

**Osun 2026:
Omisore's
Entry
Unsettles APC**
• Party Picks Date
For Convention



**How Drug
Abuse Affects
Women In The
Society**



**"I Would Have
Started Much Earlier,
If I Had Known",
Osun Based Female
Painter And
Decorator**

OsunSpring

www.osunspring.com

f Osun Spring Newspaper

@osun_spring

OsunSpringTV

15- 31 OCTOBER 2025

VOL 1. NO 16.

N300

HOW WE KEEP DEVELOPING OSUN DESPITE WITHHELD ALLOCATIONS -GOVERNOR ADELEKE

P10



Interview: >> BP

**What To Know
About Amotekun,
Akinlalu And Osun
Security Updates
-Olawale Rasheed**

RETRACTION

In the 1st to 15th August 2025 Edition of Osun Spring Newspaper at page 4, we published a news story titled "Osun 2026: We will rig Adeleke out using Police, INEC - Oyetola" which made uncomplimentary reference to the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola, the Nigeria Police Force, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The said publication is hereby retracted in its entirety as all the defamatory statements contained therein which made reference to has been confirmed to be untrue.

Osun Spring have no malicious intent towards The Minister, NPF or INEC.

Hence, our decision to tender an unreserved apology and the need to publish a retraction of the said story.

Editor



Governor Adeleke Launches Imole Business Empowerment Scheme

P2

NEWS

Governor Adeleke Launches Imole Business Empowerment Scheme

• 2000 Youths, Women Gets Start-up Business Grant

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke on Thursday launched Imole Business Empowerment Scheme for youths and women of the state.

The Governor at the while launching the initiative at Staff Development Centre, Abeere noted it is targeted at 2,000 women and youths across the 30 Local Governments and the Area Office of Osun State.

He said, "We are gathered here for the presentation of Business Registration Certificates, Point-of-Sale Terminals (POS), and Start-Up Grants to 2,000 women and youth beneficiaries of the Imole Business Empowerment Scheme 1.0, organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment in partnership with First Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc.

"Each beneficiary will walk away today with: CAC Business Registration Certificate; POS Terminal, and a Start-Up Grant, to immediately begin their journey into entrepreneurship and financial independence.

"Beyond the handover of tools and funds, this scheme is built on capacity building and training, so our beneficiaries can grow and expand their businesses sustainably. This initiative is not just about today; it is about building the future of Osun State.

"It is about equipping our people with the skills, opportunities, and support to thrive. By focusing on women and youth, we are investing in the most productive segment of our society."

Governor Adeleke further highlighted advances already

recorded by his administration in all sectors.

"In January 2024, Osun State held its First Cooperative Summit and Awards, the first of its kind in the history of our state. It was at that maiden Summit that I announced a ₦1 Billion Cooperative Revolving Loan, which, in response to the growing needs of our people, was later reviewed upward to ₦3.450 Billion. Out of this, ₦1.6 Billion Naira has already been released to beneficiaries across the state.

"Through the Cooperative Revolving Disbursement Programme, we have implemented two phases. Ward-Based Cooperatives Initiatives, expanded from 332 to

401 wards, with 389 wards fully benefitting. So far, ₦736,050,000 interest-free loans have been disbursed at the grassroots level, directly impacting over 20,000 households.

"Conventional Cooperative Unions and Societies under the umbrella of FOSCOOP received ₦800,000,000, reaching over 250 cooperative unions and societies, with 10,233 individual cooperators benefitting.

"We extended our reach to Osun indigenes outside the state, disbursing ₦50,000,000 to beneficiaries in Abuja and Northern Nigeria.

"Together, these interventions bring our total Cooperative Revolving Loan Disbursement to ₦1,586,000,000.00.

"In September 2024, we flagged off the New Working Capital of the MSMEDF Programme, laying the foundation for the Ultra-Modern Office Complex of Osun Micro Credit Agency, and disbursed ₦250 million MSMEDF cheques to prospective loan applicants.

"In May 2025, the Ministry, in collaboration with Fidelity Bank, organized a Food Bank Initiative where over 3,000 residents received free foodstuffs to cushion the hardship of the times.

"We are also upgrading the Sen. Isiaka Adetunji Adeleke College of Cooperative Studies, Ode-Omu, to become a Uniosun campus for cooperative and management studies, starting

academic activities in September 2025 with approved programmes in Taxation, Transport Management, Development Studies, and others.

"Our administration has empowered persons living with disabilities, in partnership with Project Enable Africa, while also rehabilitating and upgrading structures at the Cooperative College in Ode-Omu", the Governor added.

Welcoming the governor and the team, the Commissioner for Empowerment and Cooperatives Development, Prince Bayo Ogungbangbe noted that the event is not just a presentation of empowerment

items, but a testimony of this administration's commitment to sustainable development, youth empowerment, women's inclusion, and inclusive economic growth.

He charged beneficiaries to use these opportunities wisely to grow their businesses diligently, and become worthy ambassadors of this noble initiative.

The event was attended by the Secretary to the State Government, Hon Teslim Igbalaye; the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Hon Kazeem Akinleye; Yeyeluwa Modupe Adeleke-Sanni; members of the State Executive Council and top officials of Fidelity Bank and First bank.

Osun Rep, Salam Commissions Blocks of Classroom, Road projects

By Tomi Lala

The Honourable Member representing Egbedore, Ejigbo, Ede North and Ede South Federal Constituency, Hon. Bamidele Salam has commissioned two storey school buildings with 8 classrooms in four schools and a major road project in Osun State.

The schools commissioned include Baptist High School Ede, CAC Grammar School Ede, L.A. Secondary School, Ika Ejigbo; and Ido-Osun High School.

He also commissioned the newly constructed Elerin-Sabo road in Ede.

The commissioning ceremony started with interfaith prayers, where religious leaders showered blessings and prayers on Rep. Salam and the projects.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Governor of Osun State, Prince Kola Adewusi, commended Rep. Salam for complementing the efforts of Governor Ademola

Adeleke in infrastructural development.

"While the governor is doing his own part, you can see our Honourable member complementing the effort of the Governor by putting this one up. We have never seen it as good as this.

"My advice to the school management is that they should ensure proper maintenance", he advised.

In an interview with journalists, Rep. Salam explained his motive behind the initiative, noting that access to quality education remains one of his top priorities.

"I'm so aware you know that this is not the first time. I've been a member of the house now for six years. One of the key things I took on upon assumption of office is promotion of education, to ensure that we remarkably improve on the conditions of our schools, we remarkably improve on access to education as well as provision of instructional

materials, classrooms, training for teachers, support for students bodies.

"I'm a very big fan of promoting education because I know how important it is when you provide quality education, you're giving them the biggest key to liberate them from poverty, from ignorance and disease.

"This is just one of so many things we have done and so many things we have in plan. And I'm so glad to be an instrument in the hand of God", he stated.

Chairman of the Governing Council, Osun State University, Prof. Wale Oladipo described the projects as "highly impressive and commendable.

"This particular Honourable has performed beyond expectation, this is what Honourables should be doing, I don't think this constituency has ever had this so good. I'm not disappointed at all", he said.

Also speaking, the contractor in charge of the road project, Engr. Gabriel Ojo, assured residents of a 10 year warranty, stressing that the company had delivered quality work.

One of the school principals, Mrs. Fajinmi, expressed appreciation to Hon. Bamidele Salam, noting that some of the schools had not seen new buildings and classrooms in the last 10 years.

OsunSpring

THE TEAM

Dr Martin Odeh- Editorial Board Chairman

Sola Isola
Editor

Taofik Jimoh
Reporter

Tomi Lala
Reporter

Olalere Tolulope
Reporter

Oluniyi Isamotu
Reporter

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

EDITORIAL

Osun 2026: The Need For Caution In APC

Day after day, Osun 2026 Governorship election draws closer. As Political actors are beginning to declare intentions to run the race, political parties are also in the process of deciding whom its flag bearer will be.

As Osun Spring has reported in its series of report, while Osun PDP may have settled for the Governor of the state, Senator Ademola Adeleke as its flagbearer, the coast isn't clear within the major opposition party in the state, the All Progressives Congress.

Being the major opposition party makes it difficult to decide easily who runs on behalf of the party, especially now that it is certain that Former Governor of the state, Gboyega Oyetola, who is now minister of Marine and Blue Economy will not be in the race.

Osun Spring had earlier reported that those in the race in no particular order includes, MD/CEO of National Inland Waterways, Bola Oyebamiji; APC National Secretary, Sen. Basiru Ajibola; Sen. Mudashiru Hussein; Sen. Babajide Omoworare; Dr Akin Ogunbiyi, Prince Dotun Babayemi and very recently, Former Deputy Governor of the state and Former National Secretary of APC, Sen Iyiola Omisore.

While Oyebamiji seems to have been the most popular among the party members and leaders, most of whom believes that the former Commissioner for Finance will enjoy support from former Governor Oyetola, the entry of Omisore seems to have now divided

This development has allowed more people into the race which

then divided the ranks within the party. This development has also seen to how some members of the party who had ab initio backed Oyebamiji has now gone to align with Omisore.

As media organization, internal rancour within a political party is not what we meddle in except when it requires reporting, however Osun Spring notes that very much disturbing is the recent viral videos emanating from within the APC on how members of the party are beginning to threaten each other either physically or even via social media.

We wish all politicians to know that Osun State belong to the people and not a political party and as such its peace and tranquility is a collective responsibility.

Osun Spring therefore urges all politicians, political actor, parties and members to put Osun first and in all dealing so as not to take the state out of its rightful place as the most peaceful state in Nigeria.

We condemn strongly any form of violence or comments and statements that disrupt or destabilize the peace Osun State enjoys.

Osun Spring also wish to commend all security agencies and operatives in the state for maintaining peace and order, while admonishing them not to relent especially as Osun gravitate towards electioneering period.

NEWS

Osun Jumps From 30th To 6th In National Climate Governance Ranking

By Sola Isola

Osun State has achieved another major milestone in Climate Action drive climbing from the 30th position in 2024 to 6th place in Nigeria's 2025 Subnational Climate Governance Performance Ranking.

Osun State achieved a total score of 265, marking emerging as the second-best performing state in the South-West region after Lagos State.

This is the 2nd Edition of the Sub-national Climate Governance Performance Ranking Report, an initiative of the Federal Government of Nigeria with support from the Society for Planet and Prosperity (SPP).

A statement by Spokesperson to Osun State Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed noted that the report provides a comprehensive assessment of how Nigerian states are implementing climate policies, strengthening institutional frameworks, and driving local climate action, serving as a key

tool for accountability, innovation, and collaboration toward achieving a sustainable and resilient future for all Nigerians.

The statement reads in part, "In this 2025 edition, Osun State achieved a total score of 265, marking an exceptional leap from 30th position in 2024 to 6th position / and emerging as the second-best performing state in the South-West region after Lagos State.

"This remarkable improvement underscores the vision and strategic investments of His Excellency, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, Executive Governor of Osun State, whose administration has made climate change, circular economy, renewable energy, and environmental sustainability a core pillar of governance and development.

"Under the Governor's leadership, the state has implemented several transformative initiatives, including:

"Increased budgetary allocation to climate Change projects and programs; Establishment of a Department of Climate Change and Renewable Energy within the Ministry of Environment and Sanitation; Implementation and monitoring of climate-related projects across local governments; Integration of climate education and environmental awareness into schools; Regular capacity building for state and local climate officers; and Enhanced coordination and dialogue with the Federal Ministry of Environment and other national/international agencies.

"Osun State also ranked high nationwide in online visibility for climate change governance, reflecting growing transparency and public engagement in the state's environmental programs."

Speaking at the unveiling event held at Bon Hotel Octagon, Abuja, which had in attendance the Honourable Minister of Environment, the Director-General of the National



Council on Climate Change (NCCC), and other distinguished stakeholders, the Honourable Commissioner for Environment and Sanitation, accompanied by the Director of Climate Change and Renewable Energy, received the award on behalf of the State Government.

They dedicated the achievement to the good people of Osun State and to His Excellency, the

Governor, in recognition of his unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action.

Special commendation also goes to the Director-General and Special Envoy of the Governor on Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Professor Chinwe Obuaku-Igwe, whose leadership, resilience, and strategic coordination have been

instrumental in positioning Osun State on the national map as a forward-looking and ambitious sub-national actor in climate governance.

The Osun State Government further reaffirmed its commitment to advancing climate action, renewable energy transition, circular economy initiatives, and sustainable development programs that will ensure a greener, cleaner, and more resilient Osun for present and future generations.

NEWS

Osun JUSUN Accuses CJ Adepele Ojo of Ignoring Demands, Embarks On Indefinite Strike

By Taofik Jimoh

The Chairman of the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Osun State chapter, Comrade Idris Adedayo Adeniran, has declared that the union's indefinite strike will continue until its outstanding demands are met.

Adeniran, in a statement issued after the union's Congress on Thursday, said the massive turnout of members at the meeting reflected their unity, resilience, and unwavering commitment to the struggle. He accused the Chief Judge

of the state, Hon. Justice Adepele Ojo, who also chairs the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), of refusing to grant the union an audience for more than 17 months despite repeated requests and written correspondence.

"Our strike remains indefinite. We have made several attempts to secure a meeting with Her Lordship to resolve the issues affecting our members, but all have proved abortive," he said.

The JUSUN boss listed outstanding promotions and welfare-related matters as part of the union's grievances.

He added that only the Judicial Service Commission under Justice Ojo's leadership has the authority to address them.

He also dismissed rumours suggesting that the strike had

been downgraded to a three-day warning action, describing such reports as "false, baseless, and intended to weaken the union's resolve."

"Our demands are genuine,

lawful, and justified. Osun judiciary workers will not be deterred. We remain firm, united, and committed to seeing this struggle through. Aluta continua, victoria asata," Adeniran added.

The industrial action has grounded court activities across Osun State, leaving litigants, lawyers, and other stakeholders stranded as the standoff between JUSUN and the Chief Judge lingers.



Unilesa Don Listed Among World's Top 2% Scientists

By Taofik Jimoh

The University of Ilesa, Osun State has recorded a major breakthrough in its academic profile as one of its top dons, Prof. Abel Kolawole Oyebamiji, has been named among the 2025 World Top 2% Scientists.

Prof. Oyebamiji, who serves as the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Chairman of the Committee of Deans, made the prestigious list released on September 19 by Stanford University in partnership with Elsevier and SCOPUS.

The announcement was contained in a statement signed by Babatunde Fanawopo, Senior Assistant Registrar, Corporate Services and Information Unit of the institution and made available to newsmen on Monday.

