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OSUN SPRING

VOL 1. NO 4.

1-15 DECEMBER, 2023

www.osunspring.com

N200

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Editorial

One year after Governor Adeleke took over: Is Osun Progressing?

When the history of Osun State is written, Osun Spring thinks that it will be said that a navigator of the Adeleke political dynasty upstaged the then ruling party, winning against the incumbent party's candidate by 403,371 votes to emerge as the 6th Civilian Governor of Osun State. It was tagged a victory for the people, as it was generally agreed that the people voted with their feet. One year after, is Osun State progressing?

On the campaign trail, Osun Spring recalls that Governor Adeleke spoke about his five point agenda that captures human existential realities that is focused on taking the people from poverty to prosperity through clear focus on Health, Education, Infrastructural Development, Security and Improved Economy through Agricultural value chain on which his Roadmap to Accelerated Development in Osun State 2022-2026 will stand.

Before Governor Adeleke took over the mantle of leadership of the State of the Living Spring on the 27 November, 2022, It is worthy to note that the Adeleke administration inherited a debt of N407.32bn as of November 30, 2022, N20bn half-salary debt as well as over N50bn in entitlements to retirees.

Although, the figures are frightening, and capable of stirring concerns on how to go about it considering the economic situation of Osun State, Governor Adeleke was unwavering which is clearly the hallmark of true leadership.

Former Governor Oyetola, despite being in the same party as his predecessor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, who initiated the Osogbo-Ikirun-Kwara boundary road project and completed the first phase before leaving office in 2018, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola abandoned the continuity of the project during his four years tenure at the detriment of the entire Osun populace.

Osun spring takes a look state of things and compare with the previous administration, the primary health facilities during the were poorly equipped and the state hospitals were in sorry and shambolic conditions, with most of them overtaken by lawn bush. The workers were also poorly remunerated.

Typical of a leader who meant well, Adeleke accepted the challenge posed by the half-salary debt, and as a way out, released a template to follow in the payment of the owed monies. In the template signed by the Head of Service, Mr. Samuel Aina in February, the Adeleke administration committed to paying the salary debt every quarter.

Just as outlined, Governor Adeleke, paid two months of the half-salary to workers and pensioners in the first quarter of the year. And also paid another month of the half salary in the second quarter of year 2023. This brings payments of the half-salary to three months, in line with the template put up by the government in February.

In short, unlike his predecessor, Governor Adeleke is showing what commitment can do. While Osun finances is in distress due to gross mismanagement of the past, Governor Adeleke has demonstrated fiscal discipline to ensure that the meager available resources of the state truly serves the benefit of the people.

This is not so different from the cash backing of promotions of civil servants done by the past administration by Governor Adeleke. Oyetola had in 2019 approved promotion for civil servants but it was Governor Adeleke in May 2023 that made sure the benefit doesn't end on paper but truly reflect in the salary of workers.

The impressive thing here is that, these kind of gestures is not limited to active workers but also senior citizens, who were also largely abandoned by the previous administration. Between November 27, 2022 and now, Governor Adeleke has released billions in bonds to clear entitlements of retired personnel of the state.

Governor Adeleke also approved nearly half a billion to settle the pension claims of 734 pensioners on the old pension scheme in the state. This is in addition to the enrolment of pensioners on health insurance scheme to cater for their health needs at old age.

Many political observers who saw the landmine on the path of the IMOLE administration are shocked at how Governor Ademola Adeleke has succeed in navigating the path expertly and leaving many in awe of his political and administrative prowess.



In the last one year in Office, it is the view of Osun Spring that there is no doubt that the Governor Ademola Adeleke led administration is a huge relief for many people of the State who are genuinely desirous of a change in the narrative. However, the Governor fondly called IMOLE DE by his teeming supporters and the people State, was not carried away by the euphoria of the victory as he was well-prepared and ready to hit the ground running from the first blast of the whistle on the 27 November, 2022.

In his inaugural speech delivered shortly after he was sworn-in, Governor Adeleke did not mince words in articulating his direction for good governance and humane disposition to the people's plight.

A deep dive into his achievements in the five-point agenda created the scorecard by which his administration's one year in office was accessed laying a solid foundation for Osun State transformation.

Completed and Ongoing Projects:

INFRASTRUCTURE:

1. Provision of portable Borehole in each of the 332 wards in Osun State.
2. Construction of 20km road across Osun State.
3. Presentation of #518M to 40 communities in Osun state for infrastructural developments.
4. Rural Electrification Projects across Osun State. Provision of transformers and other electrical materials to ensure that communities without electricity can have light.
5. Construction of broken bridge at Bókùsòrò/Adéké in Iwo to forestall loss of life on the bridge in the bridge due to erosion.
9. Resumption of the construction of the Osogbo/Ikirun Kwara boundary road abandoned by the past administration.
10. Launched Osun on Tech Revolution through New Tech Innovation Policy, ICT Policy, Domestication of Nigeria's Startup Act and Osun Google Mapping Project.
11. Complete renovation of 30 schools, one per local government, including portable water and the provision of at least 50 computers with internet services in each renovated school.

LIST OF ROADS AND INTERVENTION PROJECTS:

1. Dualization of Osogbo-Ikirun road with street light, 10.5km; OSOGBO
2. Oja Oba (Iso Isu/Iso ata/Iso Eran/Iso Ewe) - First Baptist Model Academy with spur to oba Oyetona Street, 200 ; OSOGBO
3. Enuwa - Oniyangi - Ita Osun - Oke Atam with spur to Egbedu Ilode Junction Ile lfe.; IFE
4. Ibadan/lfe Express Road Junction - Islamiya Okiti junction Ikire 1165 - IKIRE
5. Alajue junction, (Ojularede Street) Bode junction, Admus filling station, Oja Oje Ede. 2890 - EDE.
6. Monday Market - Railway Station Road Ikirun, 1200 - IKIRUN
7. Iresi Township Road 3000 - IRESI
8. Ansarudeen Central Mosque Junction - Kuti Junction - Hospital Road Iwo 1550 - IWO
9. Ita-Ofa-Oromu - Araromi (Market Gate) Ilesa 770 - ILESA
10. Atakunmosa Market Road, Obiteni Omo Ode Road 400 - ILESA
11. Oke Oye, Oke Ita with spur to Ogodogbo with sour to Temidire Road, Obokun 1300 - ILESA

12. Rehabilitation of Gbenga Junction - John Mackay (Oke Ayepe Costain) Osogbo (Phase 1) 1KM - OSOGBO
13. Rehabilitation of Olorunredo community (Costain John Mackay-East Bypass, Osogbo (Phase 2) 1.5km - OSOGBO

14. Rehabilitation of Anuolu Hospital - Hamadiya Power line (Ede) 1km - EDE

15. Rehabilitation of Ogberin Junction- Akala - Oloki junction, Oluoboni, Iso Ege 2.055- EDE

CRITICAL INTERVENTION:

1. Spot Patching of Lameco - Station Road.
2. Oke-Fia - Dele Yes Sir
3. Oke Oni Tea Failed Section
4. Owode Failed Section.
5. Grading of 10km community road in each of the local government of Osun State.

HEALTH:

1. Rehabilitation of 332 primary health care centers, one in each of the 332 wards in the State. Access to Health Care at the grassroot is the main objective.

2. Enrolment of 3332 Osun indigenes (10 per ward) on the Osun Health Insurance Scheme (OHIS), to ensure adequate healthcare access for the vulnerable for 5 years.

- 3: IMOLE Surgical and Medical outreach face 1 and 2: Over 40,000 person in each of the 9 Federal constituencies in Osun State, making a total of 40,000 beneficiaries who received free surgeries from within Osun state and from other states.

4. Enrolment of 23,000 Pensioners in to the Osun Health Insurance scheme (OHIS).

WORKERS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE:

1. Payment of up-to-date workers salary.
2. Payment of salaries and pensions arrears from 2016 owed by the past administration.
3. Payment of arrears of salaries for retired Judges in the State.
4. Payment of the sum of N160 Million naira as severance gratuity for members of the 6th and 7th Assembly in the State.
5. Osun State Government rolled out 19 palliative buses to convey Civil Servants, Students and other Residents.

MULTIBILLION NAIRA ONGOING INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS:

Governor Ademola Adeleke unveiled Ongoing multibillion naira infrastructural projects:

1. Two flyovers would be constructed in Osogbo, one in Ile-Ife, one in Owode-Ede and one in Ikirun town.
2. 45 roads across the 30 local government areas in the state have been selected for construction.
3. Phase two of the rehabilitation of 345 health centres in the 332 Wards of Osun State.
4. Phase two of potable water provision in 332 wards of Osun State.
5. Phase two of the rehabilitation of 31 schools in the 30 mother local governments of Osun State.
6. Dualisation of roads in Osogbo, Ede, and Ilesa.

Interestingly, many of the challenges faced by the Ademola Adeleke-led administration in the last One year in office have turned to stepping stones and ladders to greatness. His government stabilized by years of thorough preparedness for service, private sector secrets and willingness to do things right.

It is the view of Osun Spring that virtually all the areas that can make a direct positive impact on the lives of the people have received attention with prospects of Governor Adeleke doing better as time goes on.

According to Governor Ademola Adeleke, "Our future in Osun State is now. We have a government that is accountable, transparent, productive, effective and efficient. We will move from sick care to the Wellness of our people through investment on Education, Health, Infrastructure and Economic prosperity so we can achieve life-changing outcomes."

Osun Spring believes that there is a still alot more be done, but all indicators show that Governor Ademola Adeleke is leading Osun State on the right path, Governor Ademola Adeleke is off to a good start and it is our hope that he will do even better in his subsequent years.

Feature

A Year After, Osun APC Still In Crisis

By Tope Odediran

Starting from its loss of July 16 2022 governorship election in Osun State, the now opposition party in the state is still enmeshed in protracted internal crisis, looking so much insurmountable not minding the window dressed efforts of some of the gladiators to paint a nonexistent cohesion.

Prior to the election in 2022, the APC had been polarized into several factions, with former governor Oyetola engaging in a battle of wits with his former boss and predecessor, Rauf Aregbesola, on who controls the soul of APC in the state.

The war of attrition between the duo scaled down the fabrics of the party, right from the state executive committee, to the local governments, wards and even, poling unit levels.

Checks revealed that the immediate past governor, Gboyega Oyetola was banking on the ever willing federal machine, often deployed by his party at the center to muscle opposition at any major election in the states, the whirlwind of popularity of his main contender, Ademola Adeleke, the now executive governor of the state, became too much to handle, thereby flooring Oyetola, who had hoped to use forceful victory at the poll to politically bury his boss, Rauf Aregbesola.

Immediately after the woeful performance of the APC in the election, many of the party faithful, particularly at the grassroots pointed accusing fingers at the defeated governor who many of them blamed for the loss through his high handedness and inability to galvanize needed supports for the party due to what they saw as very poor performance in office.

