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Down My Ambition For
Anybody -Ajibola Basiru

Osun Local P4
Government
Elections Holds
February 2025



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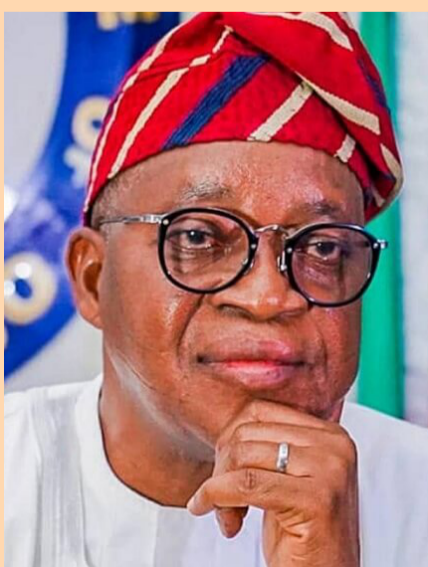
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GOV ADELEKE REVIVES OSUN ECONOMY P6 THROUGH MSME EMPOWERMENT



- **Disburses N500m Plus Social Safety Funds**
- **Approves Release Of N1 Billion Loan For Osun SMEs**
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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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Opinion

Economic crisis: Tinubu spotlights Osun APC's cluelessness

By Sarafa Ibrahim

President Bola Tinubu made a stunning submissions on the things that should be done to get Nigeria out of the current economic challenges. During a meeting with the 36 Governors, the FCT Minister and top security officials, President Tinubu outlined mechanisms that offers the most brightest chance for the country to turn the corner of the current economic woes and generates a refreshing experience.

One of the positions of the president's interests me a lot. And that was where, according to Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's special adviser on Information & Strategy, the president "pleaded with Governors to ensure all salary arrears to workers, gratuities to workers and pensioners are cleared as a way to put money into the hands of the people since states are now getting more monthly FAAC revenue." Speaking further, Mr. Onanuga quoted President Tinubu as urging Governors to "Spend the money, don't spend the people."

Wait a minute. The above highlighted position of the president has been the mantra of Governor Ademola Adeleke in Osun since assuming office in November 2022. Yet, Sooko Tajudeen Lawal and Chief Kola Olabisi of the APC have continued to promote the bizarre argument that the Governor's approach is wrong and lacking any real effect. They suggest that a solution will be to spend money and not on what it is spent on.

If Lawal and Olabisi are actually projecting the reasoning of the Osun APC on navigating economic crisis, then the opposition party is worse than one can imagine. Of course, the Osun APC is bad with the economy and the people still bear the ripple effect of the many wrong financial choices that defined its 12 years rule in the state.

A renowned American financial host, Lawrence Kudlow, cautioned that "Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results when, in fact, the results never change, is one definition of insanity. That goes for economies, too." The soaring inflation is just one of the trigger for the tough economic conditions that Nigerians, including Osun people are battling with at the moment.

The purchasing power of Nigerians is embarrassingly low when compared with, let us say Egypt, which is facing identical shortage of weak currency, soaring inflation and capital flight as Nigeria. With this striking reality, Governor Adeleke prioritize the welfare of the people to put money in the hands of the people. He departed from the lackadaisical attitude of the past that significantly



state.

As a party with a bad record on welfare in Osun state, the Osun APC could be forgiven for not knowing what drives the economy. However, it should be able to read between the lines from the position of President Tinubu that it is wrong. While it is not in doubt that spending money in a time of economic crisis is expected, but the question that is apparently lost on the Osun APC is, what are you spending on.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in an October 2014 study finds a link between investment in public infrastructures and economic growth. The study, which used a combination of empirical analysis and model simulations, submitted that "increased public infrastructure investment can have a powerful effects on the macroeconomy. It raises output in the short term by boosting demand and in the long term by raising the economy's productive

wean the spending power of civil servants and pensioners, thereby, heightening their miseries.

In February in 2023, Governor Adeleke commenced the payment of half salary owed by the previous government and has so far, paid five months out of the 30 months debt. Between November 2022 and now, the Adeleke administration has expended nearly N28 billion to clearing the load of pension liabilities inherited. This is more than what the immediate administration spent on the same purpose throughout its four years.

And again, Governor Adeleke implemented the financial implication of the promotion given to workers by the Gboyega Oyetola administration, bringing an end the wait of civil servants to the financial benefits of their work statuses. Beginning from December, Governor Adeleke is paying wage awards to active workers and pensioners in the

capacity."

In October last year, Governor Adeleke unveiled an ambitious multi-billion infrastructure plan for the state. The infrastructure is robust and captivating because at least, five overhead bridges in different locations across the state will be constructed in addition to no less than 45km of internal roads across the 30 local government areas while a noticeable investments will be made on upgrading the infrastructures of public schools and primary healthcare centres across the state.

