

# How Governor Adeleke Is Reviving Moribund State Hospitals

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## MY SCORECARD:

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# SO FAR, SO GOOD

## -GOVERNOR ADELEKE

- I Am Paying Debt And We Are Not Borrowing
- Multibillion Naira Infraplan In Progress
- No Sector, Town Or LG Will Be Neglected



Governor Adeleke Hosts Nigeria's First Lady says "Osun State is undergoing total transformation"

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# Editorial

## The much anticipated Osun LG Polls

February 2025 will mark another landmark in the history of Osun State as residents of the state will be heading to the polls to elect their representatives at local government and ward levels.

The Chairman, Osun State Independent Electoral Commission, Hashim Akintunde Abioye had in a briefing with newsmen announced that the Local Government elections in the state will be held on February 22, 2025 while adding that the need for the brief was under the provisions of the Nigerian 1999 Constitution (as amended) and the Electoral Act, 2022, as well as the 2022 OSSIEC Law, Laws of Osun State.

Osun Spring recalls that the Federal High Court in Osogbo had in November nullified the October 15 local government elections conducted by the Commission under the immediate past administration of the All Progressives Congress.

The judge, Nathaniel Emmanuel-Ayoola, declared the election null and void on the ground that the conduct of the election contravenes Sections 29 & 32 of the Electoral Act, 2022.

Osun Spring recalls that APC was the only party that fielded candidates for the elections because other political parties had withdrawn from the polls. For that reason, the ballot papers did not indicate party symbols but only required voters to vote either Yes or No.

Consequent upon the judgement of the Federal High Court the electoral body withdrew the Certificates of Return issued to purported winners of the elections. The Executive Secretary of OSSIEC, Adedapo Ayodeji Adejumo, also stated that the Commission will not appeal the judgement of the court.

Recall that one of the major issues that bedevilled the last local government elections in Osun was the short notice that the commission gave before conducting the election which is in aberration to the one year notice stipulated by the electoral act.



Osun Spring commends the new leadership of Osun Independent Electoral Commission for adhering to the constitution in announcing the date for the next election and subsequently releasing the timetable for the election.

We however condemn the leadership of the Osun State Chapter of All Progressives Congress (APC) for their criticism of the Ademola Adeleke led government over the composition of the leadership of OSSIEC and appointment of the Chairman.

We note strongly that occupying an office as such is about competence and

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character which the new Chairman of OSSIEC, Barrister Hashim Abioye does not fall short of.

In light of the preparation for the polls, Osun Spring calls on all political parties in the state to adhere strictly to all the laid down guidelines for the election as announced by OSSIEC.

Furthermore, parties should give a level playing ground to all interested members who wants to run for any office, while making sure their primary elections are free and fair.

In addition to that, parties should ensure that OSSIEC is carried along in all its pre election activities and also ensure that all pre election matters are resolved before the D-day.

Osun Spring wants to charge OSSIEC, to make sure that all 'i' are dotted and all 't' are crossed, leaving no stone on unturned as preparation is being made for the poll. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well.

On a final note, Osun Spring calls on the people of Osun State to ensure that the partake in the process and also believe that their votes will count.



# Interview

## Exclusive Interview:

# "My Scorecard: So far, so good"

## - Governor Adeleke

- I am paying debt and we are not borrowing
- Multibillion Naira Infraplan in progress
- No sector, town or LG will be neglected

In this interview with Sola Isola, Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke speaks on how he has managed the affairs of the state since he was sworn in as Governor in November, 2022.

**Y**ou have been Governor for close to two years, how have you been able to manage the affairs of the state?

First of all I will like to appreciate the people of Osun State for the support they gave me before elections and even after I was sworn in as Governor, from traditional rulers, to the youth, women and even children to groups and association here and there, the support has been huge.

Now, when I was coming in, I came prepared because I know we have work to do and I was ready to change the narrative in the history of Osun state and that's what we are doing and will continue to do.

Coming into office, a lot of people underrated me, they thought I couldn't do it, they called me a dancer, not knowing that I am a happy man and I am always grateful to God, because I know where I was coming from and I know where I am now, that's why I sing and dance and no form of criticism can take away that from me because praising and dancing to God is my secret weapon.

• A lot of people still say you have not done anything, what do you have to say to that?

(Chuckles) You are a journalist, didn't you see anything on your way here? See when people say things like this, we need to check their intentions, some of them have never been to Osun State and some of them are members of the opposition party, they won't praise me because they don't like me, and they are already fidgeting because of the next election. They are scared of me, they are scared of our party.

When I came in as Governor, Osun state was in a mess and in less than two years, I have disappointed the opposition. We met a backlog of debt in salaries arrears and pension, we have started paying that back. Every worker deserved to be paid because it is their right.

In terms of infrastructure, Osun was no where to be found, roads were abandoned, schools and hospitals dilapidated and then I told my people, we have work to do and we must face it.

What we then did is to look into creating a short term plan, which is what we implemented in the first 100 days and then the long term plan, which is what we are working with right now and that includes the Multibillion Naira Infraplan, which is also

unprecedented in the history of Osun State.

For instance in the area of providing water, we decided to sink one boreholes in each ward in the state so we can provide an interim solution to the need of the people where as on the long term plan, we are revitalizing the abandoned waterworks and mini-water scheme in the state.

On roads, in the short term, we completed phase one of Osogbo-Ikirun-Ila Odo Road, completed selected road one per federal constituency and on the long term, we will be constructing five flyovers and 45 roads within the State across all local governments of the state, 1.5km per local government.

On education, we are currently on the process of recruiting 5000 teachers, 250 education officer and you are also aware that we have enrolled all pensioners in the state into Osun Health Insurance Scheme so they do not need to buy drugs and seek healthcare with their pension. We are also taking Imole Free Healthcare across the state, that initiative is helping people who need healthcare but can not afford it.

We are also rebuilding dilapidated schools across the state, as well as several primary healthcare centres, we are re-equipping the moribund State hospital through Osun Health Insurance Agency.

In terms of ease of doing business, I recently approved N1billion loan for SME's in the state, and it is at a single digit interest rate. I can go on and on.

• But a number of people have been saying the state allocation has increased since subsidy removal and they are accusing your government of not being





# interview

## "My Scorecard: So far, so good"

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transparent.

You see the issue of allocation is an open document and we can not lie about it, if we do not release the figure, FAAC will release the figure through NBS, so the opposition party need not lie to the people of Osun state.

Secondly, Osun is hugely indebted and all our repayment is being taken from this same allocation before it ever gets to us, now put that on the same side with the rate of inflation in the country, for instance project that cost 1million naira before will now cost close to 4million naira and we can not but keep running the state.

Despite that, with the little we got from the federal government, we are paying wage award of N15,000 to our workers and N10,000 to retirees, we also introduced the Imole De Buses which is to convey civil servants and students in the morning and in the evening at a very subsidized rate.

We also shared the rice and maize that the Federal Government sent to us. I understand the plight of my people and I am doing as much as possible to cushion that.

**• So how have you been able to manage the finances of the state?**

Its been a lot of serious conversations with my team, one of the things we did was to be prudent, then we started blocking all the loopholes where the state was losing money and redirected all those funds.

When I saw that we need alot of money, I decided to let go of my security vote which is around 600million, if you calculate that in a year, that's about N7.2bn, thats the amount of sacrifice I am willing to make for my people.

These and many other steps have we taken to ensure the smooth running of our administration.

**• There was a recent allegation that your government borrowed #10billion, is this true?**

Allegation by who? The APC? Thats a terrible lie, since we came in November, I have made it clear to my team that we are not borrowing, so we have to be prudent and we must block all leakages.

No one should take Osun APC serious, the records are there, we have not borrowed a dime and we will not, what we have to focus on right now is repaying the debt that the opposition party had imposed on us.

**• Recently, you launched a multibillion Naira Infraplan and it came under a lot of criticism, with many people saying your government didn't follow due process, whats your reaction to this?**

You see, I have learnt something since I became Governor and I said it the day I was conducting swearing in ceremony for my Special Advisers, its impossible to please human beings but as a man of integrity I will keep trying my best.

