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OSUN SPRING

VOL 1. NO 6.

1 -15 FEBRUARY, 2024

www.osunspring.com

N200



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Editorial

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Governor Adeleke And The Move To Recover Government Assets

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has made public his move to recover items belonging to the government carted away by officials of the immediate past Gboyega Oyetola administration.

While this move was well received by a large number of people who believed that in the first place it is wrong for anyone to have gone away with government properties most especially in a state like Osun where it is been said that the state is that financially bouyant.

Asset Recovery Committee as established by the Executive Order issued by Governor Adeleke upon resumption had revealed that officials of the Gboyega Oyetola administration has made away with cars worth N2.9Billion.

It was also revealed that former Commissioners, Special Advisers, and several other office holders had been carted away every item in the different lodges they stayed while in office.

Governor Adeleke upon the presentation of reports by different committees approved the release of white papers then mandated the establishment of asset recovery task committee to bring back what had been taken away.

Osun Spring commends Governor Adeleke for this noble step, its first of its kind this state and we therefore recommend that that the task force be immediately inaugurated and recovery step taken immediately.

The APC in defence claimed that former Governor Oyetola had allowed his cabinet members to go with official cars, even stating that it is within the power of the office of the Governor to allow such thing.

It is the view of Osun Spring that the action is condemnable and the statement credited to the opposition party APC in Osun state in rather unfortunate.

Osun Spring therefore urge any official of the immediate past administration in the state to return any government property with them to the appropriate quarters as it is the most honourable thing to do.

For every steps in government there are procedures and Osun Spring wishes to establish that the process for acquiring government vehicle necessitate that car taken away are considered auctioned and must have been paid for.

Osun Spring wants to recommend to the Osun State Government to ensure that the taskforce when inaugurated is not infiltrate and stay focused on its purpose

We also recommend that membership and modus operandi of the task force be made public for record and accountability purpose, the people of Osun State deserves to know who left with the properties gotten with their money and how it is being recovered.

“
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Feature



Managing Stress

By Oluwatobiloba Oyeniyi

Stress has been a considerable part of the human body's physical and mental reactions to life's experiences as our day-to-day activities often require energy expenditure to a level the body systems may not fully control. Hence, stress is more than a feeling; it usually has a telling effect on every living organism.

Despite being familiar with the consequence of expending energy beyond standard control, family issues, work, environment, climate change, natural disasters, and so on are some vital factors why humans keep experiencing stress regularly and because stress is a bodily change and a feeling of emotional and physical strain, it may cause you to be angry, frustrated, nervous, or depressed. It can also affect your mental health, especially essential

organs such as the human brain.

Your brain needs the right help to work again after everyday activities. So when it becomes engorged with stress, productivity level reduces.

However, in today's world, it is normal for the body to experience stress and react accordingly. The human body is designed to experience anxiety and respond to it. The reaction will help your body to adjust to new situations.

Stress can be positive and motivating. For instance, it can make a body prepare or work harder for an activity that must be done on time. As you know, stress becomes problematic when the body continues working without a regulated period of relaxation.

It would help if you didn't underestimate stress any longer because it significantly affects the body. It can be short or

long-term, leading to manifestations of various symptoms. These symptoms include; Aches and pains; Chest pain or a feeling like your heart is racing; Exhaustion or trouble sleeping; Headache; High blood pressure; Weak immune system;

Menstrual problems; Constipation; Forgetfulness; Depression; Heart disease; Weight loss or gain; Use of alcohol or drug to relax.

Although stress is inevitable, it is part of life. And not all types of stress are harmful.

There are two basic types of stress- Acute Stress and Chronic Stress.

Acute stress: Acute stress is a short-term type of stress rapidly fading. We often encounter this type of stress in our day-to-day activities.

Chronic stress: is sometimes the most long-lasting, unavoidable, and harmful form of stress.

This type of stress goes on for weeks, months, or years. Stress like money, an unhappy marriage, childhood trauma, trouble at work, and so on may cause chronic stress. If you cannot discover a way to manage this stress, it may lead to health issues.

Stress can result from challenges you face, either good or bad. Causes of stress are different for each person. The causes of stress can be: Relationship problems; Problems at

work; Getting married; parenting; Starting a new job; The death of a close family member; Retiring; Financial problems; Having a serious illness; Problems at home

Some interventions may help if there is a stress crisis, for there is no specific treatment for stress.

Some tips may be helpful for people who discovered all the symptoms of stress in their bodies. The tips include; Eat well; Excise your body; Have enough rest; Reach out to friends; Relax your brain; Therapy; Stay positive by using the right affirmative words.

It is normal to be stressed sometimes; it is part of what we should witness as a person. If you feel stressed, you need to seek medical attention.

Call your health care provider if you notice unusual symptoms, are using drugs or alcohol to rest, or have negative thoughts about hurting yourself; you need to speak up about your feelings.



Opinion

Osun And The Legal Question On Possession Of Public Assets By Private Individuals

By Sarafa Ibrahim

There is a raging debate in Osun on the possession of public properties, particularly vehicles, by officials of the immediate past administration of Gboyega Oyetola. This debate was ignited by the release of a white paper on asset recovery by Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration and the indication of deploying a task force to recover public assets in the possession of private individuals.

The state chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), through its chairman, Sooko Tajudeen Lawal, was fierce in rejecting the position of the State Government, accusing the Adeleke-led government of witch-hunting and a ploy to hide under asset recovery to attack its members. This sentiment was echoed by a former Senior Special Assistant to Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola, Mr. Kehinde Ayantunji, while featuring on a current affairs program on Rave FM on Monday, conceding to the power of Oyetola as a governor, to freely dole out public properties as he wishes.

How valid is Ayantunji's position? Well, let us go to the laws of the land and examine whether Oyetola indeed has the power to transfer possession of public properties (in this case vehicles) to officials who served under him. The benefits and otherwise of public and political office holders are guided by a

national law known as the "Certain Political, Public and Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc) (Amendment) Act, 2008".

In Osun state, there is also the "Osun State Public/Political Office-Holders Revised Renumeration Package (Amendment) Law, 2008" that broadly provides benefits for public and political office holders in the state, even for those offices not covered by the Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC). Looking at the clear provisions of the laws quoted above, there is nowhere that the governor was given the mandate to transfer public assets to private individuals under whatever guise.

I have read and listened to the argument of some supporters of the APC trying to rationalize the action of the former governor and held that it can find refuge under the monetization policy of the government. But this argument, just like the one highlighted above, is faulty and untenable, and the reason for this is not farfetched.

Monetization policy was introduced by the Chief Olusegun Obasanjo administration in 2002 and literally allows for the quantification in monetary terms, fringe benefits that the government used to provide for its workers as part of their condition of service. Under this policy, political office holders just

like some class of civil servants, enjoy the privilege of owning certain public assets, especially status (official) property used while in office. It could be vehicles or even houses.

The thing, however, is that the asset(s) would not be entirely free as the APC tried to portray. The potential beneficiary (ies) would be required to pay to the coffer of the government a prescribed amount arrived at upon an evaluation of the paper value of the property, including vehicles, at the time of exit in office. In short, there is never a law or a government policy that allows a governor to approve public property to private individuals.

In fact, the governor, is by law, only entitled to his official vehicle and a utility vehicle, which will be replaced every four years depending on the law enacted by the State Assembly. So, the argument that a governor can wishfully allocate public assets to private individuals is unfounded in law and logic.



happen."

In Kaduna state, people who served in the Nasir el-Rufai government surrendered public vehicles in their possession for the succeeding government, which Governor Uba Sani acknowledged shortly after he assumed office. It would interest you to know that Governor Sani encouraged members of his cabinet to use the vehicles inherited from the previous administration as a sacrifice to achieve his administration's goal of catering for the poor and vulnerable in the state. "I will continue to use the old cars inherited from the previous administration in Kaduna state," he declared, adding that "All commissioners must also use the old cars."

It is therefore clear to the discerning that the Oyetola administration did not act rightly by sharing what belongs to the people to each other. The essence of any public and political office holder is to effectively manage collective assets, and not explore them for personal benefits. This is quite the opposite of what Oyetola and the people who served under him showed and it is quite unfortunate.

Nothing can ever justify the brazen abuse of office, which the pilfering of public vehicles clearly indicated. It is against the law and morality for people to consider the privilege of holding one office or the other in trust for the people as a window for them to convert what belongs to the people to themselves. Unofficial estimates put the

cost of replacing the vehicles carted away illegally at over N2.5 billion. This is outrageous and totally unacceptable.

