



Mother Of All 419s

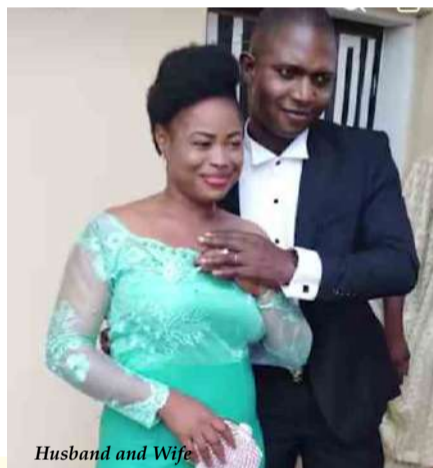
- Man Fakes Engagement, Impregnates Igbo Lady & Disappears
- Allegedly Hails From Ilaje, based in Okitipupa



Chimene



Kayode Egbetokun (IGP)



Husband and Wife



Obayendo

Eminent Businessman , Segun Obayendo makes case for Ikale youths
Says "we cannot develop without re-orienting out youths:



Chief Omotolu

Why I opted for Biripo instead of Juju, highlife or Asiko

- Biripo Super star, Chief Omotola Emaye,

Also In This Edition



Pa. Onunkun



Mama Alice

* Veteran Politician MAE Onunkun goes home

* Community Leader, Mama Alice Adekunbi Fadeni's final passage set for December 12th, 2024

REGULARS: Bitterpills, Baba Liliken, Ikale Kids. etc

* Voting Has Closed On Facebook

* But You Can Still Vote On Ikalenews.com Till October 30

Vote! Your Nominees Now

Ikale Gold Award (Highest category)

1. Mr Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo
2. Dr. Seinde Fadeni-Oladapo
3. Dr. Remi Olatubora (SAN)

Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Primary)

1. Chief S.E Lupo
2. Kingdom Heritage Model School, Okitipupa
3. St. Williams Nursery And pry school Okitipupa

Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Secondary)

1. Stella Maris College (Old Students Association)
2. M.M.G.S. (Old Students Association)
3. Ofedepe High School, Okitipupa

Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Tertiary)

1. Professor Francis Igbasan
2. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye
3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)

Ikale Community Service Award

1. Barr Phillip Ogunjumelo
2. Mr. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo
3. Mr. Deolu Ijose

Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler Award

1. HRM, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade (Uyi Oba 1, Lapoki of Aye Kingdom)

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How To Vote?

go to
ikalenews.com/awards

CHECK PG 28 FOR FACEBOOK VOTING RESULTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Tributes to two community legends

Mo ki dede Ikale, Ilaje, Apoi, Arogbo tu'li t'oko o! May the Lord see us through the remaining months of the year and beyond.

From this edition, we shall begin coverage of the passage of two eminent icons in Ikale – the Senator M.A.E. Onunkun and Chief (Mrs.) Alice Adekunbi Fadeni. Pa Onunkun passed on several months back at 98 while Mama Fadeni passed on last month at 98. May the Lord accept their souls!

Baba Onunkun's journey home starts on Wednesday October 23 in Okitipupa down on Ilutitun, his home town on Friday October 25 where he would be laid to final rest. Mama Fadeni begins hers on December 12th and ends in 15th with a thanks giving service a day after his burial at Ode Aye. To live 90 years in this incredible country is tough, not to talk of having “jara” of five and eight years respectively on top. Such is God's graciousness to us in this part of the world.

The Lord gifts us longevity. Believe it or not! That's what I have found out. We don't have the luxuries of the best hospitals. In fact, as kids, the best we had was dispensaries. I am sure many of our children don't know the meaning of dispensaries. They were today's health centres but the difference is that the dispensaries of those days had drugs and drug dispensers. Our health centres today have only signposts that indicate what they are. Not even padanol is available in them. Yet, our people lived to 80 and 90 years very easily. I have found out that the secret of longevity in Ikale, Ilaje and Apoi is “contentment”.