All of these investments goes beyond just the face value of the projects but have a direct bearing on the state's economy and its people. Besides the jobs and economic activities that the projects will generate, it will meet most of the basic needs of the people. A better road access will eases the pains of users and facilitate movements of goods and services while significantly saving motorists of cost on maintaining vehicles as against bad roads. The same thing goes for a wholly rehabilitated PHCs and public schools, enhancing access to qualitative healthcare and education for the people.

In January this year, Governor Adeleke recently released N1 billion to cooperative societies in Osun state to boost macroeconomic activities. And just days ago, he distributed over N580m to at least 19,000 vulnerable citizens in a bid to ease the economic impact on them and reflate the economy of the state. In short, Governor Adeleke is doing a lot to lessen the impact of the current harsh economic crisis in Nigeria but the Osun APC may seem clueless about it because it has no real understanding on handling an economy in a crisis. And good enough, President Tinubu helped spotlight this deficiency of the Osun APC and I hope they will listen.

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



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Opinion

Osun PDP: "Anigba" group now Atigba

James O. Bamgbose

In the intricate tapestry of Osun State's political landscape, the metamorphosis of Anigba into Atigba marks a significant chapter in the history of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). This transformation is not merely a change in nomenclature but symbolizes a deeper shift in ideology, strategy, and leadership within the party.

In a family, it is impossible not to have an infight with one another. This isn't an exception in the political spaces, too. However, it takes a good leader or head to handle the difference without it escalating into a big fight. Osun State is unique in many factors, and one of the factors is its political dynamism.

During the last gubernatorial election, the two major political

parties in the state had internal crises. However, Governor Ademola Adeleke and the entire leader of the PDP were able to handle the party's internal crisis without it affecting the coming election, and that got the party a remarkable victory in the 2022 gubernatorial election. Crisis management is an essential skill every leader must have in order to be successful.

This crisis brought about factionalization in Osun PDP after the removal of the Late Hon Soji Adagunodo as the State Chairman of the party. Then Omooba Doyin Babayemi wanted to take advantage of this issue to nurture his own ambition. But because the will of the people will definitely prevail, Dotun Babayemi was only scheming against God's anointed, he lost the

fight woefully, and now he has to fight for his political relevance.

Osun PDP under the leadership of "Shine Shine Bobo", Hon. Sunday Bisi has been able to address the grievance of the former associate of Anigba in line with the commitment of the party leader, the executive governor of Osun State, Senator (Dr) Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke in ensuring all-round

satisfaction of every member of the party as well as all the citizens of Osun.

For understanding sake, before the demise of Hon. Soji Adagunodo, Governor Ademola Adeleke together with the Hon. Sunday Bisi-led SWC had already started moves to address the difference amongst the members of the party. And the result has begun to start yielding with the supposed followers of

Dotun Babayemi beginning to align with the goals and vision of the party without allowing themselves to be used against the people's choice.

Moving forward, the focus will now be on consolidating the gains of this reconciliation and working together to strengthen the PDP's position in the state ahead of future elections. With the Anigba faction now fully aligned with the state party leadership, the PDP in Osun State is poised to present a united front and offer a strong alternative to the ruling party in the state.

Now it is safe to say "Anigba" is now "Atigba". It's believed that this development will pave the way for a harmonious and effective party structure under the leadership of Hon. Sunday Bisi that will continue to better

serve the interest of the people of Osun State.

It also demonstrates the willingness of party members to put aside their differences and work together for the greater good, and it bodes well for the future success of the PDP in the state.

Not only is Governor Ademola Adeleke bringing members of the party who were aggrieved one way or the other, build up to the 2022 Governorship Election in Osun state. He is meeting top leaders of the party as well.

Few weeks ago, he visited Former Governor of the state, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola and later visited Alhaji Shuaib Oyedokun and Senator Olu Alabi in a bid to bring them all together again to build the People's Democratic party, in fact they attended the prayer session that was held at Osun PDP Secretariat in January.



News

Osun Local Government Elections Holds February 2025

By Tope Odediran

The Chairman of Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC), Hashim Akintunde Abioye has released the timetable and schedule of activities for the conduct of the Local Government elections in Osun State.

According to the Chairman, the elections will hold on the 22nd of February, 2025. This was a follow-up to the parley held by the commission with IPAC and the media earlier in the week.

Further to the notice of election given earlier by the Commission, the notice of election and the timetable/schedule of activities for the elections

will be formally published in newspaper, as the conduct of primary elections by political parties (which is to be monitored by the Commission) will commence on the 22nd July – 6th August 2024.

The Chairman noted that "It is noteworthy that each registered political party is to indicate the dates, venues and time scheduled for their primaries to the Commission not later than 21 days before the appointed dates.

"Final date for submission of list of candidates by parties, according to the timetable, is slated between 30th September, 2024 – 5th October, 2024, while the

final date for the publication of names of already screened and qualified candidates is slated between 11th – 15th November 2024."

The OSSIEC

Chairman during the parley had promised that the forth-coming local government elections will be a giant leap forward in the history of local



government elections in Osun State, as he has assured stakeholders of a credible, free, fair, peaceful and transparent election process.