Things got to a head as many of the agitated gladiators were hounded dangerously with assailants, so brazenly that many of them merely escaped with their lives by the whiskers.

Former Speaker, Rt Hon Najeem Salaam, former SSG, Moshood Adeoti, former Commissioner Kolapo Alimi and former Deputy Speaker of the house of representatives, Hon Lasun Yusuf amongst several APC leaders nearly paid with their lives as gunmen often trailed their weekly meetings at the Oranmiyan House, belonging to their leader, Rauf Aregbesola.

A year after however, one would expect APC to have



Oyetola

Aregbesola



Akande



Omisore

learned from its structural squabbles, but nay, the war is rather escalating than any traces of truce.

Former governor Gboyega Oyetola, sources revealed, still maintains his hardline posture, waiting earnestly for 2026 election which as usual of his style, hoping to be spoonfed with some federal might to recapture the state and use the powers of his office to completely dismantle Rauf Aregbesola, who he sees as his prime target

However, the attrition goal being contemplated is a tall dream going by the unfolding intricacies. First, most of the APC stakeholders believed to be tested politicians are with Rauf Aregbesola. They are referred to as home based because of their constant touch with their followers and therefore hold the ace in their respective constituencies. This is so that it will take more than the whole avalanche of Nigerian armory and army to break the ice of the long term bounding.

Second is the slippery but firm ambition of the Osogbo born former senator, Basiru Ajibola who now sits as the APC national secretary, whose political watchers in the

state believe, is already warming up and positioning himself in poll position to wrestle the APC governorship ticket from Gboyega Oyetola, whose only strength is the president cousin's tag.

Basiru Ajibola is believed to have steadied himself on a fast lane, convincing stakeholders of the party at the national level as the only candidate who can give the incumbent, Ademola Adeleke and the PDP a run for their money. In Basiru's camp, Oyetola is taunted as a weak vessel going by the countable volume of vote in his local government as against SRJ, who sees himself as a state capital boy with lorry loads of vote.

Will Basiru Ajibola be able to pull any spring against the hurricane popularity level of governor Adeleke? that is seen as another rough ambition as the former is seen largely as a political burden, whose character deficits contributed to the APC losing the same Osogbo which he now dangles as a bait to beat Oyetola to the ticket.

The multifaceted crisis in the APC has also seen former Senator Iyiola Omisore who according to close allies, is grossly

bitter over the way and manner he was deposed as the national secretary of the party.

The deposition as the APC NS has reduced to rubble, the political grip of

the former PDP Senator in Ile-Ife, a constituency the APC earnestly require to garner appreciable number of votes to be close to any form of reckoning in any election in the state.

The rapid consolidation of PDP in the zone is however proving to be another migraine for the troubled opposition APC. While the the party is planning to evacuate Senator Omisore out of the cooler in the last minutes to the 2026 election with a well dressed appointment or a one-off contract to placate the former national secretary as usual, it might become too late in the day with proactive tendencies of the ruling PDP already ravaging the political routes of Ife zone of the state.

Omisore again, sources further hinted, is tired of easy prey toga on the political image of the one time deputy governor of the state. Whatever carrot that is dangled at him this time will be viewed more as a take home package and not to put his name on the line anymore for a party that has failed to accommodate or integrate him other than use him for election purposes, pay him off and cage him again.

The use and cage

attitude of APC, who still have an ax to grind with Omisore over the gruesome murder of late chief Bola Ige, has further sent jitters to the spines of followers of Olode born prince, with many of them automatically scaled down the pecking order of consideration in the APC, as their leader is seen to have been reduced to indoor tiger, who is allowed to roar only when he is unchained by his handlers.

The principal in the crisis confronting the APC are members of the party at the grassroots, who are increasingly disenchanted with the movement without motion status of the party in the state. While the warring gladiators are pretending with some atmospheric love which was stage acted in Iragbiji recently, members of the party at the grassroot believe the party is in deep mess.

While many of the party loyalists are calling for immediate truce with former governor Rauf Aregbesola to stabilize the party and put it in good stead for future elections, the diehard Oyetola followers are harping on federal government influence to scale election huddles without input of Aregbesola and his faction of the party.

“
The war of attrition between the duo scaled down the fabrics of the party, right from the state executive committee, to the local governments, wards and even, poling unit levels.
”

National Scope

Election And The Judiciary

By Segun Opeyemi

In Nigeria, the proper description of 'Electoral season' does not stop at the announcement of result of the election. Rather, it captures the date of announcement of intention to contest by aspirants of different political parties until the pronouncement of the Supreme Court on the election. The 2023 governorship elections was conducted in 28 states by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on March 11, 2023 across Nigeria.

As declared by INEC, APC won 16 states, PDP won 10, NNPP won 1 (Kano) and LP won 1 (Abia). Notable states lost by the ruling APC includes Kano, Zamfara, Plateau states while PDP lost Abia, Benue, and Sokoto states.

Following the judgements of the Tribunal and the Appellate courts on the election petitions across various states, there have been genuine concern on the quality of judicial pronouncements and intense scrutiny on what appears to be a strategy to 'win' more states to the ruling party APC.

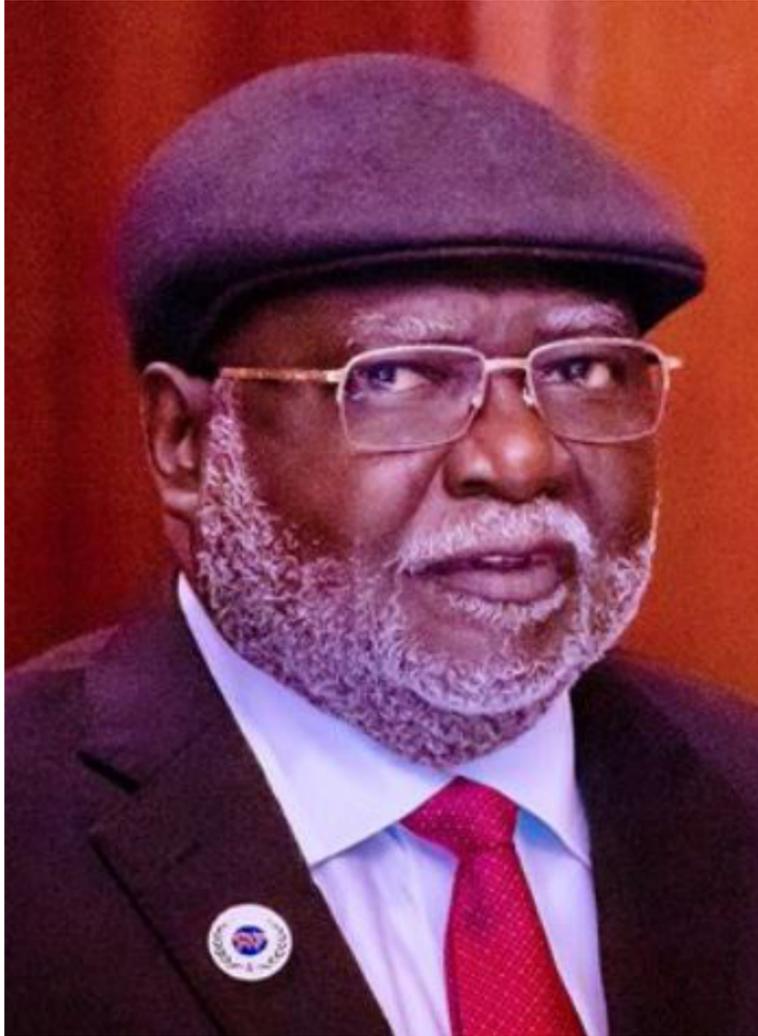
From 'clerical error' in Kano state, to 'validity of primary election' in Plateau state and 'inadmissible evidence' in Nasarawa state, we highlight the pronouncements of the court of appeal in declaring the ruling party APC as the legitimate winner of the elections and the controversy it has generated.

KANO STATE

The appeal court judgement for the Kano state governorship election is indeed an interesting one, not because it upholds the decision of the lower tribunal court (at least in audio) but because it was premised on another ground of the petition.

While the tribunal ruled that about 165,000 ballot papers cast for the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) and Governor Abba Yusuf are invalid due to absence of INEC official stamp, signature and date, the appeal court delved into the validity of Gov Yusuf's party membership as at the time of nomination.

According to the unanimous judgement read by Moore Adumeh U. held that "A person must be a member of a political party before he can be sponsored for an election, sponsorship without membership is like putting something on nothing".



Ariwoola

But that was not the end, political commentators were not done arguing the validity of Governor Yusuf membership or otherwise when the Appeal court released the Certified true copies of the judgement and added a new twist to the debate. The CTC did not only read that the appellant court overturned the decision of the lower tribunal sacking Governor Yusuf, it also awarded the sum of one million naira only as fine for the candidate of the All Progressive Congress, Mr. Nasiru Gawuna.

Confused as everyone was, the Appeal court through its registrar claimed it was a "clerical error" and ordered the parties to return the CTC to the court for correction. Yes, for correction, more than 72 hours after the judgement was delivered.

Does that mean Mr Adumeh read an entirely different judgement in court? Because it is assume that what was read in court was what was typed in the CTC document (or not). Or the court has now upgraded to the point of writing two opposing judgements so it can decide which one to read depending on the mood in

court? Reacting to the request to swap the CTC, counsel to Governor Yusuf, Mr Wole Olanipekun SAN declared that the appeal court has lost its jurisdiction to correct or amend errors on the Kano appeal "Assuming without conceding that the judgement has some errors, whether typographical or otherwise, we humbly and dutifully draw your attention to the fact that the court of appeal became functus officio in the matter on Saturday, November 18, 2023".

Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, a former Chairman of National Human Rights Commission while reacting to the strange discovery declared that "No judiciary that is credible will produce this kind of judgment and certify it. This is the court of Appeal of Nigeria, the second highest court in the country. Any lawyer worth their onions should be scandalized by it irrespective of whatever side you take"

Mr Femi Falana (SAN) was openly critical of the development but confidently declared that relying on the CTC of the judgement, the court of appeal upheld Governor



Yakubu

Yusuf election. "Contrary to the impression that has been given out there, the majority judgement of the Court of Appeal has confirmed that the judgement of the lower court was wrong, and has set it aside in writing, upheld the Appeal and granted all the reliefs sought by Governor Abba. So, you ask yourself, what's going on???"

So let us ask ourselves, what exactly is going on???

PLATEAU

One of the most popular factor to be considered in election litigation is the validity of nomination of candidates. While the Appeal Court held in Tinubu vs Obi that membership of political party and party nomination is a party affair and a pre election matter, it reverses itself in Plateau State.

The Appeal court judgement on Plateau governorship election caused another uproar when Elfrieda Williams-Dawodu held that Manasseh was not validly sponsored by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the election.

This pronouncement overturned the Tribunal judgement which held that

the issue of nomination of Mutfwang Manasseh as a PDP candidate is a pre election matter.

Of course, the matter is expected to proceed to the Supreme Court where we are expecting a finite judgement on the topic of nomination and party membership either as a pre election matter or post election matter or both.