Baba Onunkun was a

wonderful community leader and politician. He was our first senator. But he was a contented man. When I wanted to join politics, as we usually say, I went to him. He was fascinated by my achievements in the academic world. He recalled that I had the best Advanced Level GCE result in West African in 1984. In addition, I am the son of Bolanle, his sister-in-law. Baba did a thorough analysis for me on how I could fulfill my goal of representing Ikale in the House of Representatives in the PDP of which he was chieftain. He identified the mines and blockages in front of me politically and told me what to do. He warned me that money would not be my problem. He said he wanted brilliant people like me to take part in politics and that Dr. Segun Agagu (his political protégé) would love me being in his team. I cannot forget his lines “Oma mi, the money needed for politics is not much, only that you spend it wisely.” Baba had limited needs. All the big people who contested elections must visit Baba Onunkun and you would not see any affluence in his life. He boasts of so many graduates in the family and to him that's what affluence is all about: Education. We in Ikale News will give him a befitting coverage as he goes home. He was an epitome of a great politician.

Mama Fadeni represents the typical Ikale mother. Mama lost her husband when her children were teenagers/early twenties. His death Pa Fadeni of Aye

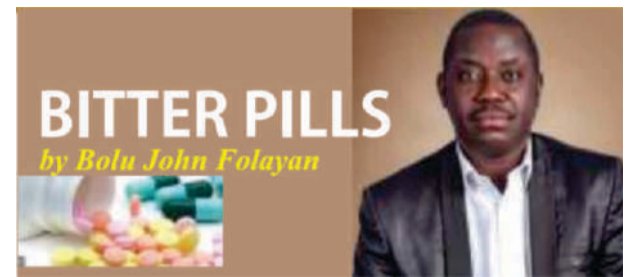


Kingdom (one of the few local entrepreneurs in the entire Okitipupa Division of note) was a rude shock. Mama survived the nightmare and faced the daunting task of raising her children all alone. Today, his first son, Dr Seinde is a billionaire and Femi is multi-millionaire. Mama ensured that her children were educated and till death, he lived for them. She used the success of his children to impart of youths of Ode Aye who were so fond of her because of her generosity. Almost everything she was given were given out to others!

Of course, I am not saying all of these because she is a person of substance in the society. Rather, I am saying it because it is a trend. It's not only her. Those who live a life of contentment live long. It is not easy in today's world not to “hustle”. Baba Onunkun and Mama Iye Femi too “hustled” but what made the difference was “contentment”. Watch out in our next edition for robust coverage of their glorious exits. All your other regulars are in this edition. We decided to repeat the interview with Ikale News Publisher on Ikale Awards to shed more light on the project as we prepare for December. Baba Liliken is back. Inside Stuff is also back and we have an exclusive interview with Ikale Awards nominee Segun Obayando. Enjoy your Ikale News
Bolu John Folayan
Publisher

BITTER PILL

Who Becomes The Next Ondo State Governor?



The headline of my column in this edition (above) could be described as “cynical” by the critical observer. Why is Bolu asking a question that the answer is too obvious? Why is he pretending as if he does not know who the winner of the November election will be?

My defence for casting that headline is two-fold. In journalism (news reporting and analysis), the journalist is trained to remove himself or herself from the analysis in order to make informed analysis. If he or she is writing an opinion piece, he or she can take sides and state his or her position emphatically. But in news analysis and interpretation, the journalist must reclus himself or herself.

A lot of media audience do not know this (or do not want to understand). The second reason for that headline is that “Oluwa nii fi Oba je” (It is God who ordains kings). In my close to four decades of journalism, I

have seen people given half or no chance win big elections. No matter how obvious the race is (in any sports) anything can happen. You have forgotten the Daman Football Miracle when the Golden Eaglets came from four goals down to win a match and eventually the trophy? Don't put your bet on politicians o.