Don't get me wrong, nothing is wrong with Oyetola rewarding people who served under him. What was wrong was using what belonged to the Osun people, especially when there was no legal basis, for his compensation scheme. But it never too late to do the right thing, and as the Osun Government is passionately impressing on officials with public vehicles to return them, they should harken to it. This is in the interest of the Osun people who will go through a tough financial phase to replace the carted vehicles.

At the moment, Osun services debt with over N1.8 billion every month yet, faced with other commitments, including clearing owed salary debts and pension liabilities by the previous administration. Adding the financial implication of replacing vehicles carted away by officials of the Oyetola administration will be an unnecessary burden and so unfair to the Osun people. It should not be a bad thing to give people an opportunity to serve, but that is becoming the case here. I hope the voice of good reasoning however prevails on those involved and what belongs to the people is returned without hassle.

• Sarafa Ibrahim is a Special Assistant to the Osun State Governor on Print Media and writes from Osogbo, Osun State.

Oyetola And Osun Out Of School Children

By Great Oluwaseun

The unthoughtful statement from the former Special Adviser to Gboyega Oyetola, Sunday Akere, about the increase in the out of school children in Osun State is a testament of one of the failures in the Oyetola's administration. Osun State educational system has been in a state of emergency since the last administration. Oyetola must have been shocked for the unthoughtful statement made by Akere on his behalf.

Going back in time, the former governor, who was a key player in the Rauf

Aregbesola's government for 8 years. Oyetola happened to serve as the Chief of Staff to the 4th Executive Governor of the state. During his term, Oyetola reversed the unitary uniform initiative of Ogbeni at the recommendation of a report led by Prof Olu Aina led Committee.

One would have thought the recommendation of Prof Olu Aina would bring an effective reform to the dying educational sector of Osun State. Unfortunately, the only action taken from the report was only done as a way to victimise as a result of Ogbeni and score a

political point. Why should public funds be used to settle political rift or score political points? Oyetola had issues with the unitary uniform initiative but kept quiet and waited until he got into office.

According to UNICEF 2021 report, Osun State has the highest number of out of school children in the southwest. 14.88 percent male children in Osun and 11.5 percent female, making 13 percent average rate, were out of school in the state. Another report released October 14, 2022, rated the number of children as 21 percent despite witnessing two major policy changes in the

state. These disheartening reports about the out of school children in Osun State is a call for the current government to check the recommendations of these policies as the most recent educational policy recommendation has done more damage to the educational system than good.

From the 2022 West African Examination Council, performance index, Osun is ranked 36th among all other 36 states, including FCT in the WAEC rank. This further indicates the terrible state of the educational sector in the state for even students in school during the Oyetola

administration. Sunday Akere who also served under the Aregbesola administration, and he saw Ogbeni's commitment to educational infrastructure in the state. If Oyetola has focused on what mattered while he was the governor, our educational system won't find itself in number 36 out of 36 state in WASSCE in 2022.

Perhaps I should throw some questions to Akere to answer, did Oyetola just realise that the public schools in the State were short of teachers at his 4th year in office? If he knew before, Was he unchallant about the future of the state? What were his contributions

to the educational sector in terms of infrastructure and learning aids and instruments? Was there any budget provision for the new employed teachers?

One would have thought a finance expert like Oyetola would be very conscious while making financial decisions or resources, but how he acted in his last days in office clearly showed the Osun people that leadership and delivery of good governance isn't about experience. It has a lot to do with personality. Adeleke's decision to reverse the employment of teachers is aimed at ensuring due process and ensuring proper budgetary provision for them.

Ademola Adeleke May Be The Perfect Epitome Of Democracy

By Demola Olanrewaju

Whether you believe in creationism or evolution, you arrive at a place in history where humans lived first as individuals, then as communities that soon required leadership. From the leadership of one man showed bravery in warfare or wisdom in handling a matter, humans created the dictatorship or the monarchy. Other experiments continued with forms of governance such as aristocracy, oligarchy, theocracy and even anarchy where one man who was popular or strong enough could seize the reins of government. None of these systems could however guarantee that the leader would perform in office and deliver good leadership for the benefit of the people.

And so, the Greeks invented Democracy as the surest system to ensure that leaders were directly and immensely responsive to the need of the people. The basic idea was that if the leader was elected by the votes of the people and dependent on them for another term in office – he would do right by them. Political thinkers through the ages – from Baron de Montesquieu to Thomas Paine to John Locke and so many others – took the thoughts behind Democracy further and concluded that although not perfect, no other system could guarantee service to the people as one in which they had the power to elect, re-elect, reject and even impeach their leaders through their representatives, as Democracy. Abe Lincoln captured the essence of Democracy by describing it as the government that is of the people, by the people and for the people: elected from among them, understanding of their challenges and empathetic towards them; dependent on the people for continuance in governance and for the people because the people can remove it at any time.

In advanced societies – political leaders will do anything to make the electorate happy, because they understand that their being in office is by the gracious votes of the citizens and that even where elections are still far off, there are means of removing a person from

office in the electorate are unhappy. When the votes of the people count in elections, the result is a leadership that fully and solely serves the interest of the people. The degree to which the journey of the elected officeholder's journey depends on other forces determines the extent to which he or she fully serves the interest of the people. If that journey partially depends on godfatherism, thuggery, military imposition, electoral manipulations, vote-buying etc – the service of that officeholder to the people is reduced.

Democracy only works for the people if the vote of the people counts.

In Nigeria, we have seen true democracy only very rarely. We know of politicians who are more loyal to their godfather than to the electorate: because they were bankrolled by a godfather to win popular support and the godfather still had to pull strings to get them elected. We know of officeholders who spend more time acting as personal assistants or Automated Teller Machines to forces in the presidency in Abuja: because that was how they got into office. We know of those who simply amass wealth into their personal coffers in anticipation of vote-buying, thuggery and INEC compromise.

This is why Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke excites me – his political trajectory is unique.

His elder brother was the late former Governor Isiaka "Serubawon" Adeleke who served for less than two years before the Third Republic was truncated in November 1993. Much beloved by the people of the state, Serubawon managed to establish the Osun State Polytechnic in Iree and completed the Osun State Broadcasting Corporation in his short time in office. Serubawon was then elected to the Senate in 2007, ousted in 2011, reelected in 2015 and died in 2017. Ademola Adeleke's own first election was merely to complete the Senate tenure of his elder brother but fate had other plans.

Senator Ademola Adeleke contested the 2018 gubernatorial elections against Gboyega Oyetola and was

allocated 255,023 votes to Oyetola's 255,505. I was on ground for that election for the PDP. I witnessed the sheer robbery and knew that the victory for democracy was yet postponed again.

And Oyetola did not disappoint democracy. It is like marrying a person against their will – no matter how much you claim to love them, they would always resent you. Worse is that a part of you will know that your best efforts would never be enough to force them to love you. So sometimes you try, sometimes you give up and act selfishly. The laws of life can never be breached and so it is with democracy. You cannot expect an imposed leader to be beholden to the people if their votes are not what brought him into office.

For four long years, Osun stood by patiently, waiting for the next election to reaffirm their choice of Ademola Adeleke and contribute to his unique political trajectory. There was no godfather to fallout with or keep appeased. His own elder brother by blood was closest to that role and as a closely knitted family, they could agree and disagree but only internally.

I was on ground again when Osun spoke again: Adeleke won with a majority of 403,371 votes to Oyetola's 375,027. The people did not rejoice alone but all of us democrats rejoiced too – confident that this governor would deliver for the people and for democracy.

Having no godfather to repay financially, having a direct personal love from the people, eager to protect the family legacy and cement the bond with Osun forever – Ademola Adeleke had no other choice than to deliver. And from all I have heard – he is on course.

Moving swiftly to pay salaries, emoluments and pensions, constructing and rehabilitating more roads than any previous government in Osun within the same time period, setting up an audacious NGN100BN infrastructure to construct roads, flyovers and schools, wading into unpopular traditional ruler disputes, undoing the legacy of "Hafusa" as the

Osun workers call the wicked 'Half-salary' policy of APC – Adeleke is the perfect epitome of democracy and he fully understands the assignment.

Observing him from a distance, I remember his emotional and heartfelt "e kuroju! e pe!" statement during the debate: this is a man who is empathetic and has a deep love for the people. And he loves to be loved by the people. He longs to please them. This is what Solon had in mind when he proposed democracy to the Greeks. This is what political scientists propound must be in place for democracy to function and deliver. Adeleke in Osun is the democratic ideal and the perfect epitome of democracy.

I have followed his trajectory very closely but with personal distance: my idea of him is therefore only what is reported in the

news. I have met him on few occasions as political engagements coincided, but never extensively and neither have I witnessed his works firsthand beyond media reportage. Now I have come to see but must first purge my admiration publicly.