Reacting, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Taiwo Olufemi Asaolu (PhD, FCA), described the feat as "a

remarkable milestone that speaks volumes of Prof. Oyebamiji's dedication to research and innovation."

According to him, the recognition is not just personal but a reflection of the University's growing culture of academic and research excellence.

"The Stanford University ranking is one of the most respected benchmarks in the world. To have our own Prof. Oyebamiji listed among the top 2% scientists globally is proof of his global impact and a source of inspiration to others in the academic community," Asaolu said.

He added that the University of Ilesa has been deliberately fostering research capacity and building collaborations, stressing that the achievement would further enhance the institution's visibility, attract more funding, and position it as a hub for innovation.

Osun Rep, Salam Holds International Retreat for Governor Adeleke's Media Aides in Senegal

Media Aides Describe Governor Adeleke as the Best in Osun's History

By Sola Isola

The Member Representing Ede North, Ede South, Ejigbo and Egbedore Federal Constituency at the House of Representatives, Hon. Bamidele Salam has organized a 5-day International Media Retreat for media aides of Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State and the People's Democratic Party.

The retreat, tagged "REFRESH, RELOAD & RECREATE", organized by the Office of the BS-E4 Initiative in collaboration with Jobited Consult Ltd was held from October 2nd to 6th, 2025.

The strategic media retreat, themed "Building Credibility,

Driving Engagement: Strengthening Media Strategy for Responsive and Inclusive Governance in Osun State" was focused on intensive capacity building, message refinement, strategic alignment, synergy design and knowledge exchange to enhance the resource competences of the Media Aides for greater governance communication impact of the outstanding achievements of the Imole Administration.

According to the organisers, the retreat was timely and forward-looking, coming at a pivotal period as Osun State moves into the next phase of its golden era.

The sessions which were facilitated by Dr Chibuzor

Okereke, Politics and Governance Consultant; Dr Femi Adefila, CEO Rave FM, Engr Jesutomiwa Salam, Software Engineer and AI Researcher and Hon Bamidele Salam focused on review of governance performance in Osun state, strategic governance communication, people-centric and community engagement, synergy governance messaging, and advanced media content creation, all aimed at amplifying Governor Adeleke's transformative work across the state and meeting the information needs of the people of Osun.

A statement released at the end of the retreat noted that participants conducted a thorough governance performance assessment of His Excellency, Governor Ademola Adeleke, and unanimously scored him outstandingly excellent across all key sectors, including infrastructure, education, health, youth and women empowerment, workers' welfare, care for pensioners, the aged/people with disability; rural water scheme, rural electrification, mechanized farming, food security/agro-processing development and prudent fiscal management among many others.

The media aides speaking through the Senior Special Assistant on Media, Hon. Oladele Bamiji described the Governor's leadership as "unprecedented in the history of Osun State", especially given the achievements recorded despite the withholding of

over ₦70 billion in Local Government funds by the Federal Government. He noted that indeed, this is Osun's Golden Era, hailing Governor Adeleke as Best Governor in State's History.

He further commended Governor Adeleke for turning Osun into a "Development Construction Site", implementing massive infrastructure and social impact projects in a manner that is inclusive and people-centred, with no community or demographic group left behind.

In a show of unity, solidarity and commitment, the media aides unanimously endorsed Governor Adeleke for a second term, citing his monumental developmental strides and people-first policies. They pledged to deploy innovative media strategies, digital outreach, and grassroots mobilization to ensure the Governor's re-election in 2026.

The retreat also featured goodwill and solidarity messages from stakeholders including, Hon. Ayodeji Areola, Osun State PRO, PDP; Prince Bola Ajao, Osun State PDP Secretary; Mallam Olawale Rasheed, Spokesperson to the Governor and a live video call from His Excellency, Governor Adeleke, who expressed solidarity with his media team and appreciation for their dedication.

Activities at the retreat included expert-led technical sessions, strategic communications workshops, AI and digital media labs, as well as a cultural immersion tour of Dakar, aimed at fostering cross-cultural learning and peer exchange.

Osun NULGE berates FG For Releasing LG Funds To "Sacked" APC Chairmen

By Happiness Omotayo

Members of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employee, NULGE, Osun State have berated the Federal Government for releasing six months withheld Local Government Council allocation to the "sacked" All Progressives Congress officials.

Council allocation in the state was withheld since February 2025 following imbroglio over control of council secretariats by officials of both the APC and the PDP leading to the closure of secretariats across

the state and NULGE withdrawal of services.

Addressing newsmen in Osogbo on Sunday, NULGE President, Dr Nathaniel Ogungbangbe along with other leaders described release of the fund to APC officials as an abuse of power by officials of the Federal Government, including the Minister of Finance, the Attorney-General and Accountant-General of the Federation.

"We have it on good authority that these three Principal Officers of the Federal Government have released the Osun State

Local Government Councils Allocations for the month of March, 2025 to August, 2025 to the illegal Bank Accounts opened by court-sacked APC Chairmen and Councilors.

"We find this development very scary and alarming. Paying Local Government Allocations into privately opened and illegal Bank Accounts of politicians is unbelievable, bizarre and unprecedented in the history of public administration in Nigeria.

"We strongly believe that if these three Principal Officers of the Federal Government and the entire Federal

Government which they represent do not have respect for our Constitution, which they have sworn to uphold, they ought to have respect for our Judicial Authorities more particularly the Supreme Court of Nigeria before whom the suit in respect of these funds is currently pending.

"This is supposed to be a democracy and we insist on the RULE OF LAW. We cannot be expected to work with politicians who have been sacked by competent Courts of Law but are being imposed on our state by the Attorney-General", he said.

HEALTH

How Drug Abuse Affects Women In The Society

By Favour Odanye

The perception of drug abuse as a male-dominated issue has changed in recent years, and it is now increasingly viewed as a social disaster that also impacts women.

Reports indicate that more women across Nigeria, are turning to substances such as tramadol, codeine, cannabis, and even hard drugs like cocaine and heroin.

Health professionals and security agencies warn that this practice is not only destroying the lives of the women involved but also leaving deep scars on families and the wider society.

Unlike men, the effects of substance abuse on women are often more catastrophic. As mothers, caregivers, and breadwinners, their addiction extends beyond the individual, disrupting children's lives, destabilizing households, and straining communities.

The growing prevalence of drug abuse among women calls for urgent attention. Experts warn that ignoring the problem could worsen social problems such as broken families, school dropouts, prostitution, and rising crime, with long-term consequences for society at large.

Just like in the case of men, one of the most common reasons women fall into drug abuse is peer pressure. Many young women, particularly students and apprentices seeking a sense of belonging often mix with the wrong crowd, where taking substances is seen as fashionable or even a sign of boldness.

Emotional stress is another major factor that drives drug abuse among women. For years, drugs have been considered a form of escape for people battling depression, anxiety, or trauma.

Women, in particular, are more vulnerable due to hormonal changes that sometimes affect mood and behaviour. Without proper counseling or support systems, substances like codeine syrup or tramadol easily become a way to numb pain or forget life's struggles.

While emotional struggles push some women toward drug abuse, poverty remains another powerful driver. For instance, single mothers facing economic hardship often struggle to provide for themselves and their children. Some, in desperation, turn to selling drugs as a means of survival, only to end up becoming consumers themselves.

The burden of unemployment and low-paying jobs also plays a role. Many women, frustrated by the lack of opportunities, seek temporary relief in substances such as cannabis or tramadol. Unfortunately, the comfort these drugs seem to provide is short-lived, leaving behind even greater damage to health, finances, and overall wellbeing.

Some women suffering from domestic violence and abusive relationships also turn to drug abuse. In many cases, abusive partners deliberately introduce them to substances as a means of control, making the women more dependent and less able to resist the toxic relationship. For such victims, drugs become both a coping mechanism and a trap.

Similarly, a weak family foundation or lack of parental guidance can set the stage for drug abuse. Young women who grow up in unstable homes where parents are absent, negligent, or even addicted themselves often lack the support system to resist negative influences. Without strong family values or supervision, they become more vulnerable to peer pressure, exploitation, and eventual drug use.

Although the reasons behind drug abuse in women vary, the results are frequently the same, lives destroyed. There are a number of consequences that go beyond the individual when casual use turns into reliance. The real effects of drug abuse are most seen in the years that follow, from deteriorating health to strained families and a sense of insecurity in the community.

Studies have shown that women are more sensitive to the consumption and long-term effects of drugs than men. From absorption to metabolic processes, women often struggle more in physically managing the consequences of drug use. Because drugs remain in their systems longer, women face higher risks of organ damage and drug-related diseases.

Medical experts note that while both men and women share some health consequences of drug abuse such as the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and hepatitis from injection drug use, or memory loss associated with marijuana, women's responses are distinct. They are



more vulnerable to reproductive complications and other health issues linked to gynecology.

For instance, drug abuse has been found to interfere with women's menstrual cycles, causing irregular periods, heavier or lighter flows, and painful cramps. Some women even resort to using illicit substances as self-medication for body aches or menstrual discomfort, unknowingly worsening their health in the process.

Women who use hard substances like heroin or methadone sometimes experience amenorrhea, the complete absence of menstrual periods. This can mislead them into believing they cannot conceive, while also causing them to misinterpret early pregnancy symptoms as withdrawal signs.

Such confusion places both mother and child at risk, as women may continue substance use without realizing they are pregnant. Drug abuse in nursing mothers further endangers infants through contaminated breast milk, compounding the dangers across generations.

Beyond physical health, drug abuse also leaves deep scars on women's mental wellbeing. Substances that are often taken to escape stress or trauma end up worsening psychological conditions.

Depression is one of the most common outcomes. Women who rely on drugs like codeine or cannabis for relief often sink deeper into sadness and hopelessness, especially when the temporary "high" wears off. This cycle fuels dependency and leaves them feeling trapped.

Anxiety and paranoia are also frequent consequences. Continuous drug use alters brain chemistry, making women overly fearful, suspicious, or restless. In extreme cases, this develops into full-blown psychosis, where they lose touch with reality.

Experts also warn of the high risk of suicidal thoughts among women struggling with addiction. The combination of stigma, social isolation, and altered brain function leaves many feeling cornered, with tragic consequences for themselves and their families.

Drug abuse among women does not only affect the individual but also destabilizes families. As mothers and caregivers, addicted women often neglect their responsibilities at home, leaving children vulnerable to hunger, poor schooling, and emotional trauma.

Many marriages and relationships collapse under the weight of drug addiction. Spouses and extended family members frequently complain of mistrust, constant quarrels, and financial strain, which eventually lead to separation or divorce.

Children, in particular, bear the heaviest burden. Growing up in an environment where the mother is dependent on drugs can expose them to neglect, abuse, or early entry into street life. In many cases, such children drop out of school or repeat the same cycle of substance abuse.

Communities are not spared either. As more women fall into addiction, cases of prostitution, theft, and petty crime increase, creating insecurity in neighborhoods. What begins as a personal struggle soon becomes a social problem that affects everyone.

In a world where women are striving to take up more active roles in providing for their families rather than being confined to homemaking, drug dependence undermines their productivity. Women battling addiction often struggle to perform effectively at home and in workplaces, leading to serious financial losses.

This inability to contribute meaningfully to businesses, farms, or offices reduces household income and weakens community development. In some cases, the financial strain caused by addiction pushes women into prostitution or transactional sex. This not only exposes them to sexually transmitted infections but also deepens the cycle of poverty and dependence.

The ripple effects extend to communities. Rising cases of petty crime, theft, and fraud are often linked to women trying to sustain their drug habits. Such activities undermine peace and security, leaving neighborhoods vulnerable.

Public safety becomes an even bigger concern as drug abuse spreads among women. From disorderly conduct to direct involvement in drug peddling, communities are beginning to feel the social tension caused by women struggling with addiction.

However, the government has stepped up campaigns to curb drug abuse, particularly by introducing sensitization programmes in schools and communities. Security agencies also continue to arrest traffickers and users, yet rehabilitation remains a greater challenge.

In addition to government efforts, some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also actively involved in tackling the problem. They organize awareness workshops targeted at women, teaching them the dangers of drug abuse while at the same time offering counseling services for those already affected.

Similarly, religious and community groups have joined the fight by preaching against drug use and setting up support programmes for families in distress. Their influence is significant because it helps to break the silence around the issue, especially in rural communities where stigma is often stronger.

Nevertheless, despite these combined efforts, the fight against drug abuse among women still faces major obstacles. There are very few rehabilitation centres, and those that exist are often underfunded. Moreover, stigma prevents many women from seeking help openly, leaving them trapped in cycles of addiction and silence.

To effectively tackle the problem, experts suggest that stronger laws should be enforced against the sale and distribution of illicit drugs. By disrupting supply chains, fewer women would have easy access to harmful substances.

There is also a pressing need for more rehabilitation centres in the society. Women battling addiction require safe spaces where they can receive medical care, counseling, and long-term reintegration support.

Furthermore, sensitization campaigns should specifically target women in marketplaces, schools, religious gatherings, and women's associations. Through these platforms, women can be educated on the dangers of drug abuse and shown pathways to recovery.

In addition, empowerment programmes can help reduce vulnerability. When women are given access to vocational training, small business grants, or stable employment, they are less likely to turn to drugs as a coping mechanism for poverty and hardship.

Breaking this cycle requires more than arrests and awareness campaigns; it demands compassion, investment, and collective responsibility. When women are protected, empowered, and supported, the entire society benefits but when they are left to battle addiction alone, the cost is paid by everyone.

INTERVIEW

Tell us how the journey began.

My journey began in a very funny way. Actually, my Dad is a painter and while I was still a kid, he saw me climbing a mango tree, he just walked past me, he didn't say anything. So there was a day I came back from school, I climbed the same mango tree and then he was like "Since you like climbing trees maybe you should come and start climbing ladders and that was how my journey began as a painter.

What were the challenges of turning your passion into a business?

I have faced so many challenges, my work personally is something so many people are not into, especially ladies, so I have faced so many challenges from the Engineer, from my clients and so many people but I have been driven by my passion. So I don't see it as a challenge, I face it head-on.

How has being based in Osogbo influenced your style or opportunities?

My journey started when I got married and moved to Osogbo. Being in Osun state, I faced so many challenges, firstly there was no connection, I didn't know anyone here and I just had my family, my husband was there for me when I started, so I was able to scale through. I don't reject job offers, even if it's a shop, I do it. From there, people who would award me a contract, saw me and referrals have been helpful too.

What has been your proudest moment or biggest project so far?

To the glory of God, I have handled so many projects. One of the projects is the Timsed Hotel at Ijebu Ijesa. That was my first biggest project when I graduated from my dad. I didn't even believe I could handle such a big project, I was able to do it with my team and we ordered for paint, everything went smoothly. Anytime I pass that same place again, I'm always proud of myself that this is one of my works.

