

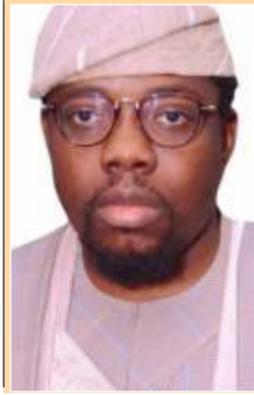
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NEWS

GSI Survey Results Predicts Adeleke's victory in 2026 Guber

A recent survey conducted by the Geopolitics Survey International (GSI) has revealed that Governor Ademola Adeleke will emerge victorious in the forthcoming Osun 2026 Governorship Election on the platform of Accord.

GSI in a statement by its Programme Officer, Adetokun Adeola noted that the survey which was conducted for one month across the nine federal constituencies was focused on 5 key areas which included asking the respondents on who they will vote for.

The statement noted that, 79 percent of sampled respondents said they will vote Adeleke while 15 percent selected Oyebamiji, the remaining 6 percent

opted for Najeem Salam while adding that most respondents on this question cited Adeleke's exceptional performance in office as the reasons for their choice while the same percentage listed their voices against Oyebamiji on the ground of his past anti-labour stance, being part of failed APC regime of the past and his alleged involvement in the ongoing illegal extension of tenure across Osun local governments.

The statement reads, "Our agency, the Geopolitics Survey International (GSI) conducted a month-long survey across the nine federal constituencies of Osun state on the controversies rocking the leadership of the local governments.

"200 survey participants were selected per federal

constituencies while in the capital city of Osogbo an additional 300 residents were selected. The total number of respondents were two thousand and one hundred (2,100).

"For the gender of the respondents, 60 percent were female while 40 percent were male. As for the demographic, 55 percent were under 45 years while the rest were 45 years and above.

"Five questions were put to the respondents in an oral approach conducted by three field workers per federal constituencies between December 2nd, 2025 to January 2nd, 2026.

"The questions are as follows; Which party has a legitimate claim to the leadership of Osun local Governments - APC or PDP?;

The APC chairmen still have a tenure across the Local governments-Yes/No?; Who is to be blamed for the current crisis at the local government- APC or PDP?; Will the situation across the councils affect your voting behaviour-Yes/No?; Who would you vote for if the governorship election were to be held today in Osun state - Adeleke or Najeem or Ambo?

"An analysis of the respondents showed a strong and consistent pattern as follows:

"On question one, 80 percent of respondents said PDP has a legitimate claim to the local government leadership, citing election of February 22, 2025 and the expiration of any claim to tenure by the APC in October

2025. 20 percent claimed APC has a rightful claim to the local government leadership;

"On question two, 80 percent of the respondents rejected the claim that APC still has a claim to the local government leadership, mentioning the continued occupation as illegality and blaming the police for aiding and supporting continued occupation of the local government secretariats by the APC chairmen;

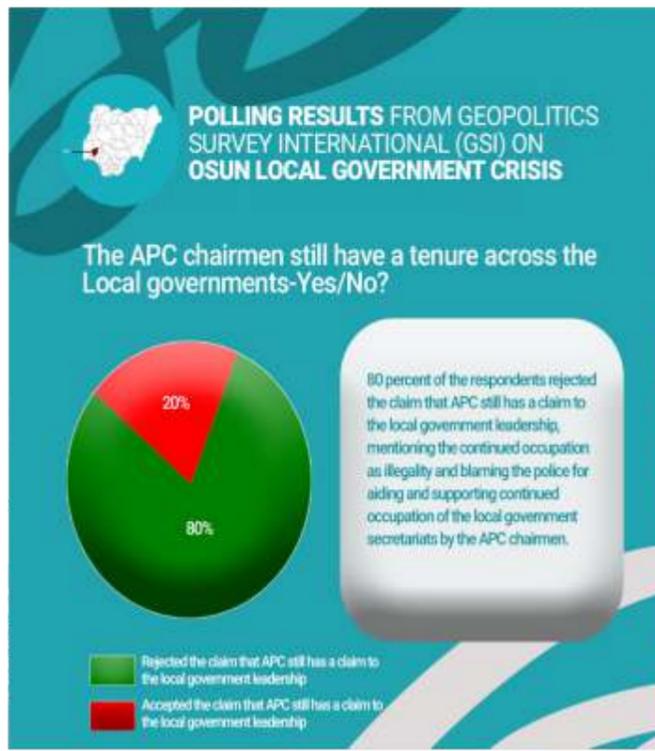
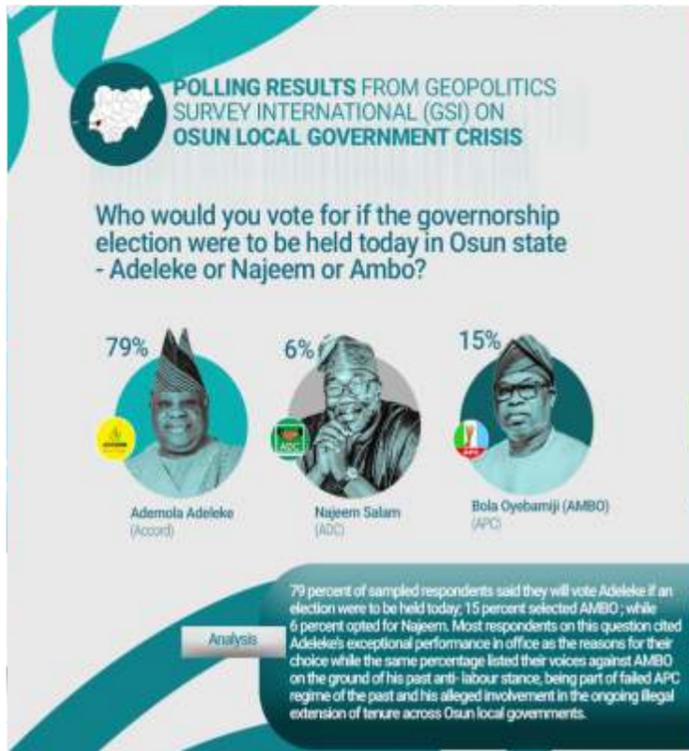
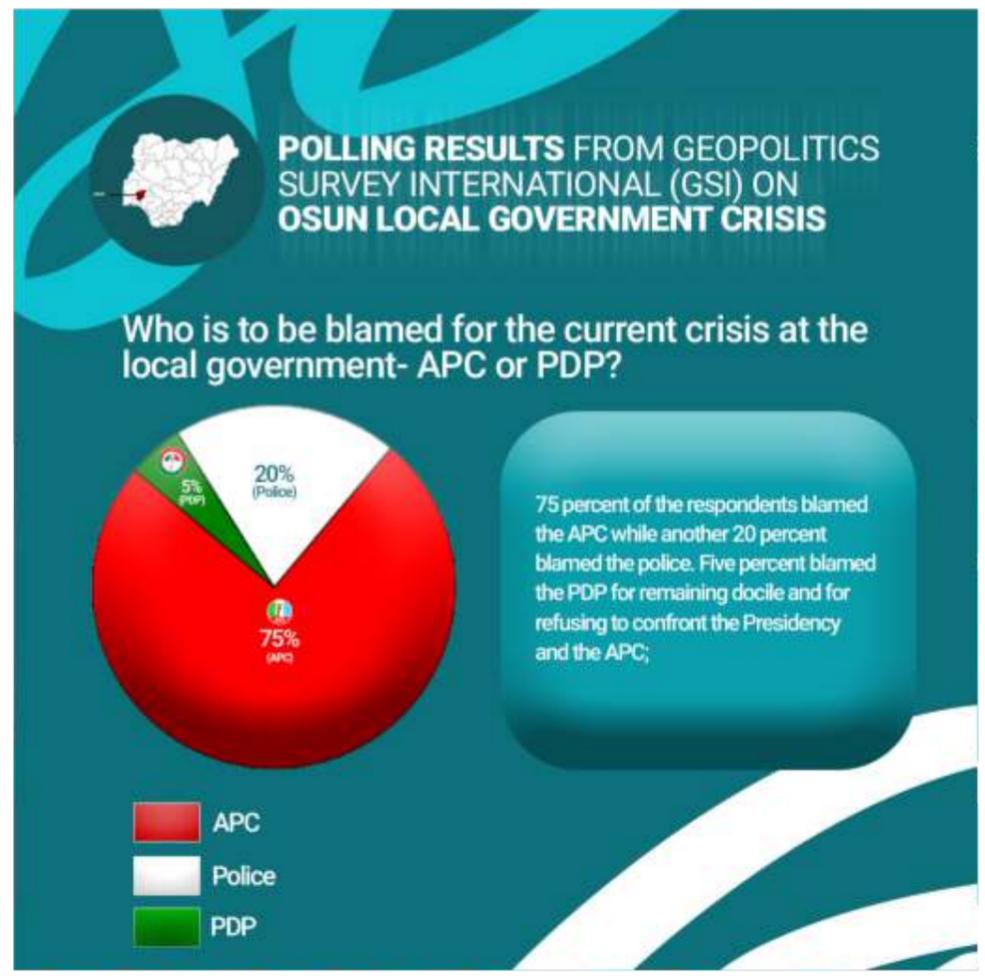
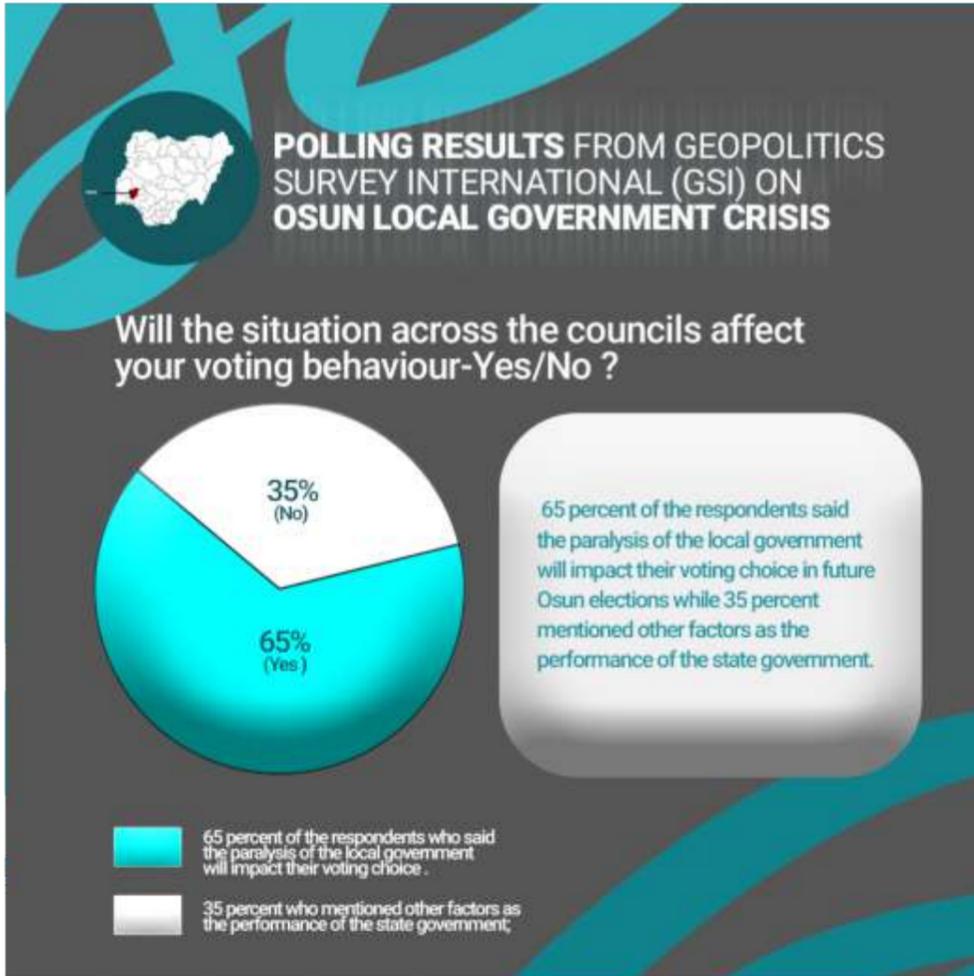
"On question three, 75 percent of the respondents blamed the APC while another 20 percent blamed the police. Five percent blamed the PDP for remaining docile and for refusing to confront the Presidency and the APC;

"On question four, 65 percent of the respondents said the paralysis of the local

government will impact their voting choice in future Osun elections while 35 percent mentioned other factors as the performance of the state government;

"On number 5 question, 79 percent of sampled respondents said they will vote Adeleke if an election were to be held today; 15 percent selected AMBO ; while 6 percent opted for Najeem. Most respondents on this question cited Adeleke's exceptional performance in office as the reasons for their choice while the same percentage listed their voices against AMBO on the ground of his past anti-labour stance, being part of failed APC regime of the past and his alleged involvement in the ongoing illegal extension of tenure across Osun local governments.

"There is a three percent



## EDITORIAL

**Banditry: Osun Amotekun is Needed now**

It's been four months since the operatives of the Intelligence Response Team from the office of the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun busted the operational base and Ife Central base of Osun Amotekun Corps, sealed it permanently and arrested some of its operatives.

This action is due to an alleged invasion of Akinlalu Market Square by some Amotekun operatives, killing three members of a family and another individual leaving several others with gunshot injuries.

Few days after the Akinlalu incident, Osun Amotekun Corps Commander, Isaac Omoyele released a statement revealing that he was attacked by unknown gunmen shooting sporadically at his car. This led to the Police inviting him to come and offer explanation into his allegation of assassination attempt on his life.

Following the police action, Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Adewale Egbedun, condemned the sealing of Amotekun offices, describing it as unconstitutional. He insisted that the outfit was established by law to complement the efforts of conventional security agencies.

Egbedun said, "It is deeply troubling that an agency created by law and funded by the state government could be summarily shut down without consultation. If any security breach occurs in Osun as a result, the Police Force will be held accountable."

After the arrest of over 20 Amotekun operatives as reported by The Punch, even though Police through its PRO said it only arrested 5 operatives, The Corps Commander, Omoyele was also invited by the Police to come explain his involvement in the Akinlalu incident.