Because democracy demands a keen and objective eye for the sake of the people, for the sake of Gov. Ademola Adeleke himself and even more for the sake of the Adeleke posterity. Perhaps also for the sake of we his "Demola" namesakes too.

No good will come from my merely adding my voice to the plethora of sycophants that attend the ears of those in power. I have met and closely observed a few Governors in my days, seeing projects and sitting with them to understand the purpose. Only three ever immensely impressed me – Sule Lamido of Jigawa whom I call 'My Father and Leader',

Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo and Seriake Dickson of Bayelsa. What I looked out for was their philosophy of governance, beyond the grandiosity of their projects. I am from Isokun in Ilesha too and so my motive must be purified and emptied of all adulation, for the sake of our peoples in Osun. Only my grandmother's pounded yam can now compromise my sight and voice, and Mama Alawo is long dead.

The democratic ideal has so far been observed in the present instance of Ademola Adeleke; now let us see if the political theories and evolutions of power that led to democracy, are accurate in saying that Ademola Adeleke must perform and deliver good governance for Osun.

'Demola Olanrewaju is a political media strategist, public affairs analyst, student of Nigeria's political history, and currently a Special Assistant to H.E. Atiku Abubakar.'



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Governor Adeleke Suspends Ila College Of Education Provost, Appoints Replacement

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has approved the suspension of the Provost of Ila College of Education in line with the interim report of the Investigation Panel headed by the Chief of Staff, Hon Kazeem Akinleye. Governor Adeleke also approved the appointment of Dr Jimoh

Lasisi Ayanda as the acting Provost of the Osun State College of Education, Ila Orangun. The Governor in a statement by Olawale Rasheed, his Spokesperson also approved the recommendation of the committee that the Chairman of the Governing Council, Dr Peter Babalola should remain in office as there is no proven case of

abuse of power or financial wrongdoings against him. The statement reads further, "The allegation of over Two Hundred Million Naira fraud leveled against the Council Chairman was found to be unsubstantiated with documentary proof or transaction details. "The cash advance of Three Million Naira to the Council chairman was found to be within the

college's financial regulations with all documentations verified by the committee. "Based on thorough review, the committee discovered that the allegation of N200m fraud leveled against the Chairman of the Governing Council is untrue, diversionary, baseless and fallacious. "Documentary evidence (voucher) revealed that he only collected a sum of Three Million Naira

(N3m) as cash advance which is officially allowed. "On the Provost, the Committee reviewed three previous reports of investigations into various allegations of financial malfeasance, abuse of power and corruption leveled against him dating from past administrations to date. "The Committee after a thorough review of the reports including that of the State House of Assembly alongside its own investigations recommended immediate suspension of the Provost, which is now endorsed by the State

Governor. "Sequel to the findings of the investigative Panel, the Provost of Osun State College of Education, Ila-Orangun, Dr. Jimoh Atanda Afolabi is hereby suspended on the grounds of financial impropriety, concealment of official information/ records; and failure to update the Governing Council on the important issues of the College." The statement noted that the Committee is billed to submit its final report at a later date adding that the appointment of the Acting Provost is with immediate effect.



Dr Jimoh Lasisi Ayanda



Samuel Ayanleye Aina

Osun Head Of Service, Ayanleye Aina's Tenure Extended

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has extended the tenure of the Head of Service, Elder Samuel Ayanleye Aina, Osun Spring reports.

A statement by the Spokesperson to the Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed noted that the action is to deepen and conclude ongoing reform and revitalization of the civil service.

The approval which was conveyed to the Head of service via a letter signed by the Chief of Staff to the Governor cited

constitutional powers conferred on the Governor with respect to the appointments of top civil service officials.

The statement reads further, "The State Governor acknowledged the commitment of Elder Aina to efficient public service and productivity, appreciating his successful implementation of various public sector reforms after governorship approvals. "The Governor further directed top officials of the service to continue to maintain strong discipline and teamwork for seamless

implementation of the administration's five point agenda."

Recall that Aina Ayanleye was first appointed Head of Service in December 2022 after Governor Ademola Adeleke resumed office as the 6th Executive Governor of Osun State.

Mr. Aina attended the prestigious University of Ibadan, Ibadan, between 1984 and 1987 and between 1988 and 1990 where he obtained B.Sc. Hon (2nd Class Upper Division) and M.Sc degrees in Geography in 1987 and 1990 respectively.

He was appointed a Permanent Secretary in Osun State in 2012, through a rigorous selection process and was deployed to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning & Budget where he served till 2013.

Aina was deployed as Permanent Secretary in charge of two agencies – Ministry of Human Resources and Capacity Building as well as the Public Service Office in the Office of the Head of Service, Osun State in 2016 where he served till 2022 when he was first appointed Head of Service.

Osun Government De-registered All Illegal Cooperative Societies

By Sola Isola

The Osun State government has deregistered all Atunto Osun Cooperative Society across all local government in the state as well as several other cooperative societies over violation of Cooperative laws, Regulations and principles. The Government in a document obtained by Osun Spring reference number MCE/CSR/001 and signed by Babatunde Ogunjide, Director of Cooperative Services, Ministry of Cooperative and Empowerment gave reasons for the decision to include failure to submit to the supervision of the Regulatory Agency of Government that registered them and Non-submission of their records and books of account for inspection and audit by the Regulatory Agency and the delegated Federation of Osun state Cooperatives Limited.

The statement also noted that affected Cooperative Societies did not comply with the core principle of

Cooperatives which is Religious and Political Neutrality and also sidelined the Statutory instrument of dispute settlement in Cooperatives as well as gross misappropriation of Society funds.

Affected Cooperative Societies include; All Local Government Christian Staff Cooperative Societies; All Local Government Muslim Staff Cooperative Societies; All "Atunto-Osun" Cooperative Societies in the thirty (30) LGAs and Ife East Area Office; Osogbo Nigerian Immigration Staff CICS limited.

Other are; Osogbo Federal Inland Revenue Staff CICS Limited; Osogbo Asubiaro NAMN Cooperatives Limited; Osogbo Federal Road Safety Staff CICS Limited and; Federal Pay Office Staff CICS Limited.

The government noted that all listed Societies are hereby declared illegal in Osun State until declared otherwise and transactions henceforth by these Societies fraudulent adding that this inquiry is a continuous exercise until the State is rid of all erring Cooperative Societies in operation.

Adeleke Launches Bilingual Financial Statements Of Osun LGs, Directs Free Distribution To Stakeholders

By **Oluwatobiloba Oyeni**

The Governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke has launched bilingual financial statements of local governments of the state just as he also signed the kick-off of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (LIFMIS).

The Governor while speaking during the public presentation of bilingual financial statements of local governments, kick-off of LIFMIS, GAAREPA Award and international audit forum on local governments accounts held at the Centre for Black Culture and International Understanding, Osogbo, Osun State Capital.

Represented by his Deputy, Prince Kola Adewusi, the Governor said "Since we came on board, this administration has been making history with landmark achievements and we are making another one today as a trailblazer in campaign for accountability, transparency and grassroots participation in government."

"Even our critics have admitted that a lot of landmark achievements

have been made by this government within the short period of time.

"And today we are celebrating another dimension of unprecedented feat in the annal of public financial management which has now become standard for others to emulate not only in Nigeria or the West Africa sub-region but the world at large.

"I need to reiterate my belief in accountability and transparency as cornerstone for good governance. As a democratically elected governor of Osun State, I am entrusted with the responsibility to serve the best interest of Osun State people.

"Today, I have signed the agreement for the kick-off of LIFMIS report to be so adopted in Osun state.

"Today, I present the bilingual financial statement of local government, the first of its kind in the continent of Africa.

"I am glad about the bilingual financial statement of our local governments. I gave the project my total backing and commend the leadership of ALGON and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy for this execution.

"It is a laudable project

that will enhance inclusiveness at the grassroots and broaden the scope of participation in governance.

The governor, however, directed that a copy of the true version of the bilingual financial statements of Osun local governments should be made available to all stakeholders free of charge.

He commended local government officers decorated with the award of excellence for best performance in revenue generation, assuring other officers that the award will be done annually.

In his remarks, the

Auditor General of Osun State, Mr Emmanuel Kolapo lauded Governor Adeleke for providing the enabling environment for the auditing of Osun local government accounts with the translation into Yoruba language.

"One of the best thing that has ever happened to this state is having Senator Ademola Adeleke as the governor. In the federation, there are few governors that are people's friendly governors. And among the ones that are people's friendly, the Governor of Osun State is unique," Mr. Kolapo noted.