How do you handle moments of self-doubt?

At times when I meet some clients, when I'm doing my job, some will complain, and they will ridicule me for being a lady painter. I'd even finish the job without any complaints they will owe, some people will owe me for my work. I would deliver their job perfectly, but they will still owe. So I began to doubt myself, that maybe I should venture into something else or I should just give up, you know, but my husband has been there, he's always encouraging me that sooner or later the people that will appreciate my work will appreciate it so that shouldn't be a big deal for me. He has always been there, helpful.

How do you stay updated with global trends in art while still preserving your originality?

My motor is living and learning. I believe so much in that, if you want to upgrade, you have to learn. You have to be open-minded, I go to seminars, I search online, one has to be updated in painting. We have so many colours, so many paints and the method of application is different. I go to seminars, anywhere they're taking seminars. I went to a master class in decorative painting recently. I'm a proud decorator too. I can decorate, I can do many colours, most of my work, I produce the paint myself, almost all of my work because I learnt paint production too. I can produce almost every painting.

Do you feel painters in Nigeria get enough recognition compared to musicians or actors?

No, no, we are not being recognised enough and I want a platform whereby painters especially female painters, We are not many, especially here in Osogbo, I've only seen one or two. The government should do better in helping us, by organising platforms for us where we can showcase our talent or teach people how things are done too, so our voice needs to be heard.

Can you share a major setback you faced as a painter and how you overcame it?

One of the major setbacks was when I was pregnant with my child, it was around 2020 during lockdown. I had to work in Abuja then, because my client insisted I must come and do the work, so my dad was there to assist me, my elder brother, because we are just three in the family and we are into painting. My son was two months old then and work was so hectic, but I had to be there, I had to deliver. That was a major setback, breastfeeding and coping with my job. Though I was able to deliver the job.

What's the most unexpected lesson entrepreneurship has taught you?

There are so many lessons and one of them is, using my



“I Would Have Started Much Earlier, If I Had Known”, Osun Based Female Painter And Decorator

In this interview with Tomi Lala, Osun based Painting and Home Decoration expert, CEO of Abike Luxe Living revealed how her career as a painter started, the challenges and her aspirations.

money to execute contracts, I will not do that again, I've done that a lot. There was this government job I was awarded in Esa Oke Health Centre, I used my money to execute the work and in the long run, I wasn't paid. So ever since then, any work I want to do, I will make sure I collect, if not all the money, at least 80percent has to be paid before I start any work. I've learnt not to use my money to execute any work.

If you could speak to your younger self when you were just starting, what would you say?

I would say, I should have started much earlier. If I had known this is what I would finally do.

Where do you see your brand or career in the next 5 to 10 years?

I want to be known globally, I want people to see my paintings, I want to create memories where people will not forget my name. I want to give a lasting memory, it will not even be up to 5 years, my painting has to speak for me more

than my voice.

Do you see Abike LUXE LIVING getting national or international awards?

Of course, I've been putting in so much effort so I deserve some accolades and an award too.

What advice would you give to aspiring creatives trying to turn their talent into a livelihood?

My advice is, young people should start with what they have, they should believe in the beauty of their dreams, they shouldn't procrastinate and most importantly, they should be prayerful, with prayers nothing is impossible, you can achieve what you thought you couldn't do. Don't stop believing in yourself.

If you're not into painting, what other business would you have done?

Aside from painting I'm into thrift business, I own a thrift shop where I sell grade A clothes for both adults and children, aside from that, I think I'd still choose painting.

OPINION

Taking Healthcare Delivery Beyond The Wall Of Freedom

On August 28, 2025, the trajectory of healthcare delivery was reshaped in Osun state. The new reality is that qualitative healthcare services can be accessed beyond the wall of freedom— that is the Correctional Service. What this mean, in essence, is that prisoners will enjoy their rights to qualitative healthcare just like any other person in the society.

Overtime, many are persuaded by prevailing circumstances to assume that, in addition to the restriction of freedom, prisoners are not entitled to having good healthcare services. But that will no longer be the case, at least in Osun state, as the Osun Health Insurance Agency (OSHIA) will be providing a broad healthcare coverage for every inmates in the state.

That was incredible and anyone who has been to Correctional facilities, and experience first-hand, the debilitating state of health of inmates, will have no much trouble in recognising the significance of the intervention by the OSHIA. While it is true that inmates are serving terms for series of offenses, it does not however preclude them from enjoying certain rights, particularly access to qualitative healthcare services.

This understanding, I presume, informed the decision of the Controller of Corrections Service, Osun Command, Mr. Olalekan Rotimi Oluwadele, to impress on the OSHIA management, led by Dr. Rasaq Akindele, for the inclusion of prisoners in the state's healthcare insurance scheme.

Speaking at the flag-off of the enrollment of inmates, Mr. Olalekan noted that "Your Excellency, upon my assumption of duty as the State Controller in September 2024, I visited critical stakeholders in the state including the Executive Secretary, Osun Health Insurance Agency, Dr. Rasaq Akindele and I emphasised majorly on the enrollment of our inmates and he promised to discuss with you sir, as a listening Governor, he conveyed your message back to us that you had expressly and graciously approved the enrollment of 1,200 inmates into OHIS, which we are witnessing today."

Giving the lean resources available to Correctional Service, managing the health of inmates may prove difficult. And the implication of this reality can be telling on the inmates, which could lead to complications in the health or in worse case scenarios, cost some of them their lives. That is the gap that the OHIA will be filling with the enrollment of inmates in Osun state.

The healthcare coverage will provide inmates with a broad access to medical help and ensure that they are not lost to avoidable deaths as was the case before now. To put the intervention in a proper perspective, the healthcare coverage for inmates in Osun state will save life. Before now, inmates go through tough experience to get medical help, and in most cases, too insignificant to resolve their healthcare issues as a result of the lean resources available to Correctional Service.



That experience is what OSHIA will be changing for the better, making sure that not only inmates given access to qualitative healthcare, they will also be able to get drugs at a relatively low price or even free. The healthcare coverage will adequately answer the healthcare needs of inmates and make sure that even though they are receiving punishment for misdeeds, their health does not suffer.

Let us take a moment and be frank with ourselves. Inmates are not aliens but a part of the society that must not be discarded, not minding whatever offences that put them in their current situations. This much was acknowledged by Governor Ademola Adeleke at the flag-off of the enrollment of inmates as he noted that "We (Adeleke government) regard inmates in our correctional facilities as bonafide citizens of the State and of our country. Their healthcare and general wellbeing must remain a matter of priority. As you must all have observed, our administration does not discriminate on any basis; whether political affiliation, tribe, religion or gender, in extending dividends of democracy to all citizens and residents of Osun State."

That was awesome and speak much about the interest that the Adeleke administration has shown in the healthy living of citizens, irrespective of their situations or status. The healthcare coverage for inmates in Osun state highlights the progress that the OSHIA has made under Dr. Rasaq Akindele, expanding healthcare coverage beyond the wall of freedom.



All the 1,200 inmates in Osun state will enjoy good healthcare services upon presenting their OHIS cards at certified healthcare centres within correctional centres or outside it in Osun state and beyond. Even more, specialized treatment such as surgery will be covered for inmates, making sure that they can get over whatever health challenges they k encounter.

And mind you, the cost for not just medical bills will be covered by the healthcare coverage but also cost of drugs in certified pharmacies. This is what inmates in Osun state will be enjoying going forward. And you know what; Osun is the first state in the whole of Nigeria to do this— a clear demonstration of Governor Adeleke's commitment to improving the welfare condition of the people of Osun state, which in this instance, are inmates.

• Sarafa Ibrahim writes from Iwo, Osun State.

Osun 2026: I Know The Winner Of The Poll

The assertion 'I know the winner of the poll' made by me in my capacity as an unbiased public affairs commentator, and a realist, was borrowed from some global political icons. They attempted gaining political power with courage, sense of purpose and got rewarded with sweet victory of successful attempt.

For Osun 2026 governorship election, I know the winner already. He is not so hidden. The sight of elephant can't be described as 'I saw something fleetingly.'

Before I will state the reasons behind my bold assertion that a particular candidate will triumph in Osun 2026 poll, a quick dash through my history books brought up several big names.

Historically, politicians like Andrew Jackson, who won the popular vote in the 1824 Presidential election, or James A. Garfield, who won the 1880 presidential election by a narrow margin, have made claims about their electoral victories.

In global political history, it's often the candidates or their supporters who make assertion such as 'I know the winner of the next poll'.

Politicians are blind optimists. It is a trait that can be both admirable and amusing. During election seasons, they often exude so much confidence, declaring they will win in landslides or historic victories. Some even claim to know the outcome before a single vote is cast!

This phenomenon is not unique to any particular party or country. Politicians worldwide have a knack for predicting wins, often with unwavering certainty. It is as if they have got inside information or a crystal ball that guarantees success.

For instance, I read a story of a politician who campaigned on a platform of "the people versus the elites."

Despite trailing in the polls, he remained optimistic, claiming a landslide victory was imminent. His supporters lapped up his message, and, to many's surprise, he won in a stunning upset.

However, this optimism can sometimes tip into overconfidence. When politicians become too convinced of their own rhetoric, they might underestimate their opponents or neglect key issues affecting voters. This can lead to complacency, which can ultimately cost them the election.

Despite this risk, politicians continue to display remarkable optimism. Perhaps it is a calculated strategy to boost supporter morale or a genuine belief in their message. Whatever the reason, it is an undeniable fact that optimism is a key component of successful political campaigns.



By Matthew Ajayi

In my own case, I have no crystal ball neither have I consulted Paul the Octopus, a celebrity during the 2010 FIFA World Cup. He correctly predicted the outcomes of several matches, including Spain's victory over the Netherlands in the final.

Paul chose between two boxes with flags representing the competing teams, and his choice was considered a prediction. His streak of correct predictions sparked widespread media attention and fascination!

While not laying claims to seething clairvoyance, I base my conviction about the occupant of the Abere Oval Office on November 28, 2026, on what I have observed regarding the efforts to make black, white by the All Progressives Congress in Osun regarding the control of local government areas in the state.

From diligent findings, Osun APC has realised the unstoppable moving train the incumbent State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has become.

Less than a year into the all-important 2026 governorship poll, the sight of the food APC is offering the ever-conscious Osun people still looks unappealing to the electorate, a sign of impending electoral pummeling waiting quietly on the road to Abere for the 'ki gbo, ki gba' party

With hope thinning out and the time running out fast, the only way out of the quagmire APC has plunged itself to, in the thinking of these election riggers, banking on the fading 'Emi lokan' facade, is to set up parallel government at the grassroots level -a trasonable offence in a saner clime.

Like a godless watchmen that watch in vain, Osun APC, a modern day 'Soroye' could see Osun Local Government through abracadabra plotted by an individual. But it hasn't been able to touch it.

Then came the admonition by the State Assembly for the usurpers. The Osun State House of Assembly in a stern warning to commercial banks in the State, particularly the United Bank for Africa

(UBA) Plc, Osogbo Branch, cautioned against honouring unauthorised financial instructions on Local Government accounts.

In a letter personally signed by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun, the House drew attention to unlawful financial directives allegedly issued in some Local Governments, including Boluwaduro Local Government, authorising deductions of up to 15 percent of September 2025 allocations in favour of private individuals.

The Speaker described such actions as illegal, unconstitutional, and without any budgetary approval, stressing that Treasurers are not legally recognised signatories to Local Government accounts under extant laws. The House reaffirmed that only the Local Government Chairman and the Director of Administration and General Services, both officers of the Local Government Service Commission, are duly empowered to operate such accounts in line with the Osun State Guidelines on Local Government Administration and the Public Financial Management Law, 2020.

Citing its Resolution of 29th September, 2025, the Assembly reiterated that no withdrawals or deductions may be made from Local Government accounts without strict compliance with the Constitution, internal regulations, and approved budgets. It further warned that any financial institution processing unauthorised instructions would be deemed complicit in financial misconduct, in violation of multiple national anti-corruption laws, including the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and would face the full weight of the law.

The Speaker cautioned that erring banks risk severe consequences, including summons before the House, arrest warrants, blacklisting, and referrals to anti-corruption agencies for investigation and prosecution.

Now having hitting the brickwall on the LG matter, where will APC turn for victory? They will go to the same Osun people that have endured live without enjoying legitimate support of funds due to their LGAs in the last 8 months? History, the best judge won't forget roles played by individuals in this debacle.

With Adeleke's appointment with fate adorning more glorious outlook, tell whoever cares to listen that I predict the winner of the August 8, 2026 poll and it is going to be the man Osun people trusted in 2022.

From all indications, the level of the trust between him and them is still high, making it convenient for me to say, Ademola Jackson-Nurudeen Adeleke will return as governor of Osun come August 8 because heaven has sanctioned it.

EDUCATION

UNIOSUN Alumna Bags NYSC National Award

By Sola Isola

An Alumnae of Osun State University, Bridget Nwako has bagged the 2025 President's National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Honours Award.

Bridget, a First-Class graduate of Business Administration and currently a postgraduate student of the University, expressed gratitude to the UNIOSUN for shaping her academically and morally.

She stated this while paying a courtesy visit to the Vice-Chancellor of University, Professor Odunayo Clement Adebooye, accompanied by the Provost of the College of Management and Social Sciences, Professor Isola Ayantunji, and other lecturers from the college to present the award to the University.

During the visit, Bridget expressed deep appreciation to the

University for "training, supporting, and standing by her" throughout her academic journey. She narrated how she identified a pressing challenge in her NYSC host community and worked to provide a sustainable solution, a feat that earned her the prestigious National recognition.

"UNIOSUN has played

a significant role in shaping me both academically and morally. The University's emphasis on developing problem-solvers inspired me to tackle challenges rather than avoid them," she said.

In his remarks, the Vice-Chancellor described Bridget's achievement as a

reflection of UNIOSUN's vision of producing well-rounded graduates who excel beyond the classroom.

"At Osun State University, we don't just train students to achieve academic success; we mould them to be innovators, leaders, and change-makers. Bridget's

recognition at the National level demonstrates the quality of minds we produce and reinforces our commitment to raising graduates who impact society positively," Professor Adebooye said.

The Presidential NYSC Honours Award celebrates corps

members who distinguish themselves through exceptional service and community development projects during their NYSC year. Miss Bridget's achievement has once again placed UNIOSUN in the spotlight as an institution committed to academic excellence, character development, and social impact.



Uniosun Graduates 2851 Students At 15th Convocation

By Tomi Lala

Osun State University (UNIOSUN) has awarded a total of 2,851 degrees which included 2505 Bachelor's degree, 1 Postgraduate Diploma, 283 Masters Degree and 62 PhDs during its 15th Convocation ceremonies.