He added that the Commission also has a line-up of other activities connected with and/or incidental to the elections as scheduled in the timetable adding that the guidelines and regulations for the elections which will be issued in due course.

OSSIEC Chairman, Hashim Abioye had noted while meeting the new Executive of Osun Inter Party Advisory Council (IPAC) that the commission is fully ready for the polls adding that he has a

team of experts and experienced hand.

"This Commission is fully ready. I have with me a tested team of experts, experienced technocrats, seasoned administrators, highly dedicated, committed and skillful staff. We will not disappoint you and we will carry you along every step of the way.

"We have opened a communication platform to engage with you from our end, please do so from your end too. Each of the Electoral Commissioners already has a portfolio, please relate with each of them in relation to his/her assigned schedule of duty. Better still, you can approach me directly for any inquiry, my doors are widely open", he said.

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.



Governor Adeleke Revives Osun Economy Through MSME Empowerment

• Approves release of N1 billion loan for Osun SMEs • Launches 3.4Billion Revolving Cooperative Loan Scheme • Disburses N500m Plus Social Safety Funds

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke is rewriting the history of Osun State that is believed largely to be a civil service state, this is as he 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.

In another development, Governor Adeleke has stated his administration is targeting at supporting more than 45,000 Small and Medium Scale "SMEs" businesses in the state in its bid to boost the local economy and increase its

GDP. The Governor stated this on Wednesday at the launching of the "State Special Ward Level Cooperative Loan Programme", with the aim of providing N3.436 billion revolving loan to cooperative societies in the state.

While launching the scheme in Osogbo, Ilesha and Iwo, Governor Adeleke said the loan would be provided in three phases of N1.145 billion per phase, with a total target of 45,816 beneficiaries.

At the launching, Governor Adeleke said, "As a government that fulfils electoral promises, our gathering here is to ensure loans of various categories are disbursed to registered cooperative societies to grow their business and expand the state economy.

"I want to reconfirm to our people again that this government is committed to boosting the local economy, relieving the pains of the people and deepening the state GDP.

"We are operationalising 332 cooperatives in each of the 332 wards in Osun State and our target is to have 46 beneficiaries per ward, making a total of 15,272 beneficiaries," he said.

He emphasized that the loan is meant for both men and women traders and artisans, and that the phase two and three of the programme would have the same number of beneficiaries and it is in furtherance to his administration commitment to revitalize the Cooperative system and support the SMEs in the state.

Speaking on behalf of all the cooperatives societies at the Iwo centre, Chief Awotoro Oyejide appreciated the Governor for recognizing local

cooperatives as an important economic driver in the state.

"We express our deepest gratitude on behalf of the cooperative societies in our region for the Governor's Loan Initiative and the unwavering support extended to us. Your commitment to fostering economic growth and development will truly transform our local communities.

"Your visionary approach, coupled with your dedication to promoting inclusive growth will effectively address the financial limitations faced by our cooperative societies. The provision of affordable credit facilities will allow us to undertake numerous initiatives, ranging from boosting agricultural productivity to facilitating small-scale enterprises, thereby empowering our members to become self-reliant and contribute meaningfully to the local economy," He said.

Governor Adeleke emphasized that the condition to access the loan is that each beneficiary must belong to a trade association with a letter of character attestation to be provided by each beneficiary from his or her trade association before disbursement.

He urged the beneficiaries to put the fund into productive business in a bid to achieve his administration goal of wiping out poverty from the state and supporting small-scale businesses.

Meanwhile, Governor Adeleke had earlier disbursed a total sum of Five Hundred and Eighty Eight Million, One Hundred and Five Thousand Naira only (N588, 105,000.00) to

19,720 beneficiaries of Imole Osun Cash Grant Scheme.

An additional Sixty Thousand identified poor segment of the population are to receive ATMs of their bank accounts to facilitate their access to such grants.

In continuation of his administration's efforts to cushion the effects of the hard time, Governor Adeleke said the beneficiaries are mined from the State Social Register for Poor and Vulnerable Households domiciled in the State Operation Coordinating Unit, National Social Safety Net Project in the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development.

The Governor represented by the Head of Service, Mr Ayanleye Aina reviewed the many programmes of his administration to attend to the needs of the poor, the weak and the underprivileged said the administration has invested heavily in the Social protection sector, developing and implementing several high-level Social Security Strategies to reduce the poverty, unemployment and low productivity space among others.

Describing himself as a pro-poor, pro-welfare leader, the Governor said his administration's Five Point Agenda has social investment as the core of its focus, noting that "these policies cut across health, education, agriculture, youth, women, children development and Special Needs.

"During our electioneering campaign, we promise that we shall not abandon them. We assure that we shall institutionalize an all-inclusive and well-coordinated Social protection Policy that will provide a life support system for the poor and vulnerable.

This support system shall aim to reduce the income gap between the haves and the have-nots in our dear state.

