

## OSUN 2026: THE JOURNEY BEGINS

- I remain in PDP -Adeleke • Uneasy calm in APC
- ADC to test run with Osun Election



Oyetola Oyebamiji Ogunbiyi Omoworare

**2026: Oyetola, Oyebamiji, Ogunbiyi, Omoworare locks horn over APC ticket**

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**OSUN 2026 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION: 372 DAYS TO GO**





I congratulate His Royal Majesty, the Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji Olanipekun (Larooye II), the Chiefs, Oloris, princes, princesses, and the sons and daughters of Osogbo, on the occasion of this year's Osun Osogbo Festival.

The Osun Osogbo Festival is a vibrant celebration of tradition, reflecting the rich heritage and enduring spirit of the Osogbo people, which Your Majesty so gracefully embodies.

Your exemplary stewardship has been pivotal in preserving the cultural values and traditions that make this festival a cornerstone of our heritage.

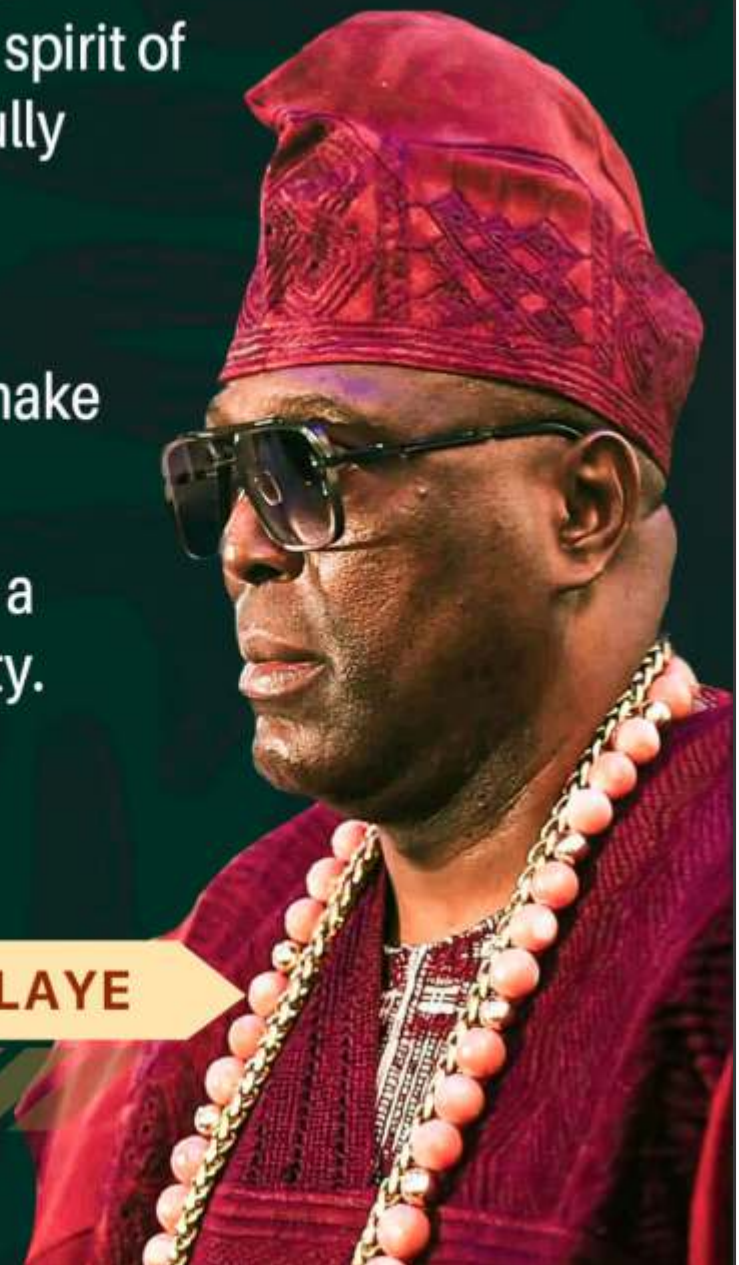
May this year's festival be filled with joy, unity, and a renewed sense of purpose for the entire community.

**Osun Osogbo a gbe wa o!**



**BOBAGUNWA TESLIM IGBALAYE**

Secretary to the Osun State Government





## EDITORIAL

# 2026: Alignment and Realignment in Osun

As Osun state moves towards another election year, there are already indications that the journey will be interesting, this is as political actors are beginning to form new alliances, create new blocs within different parties.

What appears like a renewal of battle, is the re-entry of former Governor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola into the political space.

Aregbesola after joining camps with Nasir Elrufai, Atiku Abubakar to form a coalition which later adopted the African Democratic Congress (ADC) later emerged as National Secretary of the party and thereby making him the leader of the party in the state.

Recall that the All Progressives Congress (APC) had in 2024 suspended Aregbesola from the party stating through a letter written

The alleged him of factionalizing the APC by forming the Omoluabi Caucus splinter group; allegedly collaborating with opposition parties to destabilize the APC in Osun State; publicly criticizing party leaders, including President Bola Tinubu, Chief Bisi Akande, and former Osun governor Gboyega Oyetola; refusing to participate in or support APC activities within the state; and refusing to vote for the party since the 2019 general elections.

Aregbesola in response said he never left the APC but that the party left him.

He said, "The week we created the Omoluabi group, we were dragged to court and warned not to use the name of the party I helped build with my sweat. Eventually, we were expelled. I never left APC, the party left me."

Now that Aregbesola is back to the Osun state government election scenario, it is unclear yet who the candidate of ADC in 2026 will be but sources revealed that the party might cede the ticket to the west, leaving the one time SSG, Alhaji Moshood Adeoti and the one time Speaker of Osun Assembly, Rt Hon. Najeem Salam in the ring.

Osun Spring notes that while it is clear that the ADC will not be aligning with APC in any way but is unclear if there would be no alliance between the PDP and ADC or even between Governor Ademola Adeleke and Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola.

Although recent statements by Governor Adeleke have said that he will not be joining APC, the Governor and the PDP in Osun have systemically endorsed President Tinubu for a second term in office which is raising further questions by citizens of the state. We are not sure what that will birth in Osun, especially after the 2026 Governorship Election.

Osun Spring urges all political leaders and followers to ensure that as we approach the election season, there is no campaign of calumny, spreading of fake news or abuse of the social media space.

We also call security agencies in the state to ensure adequate protection of lives and properties, while staying professional and fair to all parties throughout this election period.

We call on politicians to put Osun and its people first in whatever decision or steps they'll take in order for Osun people to keep enjoying the relative peace it always had, making it boast as the "most peaceful state in Nigeria".

## FEATURES

### Governor Adeleke Urges Diaspora Partnership as Osogbo Progressive Union Hosts US Convention

By Kehinde Adeoye

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has called for more diaspora partnership stating that it is a veritable tool for further development on sub-nationals and Nigeria as a whole.

The Governor made this call while attending the Osogbo Progressive Union (OPUUSA) 2025 Biennial National Convention and Fundraising Gala Night themed "2025, Osogbo Year of Unity" in Dallas, Texas.

In his keynote address,

Governor Adeleke, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Hon. Teslim Igbalaye commended the OPUUSA for their dedication towards the development of Osogbo and Osun State.

He highlighted the significance of the theme, "Osogbo Year of Unity," noting that it reflects the enduring bond between Osogbo's sons and daughters in the diaspora and their homeland.

"Your presence here, thousands of miles from

home, proves that no distance can break the bond we share with our roots.

"Your contributions inspire us all, and we are grateful for your deep-rooted love for Osogbo," the Governor stated.

He outlined transformative strides made by the Adeleke administration in Osun State, particularly in Osogbo. Key projects include the ongoing construction of flyover bridges at Oke-Fia and Lameco, road electrification across major streets, new school buildings, and refurbishments at the University of Osun (UNIOSUN), Osogbo Campus. Healthcare facilities have also been upgraded, alongside numerous initiatives positioning Osogbo as a commercial hub and a beacon of progress in



Nigeria.

Governor Adeleke called for deepened collaboration with the diaspora community, urging OPUUSA members to leverage their expertise and resources to empower youths, build human capital, and preserve Osogbo's cultural heritage. He reaffirmed his administration's

commitment to transparency and impactful governance, assuring continued support for initiatives that advance Osogbo's growth.

Through community initiatives, advocacy, and partnerships, OPUUSA continues to champion progress and unity for Osogbo both in Nigeria and the diaspora.

Among the dignitaries in

attendance were Alhaji Kazeem Adetunji, President of OPUUSA; Alhaji Yekini Opawoye, Chairman of the OPUUSA 2025 Convention Planning Committee; Dr. Lekan Adewuyi, National PRO of OPUUSA; and other executive members.

Mr. John Bloch, the Pro Tem Mayor, Irving County, Dallas, Texas, was also in attendance as a special guest.





NEWS

# Osun 2026: We will rig Adeleke out using police, INEC -Oyetola

By Adeoye Olude

Former Osun State Governor, Gboyega Oyetola has said that it will be difficult for any aspirant who eventually emerges candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the forthcoming 2026 Governorship Election to defeat the incumbent Governor of the state, Senator Ademola Adeleke, Osun Spring has learnt.

Oyetola added that to ensure that APC wins Osun in 2026, he has secured the cooperation of the Nigeria Police Force and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

According to sources present at a close door meeting of top leaders of the APC in Osun on Friday at the Ilerioluwa house in Osogbo the Osun state capital, Oyetola attributed the loss of Osun APC in 2022 Governorship election to the refusal of late President Buhari to instruct INEC and the Police to work in its favour.

The source noted that he added that being close to President Bola Tinubu aided him to ensure that he blocked the move by people trying to bring Adeleke to the APC while promising President Tinubu that the party will win 2026 election as well as deliver the state for the President's reelection come 2027.

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy also announced to people stakeholders of APC in Osun state that he will not be contesting the 2026 Governorship Election asking aspirants to ensure they work effectively to win the election adding that aspirants should make sure they all work together with whoever emerges the candidate of the party.

The source disclosed that Oyetola maintained that he has stood as a guarantor for Osun APC before President Tinubu noting that if Osun APC loses come 2026 it will bring his political career to an absolute end.

The source said,

"Oyetola has eventually told us that he will not be contesting for Governor in 2026. In fact he told us that Adeleke is too powerful to be defeated and he has secured the cooperation of both the Police and INEC to ensure that we win 2026 Governorship Election.

"He said that we lost the 2022 Osun Governorship election because President Buhari refused to instruct the Police and INEC to work for us.

"Oyetola said that he was the one who blocked Adeleke from joining our party, APC, he told us that he had promised President Tinubu that APC will win in Osun and the implication of this is that if APC loses, his own career as a politician has come to an end.

"He told all aspirants that they have work to do at the grassroots level and they must be ready to work together and support whoever emerges candidate of the party eventually", the source noted.

On the local government crisis, the source noted that Oyetola said it is a deliberate strategy to frustrate the Adeleke administration making sure that he is unable to deliver campaign promises and thereby turning the people against the Governor.

The source noted that he added further that he will ensure that the money is not paid to Governor Adeleke until the end of his first term in office.

"Oyetola told us that on the issue of local government crisis, the stoppage of local government fund is a deliberate strategy they he deployed to ensure that Adeleke government is not able to achieve anything especially at the grassroots level and ultimately turn the people against him.

"Infact he told us that we should rest assured that he will make sure that Adeleke does not get the local government fund till the end of this his tenure in office", the source added.

Aspirants in the APC for the 2026 Governorship Election are: Senator Babajide Omowore, Alhaji Bola Oyebamiji, Dr Akin Ogunbiyi, Prince



OYETOLA

Dotun Babayemi and Senator Mudashiru Hussein.

Osun Spring reports that of all the aspirants, Senator Ajibola Basiru who is also the National Secretary of the party was absent at the meeting.