The announcement was made by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Odunayo Clement Adebooye, during convocation ceremony held university's main campus in Osogbo, the

Osun state capital.

The Vice Chancellor revealed that 49 bachelor's degree students graduated with First Class Honours, 988 with Second Class Upper Division, 1,279 with Second Class Lower Division, 178 with Third Class and 1 with a Pass.

He added that the convocation is not only celebrate academic achievements but also mark the commissioning of seven key infrastructural projects,

demonstrating the university's ongoing transformation.

Some of the major projects to be commissioned include: the iconic Senate Building, funded by TETFund's High Impact Intervention, the Faculty of Computing and Information Technology Building and a Twin 500-seat Lecture Theatre Complex.

Also three additional 500-capacity lecture theatres at the Osogbo, Okuku, and Ifetedo

campuses, and a new entrepreneurship equipment for student innovation and training.

He added that the university is now, 90% digital compliant adding that the university program have increased from 65 to 128.

"By the grace of God, not by any wisdom or strength of man, we have converted this University to almost 90% digitally-compliant University through our robust online lecture delivery system and e-processing of

almost all our businesses as a University.

"Significantly, when I was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, this University was running 65 Bachelor academic degree programmes but to the glory of Almighty God, the University runs 128 academic programmes today.

"When I came in as your Vice-Chancellor, the student population was about 12,400 but today, we have grown in strength and knowledge to 34,000 students. We

have increased the number of Faculties in the University from 9 to 14 in the recent 4 years.

"The number and quality of buildings that have been commissioned today serve as a measure of our infrastructural growth across all our campuses. The number of national and international grants that we have won are indicators of our success as a University. Our graduates are everywhere in our world shaking the tables to positively impact our world", he noted.

WAEC Accredits UNIOSUN CBT Centres For SSCE

By Taofik Jimoh

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has officially accredited the Computer-Based Test (CBT) Centres of Osun State University (UNIOSUN) for the conduct of its examinations.

A statement issued by

the University's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ademola Adesoji, revealed that candidates registering for the 2025 October/November WAEC examinations can now select UNIOSUN CBT Centres as their preferred examination venues.

Speaking on the development, the Vice-

Chancellor of UNIOSUN, Professor Odunayo Clement Adebooye, described the approval as a landmark achievement and a validation of the university's investment in technology-driven learning and assessment infrastructure.

"This accreditation by

WAEC underscores our commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities that meet international standards.

"At UNIOSUN, candidates are assured of a serene, secure, and technologically advanced environment designed to enhance performance and guarantee convenience",

Professor Adebooye said.

The university's CBT Centres are equipped with modern computer systems, high-speed internet, uninterrupted power supply, and robust security measures, making them suitable for both National and

International examinations.

The Vice-Chancellor urged prospective candidates to choose UNIOSUN CBT Centres during their registration to enjoy cutting-edge infrastructure, uninterrupted connectivity, and a conducive environment tailored for excellence.

NEWS

O'HIS Holds Fourth Quarter Providers' Forum, Increases Capitation

By Tomi Lala

The Osun Health Insurance Scheme (O'HIS) has announced an increase review of its capitation payment to N700 per enrollee, with assurance of further increment soon.

The announcement was made during the Fourth Quarter Service Providers Forum Meeting held on Wednesday at Staff Development Centre, Abeere in Osogbo. capital.

The meeting brought together medical directors, desk officers, and health insurance stakeholders from accross the state.

Speaking with newsmen during the meeting, the Executive Secretary of Ohis, Dr Rasaq Akindele, said the agency has recorded significant improvements in service delivery since the last providers forum.

"After the last providers forum meeting, there has been improvement in the care of enrollees. We have fewer complaints now, and many people are expressing gratitude and appreciation. There has been significant improvement from the last time till today," he stated.

Akindele added that the agency decided to increase the capitation rate in response to the current economic realities.

"We know there's a need for us to increase what we pay as capitation, considering the present economic situation. We have increased it to N700 per enrollee for now, and we plan to raise it further in the

shortest possible time," he assured.

He, however advised that healthcare providers should reciprocate the gesture by showing more commitment and diligence in delivering quality care to enrollees.

Also speaking, Dr Akinpelu Ayodeji Desk Officer for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund commended the Ohis

coverage and the scope of services offered to beneficiaries.

"From the presentation today, it's clear that both primary and secondary services are well captured. Primary services such as malaria, typhoid, urinary tract infections, and other basic health issues are all covered. We expect all service providers to deliver

these services to enrollees," he said.

In her words, Dr Dare Folasade, a Consultant Psychiatrist at the State Specialist Hospital, Asubiaro, Osogbo, described the forum as an avenue for knowledge sharing and service improvement.

"This meeting helps us stay updated on new

developments within OHIS. We've learned that some packages we thought were not part of the scheme are actually available. This will improve service delivery in our hospital, and we appreciate OHIS and the state government for their continuous efforts," she said.

Another provider, Dr

Olatunji Odebunmi appealed to the government to review the capitation further, noting that rising drug prices have affected healthcare operations.

"As providers, we are running at a loss because drug prices have skyrocketed. We urge the government to further review the capitation upward," Odebunmi pleaded.

Osun 2026: Omisore's Entry Unsettles APC

• Party Picks Date for Convention

By Sola Isola and Taofik Jimoh

Entry of Otunba Iyiola Omisore into the race for the 2026 Governorship Ticket of the Osun All Progressives Congress have caused a melodrama within the party.

Osun Spring reports that Omisore a former Deputy Governor of Osun, and former National Secretary of the party is believed by some members of the party as being able to pull mores crowd for the party.

While making the announcement of his declaration on his official X handle, Omisore tagged the theme as 'Fix the Broken, Restore Our Dreams'.

Omisore, who represented Osun east from 2003 to 2011 in the senate, said the ambition is about restoring hope

and strengthening governance in the state.

"This is not just my mission, it is a collective one. I believe strongly that together, we can restore hope, strengthen governance, and deliver a brighter future for every son and daughter of Osun," he wrote.

Prior to the entry of Omisore into the race, MD CEO of National Inland Waterways, Bola Oyebamiji is reportedly the favourite of both leaders and members of the party.

Recall that Osun Spring had earlier reported that Otunba Iyiola Omisore has named all APC Chairmen in the state as his campaign coordinator across the state.

Omisore made this known in a now viral video obtained by Osun Spring in a meeting he held with all Ward Chairmen of APC in

Osun state.

Osun Spring reports that there are now 9 aspirants in Osun APC hustling to become the party's flagbearer.

Meanwhile, the All Progressives Congress (APC) has officially slated its governorship primary election in Osun State for December 13, 2025, ahead of the August 8, 2026 governorship poll.

According to a timetable released by the party's National Organising Secretary, Sulaiman Argungu, and made available at the party's national secretariat in Abuja on Tuesday, the nomination and expression of interest forms will cost ₦50 million.

The election process is set to kick off with a formal notice to the Osun

State chapter on October 3, 2025, while an update of the party's membership register will run from October 20 to 31, 2025. Only members who are financially up to date—having paid their dues up to February 2025—and appear in the updated register will be eligible to participate as voters or aspirants.

Key dates on the party's election timetable include:

Sale of forms begins: November 12, 2025

Deadline for submission of completed forms and delegate list: December 1, 2025

The APC has waived the cost of the nomination form for women and persons with disabilities, requiring them to only pay for the expression of interest form, as part of its

inclusion policy.

Youth aspirants between ages 25 and 40 will also enjoy a 50% discount on the nomination form, while paying the full fee for the expression of interest.

As of the time of filing this report, no fewer than a dozen party chieftains have shown interest in clinching the party's ticket.

Among the frontrunners are Senator Ajibola Basiru, National Secretary of the APC; Bola Oyebamiji, Managing Director of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA); Otunba Iyiola Omisore, Former Deputy Governor of Osun State; Dr. Akin Ogunbiyi, businessman/insurance expert; Dotun Babayemi; Senator Babajide Omowore; Senator Mudashiru Hussain; Benedict Alabi, Former Deputy Governor; Kunle Adegoke (SAN), Legal luminary, among others.

Mainstream Schools Can Be Made Inclusive, Not Segregated — Ayeni

By Favour Odanye

A non-profit organization, Community Advancement Initiative For Self-Reliance, CAI4SR has disclosed that creating schools for people with disabilities encourages segregation and undermines their sense of belonging.

Speaking with newsmen after a training session in Osogbo recently, CAI4SR's Executive Director, Eni Ayeni counselled the government to allow inclusive education by adapting mainstream schools with children with disabilities.

According to her, global advocacy for disability rights is anchored on inclusion, stressing that persons with disabilities thrive better in societies where barriers are removed rather than in environments where they are secluded.

Recalling a project undertaken by CAI4SR to promote inclusion for children with disabilities, Ayeni noted that the existing schools can be adjusted to accommodate them through what she described

as "reasonable adjustments," such as ramps, and accessible toilets.

"We already have schools on the ground, let's make what we call reasonable adjustments so that children with disabilities can equally learn with children without disabilities. By doing that,

you are giving them a sense of belonging", she said.

She added that establishing special schools for children with disabilities will only reinforce stereotypes and deepen segregation.

In the same vein, she lauded the domestication of

the Osun State Persons With Disability Law but urged for its implementation, stressing that without practical enforcement, the law would remain "only on paper"

Also speaking, a lawyer with the Justice Development and Peacemaker Center,

Veronica Onoja, emphasized that the government has a critical role to play in ensuring the implementation of the policy.

Onoja identified lack of awareness and poor funding as major obstacles to the enforcement of the Osun State Disability Law,

noting that many citizens were unaware of its existence and therefore unable to demand its implementation.

"If people do not know there is a law protecting persons with disabilities, they cannot push for its implementation", Onoja said.

Osun Inmates Gulps 1.2million Daily For Feeding

By Sola Isola

The Osun State Command of Nigeria Correctional Services, has revealed that it feeds inmates with not less than 1.2million naira per day.

The Command while appreciating the Federal Government for several reform in the NCoS noted that President Bola Tinubu through Minister of Interior, Hon Bunmi Tunji-Ojo has approving increment in feeding

allowance of inmates to 1,125.

The Controller of Corrections, Osun Command, Olalekan Rotimi Oluwadele who made this known at the flag off of enrollment of Inmates in Osun into the State Insurance Scheme by Governor Ademola Adeleke tied the amount spent on feeding to the current number of inmates in Osun state which stand at 1,100.

"The Federal government has done a lot

of reforms in the Nigerian Correctional Service since the inception of the present administration led by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR through the Honourable Minister of Interior, Hon. Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo. The daily feeding allowance for inmates has been increased to N1,125", he said.

Osun Spring reports by going by the amount per individual, Nigeria Correctional Services in Osun spends over 1.2million to feed inmates

daily.

He noted further that Correctional Services has also transitioned from being in the exclusive list to the concurrent list, which implies that both the Federal and State Government is responsible for its operations and running.

"Mr Governor, The Nigerian Correctional Service has indeed transitioned from the exclusive list to the concurrent list, implying that the Federal and

State Government now bears responsibility for its operations which are: Custodial service and Non-Custodial service", he added.

Osun Spring reports that the Executive Secretary, Osun Health Insurance Agency, Dr Akintunde Akindele, has earlier announced that Governor Adeleke had approved enrollment of all inmates in the state into OHIS adding that the Governor also approved surgeries for all inmates with special cases.

TOURISM



How We Keep Developing Osun Despite Withheld Allocations - Governor Adeleke

• Governor Adeleke Surpasses APC's 12 Years Records under Three Years - Osun Student Leaders • Unveils Tourism Agenda

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has revealed how his administration continues to work on its developmental agenda despite scarce resources coming into the state.

The Governor added that his government even had to use more of its resources into covering cost that ordinarily money due to local government would have covered if Federal government has not held to the fund.

Speaking at an event organized to mark the enrollment of inmates of Nigeria Correctional Services in Osun at the Ilesha Correctional Centre noted that transparency and priority spending in the management of state funds has helped the administration survive the hardship.

He noted further that his administration has raised the state's internally generated revenue while judiciously managed its special project account.

He said, "Many have asked how we are achieving all these despite the State's lean financial situation especially in the last seven months. The answer is simple. Aside from being strong believers in God, we embrace transparency and priority spending in the management of state funds. We have raised our internally generated revenue and we judiciously manage our special project account.

"Permit me to appreciate the Nigerian Bar Association, our royal fathers, the various labour unions, the clerics and various strata of the society for their sustained appeal to the Federal Government and the Presidency for the release of Osun withheld allocations. The huge public support in favour of the Osun state government strengthens our faith in the legality and morality of our position on the local government leadership question.

"As we maintain financial discipline to keep the state running, we are very hopeful that the local government crisis will soon be resolved within the context of the rule of law and respect for the federal constitution. We believe His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, will eventually decide on the matter in our favour."

Speaking in his statewide broadcast on the 34th anniversary of the creation of Osun State Governor Adeleke had stated that his government had made significant progress in deepening good governance across the state in line with his administration agenda.

"In line with my five (5) points action plan, my government has made significant progress in deepening good governance across the state, and I promise to continue working tirelessly to improve and do more to make life more meaningful for the good people of Osun State.

"On infrastructural and developmental projects, my government has provided potable borehole water in each of the 332 electoral wards in Osun State; a good number of roads have been constructed and rehabilitated across the state; infrastructure on roads and modern flyover across our urban cities in the state. Rural electrification has been implemented by provision of numbers of transformers and other electrical materials to communities without electricity.

"On Healthcare, we have put in place Imole surgical and medical outreach across the state in which over 60,000 beneficiaries have been recorded; Osun Health Insurance

Scheme (OHIS) have enrolled over 30,000 Osun indigenes on the OHIS program. We completed renovation of over 200 Primary Health Facilities across the State.

"On Socio Economic Development, we have ensured regular payment of workers' salary and inherited half salary from the past administration. We support farmers on fertilizers subsidies, purchase of tractors and other farm inputs to boost food security. We have equally strengthened our institutions, promoted transparency and accountability in all areas, and empowered our citizens to participate in small scale business across the state.

"We have seen progress in the education sector with renovation of schools across the State, from the development of our infrastructure to the empowerment of our youth, from the preservation of our rich cultural heritage to the promotion of peace and security, Osun State has continued to evolve, becoming a model for other states in the Federation.

"Our cultural heritage remains a source of pride, and our people continue to excel in various fields, contributing to the growth of not only our state but Nigeria as a whole." He said.