In pursuance of that promise, the State Government of Osun under my watch, in collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the State Operation Coordinating Unit (SOCU), National Social Safety Net Project, supervised by the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development today launched this disbursement to the poor of the poor in the state.

"Each beneficiary was supported with a sum of between Twenty Five (25,000.00) and Thirty Thousand Naira (N30,000.00) only. Among the 19,720 beneficiaries, 10,390 of them with existing bank accounts have had access to withdraw and utilize their money.

Also, I have given approval that the remaining 9,330 beneficiaries be given their debit cards. These people are poor people without account numbers and with this distribution, it becomes an achievement that is in tandem with the financial inclusion policy of the Federal Government.

From the foregoing, at least 60,000 people are going to receive their ATM cards of bank accounts which was facilitated through this programme. The smart cards can be useful for further pro-poor interventions and private use", the Governor was quoted as saying.

Governor Adeleke said the objective of the cash intervention is to provide relief for the most poor and vulnerable population in the state against the harsh economic conditions occasioned by the removal of fuel subsidies, high cost of living among others.



OSUN STATE GOVERNMENT



His Excellency,
**Arakurin Oluwarotimi
Akeredolu SAN, CON,**

Condolences

The Government and the people of Osun State mourn the painful exit of a dearly beloved patriot, legal luminary and the former Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency, Arakurin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu SAN, CON, Chairman, South-West Governor's Forum, who departed this world to go and be with the Saints on 27th December, 2023.

Our heart goes to the family, the government and the good people of Ondo State.

It is our prayers that GOD Almighty will rest his soul in HIS bosom and grant the family, friends and associates the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Signed:
His Excellency, Senator (Dr.) Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke
Executive Governor of Osun State

Photo news



Governor Ademola Adeleke at the Official Flag off Ceremony of the 1 Billion Naira Revolving Loan to Cooperatives in Osun State



Governor Ademola Adeleke at the Church Service in Honour of Late Rotimi Akeredolu, the former Governor of Ondo State in Owo, Ondo state



Governor Ademola Adeleke at the place of Owa Obokun of Ijesaland, Oba Dr. Gabriel Adekunle Aromolaran and the Owa in Council



Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun state hosts NYSC DG, Brig. Gen. Yushau Ahmed in his office in Osogbo, Osun State



Governor Ademola Adeleke represented by the Head of Service, Elder Ayanleye Aina Inaugurates Osun Asset Recovery Taskforce



Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State at the second term swearing in ceremony of Governor Duoye Diri of Bayelsa in Yenagoa, Bayelsa state



L-R: Sola Isola- Media Assistant (ICT) to Osun State Governor; Mary Omofoye- WITO's General Secretary; Rodiat Osoalale- WITO's Assistant Program Manager; Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke; WITO's Social Media Manager- Adeola Adeyemi; Edidiong Sebastian- WITO Coordinator; Hon Azeez Badmus- Special Adviser ICT to Governor Adeleke; Hon. Banks Omisore- Special Adviser SDG to Governor Adeleke while Governor Adeleke was hosting Osun Women in Tech Community

Politics

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2026: Oyetola Is Not Coming Back -osun Apc Chieftain



By Tope Odediran

Achieftain of the All Progressives Congress APC in Osun has said that the former Governor of the state, Gboyega Oyetola has is not planning to come back to run for Governorship in the state come 2026.

The Chieftain further noted that the leadership of the party is aware are at the moment shopping for the best candidate to contest the election refusing to name anyone has a likely candidate.

Speaking to news in Osogbo, the Osun state capital, the Chieftain who pleaded anonymity insisted that every leader of the party knows that fielding Oyetola for election will be a disaster for the party and as such wants a fresh face.

The source further indicated that their is an open field for everyone interested in contesting to come forwards and make their interest know adding that nobody can claim to hold the ticket of the party. The source said, "Let me

explain first that, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola is not coming back to contest come 2026, he confirmed to us that he is not interested.

"What are are doing now as leaders of the party is to shop for the best candidate, we all know that fielding Oyetola again will smell doom for our party.

"Everyone interested in contesting for Governorship under our party should go to the field. Nobody is holding on to our party's ticket, it is anyone who wins our primary election that will be our candidate."

Opinion

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 pele!" 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.

Politics

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2026: I will not step down my ambition for anybody -Ajibola Basiru

By Tope Odediran

The National Secretary, All Progressives Congress (APC), Ajibola Basiru has said that he is not going to step down his ambition to run for Governorship come 2026 to anybody, sources has revealed.

He added that he is not against anybody coming out to contest against him or opposing his Governorship ambition describing it as the beauty of Democracy.

Recall that news making rounds lately as indicated that there is rancour within the Osun APC in connection to the 2026 Governorship Election as former Governor Gboyega Oyetola is intending to return come 2026.

Sources however noted that leaders of the party seems not to believe that fielding Oyetola come 2026 will yield a meaningful result for the party, making them aligning with the Former Senator and some others aligning with, Olalekan Badmus, a former Commissioner in the last administration.