Osun Spring learnt that Omoyele honoured Police invitation and reported at the NPF headquarters in Abuja where he has been detained alongside all the operatives arrested without trial for four months now.

While Osun Spring condemns extra judicial killings, it is worthy to note that there is no law that allows the Police to detain suspects for as long as four months without trial.

Recently there has been attacks by unknown gunmen in towns that shares border with Osun especially in Kwara state as well as two cases of kidnapping in Ora Igbomina, a



community in Osun State sharing boundary with Kwara State.

Osun Spring notes that the absence of the leadership of Amotekun has created a gap allowing insecurity to creep into Osun especially the bordering communities.

Governor Ademola Adeleke in a statement recently called on the Police IG, Kayode Egbetokun to unseal Amotekun Operations Base and Ife Central Local Government office stating that the absence of Amotekun Operatives exposes Osun people to serious risk.

"I am taking this matter to the public domain in view of another kidnapping at Ora Igbomina. Closing down Amotekun exposes Osun people to serious risks. I call on the Inspector General of Police to unseal Amotekun and allow its operatives to secure my people across the grassroots.

"Those officers in detention should be charged to court after several months of incarceration. Any further delay in the unsealing of Amotekun will further jeopardise the safety and security of our people".

Osun Spring hereby joins the Osun State Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke to call the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun to direct the immediate unsealing of Amotekun offices as well as prosecution of detained

operatives to ascertain their involvement in the incident. Any operative found not guilty should also be immediately released.

With the current security challenges in neighbouring states, Osun Spring calls on Governor Ademola Adeleke to immediately review the structure and architecture of Osun Amotekun to ensure its operatives stay professional and law abiding.

Osun Spring calls on the Nigeria Police Force, Osun State Command, to consider Amotekun Corps as a support base for its operations especially at communities sharing border with neighbouring states to ensure safety of people in Osun state.

We note that Amotekun had in the past carried out series of successful operations which included rescuing of kidnap victims, and very recently arrest of armed robbers on a highway in Osun. This is an indication that we can not completely jettison the agency because of the undoing of few operatives. Even the Police have operatives that err and they are often dealt with without bringing down the entire Police structure.

Osun Spring urges the Osun State Government to ensure that the process of recruitment into the Amotekun Corps is about capacity and competence, not political affiliation.

## NEWS

**LG funds: Court Bars UBA From Further Transaction with APC Chairmen****• Upholds Bench Warrant Issued to Senior UBA Officials • Accord Condemns Attack on Judge**

An Osun State Magistrate Court sitting in Osogbo, on Tuesday restrained the United Bank of Africa (UBA) from conducting any business transaction with any individual parading themselves as Chairmen of local government councils across Osun State until the final determination of the ongoing criminal trial involving 4 senior officials of the bank.

Magistrate Adeyeba while delivering the ruling noted that for the interest of the public and to prevent further perpetration of any criminal act involving public funds, UBA has been restrained from given recognition to any individual or group of individuals from opening, maintaining and operating any account for/on behalf of any local government councils in Osun State.

Recall that on the 30th January, 2026, the Magistrate court issued a bench warrant to top officials of the UBA namely; Group Managing

Director (Oliver Alawuba), Group Legal Adviser (Billy Odura), and Deputy Managing Director (Chukwuma Nweke) on the allegation for failing to honor court summons regarding the alleged illegal operation of accounts for Osun Local Government Councils.

Appearing for the defendants, H.B Williams, argued that the defendants who failed to appear in court had filed an application at the High Court to quash the ongoing criminal case proceeding at the Magistrate court. He further argued that until the hearing and determination of the case, the Magistrate should stay proceedings of the criminal case.

In response, Abiodun Badiora, appearing for the Osun State Government presented that an appeal has been entered with case number CA/AK/17/2026 and has been duly served which in effect, the Osun State High Court has adjourned the case indefinitely. He went further to posit under section 301 of the Administration of Criminal

Justice Law of Osun State 2025, staying of criminal proceedings has been totally prohibited and abolished. He submitted further that once an order has been appealed against, compliance with it is in abeyance until the appeal is finally disposed of.

He also applied that while the criminal proceeding continues, he urged the court to stop UBA and her officials from committing further crime by restraining the bank from further conducting any business dealings with any individual or group of individuals parading themselves as Chairmen of local government councils in Osun State.

The Magistrate at the end of today's proceedings granted the State Government's request to bind UBA from further dealing with any individual with respect to Osun local government funds pending the final conclusion of the criminal trial involving UBA and its officials.

Furthermore, he ruled that the criminal charge be continued and adjourned to February 28th, 2026.

Meanwhile, Accord, Osun

State chapter has condemned APC and one of its lawyer, Saka Layonu, SAN for attempting to disrupt court proceeding and disrespecting Magistrate Adeyeba within the court premises.

Accord Chairman, Pastor Victor Akande in a statement on Tuesday described the incident as a brazen assault on the bench and impunity taken too far.

He thereafter call on the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and the Body of Benchers to investigate and sanctions Mr Layonu appropriately.

The statement reads, "The Accord has strongly defended the Magistrate A. A. Adeyeba ruling on the ongoing criminal case against the United Bank for Africa (UBA) and condemned contempt against the bench by Saka Layonu, SAN who openly threatened the magistrate at the court today.

"The Accord described the brazen assault on the bench as impunity taken too far coming from a senior member of the bar and

called for the initiation of a disciplinary action as quickly as possible.

"The party noted the long list of barefaced violations of the law by the Osun state chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and was alarmed that the party could be that shameless to extend its serial violations and breaches of the law and the constitution to the bench.

"Accord reviewed the proceedings and concluded that what the UBA and the APC called on the magistrate to do was to violate Section 306 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015, by stepping down an ongoing criminal case.

"According to the party, the magistrate would have erred in law by staying the criminal proceedings because of a supposed case on warrant of arrest in another court, declaring that the judge complied with the law and conformed with compliance requirements.

"Accord submitted that it is a settled rule in Nigerian law that where both a criminal

and a civil action arise from the same set of facts, the criminal case generally takes precedence.

"Any abiding courts would refuse to stay criminal proceedings simply because a related civil suit is pending, as seen in various Supreme Court of Nigeria rulings.

"Under Section 306 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015, an application for a stay of proceedings in a criminal matter shall not be entertained to prevent defendants from using interlocutory appeals to stall cases for years.

"The party further submitted that if there is any person that should face disciplinary procedures, it should be Dr Layonu SAN who openly and brazenly threatened a Magistrate that was only doing her statutory job.

"We call on the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and the Body of Benchers to investigate and sanctions Mr Layonu, a senior lawyer who threw caution to the wind and who almost disrupted court proceedings.", the state chairman of Accord, Pastor Akande noted.

NEWS

# Osun 2026: Governor Adeleke's Name Uploaded As Accord Candidate -Chairman

By Sola Isola

Governor Ademola Adeleke's name has been uploaded on the records of Independent National Electoral Commission as the candidate of Accord in the forthcoming 2026 Governorship Election, Osun Spring Reports.

Chairman of Accord in the state, Pastor Victor Akande, made this known in a statement on Thursday, in Osogbo, the Osun state capital.

Akande noted further that positive development lays to rest the crass scheming, false expectations, and desperate propaganda of enemies of Osun State who had hoped otherwise.

"The Accord Party is pleased to formally inform the good people of Osun State that His Excellency, Governor Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, has been successfully uploaded into the records of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the duly nominated candidate of

the Accord Party for the August 8, 2026 Governorship Election in Osun State.

"This positive development lays to rest the crass scheming, false expectations, and desperate propaganda of enemies of Osun State who had hoped otherwise. The confirmation by INEC is yet another affirmation that the will of the people cannot be subverted by mischief or political desperation.

"The Accord in Osun State sincerely appreciates the overwhelming support, solidarity, and confidence reposed in the party and in Governor Ademola Adeleke by the good people of Osun State. We urge our supporters and all well-meaning residents not to be distracted by the evil machinations of avowed enemies of the state, whose primary occupation is to cloak personal greed and looting intentions under democratic pretensions, with little or no regard for the grave consequences

of their actions on the welfare of the people.

"We congratulate the people of Osun State, as their steadfast support is already yielding positive results. The Accord

therefore calls on all residents of voting age to ensure they are properly registered and armed with their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) in preparation for the

August 8, 2026 Governorship Election, where the collective resolve of the people will once again prevail.

"Together, Osun will continue on the path of

progress, stability, and people-oriented governance under Governor Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke", the statement reads.



## Hijacking Osun LG Fund, A Criminal Assault On Democracy -MCE • Citizens May be Compelled to Resort to Self Help

By Sola Isola

The Movement for Credible Elections has said hijacking local government allocation in Osun for the sacked APC Chairmen is a criminal assault on Democracy.

The group in a statement by its Media Coordinator, Comrade James Ezema, the head of the national Secretariat of Group, Veteran Olawale Okunniyi, states that the act violates Osun State law, which explicitly prescribes career officials as signatories to LG accounts, adding that these lawful procedures have been willfully ignored and trampled upon.

The statement reads, "The Movement for Credible Elections (MCE) is shocked, outraged, and deeply alarmed by the latest

twist in the Osun State Local Government (LG) crisis—a scandal that represents a brazen, criminal assault on democracy, the rule of law, and the rights of hardworking citizens.

"The Movement is perturbed to learn that court-sacked APC local government chairmen in Osun State, acting in blatant collusion with a former Governor of Osun State now Minister and the United Bank for Africa (UBA), have illegally hijacked funds released by the Federal Government meant for Osun LGs, diverting them to unelected politicians and party cronies.

"Speaking, the head of the national Secretariat of the Movement for Credible Elections (MCE), Veteran Olawale Okunniyi, said "this audacious act violates Osun State law, which explicitly prescribes career officials as signatories to LG



accounts, yet these lawful procedures have been willfully ignored and trampled upon."

"The Movement however maintained that the consequences as reeled out below are stark and damning: No local government worker in

Osun has been paid in the last 12 months by the police-backed unlawful occupants of Osun State Local Governments, while their rightful salaries are stolen and misappropriated.

"Funds meant for critical public

services—schools, health centers, and local infrastructure—are being hoarded among court-sacked APC functionaries, whose legitimate tenure lapsed in October last year.

UBA has facilitated this illegal diversion, placing officials on the wrong side of the law. Top executives have already been arraigned, exposing the bank's complicity in the corruption.

The Osun State government has been forced to borrow to pay local workers and keep essential services running, while the Police provide protection for unelected, illegal occupants of LG secretariats.

"This crisis sets a dangerous precedent for Nigeria's democracy. Unelected individuals now control public resources with impunity, threatening constitutional governance at the

grassroots. "MCE demands immediate and decisive action from the President; Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and calls on all lovers of democracy in Nigeria and across the world to intervene.

"Okunniyi said "Let it be known: UBA and the former Governor have hijacked Osun LG funds, and the resources meant for local workers are being illegally shared by court-sacked chairmen. This is not just mismanagement—it is fraud and a deliberate assault on the foundations of democracy in Nigeria."

"The Movement for Credible Elections therefore warns that if urgent intervention is not forthcoming from the Presidency, citizens across Osun State and Nigeria may be mobilized to use every lawful means to reclaim their rights, demand accountability,

## OPINION

## Osun's Local Government Question: Why The People Must Choose Adeleke's Good Governance Over Oyetola's Painful Grievance

By Pelumi Olajengbesi Esq.

Only a person who is not politically attentive would pretend that much of the noise, tension, and episodic instability around Osun State local government is "ordinary politics." It is, in truth, the struggle for the soul and direction of the state, and the unresolved ambition for power after the defeat of Oyetola.

Since 2022, Osun has lived with a politics that often behaves like an election that never ended. Even after the Court of Appeal restored Senator Ademola Adeleke's mandate in March 2023, and the Supreme Court subsequently affirmed him as Governor in May 2023, the contest has continued in tone, posture, and narrative warfare.

That context matters, because it helps the public separate performance from propaganda. The push to delegitimise the current administration is frequently framed as "rescue," "reclaim," or "correcting an error," yet much of it reads less like a people-driven movement and more like a personal and party project of reversal by a former Governor who lost power and has never truly accepted that the electorate moved on. When political energy is invested mainly in returning to office, the state becomes a battleground of narratives instead of a laboratory of development. Osun deserves better than permanent election season.

The more inconvenient truth for that brand of politics is this. Governor Adeleke has, by many measurable signals and public expectations, performed beyond what even sceptics anticipated. Osun people have seen a governor who is visibly present, politically accessible, and unusually deliberate about projecting government as service.

Consider the most emotionally sensitive issue in Osun's recent governance history, workers' welfare. Under the previous administration, the "modulated salary" era became a defining wound in the relationship between government and labour, including partial payments and deductions that created a backlog of grievances.

In contrast, the Adeleke administration moved to clear deductions and outstanding components linked to the modulated salary period, covering specific months in 2019 and 2020, as part of efforts to close that chapter. Those choices are not mere optics. In a civil service-heavy state like Osun, timeliness of salary and seriousness about clearing inherited arrears translate into social stability, household confidence, and a calmer labour environment.



Now to the issue of resources and borrowing, where political honesty is often in short supply. Opposition messaging can be dramatic, but debt and fiscal management are stubbornly factual. Osun's debt profile has been at the centre of public debate, and the current administration has tied part of its legitimacy to demonstrating restraint and reducing inherited burdens.

For example, one widely reported account, citing Debt Management Office figures, states that Osun's total domestic and foreign debt reduced from about ₦331.4 billion as at December 2022 to about ₦193.7 billion as at June 2024. Those figures tell an important story, not merely of spending, but of deliberate debt management and a political choice to stabilise rather than mortgage the future.

This is also where the comparison with the former administration becomes politically unavoidable. The Oyetola years were repeatedly associated in public conversation with borrowing and fiscal pressure, and the post-election period saw sharp controversy over whether new borrowing was taken near the end of that tenure. The Cable reported allegations from the Adeleke camp that an ₦18 billion facility was taken after Oyetola's defeat, a claim that Oyetola's media office publicly denied, with both sides exchanging documentation and counterclaims.