To everything in government, there is a process and I have given strict instructions to my team members to make sure they adhere strictly to these rules. For every of our projects that are not direct labour, a bid was made, it was advertised and just so we can save cost, these projects were awarded to the lowest bidders and let me be honest with you, what is important to me right now is the completion of these projects.

I see every other thing as distractions which is coming from a group of people that wants me to fail in office.

**• How certain are you that this project will be completed within the stipulated period of time?**

I have no doubt whatsoever, apart from the fact that we have the best hands in charge on site, we also have a strong monitoring team and I get up-to-date report on a daily basis, if anything goes otherwise, I am the first person that will call all the journalist in Osun and the contractors will be made to face the music.

**• There are concerns from some quarters that you are focused on Osogbo and Ede, what do you have to say to this?**

(Smiles) I think its only a misconception, there is hardly any plan we make that doesn't cover all geopolitical zones of the state as well all local governments in the state, but I must say that people need to be patient with us because we have a robust plan that we are implementing in phases, which will go round in no time.

One thing I am certain of and I can assure the people of Osun State of is that no sector, town or Local Government will be neglected because everybody contributed to where we are today, so no stone will be left unturned. There is no town, local government or community that will not be touched.

**• On Ipade Imole, people are asking questions, what should they expect?**

What are those questions? Ipade Imole was conceived to serve as a platform where I get to meet the people of the state and provide answers to whatever questions they have and we have decided to be taking it round federal constituencies in the state.

We held the first one in Osogbo in October 2023, and we are holding another one in now in Ilesa. I have instructed my team members to make sure we have enough time to answer questions and also allow people who will not be able to join us physically to phone in while the programme is on.

It will be live on Radio, TV and our social media handles.

**• One of the concerns raised is the fact only PDP members and your appointees will be able attend? Is this concern true?**

Thats a blatant lie, its impossible to bring everybody in Osun into one hall, so we have designed a system, to allow selected people from different groups.

It is an open invitation to all groups, agencies, organizations, civil societies, journalists, Labour Union and so many other organized groups.

This is not about politics, its about governance.



**• We heard that you about to be Installed as Asiwaju of Edeland, how would you say you achieved this feat**

(Smiles) To be honest, it can only be God. My father Chief Ayoola Adeleke in his lifetime was Asiwaju of Edeland, after he passed on, my brother, Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke was also installed Asiwaju of Edeland until he also passed on.

So I think this is about the people of Edeland acknowledging our contributions to the development of Ede and also keeping a good legacy alive.

I just appreciate our father the Timi of Edeland, Oba Munirudeen Lawal, for upholding the culture of diligence in Ede sons and daughter and upholding the culture and traditions that his forefathers left behind.

I have accepted the offer to be installed as Asiwaju of Edeland and I must say I consider it a challenge to step into a shoe my father and Elder brother left behind, but as always I believe in Almighty Allah to help me through.



# Yoruba Nation: A Call For Action

By Olalekan Badmus (Phoenix) ethnicity.

Self-determination is a principle backed by international law. This principle however, does not state how the decision is to be made, neither does it state what the outcome should be, whether it be independence, federation, protection, autonomy or full assimilation. The internationally recognized right to self-determination does not include a right to an independent state for every ethnic group or region within a formal territory.

While the rights of the minorities and indigenous people who are denied political participation in representative democracy thereby suffering systematic violations of human right as a group is greatly acknowledged, no right to secession is recognized under this international law.

Following his announcement of his fourteen points propositions on January 8, 1918 during the peace negotiations to end World War 1, WOODROW WILSON, the 28th President of the United States, famously stated on 11 February 1918: "National aspirations must be respected; people may now be dominated and governed only by their own consent."

WOODROW, who led the American people into the World War 1 in 1927 was an ethnic self determination champion, a segregational leader who authorized widespread imposition of segregation inside the federal bureaucracy clearly recognized that only the people have the power to consent to who should govern them. A right that birthed democracy.

During the World War II, WOODROW principle: "Self-determination is not a mere phrase. It is an imperative principle of action, which statesmen will henceforth ignore at their peril." was included in the Atlantic Charter, jointly declared on 14 August 1941 by the President of the United States and Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The right to self determination is considered difficult to implement for many reasons. There are multiple interpretations of what constitutes a group of people and which groups may legitimately claim right to self determination. Also, how do this group represent the interest of the entire community, region or

The Yoruba people of South Western Nigeria have carved a unique identity, deeply rooted to its traditions and cultural pride. This has created a sense of history that established common interest among different Yoruba sub-groups in form of pan-Yoruba interest which forms the basis for the people's imagination of a nation.

The resurgence of the Yoruba Nation Agitation has awakened decades long tensions and memories that span many generations. Just like other agitations for self determination from different ethnic groups in the past, which arises from feeling of segregation and seclusion, the agitation for Yoruba Nation which began about two decades ago has gathered momentum in recent times.

The failed attempt to hoist the Yoruba Nation flag in Oyo State government secretariat, Ibadan, few days ago, signals an imminent threat to the sovereignty and unity of Nigeria. However, the responses to this deliberate attack on constituted authority has been swift and commendable. The government at the National and subnational level in the region has sent a decisive signal to the main actors to desist or be destroyed.

The President of Nigeria, Bola Tinubu was unequivocal in his commitment to the unity of Nigeria. In his statement regarding the incident, the President declared that he is "irrevocably committed to the unity of Nigeria and constitutional democracy." He further affirmed that "constitutional democracy has been reflected greatly here since we assume office", referring to his tenure as the President of the most populous black nation.

This statement by the President, made right in the presence of the leaders of the Pan-Yoruba sociopolitical organization, Afenifere, underscores the principle of democracy that state that "people should be allowed to be dominated and governed only by their own consent". This was affirmed by the outcome of the February 2023 presidential election that returned President Tinubu as the 16th President of Nigeria as



Aiyedatiwa



Abiodun



Adeleke



Makinde



Sanwo-Olu



Oyebanji

declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The Oyo State Government described the incident by the self-acclaimed Yoruba Nation agitators as an act of terrorism and a treasonable offense while the Police has since assured that the perpetrators, now apprehended, will be facing charges for treasonable felony.

Reacting, the Osun state government also called for rededication to the ideals of a United Nigeria with ongoing constitutional amendment to ensure a truly federal system in Nigeria, while also directing security mobilization around government structures in the state to forestall any occurrence of takeover by suspected Yoruba nation activists and their apologists.

President Tinubu, who originated from the South Western region now faces a daunting but not so difficult task of ensuring and preserving unity among different ethnic groups;

communities; sub-nationals in the south western region and across Nigeria.

The popular Yoruba self-determination movement, led by Prof. Banji Akintoye and Chief Sunday Igboho has since distanced themselves and the movement from the actions of the perpetrators of the Oyo state government house incident, an act which rightly drew commendable applause from people of the region and the government.

Also, one notable group, the Oduduwa Development Initiative, through their national president, Akinyele Olasunbo, while also condemning the ugly incident, called for the cessation of the Yoruba Nation agitation. Akinyele expressed the need for collective efforts to move Nigeria forward under the leadership of one of the greatest ambassadors of the region, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Despite distancing themselves and the Yoruba self-determination movement from the Ibadan incident, Prof. Banji Akintoye and Chief Sunday

Igboho has formally written an open letter to President Bola Tinubu, seeking a peaceful breakaway of Yoruba people from Nigeria.

According to them, this call was made "on behalf of many millions of Yoruba people at home in Yorubaland in Nigeria and in the Yoruba Diaspora in almost all countries across the world".

It is now obvious that this is not going away, not anytime soon. Whether this call is genuine and reflective of the will of the Yoruba people remains largely unseen and highly doubtful, but there must be an intentional approach to stem the tide of these divisive agitation.

The President must prioritize engagement among the people, traditional rulers, religious leaders, political class and elites in the south western region without compromising the overall unity of the country.

As whispered in many quarters and rightly so, the call for self determination, however legitimate, must be done with full respect for the peace and stability of

Nigeria. No group is empowered by law to truncate democratic order under whatever form or guise.