The source said "What is happening within our party is interesting, however Ajibola Basiru, our national Secretary has told us that he will not step down his ambition for anybody.

"He told us that he is not not against anybody contesting against him or indicating interest in the race, it is the beauty of Democracy.

"Leaders of our party have concerns that if Gboyega Oyetola comes back to contest in 2026 our party will lose again and they are trying as much as possible to see to it that our party gives the ticket to either Ajibola Basiru or Olalekan Badmus.

Speaking on who is likely to clinch the party's ticket, the source noted that forces within the party in the state are aligning with Ajibola Basiru while former Governor Gboyega Oyetola is relying on federal might and being a serving minister and a one time Governor.

"Its hard to tell as at today, I stand with Ajibola Basiru and this I can say of several other people and leaders within the party but former Governor Oyetola is bent on coming back to contest against.

"We keep telling them that if he lost in 2022 as a



sitting Governor, he will lose again in 2026 if given the ticket.

"He (Oyetola) however relies on federal might and the fact that he is a serving minister to hold

Osun to ransom. What I know is that we stand with Ajibola Basiru and he has confirmed to us that he is not stepping down his ambition for anyone", the source added.



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News

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Osun Government Inaugurates Asset Recovery Task Force

By Sola Isola

The Osun state government has inaugurated a special task force for the recovery of government project vehicles/assets carted away by the officials of the immediate past administration.

The inauguration of the committee followed the release of the white paper of the Asset recovery committee set up by Governor Adeleke

through the executive order issued on the day of his inauguration on November 27th, 2022.

The committee which is to be Chaired by the Secretary to the Osun state government, Alhaji Teslim Igbalaye, was inaugurated on Wednesday, 14th February, 2024 with the mandate to "ensure immediate recovery of government project vehicles/assets carted away by the officials of

the immediate past administration.

The Head of Service, Mr Ayanleye Aina, while inaugurating the committee on behalf of the Executive Governor, charged the committee to implement the report of Asset recovery committee and retrieve all the state government assets discovered to have been carted away by officials of the past administration.

Members of the Task

Force includes; Alhaji Teslim Igbalaye (Chairman), Mr Wojuade (Secretary), Hon Babatunde Gbadamosi, Hon Gbenga Ikupuluyi, Hon Lekan Alabi Esq, Mr Joseph Ilesanmi.

Others are Alhaji Rasaq Oyetunji, SP Kazeem ADEFIOYE, ASP Ahmed Bio, Mr Sikiru Alao, Mr Tajudeen Adelabu, Engineer Oyetola Babatunde, ESV AA Oseni, Eng Olanrewaju BO, Mr Gbenga Adeniran.

Opinion

How will Osun APC cope with its infighting

By Great Oluwaseun

Sources within Osun All Progressives Congress (APC) revealed that it seems the party has not learnt from the mistake that resulted to its 2022 defeat adding that the internal crisis in Osun APC after the Ilerioluwa and TOP saga might be child's play when the looming crisis manifests.

The Yoruba Adage that says "ija omo iya meji so'ro dasi which by interpretation means "the fight between two siblings is difficult to interfere with "might be true, but there is a need to try and draw predictions on the state of the major opposition party in the state.

Osun Spring reports that the current infight in the opposition party started exactly the same way the Omoluabi Progressive (TOP) and Ilerioluwa fight began, a cold war. Where a conflict of personal interest and legacy overruled the people's interest. The end result of that fight is what Oyetola loyalists believed sent their boss out of the Bola Ige White House. That claim is still subjected to fact-checking, though.

Inside sources revealed that it was believed that the internal crisis in the party was only between Oyetola and Aregbesola. However, the last few weeks have shown that the issue is far from being resolved despite the party leaders' tour across the state an objective aimed at promoting the endorsement of the sole candidacy of their last ticket holder, Gboyega Oyetola.

It was learnt that this tour brought to the media space the deepened crisis within the party, the fight of gladiators fighting for the gubernatorial ticket of the party.

A source said "The current crisis in the party was birthed through clashing differences between Ogbeni and Oyetola. The fight brought about two factions Ilerioluwa faction and TOP faction within the party. The faction belonging to Oyetola discarded the Aregbesola faction, but they later admitted that Aregbesola's group worked against the party. Nevertheless, the current infighting within the party is not an "external internal" crisis and more of an "internal internal" crisis. Ilerioluwa faction now has about 3 leaders in their



Aregbesola



Oyetola



Akande



Omisore

faction, and they are all interested in getting the ticket of the party in the 2026 gubernatorial election in Osun State.

"Before now, the Osogbo Agenda has been running in the minds of Osogbo people and the city has decided to take advantage of the APC crisis by pushing out 2 of their sons, Ajibola Basiru and Tunde Badmus, the son of Asiwaju of Yorubaland through the birth of "Otoge group", a group strongly against Oyetola's 2nd term ambition. The twist of this agenda is that Badmus has publicly disassociated himself from the group and pledged his determined

loyalty to Oyetola. Up till when this feature is being written, Basiru, on the other hand, hasn't said anything about his ambition, the smart politician he is.