Commenting on this development, Mr Femi Falana SAN, argued that voters should not be punished for the Offences of electoral officers thereby called for a reform of the electoral processes. "We must go back to Justice Uwais Electoral Committee recommendations, which were adopted by the 2014 National Conference, adopted by the Lemu Committee, adopted by the Ken Nnamani Electoral Reform Committee so that we can begin to hold elections that will reflect the will of the people."

"We must have a common standard whereby the wishes of the people must be respected. You cannot say you want to punish somebody for the errors of INEC electoral officials, as was the case in Kano. That

is almost scandalous."

NASARAWA

Another state where the Appeal court overturned the tribunal judgement is Nasarawa state Appeal court judgement. The Tribunal had nullified the election of Governor Abdullah Sule on the basis of a witness statement backed with results of the various polling units and forms EC 8A and prove to the tribunal that the results were manipulated in favour of the APC.

Delivering the appeal judgment, the three-member panel led by Justice Uchechukwu Onyemenam, held that the Tribunal erroneously relied on what it termed 'inadmissible evidence' to nullify Governor Sule's election. It further went to state that the Tribunal was legally bound to act on witness statements filed along with the petition or front-loaded within 21 days stipulated by law.

In summary, the appeal court held that the tribunal erred by admitting the evidence of the PDP candidate and thereby overturned the judgement.

Again, all road leads to the Supreme Court!



Leadership With Development, A Paradigm Of Fedpoly Offa- Part 1

By Busy Brain

History has its pages where those who made change possible can never be forgotten. The pages of history are filled up with the names of men of inestimable values. Either positive or negative, a myriad number of people are busy writing their history. The future will tell if history will be kind to them based on what they have written. The truth remains pellucid, what you sow, you shall reap.

With legible handwriting, the Rector of the Federal Polytechnic Offa Kwara State, Engr. Dr. Kadiri Kamoru Oluwatoyin FNSE is writing a beautiful epistle on the pages of history with his new innovative idea and strides of development that have characterized the nooks and crannies of the Polytechnic. The new trends of development are visible to the blind and audible to the deaf. No gainsaying, he has given birth to a new polytechnic and ushered in the era of methods.

In the words of Malcolm X, education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Dr. Kadiri came to the position of the Chief Executive of the Federal Polytechnic Offa fully prepared. He has his roadmap and template for his administration, he is desirous of change, and he believes in himself with a mantra, tagged the system must work. In all ramifications, he is an example of a good leader ticking the clock of progress of the institution forward.

Undoubtedly, the Federal Polytechnic Offa is blessed with a brilliant Rector, the Rector's brilliance is top-notch in the field of Engineering, he is an astute administrator, but he is not careless to rely on his mental, physical, and administrative abilities, he operates an open door policy with his able lieutenants,



staff unions and academic board members. He is not a loner on the path to achieving a better institution and shall never walk alone.

Kofi Annan in his classical quote said education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rests the cornerstone of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development. The system of administration at the Federal Polytechnic Offa under the leadership of Dr. Kadiri Kamoru is that of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.

Dr. Kadiri led administration has extended the workforce in the Polytechnic with specified responsibilities through unbundling and expansion of units, departments, and directorates for institutional growth, staff efficiency and productivity. He appoints and re-appoints capable personnel to drive the system along his desired dream.

On the 23rd of November 2023, the long overdue FEDPOFFA water was launched for commercialization. Yes, it is overdue and that is why it is pertinent to give kudos to the one who brought it

to reality. It takes a mindset to break the barrier of impossibility. Interestingly, the water project is accompanied by FEDPOFFA bread. The institution is moving from consumption to production of basic commodities to meet the needs of the Polytechnic community and boost the Internally Generated Revenue. It is a trend of development.

As a thoughtful and resourceful researcher, Dr. Kadiri led the management team to the Raw Material Research and Development Council, National Board for Technical Education, and National Office For Technology Acquisition and Promotion in Abuja in an attempt to revive the research of sweet potatoes into confectioneries which the Polytechnic is known for in the past. This attempt aims to promote the cultivation and utilization of potato varieties to create delectable confectioneries, tapping into its potential as a valuable raw material to contribute to the growth and development of the Nigerian confectionery industry and to seek notable interventions from the agencies for the growth and development of the Polytechnic.

The administration places priority on polytechnic mandate which is research, innovation, skills and training manpower for national development. Through his innovative template, the institution's skills development centre where polytechnic products will be commercialized to meet the immediate needs of the community has been activated with appointment of capable personnel.

The wind of change is blowing with the trend of development at the Federal Polytechnic Offa under the leadership of the 5th substantive Rector, Engr. Dr. Kadiri Kamoru Oluwatoyin

To be continued...

No Increment In Uniosun Fees -management

The management of Osun State University has clarified report that it has increased its tuition fee for the 2023/2024 academic session.

A statement signed by the University's Public Relations Officer, Ademola Adesoji noted that the University tuition fees remain unchanged adding that there is only slight changes in ancillary charges.

The statement further noted that the report is

misleading and its an attempt to misinform the people.

The statement reads "The attention of the Management of Osun State University has been drawn to a publication made by Osun Defender, alleging an increase in tuition fees for the upcoming academic session.

"The University categorically denies this misleading information and aims to set the record straight.



"The recent charges, not tuition fees. adjustments in fees "The reported pertain solely to ancillary increment purportedly

discovered on the institution's website does not relate to tuition and is described accordingly. Osun Defender's interpretation of the breakdown of the University fees is inaccurate and misleading. We urge the public to disregard such misinformation and seek accurate details directly from official University channels.

"Furthermore, the University's legal team

has been briefed regarding the defamatory nature of Osun Defender's publication. The University expects a public retraction and an apology from Osun Defender for disseminating false information.

"Osun State University remains committed to providing quality education while ensuring transparency and accuracy in its communication with the public."

News

We Placed Osun On A Path Of Sustainable Development -Governor Adeleke

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun state has revealed that his administration has placed Osun on a path to Sustainable development, upgrading several sectors of the state.

The Governor made this known while he was embarking on a short working vacation to Europe and Asia to finalise partnership deals with investors and development partners.

Speaking before his departure, Governor Adeleke noted that said Osun people have the right to know about the movement of their Governor, hence the decision to publicly disclose his short vacation abroad.

He said "This is a democracy. My masters are

Osun people who elected me into office and to whom I am surely accountable. My trip is however a working one as I will be meeting foreign partners who are eager to join several sectors of our state economy.

"The last one year has been rewarding as we have stabilised the state from inherited rot. We are reconstructing and simultaneously delivering good governance. That is why our 2024 budget is tagged budget of reconstruction and recovery.

"In one year, we place Osun state on a path of sustainable development, upgrading critical sectors like education, health, culture and entertainment,

water, sports, digital economy, workers' welfare, infrastructures, agriculture. We cap it with a multi billion

naira infrastructure plan now under implementation.

"I thank Osun people for

their continuous support and prayers. At home and abroad, I am committed to

delivering on our five point agenda for better life for our people", the Governor was quoted as saying.



Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke present the Osun State Budget Estimation for the 2024.

Solid Mineral office holds stakeholders' meeting as Osun begins Mining processing 2024

By Sola Isola

As Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke clocks one year in office, the solid minerals office is set to hold a stakeholders' meeting as a follow to the indication of the state government plans to begin mining processing in 2024.

Responding to a situation brief submitted by his Special Adviser on Mining and Solid Minerals, Prof Lukman Jimoda, Governor Adeleke recalled that one year ago, he promised an overhauling of the mining sector with a view to secure maximum returns for the state from her solid mineral

wealth. This is even as Governor Adeleke applauded the progress and successes his administration recorded in the mining sector with securing shareholding within Segilola Operating Limited and enforcement of environmental standards in mining operations among

others. The Governor said "we are recording an increase in revenue generation. Accumulated service charges on our licences have been cleared. We are at the tail end of upgrading our exploration leases to mining leases. This will bring more investors.

"I am elated to report that we have fulfilled that promise within a year of assuming office, the Governor noted, adding that he was particularly elated with the environmental standard enforcement. "We are now operating an environmentally

friendly operation. EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and EMP (Environmental management plan) is now a must before mining operation. Cleaning up the polluted environment is also ongoing. Our mining operation now has zero tolerance for environmental degradation.

Months after, Oyetola's Osun APC reconciliation committee hit deadend

By Segun Oriade

Several months after the immediate past Governor of Osun State had inaugurated a reconciliation committee for his Ilerioluwa faction of the party, to be led by Prof Isaac Adewole, Osun Spring has learnt that it has become practically impossible for the committee to achieve any form of result.

It was gathered that since the former governor inaugurated the committee and was subsequently appointed minister, a lot of interest has divided the committee, stopping it from holding meetings or reaching achieving a tangible result.

Osun Spring gathered further that a number of the inauguration committee members had relocated to Abuja to lobby themselves an appointment using the the former governor, now ministers influence.

A source within the party who pleaded anonymity, revealed to our correspondent that with the way things are going within the party, its not certain Osun APC means business.

The source sighted example of how Hon. Mudasiru Hussain, a

loyalist of Former Governor Rauf Aregbesola who was nominated by President Bola Tinubu as a Commissioner with National Population Commission was reportedly replaced by Dr Amidu Tadesa a loyalist of Former Governor Oyetola, which was report to be based on Oyetola's request.

The source said 'I have been a member of the APC before Oyetola became governor and will continue to be as long as I am alive.

"The issue with our party is that people have different interest and everybody wants their interests to be served all at once which is practically impossible.

"Take a look at committee that Oyetola setup and called reconciliation, many of the members now shuttle Abuja and Osogbo, some has even relocated to Abuja just to hustle for appointment, so its more like the appointment in Abuja is more important that building the party that gave them the platform in the first place.

Let's Collaborate to End Quackery in Medical Practice, Governor Adeleke Charges Doctors

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has enjoined professionals in the medical field to support and collaborate with the government in ending the menace of quackery within the medical practice.

The Governor stated this at the opening ceremony of the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the National Association of Government General Medical And Dental Practitioners (NAGMDP) holding in Osogbo, Osun State.

The Governor who was represented at the event by his Special Adviser on Public Health, Dr Akindele Adekunle outlined the enormous responsibilities placed on the shoulder of Doctor's in the society, thereby any form of half-baked professionals or

quack practitioners should not be encouraged within the association.

"As professionals backed by laws and ordinances of your ethics, you have enormous responsibilities, the reach and the gavel to save lives even before the surgical knives in the theatre.

"More often is the fact that irreparable damages are done to body system of victims of quackery before they are forced to your table. This I believe we must collaborate to bring to a halt in the country.

"While the government works round our notable challenges in proffering sustainable solutions, i urge this council on behalf of our people and as patients would always beckon on their physicians, to do everything within your professional reach to combat the menace of

quackery in the system", Governor Adeleke stated in his address."