In another development, Governor Ademola Adeleke has approved a series of programmes and projects in line with his administration's tourism and creative industry expansion agenda which is targeted at expanding tourist inflow to the various cultural sites in the state by over 60 percent in the next one year.

A statement by the Spokesperson to the Governor, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, noted that aside from direct government intervention, the state government has also adopted a public private partnership model to develop tourist sites such as the Erin Ijesa waterfall among others located at Oriade local government adding that the goal is to expand financing and sustainability of upgraded tourism sites.

If further noted that the cultural tourist sites approved for phased upgrade spread across the state with further compilation presently being anchored by the state's ministry of arts and culture adding that the sites are being prepared to meet UNESCO recognition.

The statement reads, "Among the first set of approved sites include the Ifá Agbaye Temple at Ile Ife to cater for the annual global inflow of tourists for the annual Ifa day celebration. Land allocation has been secured and further processes are ongoing.

"The second is the Iwude Ijesa project which was designed to attract tourists and attract the attention of UNESCO and other local and international investors and donors.

"The third is the Sango Timi Shrine project, a site fitting for UNESCO recognition. It encompasses the sacred groove itself, an auditorium, a pavilion, art and craft workshop, museum kitchen among others.

"The Osun Osogbo shrine is another UNESCO site that is a continuous state focussed intervention area. The state governor has marked the Osun Osogbo as a global event of statutory state support.

"Governor Adeleke is however enforcing observance of the budgetary and procurement process to ensure that the various upgrade and expansion projects are captured within the budget, processed through the procurement process and posted on the procurement website.

"The governor believed that observing the above due process will ensure budgetary and financial transparency. Osun has a good record of financial transparency since Governor Adeleke

took over the leadership of the state.

"Expanding tourist inflow is a cardinal programme within our agenda. As the cradle of Yoruba nation, we have a lot to showcase to deepen the tourism industry.

"We have identified many cultural sites and I have directed phased implementation of the upgrade across the state. There are many potential sites for UNESCO recognition in Osun. We want to ensure we implement the upgrades and expansion of those sites to widen global recognition and UNESCO support.

"Our administration is focussed on diversifying Osun economy by boosting tourism. We have adopted a strong partnership with the private sector to achieve this goal.

"Our administration is however enforcing due process in all we do. Our website contains project updates from award to implementation. We are committed to fiscal, budgetary and procurement transparency", the state governor noted.

Meanwhile, student leaders from across higher institutions in Osun state has overwhelmingly endorsed Governor Ademola Adeleke for a second term in office, declaring that the governor has surpassed the 12 Years governance records of the APC in less than three years.

The student leaders of NANS structures and the National Association of Osun Students (NAOS) made this known while on a visit to the Governor at the Banquet Hall of the Government House while appraising the Adeleke administration with high scores in terms of delivery of good governance and democratic dividends.

The chairman of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Joint Campus Council (JCC), Osun Axis, Comrade Ayobami Solomon Abel who warmly commended the governor and his team for passionate dedication to state development noted that even blind men and women can see the good work of the Adeleke administration across Osun state.

"As a student body, we are not here for praise singing. We are only here to acknowledge your good work as a Governor. The people of Osun are feeling the very positive impacts of your administration.

"Your dedication to the service of your people is second to none. I declare here today that your administration has performed far better than the 12 years of the previous APC government. That is a fact that is self-evident across Osun today", the NANS leader affirmed.

Corroborating the assertions by the NANS leader, Comrade Adedibu Mustafa Akinsumbo, the President of the National Association of Osun State Students, National Headquarters listed sectoral achievements in agriculture, education, health, workers welfare, infrastructure, sports, rural development, cooperative empowerment, asserting that Osun is witnessing unprecedented development within less than three years under governor Adeleke.

"Across Osun state, the good work of Mr Governor is acknowledged by all sectors of the society. The workers rallied and endorsed you for a second term. The farmers approved you for a second term. The artisans, market men and women said you deserve continuation to continue the good work

"You earned those endorsements because of your exceptional performance despite threats and intimidation. You have set a high standard of governance. We, your children, appreciate you and your love for the people and we pledge to stand by you and your party now and in the future", Comrade Adedibu affirmed

NEWS

Societal Expectations: An Unnecessary Pressure On Youths

By Omolola Okanlawon, Osogbo

Societal expectations are the invincible script we're all handed from a young age: get good grades, be social, have a vibrant social life, be the perfect friend and family member, all while maintaining flawless mental and physical health.

It is a checklist the "ideal" youth, technically achievable but often at a devastating cost. I've watched peers come close to this ideal, but they always sacrifice something, most often their mental well-being.

This immense pressure isn't just exhausting, it's a source of profound pain, leading many down a path of anxiety and depression and in most tragic cases suicide.

This pressure originates from several key sources, each adding another weight to the burden young people carry.

Firstly, parental pressure is a significant contributor. Almost all parents in the world want the best for their children. Nowadays, many parents push their children to attend extra classes and pursue courses the parents choose for them. When youths are burdened with these high expectations, they experience intense stress and exhaustion because they cannot bear to disappoint their parents.

While parents have good intentions, they often fail to understand the emotional effects on their children. It is healthy to want to bring out the best in your child, but sometimes the pressure to perform can have serious consequences.

Many popular celebrities in Nigeria, studied Law, medicine among other professional courses in different Universities but ended up being musicians, actors or social media influencers against the desires of their parents. Some who could not dare their parents still live under their influence or protection.

Compounding this pressure is the modern phenomenon of social media. In this digital era, social media is almost inescapable. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok have a powerful influence, exerting a new form of social pressure.

For many youths, these platforms create intense



pressure to maintain impressive "cool" profiles where popularity is quantified by likes, shares and comments.

This environment fosters cyberbullying, which can leave victim anxious, depressed and constantly stressed. The mindset of young adult is easily affected by these negative issues, making the Misuse of Social Media a major factor in societal pressure.

For example, many tiktokers experience significant emotional distress when their accounts are banned, a reaction that underscores the deep connection they have to their digital community. This often also often escalate into their personal lives, attracting negative attention and comments from the public.

Furthermore, youths face intense internal and psychological pressures.

This is often driven by a deep-seated desire to fit in and the overwhelming fear of an unknown future. A youth who feels, lost without guide, and terrified of the future is under huge pressure to have everything figured out. This internal struggle, combined with external voices, can lead to devastating outcome.

Also, most influencers promotes fake lifestyles, for young audiences the compulsion to imitate these impossible high standards can have serious consequences. Including debt from high spending, over identify with a life that isn't real.

The syndrome of youth anxiety is borne out of despair and disappointment. It manifest in social vices such as

sexual promiscuity a problem prevalent in institutions due to the pressure that "everybody is doing it" and cultism, often fueled by factors like unstable home, life and poverty.

The consequences of this multifaceted pressure are severe and widespread. Research confirms that adolescence and emerging adulthood are crucial periods for wellbeing and mental health, as this stage involves many changes in relationships, social role, and the adoption of responsibilities.

Yet, we must ask: who is "society"? The uncomfortable answer is that we are. We are the ones prolonging these pressures through thoughtless comments, extreme bullying and the expectations we inherit from previous generations and pass on. It is a cycle, and we need to be the ones to break it.

The good news is that we have the power to do so. Managing this stress starts with practical, intentional strategies aimed at reclaiming your autonomy.

The first step is building self-awareness, the foundation for managing stress from societal expectations. By understanding your value and authentic self, you can differentiate between expectations that align with your goals and those imposed externally.

Practicing mindfulness, such as daily self-reflection or journaling, helps identify when your actions are influenced by external pressures.

Recognizing personal

triggers such as family gatherings, performance reviews or social media comparisons, allows you to respond with intentions rather than react out of insecurity.

Self compassion is another critical tool. It counteracts the self criticism that often accompanies unmet expectations. When feeling stressed about not meeting an expectation, ask yourself, "how would I support a friend in this situation?". This shift in perspective foster self acceptance and reduces harsh self judgement, accepting the common humanity of struggle.

Setting healthy boundaries safeguards mental well being by defining what you will and won't accept from others. Personal boundaries help limit the time and energy spent meeting external expectations, while emotional boundaries prevent taking responsibility for others reactions to your choices.

Physical boundaries ensure space for self care, and digital boundaries help manage social media consumption to reduce unhealthy comparison. Clear communication is key, statement like, "I appreciate your advice, but I need to make this decision for myself", reinforce your autonomy while maintaining respect in relationships.

The journey to break free from these expectations is not about rebellion for its own sake, but about curating a life that is authentically yours. It involves examining each expectation, whether it

comes from parents, peers, or platforms and asking "does this align with who I am and who I want to become?".

The curation process requires redefining success on your own terms. Success does not have to be a linear path with predetermined milestones at specific ages. It can be a mixture of experiences, learnings, failures, and personal triumphs that may not look impressive in social media feed but bring genuine contentment and growth.

The role of parents and mentors must evolve from directors to supporters. Instead of mapping a life paths for young adults, the goal should be to equip them with emotional tool to navigate their own journey. This includes fostering resilience, critical thinking, and self compassion needed to withstand societal pressures.

Furthermore, the role of religious institutions must extend beyond the pulpit. In an era of intense social pressure they have a critical mandate to actively guide and educate young people, building a foundation of self worth that protects them. This means creating youth programs that directly address digital wellness, using faith as a framework for resilience rather than a retreat from the modern world.

Educational institutions also bear a responsibility. Beyond academic excellence, curricula should integrate life skills such as digital literacy, emotional intelligence,

and mindfulness practices. Preparing students for the real world means preparing them for psychological challenges they will inevitably face, not just the intellectual ones.

The economic structures that intensify this pressure cannot be ignored. The instability of jobs, the soaring cost of living and competitive nature of the economy create a tangible foundation for anxiety.

Addressing societal pressure is not just about changing mindset, it also requires advocating for economic policies that provide youths with a more stable and equitable foundation to build their lives upon.

Surrounding yourself with people who celebrate you, not a perfect image, creates a buffer against societal pressure. These relationships provides a safe space to be vulnerable, to share struggles without judgement, and to receive validation that you are enough, exactly as you are.

Identity exploration is not a sign of being lost, it is a necessary and healthy process of finding one's self.

However, in cultures that demand early specialization and rapid success, this exploratory period is often seen as a luxury or a failure, rather than a crucial development stage.

It is helpful to remember that most people are too preoccupied with their own lives to scrutinize yours as closely as you might fear. This realization can be freeing, allowing you to make choices based on your desires rather than in perceived judgement.

Also, the future of work is also changing rapidly. Careers that exist today, may not tomorrow, and new ones are constantly emerging. This fluidity means that adaptability, creativity and continuous learning are not valuable assets than rigidly following a predetermined, "safe" path that may not be safe in a long run.

Navigating societal expectations is a universal challenge, but with awareness, self compassion and intentional choices, you can reduce the stress they may cause.

By understanding which expectation truly matter to you and developing the courage to release those that don't, you create space for a more authentic and fulfilling life.

SPORTS

Osun to Host Military Paramilitary Games 2025 Tagged "Unity Through Sports"

Osun State will come alive this October as it hosts the Osun Military Paramilitary Games 2025 (OMPG 2025), a landmark sporting festival running from October 15th to October 29th, 2025, across several venues in the State.

The Games will bring together some of Nigeria's most distinguished uniformed services in a celebration of discipline, resilience, teamwork, and athletic talent within an atmosphere of healthy competition.

Participating in this year's edition are the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air Force, Nigerian Correctional Service, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Federal Fire Service, Nigeria Immigration Service, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Police Force, Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO), the Amotekun Corps and more.

This remarkable gathering of security and service organizations highlights the unifying power of sports. It provides a platform where the values of service and sacrifice meet the ideals of fair play, determination, and camaraderie.

The 2025 Games will feature a thrilling lineup of twelve sporting events, from football, volleyball, and athletics to indoor games such as table tennis, and chess. Traditional contests, including tug of war, relay races, and cultural showcases, will further add to the excitement.

More than a competition, OMPG 2025 will also serve as a vibrant cultural festival, with music, dance, and displays of Osun's rich heritage, creating opportunities for citizens to celebrate and engage with the men and women who protect their communities.

At its core, the Games are designed not only to test



physical skills but to strengthen bonds among Nigeria's security and paramilitary organizations. It reinforces trust, teamwork, and collaboration—values just as vital on the sports field as they are in national service.

Mr. Olufemi Bankefa, Chairman of the Osun Sports Officers Association, emphasized this vision:

"The Osun Military Paramilitary Games is far more than a contest of strength and skill. It is a celebration of our shared commitment to service and unity. When soldiers,

officers, and service men and women come together in this environment, barriers are broken, friendships are forged, and bonds of trust are strengthened. This year's edition will remind us all that sports have the power to unite and inspire while deepening the spirit of patriotism in every participant."

As the official organizing partner, Ace Sports is working hand-in-hand with stakeholders to deliver a world-class event.

Olayiwola Olafiranye, Chief Executive Officer of Ace Sports, explained:

"We are proud to be leading the organizational backbone of OMPG 2025.

Our goal is to ensure that every aspect, from fixtures and facilities to athlete welfare and fan experience, meets the highest standard."

Reflecting further on the wider impact, Olayinka Olawole, Chief Operating Officer of Ace Sports, added: "Our approach goes beyond organizing a tournament; we are building a legacy. Through OMPG 2025, young people across Osun will see role models in uniform who inspire discipline and resilience. The Games will also drive grassroots sports, boost tourism, and stimulate economic activity across the State.

This is a celebration of both service and society, and Ace Sports is committed to ensuring that every detail reflects this broader vision."

The Osun Military Paramilitary Games 2025 promises to showcase Osun as a hub of peace, culture, and sporting excellence.

For two weeks, the people of Osun will witness the discipline, strength, and teamwork of Nigeria's uniformed services, this time, not in the line of duty, but on the sports field, in the spirit of unity, friendship, and fair competition.

COLUMNIST

Peace Talk: Who is the next notorious bandit?

The popular novelist, Professor Chinua Achebe of blessed memory wrote his book, *Things Fall Apart*, in the year 1958. During the time, the late professor pictured many things that were pervasive in the country. I was not a witness, but I could perceive the zephyr and the debris of Nigeria's landscape. During the era, the problem was not insecurity; people slept with their two eyes closed, and travelers embarked on long journeys without phobia. The only thing that fell apart was the laudable voice of colonialists and secessionists fanning embers of discord. To date, the popular novel is still a point of reference. Achebe never made a mistake with his book, though the title is more relevant. Things have fallen into pieces.

Definitely, the country seems to be in pieces, not in peace. If there is peace, there will be no need for a peace talk. Now, it seems the center cannot hold; the falcons cannot hear the falconers. We are in the era of bandits; they kill, maim, and blatantly robe in sophisticated ammunition to attend peace meetings.