Reacting to this development, the Director of Media, People's Democratic Party in Osun State, Oladele Bamiji, noted that the decision of former Governor Oyetola not to contest is because he is aware of the popularity of Governor Adeleke and does not want to be defeated again.

The statement added that Governor Ademola Adeleke had won series of elections in the past because of the love of people behind him and is not afraid of going to poll but he is confident of victory.

"Reports have emerged that the defeated former Governor Gboyega Oyetola will not contest the 2026 governorship election in Osun State. While some have tried to sell this as a statesmanlike retreat, we see it for what it truly is - a calculated face-saving measure by a man thoroughly rejected by his

people and discredited by his own actions.

"Let us refresh our memories. Governor Ademola Adeleke has been a consistent thorn in the flesh of Osun APC since 2017. Against all odds, he defeated their candidate in nine out of ten local governments in the Osun West Senatorial Bye-election held to fill the seat of his late brother, Senator Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke. That victory rewrote political calculations in Osun as well as effectively stamping a new era of electoral bravery in the people of the state.

"In 2018, Senator Adeleke again won the governorship election, only to have his victory cruelly snatched through INEC's infamous "inconclusive" declaration, a charade supervised by Professor Fuwape of FUTA. What followed was a bloody and manipulated runoff that barely produced a 400-vote lead, fraudulently installing Gboyega Oyetola as governor.

"Mr Oyetola entered office not as a people's choice, but as a

beneficiary of electoral robbery and he knew it. Unsurprisingly, he governed with crass detachment, neglecting real development while obsessively waging a senseless war of attrition against his former boss, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola, under whom he served for eight years as Chief of Staff.

"Instead of uniting the party and focusing on governance, Oyetola chose vendettas, alienated stakeholders, and distanced himself from the grassroots. He imagined that being a cousin to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu gave him unlimited license. But even nepotism has its limits when competence and compassion are absent.

"In 2022, the people of Osun State spoke again, louder this time. They overwhelmingly elected Governor Ademola Adeleke, who defeated Oyetola at the polls, fairly and squarely.

"Now, however, disturbing signals are emanating from a factional APC stakeholders' meeting held at the instance of the

same failed former governor. Reports say Oyetola has resumed his dangerous political games, boasting that he has secured the backing of "key institutions"- INEC and the security agencies, to hijack the 2026 elections for his party. His justification? "I am the President's cousin."

"He even allegedly bragged about masterminding the unlawful withholding of statutory allocations meant for local governments in Osun State, all to punish the same people he seeks to govern again. Is this how to be a cousin to the President? Weaponizing family ties to inflict suffering on ordinary citizens?

"Can such a man, who abuses access to power to deprive his people, be taken seriously when he resurfaces to lead APC campaigns in Osun? This is not just a question of morality, it is a matter of political and ethical reckoning.

"Unfortunately for him and his ilk, the people of Osun are not cowards. History has shown that they do not bow to oppressors, no matter how highly connected they may be.

"I have personally received countless communications from across the state, expressing dogged support for Governor Adeleke and the PDP. The people are not just grateful for the tangible progress achieved in the last two and a half years, they are ready for an electoral showdown. They are prepared to once again reject Oyetola and his brand of entitlement-driven politics.

"This coming election cycle will once again confirm the political resilience and maturity of Osun people. And more importantly, it will serve as a definitive lesson in how not to be a President's cousin - by Gboyega Oyetola's example.

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu must be alert and beware of his pampered cousin, who appears determined to damage his political credentials and legacy just to secure a political lifeline he no longer deserves", the statement reads.



## POLITICS

By Great Oluwaseun

Osun in the last few days have encountered series of conversations ahead of the 2026 governorship election as both the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC) gets ready to claim the votes of Osun people.

The conversation becomes heated as it was reported that former Governor Oyetola while meeting the Osun APC Stakeholders with exception of the party's National Secretary, Ajibola Basiru made certain comments on the plans of the party over the governorship election.

The PDP in a statement by its chairman, Hon. Sunday Bisi raised an alarm over the grand plot reportedly disclosed to the APC Stakeholders by the Minister, describing the alleged utterances as the most brazen declaration of intent to destroy democracy and a condemnable signal to abuse state power to deny Osun people the legitimate rights to choose their leader in a democracy.

The PDP while reprimanding the Minister over his alleged threats to rig the 2026 governorship elections in Osun state declared that Osun people rejects threats and intimidation as a tool for politicking, vowing that Governor Adeleke will win the 2026 election because he has solid support of the people as his governance records are superlative and he has God who gives and takes power.

The statement reads, "The Osun state chapter of the PDP is alarmed by several media reports of some inciting statements credited to the former Governor of Osun state and current Minister of Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola on his role in the withholding of Osun local governments allocations and the plan to thwart the will of electorates in the forthcoming 2026 governorship elections.

"We waited for more than 48 hours with the expectations that the Minister will deny the reports but till now, he has remained silent. We are encouraged therefore to belief that the Minister actually made those threatening remarks.

"For records purpose, the Minister was alleged to have told the closed door, high level caucus meeting of the party the following:

"I blocked Gov Adeleke from joining the APC. Otherwise, all your ambitions would have been in jeopardy.

# Does Oyetola plan to rig?



"I gave a guarantee to Mr. President that APC can win in Osun without Governor Adeleke;

"We lost the 2022 election because Buhari refused to instruct INEC and the Police to work for APC;

"I have secured the Cooperation of the Police and INEC to ensure that APC wins the Osun 2026 Gubernatorial Election;

"I have employed federal might to prevail upon the Attorney General of the Federation not to recognize the judgment of the Court of Appeal, which clearly recognized the election of the PDP chairmen and councilors.

"The Attorney General is working on a loophole that will allow the withheld local government funds to be released to the court-sacked APC chairmen and Councilors.

"Otherwise, the Osun State withheld funds will not be released until after the Gubernatorial Election in 2026, in order to turn the grassroots against Governor Adeleke.

"As a party, we have no issue with the Minister's position on the recent defection politics, we however challenge the Minister to deny and clarify other statements he allegedly made at the said state caucus meeting as they pose serious danger to democratic practice, undermine the credibility of critical state institutions and constitute gross abuse of powers and violations of the constitution.

"While we are of the considered view that President Bola Tinubu is not aware of the open threats to sack democracy in Osun by his cousin and the Minister of Blue economy, we call on Mr President to sanction the Minister for dragging the names of the Federal Government into disrepute.

"We also call on Mr President to counter-order the Attorney General of the Federation to obey the Court of Appeal judgement which recognizes the duly elected PDP chairmen and councilors and release Osun state local government allocations without further delay.

"We are also alerting men of goodwill and the diplomatic community of the open declaration of war on the people of Osun state by a Minister who is still bitter about his rejection at the poll by the good people of Osun state in 2022.

"We inform the global community of an open genocidal threat to democratic practice as Osun people will defend their votes irrespective of the threats from anti-democratic elements", the PDP statement reads.

Reacting to the PDP statement, Special Adviser on Media and Communications to the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy Dr. Bolaji Akinola described the statement as a fictional allegations adding that its a desperate cry from a failing party.

The statement added that the claims in the PDP's statement as false, malicious, and baseless adding that It is a deliberate smear campaign borne out of paranoia, fear, and desperation.

The statement reads, "Our attention has been drawn to a shameful and poorly scripted press statement issued by Sunday Bisi, Chairman, Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The statement is riddled with lies, fabrications, and reckless propaganda aimed at maligning the person of the Honourable Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, His Excellency, Adegboyega Oyetola (CON), and by extension, the All Progressives Congress (APC).

"Let it be made abundantly clear that every single claim in the PDP's concocted tale is false, malicious, and baseless. It is nothing more than a deliberate smear campaign borne out of paranoia, fear, and desperation, as the PDP stares down the barrel of a looming defeat in the 2026 Osun State Governorship Election.

"Contrary to the irresponsible fabrications released by the PDP, the Honourable Minister did not — and could never have — uttered any of the statements attributed to him. The entire press statement is a classic example of political fiction-writing, reflective of a party that has become increasingly unhinged in the face of its declining popularity.

"For the records: At no point did the Honourable Minister threaten to rig any election. He remains a firm believer in democracy and the rule of law — a legacy he upheld throughout his tenure as Governor of Osun State and continues to embody in his current capacity as Minister.

"The Honourable Minister has no control, nor has he ever claimed to control INEC, the Police, or the Attorney General of the Federation. The wild claims about "federal might" are not only laughable but an insult to Nigerians' intelligence and democratic institutions.

"The allegations concerning local government allocations and court rulings are mischievous distortions" by a party trying to mask its own incompetence in governance and failure to engage constructively on matters of public interest.

"The PDP's ridiculous resort to dragging the diplomatic community into their web of lies speaks volumes about their intentions — \*to incite, confuse, and distract\* the public from the real issues plaguing Osun State under their watch.

"We challenge the PDP to produce any verifiable evidence — audio, video, or minutes of the alleged meeting — to support these outrageous claims. Until then, the world should treat their statement as nothing but what it is: the dying gasp of a political party on the verge of another resounding electoral defeat.

"The Honourable Minister and the APC remain committed to free, fair, and credible elections in Osun State and across Nigeria. We urge the good people of Osun to ignore the distractions of the PDP and stay focused on the mission to restore competent, people-oriented governance in 2026.

"Enough of the theatrics. Osun deserves better than a party that governs by press release and paranoia."

Osun Spring reports that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has fixed August 8, 2026 as the date for Osun 2026 Governorship Election but while all the stakeholders in the PDP seems to have adopted Senator Ademola Adeleke as the party's flag bearer while the APC may have a long way to go in selecting its flagbearer.

**THE TEAM**

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Printed and Published by Future Hubs Skills Limited, No. 10 Elizabeth Estate, Ogungbemiro Street, Osoybo, Osun State. Newsroom: 09014877134 Editor: 07037439142 Advert Hotline: 09014877134 Email: info@osunspring.com, editor@osunspring.com Website: www.osunspring.com

## LG Allocations: Osun PDP Drags Oyetola, AGF Fagbemi to Western Embassies, Rights Groups

By Taofik Jimoh

The Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has taken its grievances against the Attorney General of the Federation, Mr. Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), and the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Mr. Adegboyega Oyetola, to the doorstep of international embassies and global rights organisations over what it describes as "deliberate disobedience" to a subsisting court judgment on local government leadership in the state.

In a statement signed by its Chairman, Hon. Sunday Bisi, and released to the press in

Osogbo on Monday, the ruling party in Osun accused the duo of orchestrating the ongoing local government crisis by allegedly frustrating the implementation of a Court of Appeal judgment that affirmed the legality of PDP-elected local council chairmen and councillors.

"Rather than ensure compliance with the court order. Mr. Oyetola has been allegedly using his family ties with President Bola Tinubu to facilitate the continued illegal withholding of Osun's local government allocations for over five months, an act that has no legal basis," he said.

The PDP claimed that despite clear judicial

pronouncements, both the AGF and the Blue Economy Minister are "insisting on paying local government funds to court-sacked APC chairmen,". The party said the move constitutes an assault on constitutional democracy and a dangerous precedent in governance.

"We find this development worrisome and an open threat to democratic governance. "We call on Western embassies and international rights organisations to sanction these federal officials whose actions threaten the rule of law and the sanctity of the judiciary," it said.

The party further urged the

international community to impose visa bans and other punitive measures on the officials, alleging that their actions undermine democracy in Nigeria.

Highlighting the legal journey that led to the Court of Appeal judgment in favour of the PDP, the party noted that rather than uphold the law, federal actors have continued to interfere in the state's local governance structure — "a brazen breach of Nigeria's constitution and judicial independence."

The PDP also called on rights groups like Transparency

International, Amnesty International, International Crisis Group, and the European Union, among others, to open investigations into the crisis and issue reports on what it called "anti-democratic threats in Osun State."