Commending the Governor for making the

bilingual financial statement of local governments launch a possibility, Oba Abdulazeez Olatunbosun Adebamiji, the Akirè of Ìkirè-Ilé Kingdom, who spoke on behalf of traditional rulers in the state, said being bilingual will helps to communicate with more people, thereby making government financial document to be more popular and invariably enhances better understanding of the contents.

Also, the monarch noted that the new approach will strengthens the tendency of being more creative, more innovative, more dynamic, more open-

minded, and transparently conscious of one's stewardship for officials at the local government.

"On behalf of His Imperial Majesty, Olofin Adimula Oba Babatunde Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, the Ooni of Ife, and all Royal fathers in Osun, I hereby give kudos to the Government of Osun State under the leadership of Governor (Senator) Nurudeen Jackson Ademola Adeleke who has made this possible. In this regard, Osun State has become a pacesetter."

Earlier in his opening remarks, Otunba Sarafadeen Abiodun Awotunde, the Chairman of the Osun State chapter of the Association of Local Governments of Nigerian (ALGON), who is also the Chairman of Ifelodun Local Government, said launching the bilingual financial statements of local governments will sell the Yoruba language to the international community.

Ifelodun Local Government under Hon Sarafadeen Abiodun Awotunde emerged first among local governments in Osun GAAREPA Award 2022, while Ede North Local Government under Hon. Taiwo Amodu clinched the second position and Atakmosa East under Hon. Adediran J won the third place.



Osun Assembly Speaker, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun

Education, A Foundation For Freedom And Dignity -osun Assembly Speaker, Egbedun

By Sola Isola

The Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon Adewale Egbedun has said that Education is the foundation upon which freedom and dignity are built.

Commemorating the 2024 International Day of Education, Egbedun in a post on his X handle - "AOEgbedun" noted that the government of Osun State under the leadership of Sen. Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke is to be commended for its efforts to rehabilitate schools.

He said "On this International Day of

Education, let us take a moment to reflect on the value of education and its power to change lives. Education is the foundation upon which freedom and dignity are built. It is a precious commodity, especially for those who have been deprived of it.

"Let us remember that there are still many people around the world who do not have access to education, and let us renew our commitment to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to learn and develop their skills.

"The government of

Osun State under the leadership of Sen. Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke is to be commended for its efforts to rehabilitate schools and for placing a premium on education at the foundation stage and for the ongoing rehabilitation of schools.

"Also, the zeal of the state government to implement the recommendations of the Education summit with particular reference to primary education is germane to meeting the UNESCO standard as a reform agenda for youth development.

"The Osun State House

of Assembly has also played a crucial role in supporting these efforts, ensuring that the necessary legislation is in place to facilitate these reforms and it will embrace the reforms brought about by creativity, science and technology.

"I sincerely believe that our nation, Nigeria will not lag behind in the race for dominance which Education provides for nations that seek it. With determination and dedication, we can create a better world for ourselves and future generations", Egbedun noted.

OSUN SPRING THE TEAM

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Photo news



Installation of Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke as the Baba Oba of Joga-orile, Ogun state



Governor Ademola Adeleke and other Executive Council members in a meeting with officials of Segilola Resources Limited as Osun government resuscitates shareholding deals



Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State Commissions 8.2km Dualized Road Constructed By Oyo state Governor, Engr Seyi Makinde



Governor Ademola Adeleke meets Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun in Abuja

Opinion

Osun Apc And The Struggle With Guilt

By Yusuf Oluwadamilare

A celebrated media expert, Andrew-Knox B. Kaniki made a stunning discovery about the weight of guilt. The Zambian national observed that "it's always the guilty that have itchy bowels after chewing the truth."

And he was damn right, especially when you observe the infantile postulation of the Osun state chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to request of the Osun State Government for public assets in the possession of its members who served in the previous administration. Apparently caught up with the reality of its members brazen abuse of office, the APC is pushing around a list of people around the Adeleke administration in the desperation to cover up the cornering of common patrimony of the people.

In essence, the Osun APC is no longer denying the fact that its members unlawfully possessed public assets, its argument now is rather that those in the Adeleke administration did the same thing. In the rush for this dangerous narrative, the APC made a big blunder and that was to rely more on lies and beer parlour gossip, rather than facts. And it is so unfortunate.

I've reviewed the list of names supplied by the APC and all I could do was laugh. In the attempt to justify the brazen dispossession of public properties, the Osun APC is pushing a lame and ridiculous notion of some other people too did it and ended up with all sorts of cheap fallacious claims, which not only insult the intelligence of Osun people, but also a sad reflection of the reckless disposition of the APC to question of accountability.

Take, for instance, the malicious claim against Ede-born billionaire, Dr. Deji Adeleke. It is a shame that the APC took this route of using pure lies as a justification for the theft of public properties because available records showed that Dr. Adeleke did not enjoy any of the favour attributed to him from former Governor Rauf Aregbesola. Aside from the fact that Adeleke University is a model in philanthropy as more than half of students in the school are on full scholarship, he pays everything that is due to the State Government.

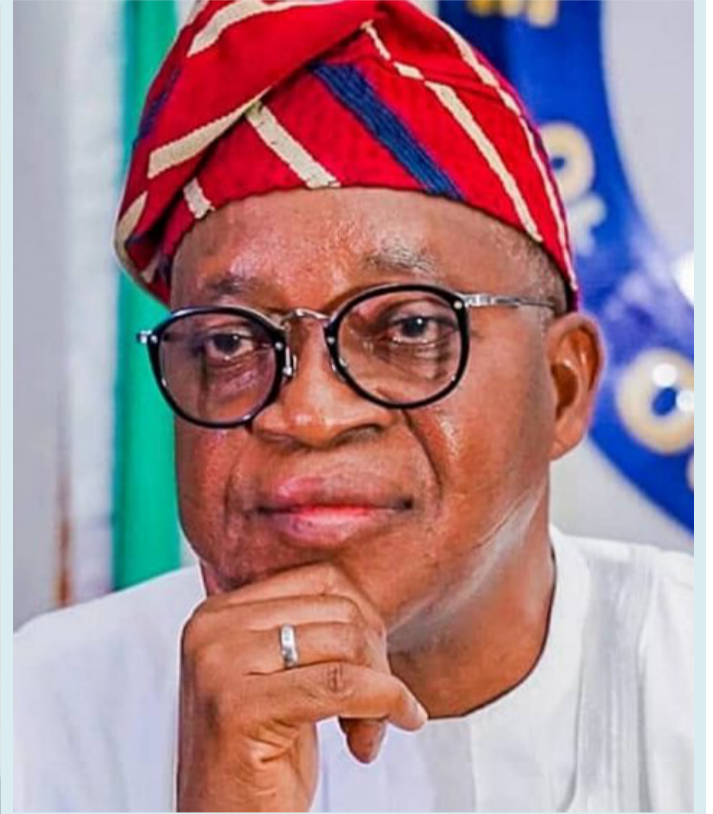
It is unimaginable that the APC will subject such a man who has made so many contributions to both human capital development and the economy of the state to campaign of falsehood. But I cannot blame them, because the only thing they know to do is steal and not build. The Osun APC is parasitic in nature and more than ever, Osun people have a better understanding of this disturbing reality.

But that is not all. The claim by the APC that some officials in the Adeleke administration, particularly the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Teslim Igbalaye, and the Chief of Staff, Alhaji Kazeem Akinleye, went away with official vehicles is not founded on fact. The SSG had debunked this claim before now, pointing out "that the official vehicles for which the then council bosses pay part payment were taken from them immediately the court ruled against former Governor Oyinlola."

Instead of the APC controverting this assertion with irrefutable evidence, it chooses to peddle lies in order to distract attention from his abuse of



Aregbesola



Oyetola



Akande



Omisore

“
Osun APC is no longer denying the fact that its members unlawfully possessed public assets, its argument now is rather that those in the Adeleke administration did the same thing. In the rush for this dangerous narrative, the APC made a big blunder and that was to rely more on lies and beer parlour gossip, rather than facts. And it is so unfortunate.
 ”

public assets just because of having access to office. On a number of media platforms, the Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Oluomo Kolapo Alimi, has made clarification on the vehicle in his possession, dismissing the lies of the APC.

The APC must come out of its illusion that cooking up lies to attack people in the Adeleke administration will discourage it from retrieving public assets stolen by officials of the previous administration. The retrieval process is going ahead and the APC can save itself from the attendant mess by willfully returning the public assets in its possession.

We can all see what President Bola Tinubu is doing to sanitize the country, and will definitely back the Governor Ademola Adeleke effort to do the same in Osun. No matter the wolf cry of the APC in Osun, President Tinubu will stand on the side of Osun people in restoring what belongs to them, which is what Governor Adeleke administration is pursuing.