The few that has gathered to agitate on behalf of the supposed millions of Yoruba people home and abroad must respect the decision of other millions of Yoruba people both home and abroad to still believe in the unity of Nigeria and allow them to continue to play their role to sustain this unity.

More importantly, this agitation must be done with peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding and corporation in a way that ensures that the Yoruba people as a group are not seen as enemy of one the nation. The government owes a sense of responsibility to uphold the of rule of law and order while the agitators must accept and respect decision of fellow stakeholders in the region to champion the cause of one Nigeria.

*Olalekan Badmus (Phoenix) writes from Osogbo, Osun State and can be reached on basletp2@gmail.com.*



## iYouth Resources Centre Trains Osun Entrepreneurs in Digital Marketing

By Sola Isola

A non profit organization, iYouth Resources Center has trained not less than 50 SMEs in Osun in Digital Marketing and other related social media strategies for business management.

The training which was funded by the US Consulate General, Lagos, lasted four months and started in December 2023 with recruitment for existing business owners through Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) as well as online.

While speaking at the closing ceremony of the training on Tuesday at Halatria Event Hall, in Osogbo, the Osun State Capital, iYouth Resources Centre Executive Director, Mr Osazee Isonarae noted that the goal of the training is to help small businesses leverage on the power of social media and digital marketing in order to improve their business.

"The project aimed to enhance the brand visibility and bolster revenue and profitability for chosen small enterprises in Osun State through a comprehensive digital marketing capacity-building program. This initiative was designed to foster improved livelihoods, reduce unemployment rates, and stimulate positive economic development within the region.

"Selected participants underwent intensive training spanning four months, focusing on cutting-edge digital marketing skills such as Content Creation and Promotion, Mobile Photography & AI Image Generation, Online Business Branding, and Business Website Editing.

"Additionally, participants received entrepreneurship training facilitated at the Osogbo Window on America center, where they had the opportunity to interact with seasoned and successful

entrepreneurs from Osun State who had leveraged social media tools to grow their businesses", he added.

In her address, the Public Affairs Officer of US Department of States, Julia Mckay stated that the US Consulate is interested in training Nigeria entrepreneurs because research has indicated that there are over 40million small businesses in Nigeria adding this figure, if well harnessed will reduce unemployment in Nigeria.

She therefore admonished beneficiaries not to give up as well as not be afraid to fail stressing that from failure comes the lessons to succeed.

Speaking on behalf of Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, the Commissioner for Women, Children Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Ayobola Fadeyi Awolowo commended the efforts of the iYouth Resource Centre and the U.S. Consulate General, Lagos, for their invaluable support in making the training program a success.

She added that the

collaboration has provided a platform for small business owners to enhance their digital marketing skills and ultimately improve their businesses' competitiveness in the state economy.

Speaking further she said "To the participants, I applaud your willingness to learn and adapt to the rapidly evolving digital landscape. By embracing the knowledge gained from this program, you are not only empowering yourselves but also contributing to the growth and development of our state.

"As the Commissioner for Women Affairs, I am particularly proud to see the inclusion of women entrepreneurs in this initiative. Women play a vital role in our economy, and empowering them with digital skills is essential for fostering economic independence and gender equality.

"Furthermore, I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to commend His Excellency, Governor Ademola Adeleke, for his steadfast commitment to supporting women in Osun

State. Governor Adeleke's dedication to promoting gender equality and empowering women economically has been evident since his assumption of Office. His initiatives and policies aimed at creating a conducive environment for women entrepreneurs are commendable, and I am proud to stand alongside him in our shared mission of advancing women's rights and opportunities in our state.

"I encourage all participants to continue applying the knowledge acquired here to expand their businesses and reach new heights of success. Remember, the journey to entrepreneurship is filled with challenges, but with determination and perseverance, you can overcome any obstacle."

Speaking earlier, State Coordinator US, Exchange Alumni Association, Dr Femi Adefila noted that the strength of every economy is the small and Medium Scale Enterprise adding that it is obtainable in most developed nations of the

world.

He added that "iYouth Resource Centre has contributed to the growth of Osun and Nigeria adding the digital marketing is the rave of the moment that business owners must take advantage of.

"I therefore challenge other alumnus of the US Exchange Programs to take further steps to do more of this initiative in the state."

One of the beneficiaries, Daniel Ibikitan while expressing appreciation to organizers of the training revealed that he learnt to give his business a hundred percent attention so as to get a hundred percent result adding that visibility for his business has greatly increased in the last four months of the training.

Another beneficiary, Adebiji Suliyat said the challenges she encountered in her business was almost leading to her frustration but eventually she was able to come up with a business idea and eventually a proud adding that she is not able to improve her brand through what she has learnt.

## How Governor Adeleke is Reviving Moribund Osun State Hospitals

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke on Wednesday commissioned various health equipments Osun Health Insurance Agency for service providers under the Osun Health Insurance Scheme.

This initiative is to assist Health Care Providers with equipments and present credit, while payment back to the agency will be deducted from their monthly capitation in installment.

The equipments which include Dental Ultrasonic Machine for S&P, Haematocrit Centrifuge, Delivery Couch, Operating Couch, Spectrophotometer, Phototherapy for Neonate,

Suctioning machine among others

Speaking at the commission in Osogbo, Osun state Capital, the Governor of the State, who was represented by Hon. Teslim Igbalaye, Secretary to the State Government noted that the initiative is a sign of his administration's commitment to delivery of quality healthcare as well as to assist healthcare providers in the state.

"I am delighted to be here today as we celebrate the commissioning of these health equipments, a testament to our commitment to the healthcare of men, women and children.

"Over the last one year, without gainsaying, the Osun

state health sector under this administration has continued to experience a complete overhaul.

"Over this period of time, with Osun state health insurance Agency, championing and channeling the course, emphasis at the laid primarily on health care accessibility for all health insurance, infrastructure which include the upgrading of existing health facilities and the building of new ones.

"We will continue to ensure that Osun people have access to quality and affordable healthcare, irrespective of their socio-economic status", the Governor noted.

In his address, the Commissioner for Health,

Barrister Jola Akintola praised the leadership of OSHIA for working tirelessly to achieve accreditation by upholding the standards set forth by world-class health insurance agencies across the globe.

He said "Your dedication to providing quality care to our citizens is truly commendable, and I am grateful for your unwavering commitment to improving the health outcomes of our communities. The leadership and dedication of our amiable Governing Board Chairman, Hon Dr Muiwa Oladimeji are highly appreciated in bringing government programs to realities.

"It is important to also note that the distribution of these quality improvement materials signifies our unwavering commitment to advancing healthcare excellence, as these materials have been meticulously curated to equip our healthcare providers with the tools and resources necessary to deliver high-quality care to every enrollee they serve.

Speaking earlier, OHIS Executive Secretary, Dr Rasaq Akindele disclosed that the motive of the distribution is for all OHIS enrollees to get satisfaction whenever they visit hospitals.

"We're giving our various Government hospitals, equipment and materials that they need for them to function very well, we want our patients and enrollees to get to the hospital and get satisfaction.

## Asset Recovery: Osun Government Pledges Adherence to Rule of Law

By Tomi Lala

Osun State government has pledged on to adhere and ensure due process, in depth consideration and compliance with the rule of law.

The secretary to the state government who is also the Chairman of the Osun state Asset Recovery Committee, Hon. Teslim Igbalaye stated this during a press conference at the Governor's office in Osogbo on Tuesday.

According to him, Osun Government charged members of Task force Committee to ensure immediate recovery of all assets of government that were illegally carted away by the previous administration.

He, also assured that the committee would adhere strictly to the rule of law in carrying out it's mandate.

In his words, "After further review by a special committee headed by Mr. Governor with a view to ensuring due process, in depth consideration and compliance with the rule of law, the State Executive Council considered the white paper reports of different committees constituted by the Osun State Government to investigate issues raised by the executive orders issued by Mr. Governor after his inauguration as the Executive Governor.

"Among the white paper reports considered and approved by the State Executive Council were those of the committees on chieftaincy matters, assets recovery and auditing, contracts and appointments, among others, he stated.

Igbalaye, continued by analyzing relevant observations from the Task Force Committee.