"We request that Osun's 2026 gubernatorial election be adopted as a litmus test for Nigeria's 2027 general elections, with a spotlight on the risks and democratic backsliding being orchestrated by federal enablers," the statement said.

According to the PDP, the

party will not relent in escalating its protests to the global stage until all legitimately elected local government officials are allowed to function and Osun's allocations are released without further delay.

"We will continue to petition relevant international institutions until justice is done and democracy is respected in Osun State," the party vowed.

As of press time, neither the Office of the Attorney General nor that of the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy had issued an official response to the allegations.



## INTERVIEW

# MY DAUGHTER'S AILMENT inspired me to start this business

**- Osun-based Skin and Haircare Therapist**

In this interview with Tomi Lala, Osun based Skin and Haircare Therapist, Badru Oluwatoyin, founder of Tife Botanicals and More speaks on the motivation behind her business and how the business has grown above several challenges

**K**indly tell us more about your business.

My business is based on 100% natural products. I deal with herbs, plant-based butters, carrier oils that are premium and essential oils. And I also sell shea butter. People who know me know I sell original shea butter.

**What inspired you to start this business?**

A few years back, my first daughter had issues with her hair, so I was struggling with the hair. That was when I thought I just had to look for a solution, and that was how I started research,ing and that was how I came about all these. I can tell you for a fact, Tife Botanicals is a growing brand.

**Was there ever a moment you almost gave up? What kept you going?**

That's a big question, and that was around 2020 during COVID-19 lockdown, then there were no sales, nothing, nobody wanted to buy anything. Then I was like maybe I should just quit, but along the line I just told myself "you can do this" and ever since then I just want to keep going, and that's what I've been doing since then.

**How do you think local businesses can work together to grow the economy?**

As a local business owner, the only thing I think we can do is for us to collaborate with each other, instead of an unhealthy rivalry. Because all these upcoming brands recently were fighting themselves over something that shouldn't have caused any issue, but collaborating will help us grow. For example, as I am a small business owner, I can collaborate with someone who is in my niche, and with that, we can grow together.

**What was your biggest mistake in business, and what did it teach you about yourself?**

Many of the mistakes I make is when I am formulating, because no one knows it all, even as a formulator, I've been formulating for years, there are times I make mistakes and that usually causes setbacks. But you see that same recipe that gets bad today, I still have to do it again, it has not been easy, but we thank God.

**How do you personally handle failure quietly or openly?**

You see that one, my husband plays a big role in that aspect because whenever there's a mistake or there's a failure, I'd cry on his shoulder, and the only way to persuade me is to give me money. And that money is going to cover whatever I lost.

**How has the current economic crisis affected your business?**

It has affected my business in so many ways in terms of delivery. The dollar rate is also affecting my business because our raw materials are being imported, and when the dollar rate is high, we are going to buy at a higher price. This same economy about fuel subsidy is also affecting me because had it been the price of petrol were a bit lower, it would have been easier for a small business owner like me to run delivery, buy goods and all that.

If you were not doing this business, what other business would you do?

I would still do this business, this same business, I will still do

it, anything natural, I will still do it.

**What areas do you think the Government should improve to better support local entrepreneurs?**

They should give us grants, not loans. We will use it to see improve our business, because the economy is not smiling, but with the grant we can do better

**Have you ever struggled with self-doubt? How did you confront it?**

I have never doubted myself from day one. The first day I said I wanted to venture into something like this, I've never doubted myself because I am a goal getter and I have always been a focused person. So I don't doubt myself at all.

**Your favourite moment as an entrepreneur.**

When money enters, if I receive an alert now, you will see me smiling, so that's my favourite moment.

**Advice for young people willing to become entrepreneurs?**

My advice for them is to be focused. Whatever you wish for, once you focus on that particular niche, you will achieve it. And do not compete with anybody; nobody is running a race with you. I run my race, and I don't look at "this person is doing better than me", no. I am doing better in my niche. The only thing you have to do as a young entrepreneur is to focus. When you focus on your business, you'll get it right.

Do you think entrepreneurs are born or made?



Entrepreneurs, in the olden days, were born, but in this century, entrepreneurs are being made because not everybody came from a family where they're into business. But in this our generation, everybody is now a CEO.

**Can dark-skinned people who wish to be light-skinned use your product?**

No, people who want to lighten their skin, my products are not for them. The only thing our product does is to bring your actual colour, your skin tone. If you're a fair person and you want to maintain your skin and glow at the same time, then you can use our products.

**How did you feel when you received OYAA Award, and do you see yourself getting national honours?**

The first time I received a message from them, I was not expecting that I'd be awarded. The first person I told was my husband because I wasn't expecting it. I'm so grateful. And yes, I see myself getting a national award, because TIFE BOTANICALS is not that small; I cannot count the number of countries I've sold my products to. This year alone, my product has been sold to US, Canada, and I can't count them all, but we are internationally recognised. People all over the world are seeing what I'm doing, and I know one day, I will receive a national award.

**Where do you see yourself in 7 years?**

I see myself owning a factory of my own, producing safe and effective hair and skin care products.



## NEWS

# Osun 2026: The Journey Begins

• I remain in PDP- Adeleke • Uneasy calm in APC  
• ADC to test run with Osun Election

By Sola Isola

The stage is beginning to set as the Independent National Electoral Commission has officially released the timetable for the 2026 Osun State Governorship Election, picking August 8, 2026 as the day Osun people will get to decide who leads them for another four years. Osun Spring reports that with the new electoral act, all political parties willing to participate in the election will have to conduct a primary election between November and December 2025.

Contrary to speculations and rumours making the round, Governor Ademola Adeleke has reaffirmed his membership of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and denied reports of his decamping to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The governor in a statement by his Spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed noted with concern the widespread rumour and has reassured his supporters and admirers that he remains a member of the PDP and the leader of the party in the state.

He restated his preoccupation with the implementation of the administration's five point agenda and urged Osun people to ignore fake news, promising more delivery of good governance and democratic dividends.

"I assure the good people of Osun that I remain part and parcel of the PDP family. I am not defecting to any party", the governor noted.

In a related development, Governor Adeleke also debunked his rumored defection to African Democratic Congress (ADC) or alliance with former Governor Rauf Aregbesola ahead of the Governorship Election.

Responding to media

publication and enquiries, the Spokesperson to Governor Adeleke, Mallam Olawale Rasheed affirmed that Governor Adeleke remains in Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and is going to win, with wide margins, the 2026 governorship elections on the platform of the PDP.

The statement reads "Our attention has been drawn to news reports and media enquiries about the imminent defection of Governor Adeleke to the ADC or alignment with ADC big wigs ahead of the 2026 governorship race. There is no truth in those publications and speculations.

"First of all, we, the PDP Osun, have already adopted and endorsed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the 2027 presidential election, so there is no alliance with ADC.

"Secondly, Governor Adeleke has no alliance with anyone in ADC. He remains in PDP, will run in PDP, and needs no alliance with ADC to win with a wide margin in 2026.

"The Osun electorate supports Governor Adeleke because of his impressive performance since he came to office. That good work is still ongoing and Osun people are committed to sustaining the delivery of good governance by re-electing Governor Adeleke in 2026", the Spokesperson was quoted as saying.

Governor Adeleke urges PDP members to forge ahead with the ongoing strengthening of the party structures across all levels to prepare for fresh victory next year", the statement from the Spokesperson concluded.

Meanwhile, the coast is not clear within Osun APC as it is now official that former Governor Gboyega Oyetola, who is now the minister of Marine and Blue Economy will not be contesting the 2026 Governorship Election.

Osun Spring reports that



prior to his announcement at stakeholders meeting in Osogbo, the Osun state capital, the entire Osun APC structure have said to allude to Oyetola being the determining factor of the flagbearer of the APC come 2026, adding that the former Governor has a right of first refusal ie he wants to contest again.

Oyetola instead asked all aspirants who have indicated interest to go and gather support from party members ahead of the party's primary for which date has not been fixed.

He said, "You should all avoid the campaign of calumny and be your brother's keeper. I am no longer interested in vying for the governorship ticket with you.

"You all can see that the APC remains the party to beat anytime and any day. As of today, we are receiving people into the party, and many are still coming.

"This development has further attested to our vibrancy, potency and

formidability. This has always been my dream to build a virile, potent and formidable party that would return the progressives to government."

Osun Spring reports that aspirants in the APC are, Alh Bola Oyebamiji, Senator Mudashiru Hussein, Prince Dotun Babayemi, Dr Akin Ogunbiyi, and Senator Babajide Omoworare.

The National Secretary of APC, Senator Ajibola Basiru will also be vying for Governorship, even though his fate is unknown as Osun Spring reports that he was absent at the stakeholders meeting.

For the ADC which former Governor Rauf Aregbesola is now the National Secretary of the party, Osun State may be its tool to test run its upliftment in Nigeria's political space.

Osun Spring recall that coalition of opposition forces has formally adopted the African Democratic Congress (ADC) as its platform to challenge the ruling All Progressives

Congress (APC) in the 2027 general election but in order to achieve this they'll need to test their strength with gubernatorial elections that precede the Presidential election.

Aregbesola, said he agreed to serve as the Interim National Secretary of the African Democratic Congress because Nigeria's political scene is dominated by parties lacking clear ideological direction.

"Sadly, in Nigeria today, we cannot say the same about many of our political parties.

"Our political landscape is plagued by parties that lack ideological depth. They are empty shells emerging and splitting, not over policy or principle, but over power and personality. There is little regard for the people, and even less for the country."

Weeks after, Aregbesola returned to Osun to meet The Omolabi Progressives, his faction that pulled out of APC to

also join ADC assuring them of victory come 2026.

"We are not here to trade insults. We are here to restore what has been lost — dignity, competence, and direction.

"This party is for everyone. We welcome you, not as enemies of others, but as Nigerians determined to chart a better path forward. We know the game — distractions, smears, provocations. But we will not play it.

"We are on a mission, and we will stay focused, building quietly, consistently, and with conviction.

"We used those same principles in Osun to navigate the worst economic crisis in Nigeria's history and still delivered measurable progress. This is what Nigeria needs now: grounded, proven, and people-driven.

"We are stepping into a new chapter, one of responsibility, restoration, and meaningful results. The struggles of the past were not in vain. They've prepared us to lead with clarity and conviction. The best of what we have to offer is still ahead."

## Experts hail Adeleke as mining sector reform yields result

By Sola Isola

The efforts of the Ademola Adeleke administration in reforming the mining sector of Osun have attracted commendation and accolades, as experts revealed that the reformation is not beginning to yield quality results.

The Osun State Government had on the 30th of September, 2024 sealed up the business premises of Segilola Resources Operating Limited, following a Court Order permitting the State to distrain the company for various flagrant tax violations and failure to disclose fully the employees

directly and indirectly involved in its business activities, obstruction of tax processes by failing to provide timely tax information and documents.

Segilola Resources Operating Limited is one of the major companies carrying out mining activities and mineral exploration in the State as a subsidiary of Thors Explorations Limited listed on London and Toronto Stock Exchanges.

The Osun State Government had raised serious concerns about the operations of the Segilola Gold Project, managed by subsidiaries of Thor Explorations Ltd, a UK-

based company listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

According to Prof. Lukman Jimoda, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Mining and Mineral Resources, the state's investigation revealed various unethical business practices, including alleged tax evasion, use of proxies, and failure to comply with environmental rules and regulations.

The companies involved—such as SINIC Engineering, ATF Consulting, Monurent Nigeria, and others—are reportedly engaged in outsourcing employment and operations to

undisclosed third parties without proper documentation or environmental compliance.

Prof. Jimoda highlighted that the federal constitution places environmental oversight under the concurrent list, allowing the state to assess companies' operations for economic and environmental impacts.