Governor Adeleke appreciate members of the association for the support his administration has enjoyed in offering their services during the Imole Free Medical Outreach his administration has embarked upon in giving life to people of the state that maybe distress with one ailments or the other.

"Let me use this opportunity to once again appreciate your colleagues in Osun State who have supported us in the immediate medical intervention by this administration tagged Imole Medical Outreach.

"With active support of your members, the third phase of the medical intervention will come up again in few weeks across the zones of the state with

thousands of new beneficiaries already mapped out, up from over fifty-five thousand (55,000) residents who already benefitted from the last two phases."

While highlighting his other interventions in the health sector of the state which includes enrollment of thousands of Pensioners into Osun Health Insurance, approval of total and comprehensive renovation of over 300 primary healthcare centres to prevent avoidable mortalities within the rural dwellers in the state, he said his administration is working on coming up with comprehensive approach to adequately address the challenges being faced by members of the association as he is aware their challenges goes beyond his recent approval of Hazard allowances for medical practitioners in the state.

Opinion

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Osun Varsity To Be Branded 10th In Africa

By Goke Awoyemi

That Nigeria University educational system rating has plummeted is stating the obvious. This has negatively impacted on the quality of graduates churned out every year. Corroborating this assertion, a former Minister of education, Professor Tunde Adeniran noted that the university curriculum being implemented in Nigeria is producing “parasites and unemployable graduates”. He lamented in his book entitled. Some thoughts on education in Nigeria, that part of emerging challenges bedeviling university education in Nigeria is disregard for the purpose and essence of university education.

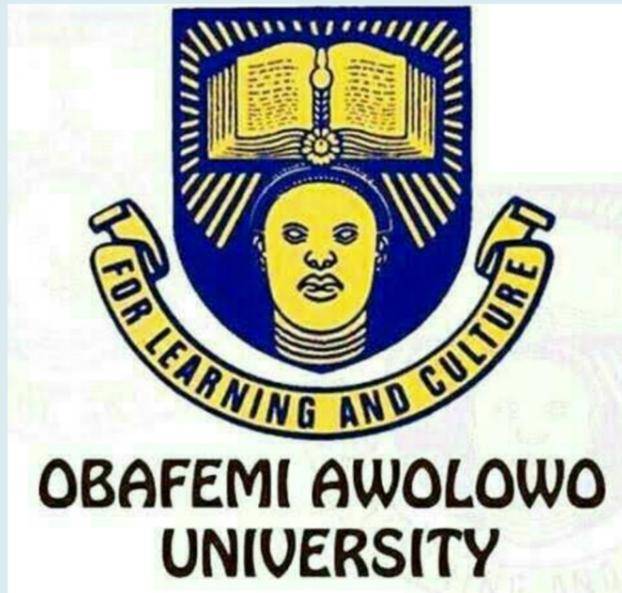
Adeniran is not the only one lamenting the anomalous situation in Nigeria Ivory towers. A former managing director of the old Daily Times conglomerate, university teacher, and immediate past pro-chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Dr. Yemi Ogunbiyi was quoted by the Guardian newspaper of 9th October, 2023 to have said “I am the immediate past pro-Chancellor, and Chairman of council, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, and I remember writing a paper that things were not very good with our education system” He further opined, that any country that lacks educational push is doomed, adding that with the condition of the public Universities, some of them might not survive the next 25 years.

But Osun State University, a multi-campus institution, which has its main campus in Osogbo, the state capital and which was founded in the year 2006, has been described by the pro-Chancellor and Chairman of council, Professor Wale Oladipo as one University whose exceptional uniqueness in excellence stands unrivalled in Nigeria today, and that it is now synonymous with peace, academic excellence, high morality, and commitment to institutional vision. He posited that Osun Varsity has been in the news for positive projection in the last two years on issues of grant-winning, laurels and academic distinctions. He described the effort of the current vice-Chancellor, Professor Odunayo Clement Adebooye as commendable for being on top of academic and administrative issues within 22 months of assumption of office. In term of research capabilities, a team of researchers led by Professor Monsuru Adeleke from zoology department won \$1.45million U.S dollars research grant from Bill and Melinda Gate foundation, just as two scholars, namely, Professor Olukoya Ogen and John Agbonifo, won one million Euros for African Research project entitled “The European Union and Africa in a multi-crises world.

It is equally noteworthy to say that Professor Odunayo, the University vice-Chancellor led a team of researchers, and won \$65,000 U.S dollars from Government of Germany on biodiversity research. The University also emerged as one of the very few universities in Africa to host Carnegie fellows this year, hosted 2 fellows from two American universities for 3 months between June and August on collaborative engagements relating to curriculum development, mentoring and research. Interestingly, four of the university researchers between 2022 and 2023

won a total of 80million naira, as research grant from TETFund for the execution of various research projects, while Professor Olukoya Ogen of History department emerged as the first university in Nigeria to win the prestigious UNESCO International Fund for cultural Diversity (IFCD) worth \$100,000 U.S dollars among others.

Aside, the university provides extant welfare support schemes for staff and students in all cadres, with the staff volunteer scholarship award under the indigent but diligent scholarship scheme, with corporate organizations and individuals voluntarily playing their part to project the university to higher level. From engineer Tunde Ponle scholarship award scheme, Osun state Development Forum, Texas, USA scholarship Scheme, to L.A Salami Foundation for brilliant and



indigent students of Osun indigenes. This combined effort is yielding dividend as an almus, Adegboyega Musthafa Adebayo was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Nelson Mandela Leadership award of excellence and integrity, and named an ECOWAS youth Ambassador, just as a former law student of the University made a first class at the final examination in the Law school. The unprecedented level of physical and infrastructural development embarked upon by the Governor Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke government within a year into the saddle, which informed the completion of long time abandoned 2 storey building in the college of health sciences, with 57 staff offices, and the ongoing construction of a dual-carriage access road from Ibokun road to Modupe and Folorunso Alakija teaching hospital among others, must have propelled the Vice-Chancellor, to reason that Osun varsity will be branded 10th in Africa. While some new generation universities are excelling in all spheres some older generation are not only declining, but they are waning in performance and influence. Espousing this fact is the ‘Orator’ Osun State University, Professor Anthony Kola Olusanya who was reacting to the pro-chancellor and chairman of council, Professor Wale Oladipo’s eulogy, who had earlier referred to Obafemi Awolowo University as “Oba awon unifasiti” translated to mean, King of all universities, when he (Wale Oladipo) was introducing the pioneer Vice Chancellor, Osun Varsity, Professor Sola Akinrinade, who was the 2023 convocation lecturer at the University auditorium Osogbo. Olusanya responded by saying this attribute to Obafemi Awolowo University was in the past, when it was known as University of Ife. Wale Oladipo, a highly cerebral, and retired Professor from Obafemi Awolowo University was, when the likes of world acclaimed scholar and 1986 Nobel-Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka was there, spanning through the studentship of Akinrinade’s era, when Obafemi Awolowo University was not only a foremost citadel of learning in Nigeria, but also in west Africa sub-region.

“
I am the immediate past pro-Chancellor, and Chairman of council, Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, and I remember writing a paper that things were not very good with our education system
”

Today, Obafemi Awolowo is living on past glory. Obafemi Awolowo University problem did not start today. During my studentship at the Graduate School, Obafemi Awolowo University in the early 90s, Professor Olusola Ojo, then head of department, International Relations rush into the examination hall, tore my script due for submission in an examination ordered by the Graduate school into pieces. This borders on impunity. In 1999, on Saturday July 10 at 4:30a.m, the university community woke up to witness a violent and gruesome attack at Obafemi Awolowo, allegedly perpetrated by 40 masked members of the Black Axe fraternity who wore black, black T-shirts, and face masks. The incidence which shook the whole of Ife township left five students including George Iwilade, the then Secretary General of the Students’ Union dead, while 2 others were injured. Professor Rogers Makanjuola, who later became the Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University, in his book entitled. “Water must flow Uphill (Adventures in the university Administration) shortly after the attack wrote, “Allegations that this assassination of prominent student Union members was sponsored by the university’s Vice-Chancellor”, “It was said that a particular Vice-Chancellor (name withheld) had a hand in their July 10 dastardly operation”. In May, 2022, pioneer Vice-Chancellor, first Technical University, Ibadan,

Professor Ayobami Salami recalled how some members of a confraternity were contracted to kill him when he was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, Obafemi Awolowo University in 2017. Except for providence, the inauguration of the current Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simeon Bamire almost developed into violence, coupled with allegations of fetish objects, almost marred the process. In all these, the university was shut down. Explaining the rationale behind private university in Nigeria, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion, Esama of Benin, who is the pioneer and founder of the first private university in Nigeria said “the desire to provide enabling environment for uninterrupted quality education to future generations propelled him to establish the first private university in 1999” it is also on record that the first Professor sentence to six years imprisonment over sex-formark harassment, Professor Akindele was a lecturer at Obafemi Awolowo University. Since the Punch newspaper published June 21, 2022 rating the university for being the highest number of lecturer indicted for sexual misconduct, other national newspapers has followed suits. That Obafemi Awolowo university is always in the news negatively, is further explained with the arrest of 69 students from fine touch and superb hostels in Oduduwa estate, Ile-Ife at about 2a.m on November 1, 2023 by operatives of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). 58 of them were later released after investigation, while 11 of them are being prosecuted, an indication that the university is gradually becoming a training ground for criminals. Similarly, a 200 level student, Gift, was reportedly turned to a punching bag by a lecturer, for suddenly, but mistakenly entering into a lecturer room, to mention but a few of impunities pervading the hitherto prestigious university that was being groomed at inception to become the pride of black Africa. However, stakeholders and the university community are trusting in the efficacy of Professor Simeon Banire, the current Vice-Chancellor to redeem the image of Obafemi Awolowo University for better.

The story of Ajayi Crowder University graduate, who burnt all his certificates from Primary school to university, as a result of 13years of joblessness, Olutimain Alvin Lanre, prompting my childhood friend, a journalist of international repute, and former Director, Atiku/Okowa campaign organization to shed tears on Facebook, could best be described as satire, laced with wounded irony on our systemic failure of nationhood.

Goke Awoyemi, sent this piece from Ile-Ife, Osun State. 08039506843(sms only)

Opinion

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Adeleke: A Year Of Positive Turnaround And Many Impacts

By Sarafa Ibrahim

On Monday, Governor Ademola Adeleke would mark a year that he took the oath of office. And like every administration, there will certainly be an opportunity to look back and compare what things were like when he assumed office to be able to measure the scorecard of Governor Adeleke in 365 days

In one year, Governor Adeleke has demonstrated a true sense of service in many aspects of governance, despite the difficult situation he inherited. When Adeleke took office a year ago, there were a lot of things considered impossible, but are now possible, largely due to the firm commitment to good governance. One year ago, heavy debt burden, reckless looting of public assets, and distressed public infrastructure had drained hopes of meaningful governance.