The value of recalling that episode is not to litigate it in the media, but to underline a principle. Osun people have grown tired of debt-driven governance arguments that are never

matched with transparent, lived benefits. If the current administration is persuading citizens, it is partly because it has made fiscal discipline and worker welfare central to its public identity, and partly because Osun people remember what fiscal anxiety felt like.

Performance, of course, is not only about money. It is also about legitimacy, empathy, and the daily feel of government. Adeleke's strongest political advantage is that he has successfully recast the Osun governorship as a pro-people office, not as a distant power centre. That alone disrupts the older culture where citizens were expected to endure hardship as normal. When a government prioritises labour peace, reduces inherited fiscal burdens, and stays publicly accountable, it becomes harder to sell a "return at all costs" project as a moral necessity.

This is why the Osun contest between Adeleke and Oyetola should be understood properly. It is not merely a contest of two men. It is a contest between two political logics. One logic says election outcomes must be respected, governance judged on delivery, and political competition deferred to the next legitimate cycle. The other logic keeps the state on edge by constantly attempting to reframe the present as illegitimate, regardless of court finality and regardless of visible governance efforts. Osun cannot afford the second logic if it wants to consolidate stability, attract investor confidence, and keep the social temperature low.

The question, then, is simple and democratic. If Governor Adeleke is truly failing, the opposition has a clean remedy. Build an alternative, persuade the people, and contest at the proper time. But if the real driver is the refusal to accept defeat and the impatience to regain the seat, then Osun people should name it for what it is, ambition dressed up as public interest. The state deserves opposition that critiques policy, not opposition that treats governance itself as a temporary inconvenience until power returns.

Adeleke's administration will still be judged, rightly, by results, by roads, schools, hospitals, security collaboration, revenue reforms, and the integrity of public spending. But in the central argument of today's Osun politics, one fact remains difficult to erase. Adeleke is popular, and his policies are popular.

Many citizens have stated clearly that Adeleke has exceeded expectations, and that Oyetola should let his grievances rest.

Pelumi Olajengbesi is a Legal Practitioner and writes from Abuja.

## Osun LG Crisis: Tinubu should call Oyetola to order -Governor Adeleke .Says Court-Sacked APC Chairmen Lack Mandates to Stay on In Councils

Governor Ademola Adeleke has restated his accusation against Blue Economy Minister, Gboyega Oyetola about the Minister's masterminding Osun local government crisis, asserting again that the self-awarded tenure of APC Chairmen lapsed in 2025 and cannot be elongated under the law and Supreme Court precedents.

Reacting to the Minister's statement authored by his Special Adviser, Governor Adeleke faulted the entire submission of the minister on the local government crisis, positing that the former Governor remains the chief architect of the paralysis and the untold hardship being inflicted on Osun people.

The statement from the state governor through his Spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed stated that a Federal High Court rather than Governor Adeleke sacked the APC chairmen in 2022 and the judgment was later validated by a Court of Appeal judgement which also acknowledged that newly validly elected chairmen and councillors of the PDP were already sworn into office.

The governor further reminded the minister if he had forgotten that the APC chairmen were sacked by the Court because their election was conducted under Mr Oyetola in violation of the electoral act which stipulates a one year notice before conducting local elections.

The statement queried Mr Oyetola on his motive for conducting local government election in violation of the law and soon after he lost his re-election bid in 2022, insisting that the minister should bear full responsibility for the paralysis of the councils which are well known to the masses of Osun state.

While the APC insisted on not quitting office despite Court rulings and while the minister ensued the seizure of Osun local governments allocations, the state governor said he implemented regular payments of salaries of local



workers, questioning why Mr Oyetola prefers local workers to suffer even after blocking funding flow to the local government system.

The governor expressed shock at the minister's denial of paralysis of local government in Osun, calling it an insult to Osun traditional rulers whose salaries could not be paid; a denigration of local workers who survive only through salaries minus the allowances; and gross contempt for local government workers who were recently molested and harassed by APC thugs and tenure-less chairmen.

"Under what authority is Mr Oyetola and his cronies in the guise of council chairmen disbursing funds meant for salaries of local government workers. Under what authority is he deciding who gets paid or not? Why are they not paying salaries of local health workers, local teachers and local retirees?", the governor questioned.

Governor Adeleke puts the minister, the UBA and the court sacked chairmen on notice that those who mishandled Osun local government fund are going to be held accountable, adding "current mishandling of local funds will not go unpunished as this is daylight's robbery of people's money".

The governor further described as an attempted escape from reality the Minister's denial of tenure lapsing for his court sacked chairmen, asking what is the legal basis for the belief of the minister that being in court is sufficient to continue in office and tampering with public funds through the backdoor.

It is even troubling for democratic sanity for the minister to hold an opinion that those who disobeyed a subsisting court judgement that sacked them from office should continue to stay in office after the expiration of such self awarded tenure contrary to the constitution and Supreme Court ruling that forbids tenure elongation.

The governor who described himself as an advocate of local government autonomy accused the minister and his party of trampling on local autonomy by self-imposing unelected politicians, by disobeying court orders, by violating laws on the operations of local government finance, and by illegally enforcing unconstitutional tenure elongation.

The governor cannot keep quiet when local workers are not being paid, when local health centres and local retirees are denied their allowances and salaries. The governor cannot keep quiet when unauthorised, unelected officials are handling local government funds.

The governor again called on Mr Oyetola to stop dragging President Bola Tinubu's name in the mud, charging him to lift his siege on Osun local government secretariats; get his tenure-less chairmen out of the councils; stop issuing illegal directives to the police; and allow Osun people to breathe.

## OPEN LETTER TO AGF LATEEF FAGBEMI

The Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice  
 Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN  
 Federal Ministry of Justice  
 10th Floor, Federal Secretariat, Wing 1B, Block One  
 Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja, Nigeria  
 Sir,

### OPEN LETTER: A CALL FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF STATUTORY ALLOCATIONS TO LAWFULLY ELECTED OSUN STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

I write as a concerned citizen and social crusader committed to the rule of law, and democratic governance in Nigeria, his open letter addresses the ongoing crisis regarding the withholding of statutory allocations due to the 30 Local Government Councils in Osun State, amounting to over One Hundred and Thirty Billion Naira (₦130,000,000,000), following the 22 February 2025 elections conducted pursuant to court order (HIL/M.19/2025, PDP v. OSIEC & Ors).

It is imperative to remind all parties, including the Federal Government, that these councils are lawfully constituted. They were elected after the nullification of the 15 October 2022 "Yes or No" election, which was declared invalid, unconstitutional, and void by the courts in FHC/OS/CS/103/2022, APP v. INEC & Ors.

Chronology of Relevant Legal Actions in the local Government crisis.

1. FHC/OS/CS/94/2022 — PDP v. INEC & Ors (2022)  
 Purpose: Challenge the legality of the 15 October 2022 election.  
 Outcome: Suit dismissed on technical grounds; no validation of the election.  
 Court's Position: Did not uphold or legalize the election.

2. FHC/OS/CS/103/2022 — APP v. INEC & Ors (2022)  
 Purpose: Challenge the legality of the 15 October 2022 "Yes or No" election under OSIEC.  
 Outcome (30 November 2022): Nullified the election; declared it void; ordered all beneficiaries to vacate office.  
 Court's Position: Created vacancies in all local governments; judgment remains binding.

3. CA/AK/226M/2024 — APM & Ors v. APP & Ors (2024)  
 Purpose: Appeal against the nullification of the 15 October 2022 election.  
 Outcome: Dismissed on procedural grounds; Federal High Court judgment intact.  
 Court's Position: Did not reinstate any chairmen; nullification upheld.

4. Unpublished PDP Appeal (Late 2024 / Early 2025)  
 Purpose: Appeal FHC/OS/CS/94/2022 dismissal, seeking validation of the 15 October 2022 election.  
 Outcome: Court of Appeal did not reinstate the "Yes or No" chairmen.  
 Court's Position: Nullification judgment remains subsisting.

5. HIL/M.19/2025 — PDP v. OSIEC & Ors (2025)  
 Purpose: Compel OSIEC to conduct lawful Local Government elections.  
 Outcome: Court ordered fresh elections, which led to the 22 February 2025 elections and swearing-in of chairmen/councillors on 23 February 2025.  
 Court's Position: Recognized vacancies and affirmed nullification of the 2022 election.

6. FHC/OS/CS/147/2025 — APC Chairmen v. FG, IGP, Adeleke & Ors (2025)  
 Purpose: Sought tenure extension and protection to remain in office.  
 Outcome: No court granted tenure extension.  
 Court's Position: Tenure expired; no reinstatement; courts cannot extend expired mandates.

7. SC/CV/775/2025 — Osun AG v. AGF (2025)  
 Purpose: Challenge withholding of Local Government allocations by federal authorities.  
 Outcome: Supreme Court addressed fiscal dispute; did



not invalidate February 2025 elections.  
 Court's Position: Lawfully elected councils recognized; nullified 2022 election remains void.

Despite the clarity of these judgments, reports indicate that the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Ministry of Finance, allegedly acted on your advice of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, SAN to withheld statutory allocations to the legally constituted councils. To me his action:

1. Undermines the constitutional autonomy of local governments.
2. Disrupts grassroots governance, delaying salaries of teachers, health workers, council staff, and retirees
3. Contradicts court-ordered February 2025 elections and violates the principles of federalism.
4. Politicizes the law, setting a dangerous precedent where partisan considerations override judicial pronouncements.

As the nation's chief law officer, I respectfully urge that you:

1. Review and rescind any prior advisory directing the withholding of statutory allocations from the February 2025 local government councils in Osun State.
2. Ensure the immediate release of the withheld funds into the lawful accounts of the councils.

3. Adhere strictly to judicial pronouncements, preventing the use of federal authority to manipulate or politicize lawful governance structures.

#### In Conclusion

The courts have spoken clearly: the 15 October 2022 "Yes or No" election is void, and the February 2025 elections are lawful. The continued withholding of statutory allocations is unlawful, unconstitutional, and politically motivated. Your intervention is urgently required to uphold the Constitution, restore justice, and safeguard democracy in Osun State.

I trust that your office will act promptly to correct this anomaly and ensure the rule of law and constitutional governance are respected.  
 THANKS IN ANTICIPATION

Note: This open letter is intended to call the attention of the Attorney-General of the Federation to the seven cases shaping the Osun Local Government crisis and to inform the public of the factual and legal truth.

All lovers of democracy, regardless of political affiliation, are encouraged to be objective and uphold the Constitution.

Further note that my vision is to Educate, Document and Advocate.

Emmanuel Aiyedun Olowu  
 Public Analyst & Social Crusader

## NEWS



## Osun road project and compensation:

# Integrity beyond rhetoric

By Isiaka Wakeel

When the Osun State Government rolled out the Iwo township road dualisation project, it was seen as the first rainfall after a long drought, and welcomed by residents as a long-awaited intervention expected to ease traffic congestion, unlock economic opportunities and breathe modern life into one of the state's most important urban corridors.

Yet, as with most ambitious infrastructure undertakings, progress arrived with a heavy footprint. Bulldozers moved in, walls came down and familiar landmarks disappeared. Homes, shops and lifetime investments that once lined the construction corridor gave way to asphalt and concrete. Although many residents embraced the promise of development, fear and uncertainty hovered in the air like gathering clouds.

At the peak of the demolitions, Governor Ademola Adeleke stepped forward with a solemn assurance that no one affected by the project would be abandoned. Every verified victim, he pledged, would be compensated.

Predictably, scepticism followed swiftly behind the promise. Opposition elements and their agents dismissed the assurance as political poetry which is characteristically beautiful in sound but empty in substance. They reminded us that such pledges often evaporate once the rubble is cleared and public attention shifts elsewhere. Some even predicted that the people of Iwo would be left to pay the price of progress alone.

But history has a way of correcting premature judgments. Earlier this week, news filtered in that the Adeleke administration had begun issuing compensation cheques to residents whose properties were demolished for the road project, shattering doubt like glass and replacing suspicion with evidence.

For the beneficiaries, this moment is both emotional and profound. This, for them, is a quiet victory after months of hardship. One of the affected property owners captures the mood succinctly:

"When our shops were pulled down, it felt like the ground was taken from beneath our feet. Today, Adeleke's government has helped us to stand again."

The compensation exercise is not merely a bureaucratic process. I view it as a moral statement. In a political climate where public trust is brittle and government promises often dissolve into silence, this compensation by Adeleke's government stands as a reminder that leadership can still be anchored on honour.

By keeping faith with the people despite fiscal pressures and competing demands on the state's resources, Governor Adeleke has demonstrated that integrity is not proclaimed from podiums, but is proven in moments of consequence.

Observers note that the compensation initiative mirrors the Adeleke's administration's people-first philosophy which is a governing creed that insists development must illuminate lives rather than cast shadows over them.

In my estimation, beyond the question of integrity lies empathy. Governor Adeleke appears to understand very well that development loses its soul when it tramples on those it is meant to uplift. Roads may shorten distances, but compassion shortens despair.

For families uprooted by the road dualisation project, the compensation offers more than money. It offers restoration which I see as a chance to rebuild livelihoods, reopen businesses and reclaim dignity bruised by displacement.

Urban development experts see this kind of gesture as the true foundation of sustainable growth. An Abuja-based urban and regional planner, Dr George Theophilus, postulates: "When citizens are treated fairly and justly, they become partners in development rather

than obstacles. Compensation builds trust, and trust is the strongest cement any government can use."

No doubt, the ongoing Iwo road dualisation project remains one of the most ambitious (and perhaps unprecedented) infrastructure interventions in the community in decades. When completed, it promises smoother mobility, safer transport, reduced travel time and expanded commercial activities all of which are a lifeline stretching across communities.

By pairing concrete development with human consideration, the Adeleke administration has sent a clear signal that development must not be paved with human suffering.

Residents say the compensation has altered public perception of the road dualisation project itself. Anger has given way to acceptance; resentment has softened into cooperation. One of the residents, Sarafadeen Akanji, confirms: "Our people that lost their properties to the project were bitter at first. But now, we have seen that the state government did not forget our people."