According to him, "The Executive Governor of Osun State, during the inauguration of the Task Force on Recovery of Assets/ Government Project Vehicles on Wednesday, 14th February, 2024, charged members of the Task Force to ensure immediate recovery of government assets/project vehicles that were illegally carted away by the officials of the immediate past administration.

"At its meeting held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2024, the Task Force observed that due diligence should be done with a view to ascertaining vehicles / assets that were lawfully permissible to be taken home from those illegally taken away.

" That the Executive Governor had the prerogative power to allow any political appointee go home with his/her official vehicle, having served for at least a period of two (2) years and payment of some amount of money into the coffers of the government, and if the vehicle was less than four (4) years old, the appointee would pay 10% of the residual value of such official vehicle;

## Osun State Not On Autopilot -Group

By Taofik Jimoh

The Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Good Governance has condemned a remark by the National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Mr. Bashir Ajibola, suggesting that governance in Osun State is on autopilot.

The coalition in a statement, issued and signed by Comrade Olalekan Johnson, in Osogbo, accused Senator Bashir Ajibola, of attempting to undermine the democratically elected

administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke in Osun State adding that Ajibola's comments stem from his failure to overcome the trauma of his significant defeat in the last senatorial election in Osun State.

The statement warns Ajibola to cease his mischievous attempts at causing political instability in Osun State, emphasizing that Governor Ademola Adeleke enjoys widespread support and goodwill from the people of the state.

Furthermore, the coalition

calls upon President Bola Tinubu and the National leadership of the APC to intervene and rein in Mr. Bashir Ajibola. They urge them to compel Ajibola to respect properly constituted authority, particularly the incumbent administration in Osun State, which they claim is delivering the dividends of democracy to the people in an unprecedented manner.

The coalition said its stance underscores a growing concern over the potential

ramifications of divisive rhetoric on the stability and progress of Osun State, urging all stakeholders to prioritize unity and constructive criticism for the betterment of the state and its citizens. The group urged the people of Osun state, to sustain their massive support, for the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke, in order to ensure that more progress is achieved by the Adeleke administration.



# NNPP Hails Osun First Lady

By Taofik Jimoh

Osun state chapter of New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) has commended Osun First Lady, Mrs Titilola Adeleke, for always

representing the state well in the comity of Nigeria First Lady.

NNPP noted in a statement by its chairman, Dr Tosin Odeyemi, that she has never for once brought any embarrassment to

the state through her attitude or utterances in public which is a characteristics of Omoluabi we are known for.

"We have observed her with keen interest since her husband became the

governor of Osun, her comportment and maturity in handling issues shows she is a well cultured woman.

"Her humility and composure have endeared many people in Osun to him and are

always ready to defend her interest anywhere.

"She is a pride to Osun, her simple ways of life and exemplary leadership shows in the lives of those around her.

"As she will be hosting

the wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, in the state tomorrow, we want her to continue to be a perfect woman she's known for and let the world have a perfect example of a good home maker through her".

## Governor Adeleke Hosts Nigeria's First Lady says "Osun State is undergoing total transformation"

By Tope Odediran

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has stated that the state is undergoing a total transformation under his leadership.

The Governor stated this on Tuesday while hosting the First Lady of Nigeria Senator Oluremi Tinubu, to a rousing welcome for the launching of Alternative High Schools for Girls, commending the First Lady's years of dedicated public service.

Addressing the dignitaries at the turning of sod at Oke Dio, Ayepe,

Osogbo, Governor Adeleke affirmed his happiness hosting "a woman of virtue, an Amazon who is a political pillar of our dear President, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"Your antecedents and your passion for public service are known to some of us. We have worked with you at close quarters and I can confirm that you are one of the best of sisterhood in the country.

"As your colleague in the Senate In those days, I can affirm your deep love for Nigeria,

your commitment to national human development and your particular interest in the welfare of under-privileged Nigerians. I am therefore not surprised when you assumed office and you unveiled several initiatives in support of girl children and the poor.

"In your passion for the growth of the nation, you are also known for focusing on fairness and justice. For us in Osun State, we are here today because we are a beneficiary of your

sense of justice. During the raffle for the citing of this school you picked Osun, you did not shift the goal post. We commend you for granting Osun this rare opportunity of hosting this very important school", the Governor noted.

While assuring the First Lady that his administration will follow up and provide needed support to ensure a robust operation upon completion of the school, Senator Adeleke assured that

his administration is also committed to supporting girl child education.

"We have introduced a series of programmes which strengthen the capacity of families to provide basic needs. Hence, we emphasize workers' welfare as a critical first line item in our five point agenda.

"We also focus on stopping the crisis of sexual violence against women. To that end, Osun is the first state to implement the resolution of the Nigeria Governors' Forum on Action Against sexual violence. We have met the Ministry of Women Affairs and resolved to set up mobile courts to try domestic sexual violence matters. Additionally, we are compiling a list of unfairly jailed girls and women to get them released. This is in addition to an agenda of empowering the womenfolk through the Cooperative lawn scheme.

"Osun State is undergoing total transformation with women at the heart of our agenda. We assure you of our support for the Renewed Hope Agenda, especially our deep partnership to ensure the success of federal policies for a better Nigeria. We appreciate current policies of the Federal Government, and we are daily interfacing with federal agencies for successful outcomes", the state Governor posited.

"This is indicating that we probably do not even have the support of Mr President, and its scary because of the journey ahead.

"When election comes, maybe thats how we will be left alone to face it".

commitment to ensure full implementation of the project across the country.

The First Lady who was full of praise for the First Lady of Osun State, Mrs Titilola Adeleke said the Alternative High Schools for Girls was her response to the yawning gap in girls education, decrying the high number of out of school children in the country.

Senator Tinubu who earlier met traditional rulers led by Ooni of Ife, HRM, Enitan Ogunwusi, said Osun is selected for the girls' school and adopted with full expectation that the state government will expand the model and deepen girl child education in the state.

The Executive Secretary of Universal Basic Education, Dr Ahmed Bobboi in his speech hailed the contributions of the Adeleke administration to the growth and development of universal basic education in the state.

According to him, the administration's records enhances the confidence of UBEC and the Office of the First Lady that the new school will realise its targets and even surpass it.

The First Lady was accompanied by eleven states' first ladies, the wife of the Vice President, the wife of the Senate President, the wife of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Wife of the Chief of Staff to Mr President and other top women leaders from across the country.



Governor Adeleke Hosts First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu

## Confusion in Osun APC Over Nigeria's First Lady's Visit

By Tope Odediran

There was confusion in the camp of the Osun state chapter of All Progressive's Congress over the visit of the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu to the State.

Osun Spring reports that Senator Oluremi Tinubu was in Osogbo, the Osun State capital for turning of sod of alternative High School for Girls.

Senator Tinubu while speaking at the dinner organized for her by the Osun state First Lady, Mrs Titilola Adeleke, also asked a question about the whereabouts of the state APC Chairman, a statement that sparked reaction from some party members.

A source revealed that some chieftains of the party queried Mrs Tinubu's for not seeing the party officials or even attempting to branch the

state Secretariat of the party.

They further expressed concerns that it could be that the Osun state chapter of APC doesn't have support of the President Tinubu and the action of his wife is to confirm that.

"Right not we don't know the position of our party or even if we have any form of support from the National or even Mr President.

"Imagine that the President is a member of our party and then his wife would visit the state and not see us or even visit the party Secretariat.

"This is indicating that we probably do not even have the support of Mr President, and its scary because of the journey ahead.

"When election comes, maybe thats how we will be left alone to face it".



# Photo news



Governor Adeleke Hosts First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu



Governor Adeleke Hosts Mercy Medical University Management and Students



A soaring journey through the skies—a presence symbolizing a bond of mutual respect and shared aspirations for the land of Oduduwa; a testament to an enduring legacy for generations to come  
~@moronfoluwa08

Governor Adeleke Hosts Mercy Medical University Management and Students



Governor Adeleke Hosts Consul-General of the Republic of South Africa to Nigeria, Prof. Bobby J. Moore at the Osun State Government House in Osogbo



# News

## Dotun Babayemi, Akin Ogunbiyi will further divide our party" - Osun APC Chieftain Grumbles

By Tope Odediran

A Chieftain of All Progressives Congress in Osun state has described the defection of Dotun Babayemi and Akin Ogunbiyi into the party as a step that will further divide the party in the state.