A Canadian-born American economist and public servant, John Kenneth Galbraith provided some clarity to the question of the essence of leadership when he opined that "All of the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront unequivocally the major anxiety of their people in their times. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership." And looking at Osun in one year and the incredible turnaround that Governor Adeleke has been able to achieve in almost all sectors, you will not agree less with the conclusion of Galbraith.

Governor Adeleke understands that being a Governor means pursuing the general good rather than the self-interest that defined the past. This explains why many policies, activities, and interventions of the Governor in one year focus on helping the people overcome the horrible experience of the past for something relishing and promising about the future.

The strides of Governor Adeleke in one year in office can not only be felt but visible for all to see. And impressively, the touch of Governor Adeleke's impactful governance cuts across the state and sector, departing from the concentration of government presence in one place that defined the past.

Out of sheer and deliberate mischief, some people deride it, saying nothing has been achieved so far. This is in spite of the fact that many of their failures while at the helm of affairs are being undone for a better experience for the people. Well, when you have become accustomed to failures, it would be hard to appreciate serious efforts to touch lives positively.

The Osun APC is so engrossed in its maladministration that it will not be able to see the impressive turnaround of the state from the hopelessness it inspired to one that is promising. Take, for instance, that for 48 months that Gboyega Oyetola was the Governor of Osun State, he did not attempt to defray the 30 months half salary owed workers and pensioners despite being a part of the government that incurred it.

In one year, however, Governor Adeleke has paid 3 months from the owed wages, and will most likely be making the fourth payment before this year runs out. This is aside from the implementation of the financial implication of promotion given to workers in the state since 2019. Just like the half-salary debacle, former Governor Oyetola approved a promotion for civil servants in 2019 but refused to implement its financial implication. In essence, the promotion was merely a paper award, or as some would call it, 'audio promotion' until April of this year when Governor Adeleke implemented the payment of the money earned through the promotion to civil servants.

Between November 27 and now, Governor Adeleke has expended over N17 billion in pensions and gratuities payment out of the humongous over N76 billion liability inherited from the previous government. On November 8, 2023, Governor Adeleke did something unprecedented, not just in Osun but the whole of Nigeria, as he enrolled the entire retirees in the state on healthcare coverage. The intervention, which will benefit at least 23,000 pensioners in Osun state, will take up the burden of managing the health challenges that confront the senior citizens, which usually come at a huge cost to them, and are difficult to handle, causing untimely deaths.

And so far, the Adeleke administration has constructed



Gov. Adeleke

and delivered over 50 kilometers of roads across the state while about 50 kilometers of roads are at different stages of completion. Broken culverts were restored for public use while channelization of waterways was undertaken by the Adeleke administration to prevent homes from being washed away by flood.

To cap it, Governor Adeleke few weeks ago unveiled an ambitious infrastructure plan, underscoring his firm desire to address the infrastructure deficit and open up the state for industrialization to drive meaningful progress and prosperity for the people. 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 institutions, 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 kilometers of roads across the state, with each local government having at least 1.5 kilometers to improve connectivity and enhance the local economy.

Some weeks ago, the Vice Chancellor of the state-owned university, Professor Clement Odunayo, relayed the remarkable transformation that the institution has seen under Governor Adeleke, detailing the unusual intervention of the Governor that revived a 52-office complex that was abandoned by the previous administrations. It is worth noting that the access road to the teaching hospital of the institution being built by its Chancellor, Folorunso Alakija, is undergoing construction after prompting by the Vice Chancellor.

That is awesome, right? But that was not all. Public school buildings across Osun state are getting a major facelift to give students and teachers the right environment to advance qualitative learning. In the first phase, a total of 31 public schools across the state received total overhauling and unlike the experience in the past, students will now learn in well-structured classrooms with the right facilities, while teachers will no longer need for tree shades to hold meetings or conduct their official businesses due to dilapidated offices. The second phase is already in the go, and just like the first phase, public schools in the state will not just be conducive for learning, but also fitting for young people

who trust it for their learning.

Talk of healthcare, Governor Adeleke has done exceedingly well in just a little time. Through the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach, no fewer than 50,000 people have benefited from free healthcare services that range from surgeries for cataracts, pterygium, hernia, and some swelling on the body. Some other beneficiaries received treatments for eye problems and even got free glasses while basic ailments like malaria also got treatments. In a matter of days, the third edition of the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach will take off, and many more Osun residents will benefit from the intervention.

This health intervention was only a short-term fix as the administration is working assiduously in rehabilitating about 346 healthcare centres across the state to ensure better access to healthcare anywhere in the state. The rehabilitated healthcare centres will also be powered through solar to enable a 24-hours power supply. To achieve the desired objective of better healthcare, the Adeleke administration involved the people at the various local governments. Under this arrangement, the representative commitment which is drawn from religious bodies and artisan groups would monitor the rehabilitation of the healthcare centres to ensure that they are delivered to specifications.

In Osun state today, there is hardly a ward out of the 332 wards that are without a motorized borehole to serve the water needs of residents. The second phase of the installation of 332 motorized boreholes will commence shortly to deepen access to clean and drinkable water for the people of Osun state in the short term. Already, the Adeleke administration is embarking on a major repair of water workstations across Osun state to make sure that homes can enjoy portable and clean water in the long run.

This is in addition to the ambitious climate agenda of the administration in protecting the environment from the catastrophic impact of climate change. And the gains of the Adeleke administration are already bearing fruits as the National Council on Climate Change selected Osun state as a pilot site for the carbon investment project. What this means is that the Ago Owu Forest in Ayedade Local Government of the state will participate in a project aimed at supporting the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

All of these and more are what Governor Adeleke has been able to achieve in 12 months. Let's assume that the Osun APC feels awkward and distraught because the progress that this administration has recorded in a short time thumped its uneventful years in the administration of the state, it should show remorse for the woes it brought to the state.

Yes, willfully blind people won't see all these, talkless of acknowledging them. But the things about the achievements of Governor Adeleke in one year in office is that they are visible, and no matter how hard those in denial try, they cannot change the fact about their existence. They use the roads; they can see the boreholes installed in their respective councils; they can see and hear testimonies of civil servants and pensioners on Governor Adeleke clearing the mess of the past administration; they can see cables installed in their vicinity; they can see, and even know the many beneficiaries of the Imole Surgical and Medical Outreach.

In short, they can see the many impacts of Governor Adeleke in one year, although, they may find it hard to say it because doing so will expose their lies over time. But what is comforting is that the Osun people, who are the true interest of Governor Adeleke can see and feel the effect of his monumental achievements in just one year, and cherish them so much. And you know what, that is actually what matters, not the wailing of chronic failures.

• Sarafa Ibrahim is a Special Assistant to the Osun State Governor and writes from Osogbo. He can be reached via neyoclass09@gmail.com through email or @SarafaNgr

Feature

One Year Anniversary: My Self Exile Prepared Me For The Job -Governor Adeleke

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun state has said that as he marks one year in office, the self-exile he took after the 2018 governorship election prepared him for the job adding that unlike many political opponents, the four years between 2018 to 2022 was an era of agenda setting and capacity building for him.

He added that the last one year has been a period of reconstruction across all facets of Osun society and it has been lots of hard-work and several challenges to address noting that he inherited a run-down system, a state where virtually nothing was working and that the rot outside was worse than inside.

Governor Adeleke made this known while interacting with journalists before embarking on a working vacation to Europe and Asia where he said he is scheduled to meet investors and development partners.

He said "I am so well prepared for the difficult task ahead. You need to remember that my governorship has a history. After the persecution, rigging and the maltreatment of 2018, my self-exile prepared me for the job at hand. Unlike many political opponents, the four years between 2018 to 2022 was an era of agenda setting and capacity building. That is why we are daily surprising our detractors with our performance.

"It has been lots of hard-work and several challenges to address. I inherited a run-down system, a state where virtually nothing is working. The rot we saw outside was worse than what we met inside. When I said nothing is working, I mean it. Schools, health centers, infrastructures, sports, civil service, name it. The white house, the office of the governor, was like a black house. The Government House was like a shit house despite reported rehabilitation before our assumption of office.

"The government quarters were looted and vandalised. Huge and paralyzing debt were on ground. Workers were owed salaries and pensions. The public service was turned upside down into a zone of confusion. So, I largely started all over like from the scratch a year ago. So the last one year has been a period of reconstruction across all facets of Osun society."

Speaking on the remarks of

the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) that he has nothing to show, the Governor noted that the APC is still nursing the wound of their electoral defeat and so the party is ashamed to see the positive changes his administration is recording in the state.

He said, "our achievements are there for all to see. I will provide a brief across the sectors to showcase my records in office. In the road sector, we reconstructed a total of 90 kilometres of roads with another 45 kilometres ongoing. We completed key intercity roads like the Ikirun-Osogbo road while Iwo-Osogbo is ongoing. We completely rehabilitated 31 schools with another 31 in the pipelines. We built 332 water projects while major water works at Iwo, Ede, Osogbo, Eko Ende are under rehabilitation. We focused on the health sector through Imole medical outreach which provides immediate surgeries with over 50 000 beneficiaries so far.

"We addressed welfare needs of doctors and we have slated 345 health centres in the state for rehabilitation. In science and tech, we introduced a digital economy agenda with new ICT and tech innovations policies. We developed a bill to domesticate the Nigeria Startup Act and launched programmes to deepen internet penetration of the state through broadband fiber optic projects. I reformed the public service by ensuring professionalism. I launched a phased payment of inherited pension and half salary debt. I just enrolled all pensioners in the health insurance scheme. We have done a lot in just under one year.

"I am repositioning the tourism sector into a tourism and cultural industry. A lot of work is ongoing into raising the sector as a major revenue source for Osun state. In my advocacy for positive change, I've emphasized the power of entertainment. Our administration is actively creating an environment for the thriving of creatives. We've revitalized key festivals, positioning them as global entertainment opportunities—from the Osun Osogbo Festival to the



Sango Festival and the introduction of the Adire Festival. Moreover, Osun State is gearing up to host significant entertainment events, including the Broadcasting Organization Awards in December and The West African University Games (WAUG) at the Obafemi Awolowo University, also in December. These initiatives reflect our commitment to making Osun a hub for entertainment.

"The sport sector is undergoing major reform. We are setting up a sports commission and expanding into other games beyond football. In agriculture, we are working on the

establishment of agric processing zones as well as further support for mechanization of farming in the state. And of course, we have restored the local government system with elections to hold a year or so. Grassroot government is now ongoing.

For the mining sector, like I recently stated, we are recording an increase in revenue generation. Accumulated service charges on our licenses have been cleared. We are at the tail end of upgrading our exploration leases to mining leases. This will bring more investors. We are now operating an environmentally friendly

operation. EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) and EMP (Environmental management plan) is now a must before mining operation. Cleaning up the polluted environment is also ongoing. Our mining operation now has zero tolerance for environmental degradation. We have had a long drawn negotiation with mining companies operating in Osun since the beginning of the year. I repeat my strategy was to get Osun to genuinely benefit from her natural wealth within the federal set up. We have positive results now. We have secured shareholding with Segilola Resources

Operating limited. Further earnings will soon be coming from Segilola. As part of the overall plan, we have also increased our signature bonuses in line with reality. We are indeed starting mining processing from early next year.

