AND PROFICIENCY IN CREATIVITY -OKORO

What excites your interest in creative art?

It was my artistic adroitness that first excited my interest in creative art. I discovered early that I had natural aptitude and proficiency in creativity, through class works and other creative tasks that I was given. I

could draw, paint, act, write stories, mold with clay and papier-mache, fold paper into different shapes, etc., and as I got older, I started to perform more serious creative tasks like knitting and hair weaving, without putting too many efforts into learning how to perform them.

Not only did I realize that I loved to draw and paint more than I loved to perform other creative tasks that I was good at, but I also realized that the pleasure I derived from painting and drawing contributed greatly to my mental well-being. These naturally motivated me to practice more drawing and painting and develop my talent in them.

My interest became more excited when I started receiving compliments and recognitions on my creative arts and getting paid for my works.

These factors continue keep me enthusiastic about creative art.

What message do you pass through your creative works?

Mostly, I pass messages that center on humanity. I do this by thinking up

themes and creating arts that foster them, either in a collection or as stand-alone pieces. I choose my themes based on contemporary matters and on-going movements in the society,



Are you planning any exhibition event in Nigeria?

I am looking into this for the future, but presently, there is no active plan. I will plan towards hosting periodic exhibition events in Nigeria, through which I will not only showcase my works, but also create opportunities for other artists to showcase their works.

YouTube Channel

She curated a short and interesting documentary of her journey. This can be accessed on her YouTube Channel, ZinnArts Gallery.



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News

Ipade Imole: I sacrifice my 600million monthly security vote for Osun development -Governor 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 N7billion 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."



Osun Government to revamp and revitalized 332 Health Centre -SA Public Health, Dr Akindele

The administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke has concluded plans to revamp and revitalized 332 health centres in Osun state.

This was made known by the Special Adviser to Governor Adeleke on Public Health, Dr. Akindele Adekunle at the sensitization programme

on mass vaccination campaign against cervical cancer held at the Local government service commission, Abeere.

The event was setup to sensitize stakeholders in the society ahead of the vaccination campaign starting from the 24th of October, 2023.

Addressing the

gathering, Dr. Akindele reiterated the effort of Governor Ademola Adeleke in revamping the health sector of the state for the benefit of the people with one of the immediate effort is to revamp and revitalized the totality of the primary health centres across the state starting with the 332 focal health centres.

"The state government has resolved to start with immediate effect, the revamping and revitalization of all the 332 focal health centres across the state to enhance quality, affordable and effective health care delivery to the grassroots. The revitalization, amongst other things, includes improving human resources and provisions of basic drugs in all the Primary Healthcare centres.

"I commend the Governor for his forthrightness and uphold desire to revamp and ensure proper healthcare system in the state which he has started by putting in place a free medical and surgical Imole Outreach and following it up with the revamping and revitalization of the

primary healthcare centres that ideally deals with the grassroots. This is commendable, I must say."

"As we all know the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke has put the welfare of the people he governed as a first-line charge under the governance deliverables of his government, this informs the reason why we've decided to call on all critical stakeholders that holds the fabric of our society to sensitize, educate, informed and enlighten you all on the danger of this menace and the government effort in curtailing it", he said.

Akindele called on stakeholders to support the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke in ensuring that its vision and plans is achieved.

"We can not do this alone. We need your support. The HPV vaccine, when given, helps protect against cervical cancer," Dr Akindele added.

While speaking at the event on Wednesday, the ALGON Chairman in the state, Hon. Sarafadeen Awotunde pledge the

maximum support of all the 69 local councils Chairmen in Osun while also assuring they will ensure cooperation with all the critical stakeholders in their locality to ensure an effective sensitization, awareness and campaign success of the mass vaccination programme.

The Southwest Regional Coordinator of W.H.O, Dr. Isiaka Ayodeji, said Osun is among the only 16 states in the federation that will be kicking-off the mass vaccination campaign against cervical cancer on the 24th of this month and this according to him is a testament to how Governor Ademola Adeleke is committed to the improvement of the healthcare delivery system in the state.

He affirmed the readiness of other development partners to see to the success of the campaign as the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke has provided the enabling environment for them to thrive and contribute their quota to the benefit of the society.

OAU reacts to EFCC's arrest of 69 students

By Taofik Jimoh

Management of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Abiodun Olarewaju, has revealed that 58 out of the 69 students of the institution earlier arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) have been released.

It also claimed that the remaining 11 had cases to answer with the anti-graft agency.