The Chieftain also added that all is not well within the party asking people not to believe what some leaders of the party are saying calling a media cover up.

Osun Spring reports that Akin Ogunbiyi was a former gubernatorial aspirant before his defection to Accord Party to obtain the party's gubernatorial ticket in 2022 while Dotun Babayemi was also a 2022 gubernatorial aspirant on the platform of People's Democratic party.

Speaking with Osun Spring Correspondent the Chieftain who pleaded anonymity

questioned what role the duo are coming to play in the APC adding that they both do not have enough followers as people think

they do.

"The news of the defection of Dotun Babayemi and Akin Ogunbiyi should not

excite anybody who understands politics, especially Osun politics.

"The question to ask is what's the role they are coming play in our party, what are they coming to contribute, do we even need them at all to win or they are coming because PDP have rejected them and they need another party to push their ambition.

"And let me tell you, all is not well within our party, all of those denials that some of our leaders were denying the

rancour is just a media cover up, they are fighting each other seriously, some for the governorship ticket and some because of the issues that made us lost in 2022.

"We are yet to resolve all of the issues that is affecting the progress of our party and some people think, what is next is to go and bring two politicians rejected by their own party. Is that will help resolve our crisis or even deepen it", the source said.



**OPINION CORNER**  
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## EFCC Vs Yahaya Bello: A Well-Deserved Embarrassment

By Busy Brain

For the past two weeks, the action of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has been making news and forming opinions in the media. From the Bobrisky money laundering saga to the Cubana Chief Priest case, and now, the EFCC has migrated the media attention from the creative industry to the political arena with Yahaya Bello's arrest warrant and wanted notice.

The EFCC declared ex-Governor Yahaya Bello wanted for an offense relating to money laundering. The notice of the EFCC indicated that Yahaya Bello's last known address is 9, Benghazi Street, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, and the agency asked anybody with useful information about the former

governor's whereabouts to contact any of the commission's offices across the country.

Wherever Yahaya Bello is right now, he must be laughing at the EFCC as an agency performing Nollywood movies. Yahaya Bello has seen himself as the sacred lamb in the political corridor who cannot be used for a sacrifice and this serves as the reason he rushed to the Presidency to evade arrest. Ironically, disappointing advice issued by the Presidency asking Yahaya Bello to submit himself to the agency stirred his sudden disappearance. To Yahaya Bello, the EFCC's wanted notice will be like a Nollywood series, but it is an embarrassment to an ex-governor.

Unarguably, Yahaya Bello is a typical



example of the reason youths cannot be trusted with power in Nigeria. Or how would one describe the action of an opportunist who served two terms governorship tenure and crippled the State to a state of ruthlessness? In all ramifications, Kogi State should be one of the most developed states in Nigeria with laudable infrastructures. But the visible infrastructure is the

debris of the cement factory smiling at travelers on the way to Abuja.

As a matter of fact, Yahaya Bello's offense is no longer a convoluted. It is the usual practice of the power mongers with a self-aggrandizement agenda. It is only confusing why he is trying to evade arrest at all costs. The ruffian show of shame of the incumbent Governor of

Kogi to shield his wanted boss from arrest is another embarrassing scene of the 21st century. Worse of its kind.

Funnily enough, at Yahaya Bello's Abuja residence on Wednesday, a group of armed men, identified as Special Forces, along with officers from the Nigeria Police Force prevented the EFCC operatives from apprehending him with

the assistance of the current governor who escorted him out of the location in the governor's vehicle.

It is pitiable and disheartening that the gesture of Governor Ododo was described as loyalty. In an actual sense, who should earn Ododo's loyalty between the ex-governor who allegedly laundered 80 billion Naira and the entire Kogi people? I think it is a ripe time for 'Kogi citizens to awake from their slumber.

With the recent moves by the EFCC, it seems the agency is fully ready to walk along the renewed hope agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. The agency should take its aggressive war against corruption to the likes of Yahaya Bello in other States. The wanted notice served on Yahaya Bello is a well-deserved embarrassment. There is hope for a better Nigeria.





# Governor Adeleke Unveils Osun New Logo at Ipade Imole

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke will on April 30 unveil a new official logo for the state. Osun Spring reports that the Governor in a statement by his Spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed has earlier announced a logo design competition between 19th April and 26th April 2024. The decision according to the statement is following the assent to a bill for change of Osun State logo by Governor Adeleke adding that those submitting a design are to take into account the prototype logo in terms of its contents and style. It further directed interested individual to

either make a direct submission to the office of the Commissioner for Public Enlightenment or via a dedicated email. The statement then added that the best design will be announced on April 28 and will be unveiled on April 30th during the new edition of Ipade Imole. In a related development as the submission of entries closes, the State Government in a statement by Hon Kolapo Alimi, Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment named a panel of judges to review the entries and nominate the first top three from the over hundred submissions. The panel includes

Veteran Broadcaster, Olusola Ajala; Brand specialist, Dayo Oderinu; Senior Bureaucrat, Moshood Suleiman; Segun Yedupe ; and Ace Graphic Artist, Kazeem Olalekan. According to the statement, "The next

step is a review of all entries by the panel of judges, after which the best three designs will be unveiled by His Excellency, Governor Ademola Adeleke, on the 30th of April, 2024. "As a Government, we are deeply impressed by the incredible talents

demonstrated by every participant. The competition has once again proven the creativity and the abundance of talents possessed by Osun indigenes, whether at home or away. "While the competition lasted, participants

showed exceptional efforts as reflected in the thousands of entries recorded, and we sincerely appreciate them joining us in the journey to defining our identity not just for the present but for the future."





# Energy

## Osun Climate Change Agenda in Progress -Consultant

Consultant to Osun State Government on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development, Professor Chinwe Obuaku, has said that the Climate Change agenda of the Osun state government is in progress.

She stated this in a featured obtained by Osun Spring Correspondent, noting that Governor Adeleke is fully committed to the the agenda and results will soon begin to show.

"This is to introduce our Osun Climate Ambassador Campus Initiative (OCAC), as part of our Osun Climate Ambassador project (OCA)

"It is worth noting that climate change has been recognized as the single most important threat to the future well-being and prosperity of our planet and all who inhabit it. Climate change impacts ecosystems and societies, and continues to intensify with further warming. Biodiversity loss caused by climate change affects food and water security and increases the incidence of disease and natural disasters. This increases human conflict, displacement and health impacts, including loss of life.

"Furthermore, economies are also impacted, as countries struggle with the increased

costs of healthcare, damage to infrastructure and the costs of adaptation measures. Costs related to climate change are increasing annually. Much of the Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts to date has focused on states and regions in the country,

where there are greater resources to invest in community initiatives and development of interventions to mitigate or adapt to the effects of climate change. Conversely, most resource poor states, having contributed proportionally less to the emissions causing global warming, are disproportionately affected by climate change. In these states, the impact is severe, affecting livelihoods, leading to increased poverty and intensifying vulnerabilities.

"More community efforts and institutional capacity development are needed on contextually and culturally appropriate strategies and interventions for effective mitigation and adaptation in populations most affected by climate change due to their geographic, social and/or

economic circumstances. Without partnerships, collaborations and capacity development at the community level, such vulnerable groups will be at even greater risk from the impacts of climate change including future weather events. Further to this, climate change has been a featured topic of His Excellency, Governor Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke's statements since his resumption in office.

"In declarations of his one year anniversary, the Governor referred to climate change as "one of the greatest challenges and threats towards achieving sustainable development" and confirmed the states' full commitment to playing its role in the global fight against climate change. Among the key objectives in this area, his declarations highlighted the promotion of recycling; green development and low-carbon economy; an increased use of renewable energy sources, and in particular biofuels; mitigation of the negative impact of climate change on food security and the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

"Recycling, Tree planting, green innovation and Adaptation of agriculture to climate change were named among five priority areas that contribute to stable economic growth and achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, the governor reaffirmed the states' commitment to strengthening green innovation and collaborative networks within the state to enhance the resilience of the state in the face of the changing climate.