• Yusuf Oluwadamilare writes from Ede, Osun state.

Feature

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Imole De Buses:

Osun Government Palliative Initiative And Positive Effects On Subsidy Removal For Civil Servants, Students And Residents

By Blessing Adegbite

Recall that Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration on November 21, 2023, officially rolled out the 19 buses as part of efforts to cushion the harsh effects of the petroleum subsidy removal by the Federal Government, adding that over N25 million was spent to put the buses in good shape.

Speaking at the official flag-off of the use of the buses, Governor Ademola Adeleke assured residents of the State that their welfare remains paramount to the present administration.

The Governor, who was represented by the State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi said the present administration will continue to embark on programmes and policies that will put smiles on the faces of the State residents.

While commending Civil Servants for their resilience and commitment to their duties despite the harsh economic realities, the Governor assured them that his government will always prioritise their welfare.

In an address, Commissioner for Transportation, Hon. Sesan Oyedele, who assured residents of more buses in the coming days, described the Adeleke government as a workers' friendly one.

Also speaking, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Hon. Yakubu Adejare urged Civil Servants and residents to see the buses as their properties which they must maintain and ensure its sustainability.

Passengers will be charged a token fee on each drop for the running and maintenance of the buses.

A statement signed by the state's Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Kolapo Alimi, said the 19 buses, each christened "Imole Bus", were specifically conveying civil servants, students and the poorest of the poor residents of the state to their various destinations at a token.

Alimi also said the money generated would be used by the government from time to time for the smooth running and maintenance of the buses.

The statement partly read, "The Government wishes to emphasise that virtually all the buses, due to their almost grounded status and of the road conditions, cost a total sum of 25,274,288.00 (Twenty-Five Million, Two Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty-Eight Naira) to ensure their roadworthiness to be able to carry out the new services of conveyance of

people.

"Accordingly, Osogbo, the Osun State capital, had five buses officially assigned to it for commuting people to the already earmarked routes. Ede, Iwo and Ikirun had two each, while the people of Ife/ Modakeke and Ilesha had three each. The remaining two of the buses are kept on standby for other contingencies that may likely come up from time to time.

"With Osogbo, the capital of Osun State used as a pilot scheme for the official commencement of Imole bus palliatives shuttle services, the government wishes to announce, with all sense of responsibility, that the bus services will be made to go around other towns and cities of the state very soon.

"The buses, it must be noted, are to work on two shifts daily as they ply all the officially designated routes, morning and afternoon of Mondays through Fridays. According to the arrangements, the morning services will be between 6:45 am and 9:00 am while the afternoon shuttles will be between 3pm and 5 pm daily. The government of Osun state wishes to reaffirm its commitment to never let the public down by always keeping to our campaign promises of putting smiles on their faces."

However the Osun APC as continued to make attempts to water down the effectiveness of the positive initiative of the state government, since it kick-started.

Findings revealed that residents of State has continued to applaud the positive initiatives of Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration on the Imole De buses to cushion the negative effects of subsidy removal, while many residents of the state berated former governor Adegboyega Oyetola for abandoning the Omoluabi Scholar Buses throughout his four-year tenure.

The Omoluabi Scholar Buses was purchased and commissioned by Oyetola's predecessor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola on Friday July 18, 2014 at Nelson Mandela Freedom Park, Osogbo.

Its purpose was to convey Osun Public School children to and from their schools.

But the Oyetola administration abandoned the buses for four years, leaving them to rot away.

However, Governor Ademola Adeleke has refurbished 19 of the buses and renamed them 'Imole De Bus'.

The buses have also been converted to palliative measure to

ease transportation for civil servants, students and residents in the state by Adeleke.

The development triggered residents of the state to condemn Oyetola's decision on the buses.

They described Oyetola's action as shameless, saying he played politics with all Aregbesola's legacies by making them moribund.

A social analyst, Edafe Oghenebrume, said Adeleke's decision to refurbish the abandoned buses was a welcome idea and coming at a time the residents need it most.

He chided Oyetola's followers for criticising Adeleke on refurbishing and renaming the buses, saying the former government deliberately abandoned the buses to rot away because of his hatred for Aregbesola.

He said: "It is so disgusting that followers of Ileri-Oluwa APC of Osun State can be fulminating like frustrated juveniles over hundreds of Omoluabi Scholar Buses which former governor Rauf Aregbesola bought and commissioned to convey Osun public school pupils to and from their schools which incumbent Governor converted to Imole De Buses.

"These are shameless slaves that failed to think and think deeply before ranting about a laudable and commendable educational project which their principal vindictively abandoned throughout his four years in office as governor.

"Oyetola of APC abandoned Aregbesola of the same APC's Omoluabi Scholar Bus and Adeleke of PDP refurbished those buses and revived the scheme. Simple as APC!

Another resident of the state, Demola Owoade, lauded Adeleke on the buses, saying it is a welcome development.

Owoade said: "Government is continuum; Adeleke has done nothing bad on the buses. If the immediate past administration of Oyetola had made use of the buses, instead of abandoning them and telling Osun people that the buses were nowhere to be found, Adeleke would not be getting this commendation."

A social media expert, Babatunde Olusola, said: "We expect APC to wait. Why do people use everything good done to play politics? Oyetola regime abandoned the buses among other good projects that Aregbesola started.

"The changing of name is not important. What is important is the intention and right now, the Governor is about to roll out palliative to cushion the effect of subsidy removal and part of it is the buses.

"These are the same buses the immediate past administration abandoned to rot away without making proper use of them. Nobody came out to talk then or when the last governor was giving out food monthly and tagged it 'Ileri Oluwa food' then. So why complaining now?"

There were reports in some quarters that the buses have been withdrawn by the state government over Mechanical Problems.

However, the state government through the Commissioner for Transportation, Hon. Sesan Oyedele, debunked the report, saying they were only going through some "skeletal services".

The Commissioner said the buses has not been withdrawn from the road and the Buses to start operating in Ife, Ilesha, Ikirun and Iwo respectively.

Osun APC and its Looming Unreconcilible Ticket Fight

By Great Oluwaseun

The major opposition party in Osun State, All Progressive Congress (APC) may have experienced a major setback in their pursuit to reach a consensus on who represents the party in the 2026 gubernatorial election. After the state sensitization tour carried out by Sooko Tajudeen Lawal-led Working Committee, the true report of this tour reflects a more serious crisis which could tear the Ilerioluwa faction into 2 more factions in the party as many of Oyetola's loyalists have withdrawn their support for him.

The recent remarks from Lawal about the sensitization tour show that he is not ready to learn from his predecessor's (Famodun) mistake. Rather than telling Oyetola the truth, Lawal is determined to push Oyetola into more political pits with his advice. Ilerioluwa's factional reconciliation tour shows that things are not even fine with Oyetola and it could result in a more serious crisis than the TOP's own. One of the factions is also from Aregbesola's Senatorial District, which shows that the APC might have no relevance in that axis in the coming election if Lawal does not embrace the reality.

The fight for the 2026 APC gubernatorial ticket in APC took another turn from Oyetola, and Adeoti struggled with other bigwigs coming into the picture. The looming APC crisis is threatening to be more serious than the TOP/Ilerioluwa faction conflict.

As of today, 4 candidates, the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy who happened to be the last holder of the ticket, Mr Gboyega Oyetola; The National Secretary of APC, Senator Ajibola Basiru; A former deputy governor, Senator Iyiola Omisore and lastly the SSG to Aregbesola's government, Mr Moshood Adeoti are known to have started advancement to clinch the party ticket in the 2026 governorship election. With 3 out of the 4 names from the Ilerioluwa faction and only Adeoti from the TOP faction.

Omisore this time is not



ready to let his chance slip away, knowing fully well that 2026 is his last chance to become the governor of Osun State. He is determined to strike when the time comes as he is currently focused on showing loyalty to Asiwaju and his Lagos people.

The recent interest of Basiru and Omisore in the ticket is the main reason why Oyetola has suddenly become the lover of his party and has made him the new bride in the sight of the State Working Committee. However, things might have gone beyond what he could manage on his own. Speaking anonymously, an ally close to Oyetola said "Oyetola that seen the odds of things going against him and he has been running from his Senatorial kinsman, Basiru, who is also interested in the ticket to form an alliance, having seen that it's only Central that has 2 interested aspirants while West and East has 1 each. To him holding meetings with some factions of LG chairmen to revalidate their position to his side.