The Iwo experience may well become a template for future projects across Osun State. Governor Adeleke has proven that infrastructure planning need not ignore social responsibility.

For an administration that is often tested by political crossfire and public scrutiny, the compensation episode stands as quiet but compelling evidence that accountability in governance is not extinct.

As bulldozers retreat and the hum of construction gives way to drainages and smooth asphalt, one big lesson that rings clearly from Iwo is that leadership is not measured solely by the roads built, but by the people carried along the journey.

In fulfilling his pledge to the displaced residents in Iwo, Governor Adeleke has delivered more than compensation cheques. He has renewed a covenant of trust between government and citizens, which is written not in rhetoric, but in action; not in promises, but in proof.

NEWS

**Governor Adeleke Raises Alarm Over Illegal Hijack, Diversion of LG Fund**

By Sola Isola

Osun State Governor Senator Ademola Adeleke has raised alarm over what he described as an illegal hijack and diversion local government fund by APC Yes/No Chairmen.

The Governor in a statewide broadcast recently alleged former Governor Gboyega Oyetola of aiding the action by cornering UBA to illegally divert local government fund into individual accounts as well as using security operative to illegally hold down local government secretariats.

He added that the local government statutory allocation is the primary source for the remuneration of primary school teachers, nurses, and other health workers, all local government workers, the traditional councils and retirees in each local government adding that his administration has continued to shoulder this responsibility despite the embargo placed on fund for one year.

He said, "It is deeply unfortunate that former Governor Gboyega Oyetola has chosen to weaponize federal institutions, particularly the Nigerian Police Force. He has equally applied the same approach to the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) to impose hardship and suffering on the good people of Osun State through alleged illegal instructions.

"As you are aware, since February 2025, statutory allocations to Osun State local governments have been withheld. As of the last FAAC meeting, a total of One Hundred and Thirty Billion Naira of our local government funds is being illegally withheld by the Federal Government.

Attempts were made to divert those funds through accounts opened with United Bank for Africa (UBA) by people not authorized by law to be signatories to local government funds.

"What I do not understand is why a reputable international bank like UBA has allowed itself to be used to break our laws and permit people who are not recognized by law to be

signatories to Osun State local government accounts, after it has been advised on those whom the law says can be signatories to these accounts.

"Can UBA wilfully break the laws of New York State or the laws of the City of London where it operates? The answer is a CAPITAL NO.

"But as far as they are concerned, this is Nigeria, where our laws can be trampled upon without consequence, as long as they are allegedly breaking the law to satisfy former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

"I want to inform the good people of Osun State that those senior managers in UBA who aided and abetted the opening of Osun State local government accounts by people not allowed by law are already facing criminal prosecution before our courts.

"The local government statutory allocation is the primary source for the remuneration of primary school teachers, nurses, and other health workers at the 332 health care centres in Osun State, all local government workers, the traditional councils, as well as

retirees in each local government in Osun State.

"Imagine the level of suffering these people who depend on local government statutory allocations for the payment of their salaries would have gone through if my government had not stepped in to borrow from the state government to pay the salaries of these workers over the last almost 12 months, with the exception of traditional council salaries.

"To be able to come up with the funds from the state government, a lot of sacrifices had to be made. Allowances due to senior civil servants and political appointees had to be put on hold, at great discomfort to these men and women, in addition to slowing down some of the state's ongoing projects. We have done this because governance is, above all, about humanity, responsibility, and compassion. But this is not sustainable.

"While Osun local government funds are being withheld to the detriment of primary school teachers, nurses in our

primary health care centres, local government civil servants, retirees, and the good people of Osun State in general by UBA, allegedly under the directive of former Governor Oyetola, the APC chairmen and councillors whose so-called tenure has lapsed are receiving payments in the millions from UBA, again allegedly under the directive of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

"How this barefaced illegality can be happening in a democracy is very unfortunate, to say the least."

The Governor then called on the President of Nigeria, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu to immediately intervene assuring the people of Osun State that the President is not involved in the illegality.

"At this point, I respectfully appeal to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to intervene. I wish to assure the good people of Osun State that Mr. President is not involved in this illegality. Mr. President is among those who fought the military for our democracy.

"I believe Mr. President's name is being used without his knowledge by Governor

Gboyega Oyetola to get the Nigerian Police and UBA to obey his alleged illegal directives. I therefore urge Mr. President to protect the integrity of our democracy by rescuing Osun State local governments from the vice grip of those whose self-awarded tenure has lapsed.

I respectfully request that Governor Gboyega Oyetola be restrained from further issuance of illegal directives to the Nigerian Police, which undermine the very fabric of our democracy.

"There is no place in our Constitution and laws that allows for tenure elongation for any elected official. What confronts us here is law versus lawlessness, constitutional order versus naked impunity.

"I therefore call on Nigerians and all those who sacrificed so much for our democracy to join us in demanding an immediate end to the siege on our local governments.

"Former Governor Gboyega Oyetola, please allow Osun State to breathe. Enough is enough.

"I thank you all for your support and steadfastness. Continue to pray for us and trust in our resolve to protect your interests", he added.

COLUMNIST

**Adeleke: How to show love to a friend**

In few days, lovebirds will be celebrating another day of love. The feast day of Saint Valentine which comes up on the 14th of February every year is a day for lovers to renew vows.

It is also a day for aspiring lovers to show intention to their targets, shoot their shot, and work towards starting relationships.

However, when the rest of the world is preparing to celebrate lover's day, a particular party in Osun State is busy planning evil day and night, seeking to do the impossible - end the reign of the incumbent governor.

Or how can one describe the claims attributed to a retired comrade, currently hibernating in APCEE's dingy hole full of cobwebs, that the Federal Government should not release withheld Osun local government allocation?

Where sanity is expected, seeing madness will be surprising. The half-witted Comrade further said Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, will be difficult to campaign against, if he has access to enough funds to run the state.

Roads have selected for repairs, hospitals, other health facilities, identified for government attention, schools are not to be left behind, social welfare programmes are to get support in various ways.

As beautiful as these ideas by the administration of Governor Adeleke are, evil-minds in the coven of APCEE won't take none of it. Instead to have blood of humanity flowing through their veins, it is obvious they are hell-bent on killing the rest of the state with starvation.

Perhaps, everyone with differing opinions to theirs don't deserve to breath. With their hard-line attitude, it won't be out of place to ask, if they are from this state. Or is the Yoruba proverbs literally translated as "the son of the soil, won't hesitate to safeguard it from going into ruins," no longer valid?

Are the architect of the misfortune aimed at the Governor Adeleke and his administration, but which, eventually landed on the roof of Osun jointly owned house, not from this state?

If truly they are from here, what will they gain from restraining Osun's development simply because a man is doing too well in office against expectations? What kind of man will prefer that his siblings die of hunger and sickness to score cheap political points off a challenger?

Are they happy over this stagnation in grassroots administration in the state? Is that how to show love? Then who truly cares and love Osun people - a party conniving with



By Matthew Ajayi



the gorgon hiding in 'Hasorock' or the man scratching ground in search of means to feed the populace?

Amid this APCEE's orchestrated chaos, the Osun Assembly emerged brandishing its legislative sword, threatening to go to war over plundering of the state's resources.

The Speaker of the House, Rt. Honourable Adewale Egbedun, who spoke on behalf of the parliament raised the

alarm over what, it described as the illegal handling and payment of billions of naira from Osun State local government funds by court-sacked APC chairmen and councillors.

Hon. Egbedun, who warned of the harsh legal consequences, declaring that all illegally handled funds would be recovered and those involved brought to book.

The Assembly accused the United Bank for Africa and a governor of being the arrowheads of the alleged infractions.

The parliament was miffed that billions of naira in Local Government funds allegedly paid out, listing the following payments,-

N25 million paid to each of the 30 illegal APC chairmen; N12 million paid to each of the 30 illegal APC vice chairmen; N10 million paid to each of the 332 APC councillors; and N130 million paid to selected traditional rulers in Osun State;

N13 billion paid as legal fees to the lawyers representing the illegal chairmen and councillors, allegedly calculated as 15 per cent of deposited funds.

Reaffirming the illegality of the forceful occupation of council secretariats by tenure-expired politicians, the Speaker condemned what he described as the callousness of APCEE cronies and their leader, lamenting that not one naira has been paid in the last 12 months as salaries by these illegal APC chairmen: primary school teachers - zero; nurses and other healthcare workers - zero; local government civil servants - zero; traditional rulers not favoured by Gboyega Oyetola - zero; retirees - zero.

Going through the long list of infractions of the APCEE in Osun, and the purest love Governor Adeleke has shown the people of this state, one won't waste time before perfectly concluding that Omo Balogun deserves the kind of affection people are showing him.

He is loved by Osun people and even the worst of his transducers knows that.

Having reached that conclusion, I ask how does one show love to the person that offers kindness and good heart? The best way to reciprocate is through support.

Governor Adeleke is on the ballot for Osun governorship poll. The party that is inflicting pains on Osun people is also on the ballot. To show love to a deserving man, a friend, this governor must be allowed to continue in office beyond November 26, 2026.

In rewarding the hater of humanity called APCEE, I will expect Osun people to 'use madness to cure madness.'

Happy Valentine's Day.

OPINION

# Why Workers And Pensioners Must Choose Continuity

By Sarafa Ibrahim

On August 8, electorates in Osun will go to the poll to decide who will steer the affairs of the state for four years. Before the electorate, there are clear two lines to choose from. One is to go with continuity while the other will be returning to a past of misery and pains.

To arrive at the ideal choice, a lot of indices will have to be weighed by the electorate and one of such is welfare. At the mention of welfare, what usually comes to the mind of many is simply workers and pensioners, but for a state like Osun, it goes beyond that. Osun economy is fragile and a wrong attitude towards the welfare of workers and pensioners easily trigger a ripple effect, most especially on the informal sector that relies on them for their trades.

This explains why Osun GDP shrank significantly under the APC as local businesses struggle to survive due to low patronage. There is no need reminding many on what the past looks like because this was a history we all witnessed together. Interestingly, Bola Oyebamiji, the All Progressives Congress (APC) was an integral part of the past that Osun people did everything to escape about four years ago and could even have influenced some of the bad decisions that seriously hurt workers and pensioners.

Some weeks ago, the content of an agreement that imposed half salary regime on helpless workers and pensioners went viral and among the signatories to that burdensome decision was Bola Oyebamiji. In a media briefing in 2018, Bola Oyebamiji tactically defended the introduction of half salary as a last resort as the other "option we (government) had then was to right-size the workforce, that is, cut our coat according to our cloth, so to speak."

The ready excuse for the policy, as usual, was the debt binge on the state, which Bola Oyebamiji noted it's sizeable portion "was incurred on salaries." But that is not the whole truth, because by his own admission that "in November 2016, the state government received N11.74 billion as refunds from the Paris Club" and that "in July 2017, the government received N6.3 billion as the second tranche of Paris Club refund", the horrible experience endured by workers and pensioners may not be justified.

Between 2015 and 2018 when the half salary was implemented, Osun revenue was not as bad as Bola Oyebamiji painted it. In 2017, for instance, the aggregated revenue was N77.038 billions, and if the N6.3 billion receipt for Paris Club refund is factored into the equation, there should be enough to cater for the salaries and wages that is estimated at N32 billion even with the N29.027 billion for servicing loan in that year.

But the issue, I presume, is compassion, which clearly preface Bola Oyebamiji and the kind of leadership he represents. In February 2025, Governor Ademola Adeleke faced a situation far more dire than the conditions that Bola Oyebamiji used as an excuse for making workers and pensioners go through excruciating pains. Outside every known law and tradition, the federal government withheld Osun local governments allocation and put the wellbeing of workers in jeopardy for nothing other than petty politics.

But Governor Adeleke showed that leadership is not just about comfort but standing up for the people when it mattered most. It is too crude and barbaric to subject innocent primary school teachers, healthcare workers and local government workers to undue pains by not receiving their salaries. This may seem fine with Bola Oyebamiji, but for a compassionate leader like Governor Adeleke, it is not acceptable, as no one should suffer unjustly to gross abuse of power that the withholding of Osun local governments fund clearly portrayed.

Since February 2025, Governor Adeleke has been shouldering



the responsibility of paying the salaries of primary school teachers, healthcare and local government workers across the councils in the state. Even though he has more than excuses to dangle like Bola Oyebamiji did when half salary was slammed on the faces of workers and pensioners, Governor Adeleke refuse to allow families go hungry, not for any fault of theirs, but because some people believed they have the power to determine who survives or no.

And, Governor Adeleke is not paying just anything, but the full worth of the salary of all the affected workers in line with the new minimum wage table. Just as he is paying the state's workforce their benefits, Governor is paying workers that should ordinarily draw their salaries from local governments allocation even though it was withheld.

To understand the scope of what Governor Adeleke is doing, take a peep into the amount that goes into paying salaries and pensions across local governments in the state in the 2024 fiscal year. In 2024, salaries and pensions for benefits at local governments in Osun state gulped N49.85 billion and this was at a period when the new minimum wage is yet to be effected. Imagine what the numbers will be now that 150% increase, which is the N75,000 minimum wage that Osun state adopted will amount to.

Yet, Governor Adeleke did not default at any moment throughout the 2025 period when the allocation to local governments were illegally withheld. What that pointedly indicated is that Governor Adeleke is a leader who prioritize the welfare of the people and that unlike the experience with the past, he will not invent excuses as an answer to genuine demands for due benefits.

The story is not any different for pensioners, who has seen significant changes in their welfare under Governor Adeleke. Just like the active workers, Governor Adeleke ensured the payment of half salary owed pensioners, with most unbonded

pensioners already paid in full what was owed them by the APC administration.

In three years, Governor Adeleke has expended more than N50 billion on pension benefits, money that is far more than what was spent by the previous governments, including the one that Bola Oyebamiji was an integral part of in 12 years. For context, while a total of 2,137 pensioners received bonds in the twelve years of the successive APC administrations, a total of 2,401 pensioners has gotten their bonds under Governor Adeleke in three years.