"Currently, the office of the Consultant on Climate Change and Renewable Energy is partnering with MDAs and other public and private sector stakeholders to address the issue of plastic waste pollution by recycling it into useful products such as shopping bags, garbage bags, and plastic pellets for industrial purposes under the Green Initiative. As we know, one of the biggest challenges facing colleges and universities is how to get students engaged in campus recycling programs. This is where we come in. The Green Campus Initiative empowers the campus community through advocacy, education and resources in promoting sustainable innovation and building resilience. Specifically, it also aims to empower youth and women by providing them with sustainable income opportunities.

"Our office is dedicated to promoting sustainability and driving progress on environmental issues. Through research, initiatives, and educational programs, the goal is to empower people, drive innovation, and build resilient communities within the state. Our thematic focus areas include education, environment, energy, equity, and economics, and we work with a variety of stakeholders including students, professionals, policymakers, and community leaders to drive positive change in these areas. Whether through our leadership programs,



**Professor Chinwe Obuaku, Consultant to Osun State Government on Climate change, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development**

fellowships, conferences, or community service events, we strive to engage, educate, and inspire individuals to take action and make a difference in the world."

### About the CCCI project

Governor Adeleke has committed to CAP and the Paris Agreement by appointing a state consultant, setting up an advisory council and through a public declaration- this makes him our CLIMATE CHAMPION. The Governor's public commitment is being backed up by a series of community impact projects that focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation. The CCCI and CIP are created to address the issues of sustainability in Osun state, at all levels. These initiatives are managed by the Consultant on Climate Change, under the office of the Governor and in collaboration with various MDAs and private sector sectors.

The goal of the CCCI and CIP is to make Osun state environmentally-friendly by creating climate champions and leaders at various levels to drive the implementation of the CAP. These desired changes would require cooperation among all citizens, sectors, organizations and institutions within the state.

### Community Impact Projects:

#### Project 1:

Osun Climate Ambassadors (OCA): A core component of our work on Climate action in Osun state is the establishment of the Osun Climate Ambassadors (OCA). The Osun Climate Ambassadors (OCA) program is for civil society to translate new knowledge and skills into local climate action through community impact projects (CIP). The OCA community impact projects are citizen-created and youth-led and provide sustainable solutions to local problems that contribute to climate change.

At the broader community level, the projects aim to address topics in biodiversity, energy, transportation, food, water, and waste, and seek to build awareness, drive positive environmental change, and inspire others to act on climate change.

Specifically, we intend to achieve the following:

- Start a green team

Civil Society green teams will help in creating relevant and impactful messaging that resonates with their community. This helps spread the word about what's happening in the state with recycling and other sustainability initiatives. It becomes a tribal movement rather than a directive from the government.

- Appoint OCAs at every level of society to create awareness and advocacy on plastic waste pollution in the state; Our ambassadors will be responsible for facilitating grassroots programs, town hall meetings and panels on climate change and how it affects various communities

- Develop climate change, recycling and waste management programs for Iyaloja and chiefs and other leaders in the rural areas

- Create collection and redemption points for waste. Here, the more waste you can collect, the more points you earn and you can exchange those points for solar lanterns, food stamps or medical services.

#### Project 2:

Osun Climate Ambassador Campus Initiative (OCAC):

Within the OCA program, we intend to achieve the following:

- Start a green team:

Student green teams will help in creating relevant and impactful messaging that resonates with their peers. This helps spread the word about what's happening on campus with recycling and other sustainability initiatives. [It becomes a tribal movement rather than a directive from the administration].

- Determine our benchmark by doing a waste audit across campuses and schools. The aim is to discover the volume and type of waste that are being generated on various campuses. This helps in selecting containers with the correct capacity and placing them in the right locations. The waste audit will identify whether we need any specific waste collection containers. it provides us with a snapshot of the current situation, and gives us a starting point for setting our diversion rate goals. Setting goals will help the students know what they're aiming for.

- Develop climate action and recycling programs for primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions

- Creating awareness for students on the impact of poor waste management by encouraging plastic recovery from the school premises through the donation of recycling bins and inculcating a culture of re-use, reduce and recycle. There are 4 main areas

on campus for recycling containers to be placed: Athletics/Sports facilities; Common areas (classrooms, meeting rooms, hallways, entrance ways and green spaces); Student residence and Cafeteria/food service;

- Organize school competitions and fashion shows where participants use recyclables;

- Encourage green roofs, gardening, tree planting, etc., where we donate seedlings

- Recyclemania competition and Game Day Challenge: Create a statewide competition against other schools. This will help keep all campus recycling programs top of mind for all students. We will hold competitions on campus between faculties or departments with prizes and recognition for the winners.

#### Project 3:

Osun Green Boots Campaign: The Green Boots project is dedicated to promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship through various community initiatives. It is a civil society led initiative which focuses on drainage cleaning, reforestation, and cleaning of gutters, rivers, forests and green areas. The aim is to contribute to the fight against erosion and care for the environment, avoiding the degradation of ecosystems and fighting against climate change.

#### Project 4:

Osun Sustainability Summit: The aim of the sustainability summit is to support exchange of ideas and further the design and implementation of co-produced adaptation and mitigation strategies for vulnerable groups—those groups currently most impacted by the effects of climate change (i.e., for both physical and socio-economic vulnerability).

Other objectives include:

- Developing strategies to improve resilience to climate change which requires cross sectoral collaboration including government, academia, private industry, non-profit organizations and civil society.

- Co-development of research and solutions in partnership with communities that are affected by climate change (the UN recommends that enabling collaborative experiential learning and capacity development, is essential for long-term success.

#### Project 5:

Leadership program: The aim of the leadership program is to develop engagements and mechanisms towards strengthening the leaders of the future. In this regard, we have developed a climate action leadership program in collaboration with UNITAR. The programs are completely funded by the Osun state Government, where Climate Ambassadors across the state are selected each year to participate in this course.

The program offers proven tools and knowledge from experts to integrate sustainability and green transition into the very fabric of business, elevating it from mere initiative to a core strategic imperative. The program is based on Osun state's commitment to innovation and sustainable business – and its connection to the global economy. The program will be face to face and will contain lectures, coaching, interactive workshops as well as visits to recycling plants and other companies as well as organizations within the state.

#### Project 6:

Monthly panel discussions by schools: We will be having a monthly panel discussion entitled "Re-imagining Climate action: Conversations from students".



# Opinion

## Governor Adeleke and his faith

By James Bamgbose

place in the universe.

Religion and faith are two deeply intertwined concepts that have shaped human civilization for millennia. At their core, they both involve a belief in something greater than oneself, whether it's a deity, a set of moral principles, or a spiritual force. While often used interchangeably, they carry nuanced differences.

Religion typically refers to organized system of beliefs, practices, and rituals centered around a transcendent reality or ultimate truth. These systems often have structured institutions, texts, and clergy to guide adherents in understanding and practicing their faith. Examples include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, and many others. Religions provide frameworks for understanding the meaning of life, the nature of existence, and humanity's

Faith, on the other hand, is more personal and subjective. It encompasses trust, belief, and confidence in something beyond tangible and rational. Faith can exist within or outside the bounds of organized religion. It's the inner conviction that gives individuals hope, strength, and purpose, even in the face of uncertainty or adversity. Faith can be directed towards a higher power, a spiritual journey, or a set of guiding principles.

The adrifted opposition in Osun State recently drew their pettiness, but this time, about a very sensitive subject; religion. Having left no logical or constructive criticism about Governor Adeleke's pattern of governance, they embarked on cheap pettiness. While it is undebatable that a country like Nigeria, particularly Osun State, is multi-



religious, it is only illogical to want to get political appraisal through religious citing.

It is well known that Governor Ademola Adeleke had a Muslim

father and a Christian mother, so by birth, he could practice either of the two religions. Governor Adeleke has given insight into how he practiced his faith

growing up.

Governor Adeleke's religious association is not only his right but also a fundamental aspect of democratic governance. As a Muslim, he is entitled to practice his faith freely, without any coercion or prejudice. However, being a governor transcends individual religious affiliations; it encompasses serving the diverse populace of his state, regardless of their religious beliefs.