When asked about Basiru's position in clinching the ticket, one of his aides(who prefers to stay anonymous) said, "Alubarika la fe ni l'osun." Another close ally of Basiru disclosed that "among the 4 aspirants, Basiru is the youngest amongst them, and he still has chances to contest about 3-5 more elections so I will advise him if he consults me to

leave the race and stay focused on his National assignment 2030 will be very strong for Osogbo Agenda to fly."

On the other hand, the party members from the East Senatorial District are very disappointed and surprised about the unfair treatment they have received from APC, Oyetola, and Lawal. One of them said, "Oyetola is such an ingrate. He knows how to run to us when he needed votes for his inconclusive election, but now he has neglected us and even taken away the only thing (National Secretary) we have and gave it to his Campaign Chairman, Basiru." Femi, another grieving member, stated that "all the appointments that Oyetola brings to Osun, he never thought to give anyone to someone from the East. Oyetola can only enter his house. He can't even defeat me in an election."

Speaking to one of Omisore's close followers, Moji(not her real name, she said, "Oyetola's heart

of betrayal is second to none. There was an arrangement in Abuja that Otunba Iyiola Omisore would be compensated with the gubernatorial ticket if he resigned the National Secretary without issue, but we are surprised that this same man has started advocating for his 2nd term as the governor, it's still a rumour and hope it stays as that. He should focus on his new assignment, Omisore is too relevant in politics for him to want to sacrifice his long-term ambition for a serial betrayal like Oyetola."

While talking, another person added "With the zoning of appointments, Osun East is the only district feeling cheated in the party and should be compensated with the ticket and it's Omisore that we want not any other person. 2026 is Otunba's last chance to achieve his dream, and we can't allow anyone or anything to jettison his ambition. The Distinguished (SRJ) can wait till 2030, we, his



followers, will not accept such."

Going by the countenance of the people from the East, they are hellbent on the next party candidate to come from their side. Looking at the unfair fate that Aregbesola suffered at the hands of Oyetola and his advisers. And fears that Omisore, who is another politician from that axis, might suffer the same fate.

While carrying out our findings about this looming crisis, all efforts to know the true position of Omisore and Basiru's position on the matter were diplomatically avoided as one of them's contact persons said "It will be difficult to tell you my Oga's position but I can tell you my boss is busy with the party assignment given to him and strongly believes there is time for him to contest so let the old people be given their last chance so by 2030 the ticket will be easy for SRJ to get."

Omisore's contact person said, "Otunba is just waiting to unleash his

strategy within the party. He believes only a fool will start politicking now. 2025/early 2026 is when the true calculation begins."

On these accounts, the force of the looming APC crisis is coming from the East Senatorial District with another person, Omisore, championing this new one. It has started like a cold war between Oyetola and Omisore as both of them have not been seen together lately. It can be said that the crisis in Osun APC is far from ending, and the looming crisis is looking more serious and could further create factions out of the Ilerioluwa faction which might eventually kill the party in the state.

From a survey done for APC members, about 85% of them prefer Basiru or Omisore, while only 15% want Oyetola. They all disregard the candidacy of Adeoti, claiming he is no longer a member of their party. So Lawal's claim about their readiness to take power is nothing but a fallacy as the party primary could send the party into forever extinction.

“
Omisore this time is not ready to let his chance slip away, knowing fully well that 2026 is his last chance to become the governor of Osun State
 ”

Governor Adeleke Approves Release Of N1 Billion Loan For Osun Smes

By Taofik Jimoh

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has approved the release of a N1 billion revolving loan scheme to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the state.

In an event members of the cooperative movement described as the first of its kind since the creation of Osun state, Executive Secretary of the Federation of Osun Cooperative Union, Wasiu Bello said the previous administration diverted cooperative savings, leaving the societies in crisis and financial challenges.

Expressing deep appreciation that Governor Adeleke is repaying the diverted savings, the leader of the cooperators applauded the creation of the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment, calling it the first of its kind in Nigeria.

Declaring the State Cooperative Summit opened, the Governor who was conferred with an award announced far reaching reforms including the allocation of One Billion

Naira revolving loan scheme through the cooperative and micro-credit agency.

The Governor narrated his reform agenda further: "As we plan to inject huge fund, we must work on the following areas to inspire confidence and sustain continuous government financial contributions.

"The Cooperative law is due for review: After enactment dating back to first or second republic, an amendment of the act is necessary to take into account modern trends and practices;

"Upgrading the operational standard of the cooperative movement: We all must admit that the operational standard among the cooperative platform is very low and substandard. The old laws are hardly complied with and the practices across the societies are quite below any confidence inspiring rating;

"The need to review compliance with democratic governance: The cooperative society mostly lacks democratic governance. In other

words, there is no regular election of leaders. This blocks innovation and frustrates the potentials of the grassroots financial platform;

"Crisis of Accountability and transparency: The greatest challenge is the low level of transparency and accountability in cooperative operations. The rot is deep, we must all

admit. The external and internal auditors are mostly compromised and managers are mostly ill equipped. We must reform to achieve the potential of the movement", the Governor noted.

Directing the Commissioner for Cooperative and Empowerment to submit a reform plan for execution,

the Governor announced that his administration has resolved to invest a billion naira in the state cooperative movement to create a pool of revolving loans at single digit interest rate through the cooperatives and micro credit agency.

He informed the gathering that he has approved the complete rehabilitation of

the Cooperative College, Odeomu, directing the Commissioner to take necessary action to implement the approval.

"Because of the importance of cooperative movement to the local economy, we may also consider the possibility of cooperative studies becoming a programme of study at polytechnics and universities in the state.

"The executive arm will also consider sponsoring an executive bill for the review of the cooperative law. Let us make the operating law conform with realities of the 21st century", he noted while declaring the summit open.

The Cooperative summit which conferred the award of Grand Matron of the Cooperative Movement in Osun on Yeyeluwa Mrs Dupe Adeleke Sanni, was attended by top government officials including the Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi; Secretary to the State Government, Hon Teslim Igbalaye; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Hon Kazeem Akinleye; the host Commissioner, Bayo Ogungbangbe among others.



Osun Gov't Resuscitates Shareholding Deals With Segilola Mining Firm, Secures New Operating, Return Conditions

By Taofik Jimoh

Governor Ademola Adeleke has resuscitated Osun shareholding within the largest gold mining operating firm in Nigeria, Segilola Resources Operating Limited.

The shareholding shrouded in secrecy and largely unvalidated until now was earned from the state investment in Thor firm from which Segilola emerged.

In a business meeting with the Managing Director, Segun Lawson and his team on Monday, Governor Adeleke disclosed details of the agreement reached with the Segilola Resources Operating Limited, announcing Hon Kazeem Akinleye, the Chief of Staff to the Governor, as the representative of Osun state on the board of

Segilola firm.

In a groundbreaking achievement for the administration, Governor Adeleke narrated how he set up a technical committee which included a Special Adviser (Mining and Mineral Matters), Head of Service, Attorney General, Engr. Emmanuel O. Alagada, Commissioner for Special Duties from where the company agreed that Osun State Government has shareholding in the firm.

Following the meeting, the State Governor said he will soon constitute the MIREMCO Committee with other representatives as stated in the 2007 Mining Act, soliciting the cooperation of the Segilola management.

He explained that the firm has agreed to reconstruct the Iperindo-Ilesha road and expand scholarship to

youth within its operating communities.

While urging the company to always report its corporate social responsibility and community development agreement, the Governor said Segilola management has also agreed to review its compliance with requirements of Pay as you Earn for its employees.

On mining exploration generally, Governor Adeleke said Segilola is ready to collaborate with Osun state on further mineral exploration and operation of state mining titles.

Other agreements reached at the meeting include provision to the state government all paid royalties so far to the Federal Government, quarterly meeting with Office of

Oyetola Permitted Cabinet Members To Go With Official Cars – Aide

By Oluwatobiloba Oyeniyi

As the Governor Ademola Adeleke government released white paper in relation to asset recovery that mandated the creation of an asset recovery task force to recover items taken away by officials of the last administration, a former Senior Special Assistant to former Governor Oyetola on Students Affairs and Youth Mobilisation, Com. Kehinde Ayantunji has said that the former Governor had signed off official vehicle assigned to them while in office as either Commissioners or Special Advisers.

He also stated that the former Governor did not permit anyone in his cabinet to go away with official cars adding that if the Governor Adeleke administration had seen anyone with such, the

person should be arrested.

Ayantunji stated this while featuring on a current affairs program on Rave 91.7fm in Osogbo, the Osun state capital.

He said, "When Governor Adegboyega Oyetola wanted to leave, we have said this repeatedly, the owners of the official vehicles they applied for it and the vehicle was approved for the executive members and local government and anybody who went with project vehicles, such vehicles should be recovered because that one is outside the approval of Governor Adegboyega Oyetola.