"Badmus could have pledged his loyalty to Oyetola out of the belief that age won't be to Oyetola's advantage by 2026, and he could be considered as Oyetola's anointed candidate for the ticket fight. However, this might not go as expected for him as Oyetola is rumored to have picked an anointed candidate, his Commissioner for Finance, Bola Oyebamiji of Ikire. Notwithstanding, Badmus has an advantage

over Oyebamiji because his father, the Asiwaju Musulami of Yorubaland, Edo, and Delta, Dr Khamis Olatunde Badmus, influence will stand him out.

"Basiru, who's another Osogbo preferred candidate, is more politically rooted in his party and has been wielding so much influence and relevance for his political career with his National Secretary office. In addition to these big personalities of the APC, Otunba Iyiola Omisore should not be left out of the forces interested in the party ticket. Having contributed to the first-term victory of Oyetola, he might

expect Oyetola to return the favour to him now."

Recall that a couple of weeks ago, Ajibola Basiru paid a courtesy visit to the State Working Committee at the Party Secretariat, but surprisingly, the release from his media team and the Director of Media Osun APC contradict themselves.

Basiru's release noted that he told them not to allow Naysayers and fifth columnists to infiltrate their ranks to cause disharmony among them without talking about his relationship with the Minister from the state nor talked about his rumored governorship ambition contrary to the statement

from Kola Olabisi.

In the known, Ilerioluwa APC has 3 leaders within their faction, namely Gboyega Oyetola, Iyiola Omisore, and Ajibola Basiru with Oyebamiji and Badmus whose ambition is yet to be known.

However, sources revealed that Oyetola's dream of installing one of his political sons will hit a brick wall and could wear out the party structure in the state.

"It's on this note that I advise the main opposition party to kindly drop the early politicking and focus more on constructive criticism of the government, which will bring about more transformative results in the state", the source added.



OSUN STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (OSSIEC)
Old Ikirun Road, Opposite Unity School, Testing Ground Area
P.M.B 4335, OSOGBO, OSUN STATE



NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Osun State Independent Electoral Commission hereby gives notice of Local Government Elections as follows:-

- (a) Elections into the Offices of Chairmen and Councillors in the 30 Local Government Councils, 32 Local Council Development Authorities, 6 Area Development Councils and 1 Area Council of Osun State Shall be held on Saturday 22nd February, 2025
- (b) All registered Political Parties intending to participate are required to register with the Commission and also to obtain Nomination Forms on behalf of their candidates at the Commission's Headquarters, Old Ikirun Road, Opposite Unity School, Testing Ground Area, Osogbo.

TIME TABLE FOR THE ELECTIONS

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DATE
1	(a) Meeting with IPAC/ the Political Parties	14 th February, 2024
	(b) Media Parley /Press Conference for the publication of Notice of elections	15 th February, 2024
	(c) Publication of Notice of Election/Time – Table	19 th February, 2024
COMMENCEMENT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES		
2	(a) Conduct of Primary Elections by Political Parties (to be monitored by the Commission) Parties are to indicate the Dates, Venues and Time scheduled for their Primaries to the Commission not later than 21 Days before the appointed dates.	22 nd July, -6 th August, 2024
	(b) Submission of Parties Primary Results by Political Parties	12 th – 16 th August, 2024
	(c) Commencement of Campaigns by Political Parties	23 rd September. 2024
3	(a) Collection of Personal Data / Nomination Forms for Chairmanship and Councillorship Candidates by Political Parties	23 rd -28 th September 2024
	(b) Submission of Personal Data/ Nomination Forms for Chairmanship and Councillorship Candidates	September, 30 th – October, 5 th 2024
	(c) Submission of list of Chairmanship Running Mates	
4	(a) Collation and scrutiny of Personal Data/ Nomination Forms of Candidates	7 th October. – 12 th October. 2024
5	Release of the list of cleared candidates to Political parties	14 th – 18 th October. 2024
6	(a) Appeal/Substitution of uncleared candidates	21 st – 25 th , October. 2024
	(b) Scrutiny of Substituted Candidates Forms	28 th – 31 st October. 2024
7	Collection of Clearance to contest Election by all cleared Candidates	4 th – 8 th November. 2024
8	Publication of names of cleared Candidates	11 th – 15 th November. 2024
9	Submission of Names and Details of Party Agents to the Commission by Political Parties	11 th – 15 th November. 2024
10	Activities of the Commission	16 th November, 2024 – 18 th February. 2025
11	End of Electioneering Campaigns	Mid- Night of 19 th February, 2025
12	Election day	22 nd February ,2025
13	Issuance of Certificate of Return to Winners of Elections	24 th February ,2025
14	Run-Off/Re-run Election (If Any)	1 st March,2025



Hashim Akintunde Abioye, Esq,
 Chairman
 Osun State Independent Electoral Commission

How Governor Adeleke Is Fighting Food Insecurity, National Economic Crisis In Osun

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has said that the Osun state government under his leadership is working hard and round the clock to ease the economic pains and suffering of our people of the state.