This disclosure was made by the Public Relations Officer of the institution, Abiodun Olarewaju maintaining that the university would not stop the anti-graft agency from doing its job

"58 of the students were released to us. The remaining 11 of them have cases to answer", he said.



The anti-gravity agency reportedly raided the Fine Touch and Superb hostels in the Oduduwa Estate, Ile-Ife, in the midnight, broke into rooms, and detained a number of students. The hostels are located outside the OAU campus.

The detained students were taken to the EFCC Zonal office in Ibadan, Oyo State.

A few hours later, the EFCC verified that it had detained 69 people in Ile-Ife in a statement posted on its official Facebook page. The suspects' names were revealed by the anti-graft agency, but nothing about their identities as students was disclosed.

"They were arrested on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at the Oduduwa Estate area of Ile-Ife, Osun State, following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in fraudulent Internet-related activities. Credible intelligence linked Oduduwa Estate with the activities of suspected internet fraudsters," the statement said.



Violence Against Journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership

By Gbemiga Bamidele

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) is a day observed annually on 2 November. The day was chosen in commemoration of Claude Verlon and Chislaire Dupont, two French journalists from RFI Radio station, who were kidnapped from the town of Kidal in Mali after they had finished interviewing a local political leader on November 2, 2013.

It is in recognition of the far reaching consequences of Impunity, especially of crimes against journalists that the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/68/163 at its 68th session in 2013 which proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI) since 2013, international commemoration of IDEI have provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness and promote a productive discussion among all actors involved in the fight against Impunity for crimes against journalists.

The 2023 theme "Violence Against Journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership" seeks to give visibility to the role of a safe and free press in ensuring the integrity of elections and our democratic systems. It reaffirms the obligation of states to adopt effective measures to protect the independent press and strengthen institutional frameworks that combat violence and Impunity, and promote media Independence, sustainability and diversity.

Putting an end to Impunity for crimes against journalists is one of the most important and complex challenges of recent times, and constitutes a fundamental issue in guaranteeing the full exercise of the right to freedom of expression and the open, free and dynamic exchange of ideas and information for all people.

More disturbing is the fact that violence deployed by both state and non state actors against the press has not only been physical but also legal, digital, psychological and symbolic. While murders are the most extreme form of media censorship, journalists are also subjected to countless threats, ranging from physical attacks, imprisonment, online intimidation, threats, kidnappings, surveillance, criminalization and stigmatizing rhetoric by public officials and public figures.

Threats of violence and attacks against journalists produce a chilling effect and self censorship among professionals and society as a whole; which can only be avoided "through decisive action by the state to punish those responsible, as is its obligation under international and domestic law".

Thus in case of violence against journalists, international human rights law requires that states comply with their positive obligations to prevent, protect and provide justice. Regarding the obligation of prevention, it is important that



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public authorities adopt a discourse that contributes to preventing violence against the journalists and on the contrary, refrain from issuing stigmatizing statements that increase the risk inherent in their work.

This also implies that they consistently, clearly, publicly and firmly recognize the legitimacy and value of journalistic work, even when the information disseminated may be critical, inconvenient and inopportune for the interest of the government.

Violence against journalists and the continuity of stigmatizing discourse on the part of public officials intensifies particularly during election cycles. States are called upon to recognize and appreciate the role played by the press, since they are independent observers and vehicles for exercise of the social dimension of freedom of expression. Journalists provide credible, fact based reports and eye witness account about candidates, the electoral process and security issue as well as disseminate and clarify information on emerging issues and public concerns.

In this way, they contribute to the electorates having sufficient information and different criteria to make a decision during an election. Later in this month, November 2023, UNESCO will launch an issue brief focusing on the violence committed against journalists during election periods.

The findings reveal that most attacks against journalists during election periods are committed by law enforcement agents. In the last three years, these attacks are counted in hundreds. In the case of women journalists, they are particularly affected by threats and attacks through social networks, which are exacerbated when they cover political issues. In the same UNESCO brief, it is revealed that women constitute 29 per cent of the total number of attacked journalists during election.

This commemoration of IDEI is therefore a call to honour the courage and commitment of journalists killed in the exercise of their profession and to reaffirm the importance and urgency for states and other stakeholders to deploy their maximum efforts to generate an environment free of violence for the press, as well as enablement to carry out their work freely, independently and safely.

In the year 2024, the issue of the safety of journalists during elections will raise high on the agenda as 81 countries globally are about to vote in national and regional elections. This includes world's largest democracies, and all in all, around 2.6 billion people will be eligible to vote.

Gbemiga Bamidele is the convener, Society for Journalism Enhancement Initiatives (S4JEI).