He emphasized that the Segilola project, despite its significant production since 2019, has resisted complying with extant laws like the Personal Income Tax Act (PITA) and the Company Income Tax Act (CITA) which govern tax levies.

He also expressed concerns over pollution, including particulate emissions and possible acid drains from waste rocks, which pose serious environmental risks to the state.

The state government then demanded the payment of accrued taxes and environmental development levies, as well as proper documentation for all involved parties.

The Special Adviser stressed that Osun has not received its due revenue from the Segilola project for over three years, despite its bankable gold production since 2019.

Weeks after, the Federal government stepped in, after a conflict resolution meeting initiated by the Minister of Solid Mineral Development, the parties agreed to jointly work together to address four major areas of disagreement raised by the Osun state government against Thors Explorations Limited.

The issues listed by the state government include resolution of Osun shareholding in the Segilola Mining company, tax payment by the firm, environmental degradation, disputed mining fields among others.



## POLITICS



Oyetola



Oyebamiji



Ogunbiyi



Omoworare

## Osun 2026:

# Oyetola, Oyebamiji, Ogunbiyi, Omoworare, Hussein locks horn over APC ticket

By Great Oluwaseun

As former Governor Gboyega Oyetola officially stepped down from the 2026 Governorship Election, the hurdle is now left for 6 aspirants to slug it out.

Osun Spring reports that while five aspirants namely Alh Bola Oyebamiji, Senator Mudashiru Hussein, Prince Dotun Babayemi, Dr Akin Ogunbiyi, and Senator Babajide

Omoworare are hustling for the ticket within the Ilerioluwa camp, it is certain what the hope of Senator Ajibola Basiru, the National Secretary of the party is.

A source within the APC which pleaded anonymity reliably told Osun Spring that former Governor Oyetola had chosen Bola Oyebami, National Inland Waterways MD/CEO as his preferred choice but he is being careful not to be labelled as a dictator.

When asked about the fate of Ajibola Basiru, the source declined comment but noted that it is obvious the odds are not in favour of the one time Osun central Senator.

"I can confirm authoritatively that Alhaji Oyetola deliberately told everybody to go and work so that he will not be perceived as a dictator, we all know that he had chosen Bola Oyebamiji as his preferred choice but if he makes the

announcement, it will further divide the party.

"Though some of us in the party would have preferred someone else but then where it falls in our party, we will align.

"For Ajibola Basiru, he knows that the odds are not in his favour, I guess he just wants to try his luck or perhaps test his popularity.

"What we don't know for now is the type of primary that will be adopted

because this also goes a long way in determining who becomes our candidate.

"It is also not certain if our party will officially announce that we are zoning the ticket to a particular senatorial district or not because as of today we have aspirants from the three senatorial districts and these are the things we would need to check as we proceed.

"Since Alhaji Oyetola is

no longer in the race, it is now Oyebamiji, Omoworare, Hussein, Babayemi and Ogunbiyi that will show us their capacity, especially in terms of mobilization."

Osun Spring reports that there was a bit of exchange of words between the camp of Bola Oyebamiji and Ajibola Basiru in the time past when the duo made it open they'll be vying for Governorship.

## Uncertainty trails Osun PDP Senators, Reps after defecting to APC

By Sola Isola

There is a bit of confusion hitting the camp of Senators and members of the House of Representatives from Osun state after defecting from the People's Democratic Party (PDP) to All Progressives Congress (APC).

Osun Spring reports that the Senators representing Osun East and Osun Central Senatorial District, Senator Francis Fadahunsi and Senator Olubiye Fadeyi as well as member representing Obokun/Oriade Federal

Constituency, Hon Wole Oke; member representing Ijesha South Federal Constituency, Hon Sanya Omirin and the member representing Ife Central/East/North/South Federal Constituency, Hon Taofeek Ajilesoro have all joined APC.

However, PDP in a communique issued at the end of its 101st National Executive Committee Meeting in Abuja states that such a defector is liable to lose their seat at the National Assembly stating that the mandate belongs to PDP. According to the



communique "In its determination to preserve all the electoral mandate given to our Party by Nigerians across the country, NEC directed the National Working Committee to take immediate legal action to recover the seats of all serving members of the National and State Assemblies elected on

the platform of the PDP but defected to another Party.

"By virtue of the self-executory provision of Sections 68 (1) (g) and 109 (1) (g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) such defectors have irredeemably lost their seats, there being no

division or merger with regard to the PDP."

APC on its part warned defectors to beware of fake assurance as the party is not granting automatic return tickets to all sitting members of the National Assembly.

The party described the claims as "fake news," urging members of the public to disregard them.

In an official statement by the APC's National Publicity Secretary, Felix Morka, dismissed the reports as fabricated and misleading. He clarified that no such decision had been made by the

party and that the report circulating online did not originate from any official party channel.

"The report is fake news and should be disregarded in its entirety as it did not emanate from our great party," Morka stated.

Osun Spring reports that while defectors quoted the PDP crisis as their reason for leaving the party and joining the APC, there might be a slight chance that they expect to get the ticket of the APC that they just joined to remain in the National Assembly which at the moment is not clear.



## OPINION

# OSUN IGR: The Numbers Shut Up Naysayers

By Sarafa Ibrahim

Sometime in 2023, a former media aide to ex-Governor Gboyega Oyetola, Mr Ismail Omipidan tried to spin away the reality of the incredible turnaround that the finances of Osun state has undergone under the leadership of Governor Ademola Adeleke. Typical of his ways of seeing doom where progress is quite visible, Mr. Omipidan obviously choose to play politics with numbers in a piece he authored then by erroneously inferring that Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of the state for the 2023 fiscal year fell short of what was inherited.

This similar line was echoed by Senator Ajibola Basiru, the National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in January this year when he concluded that Osun IGR is 'alarming low' under Governor Adeleke. Just like Mr. Omipidan, Senator Basiru tried to create an impression of regression, whereas the reality of things in Osun was that of progress and cheering promise of prosperity.

What, I believe, both of them missed, was the fact that numbers don't surrender to politics because they don't lie. From the records, Osun IGR in 2022 when Governor Adeleke assumed office was N24.7 billion and by the end of the 2023 fiscal year, it has grown to N27.72 billion, representing a 13.28 percent increase. That was a progress that never happened under the supposed 'encyclopedia of finance' throughout his four years time in office as the biggest growth in internal revenue recorded was a 12.24 percent in 2019 fiscal year.

Things got even more better in the 2024 fiscal year as Osun realized a staggering N54.7 billion revenue internally, representing an incredible 97.31 percent increase. That is an exponential growth and even worst of critics of Governor cannot but accept that they have been wrong about him, after all.

Looking at the numbers, it is too big to be real. But it is actually real. And to understand what happened, take a pause and observe the policy direction and institutional reforms undertaken in the last two years by the Adeleke administration will provide a clear understanding on how the growth in the state's IGR was achieved.

Since he assumed office, Governor Adeleke has not left anyone in doubt about his resolve to improve the state's IGR without burdening the people with additional tax. At first, cynics or perhaps, naysayers raises doubt on such possibility, wondering how can IGR grow without putting the burden on the



people.

Governor Adeleke, however, believe it is possible, and in January 2023, outlined his plan to reform "several sectors to block revenue leakages and stop diversion of state assets" aimed at re-engineering the financial system of the state. This led to the introduction of tax harmonisation system and digitalisation of revenue collection; blockage of revenue leakages; expansion of revenue sources and enforcing compliance.

And, as we can all tell now, it appears the problem is leakages and blocking it has churned out more money for Osun than

imagined. The interesting thing here is that the reforms carried out by Governor Adeleke eliminated, to a large extent, the unwholesome practice of double taxation that frustrate businesses. As much as Osun internal revenue grows, businesses in the state are saved the dilemma of paying multiple taxes as it was the practice in the past with the harmonised taxation system.

Such a shift is beneficial to the economy, meaning that businesses will fare better and enable growths. That is because harmonising taxes, in general, free-up funds from excessive taxation that hurts businesses and contribute to high cost of living that is associated with high price of goods and services. This is a cheering development because it signal to investors out there that Osun is for business growth and not otherwise.

From all indications, Osun has taken the leap for remarkable progress and the future looks rosy. Not just the finances of Osun is receiving life under Governor Adeleke, critical infrastructures that will engender prosperity for now and the future are being brought alive. Governor Adeleke promised to take Osun out of the abyss of ruins and set it on the path of enviable progress, and he is doing just that.

If the achievement in the state's IGR is telling us anything, it is that Osun is in the right hand and that the progress we are seeing across sectors, including the finances of the state, will not be stopping anytime soon. In fact, the IGR figure for Osun this year may likely outclass what was realized in the 2024 fiscal year as the Q2 financial report recently released showed the state has earned a whopping N30bn in just six months from internal sources.

On the whole, automated revenue collection is driving financial growth of the state. When it was initiated, naysayers argued it would not make any much difference. But that is not the case at the moment, as not only did it ensure convenience and swiftness in payments, but also deepens transparency in revenue collections. The result is a significant growth in revenue generation, which has an absolute advantage that guarantees a healthy financial condition for the state.

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

## NEWS

# APC Aspirants Are Ego Shoppers, Adeleke Will Beat Any Opposition Candidate in 2026 — Osun PDP

The Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has declared that the 2026 governorship election will be a walk in the park for the incumbent, His Excellency, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, regardless of whoever the opposition fields as candidate.

This position was made known in a statement signed by the party's Director of Media, Hezekiah Oladele Bamiji (HOB), in reaction to the number of aspirants springing up within the ranks of the opposition, especially the All Progressives Congress (APC), all eyeing the governorship seat.

The PDP noted that while it welcomes all contenders to the democratic arena, it insisted that Osun State is not a political rehabilitation center for perennial losers and ego-driven merchants, whose ambition is rooted more in personal aggrandizement than in genuine service to the people.

"It is laughable watching men who once contributed to the misery of our people

suddenly re-emerge with hastily assembled declarations, parading themselves as emergency redeemers.

"We challenge these aspirants to tell the people of Osun State what exactly they forgot in Abere government secretariat that they are so desperate to recover. Is it the files of unpaid salaries, abandoned pensioners, or the stolen hopes of our teachers and local government workers?"

"Any candidate coming from the APC would have an uphill task explaining to the people of Osun why the PDP administration led by Governor Adeleke, whose scorecard is replete with people-centered achievements should be traded for a past riddled with failure, deception, and unbridled arrogance.

"Such aspirants must be ready to face pensioners and explain why their tears never mattered when APC was in power. They must answer to local government workers whose allocations were brazenly pegged under their supervision and still being withheld by the APC-led federal government today.

"Let it be known: it will take

more than recycled propaganda and federal name-dropping to unseat Governor Adeleke. The people of Osun are not fools. They have seen the difference between pain and progress, between arrogant rulers and compassionate leadership. They will not allow a reversal", the party media director stated.

The party further highlighted some of the governor's key achievements, including; regular payment of salaries and pensions with inherited backlogs being cleared systematically as promised by His Excellency, massive infrastructural renewal across all zones of the

state, unprecedented investment in health and education, youth-focused empowerment initiatives and job creation, deliberate care for the aged, especially those who have served the state in the public service, prudent and transparent fiscal regime that has earned the state commendations at national and international levels, and many more.

The statement further mocked the opposition's desperate PR tactics, noting that "insulting blabbings against a working governor" cannot translate to credibility or popularity. "Osun people don't vote for deceptive noise anymore, they vote for visible results," he added.

Addressing the controversial past of some of the aspirants, the party added: "We are also watching some characters, recently smeared with allegations of audacious criminality, now attempting to clean up their image just in time for an election. The same APC that declared them criminals and unfit yesterday now wants to parade them as tomorrow's hope? The people of Osun will not fall for such double-speak."