"They just want to play around this issue to embarrass the Gboyega Oyetola administration because process is process and governance is continuum.

"We have been saying it, if you have anybody that went away with government property illegally, there are

law enforcement agencies, nobody is above the law and none of them has immunity, report them to the Police and let the Police act.

"Get them arrested if anybody is with government property.

"If you notice that somebody went away with vehicle that was not officially approved, then go and get that person, my Principal never approved any project vehicle for anybody, if you see any project vehicle in the custody or any former Government appointee, get them arrested.

"The process is that you applied, the Governor approves it and the moment you have the approval of the Governor, you already own the vehicle.

Let me tell you the power of the Governor, if the Governor approves a particular item for you, the Governor can gift you, not talk of auctioning, the Governor has the power."

Osun Government Releases White Papers As Governor Adeleke Set-up Asset Recovery Task Force

• Residents commend Governor Adeleke

By Sola Isola

Upon resumption of office in November 2022, Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has issued 6 executive orders.

The Executive orders include; Executive Order on State bank accounts; Executive Order Number 2 on Staff Audit; Executive Order number 3 on Employment; Executive Order 4 on Appointments; Executive Order number five on Chieftaincy Affairs and appointment of traditional rulers; Executive Order number 6 Setting up Review Committees.

In line with the executive orders Nos 2, 3, 4 and 5 the Governor ordered the set-up of the following Review Committees: Staff Audit/Appointments/Promotions Review Committee; State Assets Inventory And Recovery Committee; Contracts/MOUs/Agreements Review Committee; Chieftaincy Matters/Appointment of Traditional Rulers Review Committee.

Weeks on, the State Assets Recovery Panel headed Dr Bashiru Salimi directed former governor, Adegboyega Oyetola, to return official vehicles in his possession.

The panel also told the wife of the ex-governor, Kafayat Oyetola, and appointees of the immediate past administration to also return assorted vehicles valued at N2.9 billion presently in their custody.

The statement quoting the Chairman of the Asset Recovery Committee, Dr Bashiru Salami, read,

"As of today, there is no law that authorised any elected or appointed officials to go with state vehicles after completing their tenure of office.

"In the list of affected officials, Governor Oyetola alone has 11 vehicles ranging from Lexus Jeep, Toyota Prado jeeps and assorted models of costly vehicles. The wife, Mrs Kafayat also has in her possession several brand of government vehicles which were taken away against provisions of the law.

"Other former officials listed include immediate past SPECIAL Adviser on Security, former Chief Details, former Personal



Assistant to the Governor, former special assistants to the Governor, former Senior special assistants, former special advisers, former local government caretaker chairmen and members, former board chairmen and members, former Chief of Staff, former Deputy Chief of Staff, former Deputy Governor, former Secretary to the State Government, former commissioners among others.

"The former Deputy Governor has more than seven government vehicles in his custody contrary to the provisions of the law. A serving Senator, Oriolowo is also directed to return to the Osun State Agricultural Development Programme five machines namely motor grader, bulldozer, and soil compactor machine among others."

"Due diligence has been conducted and the committee has concluded that the affected past officials should return government vehicles in their possession.

Upon the report of the committee Governor Adeleke issued 48 hours ultimatum for all appointees of the former governor to return items taken away, an instruction few of the people affected obeyed according to a source.

The source, who refused to mention their names, said they include a few of the former commissioners. "The commissioners are silently returning the vehicles, I think it must have been as a result of the 48 hours the governor gave them," the source said.

The source said one of the commissioners returned a Toyota Hilux van on Monday.

"I was informed that one of the commissioners returned a Toyota Hilux yesterday. The person said he will return the official vehicle today. He said he was not aware that no law gives them the permission to take the vehicles home," the source added.

"Another former commissioner also called and promised to return the vehicle. The thing is that they are secretly returning

the vehicles."

Meanwhile recently, Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment in a release noted that the Osun State government has released six white papers, five on various committees which investigated issues raised by the executive orders issued by His Excellency, Senator (Dr.) Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke at the inception of the administration in November 2022, as well as White paper on Education Summit.

According to the statement the White Papers earlier approved by the State Executive Council were finally ratified after further review by a special committee chaired by Governor Adeleke in line with the Governor's promise to ensure due process, in depth consultation and compliance with the rule of law.

Among the white papers approved include those of Committees on Chieftaincy Matters, Contracts/MOU/Agreement

nts review Committee, Solid Minerals Committee, Assets Inventory and Recovery Committee, Staff Audit /Appointments/ Promotions review Committee, as well as white paper on Education Summit.

The statement reads further "On the report on the chieftaincy matters chaired by Honourable Bunmi Jenyo, the white paper overwhelmingly prioritized compliance with legal requirements as a basis for final decisions.

"By the report of the White Paper, all previous steps taken in relation to the installation of Aree of Iree and Owa of Igbajo stands nullified. And that all inclusive selection process (es) for a new Aree of Iree and Owa of Igbajo, respectively, should commence immediately.

"Specifically on Aree of Iree Chieftaincy, the substantive chiefs are enjoined to withdraw their suit before the Court so as to allow for commencement of the selection process denovo in line with due process and tradition.

"And on the stool of Owa of Igbajo the White Paper nullified the previous selection process which produced Prince Gboyega Famodun and directed an all inclusive selection process for a new Owa nominee.

"On the disputed Akirun stool, the White Paper directed that the parties await the outcome of the case before the Court of Appeal. And that the stool remain vacant.

"On other disputed kingship stools, the white paper further recommended compliance with the requirements of the law as in the Alawo stool where the government accepted the committee recommendation that the government should await the outcome of the pending suit before the Supreme Court.

"The Government has directed the setting up of a task force for the recovery of government vehicles carted away by officials of the Gboyega Oyetola administration.

"Meanwhile, the State Government has also directed the Ministry of

Information and Public Enlightenment to publish the six white papers in the official government gazette.

"Members of the public interested in acquiring and possessing copies of the white papers should approach the Ministry of Information and Public Enlightenment, State Secretariat, Osogbo."

• Residents Hails Governor Adeleke

Reacting to the decision of the government to recover items taken away by officials of immediate past administration, several residents noted that though it looks like tradition, its an habit that should not be encouraged and should be stopped among public office holders.

Speaking to our correspondent, a social commentator, Segun Ajao praised Governor Adeleke for taking steps to recover items taken away by politicians whom he described as greedy as selfish.

He said, "I am happy that at least for once in the history of Osun State, we now have a Governor attempting to do something right and we all must come together to support him.

"It is highly condemnable that people can be so selfish and greedy to go away with government properties for a state as broke as Osun, I mean even if the state is not broke, why will anybody take away government property?"

"It is becoming a tradition and I am glad it is about to stop in Osun, we can not afford to continue to uphold terrible traditions"

In his own words, Taiwo Adeyemi, a retired teacher condemned officials of the past administration for failing to pay pensioners or backlog of half salaries but are bold enough to take away government properties.

"Those people in that rejected APC government should be ashamed of themselves.

"You cart away government properties but when you were in office, you can not pay pension, you can not backlog of half salaries, it shows that those people only care about themselves."

Sport

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SmartCity PLC

Becomes Headline Sponsor Of Osun State Football League

By Oluniyi Isamotu

An investment and infrastructure development company, SmartCity PLC and Osun Football Association has announced that the tech-focused company will become the Lead Partner of Osun States apex tournament.

The league shall be

referred to as SmartCity Osun State Football League.

Osun Spring reports that SmartCity Osun State Football League will deliver huge followership across the state and increase in viewership across the planet on all social media and web platforms.

It was gathered that the FAs broadcast partner,

Blackdrum TV will provide live coverage of major matches on Web as well as cable television networks.

It was also gathered that the Osun FAs data Partner, Ixzdore will ensure that the League maintains players', clubs', and matches' historical and live data.

From the data gathered,

statistics and analytics useful for player and club ratings that will help in player transfers and facilitate proper trickle-down of transfer payments will be generated which will also be made available for clubs, analysts, broadcasters, and betting companies.

Osun Spring reports that 32 grassroots football clubs have registered for the Under 17 League and have been divided into four conferences.

Two teams will emerge from each of the conferences and proceed to Super 8, where the eventual winners will emerge.

Over 700 young players will participate in the league, featuring 12 weekly matches across 15 football grounds approved for the league matches.

Speaking to newsmen, Sir Demola Aladekomo, chairman of SmartCity plc said, "Football is a truly global sport, a unifying factor in many communities and nations across the world. The spirit of competition, fair play, and sparking the passions of a global audience, are all values we share at SmartCity."