Speaking at the inauguration of the State Food Security Committee in Osogbo, the Osun state capital Governor Adeleke said his administration is addressing current economic crisis through multi faceted angles, citing several pro-people programmes

“As a government in love with the people, we are doing a lot to cushion the effect of the hard time on our people. We have introduced so many policy options to ease the burden of the populace. Our administration has deployed the full machinery of government to attend to the immediate needs of the citizenry.

“We are, however, conscious of the deepening economic conflict. Mr President briefed state Governors on the state of the nation. Our government is already acting in many areas.

“We want to step up further by engaging in the newest area of food security. This committee is a response to the challenges of securing access to food and securing the food production and distribution process alongside other issues of palliatives for the people. We have identified a problem which we believe this committee can proffer immediate solutions”, the Governor affirmed.

He charged the committee to suggest measures to strengthen farm security for food production; expand farming activities through state incentives; organise Back to Farm Youth Conference; track foodstuff marketing and pricing; review and offer new ideas on the operations of ongoing palliatives measures; and recommend further immediate actions to reduce economic hardship

The Governor particularly tasked the committee to work with speed and produce an interim report in the next few days, urging the Chairman and other committee members to act with a sense of urgency.

“We need to address issues of the moment with the required focus. This is an important assignment. Your report will receive the full

attention of my team”, the Governor stated.

Responding, the Committee Chairman, Hon. Tola Faseru who is also the Commissioner for Agriculture assured the Governor of the resolve of the committee members to deliver on the terms of references.

“We will work extra hard to deliver on the task at hand. We understand the seriousness of the assignment. We thank Mr Governor for the opportunity”, the Chairman promised.

With Hon. Tola Faseru as the Chairman, others members of the 16 member committee are; Mr Adegoke Yahya, Hon. Ganiyu Olaoluwa, Hon. Rasheed Aderibigbe, Hon. Olusegun Oyedele, Hon. (Mrs) Ayo Awolowo and Hon. Samuel Ojo.

Completing the list are; Comrade Olabisi Oluwasanmi, Com Ajala Adetunji, Hon. Kolade Tunde, Alhaji Suleiman Araokanmi, Dr. Olu Olujide, Mr Sola Makanjuola, Comrade Adebisi Emmanuel, Comrade Akinbode Oluwasegun and Ms Gbemisola Fayoyin.

The committee which comprises representatives of civil society groups, youth organizations, farmers' associations, security agencies, religious groups, market associations and relevant commissioners in the state.

The Committee is to work on farm security for food production, expand farming activities through state incentives, track foodstuff marketing and pricing, review operations of ongoing palliatives measures with a view for improvement if any and recommend immediate actions to further relieve the suffering of the populace.

Meanwhile, Governor Adeleke has reiterated his commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of the people under this national economic emergency.

The Governor who made the remarks while hosting the association of Osun indigenes resident in Bayelsa state said his administration has on daily basis been introducing one measure or the other to cushion the effect of the current crisis.

“Our government is built mainly on the welfare of the people. We just launched



the distribution of cash grants to almost 20,000 very poor segments of our population. Another 60,000 is being enrolled for ATM cards.

“I have directed the Commissioner for Transport to ensure efficient working of the Imole Bus Service. Before new buses arrive, we must make judicious use of the refurbished buses to ply key routes where the services are needed.

“I have instructed key commissioners to review their service delivery to respond to the current needs and challenges of the people. The people must be regularly consulted and carried along on policy decisions and implementation.

“Our administration is ramping up efforts to deepen the state economy. I have directed the Commissioner for Power to expedite action on the Osun State Electricity bill.

“On the digital economy, I have also instructed the Commissioner for Science and Technology to present an implementation plan for the state ICT Policy and the State Tech Innovation policy. The bill for the domestication of the Nigerian Startup Act will soon be sent to the state assembly.

“I have further directed the Commissioner for Agriculture to prepare a state plan and bill to ease access to farm equipment and inputs for farmers. Of course, the ministry is finalizing the implementation plan on the state Cocoa Revival agenda.

“Our government is

pumping millions of naira into the grassroots through hundreds of community associations. The funds are used to build health centers, boreholes, school rehabilitations among others. This is boosting the local economy.

“We are rebuilding our roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, water works to make the economy work, to expand economic activities and attract investors. The multi-billion naira infra plan is ongoing.

“We are paying inherited half salary and pension debt long before Mr President so directed. We are paying wage awards to public servants and pensioners. Osun, almost a civil service state, has a lot to gain from public workers' welfare because the informal sector depends mostly on the public sector.

“We enrolled all pensioners in the state health insurance scheme. This new week we are launching free surgeries for pensioners statewide. By next month, another edition of the statewide Imole free medical outreach across the nine federal constituencies will commence.

“To secure the state, we recently launched the State Security Trust Fund. We are working on a template for local state policing. A detailed implementation plan will soon be unveiled.