"In a state where APC once institutionalised hardship, from unpaid workers to vandalised institutions, we urge their aspirants to come clean on

whether pain is still their official ideology or whether they've found a new bottle for the same old wine of affliction," the PDP declared.

Osun PDP affirmed its readiness to face the electorate once again with boldness, basking in the exemplary performance of Governor Adeleke, to renew the mandate of good governance and a solid footing for the generations yet unborn.

"We shall meet at the ballot. And when we do, we trust the people of Osun to stand firm against regression and continue on this bold path of progress and renewal. The game is set, and the outcome is obvious."

## Omisore Joins 2026 Osun Guber Race

By Taofik Jimoh

Former Deputy Governor of Osun State and immediate past National Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Otunba Iyola Omisore, has officially joined the 2026 governorship race in Osun State.

His declaration ended

weeks of speculation and subtle denials about his political future.

Omisore made the declaration during a phone interview with the Daily Sun newspaper, stating plainly: "Yes, I will run."

The former Osun East Senator, confirmed he has already begun consultations with key APC leaders across

the state and in Abuja to intimate them of his ambition.

This latest move increases the number of declared aspirants for the APC governorship ticket to nine, intensifying what is expected to be a hotly contested primary.

In the past two weeks, political activities have

noticeably ramped up at Omisore's campaign office in Osogbo, with renovation work nearing completion; a visible sign that something was brewing beneath the surface.

Sources familiar with his political machinery say the life-born politician has been quietly assembling his core team and is expected to



ENTERTAINMENT

Actor Odunlade Adekola loses Dad

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Popular Nollywood actor, Odunlade Adekola,

has lost his father, Pastor N.A Adekola. He made this known

in a post shared on his Instagram page, where he shared a photo of his late

father with the caption, "Rest on my daddy."

Odunlade did not state the cause of his father's death.

The announcement has drawn an outpouring of condolences from fans, colleagues, and followers.

Many described the late Pastor Adekola as "a devoted servant of God" and praised his legacy, especially within the Christ Apostolic Church (CAC), where he reportedly served as a respected cleric for many years.

Odunlade who was born and raised in Abeokuta, Ogun State, is one of the biggest names in Yoruba cinema.



Osun Born Nollywood Actor "MR.IBSQUARE" Set for his First Movie Production

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Osun born thespian, Ibraheem Ibraheem Balogun, popularly known as Mr.IBSquare, has put plans in motion to produce his first movie production in the industry titled "Ole Ayo"

The Ikirun born comic actor that organised an annual comedy event tagged "Happy Hours" announced on his official

social media handle that he's set to unveil his first movie production titled "Ole Ayo".

The movie is produced by him, directed by the popular movie director, Adebayo Tijani, with the script written by Yinka Laoye.

Mr.IBSquare is known for his several sitcoms and movies featuring Olaniyi Afonja Sanyeri, late Sisi Quadri, among many others.

MC SUNSHINE To Host 5th Anniversary of his Comedy Show "BASKET of LAFF"

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Adegboye Itunuoluwa, popularly known as MC SUNSHINE, has set ball rolling to host the 5th

anniversary of his comedy show "BASKET of LAFF"

The event, which is billed to hold on August 10th, 2025, at the Royal Spring

Holiday Inn will parade several comedians and pop artists

The event with the theme "Who is MC SUNSHINE" is packaged by Classic Entertainment and has an

array of tickets with the least category is the Regular- Two Thousand Naira and highest category Platinum- Five Hundred Thousand Naira.

Osun-Osogbo Festival 2025: Gateway To Yorùbá Divinity, Spirituality

By Taofik Jimoh

As dawn broke on July 28, 2025, the ancient streets of Osogbo reverberated once again with spiritual fervor as the Iwopopo (the sacred land-cleansing ceremony) which marks the official opening of the festival every year.

Over the following 12 electrifying days, locals and visitors experienced a magical fusion of tradition, art, and innovation capped by the grand procession on August 8.

His Royal Majesty, Oba Jimoh Olanipekun Oyetunji, Laroye II urged increased sponsorship to elevate the festival's impact. This highlights the annual festival's role in nurturing identity, wealth, and shared unity across Africa.

Rituals, Artistry & the Arugba Procession

Iwopopo Cleansing (July 28–30): The spiritual journey began with rituals to purify both land and people, invoking blessings and renewal.

Lighting of the Ina Olojumerindinlogun: A tradition steeped in symbolism, the 500-year-old sixteen-point lamp was rekindled by

custodians of culture.

Iboriade Ceremony: Crowns of past Ataojas were assembled for divine consecration, led by a circle of priestesses and Arugba's poised grace .

Grand Procession (August 8): Under vibrant rhythms, the Arugba (the royal-lineage maiden) walked the path to the sacred grove, carrying offerings to the goddess Osun, symbolizing communal hopes and devotion

Local Artisans thrill visitors, tourists and others through showcasing breathtaking installations and performances throughout the grove

Festivals like this are no longer just celebrations, they're cultural economies. They are the new gold mines through grants, activations, and deliberate branding. These sponsors funded local talents and amplified Osogbo's cultural footprint, strengthening local identity via national narratives.

From its dynamic opening to the digital buzz on social platforms, the 2025 edition - like other editions before it - marked a transition from ritual spectacle to global cultural platform.

Attendance spanned all ages and nationalities, with increased diasporic participation.

Social media campaigns with hashtags like #OsunOsogboFestival trended internationally in

late July. This signals a broader resonance.

The 2025 Osun-Osogbo Festival reinvigorated tradition.

As the echoes of drums faded into twilight, Osogbo stood transformed: not just

as a sacred site, but as a living, breathing emblem of Yoruba heritage's relevance in a modern, global cultural economy.

This edition reaffirmed that culture is currency, spirituality is art, and

heritage is the heartbeat of identity. The river goddess Osun's blessing has never been more visible, her story more expansive—flowing beyond borders, tribes, and timelines.





# Governor Adeleke pays 11th Month Half Salary Arrears, clears Contributory Pensioners Half Salary Arrears

## • Workers Rejoice



By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State have paid civil servants in the state the 11th month half salary arrears owed by previous administrations

The Governor had also cleared the salary arrears of pensioners owed by previous administrations.

Osun spring reports that there are 17 months more half salary arrears to be paid to civil servants in the state, bringing the total arrears to 30 months.

The payments cut across all sectors, including LGAs, tertiary institutions, core

civil service, parastatals, and even political office holders at that time.

In a statement signed by Kolapo Alimi, Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, the government accused past administrations of failure, stating that it was working to "right the wrongs of the previous administration."

"Governor Adeleke is a compassionate leader and doesn't take pleasure in the pains of the people, more else, those who rendered services to the state."

"He's paying the salary owed by the previous administration to bring relief for those owed and also to



stimulate the state economy as those money

ends up in the economy through the buying of essential needs.

"Paying this money means that the Governor prioritises the welfare of the people and always prepared to address failings of the past administration," the statement read.

Reacting to the payment on social media, a civil servant identified as Obadare Olalekan confirmed receiving the payment while commending the Governor for not removing tax from it since it was taxed ab initio.

On his Facebook page

he said, "Yes, I received it early hour of today. The amazing part of it is that what I received today was 5k more than the first half paid by Aregbesola then. This suggests to me that Gov Adeleke did not remove tax for the second time"

Another Facebook user identified as Tobi Fadipe said in a post that his mother who is a civil servant asked him to appreciate the Governor adding that despite the withheld local government fund, Governor Adeleke have not defaulted in salary payment.

He said in mixed English, " Dear Gov

Adeleke My Mama say make I thank you o. She said despite the withholding of LG allocations by the Fed Govt since February, you still haven't owed any worker for a month.

"And I come still hear say you pay another half salary. I am beginning to relate to how Lagosians got addicted To Tinubu all those years when OBJ withheld Lagos LG allocations.

"And the other day, I read about the reduction of our state debt by 65bn over the past 2 years. Considering where we are coming from, this is quite huge. Well done sir."





## COLUMN



By Matthew Ajayi

## First Ila dual carriageway: Adeleke's deserving gift to the 'forgotten ones'

The crowd at the entrance to the palace of the Orangun of Ila, Oba Wahab Oyedotun, on Monday, July 2021, awaiting the arrival of the Asiwaju of Edeland, Governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke, was massive.

The weather was not extremely inclement, but staying under the noon sun without feeling the heat would have been challenging.

However, the jubilant people of Ila Orangun, who had seemingly been neglected despite having one of their own, Chief Bisi Akande, serve as governor of the state, were in high spirits, exhibiting unrestrained elation.

Many of them, in appreciation of the landmark project deemed necessary for the ancient community, danced, vibrating, turning, and twisting to the high-tempo Fuji sound being played by the live band that kept the ambiance alive, pending the arrival of the governor.

The siren announcing the approaching convoy of Governor Adeleke, who was accompanied by a handful of his aides, suddenly heightened the excitement that filled the air.

The Orangun, resplendent in his majesty, with his chiefs and prominent indigenes of the town, was joined by top government officials hailing from the town, seated at the entrance to the palace, where the groundbreaking of the project took place, and warmly welcomed Adeleke as his convoy came to a halt.

Also seated at the gathering to receive the governor were the Orangun of Oke Ila, Oba Adedokun Abolarin; the Akesin of Ora; the Asaoni of Ora; and other royal fathers across Igbomina land.

Amid thunderous applause and shouts of "Imole," Adeleke, in his remarks at the event, affirmed that his pact of service with the people of Osun is unbreakable and sustainable, repeating his vow to deepen the service relationship with the people of the state.

Moved by the massive reception from the people of Ila Orangun, Adeleke expressed his commitment to

delivering on his five-point agenda and other electoral promises, stressing that Ila Orangun and other cities are being positively impacted by his administration.

The governor narrated that his administration has so far completed the reconstruction, rehabilitation, and renovation of over 200 kilometers of roads, while several dualization and flyover projects are at various stages of completion.

"The Ilesa dualization project is 78 percent completed; the Ile-Ife flyover project is 75 percent completed; the Oke-Fia flyover is over 95 percent done, while the LAMECO flyover is about 55 percent executed.

"I am equally glad to inform you at this august gathering that the 1.5 kilometers of roads across all the Local Government Areas of the State are almost completed in their entirety.

The Oke Gada bridge is 100 percent completed.

"For the records, we have completed the construction of about 2KM length of Oba Jinsin/Ita Obajoko road, Ogunlade Junction - Kamila Junction road, and Ajagunla Street. Also, 1.8KM length of the rehabilitation/construction of Aregun Junction - Ogunlolu road has also been completed in Ila

"My dear people of the State, while the first phase of the infrastructure projects is being successfully executed, today we are announcing the takeoff of the dualization of the 1st phase of 3.5KM length of Ila Township Road, and this project will be delivered in 10 months by the grace of God.

"As part of my government's efforts to open up Osun state through road infrastructure, I have also approved the rehabilitation of Ila-Ora-Oke Ila road. The rehabilitation job has reached Oke Ila junction, and I want to assure the Orangun of Oke-Ila, the Akesin of Ora, the Asaoni of Ora, and my people in Ora that the job will continue shortly," the state governor declared.

The Orangun of Ila, while addressing the gathering, appreciated the performance of the governor since he assumed office, citing several completed and ongoing projects and programs across the state.

Both the Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Rev. Bunmi Jenyo, and Hon. Ayo Awolowo, and the Member of the House of Representatives representing the

Ila/Ifedayo/Boluwaduro federal constituency, Hon. Clement Akanni, who coordinated the massive reception, expressed appreciation to the Governor for projects already completed and the dualization of the Ila township road that had just been flagged off.

Days after the dualization flag-off, the landmark event dominated public discussions in Ila Orangun, with many wondering why real development had eluded the town.

While many people are of the opinion that those in positions to influence development in the direction of the community don't really care, others were of the view that Ila was just a beneficiary of the deliberate efforts by the incumbent governor to place politics aside and pursue real development in major towns across the state.