"That is why we are proud to be the first title sponsor of the tournament and we look forward to a long-term partnership to

support and connect fans to their teams across Osun State and beyond."

In his own word, Sola Fanawopo, Chairman of Osun FA said "SmartCity's commitment to our league is evident, and securing such an iconic and forward-thinking lead partner for our League is great news for us, the fans, and for the whole state."

"The partnership will help us inspire interest in football from the private sector and allow us to continue our investment into the game at all levels."

The SmartCity Osun Football League will kick off on 13th February at the Osogbo Township Stadium.

NPFL Resumption Postponed Till February 14

By Oluniyi Isamotu

The Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) has postponed the kick-off date for the second stanza of the 2023-24 season.

The Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the NPFL, Prince Davidson Owumi, in a letter to the participating clubs said the

resumption date which was initially fixed for January 4 is now fixed for February 14 as the it was due to the ongoing African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in Ivory Coast.

Osun Spring reports that the body also emphasized the need to capture the undivided attention of players, fans,



and stakeholders amid the prime African football spectacle that is the AFCON.

"Be informed therefore that a new date of February 14th has been decided for the commencement of the second stanza of the season."

"This decision was reached to capture the full attention of players, fans, and all other stakeholders at this time of prime African football

tournament," the letter stated.

The statement further stated it regrets any disruption this new arrangement would cause the schedule of various clubs, while urging all clubs to make necessary preparations for the new kick-off date.

At the conclusion of the first round matches, Lobi

Stars of Makurdi are leading the log with 36 points, Remo Stars are in second spot with 35 points while Doma United are third position with 32 points.

Meanwhile, Gombe United, Sporting Lagos, Bayelsa United and Heartland FC of Owerri ended the first stanza in relegation waters.



Innovative Governance for State Building

By Olawale Rasheed

Public governance demands broad mind and readiness to experiment by the leadership. The urge to be innovative to fast track state building is essentially a rare attribute. You only find it here and there within the political space and the public sector. A state with such leadership is sure to experience unusual churning out of equally surprising policies and programmes.

From January till date, readers should attempt a survey and review of subnational administrations and point out where new state decisions are taken that are out of the ordinary. From across the six geo-political zones, you may be confronted with mediocrity and docility covered with garb of civility. The likely result will be a preponderance of a unanimous show of uninspiring state actions. Mostly, critical state issues are approached with shockingly pedestrian solutions.

Let me confess that Osun leadership is really doing something different. Amidst opponents' criticism, great things are happening in the state which leave even the worst pessimist to develop a measure of hope. I have been asked severally what is the secret of sustained governance success under Governor Ademola Adeleke. In my last piece, I itemized good governance as a principal fulcrum. Within January alone, the administration took critical decisions which addressed the crux of state building.

To get it clear, two main challenges confront Osun state among so many, namely weak economic base and huge revenue shortfall. As much as previous governments have attempted solutions, what Governor Adeleke deployed within the first month of 2024 manifested an uncommon grasp of workable solutions to those core problems facing the state.

The first was the unification of tax payable by private organizations and individuals. The idea of an integrated payable tax is not novel, some critics have argued. Yet what is not new was never fully implemented by even the most brilliant of administrators. In Osun, the state government issued a single point collated tax payment system, nullifying multiple taxation.

Prior to now, multiple taxation is the bane of the system with the paralysis of the small business sector. Many in the past boasted of increasing internally generated revenue and they achieved such a feat on the grave of dead businesses. Contrarily, the Adeleke



administration calculated that IGR can increase while at the same time propelling the business sector to growth and prosperity. The key adopted is an harmonized lower tax rate but with an increase in the tax base which will cumulatively yield more funds into the state treasury by enrolling more taxpayers and applying technology to block leakages in tax collections.

As the difficult tax reforms were effected with such ease, the state government then reached out to the engine room of the economy which is cooperative movement. As the oldest grassroot financial system, the Governor ruminated and concluded that a reformed cooperative movement is the best path to empower artisans and small businesses. One billion naira is to be invested under single digit interest rate with the state micro credit agency as the implementing body. The goal is to solve funding challenges facing traders at the grassroots, thereby ensuring financial inclusion and sustainability of small businesses.

A revolving loan scheme accompanied with requisite reform is sure to guarantee a new lease of life for the majority of the population without financing access within the mainstream. Small business is the foundation of most flourishing economies. That a leader without political consideration embraced the cooperative societies as a channel for financial inclusion is a testimony to the far reaching insight and foresight of the state Governor. Curiously, nobody saw it coming. Cooperators shouted aloud that this has never happened in the life of the state. This is innovative governance at its best.

Analyzing further, one can argue that tax reforms and loan programmes for small businesses are not the heavy lifting needed to jumpstart the state economy. In the case of Osun, that argument may not be applicable. The state has an holistic approach to state building, hence the

Governor is implementing five other policies which directly seek to build, deepen and expand the economic base of the state namely (1) creation of a State Creative Sector Prosperity Plan, (2) reform of the Mining sector, (3) the unveiling of the Cocoa Sector Revitalisation agenda; (4) implementation of the State Digital Economy Agenda; (5) and Implementation of a multi-billion naira infrastructure plan.

The creative industry comprising tourism and entertainment industries are top on the agenda of the administration. The state has become proactive in the mining sector, revalidating its mining assets, confirming its hiding mining shareholding in Segilola firm, targeting mining processing, hoping to expand revenue earnings, prioritizing solid mineral area community development and ramping up environmental protection. The Governor further took the nation by storm when he unfolded a cocoa sector revival plan which targeted Osun becoming a leading cocoa processing and value adding state. The state's digital economy agenda is progressing unabated with 2024 dedicated to the implementation of the State ICT policy, State Tech Innovation Policy and the Domestication of the Nigerian Startup Act.

State building rests on sound infrastructure. Osun suffers a high infrastructure deficit. Again, Governor Adeleke dared all odds to launch the implementation of a multi billion naira infrastructure plan that involves simultaneous construction of five flyovers, construction four dualized roads, complete renovation of over 40 schools, rehabilitation of hundreds of community health centers and the construction of 332 new boreholes. A friend called the Osun infra plan audacity of hope in the midst of overwhelming hopelessness.

Let me take you back to the beginning- innovative governance for state building is uncommon within the challenged Nigerian society. However, Osun and a few other states are exceptions to the rule. The Osun leadership has a dominant focus- uncompromising service to the citizenry.

Even if hard core opponents can't admit it, the Osun state government under Senator Ademola Adeleke is today a worthy example and model of innovative leadership for good governance. An elected government that delivers on pro-people policies and programmes is undoubtedly deserving of accolades.

Let give it to the dancing-performing Governor, Senator (Dr) Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke.

Eyewitness Report: No journalist attacked at Governor Adeleke's installation as Baba Oba of Joga-orile

By Sola Isola

In this report, an eyewitness at the installation of Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke as the Baba Oba of Joga-orile, Ogun state narrates his experience stating clearly that no journalist was attacked by the security team of the Governor.

Speaking to Osun Spring Newspaper Olayinka Abdurashheed Adegunle, an indigene of Joga-orile, the accuser, Comrade Bunmi Adigun was rude and he wanted to breached the security instructions and relieved.

Adegunle further explained the event was well attended by top functionaries in the country and security operatives were there in their number adding that even media aides to personalities that were there were not allowed to do their job.

He narrates his experience as thus "My name is Olayinka Abdurashheed Adegunle from Joga-orile Ogun State, I need to make it clear that the Journalist was telling lies, no Security personnel attacked Journalist at the Venue of the birth Ceremony of Oba (Dr) Adeyemi Olanrewaju Alani Adekeye Lagori III.

"Comrade Bunmi Adigun was rude and he wanted to breached the security instructions. Here is what happened;

"A private Security punched Dapo Abiodun DSS and the DSS Security retaliated the Private Security guard and that was why everyone was chased from the crowded venue to avoid security breach.

"Comrade Bunmi Adigun, the journalist who claimed he was embarrassed was instructed to move away and he didn't listen to the security operatives while other journalist complied.

"Even all media aides of all personalities at the occasion were not allowed to performed their duties but Comrade Bunmi Adigun was rude and he refused to listened to the security instructions.

"Therefore, Adeleke's Security team did not attack any journalist.

"There are many personalities at the occasion yesterday; Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, Ogun State Governor, His Excellency Dapo Abiodun, Osun state Governor, His Excellency Senator Ademola Adeleke, Aree Dele Momodu, Several Royal Highnesses, and many personalities, and how can someone point that it was Adeleke's Security team that attacked him and besides, no journalist was insulted or humiliated at the venue, the security personnel were only performing their duty to ensure the area is secured."