Recently, the communities in Faskari Local Government Area, one of the most attacked councils in Katsina State, opened a peace talk with the bandits. At short intervals, the government officials and traditional leaders in the same Katsina State held another round of peace talks with bandits in the Matazu Local Government area of the state.

Also in Zamfara State, the notorious bandit, Bello Turji confirmed that negotiations are underway to end violence and insecurity across Zamfara and other parts of the Northwest region. It is good news, but it is coming from the bandit leader, who can renege on his decision. Instead of the government, bandits assure citizens of safety.

Sadly, the so-called peace talk held in Katsina was

graced by bloodthirsty bandit leaders who have been on the wanted list. The A-list bandit kingpins at the peace meeting included Hassan Dan Tawawe, Ado Alero, Isiya Kwashe Garwa, and Babaro who was accused of killing 32 worshipers in a mosque attack in Katsina.

The message in the whole peace talk was obvious: the bandits neither wanted peace nor interested in surrendering. They only came for a showoff to display their sophisticated weapons before the camera. The opulent display of firearms before the public in military camo is a direct message staring at us. The bandits on the wanted list have turned into celebrities, granting interviews and issuing warnings to the government. Simply put, the meeting was a show of force, not for peace.

If the league of bandits terrorizing the country are now walking freely with their weapons, who will stop the next bandits among the younger generation who witnessed the shameless peace talk when the supposed scapegoats have turned into accidental celebrities? Definitely, the younger ones at the peace meeting will see the killers as mentors and role models, having it in mind that no punishment or penance will come forth for the series of attacks, incendiary acts, and carnage launched by the senior bandits; instead, they are being rehabilitated as repentant killers. Sad!

As published in Sahara Reporters, the Katsina State Government confirmed that bandits have demanded the construction of schools, hospitals, and grazing reserves as part of the ongoing peace efforts in the state. Of course, all citizens deserve a dividend of democracy. Next, the bandits will demand a zoning governorship ticket to their territory as a condition for peace. Where is the way out?

Somberly, the International Organization for Migration estimates that more than 1.3 million people have been



uprooted across the Northwest since February 2025. We are in September, and the death toll counts in millions. What would be the figure by December? Only God knows!

On different occasions, analysts have cautioned that similar peace efforts in Katsina and Zamfara between 2019 and 2021 collapsed after armed groups regrouped and expanded their reach. Many residents, according to reports, said they continue to pay taxes and levies to bandits despite the claims of peace. Then I ask, what have we achieved with the peace talk? If none except the short hiatus, then it is not the solution.

The onus still lies on the government to deploy a new strategy. The insecurity is already spreading faster than expected. Kwara State, the state of harmony, is currently bleeding. It is time to act fast, act differently, and act together before the next generation of bandits surfaces because they have watched their mentors being romanced for peace talks.

IROYIN YORUBA

2027: Egbẹ Oselu PDP Kede Ibi Ti Oludije Funpo Aare Yoo Ti Wa

By Olalere Tolulope

Egbẹ oselu Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ti kede pe iha Guusu orileede yii (South) ni yoo fa oludije ti won yoo lo lati kojoo egbe All Progressives Congress ninu idibo apapo odun 2027 kale.

Nibi ipade apapo awon omoo igbimo alase, ikejilelogorun iru e, to waye laipe yii ni won ti so pe awon gbe igbese yii leyin ti awon oniroyin soro leyin ipade won, akowe ipolongo egbe PDP lorileede yii, Debo Ologunagba, so pe egbe ti fowo si i bayii pe ki awon eeyan Guusu fa oludije funpo aare kale.

O ni gbogbo ipo to je ti apapo egbe, eyi ti awon eeyan apa Ariwa di mu

Igbese yii da wahala pupo silẹ nigba naa, awon adari egbe kan niha Guusu, eleyii ti gomina ipinle Rivers tele, to ti di Minisita fun olu ilu ile wa Abuja bayii, Nyesom Wike, ko sodi, faraya, won ni iyanje ni bi won ko se gbe ipo naa lo si Guusu orileede yii.

Lopin rogbodyan yii, egbe PDP fidi remi, ipo aare si bo si owo Aare Bola Ahmed Tinubu latinu egbe All Progressives Congress.

Amo nigba to n ba awon oniroyin soro leyin ipade won, akowe ipolongo egbe PDP lorileede yii, Debo Ologunagba, so pe egbe ti fowo si i bayii pe ki awon eeyan Guusu fa oludije funpo aare kale.

O ni gbogbo ipo to je ti apapo egbe, eyi ti awon eeyan apa Ariwa di mu

lowolowo si wa bee, bee ni awon ipo to wa ni Guusu lowolowo naa wa bee.

Lara ohun ti won tun fenu ko le lori nibi ipade naa, gege bi Ologunagba se so ni pe, niwon igba ti won ti jowo ipo alaga apapo egbe fun awon eeyan Ariwa, ki oludije wa lati Guusu.

Ni bayii, o ni o ku si awon eeyan Guusu orileede yii lowo lati mo bi won se fee satupale oro naa lati le mo ibi ti oludije yoo ti wa gan an.

Nibe ni won tun ti fonta lu Umar Damagum gege bii alaga apapo egbe PDP lorileede yii, won ni ojo Aje, ojo kerinlelogun osho Kejo odun yii ni ise re bere gege bii alaga gan-an-gan leyin to ti se adele funba die.

Egbe PDP bu enu ate lu bi egbe oselu APC se n fi

tipatipa ko awon omoo egbe won mora nipase idunkokomoni, fifi owo tan ni ati dida wahala silẹ kaakiri, iru eyi to sele lawon agbegbe ti atundi ibo ti waye koja.

Won ni awon ologun ni egbe APC fi deruba awon oludibo nipinle Kaduna ati Taraba pelu Zamfara, ti awon eso alaabo si ju awon oludibo lo lekun-idibo Kaura.

Gbogbo eleyii, gege bi egbe PDP se wi, je erongba egbe APC lati so orileede yii di ti egbe oselu kan so so, eyi to si lewu pupo fun ijoba tiwantiwa ati ibagbepo isokan ni Naijiria.

Egbe naa fi da awon omoo orileede yii loju pe atunto nla ti bere bayii lati le wa ni imurasile fun idibo apapo odun 2027.

Ijoba Gbodo Gbase Lowo Gomina Banki Apapo Ie Wa Ati Olusiro Owo Agba - Alaga ZLP

By Olalere Tolulope

Bi won se n gbero lati san owo awon ijoba ibile to wa l'Osun fun awon alaga egbe oselu All Progressives Congress, alaga egbe oselu Zenith Labour, John Olufemi Adeşuyi, ti so pe afi kijoba apapo fowo osi juwe ile fun gomina banki apapo ile wa ati olusiro owo agba.

O ni ohun ti won n gbero naa lodi si iwe ofin orileede Naijiria, o tako ofin idibo odun 2022, bee lo si je iwa to buru labe isejoba demokrasi nitori se ni won fee ko owo to je ti araalu si apo awon alaga ati kanselo ti ile ojo ti juwe ile fun.

Adeşuyi salaye pe ile ojo ti fagile idibo to gbe awon alaga ati kanselo ti won n pe ni Yes or No ohun wole, ti idibo si ti waye si awon kansu lati ojo kejjilelogun osho keji odun 2025.

O ni awon ojulowo alaga kansu tawon araalu dibo yan

nikan ni won leto lati gba owo, ki i se awon ti won n huwa tako ofin orileede Naijiria.

Gege bo se wi, ipin kefa ati ikeje abala ikejilelogosan ofin orileede yii faaye gba ijoba ipinle ati tibile lati maa da owo won po, bee lo si yannana bi won yoo se maa na owo naa.

O ni ko si ofin kankan to faaye gba ijoba apapo lati gbe owo gba eyin ijoba ipinle lo lati san owo si apo awon ti ofin ko da mo.

O ni gbogbo nnkan ni ko bojumu ninu eto idibo osho kewaa odun 2022, koda, ko si ami idanimoo egbe oselu kankan lori iwe idibo ti won lo, idi si niyen ti ile ojo fi yoo won danu bii eni yojiga.

O ni gbogbo awon ti won wa nidi iwa naa ni won gbodo yo kuro nipo won, ki won si foju winna ofin.

Adeşuyi fi kun oro re pe gbogbo agbara ti egbe Zenith Labour ni ni won yoo lo lati ri i pe iwa aito yii ko duro. O ni ofin ile wa tobi ju enikenen lo, egbe oselu naa ti setan lati daabo bo isejoba tiwantiwa, paapaa, lesekuuku.

Laipe yii ni ijoba ipinle Osun ko iwe si Minisita fun eto isuna, Wale Edun, nibe ni won ti fesun kan an pe o n gbero lati san owo ijoba ibile tijoba apapo ti gbese le lati osho keta odun yii fun awon alaga egbe oselu All Progressives Congress.

Won ke si Edun lati salaye fun Aare Timubu lekunre nipa gbogbo nnkan to ro mo oro owo yii.

Oşun 2026: Egbẹ PDP ro ileese olupaa lati mase gbe seyin enikenen

By Olalere Tolulope

Egbẹ oselu Peoples Democratic Party nipinle Osun ti ro ileese olupaa lati mase gbe si enikenen leyin ni bayii ti idibo gomina sunmole.

Ninu atejade kan ti alaga egbe naa, Honourable Sunday Bisi, fi sita lo ti pe akiyesi oga agba funleese olupaa lorileede yii ati komisan na olupaa l'Oşun si bi awon olupaa kan se n fi pampe ofin mu awon omoo egbe won lona aito.

O ni o han gbangba pe awon olupaa kan ti gbogbe pelu egbe APC nitori kia lawon olupaa n gbe igbese lori iwe esun ti awon omoo egbe APC ba mu lo sodo won, sugbon ti won maa n fi ti egbe PDP fale.

Bisi so siwaju pe ohun to tun je kayeefi ninu oro naa ni

pe se lawon olupaa n gbe awon olufisun sa pamo, ti won a si duro bii olufisun dipo omoo egbe APC to mu iwe esun lo sodo won.

O ni, laarin ose meji to koja, o ti to omoo egbe oselu PDP merin ti iru nnkan yii ti sele si, to si je pe eree ki awon olupaa ko won lo si olu ileese olupaa

l'Abuja ni won maa n sa ti oro ba ti kan ti omoo egbe PDP.

Egbe PDP so pe o see se ki komisan na olupaa nipinle Osun ma mo si iwa ti awon omoo se re n hu ohun, idi niyen ti awon fin ke gbajare bayii.

Won ke si awon alase ileese olupaa lati fopin si iwa to tabuku ise won ohun, won ni

gbogbo araalu lawon olupaa wa fun, won ko gbodo so ara won di irinse fun egbe oselu kankan.

Sunday Bisi fi kun oro re pe oju se awon olupaa ni lati sewadi iwe esun ti omoo egbe APC ba gbe lo siwaju won daadaa, ki i se ki won so ara won di olufisun.

Gomina Adeleke seto ilera adojutofo fun awon to wa logba ewon lofe

By Olalere Tolulope

Lati le fun awon to wa nibudo ogba ewon mejeeji to wa nipinle Osun lanfaani si eto ilera to peye, Gomina Adeleke ti sefilole fifi oruko won silẹ fun eto ilera adojutofo lofe.

Iye awon ti won janfaani eto yii lokunrin ati lobinrin je eedegbe fa.

Akawe agba ajo Osun State Health Insurance Agency, Dokita Rasaq

Akindele lo soro yii fun awon oniroyin niluu Osogbo lojo Isẹgun, Tusidee, ojo kerindinlogbon osho Kejo odun yii.

Gege bo se wi, igbese naa waye leyin ti alakoso ogba ewon nipinle Osun, Rotimi Olalekan, sabewo si Gomina Adeleke nibi to ti rawo ebe sijoba lati je ki awon elewon naa nipa ninu anfaani eto adojutofo ilera tijoba re n se.

Niwon igba to je pe olugbe ipinle Osun lawon elewon

ohun, to si je pe won yoo pada sinu awujo lojo kan, Akindele ni gomina ro o pe ko si anfaani ti awon to wa lominira n je ti awon naa ko leto si.

O ni idi niyen ti gomina fi pase pe ki awon ko gbogbo won si abe eto naa. Akindele so pe ajo ohun ti sabewo si awon ileewosan alabode to wa ninu ogba ewon ilu ile a ati ilefe lati le ko oogun atawon irinse ti won nilo fun itoju lo sibe.

O fi kun oro re pe oniruuru awon eeyan ni won ti janfaani eto ilera adojutofo yii nitori o je imuse okan lara ileri eleka marun-un ti Gomina Adeleke se fun awon eeyan ipinle Osun lasiko ipolongo ibo.

Akindele so pe awon osise feyinti ti won to e g b e r u n l o n a merindinlogbon ni won n janfaani eto naa lowolowo, bere lati ori ayewo loorekoore, titi de ise-abe to wa labe eto naa.

O ni awon akoko egberun metalelogoji ti won ni ipenija oju, eleyii to ti n sakoba fun oko won, ni won janfaani awo-oju ofe labe eto OHIA, ti won si ti n se daadaa ninu oko won bayii.

Ninu oro tire, alakoso awon ogba ewon l'Oşun, Rotimi Olalekan, salaye pe ijoba apapo lo n gbọ bukata eto ilera awon elewon ohun tele, sugbon igbese ijoba ipinle Osun yii yoo tubo mu ki won lanfaani si eto ilera to peye lasiko to ye.

NEWS

Council of State Approves Tinubu’s Nominee As New INEC Chairman • Group Asks Senate to Reject Nominee

The National Council of State on Thursday gave its unanimous approval to the appointment of Professor Joash Ojo Amupitan (SAN) as the new Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu presented the nomination of Amupitan, a Professor of Law from the University of Jos, to the council during its meeting in Abuja, following the completion of Professor Mahmood Yakubu’s tenure, which began in 2015 and ended in October 2025.

President Tinubu told the council that Amupitan, who hails from Ayetoro Gbade in Ijumu Local Government Area of Kogi State, is the first person from the North-Central state to be nominated for the nation’s top electoral position.

He described the nominee as “a thoroughbred scholar and an apolitical individual with an unblemished record of service.”

According to the President, the nomination aligns with his administration’s commitment to strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring credible elections.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo of Kogi State, who spoke during the session, praised the President’s choice, describing Professor Amupitan as “a man of integrity whose scholarship and leadership in academia stand out.”

Following the unanimous endorsement by members of the council—which includes former presidents, governors, and key government officials—President Tinubu is expected to forward the

nominee’s name to the Senate for confirmation, in line with constitutional provisions.