In addition to this, Governor Adeleke provided an expansive healthcare coverage for every pensioner in Osun state, shouldering the burden of managing their health at old age. It is worthy to note that Osun is the first state in the whole of Nigeria to embark on such expansive healthcare cover for senior citizens, easing not just their worries but ensuring that they are no longer lost to avoidable death due to inability to fund their healthcare.

Clear enough, the continuity which Governor Adeleke represents is refreshing and guaranteed a better welfare condition for workers and pensioners while the past that Bola Oyebamiji is anchoring his aspiration on, promises nothing but the misery that should never be experienced again. In the past that Bola Oyebamiji was a part of, 'audio promotion' was all they believed workers deserve, but for Governor Adeleke, it was an aberration that cannot be allowed to persist, hence, implemented the financial benefits of those promotions and put an end to the needless wait of helpless workers.

So, workers and pensioners have their choice well cut out for them and continuity with Governor Adeleke, is by all measures, the most ideal choice for them. Doing otherwise will no doubt bring back not just the ugly experience of the past, but something even worse. The signs are clear enough.

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

NEWS

## Osun APC Suspends Ex-Lawmaker Over Alleged Fund Diversion

### • Suspension Invalid - Oyintiloye

Members of the All Progressives Congress, APCC, in Ward 01, Ibokun, Obokun Local Government Area of Osun State have announced the indefinite suspension of a former member of the State House of Assembly, Olatunbosun Oyintiloye, over alleged misconduct.

The decision was contained in a letter addressed to the Osun State Chairman of the party, Tajudeen Lawal, and dated Thursday, January 29, 2026.

According to the document, "the suspension followed a

meeting of ward executives, leaders and members who reportedly deliberated on issues said to be affecting unity and cohesion within the ward."

The letter, jointly signed by 18 ward executives and five leaders, accused Oyintiloye of allegedly taking over an Executive Assistant, EA, slot and funds amounting to N5.6 million without authorisation.

The signatories claimed "the funds were originally allocated for ward leaders, alleging that Oyintiloye had already secured a personal EA slot through a third party

while holding a federal appointment."

They also alleged that the former lawmaker was "involved in activities capable of causing division within the ward, including the organisation of parallel meetings."

In addition, the ward officials accused him of "prolonged absence from ward meetings and political activities for over three years."

The letter further alleged a lack of financial or material contributions to ward activities despite benefiting from several political appointments.

It stated, "In view of the foregoing and his consistent lack of engagement and contributions to ward affairs, it has become necessary to take decisive disciplinary action.

The ward leaders declared that, "Consequently, Hon. Bosun Oyintiloye is hereby suspended indefinitely from Ward One, Ibokun, and shall cease to represent the interests of the ward at any level.

They, however, added that they remained open to intervention from party

leaders, stressing that their priority was the unity and success of the APC ahead of future elections.

Reacting to the development, Oyintiloye dismissed the suspension as invalid, describing it as a ruse by disgruntled and suspended party members.

He alleged that those who signed the letter were not recognised party executives, claiming they were working for opposition interests in the state.

Oyintiloye denied all allegations against him, saying he neither controlled

the EA slot nor had access to the N5.6 million mentioned in the letter.

"The allegations are lies aimed solely at discrediting me. I have reported the matter to the state party leadership.

"If they truly have the power to suspend me, why can't they wait to do so through the proper party executive channels before going to the press?"

"The same Gbenga Fagbamila, who was suspended from the party for embezzling N7.5 million meant for the 2022 election, is signing my alleged suspension letter alongside other disgruntled members.

## NEWS

# Osun APC Diverting LG Fund Into Private Account -Egbedun

By Sola Isola

The Speaker, Osun State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adewale Egbedun has accused the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Gboyega Oyetola of diverting funds meant to local government to individual accounts through United Bank of Africa (UBA).

Egbedun made this known while addressing a Press Conference on Sunday, in Osogbo, the Osun state capital adding that Oyetola directed UBA to pay 13bn to Saka Layonu and Co, the legal firm of APC asking how government fund is used to fund the case of a political party.

He queried how UBA would open accounts in the name of local governments and make politicians signatories to the account declaring it as illegal and an aberration to the Nigerian constitution.

"The Osun State House of Assembly addresses the people of Osun State, Nigerians, and the international community today out of a deep sense of responsibility and urgency. The House cannot watch while actions that undermine the rule of law, democratic governance, and the welfare of the people at the grassroots continue unabated.

"The legislative authority, or the power of the State Houses of Assembly to make laws regulating Local Government administration, financial controls, and accountability, are expressly recognised under Section 7 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Financial Autonomy granted the local governments by the Supreme Court does not negate section 7 of the constitution.

"The House notes with grave concern that individuals whose elections were nullified by courts of competent jurisdiction, and whose self-awarded tenure has since expired by effluxion of time on 22nd October, 2025, continue to unlawfully occupy Local Government secretariats and interfere with Local Government finances. These individuals have no legal mandate. They are not recognised by law, by the courts, or by the Constitution. Their continued presence in Local Government Secretariats is illegal and must not go on unchecked.

"Mr Gboyega Oyetola, a nephew to President Tinubu, has no constitutional, statutory, or moral authority to control Local Governments funds, issue instructions on Local Government funds, influence banks, or direct security agencies in respect of Local Government administration. Being related to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria confers no legal power to interfere in the affairs of Osun State Local Governments. Nigeria is governed by laws, not family ties.

"The House is particularly alarmed by credible information that huge sums of Local Government funds have been paid under the directive of Mr Gboyega Oyetola.

"N25m payment to each of the 30 illegal APC Local Government chairmen; N12m payment to each of the 30 illegal APC Local Government Vice Chairmen; N10m payment to each of the 332 illegal APC Local Government Councilors; N130m each, to selected traditional rulers in Osun State; N13B legal fees payment to Layonu and co, lawyers representing the illegal chairmen and councilors. 15% of deposited funds is N13B.

"Please note that local governments funds are being used illegally to pay lawyers who represented the APC chairmen and Councilors in their private capacities. The lawyers were not engaged by the local governments.

"Please ask Mr Gboyega Oyetola why he authorised the sum of N13B to be paid to Layonu and co (private lawyers) from local governments funds. This is criminal and this House will demand the refund of every kobo from UBAPLC.

"Meanwhile, NOT one naira has been paid in the last 12 months as salaries of local government workers by these illegal APC local government chairmen: Primary School Teachers-Zero; Nurses and other Healthcare Workers - Zero; Local Government Civil Servants - Zero;



Traditional Rulers Not favored by Gboyega Oyetola-Zero; Retirees-Zero.

"Even more disturbing are reports before this House that plans are allegedly underway to disburse another N50B (Fifty Billion Naira) of Local Government funds for political purposes, disguised as project funds, while governance at the grassroots continue to suffer.

"This House will not tolerate the diversion of public funds meant for salaries, healthcare, education, and community development into private hands to fund the election of a particular politician in Osun State.

"The Osun State House of Assembly formally places on record that it has written repeatedly to banks, including the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA), clearly educating them on the law. Under extant Osun State laws and regulations governing Local Government administration, only career officers duly appointed under the Local Government Service Commission, including Directors of Finance and Directors of Administration and General Services, are lawful signatories to Local Government accounts. Politicians elected as, Chairmen, Councilors, treasurers, or political appointees are forbidden from being signatories to Local Government accounts.

"Any bank that releases Local Government funds on the instructions of unauthorised persons, regardless of who issued such instructions, acts unlawfully and exposes itself and its officers to criminal liability. Illegal disbursement of public funds is fraudulent. It is not banking practice. It is not political discretion. IT IS A CRIME.

"The House therefore warns the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) in very clear terms that all illegal disbursements of Osun State Local Government funds, whether purportedly authorised by Mr Gboyega Oyetola or any other individual, will be fully recovered and treated as deliberate complicity in a financial crime. All the funds

that UBA has disbursed so far with the alleged illegal instructions of Mr Gboyega Oyetola is a GIFT to Mr Oyetola and cannot be deducted from Osun State Local Government Accounts.

"The international community, financial regulators, and institutional partners are hereby put on notice. If UBA Plc continues on this path, it risks reputational damage and legal consequences that go far beyond Osun State and Nigeria. No bank that claims global standards should be associated with the unlawful handling of public funds or the undermining of democratic institutions.

"The House commends the Governor of Osun State for the extraordinary sacrifice made over the past 12 months in ensuring that, Primary School Teachers, Nurses, Other Healthcare Workers, and Local Government Civil Servants, continue to receive salaries despite the illegal withholding of Local Government allocations by UBA Plc on the alleged instructions of Mr Gboyega Oyetola. That a State Government had to shoulder this burden for 12 months is evidence of responsible leadership. However, such sacrifice must not become an excuse for criminal diversion of funds meant for salaries of Osun State Local Governments.

"Osun State belongs to its people. The welfare of nurses, teachers, health workers, local government Civil Servants, traditional institutions, and ordinary citizens must never be sacrificed on the altar of politics. The law is the law. No individual is above it. No bank is immune from it. No political interest can override it. This is supposed to be a Democracy, where nobody is above the law. Mr Gboyega Oyetola should not be allowed to carry on as if he is above the law in Osun State.

"This House stands firmly with the people of Osun State. We will defend democracy. We will defend the rule of law. We will defend the sanctity of public funds. And we will not retreat until this illegality ends and justice prevails."

INTERVIEW

# Public Office Is A Policy Lab For A Policy Entrepreneur

- Mallam Olawale Rasheed

Mallam Olawale Rasheed is a public policy professional with decades of experience in journalism, business, politics and public service. The Spokesperson and Special Adviser to Governor Ademola Adeleke granted a birthday interview to some journalists, addressing many personal and public issues.

**When are you releasing your book about your life experience?**

The book is ready but it is not the usual autobiography. We have been too busy, hence the delay in getting it to the public. Also, I don't want the usual traditional method of book launching. My plan is to give out the book free to students, business and political leaders. I find it difficult to ask people to pay before they read about my life experience.

**But book writing is treated as a business by many people. Why is your case different?**

That is true. I know book publishing is a serious business. My disagreement is the idea of people paying to read about my life. What should be commercialised are books about ideas and contributions to scholarship, books that advances research and contributions in various fields deserve commercialisation. You are buying the book to pay for knowledge. It is different when the book is about where I was born, what experiences have I gained in the world. This is just my personal viewpoint.

**So what is the book focusing on?**

My book is a blend of professional and life review. I crafted the book in a way that builds my biography around a new field that is yet to gain full currency here in Nigeria, that is policy entrepreneurship. I attempted to make it a seminar book in that field. It is all about passion for positive changes in the society through internal influencing of policy direction. The field of policy entrepreneurship is relatively new. I hope my book provides insight into that sector using my life experience as a guide.

**Policy entrepreneurship? Can you shed more light on this?**

It is not about entrepreneurship; it is not about consultants submitting one proposal or the other across government agencies; this is more about policy professionals with an eye on effecting societal changes through direct influencing of policy choices by the elected heads of government. They are either advisors or special aides to leaders who have direct political power. Their preoccupation is to see positive deliverables in health, education, energy among others. Sincerely, it is like activists for social change inside corridors of power.

**Is it a course of study yet?**

In Europe and North America, Yes. In Africa, it is still a fragment of public administration. What my book did was to flesh out basic principles of the new field. Such topics as who is a policy entrepreneur? How does a policy entrepreneur operate? What makes successful policy entrepreneurs among others?

**What qualifies you to write a book on such a new field?**

Very valid question. I don't lay claim to being an expert in the field. I stated this clearly in the book. But the totality of my life experience fits into that professional circle. I reviewed my sojourn so far and I discovered I am indeed a policy entrepreneur. I have the rare privilege of combining so many fields and operating so successfully in all of them. What drove me mostly was the yearning to fight poverty of which I was a childhood victim. I grew up to realise that governmental powers are the best instrument to get the poor out of poverty. Hence, the aspiration to be close to the corridor of powers was to get power holders to change the story of the poor for the better. Top power holders hardly have policy entrepreneurs as advisors or players within their inner circles; they are mostly surrounded by hawks focussed on milking the system for self-enrichment. My background, my experience and my current position place me at a great advantage to write on the subject.

**You mention policy entrepreneurs as social change activists in corridor of powers. Did you fall under that category?**

It may interest you to note that in my university days, I was a closet socialist radicalised and indoctrinated by association in those days with Eastern socialist Europe. When socialism failed, the energy was diverted to social crusading through journalism. In fact, agenda setting for societal policy changes was my main motive for choosing journalism as a career in those days. Our writings attempted to set an agenda for those in government. I agree I am not a Comrade in the real sense of the word. But I have an inner vision of deploying government through politics to fight poverty and under-development. Again, that passion accounted for my interest in politics right from the days of UPN to PSP to SDP to UNCP to PDP. I believe I am a social crusader who believes state power can be directed to positively touch the lives of the people.

**Were your days as a journalist assisted in the career transformation you listed?**

I will say yes. From my days at the 1994 National Constitutional Conference to the Third Eye Newspapers and finally to the Tribune newspapers, the media shaped my life. My book dwells on this media journey. I reported from the headquarters at Ibadan, then later as a political correspondent in Lagos and finally in Abuja from 1999 as National Assembly and politics correspondent. It was a rare privilege to work with the Tribune titles. I salute all my bosses and associates those still within and those outside the oldest private newspapers in the country. I greet my boss, the MD of Tribune titles, Edward Dicoso; the daily editor, Hadji Debo Abdulahi; Saturday Editor, Lasisi Olagunju; and Sunday editor, Sina Oladeinde; my brother Festus Adedayo among others. It was indeed an honour to serve at various times as Abuja Bureau Chief, Group Politics Editor and at a time Northern Region Editor. I was however an unusual journalist because I was in and out of the newsroom on political appointments.