Contributing to the debate on the lack of development in Ila despite having political bigwigs as indigenes, a clergy member based in the Isedo area of the town, Pastor John Olabisi, said, "Maybe God ministered to Adeleke to do this for us in this community. We are the forgotten ones.

"Those we look up to as leaders in politics have been using us to make brisk political business without showing any real intent to improve the lives of the residents by using their influence to bring development to Ila. This dual carriageway by Adeleke will definitely transform this community from a big village that it is to a modern town good enough to attract investors to come in and create jobs."

Another resident, Oloye Dauda Gbadamonsi, while commenting on the decision by the Adeleke administration to give Ila its first dual carriageway, said the incumbent governor has created history and written his name in gold on the minds of the people.

"He could have looked elsewhere, but he decided to look at the plight of the people living in Ila. It's a special gift to us, the forgotten ones.

"Maybe because Ila is a bit far from the state capital, previous administrations have not given us the kind of attention we deserve in this town. We sincerely appreciate him, and we should speak loudly with our votes during the next governorship," Gbadamonsi further said.

## ADC: A Coalition Before Collision

By Busy Brain

Nigeria we hail thee, our own dear native land, though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we stand. The first three lines of the reintroduced national anthem will be sonorous to the ears of the new political warlords who amalgamated to form a coalition party.

Anytime the new partners stand to take the national anthem, in no doubt, the most pleasing part will be the first three lines. Of course, the tribe and tongue of the members of the coalition differ, and they decided to come together in brotherhood to rescue Nigeria.

In football parlance, there is a slang that is being used to describe players who are no longer in their best form; these players are called 'Bench Warmers.' These set of players at the bench have no chance of playing any match as the coach sees no impact in them to enhance the performance of the team. This is a paradigm of coalition; it is like a conglomeration of bench warmers carved from the ruling and opposition parties.

The ADC squad comprises prominent figures in the political arena such as former Vice President Abubakar Atiku, former Governor of Kaduna and Minister of FCT, Mallam Nasir El-rufai, former Presidential Candidate and Governor of Anambra State, Peter Obi, former Governor of Osun State and Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, former Governor of Rivers State and Minister of Transport, Rotimi Ameachi, and former Senate President, David Mark, among many others.

Unarguably, a single opposition cannot dislodge President

Tinubu out of the villa. The ruling party is a formidable force that cannot be trashed by a light tsunami; it requires a coalition with heavy waves to defeat Jagaban. Emphasis on heavy waves with strong structure.

In 2015, Nigerians were tired of the then ruling party due to the persistent security cum economic challenges. The coalition led by President Tinubu utilised the opportunity of the 'catastrophal incendiarism' bedeviling the nation to form a coalition. The coalition we had then was a convergence of



political grandeurs with unity of purpose to take over the power democratically. The sailor of the coalition, who is now the President, was not engrossed with power; he served as the sailor and packed others on board to remove Goodluck Jonathan. President Tinubu, instead of fighting to be the President as the coalition chieftain supported Buhari with his human and material resources and relaxed patiently for eight years to take over.



Obviously, the persistent crisis Nigerians experienced during Jonathan era is still pervasive, but today's coalition seems like a marriage of self-interest, except for the former Osun State Governor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola and Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-rufai who appear to be on personal vendetta, other prominent figures in the coalition want to be president at the same time, even without party structure. Where is the way out?

Prominently, Peter Obi, Abubakar Atiku, Rotimi Ameachi are warming up to be President and already preaching south and north zoning for the seat of the President, unlike Tinubu who accepted the party leadership and watched from Lagos for eight years, who among the current coalition warriors can step down? Any coalition based on self-interest will lead to collision. No doubt!

Without mincing words, the country is already tensed with episodes of carnage, maiming and gory scenes. With the crop of new coalition, it is obvious there is no better option in sight against the current landlord of the villa. While 2027 is more or less like a predicted victory for the ruling party, some easement, we require, unarguably, though we argue against desire. Apology to Dennis Brutus.



## IROYIN YORUBA

# Kuro ninu egbe PDP, a ko fe o mo -Adeleke so fun Fayose

By Olalere Tolulope

Awon adari egbe oşelu People's Democratic Party (PDP) nipinle Ekiti ti so fun gomina tele ri nipinle naa, Ayodele Fayose, lati fi egbe oşelu naa silẹ dipo ko maa fi enu ba egbe je kaakiri.

Fayose lo so laipe yii ninu iforowanilenuwo kan pe egbe oşelu PDP ti ku patapata nipinle Ekiti ati lorileede Naijiria, bee ni won ko le wole ibo mo lailai.

Şugbon alaga igbimo adele to n şakoso egbe naa bayii, Dare Adeleke, so ninu atejade kan pe iwa ti ko to ni Fayose hu ohun, o si ti ja egbe oşelu to fun un lanfaani lati se gomina

leemejikule.

Adeleke şalaye pe oniruuru iwa ti Fayose n hu lati bii odun di seyin, paapaa, bo se n gboşuba fun egbe APC nipinle Ekiti, je eyi ti ko bojumu, bee ni egbe ko le fara mo on mo.

O ni lara ohun to n bi Fayose ninu ni bi awon omọ egbe oşelu PDP ko se fun un laaye lati je gaba lori egbe oşelu naa.

Adeleke fi kun orọ re pe gomina tele ohun ko niwulo ninu oşelu mo nipinle Ekiti, idi si niyen to fi nira fun awon eeyan, paapaa, awon oloye atawon adari egbe lati tele ipa-onare.

Gege bo se wi, 'Ki lo de ti Fayose ko fi egbe oşelu to maa n pe ni korofo, to si

maa n so pe o ti ku patapata silẹ? O je eni ijakule to fi ope-eyin je egbe oşelu re nişu nitori pe owọ re ko te nnkan to fe.

'Bii soja to maa n tu asiri fun awon ota lojoojumọ, to wa n şawawi pe oun ko nigbega, bee ni Fayose, o fe ere latinu egbe kannaa to n bu enu ate lu.

'O so lori afefe pe oun satileyin fun Tinubu nitori pe o je ore oun, o si je ibatan oun, bii igba pe orọ eleyameya la n se ni Naijiria.

'Otito to wa nibẹ ni pe Fayose fe maa je gaba lori awon oloye ijoba ibile meji, şugbon awon omọ egbe ko gba fun un. To ba je pe Fayose je ogbontarigi ninu oşelu bo se so ni, i ba ti ko gbogbo

igbekale egbe PDP nipinle Ekiti lo sinu APC tabi ADC, şugbon ko si wođu kanşoşo tabi ijoba ibile kan to tele e.'

Adeleke so pelu igbaya pe egbe oşelu PDP yoo gba ipinle Ekiti pada lowo egbe APC ninu idibo gomina to n bo lona nipase işokan awon omọ egbe tooto, ki i se bii awon alawada adie ti Fayose n ko kaakiri egbe APC ati ADC.

Nigba to n fesi si orọ Adeleke, Fayose so pe oun ko le fesi si orọ re nitori o kere pupo si eni ti oun le maa fun lesi.

O ni oun ki i da awon ekute ati aayan inu ile oun loun ti won ba n wijo, ki waa ni ipo Dare Adeleke toun yoo fi maa da a lohun lori ohunkohun to ba so.



Fay e

## Aheso lasan ni, ko si omọ ile igbimo aşofin Qşun kankan ti yoo kuro ninu egbe PDP - Abenugan ile

By Olalere Tolulope

Latigba ti aşofin to n soju awon eeyan ekun idibo Aarin-gbungbun Qşun nile igbimo aşofin agba l'Abuja, Şeneto Oluwole Olubiya Fadeyi ati ti lla-Oorun Qşun, Şeneto Francis Adenigba Fadahunsi ti kowe fi egbe oşelu Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) silẹ ni aheso ti n lo kaakiri pe wahala nla wa fun egbe naa.

Orọ yii tun wa le si i nigba ti aşofin to n soju awon eeyan ekun idibo lfe nile igbimo aşofin apapo orileede yii, Qnarebu Taofeek Abimbola Ajileşoro ati ti Ariwa ljeş, Qnarebu Olusanya Emmanuel Omirin gbe igbese ti aşofin Oriade/Obokun, Qnarebu Oluwole Oke, ti kokọ gbe loşu di seyin nipa kikowe pe awon ko se egbe olonburelamọ.

Latigba yii lawon araalu ti n so kaakiri pe o see se ki awon aşofin nipinle Qşun naa bere si i kuro ninu egbe PDP lẹyokọkan, eleyii to si lewu pupo fun abenugan won, iyen Adewale Egbėdun.

Şugbon witiwiti aheso yii wale nigba ti awon omọ ile igbimo aşofin marundinlogbon lati abe asia egbe oşelu PDP bo si gbangba lojoo Wşidee, ojo ketalelogun oşu keje odun yii, ti won so pe bi igba alaamu se n fi owọ ti ogiri lawon yoo duro ti Gomina Ademola Adeleke.

Ninu apileko ti Qnarebu Adewale Egbėdun ka fun awon oniroyin, o ni gbogbo awon wa nişokan, bee ni ipinnu awon lati duro ti Gomina Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke ko ye rara.

O ni 'Ko si iyapa laarin wa, bee ni ko si ninu ero eniken i lati lo sinu egbe oşelu APC, aheso lasan ni iroyin to n lo kaakiri, digbi lawa wa. Eni-iyi lawa aşofin Qşun, ko si eni to le ra wa.

'Ariwo oja lasan ni, ko tu irun kankan lara wa rara. A

ko nii ja awon araalu ti won dibo yan wa sibi kule rara. Lati eşekuku lawa ti wa, a mo ilakoja ati ipenija awon eeyan agbegbe wa, o si da wa loju pe awon eeyan ipinle Qşun wa pelu Gomina Adeleke.

'Won ti ri gbogbo nnkan to n se, won n so o lojoojumọ nitori won moriri iwa adari rere ti gomina n hu, won mo pe gomina n şise, awa naa si mo.

'Bakan naa la fe fe fi da awon adari egbe oşelu PDP nipinle Qşun, labẹ idari Qnarebu Sunday Bisi, loju pe a nigbo kanle ninu won. Egbe to ni afojusun rere ni, inu wa si dun lati wa nibẹ.

'A n kede pe gbõn-in-gbõn-in la wa leyin gomina fun idibo saa keji re, a si mo pe, pelu oore-ofe Olqrun ati atileyin awon araalu, gomina yoo te siwaju lofiisi lodun 2026.'

Ninu orọ tire, aşofin to n soju awon eeyan lla-Oorun lfe nile igbimo aşofin, Qnarebu Fatunmişe Olumide, şalaye pe awon ti şepinnu, awon ko si nii yi pada. O ni ko si nnkan kan to le gbe awon kuro ninu egbe oşelu PDP nitori egbe şaaju ohun gbogbo.

Fatunmişe so pe awon nigbagbo ninu afojusun eļeka-marun ti Gomina Ademola Adeleke ni fun awon eeyan ipinle Qşun, eleyii to si ti n se, bee ni gbogbo aşofin ti şetan lati gbaruku ti i titi ti yoo fi şaşeyori lodun 2030.

Qnarebu Adewumi Adeyemi to n soju awon eeyan Obokun so ni tie pe bi awon aşofin agba kan se n lo ko tu irun kankan lara awon rara nitori gomina lawon n ba şise taara ni tawon. O ni awon mo pe eyin Adeleke lawon eeyan eşekuku wa, eleyii si fi awon lōkan bale pupo.

Adewumi so siwaju pe oun ko le kuro ninu egbe oşelu PDP laelae nitori oun nigbagbo ninu Gomina Adeleke atawon adari egbe oşelu naa, bee lora si ri fun awon aşofin to şeku.