Amupitan, 58, is currently the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at the University of Jos, and also serves as the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Osun State.

A distinguished academic and Senior Advocate of Nigeria since 2014, he specializes in Company Law, Law of Evidence, Corporate Governance, and Privatisation Law.

Meanwhile, the Association of Legislative Drafting and Advocacy Practitioners (ALDRAP), a professional body of lawyers working within and outside the National Assembly, has petitioned the Senate, urging it to reject the nomination of Professor Joash

Amupitan as Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In a letter dated October 10, 2025, and addressed to the President of the Senate through the Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, the association warned that Amupitan’s appointment would breach constitutional provisions and ethics of public service, citing “likelihood of bias, conflict of interest, and violation of statutory conduct rules.”

The petition, signed by ALDRAP’s Administrative Secretary, Mr. Jesse Williams Amuga, was specifically directed to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Electoral Matters, Senator Simon Lalong.

The petition was copied to

several key officials and diplomatic missions, including the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Director-General of the Department of State Services (DSS), the Inspector-General of Police, and the Ambassadors of the United States, the European Union, and the United Kingdom.

According to the association, Professor Amupitan’s prior engagement as lead counsel to the All Progressives Congress (APC) during the 2023 presidential election petition at the Supreme Court disqualifies him from occupying the sensitive position of INEC Chairman, which demands strict neutrality.

“Professor Joash Amupitan, having served as lead counsel to the APC, cannot

perform the duties of INEC Chairman with the required impartiality. His confirmation would violate Section 5 of the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, 1991, which prohibits public officers from placing themselves in situations of conflict between personal interest and official responsibility,” the statement read.

The group further referenced Section 19 of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (2003), which criminalizes the use of a former public or private position to gain undue advantage.

It also reminded the Senate of its 2021 precedent in rejecting Lauretta Onochie’s nomination as INEC National Commissioner over her partisan affiliation with the ruling party.

SPORTS



2026 World Cup:

Super Eagles Keeps Qualification Hope Alive

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Nigeria's Super Eagles kept their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification hopes alive with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Lesotho at the New Peter Mokaba Stadium

in Polokwane.

Captain William Troost-Ekong broke the deadlock in the 55th minute from the penalty spot following a foul inside the box, after a goalless first half that saw Nigeria struggle to break down a compact Lesotho

side.

Nigeria extended the lead in the 80th minute when substitute Jerome Akor Adams coolly slotted home to restore the advantage. Lesotho, however, responded quickly, reducing the tally just four minutes

later through Sefali Tsolo, who capitalised on a moment of hesitation in Nigeria's defence to make it 1-1.

The win lifts Nigeria back into contention ahead of their final group clash against Benin Republic in

Uyo next week — a match that could determine their World Cup fate.

Despite the victory, Nigeria's qualification fate remains out of their hands. Benin sit top of the group with 17 points, followed closely by South Africa on

15, meaning the Super Eagles will need to win their last match and hope results elsewhere go their way.

Rwanda, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe complete the standings, with each team now mathematically out of contention.

2026 WAFCON: CAF Expands to 16 Teams

By Oluniyi Isamotu

The Confederation of African Football has confirmed that the Women's Africa Cup of Nations finals will expand from 12 to 16 teams beginning with the 2026 edition.

According to the Punch, next year's tournament in Morocco was initially planned to feature 12 nations, with qualifying already at its second and final round.

However, the expansion

means an additional round of qualifying may be introduced, with 11 remaining teams expected to compete for four available slots.

Further details are expected after CAF's executive committee meeting, currently taking place in Kinshasa.

WAFCON began as an eight-team tournament in 1998 and maintained that format until the 2018 edition in Ghana.

The 2020 tournament was

cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic before the competition returned with 12 teams in 2022.

CAF has increased investment in women's football across the continent, with the prize fund for the most recent edition in Morocco rising by 45 per cent to \$3.45m.

Champions Nigeria received \$1m after claiming a record 10th title.

CAF President Patrice

Motsepe expressed satisfaction with the growth of the women's game in Africa, saying he remains committed to its continued development.

"I am pleased with the progress we've made in women's African football," Motsepe said.

"Part of my starting point is making sure men and women are paid well and can make a career out of football. I can assure you women's football will continue to improve because that is an area we are focusing on a lot."



Sunshine Queens, 3 Others Promoted to NWFL Premiership

By Oluniyi Isamotu

Sunshine Queens, Castmog Ladies, Ahudiyannem Queens, and Imo Striker Queens on their successful promotions to the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership at the conclusion of the 2025 Championship season.

The competition was staged from September 11 to 21 in Umuahia and Abiriba, Abia State, South-East Nigeria.

Sunshine Queens of Ondo State, a

government-owned side with Premiership pedigree, return to the elite division. They are joined by three ambitious debutants, Castmog Ladies of Ogun State, Ahudiyannem Queens of Abia State, and Imo Striker Queens of Imo State, all privately owned and making history with their maiden ascent.

While congratulating the clubs in a statement NWFL Chief Operating Officer, Modupe Shabi, commended the promoted clubs for their resilience and quality performances while

appreciating other participating clubs.

"We warmly congratulate the four teams on their deserved qualification to the Premiership. Their success is a testament to hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence. The NWFL is proud of the quality of football displayed throughout this year's Championship and we are excited to welcome fresh talents and new clubs into the top division," said Ms. Shabi.

The league organisers

also paid glowing tribute to the official sponsor of the 2025 Championship, Dr. Robert Daniel Onyeani, Chairman of Ahudiyannem Queens, whose support was pivotal to the successful delivery of this year's event.

"We owe a special gratitude to Dr. Onyeani for his vision and generosity in sponsoring this Championship. His investment has not only elevated his club but also strengthened the entire ecosystem of women's football in Nigeria. He has

set a laudable benchmark for private sector involvement in our game," Shabi added.

The NWFL COO further appreciated the Abia State Football Association, the Abiriba community, participating clubs, referees, match officials, and fans whose dedication and commitment ensured the smooth organisation and vibrant atmosphere of the tournament.

"The unity of purpose displayed by all stakeholders reaffirms our vision to raise the standard

of women's football across Nigeria. We deeply value the contributions of everyone who played a part in making this Championship a success," Shabi concluded.

With the Championship now concluded, the NWFL reiterated its pledge to strengthen its competitions, empower young female footballers, and sustain the Premiership as a benchmark of excellence, integrity, and inclusivity in Nigerian women's football.

IROYIN YORUBA

EYI NI ATUPALE ỌRỌ TI GOMINA ADEMOLA JACKSON NURUDEEN ADELEKE BA AWỌN ARAALU SỌ LAYAJỌ AYẸYẸ ỌDUN KẸRINLELOGBỌN TI WỌN DA IPINLE ỌŞUN SILE

Eyin eeyan mi daadaa nipinle Ọşun, pẹlu ayọ, ọkan ọpẹ ati ọkan isin ni mo fi n ba yin sọrọ loni lati sayeyẹ ayajọ ọdun kẹrinlelogbọn ti wọn da ipinle wa silẹ. Lonii, pẹlu iṣọkan la fi n ṣajọyọ irinajo to bẹrẹ ni ogbọn ọdun ati merin sẹyin ọhun.

Ni iru ọjọ bayii ọdun-un 1991, ala wa lati ni ipinle tiwa wa si imuṣe. Aṣeyọri yii waye nipasẹ igboya, afojusun ati ipinnu aiyese awọn baba ati iya ti orukọ wọn je manigbagbe ninu idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun.

A mu Ọşun jade latinu ipinle Ọyọ atijọ, ni ijerisi ipinnu ati iṣọkan awọn eeyan wa, a gun le ọna itesiwaju, iṣọkan ati aṣeyọri. O je ayọrisi ọpọlọpọ iloogun, ifaraenijin, igboya ati ilakaka awọn ọkunrin ati obinrin ti wọn ni iran ni.

Awọn baba yii gbagbo ninu agbara to wa ninu ipinnu ara-ẹni, wọn si ja fun anfaani ibere ọtun fun awọn eeyan wa. Lati ran ara wa leti, ijangbara fun idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun bere lati ọdun 1950 pẹlu oniruuru awọn igbimọ oluwadii nipinle Ọyọ ọjọhun.

Idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun ọdun 1991 je imuṣe ireti ati ilakaka awọn eeyan wa. O je ayọrisi ifaraenijin ọlọjọ pipe ti awọn to nigbagbo ninu aṣa ibilẹ, ohun alumọni atawọn nnkan to ye ni afiyesi fun idagbasoke to wa nipinle Ọşun ni.

Eyin eeyan mi nipinle Ọşun, oni je ọjọ to ni ami nla ninu itan ipinle wa, ọjọ amuyangan, ọjọ ironu ati ọjọ ayesii gbogbo ọmọ ipinle wa lẹkunrin ati lobinrin. Lonii, a ranti, a si bu ọla nla fun gbogbo awọn to ṣagbatẹru idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun.

Iṣe wọn ko lẹ lasan, wọn ja lai kaare, ki i ṣe fun ara wọn, bi ko ṣe fun awọn iran to n bọ. Ifaraenijin wọn je ipilẹ ti a duro le lori lonii. A mọririri awọn akinkanju ajiyangbara yii, awọn olori agbegbe, awọn ori-ade atawọn oloṣelu ti wọn kopa ninu nnkan nla yii.

Ipinnu wọn, iṣọkan ati ifaraenijin je opakutele ti Ọşun ti gbogbo wa n gbe ge-ge bayii duro le lori. Ala ti wọn ni ni lati ni ile ti ipin-dogbandogba, anfaani pupọ ati itesiwaju yoo ti maa ran bii oorun, eleyii ti awa naa si ni afojusun lati mu ṣe.

A je wọn ni gbese ọpẹ, a si dupe lowo wọn fun ipinnu ati igbese wọn fun ipinle ti a ti maa gbọ ohun awọn eeyan wa, ti wọn a si lanfaani lati kopa ninu idagbasoke to ba n lẹ.

Tẹ o ba gbagbe, ọdun to koja, a bu ọla fun diẹ lara awọn akinkanju wa, ijọba mi si ṣẹlẹ lati tẹ siwaju ninu eleyii. A gbadura pe ki iṣe wọn maa fohun leyin wọn.

Iṣẹyin eeyan mi nipinle Ọşun, latigba ti a ti da ipinle wa silẹ, a ti kojuu aṣeyọri ati ipenija. Ipinle wa ti dagba lẹṣeṣe. A ni gbogbo idi lati yọ lori awọn aṣeyọri wa. Lati ọdun merinlelogbọn sẹyin, oniruuru idagbasoke lo ti ba ipinle wa. A ti ni awọn to ti fakọyọ ninu eto ẹkọ, aṣa, ere idaraya, ogbon atinuda ati idaṣeṣilẹ. A ti nawo lori oniruuru iṣe akanṣe, a mu anfaani gbooro fun awọn ọdọ wa, eto iṣejoba wa si ti lagbara si l.

Loootọ, oniruuru ipenija la ba pade loju ọna yii, amọ, ẹmi aikaare to yori si idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun si wa ninu gbogbo wa. Lonii, ohun iyi ni pe iṣejoba mi ni afojusun fun imuṣe awọn amuyẹ ijọba tiwantiwa ati lati mu igbayegbadun awọn araalu lẹkunrun.

A n kọ ijọba awaarawa to le, to wuni, to si duro gbọnin-gbọnin fun awọn araalu nipasẹ iṣejoba to duroore. Bi a ṣe n ṣagbeyewo lori iriri idasilẹ ipinle wa, a mọ awọn itesiwaju to ti waye ati awọn ipenija to n kojuu wa latijoba apapọ si ijọba ibilẹ. A mọ pe demokrasii ki i ṣe bi a ṣe n ṣejoba nikan, bi ko ṣe gbigbe igbeaye to ka ẹtọ ati iyi gbogbo araalu si.

Nibamu pẹlu afojusun eleka-marun ti mo ni, ijọba mi ti gbe oniruuru igbese itesiwaju lati ri i pe ereje ijọba lẹ kaakiri ipinle yii, mo si n ṣẹlẹ lati tubọ maa ṣiṣe lai sinmi, lati tubọ mu ki aye rorun fun awọn eeyan ipinle Ọşun.

Nipa ti awọn iṣe akanṣe, ijọba mi ti pese kangaderọ kaakiri woṣodu ojileṣodunrun o din mejo to wa nipinle Ọşun. Ọpọ ojuupopo la ti ṣe, ti a si tun awọn miran ṣe, afara abeyefo ti wa kaakiri awọn ilu nlanla wa l'Ọşun.

Ipese ina monamona nipasẹ fifun awọn agbegbe ti ko ri ina lo ni ẹrọ amunawa atawọn nnkan ti wọn nilo ko gbeyin.



Lori eto ilera, a gbe eto Iṣe-Abe Imọlẹ kalẹ, eeyan to le ni ẹgbẹrun lona ọgọta ni wọn si ti janfaani re kaakiri ipinle Ọşun. Eeyan to le ni ẹgbẹrun lona ogbon ni wọn ti n janfaani oniruuru eto ilera labẹ ajọ Osun Health Insurance Scheme (OHIS).

A parii atunṣe awọn ileewosan alabọṣe igba (200) kaakiri ipinle Ọşun. Loorekoore la n sanwo oṣu awọn oṣiṣe ijọba, to fi mọ ajelele ilaji owo-oṣu ti a jogun latodọ ijọba to ti koja. A gbaruku ti awọn agbẹ nipa iranwo lorii fatalaisa, a ra katakata atawọn nnkan elo idako miran fun wọn lati le je ki ounje pọ yantuuru.

Bakan naa la ri i daju pe akoyawo ati iṣiro to peye wa kaakiri awọn idasilẹ wa, a si tun ṣatileyin fun awọn araalu lati kopa ninu okoowo kekeke. A ti ri idagbasoke ni ẹka eto-ẹkọ leyin ti a ṣatunṣe awọn yaara ikawe kaakiri ipinle yii. Lati iṣe akanṣe, de irolagbara awọn ọdọ, lati ṣiṣamojuto awọn aṣa wa, de igbese alaafia ati aabo, ipinle Ọşun n tesiwaju, o si ti n di awokọṣe fun awọn ipinle to ku lorileede yii.

Awọn ibudo aṣa wa je nnkan amuyangan, bẹ lawọn eeyan wa n fakọyọ nibi gbogbo ti wọn wa nipasẹ eyi ti idagbasoke ti ko legbe n ba ipinle Ọşun ati orileede yii lapapọ.