Speaking on how his administration is able to fund projects despite the inherited a debt ridden loan, Governor Adeleke noted that he has been running string administration adding that his administration has been very prudent

He said "We have been very prudent. I am not collecting security votes. Such funds are directed to developing the state. I deny myself many things our people call the grace of office. My team also agreed to tighten the belt. Additionally, I block leakages in the revenue system. We ensure that state earnings are not ending up in private pockets. We also deepen the revenue base. We look at untapped areas of revenue without imposing new burdens on the populace. We also ensure accountability and transparency in federal refunds and intervention. Federal funds outside state allocation are no longer sources of self enrichment. We have special accounts for such funds.

"For our multibillion infrastructure plan, the plan is very well on course. I shocked the opposition and since the day I unveiled the infra plan, the opposition has been on edge, throwing all sorts of tantrums. They are pleasantly surprised that our government has come up with such an ambitious plan. Let me restate the rationale for the plan. I inherited infrastructure deficit close to 92 percent. Forget all the false data paraded by the past government. Secondly, Osun needs something like a mini-development plan. And thirdly, we reasoned that we need a firm direction within the overall five point agenda. Hence the plan for dualised roads, flyovers, school rehabilitation, health centre upgrade, Imole medical outreach, water projects across the 332 political wards among others. We are reconstructing Osun state from the scratch. Work has started in some areas of the infra plan.

"I want to assure the people of Osun that going forward, we will increase our commitment to service delivery. The infra plan is a focus for implementation going forward. We will touch the lives of our people more and more. We tagged budget 2024 a budget of reconstruction and recovery. A new Osun is emerging.



Shop Prices Outrageous

- Osogbo Traders Lament

By Sola Isola

Traders in Osogbo, the Osun state capital has lamented

the increasing cost of renting a shop or space to do their business adding that business has not been like it used to be in a while now.

Osun Spring reports that many shops in the state capital are either been given up by real estate agents who either inflate the price or impose several other form of payment on business owners.

Some traders who spoke to our correspondent stated that many business have collapsed because they can not afford to pay rent while several others have resulted to either selling online or using their car as shops.

Segun Adeoye a shoe trader said he said he had to move out when the rent he was paying is now less than the profit he makes in a year and the shop owner kept increasing the price.

He said "I had to leave the shop because I was using money from other sources to pay rent and my business was going

to just die if I continue.

"They keep increasing rent and I couldn't meet up, this is affecting several business owners, many people either quit business or move home and start selling online.

"Especially those new shopping complexes they are building, it is as expensive as 500,000 and that means your profit will be going in to rent only, it is just outrageous."

Another trader, Titi Ajayi revealed that even

when the rent is paid, she had to result to setting up her business beside the road especially in the evening, otherwise no one is coming into the shops to buy as much as it will give her profit.

"Its not been easy using a shop in Osogbo, honestly, the amount of money we pay is way less than the profit we make and then they keep increasing it.

"We don't know if it's the landlords or agents, I that is doing it but its very

bad. I sometimes have to take my goods to the roadside in the evening, otherwise there are days I won't sell anything.

Osun Spring reports that there are several shops within Osogbo, the Osun state capital that is left vacant because business owners consider it too expensive and therefore avoid it or leave it for bigger business owners who rents it for storage purpose.



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Interview

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We Have Passed 3 bills With 13 Others Under Review In 6 Months

- Osun Assembly Speaker, Egbedun



How will you describe your experience so far as Speaker of the house?

So far, So well. God has been faithful, public office generally is tasking. The office of the Speaker is not an exception. I have been able to learn new things, multi-task and relate more with the people and I must say it is what we signed up for because we promised our people that they will be well represented, so what that means is that we must give whatever it takes to ensure the delivery of all our promises. That is what makes the difference between our governance in Africa and other continents of the world, even where we took democracy from, but one thing I can assure the people of Osun state is that this current assembly means business and all their representatives who are my colleagues in this house are up to the task, so we will surely deliver.

What will you say is the greatest achievement since you became speaker?

I am not sure which to say is my greatest achievement because you know they say success is the achievement of goals, so what that means is when I set a goal and achieve it, I am successful but then I know there is always something that stands out, it probably gives you joy when you remember it. So for me, I think its the way this assembly intervened in the Staff Audit process that almost caused an impasse between the workers and the government.

There were alot of conversations going on then, some people even said the assembly doesn't have the power to do this or that, but I keep emphasizing, that we are representing people so we must do things that protects the interest of the our people but also upholds the Nigerian constitution, so what did the constitution say about the issue and did we contravene the constitution.

People didn't really have issues with the audit, though opposition party took on it to criticize the government, but then the only issue people involved in the audit had with it is the manner at which they are being treated by the agency handling the audit and I am telling you that our intervention in the process was applauded by many people because it is unprecedented.

We called the consultant, we called the government officials who were aggrieved as well and we created a leveled playing ground for everyone to say their views and opinion, thats our job, so when I read or hear people say it's not part of their job, I just laugh.

How did you achieve this?

Well it's very simple, there is a popular maxim that "united we stand", the cooperation of my Honourable colleagues made it possible and also the entire Labour Union in the State. It is also pertinent I commend His Excellency, the Executive Governor of the Osun state, Senator Ademola Adeleke for yielding to the House resolution on the matter because it is one thing for the House to come up with a resolution, it is another thing for the Governor follow our resolutions and thats one thing I will always commend Governor Adeleke for, give us the free hand to operate as legislators.

What will you say has made the difference between this Assembly and the previous ones?

Well, I am not part of the previous ones but I can say without sounding immodest that this 8th Assembly is been propelled by the zeal to make a positive difference. We have been able to raise the bar of legislation in the State. We are able to achieve all these because we are united irrespective of the party.

If I may, I will dare to call this an assembly like no other, maybe

after but never before and what we are doing in this assembly is raising the bar, making a difference.

A number of people will say the assembly is a 'rubber stamp', what do you have to say about that?

To start with, thats not true but you know its a general notion and so I won't be surprised if people say that because most times people just say things, they don't know what's happening behind the scene, they don't know what it took us to achieve some of the things we achieved, they just came to that conclusion, so I wont judge them.

Making laws can never be called rubber stamping, because there is a laid down procedure to make laws, its also within the scope of our work to watch over the executive, we invite them where we feel an explanation needs to be given by any head of a government agency.

Its also our job to treat petitions sent to us against any government official, so we have several interventions here and there.

So when people say this, I invite them to come and see what we do in the house.

What's are the bills the assembly has passed or under reading?

The 8th Assembly was inaugurated on the 6th of June, 2023 and from that time till now, we have passed 3 bills, Osun State Anthem Crest and Flags Bill, 2023; Osun State Tertiary Institutions Staff Retirement Age (Amendment No. 1) Bill, 2023 and Osun State House of Assembly Service Commission Establishment (Amendment 3) Bill, 2023.

We have 13 bills that are under review, they are;

Osun State Local Content Bill, 2023; Osun State Community Social Responsibility Bill, 2023; Osun State Disability Projection Bill, 2023; Osun State Illegal Mining (Prohibition) Bill, 2023; Osun Erosion Control And Public Safety Bill, 2023; Osun State Agency Regulatory Authority Bill, 2023; Osun State Roads Fund Bill, 2023; Osun State Skating (Restriction) Bill, 2023; Osun State High Court Registrars, Customary Court of Appeal Registrar, Osun State Magistrate and District Customary Court Presidents Retirement Age Bill, 2023; Osun State Road Maintenance Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2023; Osun State Lotteries and Gaming Bill, 2023; Osun State Employment Trust Fund Bill, 2023; Osun State Local Government (Creation and Administration Amendment No. 6) Bill, 2023; Osun State Urban and Rural Access Road Authority Bill, 2023

How come you know all these bills without checking a book, did you cram them?

(Smile) Well, you will know them if you are the Speaker, you just have to know them because you don't want to look stupid before your Honourable colleagues and you don't want to mix them for each other, so its a lot of reading, reading and reading.

Do you have bills you have sponsored as a member of the house? What are they?

Yes, I have two Bills, I mean, why wont I have, thats why I was voted for, thats why I am here. So when I came I sponsored Osun State Lotteries and Gaming Bill, 2023 and Osun State Employment Trust Fund Bill, 2023.

And there are other ones we are working on but I can not disclose to you now, we are working round the clock to ensure that we do our best for our people.

How will you describe your relationship with other members of the house? Did the responsibilities of the office give you enough time to relate with them?

To be honest with you, it take a lot of being deliberate to build a relationship when you become speaker but to think of the fact that we are actually colleagues and I am only privileged to be speaker strikes the balance for me.

So, we have a harmonious relationship. We relate very well, in fact beyond even the daily activities of the House, I ensure that I have an interpersonal relationship with each and every of my colleagues.

Its been one year since Governor Ademola Adeleke was sworn in as Osun State Governor, how will you rate his performance?

His Excellency, Sen. Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke is a blessing to Osun State. His sterling performance has left the naysayers dumb and I will continue to say that I think the fact that he is the Governor of this state at this time is divinely or orchestrated by God and events of the last one year has proven that right.

Even though he is paying outstanding debts including workers' salaries owed by the previous APC administration, this didn't affect infrastructural development across all sectors.

Who can imagine that the projects listed in the multibillion naira infrastructure plan is possible. It is no longer a charade and I think by now, the people of Osun state already knows the difference, they know they have not wasted their vote by voting for Ademola Adeleke, he is the best man for the job.

With your emergence as Speaker, will you say the Governor has given the Assembly enough grand to operate?

If you will remember, when I was speaking earlier, I said the Governor has given has given a free hand to operate, that is to tell you that the Governor has never dabbled into House of Assembly matter. Take for instance, it was the executive that hired the Staff Audit consultant and when it was going appropriately, we stepped and the Governor obliged.

If it were to be some Governors, they'll probably lock the House of Assembly but Governor Adeleke is not like that, he listens to us, respects and obey our resolutions because what he wants for this state is the progress so to him, no matter what it takes, this state must progress.

National Scope

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The Battle Axe Between Fubara And Wike

By Segun Opeyemi

The relationship between the godfather and his godson is typically very close and most times can last a lifetime. However, in politics a lifetime can be some few days, weeks, months and perhaps some few years.

Nyesom Wike, the fiery and fearless former Governor of Rivers state is a perfect godfather, even to a fault! He is bold and courageous, always expressive not minding whose ox is gored. He shocked many stakeholders of Rivers politics when he favored a relatively unknown Siminalayi Fubara to be his successor as the Executive Governor of Rivers state under the flagship of the People's Democratic Party.

As the Accountant General of Rivers State, Mr Fubara was relatively unknown in the political terrain, up until then he had no record of participation in active politics. But like many godson, he has the biggest weapon; the godfather had chosen him and that seems to be the only weapon he needed and indeed it was!