## Eni to ba dije tako Adeleke lodun 2026 fe fe fi owo ara re şofo ni - Lekan Ojo

By Olalere Tolulope

Dokita Jackson Lekan Ojo to ti figba kan ri je omọ egbe oşelu All Progressives Congress (APC) ti so pe bii eni to fe fe fowo jona ni ki oludije kankan dide lati koju Gomina Ademola Adeleke ninu idibo gomina ti yoo waye l'Qşun lodun-un 2026.

Ninu atejade kan to fi sorii ikanni fesibuuku re laipe yii ni Ojo ti so pe Gomina Adeleke ti di aayo lokan awon eeyan ipinle Qşun nipase oniruuru işe akanşe to n se kaakiri awon ijoba ibile ati sisan owo-oşu awon oşise pelu awon oşise feyinti loorekoore.

Okunrin naa şalaye pe ida oggorin ninu oggorun ileri ti gomina se fawon araalu lasiko ipolongo ibo lo ti mu se, eleyii ti yoo si mu un nira fun oludije kankan lati ri nnkan ti yoo fi polongo ibo lodun 2026.

Papanbari ohun ti yoo şise tako egbe oşelu APC Qşun ninu ibo odun to n bo ohun,gege bi Dokita Ojo se wi, ni oniruuru inira ti awon omọ orileede yii n koju lowolowo labẹ işejoba egbe won l'Abuja.

O ni 'Mo ti pa oşelu ti, ohunkohun ti mo ba si so ki i se lati gbe seyin egbe oşelu kankan. Mo şakiyesi pe awon kan n lakaka bayii ninu egbe APC lati gba ipo gomina Qşun lodun 2026,

idi niyen ti mo fi pinnu lati gba won niyanju.

'Oludije kankan to ba jade lati koju Gomina Adeleke kan fe fe fi owo ara re şofo ni. Ko se e se fun egbe APC lati gba ipinle Qşun lowo Adeleke. Ki ni egbe yen fe so pe awon n se nijoba apapo, ki ni won n se nile igbimo aşofin agba ati ti apapo?'

'To ba je pe orileede bii Amerika la wa ni, ko le se e se fun egbe oşelu APC lati jawe olubori ninu idibo kanselo lasan. Se ti sisọ eto orọ-aje di başubaşu ni, abi wahala eto ekọ, eto ilera, eto aabo ati bee bee lo.

'Mo le fi gbogbo enu so o loni pe egbe APC ti ja

awon araalu kule ni gbogbo eļekajeka. Koda, bi e ba wo itan egbe naa nipinle Qşun, ko dara rara. Aregbesola polukumuşu gbogbo nnkan, se ni Oyetola si ba oju wa je.

'Eni to ba ti se daada lori ipo, ko nilo wahala rara, gbogbo nnkan rere to ti se ni yoo polongo ibo fun un lodọ awon araalu.

'Bawo ni won se wa ro pe awon fe jawe olubori lodun to n bo. Oludije to ba ko owo silẹ fun idibo yii, Saka lo yo ninu owo to ti ko je. Imole yoo wa nipo titi di odun 2030'.

## Idi ti mo fi şeleri atileyin fun saa keji Aare Bola Tinubu - Adeleke

By Olalere Tolulope

Latigba ti iroyin ohun ti jade pe gomina ipinle Qşun, Şeneto Ademola Adeleke, atawon adari egbe oşelu Peoples Democratic Party nipinle naa, fontẹ lu saa keji fun Aare Bola Ahmed Tinubu toun je omọ egbe APC ni orọ naa ti n ya opo eeyan lenu.

Şugbon nigba ti won gbo alaye latenu gomina funraare, o han gbangba pe igbese ti yoo je manigbagbe ninu itan ipinle Qşun lo gbe lori ipinnu naa.

Gege bi Adeleke se so nibi ipade kan ti awon agbaagba egbe naa l'Qşun kopa ninu re lojo kōkanlelogun oşu keje odun yii, o ni niwon igba ti

gbogbo aye gbagbo pe ipinle Qşun ni orirun Tinubu, awon ko nii şise tako atunyansipo regege bii aare lodun 2027.

Won fenuko pe ipinle Qşun gbodo şatileyin fun Tinubu, ibo re si gbodo kun daadaa lai fi ti egbe oşelu to şotooto se rara.

Ninu atejade kan ti won fi sita leyin ipade naa ni won tun ti so pe ki Adeleke duro ninu egbe PDP lati dije funpo gomina lekekeji lodun 2026.

Won ni, 'Leyin ti a ti se ifikunlukun, ti a si ti gbo ero-ōkan awon ori-ade, awon lori agbegbe, awon oşise ijoba, awon oşise feyinti, awon lori eşin, awon babaloja, awon iyaloja, awon omọ egbe oşelu PDP atawon araalu nipa eto oşelu nipinle Qşun, la ri i pe ogunlojo

eeyan ni won ko faramo on pe ki Gomina Adeleke kuro ninu egbe PDP.

'Nibere orọ yii, ki i se gomina gan an lo gbero lati lati lo sinu egbe APC, şugbon iyalenu lo je pe lasiko ti orọ şin lo lowo lori re ni awon adari egbe APC kan bo sori ikanni ayelujara ati telifisan, ti won si n pe gomina lorişirişii kobakungbe oruko.

'Ki i se pe inu awagege bii omọ egbe oşelu PDP gan an dun tele pe Gomina Ademola Adeleke fe kuro ninu egbe PDP, a kan gba lati tele e lo sibi to ba fe lo nitori ife ti a ni si i ni ati oniruuru amuye adari rere ti ari ninu re.

'Ninu iwadii wa, o han gbangba pe, laarin gbogbo egbe oşelu to wa



## SPORTS



**Nigeria's Football Goldmine:**

# The Rise of Private Academies and Their Global Impact

By Dan Kakwi

Nigeria has long been a powerhouse in global football, known for producing world-class talent. But behind the brilliance of the national teams lies an even more compelling story: the rise of privately owned football academies that are redefining the nation's player development model. These academies, often more productive in international transfers than many top-tier Nigerian Premier League clubs, have become vital to the country's football economy.

Led by visionary agents, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs, these institutions are turning street footballers into international professionals, bridging the gap between grassroots and global opportunities. Below is a spotlight on some of the top-performing academies and their driving forces, recognized for their impressive player export records.

• **P Sports Football Academy – Uyo, Akwa Ibom State**  
C I u b Representatives/Agent

and Consultant: Mr. Paul Ojo Omamomo

Arguably, the most consistent talent-exporting academy in Nigeria, P Sports—under agent Paul Ojo Omamomo—has become a continental force. Known for strong international affiliations and world-class scouting, P Sports channels dozens of players into professional leagues across Europe, North Africa, and Asia. More than an academy, it is a strategic gateway to global football.

• **Beyond Limits Football Academy – Ikenne, Ogun State**  
Ownership: Remo Stars FC (Kunle Soname)

As the youth development arm of Remo Stars FC, Beyond Limits offers a unique blend of football training, academics, and global exposure. Backed by business mogul Kunle Soname, it has emerged as one of the most structured and productive academies in West Africa, consistently producing players for both local and international markets.

• **Central Academy Football – Nigeria (Abuja)**  
C I u b Representatives/Agent and Consultant: Babawo Muhammad  
Despite lacking a fixed

base, Babawo Muhammad's Central Academy is a player-production machine. His expertise and connections have led to numerous successful international placements, making him a key figure in Nigeria's football development scene.

• **Sporting Lagos Football Academy – Lagos State**  
Founder: Shola Akinlade (co-founder of Paystack)

This academy embodies the fusion of football and social enterprise. Sporting Lagos is focused on building not just players, but a movement. The academy is already drawing international interest and promises to be a major player in the coming years.

• **HB Football Academy – Abuja**  
C I u b Representatives/Agent and Consultant: Emeka Obasi  
HB Academy is gaining a solid reputation for technical development and effective talent marketing. With international club links and a robust scouting system, the academy has helped launch several careers abroad.

• **Mailantarki Care**

**Football Academy – Abuja**  
Founder: Hon. Khamisu Mailantarki

What started as a philanthropic project has transformed into a youth football powerhouse. With international tournament appearances and a record of successful transfers, Mailantarki Care is fast becoming a national model for youth empowerment through football.

• **FC Ebeide – Sagamu, Ogun State**  
C I u b Representatives/Founder: Churchill Oliseh

Quietly effective, FC Ebeide may not dominate headlines but has produced a remarkable number of players now playing their trade in Europe and North Africa. It remains a trusted name in grassroots talent development.

• **36 Lions FC – Lagos**  
Founder: Haji Gafar Liameed

One of Lagos' oldest and most respected academies, 36 Lions has a wide scouting network and solid overseas partnerships. It continues to export high-quality players to clubs in Europe and Asia.

• **Adoration Football Academy – Enugu**  
Founder: Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka

Blending spiritual mentorship with sports, Adoration Academy has become both a sanctuary and a launchpad for young players. It enjoys strong community support and a growing track record in international transfers.

• **Right 2 Win Football Club – Umuahia, Abia State**

Founder Mr. Kelechi  
With a focus on education, discipline, and professional grooming, Right 2 Win has partnered with several foreign agents to ensure consistent player export. It stands out for its holistic development approach.

• **Kwara Football Academy – Ilorin, Kwara State**  
Established by: Kwara State Government

As one of Nigeria's few state-owned academies, KFA combines world-class facilities with professional coaching. Its graduates include national team players, and its structured system continues to attract international scouts.

## 2nd Assunção Football Competition Edition Gets Kick-off Date

By Oluniyi Isamotu

All is billed for the second edition of Assunção Football Competition, which is set to take off on 19th of August in Ile-Ife, Osun State, with different prizes to be won by participating teams.

According to the organiser of the football competition, the registration fee for each participating team is pegged at Fifty thousand naira while the matches will be played at Oduduwa College, Ile-Ife.

The organisers also stated there's no age restriction on players of any team participating in the competition as it is not an age-grade football competition.

The winner of the competition will go home with the sum of four hundred thousand naira while the runners-up will be awarded Two hundred thousand naira.

There will also be Individual Awards for players with outstanding performances during the competition, which includes; Best Goalkeeper, Highest Goalscorer, Most Valuable Player, Best Coach of the Tournament, Fair Play Award

Among many football clubs that have registered for the competition includes; Feed Talents FC, Prime stars FC, Sabo striker FC, Young kings FC, Oriade FC, New Heights FC, Rehoboth FC, Beбето FC, Jungle Boys FC, Eleyele FC, Oke Iyanu FC.



## SPORTS



# OSUN BORN RASHEEDAT AJIBADE LEADS NIGERIA TEAM TO HISTORICAL WAFCON VICTORY

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Osun born Super Falcons captain, Rasheedat Ajibade has led the Nigerian team to an historical win in Morocco at the final of Women's Africa Cup of Nations.

The Super Falcons of Nigeria led by the Ikirun native, Rasheedat Ajibade etched their name further into the annals of African football history by winning the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), clinching their record-extending 10th continental title tonight, in Rabat over Morocco in accomplishing the "Mission X" set for the team by the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

In a thrilling final that showcased their resilience, skill, and championship pedigree, the Falcons overcame their opponents to reaffirm their dominance in women's football on the continent.

Morocco's Atlas Lionesses had the full-capacity Stade Olympique de Rabat breathing heavily after a superlative opening performance that saw them take a two-goal lead after 24 minutes of the explosive encounter.

The Super Falcons thereafter came from a two goals down to defeat the host nation, Morocco by three goals.

The victory not only cements Nigeria's position as Africa's most successful women's national team but also highlights the team's relentless pursuit of excellence over the years.

While congratulating the

team and their captain on the success, Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke on his official social media handle @AAdeleke\_01 said, "Huge congratulations to the triumphant Super Falcons players on the successful completion of Mission X—winning a record 10th Women's Africa Cup of Nations championship at the just concluded WAFCON 2024 in Morocco.