**You have served at the federal level. Were you able to influence policy direction as a policy entrepreneur?**

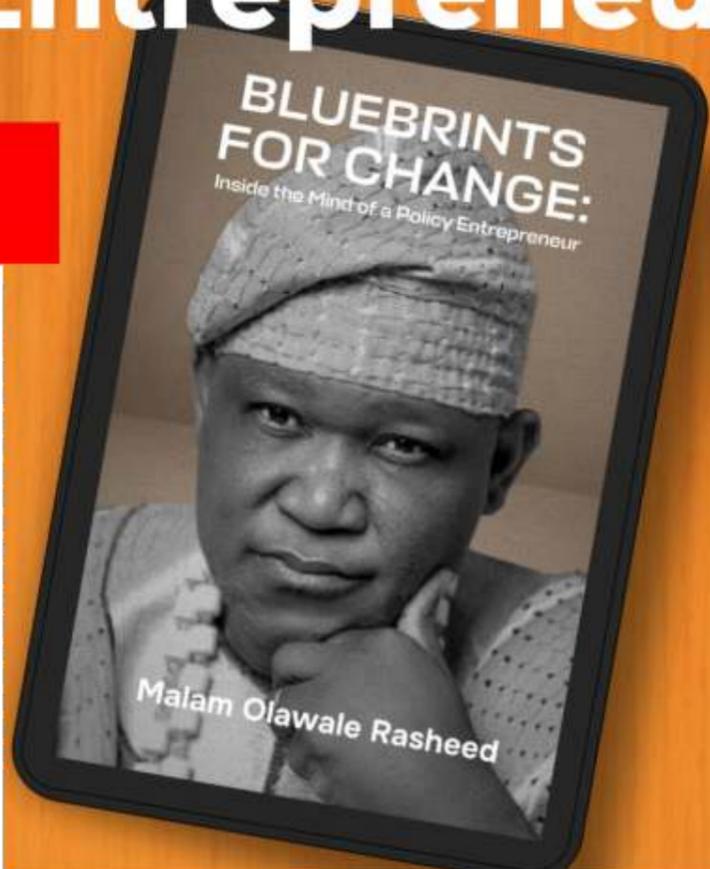
I will boldly say Yes. In all places where I have served, we tried our best to influence our principal to implement critical policy changes. As the only special assistant to the Federal Minister of Youth Development between 2007 to 2011, Nigeria witnessed her golden age in youth development innovations and policies. Senator Akinnibbi Oluosunkanmi, my able minister, delivered exceptionally. I was part of that success story. My book chronicles several of such policy innovations. As a special assistant to the Minister of Power, Mohammed Wakil, from 2013 to 2015, we were part of bold reforms in the power sector including renewable energy. Again, my book listed successful policy changes of the said period. A period of positive impact in national economic reform from the private sector angle was my service as the Executive Director of the National Chamber Policy Center in Abuja between 2018 and 2022. The center is a NACIMMA/ACCI policy center. We did a lot of policy study and reports covering all sectors of the Nigerian economy to the Presidency and almost all the key ministries and agencies. Our work deals with entire policy circles. I am glad many of our proposals were adopted in many sectors during the period. In this aspect of my life, I must pay homage to my bosses in the business chamber movement, former Defence Minister, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode and First Deputy President of Abuja Chamber of Commerce and former NEPZA boss, Professor Adesoji Adesugba.

**Was your going into the business Chamber movement part of your policy change dreams?**

It is connected in some ways. But the reality is that after leaving government in 2015, I decided to face business squarely. I set up my Sahel Media group engaging in consultancy, contracting and publishing. I set up the African Railway Consulting Limited for railway policy innovation and contracting. We worked with the African Union on the African High Speed Railway project. By extension, I joined the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry where I later served as the Chairman of the Transport trade group and later as the head of the policy center. The issue is that I was obsessed with policy and anything policy. From 2015, I set up the African Railway Roundtable, another body that focussed on railway sector policy reform across Africa. We hosted a lot of policy conferences in many African countries. I even served as a member of the presidential railway reform committee here in Nigeria. I gained a private sector perspective in the public policy process. This is very vital as it equipped me with both sources of policy making. It may interest you to note that I am till date the Vice President of Osun State Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Deputy President of Iwo Chamber of Commerce.

**You serve as special adviser to Governor Adeleke. How much of a policy entrepreneur are you in this administration?**

The most rewarding of my public service experience started in November 2022 when Governor Adeleke assumed office. My principal is a social change agent. Our Deputy Governor, the Secretary to the State Government, the Chief of Staff and even the House Speaker, are all social change agents. We all scramble to bring positive impacts into our society. There is a competition for innovation across the sectors. Cabinet members compete to



introduce new ideas that can impact positively on the people. So to answer your question, I am proud to assert that I am a policy entrepreneur in this government. My preoccupation is about bringing positive development to our communities. Since the governor and the entire team have the same vision, I count myself as a lucky hand. From my town of Iwo to other parts of the state, visible signs of progress are there. For me, the day the governor came to our family area at Iwo to commission a health center, a road and two boreholes were the height of my happiness. I grew up in that area without any basic amenities. Through our government, our people now have a health centre, water supply and a good road. Why will I not be qualified to be a policy entrepreneur?

**In what way has your Abuja experience impacted on your present position in Osun state government?**

My past has greatly empowered me to service my boss and the government. I bring vast public governance experience to the table and I have responsive leaders to work with. This is my fourth political appointment but this is my first appointment at the state level. Here at Osogbo, you are closer to the people unlike the Abuja experience. As a tested public service professional, it was not difficult for me to navigate the governance terrain. I am eternally grateful to the Adeleke Dynasty for the maximum support and backing I receive. Again, it is a great privilege and honour to speak for Senator Ademola Adeleke, the President of the Adeleke dynasty. The governmental space provides an experimental laboratory for me as a policy person. We tested a lot of ideas, many of which worked out. It has been a rewarding experience. I however find it initially difficult to adapt to Osogbo life having been Abuja based since 1999.

**I want to be a bit private in my question? How is your family background, children?**

God has been so good. I have five great children, four out of University and working. My last born is in 400 level at the university. I am happily married to Yeye Tolulope. She is the daughter of a great journalist and Comrade, late Chief Niyi Oniororo from Moba, Ekiti state. My late father, an Action Group politician is from Iwo while my mother is originally from Ilesa from where her parents migrated to Lalupon in Lagelu local government of Oyo state. So I have a maternal root at Ilesa.

**How did you come about Mallam as your appellation?**

Many have been asking the same question especially when I never attended any quranic school. A mallam is a teacher. Of course, my first degree was English language education. But more seriously, it is an aspiration to be closer to God. I am a sufi muslim and I long to be closer to God in my doings, hence the appellation. Of course, I was turbanned by the late Sheikh Abdulahi Sallaty as Giwa Adini for Quadriya sect for Iwo land as far back as the year 2000.

**What are your future professional goals?**

Mallam: I hope to be publishing at least two books annually. Those publications will deal with governance issues and will draw from my decades of experience across the sectors. I am also considering a study in the field of policy entrepreneurship. I just reached out to a friend at a UK university. I hope to build on my 1994 Masters In Public Administration degree by focusing on a new niche area of policy entrepreneurship. Another professional ambition I have is to start a MOR Policy Series in partnership with the Osun Governance Society. This series will be designing and proposing policy options across all sectors of our state and regional economy. There will be quarterly policy publications among others.

IROYIN YORUBA

**ATUPALE ỌRỌ TI GOMINA IPINLE ỌŞUN, ŞENETO NURUDEEN ADEMOLA ADELEKE, KA LORII BI AWỌN ALAGA ẸGBẸ APC ŞE DURO SI KANSU LỌNA AITỌ ATI IDAABO BO IJỌBA TIWANTIWA NIPINLE ỌŞUN**

Eyin eeyan mi nipinle Ọşun, bi a şe nilo igbese kiakia lati da isejoba to ba ofin mu ati ti alaafia pada si ẹsekuku nipinle wa lo fa a ti mo fi ni lati soro lasiko yii.

Lati nnkan bii odun kan bayii ni awon alaga ẹgbẹ oşelu APC atawon kanselo won ti ile-ẹjọ ti le kuro l’ofisi ti joko si sekiteriati ijoba ibile kaakiri ipinle Ọşun lona aitọ. Inu oşu Kọkanla, odun 2022 ni ile-ẹjọ giga ijoba apapọ to wa niluu Oşogbo ti fagile idibo to gbe won wole, ile-ẹjọ Kotemilorun si fi ldi idajo yii mulẹ lojo Kewaa, oşu Keji ati ojo Ketala, oşu Kefa, odun 2025.

Ile-ẹjọ fagile ibo to gbe won wole nitori pe o tako agbekale ofin eto idibo.

Ki i şe emi ni mo le awon alaga ati kanselo ẹgbẹ oşelu APC yii ni ofisi, ile-ẹjọ ni. Latigba naa, won ko ni eto kankan mo labe ofin.

Sibe, ninu iwa aibowo fun idajo ile-ẹjọ ati ainaani ijoba tiwantiwa, won ko lati kuro ni sekiteriati pelu atileyin ileese olupaa orileede yii nipase ase ti won so pe Gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola, pa fun won.

Nigba to ya, latari ase ile-ẹjọ to ti wa nile, ile-ẹjọ giga ipinle Ọşun pase fun ajo to n seto idibo ijoba ibile nipinle Ọşun, Osun State Independent Electoral Commission, lati şe eto idibo tuntun si awon ijoba ibile.

Nibamu pelu ase yii, leyin ti won fi ikede sita fun odidi otalelodunrun ojo, eto idibo to dangajia waye lojo Kejilelogun, oşu Keji, odun 2025, a si sebura fun awon alaga ati kanselo tawon araalu dibo yan lojo Ketalelogun, oşu Keji, odun 2025. Awon eeyan yii nikan ni ojulowo adari ijoba ibile to wa l’Ọşun labe ofin.

Şise afikun saa isejoba lona aitọ

Ohun ti ko ruju rara, to si wa ninu ofin ni pe ko saaye lati şafikun saa eni ti won ba dibo yan leyin igba ti ojo re ba pe. Ile-ẹjọ to ga julọ lorileede yii, ninu ẹjọ gomina ana nipinle Oyo, Gomina Ladoja, dajo pe ko şe e şe lati şafikun saa gomina, koda, leyin ti kootu so pe won yo o kuro l’ofisi lona aitọ fun odidi oşu mokanla ki won to da apada.

Ninu iwe ipejo orişirişii

kaakiri awon kootu wa bayii, titi to fi de ile-ẹjọ to ga julọ lorileede yii, awon agbejoro won ati Amofin-Agba fun orileede yii gba pe awon alaga ati kanselo ẹgbẹ APC ko ni ase lati wa l’ofisi koja ojo Kejilelogun, oşu Kewaa, odun 2025.

Lati le fidi re mulẹ pe saa won ti lo sopin, awon alaga ẹgbẹ APC ati kanselo wonyii lo si ile-ẹjọ giga ijoba apapọ lati lo beere fun afikun saa won to ti dopin.

Ile-ẹjọ ko ti gbo ẹjọ yen. Şugbon igbese wiwa afikun si saa won fi han gbangba pe won mo pe saa ti won n tenu mo ti dopin labe ofin ati ododo.

Ti a ba kan tile so pe awon alaga ati kanselo APC yii ni saa kankan, saa won ti kenu-b’odo lojo Kejilelogun, oşu Kewaa, odun 2025.

Pelu gbogbo eri-arigbamu labe ofin yii, won si fagidi joko si sekiteriati pelu idaabobo latowo awon olupaa ti a gbo pe won n gba ase latodo gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola.

Lojo die seyin, awon oşise ijoba ibile gbiyanju lati pada senu ise nigba ti won ro pe awon APC a-je-ga-ba yii yoo kuro l’ofisi nigba ti won ti gba funraa won pe saa awon ti dopin.

Bo tile je pe awon olupaa ti koko şeleri lati daabo bo won, sibe, pupo awon oşise yii lawon olupaa ati awon togi ẹgbẹ APC lu lalubami, ti won si dunkoko mo won. Lilo awon olupaa lati fi deruba awon oşise je asilo agbara ati aibowo fun ijoba tiwantiwa.

Işejoba mi gboju aagan si iru iwa yii. Amo şa, a ti pinnu lati gbe igbese alaafia. ldi ni pe ohun to je erongba awon ota araalu yii ni lati da wahala silẹ eleyii to le yori si ikede ijoba pajawiri nipinle wa.

O ba ni lokan je pe ninu ijoba tiwantiwa, awon alaga ati kanselo ẹgbẹ APC yii n hale lori ikanni ayelujara won pe awon yoo wa ni sekiteriati ijoba ibile titi digba ti awon ba fe nitori pe gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola, wa leyin awon, ti a ba si gbe igbese lati le awon kuro ni sekiteriati pelu ipa, o maa yori si ikede ijoba pajawiri, tijoba apapọ yoo si so pe kişejoba mi lo rookun nile.

Gbogbo erongba won yii la ti dabaru ni tiwa pelu ogbon-inu ati bibowo fun ofin. Şugbon nigba miran, mo maa n ro o pe şe a ši wa



labe isakoso ijoba tiwantiwa bayii nibi ti ko ti ye ki enikeni ga ju ofin lo.

Nipinle Ọşun, o dabii eni pe awon alaga ati kanselo ẹgbẹ APC ti saa won ti dopin yii ga ju ofin lo labe oore-ofe Gboyega Oyetola. Mo ti ko leta si gbogbo awon adari ileese agbofinro to je tijoba apapọ nipa iwa to le da wahala silẹ nipinle Ọşun.

O şe ni laaanu pe gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola yan lati lo awon ileese to je tijoba apapọ, paapaa, ileese olupaa, lati fiya je awon araalu. O tun ti lo agbara yii kan naa ni Banki UBA lati fi ara ni awon araalu nipase ase to tako ofin re.

Gege bi e şe mo, latinu oşu Keji, odun 2025 ni won ti gbese le owo to ye ko maa wole sijoba ibile l’Ọşun. Pelu akosile ipade tijoba apapọ ti maa n pin owo funjoba ipinle, FAAC, aadoje bilonun naira ni owo awon ijoba ibile wa tijoba apapọ gbese le. Awon eeyan ti ofin ko da mo gbiyanju lati gba owo naa nipase akanti tuntun ti won si pelu Banki UBA.

Ohun ti ko ye mi ni bi iru Banki gbajugbaja bii UBA yoo şe faaye gba awon eeyan ti ofin ko da mo lati lo o tako ofin wa leyin ti a ti gba a nimoran nipa

ojulowo awon to le buwo lu akanti naa.