True to his usual self, Mr Nyesom Wike weathered every storm that stood in the way of Fubara, not even his famous 'agreement' with then APC presidential candidate could stop him from delivering Sim Fubara into Brick House for the next four years.

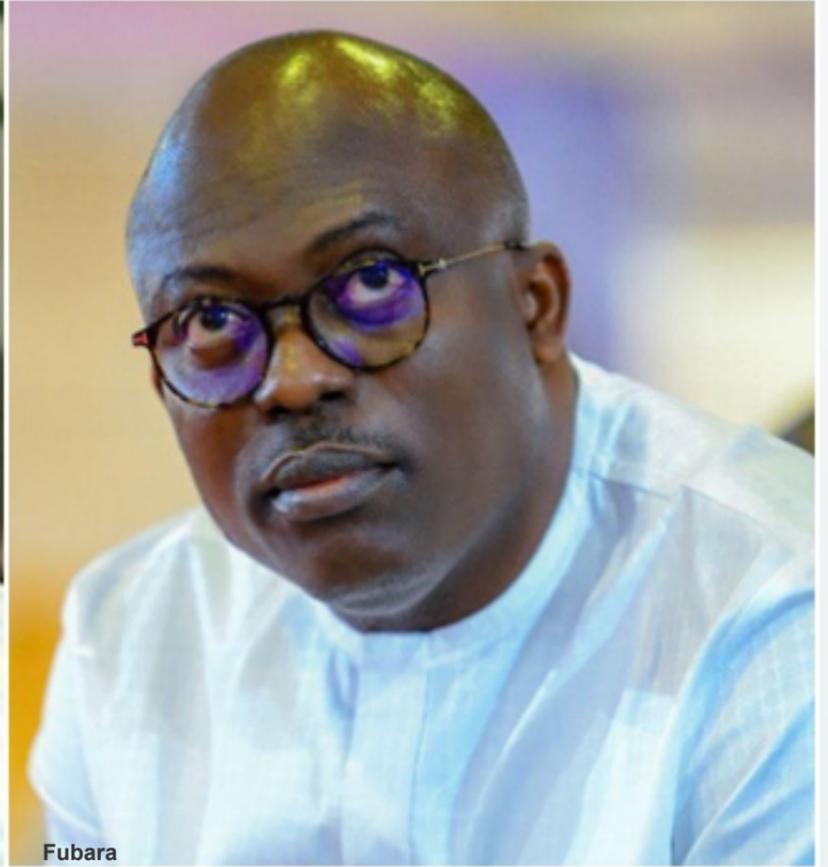
During the campaign, Many would have been forgiven for thinking Mr Wike was going for a third term, such was his energetic commitment to the cause such that Mr Fubara could only 'follow' instructions, like a loyal godson would.

May 29th, 2023 was an historic day as the godfather passed the baton of leadership of the state to his favorite godson after the later had won the March gubernatorial election with a landslide, of course with the charismatic support of the former. A sense of fulfillment engulfed the godfather while the godson appeared grateful.

The godfather is known for one thing, to him, "agreement is agreement", no more and



Wike



Fubara

indeed no less. Governor Sim was one of the first few governors who settled seamlessly into office, he sworn we in some commissioners barely 48 hours after his inauguration, making people to believe that he is following the script handed over to him. This fulfillment of 'agreement' seems to continue even as the godfather relocated to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja to take on a new assignment as the Minister of the FCT.

Like an apocalypse, rumour surfaced on the evening of Sunday, 29th October, 2023 of an impeachment plot against Mr Sim Fubara by the House of Assembly whose leadership is largely loyal to Mr Wike. Barely 24 hours later, the state was thrown into a full blown political crisis.

The godfather was angry

and it appears the godson is ready to dare him. But what could be wrong? It's just five months and 'agreement is turning to disagreement'. Was the godfather overbearing? Is the godson a betrayal? Is it not early for the godson to dare his godfather? Of course in politics and especially the relationship between a political godfather and his godson is always expected to hit the rock at some point.

The question everyone is asking is not why there is obvious disagreement, that was to be expected. The question is if the godson has the ability to dare his godfather. Is this about a battle for his own political survival? is it about renegotiation of terms? One thing is sure, Mr Wike is unrelenting, a trait he deployed successfully to instal the godson into office.

Expectedly, the battle was

shifted to the House of Assembly, m. The legislature holds the potent power to either save or destroy Governor Fubara. The members of the house are divided along their interest, 24 members including the Speaker Mr Amaewhule pledged loyalty to Mr Wike while the remaining 8 members including the Manority leader Mr Edison Ehie are loyal to Governor Fubara.

For the past one month, it has been a battle for survival for both godfather and godson, each plotting for self survival and at the same time destruction of the other. The godfather openly said he is not ready to surrender his political 'structure', the godson continue to sing praises of the godfather, at least in public.

Governor Fubara in a bid to forestall any impeachment attempt has

secured several court orders including one restraining the other 24 members from sitting at the assembly complex, the other 8 members had reportedly installed Mr Ehie as the new speaker and announced the suspension of the other 24 members, in political mathematics; 8 could be greater than 24! Who would have thought?

Because Governor Fubara loves to sleep well at night, he had ordered the 8 assembly members (recognized by him) to temporarily relocate the sitting of the house to the

government house, why? To allow for the ongoing renovation of the house of Assembly complex, he announced. But, for how long?

As we continue to observe event from the Treasure Base state, one begins to wonder if there is space for any mediation between the godfather and the godson and from whence will it come? Will the godfather backdown? Or will the godson surrender?

Only time will tell! But this appears to be one of the earliest face-off between a political godfather and his godson in the political history of Nigeria.

Commentary

"In the above analysis, we have pointed out that Nigeria cannot conduct credible elections without amending the relevant provisions of the Constitution and Electoral Act to provide for the appointment of INEC members by advertisement, deployment of technology for accreditation of voters and transmission of election results from polling units to the central

server of INEC. Once the electoral process is fully technologized the proof of election petitions will be based on the BVAS reports and uploaded results. The onus of proof of conduct of credible elections should shift to INEC and winners of elections. The question of dumping election materials will not arise as they would be produced and certified by INEC." Femi Falana

“The godfather is known for one thing, to him, “agreement is agreement”, no more and indeed no less.

Entertainment

www.osunspring.com

AFROTRAD Festival 2023 Takes Centre Stage In Osun

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Preparations are now in top gear for the second edition of the AFROTRAD Music festival in Osun.

The music festival, according to the organisers, is adjudged to be the biggest music festival in the southwest part of Nigeria.

AFROTRAD Festival, which is a fusion of Afrobeats and traditional music, is set to be held on the 15th of December 2023 at Technical Field, Osogbo from 4pm in the evening till 4am the

following day.

Among the highlights of the event will include Afrobeats music from diverse artists, traditional music, cultural display, games, comedy, Art Exhibitions among others.

More than 5000 festival lovers are billed to attend the event, with the organisers assuring the teeming audience to get ready to groove to infectious rhythms from all genres of music and traditional folklore.



Another VIP Recreation Spot Berths In Osogbo

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Osogbo, the capital city of Osun State, is witnessing a tremendous rise in the delivery of top-notch hospitality business.

As one of the fast rising economic cities in Nigeria, the need for quality hospitality and recreation spots will always be in demand.

Due to these circumstances, another top-notch and VIP recreation spot has just berthed in the city of Osogbo.

"Circle VIP Lounge" is the latest addition in Osogbo that is serving the purpose of relaxation spot for fun lovers and seekers.

The Lounge which was

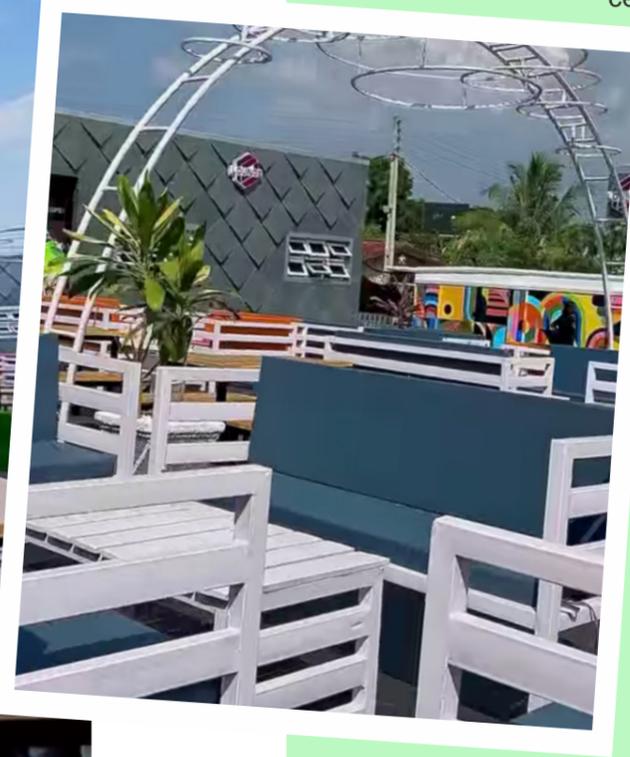
launched with a three day fanfare climax with a big unveiling that has the "Adegbodun Twins" dishing out melodious tunes to the fun lovers at the lounge and DJ Perfecta doing his best on the wheel of steel.

The Spacious arrangement of the lounge is why most fun lovers have seen it as a

good spot of relaxation with no stress of hangers-on disturbing or distracting them in having a good moment at the place.

Most of the fun seekers who had visited the Lounge relive their awesome memory of the place as some of them liken it to some sort of recreation garden

centres they do visit in Abuja, the capital city of Nigeria.



Fujicologist Celebrates With Osun Club CEO On His Birthday

By Oluniyi Isamotu

The sensational highlife musician, Abiola Fujicologist, and his wonderful P5 Crew were on the band stand as the CEO of Club Secret Lounge/Underground Club 'Dove T' celebrates his birthday in Osogbo

The birthday party, which had in attendance friends and family of the celebrant, players in the entertainment industry of the state, CEOs of other clubs and hospitality businesses in the state, big ballers and night crawlers

Every attendees at the birthday party were treated to diverse sumptuous meal with Fujicologist delivering his best of danceable and melodious tunes at the birthday party held at premises of the Club, Km 5 Iwo/Ibadan road,





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We'll Revamp Osun Sport Sector

-Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi

By Oluniyi Isamotu

In a move to revamp, revitalize and improve the sporting sector of the State, the state government under the leadership of Governor Ademola Adeleke is embarking on a transformative journey to

NNL: 10-man Osun Utd Secure First Away Win On The Road

By Oluniyi Isamotu

10-man Osun United over the week defeated their host, Tradesafe FC of Lagos to a 1-0 victory, courtesy of an Emmanuel Essien stunner at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos, in one of Nigeria National League Match Day 2 matches.

The Omoluabi giant's who had one of their players Sultan Hameed sent off in the match after a second booking, turned out a superior masterclass performance against their host despite being a man down.