It's important to emphasize that attending religious events or partaking in religious activities doesn't dilute one's faith but rather demonstrates inclusivity and respect and tolerance for all faiths within the society. Therefore, Governor Adeleke's attendance at events of other religions should be seen as a gesture of unity and harmony rather than a compromise of his Muslim identity.

In a pluralistic society like ours, leaders must bridge religious divides and foster mutual understanding among different religious communities. By participating in various religious events, Governor Adeleke can promote interfaith dialogue and solidarity, thus contributing to social cohesion and harmony.

As he continues to lead his state, Governor Adeleke should maintain his commitment to attending both mosques and churches in addition to other religious activities, affirming his dedication to serving all citizens regardless of their religious backgrounds. This not only sets a positive example for other leaders but also reinforces the principles of tolerance, respect, and inclusivity in our society.



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# interview

## We Have Several Tourists Attraction in Boluwaduro -Council Boss

In this interview, the Caretaker Chairman, Boluwaduro East Local Council Development Area in Osun, Hon John Biodun Fatooki speaks to Oni Gbenga on his achievement and experience in office so far.

**A**s a former councillor, we know you are familiar with how local government was then. Can you please place a comparison about how it was then and now?

That your question in fact is, I can say it's a rhetorical question because one can easily see it that comparing this government with the past administration, in fact, it's far, far, far. I mean, Governor Ademola Adeleke's own governance is quite different from the previous government of Oyetola.

The local government administration then was nothing to write home about. In fact, I can categorically tell you that the government of those days you know, they have retrogressed the system of the local government entirely. There is nothing to write on about, in the sense that if you go to the local government, hardly will you see the administrators doing well there, because they do not give them priority to give themselves priority at the state level.

The local government administration then were so peaceful, they don't operate as they supposed to operate.

If you see the communities and the local government, you can not point to what they have done. They did nothing throughout. They didn't take care of the community people so they later formed associations to take care of themselves.

Like now, you can see

that the local governments are promptly attending to situations on ground at each local government.

Let me take, for instance, our community in Igbajo, when it rained, some electric poles were destroyed, some houses blown off, we took prompt action on these things. Unlike before, it will be community, it will be community people that will be taxing themselves in replacing the electric poles.

You see, now we are grading roads from the villages, we are grading roads in the communities. For the past 12 years, I don't think those people brought a grader to our community here in Igbajo.

So, you cannot compare the past administration with this one. This one is people based or people oriented or let me say people loved government.

**With your current position as the Caretaker Chairman, tell us about Boluwaduro East LCDA and its peculiarity.**

We have tourist attractions, we have so many places that can attract people from far and near. You see, in Igbajo, for instance. We have this Kiriji war site and in Iresi; We have Ojupobekun. You see, that Ojupobekun is a cave and there is a deep, a deep dam in that cave that is unending, there is nobody that enters into that cave.



That can come out alive. There has never been anybody.

**And there is one other little, stream like this. It's not like a dam, it's like a lake, okay, let me call it a lake.**

That lake is just a little lake. And if you throw stone into that lake, you'll be hearing the sound of that stone that will go deep, deep, deep, deep, deep, deep down. We have so many things. We have so many mineral

resources that can attract people here. We have rocks across the communities here, we have some hills that, there is a particular hill in Igbajo, if you climb that mountain, you can easily see four states. You'll be seeing Kwara state, part of ondo state, Ekiti state clearly from that mountain, so there are a lot of things that can attract people from far and near. we are so blessed here.

**As Chairman of**

**Boluwaduro East LCDA, and with your wealth of knowledge and experience in this system of governance, what should people of Boluwaduro LCDA expect from you?**

They should expect better and best governance. You know, I want to assure our people here, with what we have been able to do, little by little, we still do more for them. At least we were able to pay some students

WAEC fees, we were able to pay part of their NECO fees, we were able to obtain jamb forms too.

Let me assure our people, because our people here are agrarians. We plant, we are all farmers here, even as the local government, we have a banana plantation. We have planted maize. In fact, within about two months to this time, that is about eight weeks, we will be cultivating our maize. So, they should expect best from us.



# interview

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## "We have embarked on 17 projects in 8 months" Boluwaduro LG Chair

In this interview, the Caretaker Chairman, Boluwaduro Local Government in Osun, Hon. Aina Abayomi Adesina speaks to Oni Gbenga on his achievement and experience in office so far.

It's been almost one year since you became chairman, how can you describe the experience you are having?

Thank God, at least by August we would have spent one year in office. I mean we have spent like eight months now in the office,

The experience is mixed feeling. We are doing well. We have about 15 or 17 projects that we have embarked on to elevate poverty to infrastructure.

We have done well too. What I mean by mixed feelings is that people expected much from this government. We've been out of the government for more than 12 years.

People have been expecting greater things. People have been expecting miracle. So government is not Jesus Christ that does miracle. It's step by step.

So some people are disappointed in us that we have not really touched them, how they feel we should be touching them and some people are very happy that we're at the

helm of affairs because we are doing well. So it's mixed feeling but then we are happy we are doing it. We're happy we are at it.

What has been your achievement in office so far?

Thank you so much. I don't know whether time will permit us to tell you our achievement.

Like I said, we have been able to do so many things. We resumed office August to August 16 last year and we have been able to do so many things because of our time.

We just itemized some of the things we have done. when we came in, Igboodu area; where we have state technical college and Anglican grammar school which has produced so many graduates the

likes of late Tafa Balogun (former IGP of police) and the rest of them, those areas have just been there without electricity. So we were able to buy poles, wire and the rest of it.

So electrification extension was the first thing we did when we came from centenary hall to along Eripa Road.

As I'm talking to you now, technical college area is having electricity and Anglican Grammar School where they have computer lab, they've not been able to use it, they're using it now by the grace of God

because we have been able to lighten those areas through electrification extension. we discover that all the veggies are not something to write home about,

We've been able to clear all the veggies, we engage our party members, the community people, we employed casual workers, we employed about 30 casual workers and initially before we got there I think they employed less than 30 and they were being paid them 10,000.

But when we got there, we employed 30 and we are paying them 15,000 per person. Another thing we also did was employment of a corps member, a medical doctor to our hospital. We discovered the state is lacking medical personnel. So we have general hospital here in Otan Ayegbaju, Boluwaduro Local Government, we have maternities that are not having medical personnel so to say a doctor. So we went to NYSC orientation camp and we got a doctor that we are paying well.

Before PDP left, the local government has a functional poultry but unfortunately

it's not functioning again and it had been vandalized. Nothing is there, So we erected a poultry pen and we are currently in the process of stocking the pen.

Recently, we did this renewal hope initiative by the First Lady of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, our wives were instructed to do it and we supported our women by doing that. They gave them vegetable seedling material that they could plant in their compounds to alleviate hunger.

We gave books to public schools too to empower them. The party, we came to this position through; People's Democratic Party, we cannot leave them untouched, so we've been able to touch around the political wards and we give them good money to at least people that have not been able to get to where we are.



Anybody that need assistance, we give to them and we are doing that. We've been assisting our people now and we made sure every other claims by the staff of the local government are paid to them. I think that's the reason why we are having a very cordial relationship with them.

First Monday of every month we make it a point of duty to come to God in prayers after which we hold a meeting to see review our work, achievement and other related matters, what have we done good and what have we done that are not good.

When we came on board there are some vehicles that we met in the local government that are faulty, they were out of road, we put them back to road and we repaired some vehicles.

We also renovated two classrooms at st Philips primary school otan ayegbaju; and built two more classrooms there, as well as St Mary Nicholas primary school.

Then Oke Irun happens to be the only community before we came that are not having light in the very short while, the transformer there is not functional again. So we took it for repair and we've been able to pay to certain amount.

And the rest, like I said time might not permit us to be mentioning our achievements but in a very short period of time we've been able to do this and we are hoping we're still going to do more.

Are there challenges you are facing currently in your administration as the Local Government Chairman?