Şe Banki UBA le mo-on-mo şe lodi si ofin ilu New York tabi ofin London nibi to wa? RARA ni idahun. Şugbon loju tiwon, orileede Najirria la wa, nibi ti eeyan ti le huwa lodi si ofin lai ni atubotan kankan niwon igba to wa nibamu pelu ife okan gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola.

Mo feş so fun awon eeyan mi nipinle Ọşun pe awon manija UBA ti won lowo ninu şisi akanti fun awon eeyan ti ofin ko damo ti n koju esun iwa odaran nile-ẹjọ bayii.

Owo ijoba ibile la fi n san owo-oşu awon olukọ ileewe alakobere, awon noşsi atawon oşise eleto ilera ti won wa kaakiri awon ileewosan alakobere wa to je ojilelodunrun o din mejo to wa nipinle Ọşun, awon oşise ijoba ibile, awon ori-ade pelu awon oşisefeyintin ni gbogbo ijoba ibile.

E waa wo iru inira nla ti awon ti won n gba owo-oşu latinu owo to n wole latijoba ibile i ba maa koju bayii tijoba mi ko ba ya owo latinu asunwon ijoba ipinle lati san owo yii fun won lati oşu mejila seyin, yatọ si owo-oşu awon lqbalqba.

Lati le yo owo ninu owo ijoba ipinle, işera-eni to ga

ni. Şe la kararo lori owo ajemonu awon oşise ijoba agba ati ti awon oşelu, to fi mo mimu ifaseyin ba awon ise akanşe to n lo laarin ilu. A şe eleyii nitori işejoba gbodo je eyi to ni imolara awon araalu, to mo ojuse re, to si ni ilaanu, şugbon a le ma le te siwaju ninu eleyii.

Pelu bi Banki UBA şe pa’wo mo owo to to si awon ijoba ibile l’Ọşun lai naani inira awon olukọ ileewe alakobere, awon oşise eto ilera, awon oşise ijoba ibile awon oşisefeyinti, ati gbogbo awon eeyan ipinle Ọşun labe ase Gboyega Oyetola, awon alaga ẹgbẹ APC ati kanselo ti saa won ti lo sopin n gba milionu-milionu naira latodo Banki yii kan naa. O şeni laaanu pe iru iwa ti ko to yii le maa waye labe ijoba awaarawa.

Nikorita yii, mo fi towo-towo rawo ẹbe si Aare Bola Ahmed Tinubu lati da si oro yii. Mo feş fi da gbogbo awon eeyan ipinle Ọşun loju pe Aare ko mo si iwa ti ko to yii. Aare wa wa lara awon ti won ba awon ologun ja lati ni ijoba tiwantiwa.

Mo gbagbo pe şe ni Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola n lo oruko Aare, lai je ki aare mo, lati le je ki awon olupaa ati Banki UBA tele

ase re. Mo wa n ro Aare lati daabo bo ijoba tiwantiwa nipa gbigba awon ijoba ibile Ọşun lowo awon ti saa won ti pari yii.

Mo fe ki won ka gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola, lapa ko lori ase ti ko bofin mu, to si lodi si agbekale ijoba awaarawa, to n pa fun awon olupaa.

Ko si ibi kankan ninu ofin wa to faaye gba afikun saa awon ti won ba dibo yan.

Ohun to doju ko wa bayii ni aibowo fun ofin ati hilu iwa ta-ni-yoo-mu-mi.

Nitori naa, mo n ke si gbogbo awon omo orileede yii ati awon ti won fi ara won jin fun idasile ijoba tiwantiwa lati darapo mo wa lati mu ki opin de ba idaamu nijoba ibile wa.

Gomina ana, Gboyega Oyetola, jowo, je ki Ọşun rimu mi. O to geş.

Mo dupe lowo gbogbo yin fun atileyin ati iduroşinşin yin. E maa te siwaju lati gbadura fun wa, ki e si tubo nigbagbo ninu ipinlu wa lati daabo bo etoyin.

Gege bii gomina yin, ma a mu igbega ba ofin ile wa, ma a mu igbayegbadun yin lokunkundun. Mo ro yin lati gba alaafia laaye, lati bowo fun ofin ati lati maa şora.

Ki Ọlorun bun kun yin. Ki Ọlorun bun kun ipinle Ọşun.

Ki Ọlorun si bun kun orileede Najirria.

## OPINION



Tinubu



Fagbemi



Adeleke

# The Reputational Cost of Osun's Local Government Funds Crisis

By Segun Ojo

The ongoing crisis over the control and management of local government funds in Osun State has grown beyond a legal and political disagreement, leaving behind reputational damage for institutions and political actors involved. The matter now tends towards criminal implications and questions about financial accountability and transparency.

What began as a dispute over local government administration has weakened public confidence in governance, strained relations between political parties and labour unions, and dragged a major financial institution, United Bank for Africa (UBA), into a controversy with implications beyond the state. The matter is already a test case for democratic practices at sub-national level.

The crisis started as a disagreement between the Osun State Government, led by Governor Ademola Adeleke of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) now Accord Party and the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) over the status of local government councils and the handling of statutory allocations meant for grassroots administration. Facts before the public indeed blame current on actions and decisions of the former governor after his electoral defeat in July 2022.

The APC insists that local government chairmen elected during the administration of former governor Gboyega Oyetola now the current Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, remain valid following court judgments, while the Adeleke-led government maintains that the councils were lawfully dissolved and that continued recognition of the APC-backed officials undermines constitutional order and local government administration. But the widely held non-partisan viewpoint is that the tenure the APC claimed lapsed last October, 2025.

As the dispute lingers, its effects are being felt across political, financial, and labour circles. Already allegations and counter-allegations are flying around about local government money being shared among politicians when no kobo has been paid to local workers in the last 12 years.

Local governments are the closest tier of government to the people, responsible for basic services such as primary healthcare, sanitation, markets, and local infrastructure. The governor however prevented total paralysis of grassroots governance by paying local workers from the state treasury in the last 12 months.

Yet, the prolonged tussle over who controls council administration and funds has disrupted these functions, leaving many councils unable to operate effectively. The governor paying almost 15 billion naira monthly for local government workers and pensioners has become unsustainable.

For residents, the crisis has reinforced perceptions of

political power struggles taking precedence over service delivery. The people are particularly shocked at the violation of democratic principles. The people felt neglected and insulted.

Civil servants and pensioners at the local government level have repeatedly raised concerns about delayed payments, while development projects remain stalled in several councils. The deepening level of impunity generates suppressed anger among the grassroots populace.

Analysts say this breakdown at the grassroots level has damaged public trust in the political system and weakened confidence in the ability of elected officials to manage public resources responsibly. In more specific terms, political pundits are of the view that the local government leadership crisis will determine voters' choices across the 30 local governments.

The crisis has also taken a toll on the image of the APC in Osun, particularly among voters who associate the party with the controversy. The APC appears to have added the current backlash to her long list of political baggage and deficit namely the half salary debacle, the pensioners hangover, the guber primaries challenges alongside current infighting on sharing formula for the local government funds.

The APC claim that it is maintaining and defending the rule of law and court judgments was taken with a pinch of salt by members of the public who tend to believe that there was no court judgement that reinstated the APC chairmen and that its current occupation of the council secretariats was illegal and a demonstration of brute force in a democratic setting.

For many members of the electorate, especially at the local level, the details of court rulings matter less than the visible impact on their daily lives. They see a political party forcefully imposing itself and tampering with money meant for local development for private pockets. They are angry but powerless as they read of millions of naira been shared among politicians from fund meant for local development.

Delayed salaries, stalled projects, and administrative uncertainty have shaped public perception, with the APC increasingly viewed by many voters as the architect of the political conflict that has brought governance at the grassroots to a standstill.

With future elections in view, political observers note that the APC's association with the crisis could affect its support base, particularly in rural areas where local governments play a central role in community life. Even pro-APC pundits are secretly voicing apprehension of the downward slope in the popularity rating of the party among the populace. Even, the party's parroting of federal might has not stop the widening level of disapproval for the party among the people.

Perhaps one of the most significant consequences of the crisis has been the growing tension between the APC and

organised labour. No party has won Osun election in the past without the full support of the labour movement. Already the labour groups have endorsed Adeleke especially flowing from the local government crisis among others.

Labour unions, including the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), have consistently raised concerns about workers' welfare amid the dispute. For labour groups, the crisis represents more than a political disagreement; it is seen as a direct threat to job security, wages, and pensions.

This perception has damaged the APC's standing within the labour movement, traditionally an influential bloc in shaping public opinion and political mobilisation.

Labour leaders argue that any political action that disrupts salary payments and workers' welfare will naturally attract resistance, regardless of legal arguments. This has widened the gap between the APC and labour unions, making reconciliation increasingly difficult. Attempts to hound the labour leaders by the APC has driven labour groups deeply into the fold of Accord/PDP in the state.

The involvement of United Bank for Africa (UBA) in the handling of local government funds has added a financial and institutional dimension to the crisis. Most observers accept the narration that the UBA breached the state law which regulate management of local government finances. Even national finance experts are worried as to why UBA is entangled in what appear like direct disobedience of local regulatory laws.

Allegations and counter-allegations surrounding the management and custody of the fund, arising from compliance with court orders and government directives, have placed the bank under public scrutiny. The general impression out there is that in Osun the UBA appears to have decided not to operate within regulatory frameworks. The public is increasingly associating the names of the bank with political impunity and partisan banking practices in a politically sensitive dispute that poses reputational risks, particularly in a climate where public trust in financial institutions is closely linked to transparency and neutrality.

Industry experts note that for a bank with international operations, even local controversies can attract wider attention, especially when they involve public funds and government accounts. What is more disturbing is the reported plan to picket UBA offices and petition local and international regulatory agencies.

How the matter is resolved, they argue, will influence perceptions of institutional responsibility and governance standards. The public expect restoration of normalcy; the grassroots also seek accountability of reported billions allegedly being shared among politicians. What is more, voters are anxiously waiting to deliver electoral judgement come August 8th.

*.Segun Ojo, a public affairs analyst, writes from Ikirun, Osun state*

NEWS

**Banditry: Unseal Osun Amotekun Office - Governor Adeleke to Police IG**

By Sola Isola

Osun state Governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke has made a public call to the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun to unseal the Operation base of the Amotekun Corps in the state and allow the security outfit to operate seamlessly without fear of arrest or harassment.

He warned against spillover of banditry and kidnapping from Kwara state into Osun, urging the police to immediately lift ban on Amotekun operations to combat the emerging threats.

Responding to another case of kidnapping at Ora Igbomina area, the Governor in a statement by his Spokesperson said the state is handicapped in its security response as

the Amotekun service has remained sealed by the Police with her top officers in detention without trial for several months.

The governor posited that the Amotekun service had developed the containment expertise especially in the rural border areas,

submitting that the police's shutting down of the service operations has created a big gap being exploited by bandits and criminals.

He then called on the Inspector General of Police to charge those detained to court and

unseal the service stated that further delay may endanger the rural population and open the state to further criminal infiltration.

"I am taking this matter to the public domain in view of another kidnapping at Ora Igbomina. Closing

down Amotekun exposes Osun people to serious risks. I call on the Inspector General of Police to unseal Amotekun and allow its operatives to secure my people across the grassroots.

"Those officers in detention should be

charged to court after several months of incarceration. Any further delay in the unsealing of Amotekun will further jeopardise the safety and security of our people", the Governor stated after closed door security meeting.



**Osun: Calls For Emergency State As A Weapon For Political Brinkmanship**

By Islaka Wakeel

As the August 2026 guber poll in Osun State inches closer, political tension is beginning to rise as is customary in a democratic setting. What is not customary, however, is the disturbing resort by some faceless groups to extreme rhetoric, including calls for a declaration of a state of emergency in the state. These calls, couched in vague claims and alarmist language, appear less motivated by genuine concern for public safety & more by political hostility towards the govt of the day in Osun.

I need to state clearly that a state of emergency is not a routine political instrument. It is one of the most drastic measures recognised by the Nigerian Constitution, meant to be invoked only when a state faces an existential threat. To trivialise such a measure by dragging it into partisan contestation is to undermine both constitutional order & democratic norms.

By any objective assessment, Osun State does not meet the threshold for emergency rule. It is relatively a peaceful state, at least when juxtaposed with

several parts of the country that are grappling with banditry, insurgency, kidnappings & communal clashes. I am unaware of any prolonged security breaches, collapse of civil authority or any situation that overwhelms the capacity of existing security agencies in Osun. Markets are still functioning, schools remain open, courts sit & people go about their daily lives without the atmosphere of fear that typically precedes emergency declarations.

Therefore, a pertinent question is: what exactly is the emergency in Osun? Those pushing this narrative have failed to provide verifiable evidence of any security situation severe enough to warrant the suspension of democratic structures in Osun. Instead, what I am seeing is a familiar pattern in Nigeria's political history: each time elections draw near & political competition tightens, some actors seek to 'invent' crises to weaken incumbents or invite external intervention. This approach is both irresponsible & dangerous.

The incumbent governor of Osun was elected through a constitutionally recognised process. His mandate, like that of any other elected official, can only be renewed or

withdrawn through democratic means. While Adeleke's administration is not immune from criticism, dissatisfaction with governance is not & should never be a ground for emergency rule.

In my view, any call for a state of emergency in Osun of today amounts to an admission of political failure & suggests an inability to engage the electorate, articulate alternatives or wait for the voters' verdict in August 2026. It is nauseating that instead of competing in the marketplace of ideas, some actors are hellbent on tilting the playing field by portraying Osun as ungovernable! Maybe they don't even know that this tactic has far-reaching implications beyond Osun. Once the bar for declaring a state of emergency is lowered to accommodate political intolerance, no state is safe any longer. Such a precedent could turn emergency powers into political weapons, deployed not in defence of citizens but against democratic choice.

There is also a significant socio-economic cost to this kind of rhetoric. Branding any peaceful state as unstable sends the wrong signals to investors & creates unnecessary anxiety among residents. In a country already grappling

with negative perceptions & economic headwinds, states cannot afford the reputational damage that comes with false alarms. Moreover, the psychology of fear is itself destabilising. When political actors & their agents provocateurs repeatedly cry wolf, they erode public trust & dull the society's ability to respond when genuine emergencies arise. Security discourse should be guided by facts, intelligence & professional assessment, not by campaign calculations.