Bi a ṣe n ṣajọyọ idasilẹ ipinle Ọşun lonii, o tun je ipe si iṣe. A gbodọ ranti pe iṣe naa ko tii pari. Afojusun iṣejoba wa ni lati ṣagbekalẹ eto ọrọ-aje to kẹsejari, mu igbega ba eto-ẹkọ ati eto ilera, mimu ki iṣe agbẹ tubọ rugogọ sii, ati lati ri i daju pe ereje ijọba tiwantiwa de tibu-tooro ipinle yii.

Ọşun ti a ni lẹkan ni eyi ti ko si ẹni ti ko nii je anfaani - ipinle to le tente geṣe bii awokọṣe iṣọkan, ogbon atinuda ati ti iṣejoba to dara. Ọna kan soṣo lati je ki eleyii ṣee ṣe ni ki ijọba atawọn araalu ṣiṣe papọ pẹlu otitọ inu, ifaraenijin ati ife fun ile baba ẹni. Ninu ayajọ ọdun kẹrinlelogbọn yii, ẹ je ka ṣawokọṣe ilakaka awọn akinkanju wa to ti koja, ka si ni isodotun nipa ero wa lorii kiko ipinle Ọşun ti yoo je amuyangan ti awọn iran to n bọ le de ba.

Irinajo to wa niwaju pe fun ka ṣiṣe papọ pẹlu ẹmi iṣọkan

ati erongba to gbe wa debi lai fi ti oniruuru ẹgbẹ oṣelu ti a wa ṣe. Ko si eyi ti a ko le bori ninu awọn ipenija wa, wọn je anfaani fun wa lati ṣafihan agbara, ogbon atinuda ati ipinnu wa lati ni ipinle to duroore fun tolori-telemu.

Eyin ara mi nipinle Ọşun, ajodun ki i ṣe fun iranti nikan, o je ipe fun isodotun ninu igbese. Ọşun ti gbogbo wa ni lẹkan - to kun fun iṣerere, alaafia, ajumọṣe ati eyi ti onikaluku duro tan, wa larowoto wa, sugbon a nilo ifowosowopo gbogbo wa; ijọba, ẹka aladani, ẹgbẹ ajafeto ọmọniyan atawọn araalu, lati mu un wa si imuṣe.

Geṣe bii gomina yin, mo tun n fidi ipinnu mi lorii akoyawo, jije olooto nidi eto isuna ati iṣejoba to rọ araalu lorun, mulẹ. Mo n ke si gbogbo araalu lati fowosowopo pẹlu mi ninu irinajo yii; awọn ori-ade wa, awọn olori ẹṣin, oṣiṣe ijọba, awọn oniṣe ọwọ, awọn agbẹ atawọn oludaṣeṣilẹ, lati tubọ maa ko ipa wọn lori idagbasoke ipinle Ọşun.

Ẹ je ka lodi si iyapa, ki a faaye gba iṣọkan, ki ọrọ ipinle Ọşun si ṣe pataki lẹkan wa ju ohunkohun lẹ. Lasiko ayeyẹ ọdun kẹtalẹlogbon yii, ẹ je ka tubọ fi ara wa jin fun iṣe aṣekara, otitọ ati ibowọ fun ara ẹni. Ẹ je ki ẹmi awọn alalẹ wa - ẹmi Ọmọluabi - maa ṣe amona wa. A le sọ Ọşun di awokọṣe iperegede ati ilosiwaju.

Ninu penija wa, a gbodọ mu iduro wa giri. Pẹlu iṣọkan, a le bori idiwo to ba wa loju ọna wa. Inu iṣọkan, ogbon oniruuru, ati iran ti a ni fun alaafia ati iṣerere ipinle Ọşun, ni okun wa wa,

Lakotan, mo fi idunnu mi han si gbogbo awọn ọmọbibi ipinle Ọşun. Aduroti, ai wo wa niran ati igbagbo yin ti ko ye ninu nnkan rere to wa ninu ipinle yii lo n fun awa naa ni iwuri fun ilosiwaju. Ẹ je ka tẹ siwaju lona yii, pẹlu iṣọkan, ki a le ni ipinle to dun un wo lojo iwaju.

Ẹ ṣeun fun iduroṣinṣin ati atilẹyin yin fun ijọba mi. A ku ọdun. Ki Ọlọrun bu kun ipinle Ọşun ati orileede Naijiria.

Ẹ ṣe.

What To Know About Amotekun, Akinlalu And Osun Security Updates -Olawale Rasheed

In this Interview, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, Spokesperson /Special Adviser to Governor Ademola Adeleke spoke extensively on the Amotekun Service and general security situation in Osun State on Rave FM Frank Talk.



How does the state government react to the tragedy incident in Akinlalu? What immediate action has the Governor taken to restore peace in the affected community beyond visiting the town?

Thank you very much. Let me first put some background. By the time the unfortunate incident happened, the Governor was out of the country. He went out for a brief medical check-up, so he was not in the country when it happened. But from his base in the US, he was giving directives to the Deputy Governor, to the Secretary to the State Government, to the Chief of Staff, to the relevant cabinet members, to security agencies. The next thing that was done was to ensure that a very high-power government team visited Akinlalu for an on-the-spot assessment. On that team were all the security service chiefs from the Police to the DSS and others, including the Special Adviser on Security Matters to the Governor. They went there to do an on-the-spot assessment and to meet the Kabiyesi and others. On their return, the deputy speaker, who is actually from the area representing the people, led another delegation on the directive of the governor, to go and meet and see what can be done immediately to cushion the consequences on the victims. Apart from that, the Governor did something immediately, he publicly condemned the killings and vowed that justice would be done, and all the culprits and the suspects would be made to face the law. In fact, we issued a statement, and a State Security Council meeting was convened where all these issues, the Akinlalu, the banditry issue from Kwara and others were discussed. So, he took immediate steps even when he was not in the country.

Then, the second step the Governor took was that he cut short his medical vacation to say, "let me abandon this check-up, let me quickly go home and sort out this matter." He arrived in the country the day before yesterday, and very early in the morning yesterday, he took off from Lagos and faced Akinlalu in the company of top government and security officials. At Akinlalu, the people understood the scenario and refused the politicisation of the unfortunate incident. The Akinlalu people rejected the politicisation of the incident by the opposition. The Governor has done what he should do as Chief Security Officer of the state namely condemning the killing, commencing reform of Amotekun, announcing that he will never interfere in the police investigation, announcing that whoever is involved in the unfortunate incident should face the wrath of the law, commiserating with the victims, promising compensation and by ensuring that police have freeway to do their job.

Let me ask you what exactly transpired, and I asked because there are some conflicting reports, and some are linking the killings to security lapses. Some say that the report that Amotekun responded to a call was not true, that it was a vengeance attack by the Amotekun. You must have had some preliminary reports on this. What happened?

When you are having an active investigation, it is unprofessional to speak about it. The commissioner of police, through the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations, actually gave an update yesterday at Akinlalu. He said they've arrested some Amotekun suspects. He said 20 were arrested already, and he said they are still trying to arrest some who are still at large. Now, as to what actually transpired, you know, normally that is the realm of the Police; they are the ones conducting the investigation. All the hearsay, rumour and facts or falsehoods that may have gotten to the public space may not be actually reliable until the police conclude their investigation and say this is what actually happened at Akinlalu. These are the suspects, and we are arraigning the suspects before the court of law. So it will be out of place for me to actually talk about it because whatever I say now, people can hold it against the government. We want the police to do their job, and the Governor has ordered that he will not interfere or intervene in the police investigation. And as a loyal servant of Mr Governor, I won't want to talk about those details. Let the police do their job, and let the police then address the public as to what actually happened.

I totally understand that, Mallam. Then some say that this incident occurred because of Security lapses since Security meetings do not hold periodically. That the Security Council meeting holds at the instance of the Governor, no plan to even say when the next security council meeting will happen.

That is not true. The State Security Council Meeting holds every month. And let me tell you something. When the Governor

is not around, the Deputy Governor is always around, and if he is not around, there is a hierarchy and a system. So, the system runs on its own; all that needs to be done is to activate the regular running of the system. Okay, let me give you an instance. The Security Council Meeting was held on Monday. The Governor was not there; he was in the US. What is the State Security Council Meeting? We have the assemblage of all security chiefs, Police, Customs, Army, Paramilitary services, including Amotekun. It is always a confidential security meeting deliberating on security reports from across the state. The council checks out security threats, ensures solutions are put in place. For example, the last security meeting dealt with the Akinlalu matter, the issue of how to stop the infiltration of bandits from Kwara, Ekiti states and other sundry issues. So it is not true that the Security Council meeting has not been holding. It has been holding, and it is monthly. And again, there are many security meetings that are not for public consumption. I can tell you that between Monday, when the State Security Council meeting was held, there was another council meeting yesterday. In yesterday's meeting, a full review was also done as to the state of security in Osun and how far the implementation of the resolution of the Monday meeting has gone.

So, if the Governor is not there, we have the Deputy Governor, and if he is also not there, you have top-ranking leaders down the line who normally ensure that things are running. The allegation of security lapses is fake news from the opposition. You know the opposition because the election is close by, has been latching on to everything they can get, and fake news has become a tool of their propaganda. But the Governor has a job to do, and the job to do is to deliver on good governance, democratic dividends to the people of Osun State who elected him and are going to re-elect him by God's grace next year.

Alright, thank you, Mallam. I do acknowledge that there has been relative peace in Osun State for a long while, and the Nigerian Police Force has been doing a beautiful job, but then don't you think this incident is a stain on the border security strategy of the Adeleke administration? Say, especially rural policing.

Thank you very much. Now, let me dwell on the issue of interagency partnership and synergy that you refer to. We have Amotekun across the Southwest because there was a gap in grassroots policing, and all along, the Amotekun and the Police and the DSS have been working cooperatively. There have been largely no issues. In fact, since Governor Adeleke took over, interagency harmony and synergy have become top-notch. There has not been a physical confrontation between the two services; there have been partnerships between Amotekun and other services. Amotekun is down there in the grassroots, feeding the police and the DSS. The partnership is there. Let us attempt this scenario. If you have an infraction at one police post, maybe in Ayedire, is that a license to now profile and condemn the whole Police Service? And again, when a Police man commits an infraction, you won't go around to arrest the commissioner for police. Let's say a policeman shoots somebody at Ikire, and what you are doing is that you want the commissioner of police arrested, that is an abnormality. What is done is that, if there is an operative who committed an infraction, you check which town, who is on ground, who fired the shot, then you pick them, you apply the rule, the law, and charge them to court.

Mallam, maybe this is a peculiar case. There has been reports earlier of high-handedness of Amotekun operatives, that his men have been like that, maybe not all of them. There have been reports earlier that he didn't bring them over.

If there are reports that the Amotekun has not been working in a certain way or there are errors, the question is, what is the procedure for correction? Amotekun is set up by state law, and the oversight function and provision are there. What is the oversight function? If we discover that the Police or DSS, or any other service, have committed an infraction, the law provides for oversight. Who do we complain to? Is it from the oversight in the House of Assembly, or through the Executive arm, or the office of Special Advisers on security matters? If all these oversight structures fail to take it up. Then you also have another line, a line of applying to the court for the infringement of fundamental rights, just like we have been doing to the police, DSS. Now, you go to court when the oversight function failed to curb the excesses that

you refer to, then you apply to the court for action, to claim damages. These are structures in place to be accessed by all residents if Amotekun commits any infraction. You cannot because of an infraction from one area or another, decapitate the agency. If we have been doing that, we won't have police, we won't want DSS, we won't have the army. Security agencies are subject to oversight and judicial regulations when they err. That is to show you that the system works if we allow it to, if people don't politicise it. So in the case of Amotekun, if there are problems in its operation, then we apply the oversight infrastructure. We have the State Assembly, and we can raise a petition. Or we go to the Governor, or we call the SA security, who has been in the security sector for more than three or four decades, to say we have a petition.

Let me tell you, the Chairman of Amotekun is a retired AIG, top-notch retired AIG Wale Abass, former Commissioner of Police in several states. What I want to say is that there is a board of Amotekun that actually monitors the oversight activities of the commanding cadre. Our people need to understand that we need Amotekun, we need police, we need the Army and all of them. If there are issues with their operational code, we don't have to throw away the baby with the bathwater. We should just allow the system to work. We should not say that because there is an infraction, we should now bring down the whole house.

I was going to raise that later, but since you are there, let's just talk about it a little bit more. We are having this debate that Amotekun should be done away with. And I read the Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly in Osun calling for calm, saying we should not throw away the baby with the bathwater. But for those who say there are too many infractions, we should do away with Amotekun. What will the state government do, considering the fact that you have an architecture ready and a protocol of what should be done?

I'm happy this debate is coming up, and I want to say something about it. We all know where we are coming from, because actually, when you know where you are coming from, the decision about today is always easy to make. We all know why Amotekun came on board; we all know that the threat is even more active than before. Amotekun did not start only in Osun State; it was a regional initiative. And we all know why it came up, we all know South West was under siege when Amotekun was put in place, and their main job is to ensure that they go to the grassroots, forests, to our rural areas where police and other security agencies might not be able to touch. We will admit that in the course of their duties across the southwest, Amotekun has actually performed creditably well. There is no agency without negatives or shortcomings. What leaders normally do is to correct those errors and ensure that the system now runs in line with the dictates of the law and the protections of the fundamental human rights of the citizens. Those calling to do away with Amotekun, I guess some of them are being political. Some people thought that since it is the PDP that is controlling Osun, the state should be destabilised. The opposition's goal is to run the state into chaos and then get the president to declare a state of emergency. You know some people have an evil agenda, but in our own case, if we want to address the issue, what can we do to Amotekun or all the agencies that are having operational questions? What has been done by the police based on the infraction here and there? What the IG normally does is that when you have infractions in some areas, he sets up a small team to review the operational code and fish out where the errors are. Now, in the case of Amotekun, the same system is what the governor is doing. He is putting everything in place to correct every anomaly. The Chairman of the Amotekun board is working on a system review, operational review, then compliance mode to say okay if we have operational guidelines, why are people breaching them if there is any. Now, how do we ensure that nobody breaches the operational code of Amotekun? The board of Amotekun is already working on it, and it will provide operational review and protocol review to Mr Governor, the State Executive Council, and the House of Assembly for review. The issue of disbanding Amotekun is like forgetting where you are coming from. We need the Amotekun in our rural areas to complement the good job of the DSS, the Police, the Army and other security services. That's why Governor Adeleke is saying, "No, I notice this error, the police should dig into it, give us a report of what happened, allow the suspect to face the law". To say we should do away with Amotekun is from an opposition angle, and that is because they want us in chaos; they are not happy with the rapid development happening in the state.

Continues on www.osunspring.com