"I celebrate our own queen

of the soil and a great ambassador from Osun state, Rasheedat Ajibade and all the fantastic ladies whose hardwork and dedication brought this glory to our dear nation.

"The triumph comes as a testament to the hard work of the players, coaching staff, and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), who have continued to support the development of the women's game despite growing

competition from emerging powerhouses like South Africa, Morocco, and Zambia."

Nigeria captain Rasheedat Ajibade was named Player of the Tournament, with Africa's best goalkeeper for the past two years, Chiamaka Nnadozie was named Goalkeeper of the Tournament, while Esther Okoronkwo was named Woman of the Match of the

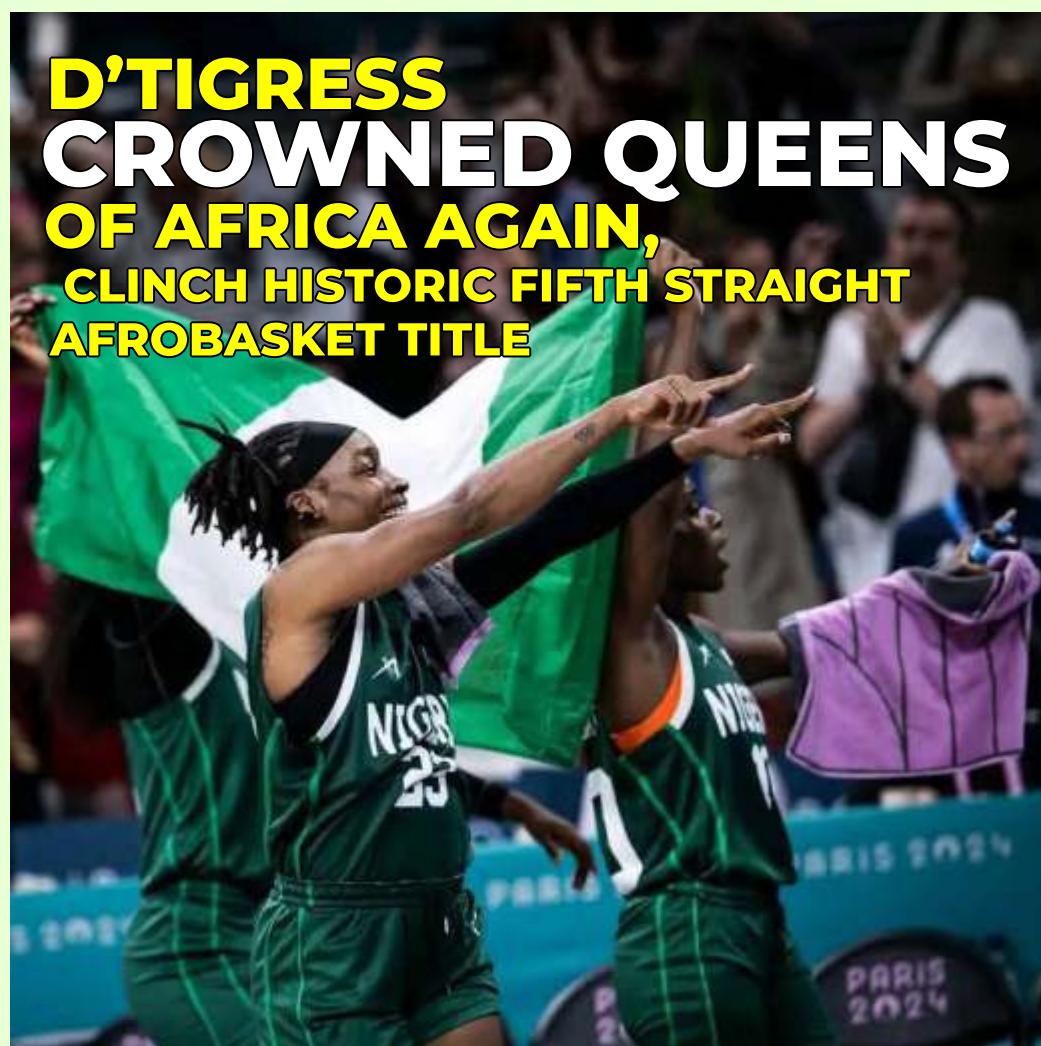
thrilling and pulsating final game of the competition.

At the Championship, the Super Falcons defeated all the three teams that had previously beaten them in the 2022 finals that was also held in Morocco.

They defeated Zambia 5-0 in the quarter finals of this year competition to avenge for a third-place defeat they suffered from the Zambians in 2022. In the semi finals,

they equally edged Banyana Banyana of South Africa who had equally beaten them 2-1 in the group stage in 2022.

In the final, they defeated the host nation, Atlas Lionesses of Morocco that had previously beaten them on penalty shootout in the semi finals in 2022 edition of the competition while the team equally kept to their record of never losing a Women AFCON Final since the competition started.



## D'TIGRESS CROWNED QUEENS OF AFRICA AGAIN, CLINCH HISTORIC FIFTH STRAIGHT AFROBASKET TITLE

Nigeria's women's basketball team, D'Tigress, made history on Sunday by defeating Mali 78-64 to secure an unprecedented fifth consecutive FIBA Women's AfroBasket title.

The final was one of the most challenging encounters for Nigeria in the tournament, as Mali came out with intensity and determination, eager to break Nigeria's dominance and end their remarkable winning run.

Despite trailing in the first quarter 26-21, D'Tigress rallied back with a resilient performance in the second quarter, tying the game at 41-41 by halftime. From there, Nigeria turned up the heat in the third and fourth quarters, gradually pulling away to seal victory and extend their winning streak at the AfroBasket to 29 consecutive games, a run that began after the third-place match in the 2015

edition held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

With this triumph, Nigeria now boasts a total of seven AfroBasket titles, further cementing their status as Africa's most dominant team in women's basketball since 2015.

Team captain Amy Okonkwo delivered a standout performance, scoring 19 points, shooting 7-of-11 from the field and 4-of-7 from beyond the arc. She played the entire game and was deservedly named the 2025 FIBA Women's AfroBasket Most Valuable Player (MVP), repeating her MVP win from 2023.

Okonkwo now joins an elite list of two-time MVP winners, including Mfon Udoka (2003, 2005), Aya Traore (2009, 2015), and Nacissela Mauricio (2011, 2013).

Ezinne Kalu led Nigeria's scoring with 20 points, while Victoria Macaulay added to the team's firepower, combining with Okonkwo and Kalu for a total of 49 points, more than half of Nigeria's final tally.



## UNIOSUN Wins Two FG-NRF Research 2025 Grants

By Sola Isola

Osun State University has emerged winner of two Federal Government's 2025 National Research Fund (FG-NRF) out of the 158 competitive research grants awarded Nationwide.

According to a statement by the University Public Relations Officer, Ademola Adesoji, the first grant was awarded to Professor Kolapo Olusola-Ẹlẹka of the Department of Building, alongside his co-researchers while the second grant was secured by Professor Adetunji Kehinde of the Department of Agricultural Economics and his team.

The statement noted that this dual achievement not only reflects UNIOSUN's commitment to impact-driven research but also marks the third consecutive year the University has featured.

The statement reads, "Osun State University has once again affirmed its rising status in Nigeria's research landscape by securing two out of the 158 competitive research grants awarded Nationwide in the 2025 cycle of the Federal Government's National Research Fund (FG-NRF). The 2025 FG-NRF research grant was open competition for all public tertiary institutions, including the universities, polytechnic, and colleges of education across Nigeria.

"The prestigious grants were awarded to two exceptional research teams from the University, whose research proposals were recognised for their innovativeness, relevance, and potential impact on national development.

"The first grant was awarded to Professor Kolapo Olusola-Ẹlẹka of the Department of Building, alongside his co-researchers, for their project titled: "Enhancing Buildability in Urban Infrastructure Projects in Nigeria through Innovative Construction Techniques."

The research seeks to tackle critical challenges in urban development by introducing modern methods aimed at improving construction efficiency and quality across Nigerian cities.

"The second grant was secured by Professor Adetunji Kehinde of the Department of Agricultural Economics and his team for a project titled: "Promoting Responsible Agrochemical Practices to Mitigate Health Risks and Enhance Sustainable Production among Arable Crop Farmers in Southwest Nigeria." The study is designed to promote safe agrochemical usage and sustainable farming practices, with a focus on safeguarding the health of farmers and consumers while enhancing agricultural productivity.

"This dual achievement not only reflects UNIOSUN's commitment to impact-driven research, but also marks the third consecutive year the University has featured prominently in the NRF grant competition, solidifying its position as one of Nigeria's leading research-focused institutions."

## GIANT IN THE TROPIC OF AFRICA

# CHIEF ADEDEJI ADELEKE

MBA, PhD, & DBA

## (DAVIDO'S FATHER)

•Dr Deji Adeleke, also called Elder Deji Adeleke, was born on March 6, 1957. He is a Yoruba man from Ede in Osun State, Nigeria.

•In 1979, Adeleke obtained a Bachelor's of Science degree in Finance from Western Kentucky University, United States.

•He is a disciplinarian, a devout Christian, a billionaire business magnate and a philanthropist.

He is the president of Adeleke University.

• The Adeleke University is a privately-owned institution located in Ede, a town in Osun State, south-western Nigeria. It was established by Chief Adedeji Adeleke through the Springtime Development Foundation (SDF), a philanthropic, non-profit organisation established by Chief Adedeji to assist less privileged students in obtaining quality higher education.

•He is also the CEO of Pacific Holdings Limited.

•He is the father of Davido, a Nigerian musician, and Sharon Adeleke.

•He was married to Dr Vero Adeleke who died on 6 March 2003.

•His younger brother, Ademola Jackson Adeleke, is the current governor of Osun State, Nigeria.



## NEWS

# Egbedun is a good representative -Osun Monarchs

By Sola Isola

The President of Odo-otin Traditional Council, Oba Samuel Abioye Oyebo, the Olokuku of Okuku have described the Speaker of the Osun state House of Assembly, Rt. Adewale Egbedun as a good representative of the Odo-otin people.

The monarch disclosed this while addressing journalists at his palace in Okuku, adding that the entire Odo-otin people and traditional rulers are proud of him not only for being a good representative but also for the role he is playing in the development of the constituency.

"Egbedun being the representative of the people of Odo-otin is someone that we are all proud of and we all gave our support and he is doing his duty to the people of Odo-otin and traditional rulers.

"To mention just a few of the things he did. He recently did an

empowerment in Okuku townhall, giving out cash gifts to people. Secondly he influenced several road construction within Okuku and he was personally supervising the project and he did the same in other communities.

"He is performing his role and we have confidence in him. The entire Odo-otin people are in love with Rt. Hon Adewale Egbedun and we are praying for him to succeed", the monarch noted.

In his own words, the Oloyan of Oyan, described the Osun Assembly as a good representative who is easily accessible to his people and doing his duty as representative of the Odo-otin people.

He said, "Egbedun is my son and a good one at that, because of the tremendous things he is doing in our area here. I can boldly say he is number one, he is always reaching out to both the people and traditional rulers in our constituency.

"Our road that leads to Erin Ile, they are already working on it, there is another one in Oyan here that work is about to commence on, what more can we ask for.

"Egbedun is very responsible and we keep praying to God to see more representatives like him. I often tell him that no one from Odo-otin has ever occupied the seat he currently does and he must not raise the bar for us.

"Egbedun is representing the entire odo-otin well, he can not be underrated.

"He is not only good to us in Oyan alone, if you go to Ila-Odo road, you would have seen what has been done there, these and many more others are the things he has done.

"If he is not doing well, he will not be coming close to all us, he would have been avoiding us but he didn't do that he lives in his hometown, you can see him in the morning before he goes to the office or even at night when he gets back, his mobile phone is always reachable."