Like I said, there is none except for the fact the one I said other time that people are expecting miracle which is normal. It's just like when there is dry season that the land is seriously dried, people will expect much rain to cover it up and the expected much rain has never dropped to take care of the dried land. Our party member especially voters are very anxious, very agitated to get what they have in mind. Their desires; But we've not been able to meet them at that point. But we are doing the little we can do, so no much challenge, so to say.

There has been insinuations that Governor Adeleke is not funding your local government. is this assertion true?

You can only ear that from the opposition party, APC who are not happy with Senator Ademola Jackson Adeleke. These opposition people are not happy with good things he's doing,

he is funding the local governments. We get our allocations as and when due.

I just said that we pay imprest and he's not my father's one that we used to pay.

That is the allocation from the state government, the allocation from the local government, state government that we used to pay. So we are getting our money as and when due.

So that rumor might be from enemy of progress, people that are not happy with good things Governor Ademola Adeleke is doing. People that are not happy with him, they might be saying that but we are getting our money regularly.

\* How will you rate the administration of Governor Ademola Adeleke?

Maybe I should say 101% if there is any mathematical analysis of such. I was a teacher sometimes ago during former Governor Rauf Aregbesola

and I was a senior teacher then they were owing us half salary and somebody just came in, he did not borrow money and he is paying the salary and the arrears. I'm still getting mine.

So what would you say about that person? That man is an angel. He's an angel sent to humans, sent to us in osun state. He's paying the money; that Aregbesola could not pay, the money Oyetola could not pay; Governor Adeleke is paying it now.

So how do you expect opposition to praise such a person? The money that people like the civil servants and retirees are not expecting, they've zero their mind that they will not get such money again, Adeleke is paying it.

I just came back from where I went to check the road they are constructing now the Otan Ayegbaju to Iresi road. This road was built during Awolowo administration and no other government was able to do anything on the road for almost 40 years but Governor Adeleke has started work on it and we have not had any firm or any banks or any financial houses where he borrowed money, he's not borrowing money and he's doing wonderfully well. Get to Oke Fia in osogbo, get to Alekunwodo, get to Akoda ede, get to Ikirun and every nooks and crannies of the state. The contractor that will do our roads here too; They're prepared. They're coming in any moment to do that road again. So he's doing well.

So if there is any mathematical analysis of 101% then I want to give him that 101% that he deserves. Infrastructure, he is doing well. human capacity development, he is doing well.

Some people are saying that governor Ademola Adeleke is being biased when it comes to associating with some local government, like he had neglected some local governments. Is this true?

He cannot, I'm not too sure because we are 69 that are Chairmen of the local government and we meet regularly. Nobody has complained of Sen. Ademola Adeleke neglecting his own local government, from here Boluwaduro Local Government and the LCDA that i am conversant with he's not neglecting us.

He's doing wonderfully well with us. So how would they say he's neglecting Local Government if he's doing that? We'll have gotten that information from our platform, from our forum. He's not doing that and like I said, too many bad things from pit of APC that are not happy with what they taught Governor Adeleke won't be able to do. So he's not neglecting us. He's doing well for the local government. I've just told you our achievements.

These are the money from the state government and not from my purse and I've just told you what we intend to do. So he's not





## Good Governance: How Adeleke Differs From His Predecessor

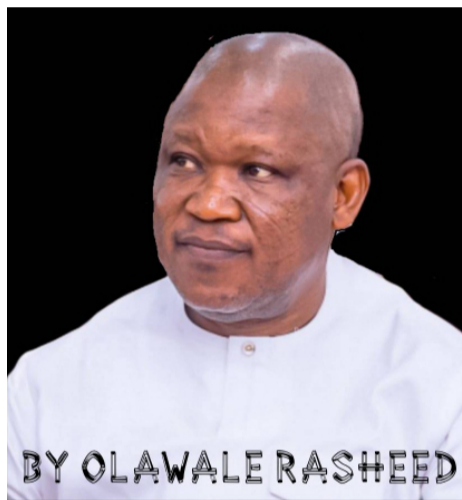
Public governance has a prime beneficiary as the citizens of a nation, state or local government. The public in each of those entities set the expectations which determine who and how they cast their votes. Office seekers equally aggregate those societal needs and deploy such under their manifestos to canvass for votes in the cut throat struggle for power.

The citizens' demands are many and varied but there are basic trends and unanimity of focus. At the core of public demands from elected leaders is good governance. Scholars of politics and public governance itemized characteristics of good governance namely participation for broad inclusion; Rule of law of fair and impartial enforced legal framework; transparency built on the free flow of information, processes, institutions; responsiveness where institutions and processes try to serve all stakeholders; consensus orientation on societal direction; equity where all citizens have access to opportunities; efficiency; accountability and strategic vision where leaders have a broad and long-term perspective on good governance and human development.

If the above is mere academic analysis, good governance to the common man on the streets means delivery of social services, good roads, schools, health and others. In most cases, ordinary citizens expect basic support for survival and an enabling environment to live comfortable lives. Mostly, the citizens use the simplest of parameters to judge their leaders such as the simplest of provision like a borehole.

The citizens tend to detest leaders who use the intricacies of bureaucracy and money making structures to deny or slow down basic social services delivery. A government that thrives on fanciful ideas with little or no impact on the aspirations of the people faces heavy beating during elections. Of course, an irresponsible and inaccessible leader gets easily caught off from the grassroots who expect immediate attendance and action on public services issues.

As a student of public administration, the point one I am making is that the expectations of the opposition party and that of the citizenry from a Government of the day can be quite different. The citizens have a yardstick for which it based the ratings of a government. As long as a government satisfies the expectations and the set templates,



BY OLAWALE RASHEED

# FROM BOLA ADELEKE HOUSE

the ordinary citizen and even the dog handlers exude great confidence in the status quo.

For the opposition party, the approach depends on how smart its operatives are. It also depends on how well the incumbent is performing. If a government is meeting the expectation of the people, the opposition has little room to maneuver. A government can therefore be hated by the opposition but fully loved by the people. The Osun scenario fully exemplifies a model where the people and the government are on the same page while the opposition is in the political wilderness.

The secret behind such a scenario as we have in Osun State now is that the incumbent adopted a people-centric approach which removed the old barrier between government and the people. Countless associations and groups not only gain easy access to the Governor but get their needs attended to. The other day a traditional ruler was pleasantly surprised that he met the Governor less than 48 hours after requesting a visit. Unhindered access between the leader and the people satisfies the psychological needs of the voting public.

The second secret relates to attending to small citizen demands as well as the bigger needs of the people. A local area bridge is as important as the inter-city bridge. A village health centre is of significance as the General Hospital. A government that gives borehole to a ward and approves rehabilitation of major water works demonstrates sensitivity to the needs of the micro and macro segment of the society. The Adeleke administration solves minor and major public service problems without let or hindrance.

The capacity of a leader to identify and fulfill the

needs of the people deepens public acceptability. When a leader adopts public desire as the core of his agenda, he becomes one in unity with the public. His conduct immediately secures endorsement and his popularity rating soars on a daily basis. For a Governor to adopt workers' welfare as the first item on his agenda and pursue implementation so rigorously, he earns public trust, confidence and endorsement.

Another instance is a leader who demonstrates foresight in service of the people. The strength to develop a spending plan to avoid waste was applauded among the citizens. When Governor Adeleke announced the multi-billion naira infrastructure plan last December, the state had less than ten billion naira in the treasury. As the revenue inflow increases, the path of spending was already outlined within the overall framework of due process and rule of law. This again fortifies the love of the public for the Adeleke government as it further confounds the opposition.

The overall perspective is that the Adeleke administration differs from its predecessor on various counts, the biggest of which is the extraordinary closeness of the present administration to the people in meeting their needs and in relating with them without barrier and impediment. The expectation of the public and the delivery of the government tallied, hence the huge approval rating of the incumbent.

Of course, there is room for improvement despite an approval rating of over eighty percent. Yet, the point need to be made that Governor Ademola Adeleke has broadened the base of his support due to his charm, accessibility, free spirit, attention to citizens' needs, his laudable achievements within two years in office, his empathy, and his redefinition of good governance to mean meeting the people at the point of their needs.