The Seye Ajayi tutored side had their goalkeeper Subairu Suleiman winning the man of the match for an heroic display to ensure victory for his team as he kept the host team at bay with his superlative performance in goalpost on his debut game.

Reacting to the victory of his team, Coach Seye Ajayi said, "It was a tough match for us as we were reduced to 10 man, but that helped us to do what we wanted to do on-time. We were able to contain them, while catching them unaware upfront as well. I want to sincerely appreciate my guys and congratulate them for securing the victory far away from home." The Ex 3SC goal poacher stated.

The victory has earned two players of Osun Utd named among the NNL Team of the Week for Match Day two.

Goalkeeper Subairu Suleiman was rewarded for his heroic display on his debut game as the best Goalkeeper of matchday two while his counterpart and defender, Abubakar earned his spot in the NNL Team of the Week for match day two as well.

The Omoluabi Giants will now be at their home ground to host Warri Wolves in match day three of the Nigeria National League at the Osogbo Township Stadium.

revitalize the sports industry in the State.

This was made known recently by the Deputy Governor, who doubles as Commissioner for Sport in the state, Prince Kola Adewusi.

Addressing newsmen on the plans of the government towards this effect, the Deputy Governor said the state has mapped out modalities and action plans to upgrade sporting facilities in the state, restructure the

games village in Ijebu-Jesa, create Sport Trust fund for willing investors and sport enthusiasts, setting up sport commission of the state, reintroduction of the prestigious Governor's Cup, improve reward system for athletes, merit based appointments into different sectoral units of the sport industry of the state, restructuring and rebranding of the state owned football club among others.

He added that it is in the plan of the state government to encourage the physically challenged people to be involved in sports in discovering their god giving talents.

"Osun State Government, led by the visionary and dynamic Governor Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, is embarking on a transformative journey to revitalize the sports industry in the State, shape a prosperous future for our

people and elevate sports performance at every level, starting from grassroots initiatives to the elite athletes at the top echelon of sports and improve on our sports facilities.

"We are particularly concerned about the state of the Osogbo Township Stadium, which is supposed to be the flagship of all sports facilities at the State Capital. Improvement on our sports facilities will assist our youths to engage

in different kinds of sports by bringing them out of the streets.

"This administration has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to sports development in the past few months. Key investments have been made in various facets of the sports industry, including the successful sponsoring of the State contingent to the last National Sports Festival in Asaba and variously supported the State-owned football clubs (1), Osun United Football Club in their compaign in the nationwide league which earned them promotion to the Nigeria National League and (2) the Osun Babes Football Club which will be completely overhauled", the Deputy Governor reiterated.

Consequently, in fulfilling some of these action plans, the state government has setup a 9-man committee which includes sport technocrats across board to give further recommendations on how best to achieve most of the plans of the government.

Equally, Osun United Football Club and Osun Babes have now gotten a new management team headed by Mr Akin Maxwell and Mrs Tola Usman as Chairman and Chairperson for the two football outfit of the state respectively.



Osun Monarch Unveil Maiden Community Football Competition

By Oluniyi Isamotu

The Oluwo of Iwoland Oba (Dr) Adewale Akanbi has rolled out his move for a football competition to be held in his community.

The football competition tagged "TELU Cup" has 29 teams competing against each other in the maiden edition of the competition.

The football teams have been seeded into seven different groups, and hostility has kick-started on Saturday, 25th of November.

The monarch said the need to discover bright football talents and promote unity among the young ones necessitated his interest in the competition.

He urged participants to see the competition as an opportunity to showcase their talents and seek support.

"I enjoin the youth to

maximize the opportunity and convert it to advantage. The competition will form part of my annual routines. I'm hopeful that by next year, we will be proud to have national and international football

talents. If you are a football talent, you are assured of my support and encouragement," the monarch stated.

Consequently, in fulfilling some of these action plans, the state

government has setup a 9-man committee which includes sport technocrats across board to give further recommendations on how best to achieve most of the plans of the government.

Equally, Osun United

Football Club and Osun Babes have now gotten a new management team headed by Mr Akin Maxwell and Mrs Tola Usman as Chairman and Chairperson for the two football outfit of the state respectively.





Adepele Ojo: The Dilemma Before Osun and NJC

By Great Oluwaseun

The Rule of Law, as defined by the World Justice Project, stands as a steadfast framework encompassing laws, institutions, norms, and communal dedication that uphold four fundamental principles: accountability, just law, transparent government, and equitable, unbiased justice. In Nigeria, adherence to the Rule of Law implies a strict adherence to legal processes, requiring both government and governed entities to justify their actions within the bounds of the law.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, outlines the laws governing both the authorities and the populace, emphasizing the necessity for governance within recognized rules and principles.

The ongoing saga within the three arms of government in Osun State underscores the imperative need to scrutinize our constitutional precepts, investigating the checks and balances laid out within the Nigerian Constitution. Could the current discord between Osun State's government branches potentially necessitate the removal of the Chief Judge, prompting the involvement of the NJC?

Justice Oyebola Adepele-Ojo's confirmation by the 5th Assembly on June 11, 2013, under Rt. Hon. Najeem Salaam's leadership emphasized the need for substantive justice over technicalities. This, paired with the urging for a united judiciary to combat crime and corruption, highlighted the significance placed on justice and the rule of law during her swearing-in by Governor Rauf Aregbesola on June 17, 2013.

However, recent events have seen the Osun State House of Assembly, under the leadership of Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun, passed a resolution on November 16, 2023, requesting Justice Oyebola Adepele-Ojo to step aside pending investigations into forwarded petitions. Governor Ademola Adeleke subsequently endorsed this resolution, prompting divergent opinions on his actions. It's best to state clearly that the matter is between the House and the CJ.

This action, supported by Governor Ademola Adeleke, has stirred varied opinions. Speculations hint at the Governor's potential involvement in the matter, raising questions about his motives in possibly removing a fellow Ede native from office. How can one even believe that because Governor Adeleke has been accused times without numbers of the agenda to "Edeize" Osun State?

Accusations of blackmail against the Governor, through the use of "Ede Agenda" or through Adedoyin's case, whenever the Governor wants to act on petitions against Justice Adepele-Ojo. Does being an Ede citizen warrant immunity, or should the Governor shield his kinswoman from answering the allegations against her? If that's not the case then, could it be that Adedoyin's case is the reason for the CJ's "witch hunting"?

Does Adeleke have a personal interest in Adedoyin's case? Does Adeleke have any personal relationship with Adedoyin that can warrant him wanting to influence the delivery of justice? There are many questions to ask concerning Adedoyin's case and Adeleke's interest (if there are any). However, what does Adeleke stand to gain if his kinswoman is sent away because of his personal interest in the case when he can go through the Attorney General based on "nolle prosequi"? If there is any interest from the Governor, it can only be an interest to stand against corruption and also clear his kinswoman from the allegation.

However, amidst the scrutiny of the Governor's involvement, the focus also shifts to the 8th assembly's role.



Did the House act in accordance with the rule of law, or did the events of November 16 signify an assault on the judicial arm of government?

According to Section 128 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

(2) The powers conferred on a House of Assembly under the provisions of this section are exercisable only for the purpose of enabling the House to -

(b) expose corruption, and inefficiency of waste in the execution or administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it.

Nevertheless, what is Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun's interest in the case? What are the allegations against the CJ that could warrant asking her to step aside? Does the house have the power to investigate her based on the petitions? The answer to these questions can be obtained from the News Release from the CPS of the Speaker, Mr Olamide Tiamiyu on 20th November 2023.

In the news release, Mr Tiamiyu itemized some of the allegations against the Chief Judge, which include:

1. Diversion of the funds for the State Judiciary Library.
2. Diversion of the robe allowance of a brother judge of the Osun State High Court which is about #5,000,000: 00 (Five Million Naira).
3. Indiscriminate suspension of Judicial staff without going through the Judicial Commission and diversion of their salaries.
4. Diversion of revenue due to the Government from filing electronic affidavits through the sole appointment of a consultant by the Chief Judge. In this case, the consultant makes #1000 on an affidavit as against just #250 that is being remitted to the state coffers.
5. Disobedience of a Court judgment that discharged and acquitted a judicial staff of the allegation of embezzling #30,000 typing sheet fund.
6. Diversion of the proceeds that were recovered from the convicted armed robbers of the Ikirun robbery.

Having seen the allegations against the CJ, one can

conclude that Egbedun's and the 8th assembly's interest is to investigate the corruption allegation against the CJ. Nevertheless, where is the Osun JUSUN in all these? But why ask her to step aside from her office?

Before now, Osun JUSUN has applied different means to relate their displeasing conditions to the CJ, and one of their actions is the 10th September The Nation publication page 27 where the suspended members were interviewed.

In the heat of the drama, The Osun Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) joined the discourse, expressing concerns about the CJ's conduct by picketing the high court on 20th November. While addressing the press, the Osun JUSUN Chairman, Mr Gbenga Eludire reflected on their discontent with prolonged suspensions, unpaid allowances, and a halt in worker training raising questions about where the monies are.

The Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary, Hon (Barr) Kanmi Ajibola while addressing the protesting judicial workers on behalf of the House said the legislature's actions were geared towards cleaning the judiciary of corruption to restore the confidence of the people.

"But let me state clearly, we received some petitions against the CJ, and there are reports accompanying those petitions that if the CJ is allowed into her office, there are some documents that will be tampered with, that will distort the investigation."

"And on this note, the people that brought petitions, are entitled to fair hearing. The CJ, whom the petition was brought against is also entitled to a fair hearing. But to balance justice with a fair hearing in this case, the House sat and decided that while this investigation is on, and for the security of documents that have been said, which go into the foundation of the case we are having before us, the CJ should step aside" he said. Their interest appears to be an investigation into these allegations, as indicated by the House Committee on Judiciary.

Some speculators raised their concern about the timing of this investigation because the JUSUN claim the illegal suspension of their member happened over 3 years ago. So why then didn't the 7th Assembly look into the petitions? Or perhaps the petitions were just sent in the 8th assembly? Regardless, could it be said that the 7th Assembly were nonchalant about the concerns of the citizens? Why is there so much criticism from the opposition party in the state, particularly members of the last administration? Some even believed the last administration lost its moral ground to fight corruption as a result of the "technicality" judgement that kept them in office.

Another question is, what is the NJC's interest in the Osun Judicial Saga? The House of Assembly mentioned that the same petitions received by them were also sent to the NJC yet nothing is being said about it. Could it be that they are trying to protect the interest of their member at the expense of the petitioners and the affected people? Of course, that's not the case. A body charged with the responsibility to fight crime and corruption among the judicial system and the members of the public will never try to sweep any corruption case underneath.

The House gave the its Committee on Judiciary 7 days to investigate the petitions against the CJ, and whatever findings the committee gets will be forwarded to the National Judicial Council (NJC). The outcome of these investigations and the subsequent recommendations from the NJC remain pivotal in addressing the intricate dilemma facing Osun State's judiciary.