“Your government is doing a lot and I appeal for further support. This administration is a government of the people, for the people and by the people”, the Governor told the delegation.

Osun Spring reports that

24 hours after President Tinubu's meeting with state governors, Governor Ademola Adeleke unveiled his government's food security plan as he advocated national unity to resolve the current national economic crisis.

The Governor who attended President Bola Tinubu's briefing with Governors later visited the Federal Ministry of Agriculture where he opened up on the extensive agenda of the state government on food security and expanded food production.

Hosted by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Senator Abubakar Kyari, the Osun Governor accompanied by his Commissioner for Agriculture, Tola Faseru said “these are emergency eras in the economic life of this nation.

“We therefore have a duty to look and act beyond partisan politics and ensure collective efforts towards restoration of normalcy. A federation works best when component units join hands for common good.

“It is in that line that I am here today. The first reason is to brief you on what the Osun state government is doing on the issue of food security and ongoing economic challenges facing the nation.

“Mr President briefed the state governors on the state of the nation. He outlined several steps state governors should take to stem the crisis of food security and inflation.

“I am happy to report that the Osun government has been very proactive. First we are setting up a State Security Trust Fund to mobilise financing for security agencies. This is going to be private sector driven.

“Secondly, I have conveyed a food security meeting to brainstorm on how to further secure our farmlands. I will be meeting representatives of Hunters association and the Amotekun commanders alongside the civil defense and police services. The goal is to strengthen farm security.

“Our administration is also working on Small Farmers' Equipment Lending service. This is to ease the access of small scale farmers to tractors and other needed machineries. We are meeting this week to

finalise the plan ahead of the onset of the rainy planting season.

“To expand food production, we are also pushing to implement a City to Farm programme. This was designed to encourage young small scale farmers. This will expand production and also engage our youth.

“This is alongside our plans for a regional farmers' markets where offtakers can meet farmers for exchange and market relationship. We need your technical support to implement many of the listed areas.

“On a more general level, our administration recently unveiled a Cocoa Revival plan for the state. It involves several activities which focus on moving Osun from 3rd to 1st cocoa producer in Nigeria. We seek partnership with the federal Ministry of Agriculture on this.

“Our government is also interested in the livestock development programme. We have submitted our expression of interest. Kindly help to facilitate early approval.

“The state is also interested in the Agro-processing zones project being implemented under the African Development Bank. I hosted a delegation of the AFDB in Osun two weeks ago. Your ministry's support on this is also solicited.

“Overall, I seek an MOU with the ministry to ensure standby collaboration with our government. I will be glad if we can have a small committee to oursure the making of the MOU”, Mr Governor told the Minister and top management of the federal ministry.

Responding, Senator Abubakar commended the multi-partisan approach of the Governor to state governance, pledging to work on all the areas touched by the Governor.

He restated the determination of President Bola Tinubu to address the national economic challenges, informing the delegation that the meeting with the Governor was part of a broad plan to ensure immediate resolution of the current dislocations within the economy.

While describing the state governments as key partners in national economic development, the minister expressed happiness on the proactive measures listed by the Governor and assured him of federal support and assistance.



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Innovative Governance for State Building

By Olowale 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.

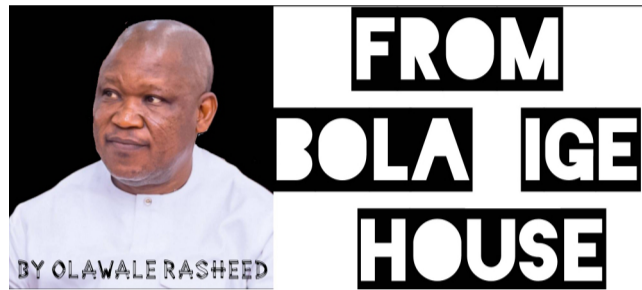
From January till date, readers should attempt a survey and review of subnational administrations and point out where new state decisions are taken that are out of the ordinary. From across the six geo-political zones, you may be confronted with mediocrity and docility covered with garb of civility. 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 grassroots 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.

Sotero Aqua Becomes Official Water Partner For The SmartCity PLC Osun Football League

By Oluniyi Isamotu

The Osun Football Association has reached an agreement with Sotero Natural Mineral Water as its official water partner for the ongoing 2023/2024 SmartCity PLC Osun Football League, Osun Spring reports.

Sotero Water will work with Osun FA providing healthy

and enjoyable water for the teams throughout the Osun SmartCity PLC Football League.

Expressing his excitement on the agreement, Chairman, Osun FA, Sola Fanowopo urged other brands in the state to identify with and support the FA.

"We are happy to connect with a company that is committed to providing comfort for the participating

teams. This will go a long way in cutting down cost for teams and bring out the best in them.

"We also commend everyone involved in the project, including the Sponsorship and funding committee for the great job done so far, not forgetting the main committee for their steadfastness and high commitment towards the success we have recorded so far.