If there are concerns about governance in Osun, they can be raised through multiple channels created by the country's constitution. The ballot box, not emergency proclamations, is the proper forum for passing judgment on any administration. National security must not be outsourced to partisan pressure. Allowing local political disputes to masquerade as security threats will surely amount to a dangerous politicisation of federal power. Emergency powers, once invoked, often outlive their original justification & leave behind scars on democratic institutions. They should, therefore,

remain a last resort, not a convenient tool for political brinkmanship.

I don't doubt that Osun will witness intense political engagement as August approaches. That is healthy & expected. What must be resisted, however, is the descent into manufactured crises & constitutional shortcuts being orchestrated to subvert the will of the people. Osun deserves better than politics driven by fear & sabotage. It deserves a contest of

ideas & visions for development. The people of the state should be allowed to assess their leaders freely & fairly, without the shadow of contrived emergencies hanging over their choice.

Here is my candid advice: those who truly have the interest of Osun at heart should invest their energy in persuasion, mobilisation & credible alternatives; not in desperate calls for extraordinary measures that the state neither needs nor deserves.

**OsunSpring**  
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## OPINION

# GSI Polls Survey: Why Gov Adeleke Remains The Man To Beat

By Johnson Samuel

The recent survey conducted by Geopolitics Survey International (GSI) and the release of the results of that survey, in which Governor Ademola Adeleke stands as a towering Iroko tree dwarfing the two opposition parties' candidates, the APC and the ADC, indeed indicates that the people are with Governor Adeleke and like the name of the Governor's party, Accord party, Osun is in one accord for Adeleke.

The people of Osun State are with Governor Adeleke and are for Governor Adeleke. In fact, one would say that the Osun people and Governor Adeleke are like Siamese twins; they are joined together, much, much inseparable.

So, when the recently conducted survey poll was carried out, it was no surprise that Governor Adeleke will be the winner of the poll, and come to think of it, why will it even be a surprise to every Osun people and all lovers of good will and good leadership, when every person in the state has been touched by the governor's Midas touch in a spheres of lives, be it Education, Health, wealth creation through skills acquisition and empowerment, portable water schemes, good roads, electricity, and much more.

So to say that the recently released survey by Geopolitics Survey International (GSI) regarding the upcoming governorship election in Osun State, where the governor trounced two other parties, the so called major opposition parties and the Governor's challengers in the state as a true reflection of the electoral thinking is an understatement but a showing by the people of the state that Adeleke is their choice come rain and come sun.

A quick look at the GSI survey revealed that 79 percent of sampled respondents said they will vote for Governor Ademola Adeleke if an election were to be held today, 15 percent selected AMBO, the APC Candidate, while 6 percent opted for Najeem, the ADC candidate.

Even so, most respondents to this question gave reasons as to Governor Adeleke's exceptional performance in office as the reasons for their choice, while the same percentage who listed their voices against AMBO on the ground of his past anti-labor stance, being part of failed APC regime of the past, and his alleged involvement in the ongoing illegal extension of illegal tenure of APC Yes/No officials across Osun local governments.

However, the GSI survey is not the only survey that has placed Governor Adeleke on this high pedestal of winning over all other candidates; his works and achievements speak for themselves and have so made him loved by the people.

The Accord party just a few weeks ago had conducted its own survey and even came out with the result that found the winning percentage of Governor Adeleke is more than 80 percent, a reflection that depicts widespread popularity and acceptance of his government among the Osun people.

A lesson for the opposition to note is that the recently released survey by Geopolitics International is a true demonstration of the anger of the people against the APC for its dehumanising treatment of pensioners and local workers, for its unrepentance over the half salaries, and its lack of remorse for the bad governance of 2018 to 2022, among others.

When it is said that Osun is in one accord for Adeleke, it simply means that Accord is working with a coalition of several other groups and platforms to deliver Adeleke for a second term, ensuring continuity of progress and people-centered governance in Osun State.

Many things speak for the man, Governor Adeleke; in fact, he is the rave of the moment, he is also the man of the moment, and the man of the people, it is a known fact that his accomplishments and achievements transcend beyond politics and are focused on the development of Osun State.

Adeleke as the lamp of Osun state has done immeasurable things in Osun as the chief executive of the state and he is still doing more.

As it is, he remains the simplest and most convincing answer to the enduring quest for sustainable



development in the state.

Governor Adeleke's administration has redefined governance with a people-centered approach that prioritizes tangible progress, social inclusion and responsive leadership.

He has restored hope and confidence in public service across Osun State.

Osun State has witnessed renewed momentum across virtually all sectors, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, workers' welfare and grassroots development under Governor Adeleke.

The very truth here is that the APC having seen defeat staring glaringly in their eyes and with the knowledge that they will suffer heavy defeat at the August 8 election quickly resorted to violence and other wrongs moves in order to cause breakdown of law and order, but unknowingly to them Osun people knows what they want and refused to be deceived by their antics and evil machinations.

Cases have been decided against the APC chairmen, and the judgments required them to vacate office yet, the APC knowing that rule of law ought to have prevailed but have continued in their impunity all in a bid to torment trouble and causes commotion in the state, so as to destabilize the

APC's desperation to return power in Osun state through every undemocratic means, despite being clearly rejected by the people of Osun State will still not save them come August 8, 2026.

The will of the people must always remain supreme in a democratic society and in the case of Osun there is no difference and they want to prove it to the APC that power should only be obtained through the ballot and the genuine support of the masses, not through manipulation, backdoor arrangements, or political intimidation.

APC's 12 years of poor governance and unfulfilled

promises in Osun has made the citizens of Osun State to have consciously chosen a new direction based on performance, accountability, and people-centred leadership.

Governor Adeleke has completely redefined governance in the state and made it impossible for the people to return to the past.

The Governor's visible impact are being seen in key areas such;

- Massive road and infrastructure development
- Improved workers' welfare and regular payment of salaries
- Investments in education and healthcare
- Strengthened security architecture
- Youth empowerment and social inclusion

These achievements have spoken louder than any political propaganda and have naturally earned the Governor the trust, loyalty, and support of the people across Osun State.

The poll result once again shows the resolve of the people of the state which the people are seriously sounding it as a warning any attempt by opposition forces to undermine the democratic process or impose leadership against the will of the people, such attempt will be resisted by the collective consciousness of Osun citizens, who are now more politically aware and determined to protect their mandate.

What the polls ratify is that Governor Ademola Adeleke's second-term bid is not just a political project, but a people's movement rooted in performance and credibility.

The recent poll is once again showing that Osun State has moved forward. The people have chosen light over darkness, progress over stagnation, and performance over propaganda and there is no going back.

And like the saying in the state today, "Osun State is in Accord for Adeleke."

• Johnson Samuel, a public affairs analyst, sent this piece from Ikre, Osun state



## TEXT OF A STATE BROADCAST BY THE GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE, HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR NURUDEEN ADEMOLA ADELEKE, ON THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIATS AND THE DEFENCE OF DEMOCRATIC ORDER IN OSUN STATE.

**M**y dear people of Osun State, the urgent necessity to restore lawful, peaceful, and effective governance at the grassroots in our state compels me to speak to you at this time.

For close to one year now, local government secretariats across Osun State have been under illegal occupation by the court-sacked APC chairmen and councillors, whose election was nullified by the Federal High Court, Osogbo, in November 2022, and affirmed by the Court of Appeal on 10 February 2025 and again on 13 June 2025.

Their election was struck down because it was conducted in clear violation of the requirements of the law.

I did not remove these APC chairmen and councillors from office. The court did. Since then, they have had no lawful mandate whatsoever.

Yet, in brazen contempt of the law and in repudiation of democratic decency, they have refused to vacate the secretariats, emboldened by the backing of the Nigerian Police, as allegedly instructed by former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

By contrast, pursuant to subsisting court orders, the Osun State High Court directed the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission to conduct fresh local government elections.

In compliance, after giving the required 360 days' notice, lawful local government elections were held on 22 February 2025, and duly elected chairmen and councillors were sworn in on 23 February 2025. These officials constitute the only lawful local government leadership in Osun State today.

### Illegal Tenure Elongation

It is a settled matter of law that the tenure of elected officials in Nigeria cannot be extended for a single day after the expiration of their tenure. The Supreme Court, in the case of former Governor Ladoja of Oyo State, ruled that the governor's tenure could not be extended after finding in his favour that he was removed from office illegally for about eleven months and reinstating him to office.

In several filings that have become public documents in our courts, including the Supreme Court, their lawyers and the Attorney-General of the Federation admitted that these APC chairmen and councillors have no claim to office beyond October 22, 2025.

To further confirm that their so-called tenure has expired, the APC chairmen and councillors approached the Federal High Court, seeking an extension of their expired tenure.

That case has not been heard. But the very act of seeking an extension amounts to a clear admission, both in law and in fact, that whatever so-called tenure they claimed they had had expired. Assuming, without conceding, that the APC chairmen and councillors had any tenure, that tenure expired on October 22, 2025.

Despite these incontrovertible legal facts, they have continued to occupy the local government secretariats by brute force, with police protection allegedly acting on the instructions of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

A few days ago, believing that these APC imposters would honour even their own admission that their tenure had expired, local government workers attempted to resume their duties.

Although the police initially promised protection, many of these workers were instead beaten, harassed, and intimidated by a combination of armed police officers and APC thugs. The use of armed police officers to occupy local government secretariats and intimidate civil servants is a grave abuse of power and an affront to democracy.

My administration took serious exception to this development. However, we have deliberately chosen the path of peace. This is because the ultimate objective of these enemies of our people is to provoke violence, unleash mayhem, and then manufacture conditions for the imposition of a state of emergency on Osun State.

It is saddening that in a democracy, these APC chairmen and councillors threaten, on their various social media platforms, that they will continue to occupy the local government secretariats for as long as they want because they claim to have the backing of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola, and that any attempt to remove them from their illegal occupation of the local government secretariats will surely result in the imposition of a state of emergency on Osun State, with the suspension of my administration.

Time and again, we have frustrated their plans by responding with restraint, maturity, and respect for the rule of



law. But sometimes, I wonder if we are really under a democratic system of government where nobody is above the law.

In Osun State, it seems that the APC chairmen and councillors, whose so-called tenure has expired, are above the law by the grace of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola. I have formally written to the heads of relevant federal security agencies regarding actions that threaten peace and order in Osun State.

It is deeply unfortunate that former Governor Gboyega Oyetola has chosen to weaponize federal institutions, particularly the Nigerian Police Force. He has equally applied the same approach to the United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) to impose hardship and suffering on the good people of Osun State through alleged illegal instructions.

As you are aware, since February 2025, statutory allocations to Osun State local governments have been withheld. As of the last FAAC meeting, a total of One Hundred and Thirty Billion Naira of our local government funds is being illegally withheld by the Federal Government.

Attempts were made to divert those funds through accounts opened with United Bank for Africa (UBA) by people not authorized by law to be signatories to local government funds.

What I do not understand is why a reputable international bank like UBA has allowed itself to be used to break our laws and permit people who are not recognized by law to be signatories to Osun State local government accounts, after it has been advised on those whom the law says can be signatories to these accounts.

Can UBA willfully break the laws of New York State or the laws of the City of London where it operates?

The answer is a CAPITAL NO.

But as far as they are concerned, this is Nigeria, where our laws can be trampled upon without consequence, as long as they are allegedly breaking the law to satisfy former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

I want to inform the good people of Osun State that those senior managers in UBA who aided and abetted the opening of Osun State local government accounts by people not allowed by law are already facing criminal prosecution before our courts.

The local government statutory allocation is the primary source for the remuneration of primary school teachers, nurses, and other health workers at the 332 health care centres in Osun State, all local government workers, the traditional councils, as well as retirees in each local government in Osun State.

Imagine the level of suffering these people who depend on local government statutory allocations for the payment of their salaries would have gone through if my government had not stepped in to borrow from the state government to pay the salaries of these workers over the last almost 12 months, with the exception of traditional council salaries.

To be able to come up with the funds from the state government, a lot of sacrifices had to be made. Allowances due to senior civil servants and political appointees had to be put on hold, at great discomfort to these men and women. In addition to slowing down some of the state's ongoing projects. We have done this because governance is, above all, about humanity, responsibility, and compassion. But this is not sustainable.

While Osun local government funds are being withheld to the detriment of primary school teachers, nurses in our primary health care centres, local government civil servants, retirees, and the good people of Osun State in general by UBA, allegedly under the directive of former Governor Oyetola, the APC chairmen and councillors whose so-called tenure has lapsed are receiving payments in the millions from UBA, again allegedly under the directive of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola.

How this barefaced illegality can be happening in a democracy is very unfortunate, to say the least.

At this point, I respectfully appeal to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to intervene. I wish to assure the good people of Osun State that Mr. President is not involved in this illegality. Mr. President is among those who fought the military for our democracy.

I believe Mr. President's name is being used without his knowledge by Governor Gboyega Oyetola to get the Nigerian Police and UBA to obey his alleged illegal directives. I therefore urge Mr. President to protect the integrity of our democracy by rescuing Osun State local governments from the vice grip of those whose self-awarded tenure has lapsed.

I respectfully request that Governor Gboyega Oyetola be restrained from further issuance of illegal directives to the Nigerian Police, which undermine the very fabric of our democracy.

There is no place in our Constitution and laws that allows for tenure elongation for any elected official.

What confronts us here is law versus lawlessness, constitutional order versus naked impunity.

I therefore call on Nigerians and all those who sacrificed so much for our democracy to join us in demanding an immediate end to the siege on our local governments.

Former Governor Gboyega Oyetola, please allow Osun State to breathe. Enough is enough.

I thank you all for your support and steadfastness. Continue to pray for us and trust in our resolve to protect your interests.

As your governor, I will uphold the Constitution and safeguard your welfare.

I urge you to remain peaceful, lawful, and watchful.

May God bless you.  
May God bless Osun State.  
And may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.