They know politics is a game (like draught, ayo or football). Did M.K.O Abiola not win the June 12 1993 elections? But did he eventually WIN? I was political correspondent of Champion Newspapers when Sir Michael Otedola won the governorship election. The odds in his favour was 1:1000. The National Republican Convention (NRC) was practically not on ground in Lagos State. But Otedola became governor! How? Ote-di-ola noo ni nah! The Social Democratic Party (SDP) had internal wrangling over the

primary elections that produced the governor. The flag-bearer of the SDP was imposed and the SDP leaders against the candidate asked their supporters to vote NRC (kaka ki eku ma je sese, a fi se awa danu.) And we have had in the country all sorts of governors – Supreme Court Governor, Nabaruma Governor, etc. Brother, don't put your bet on politics.

Nevertheless, we as journalists are expected to interpret events and in the process, we should be able to make informed analysis of who would win election. One of the Lasswellian functions of journalism is the CORRELATION. Our job is partly to interpret events for our audience objectively. They trust our judgments and this helps them to weigh their options and make informed decisions about their votes. It has nothing to do with our personal expectations. Many

BITTER PILLS

people consult me on this and I have never failed, except when the matter goes to court. And that is beyond me. I am not a lawyer.

So for next month's election, I am confident that Lucky Aiyedatiwa would win. He will win fair and square in all the local government areas in the state. Everyone knows my choice for governor was Jimoh Ibrahim but he could not get the ticket and of course that effectively got me disinterested in the governorship matter altogether – disinterested, not uninterested. Not because SJI is the Messiah of Ondo State but because of how that primary election went.

But that is history. It's part of politics and I give it to Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa and his team – how he played the game and managed the aftermath. If Enyimba FC is to play Manchester City FC, it makes sense for the coach of Enyimba to be inventive in order to beat almighty Pep Guardiola and his serial winning team. I am particularly impressed at how the Obe Nla born governor managed the post-primaries. Not perfect, but so far he has tried.

Now, my reasons why Lucky would be Lucky again.

1. Incumbency: In Nigerian politics, incumbency factor is very vital. Don't bother to go and check the meaning of that word in the dictionary. Don't even ask CHAT GPT or Metal AI. They won't give you accurate answers. It is a nebulous political term that describes how bandwagon, power-play and money deliver votes a la carte. Police and the courts and standing on the touchline to see the game play out. The winner is declared and the loser can “go to court”. That is incumbency in Nigerian politics. It does not necessarily mean “rigging”. It means you use your power influence to improve your chances of winning. APC has the incumbency factor in excess in Ondo State and at Federal level. One up for Lucky!

2. Political Structure: Again, you will not get the meaning of political structure as known in Nigerian political parlance in any standard political dictionary. It simply

means “do you have people on ground to do the work?” When people said Peter Obi did not have structures, that was what they meant. And did it not play out? When Lucky was appointing 230 Special Assistants and was constituting exco members of local councils and development area councils, he was simply building structures for next month. Nothing more.

When Jimoh Ibrahim was doing his Aseyori thing in every ward and local government, he was building structures and that was what made him so formidable. Yes, PDP is very strong in Ondo State and can be found in every ward. But these members are like deflated “felele football”: You kick it to the left, it goes to the right. In this biting inflation, those PDP members will not be loyal to the party. Some of them would collect their “entitlement” and vote



“In Nigerian politics, incumbency factor is very vital”



for their parties but many of them will “eat in Ugbo and eat in Mahin” and then let the vote go to APC. The present structure of PDP in Ondo State cannot come near that of APC. Structures win elections in Nigeria. One up for Lucky!

3. Politicians: This is not a very strong factor in Ondo State but it still counts. In elections, chieftains (political leaders) decide how the masses would vote. It is not as brazen as in Oyo State where a Lamidi Adedibu would direct votes be cast for a party formed few weeks to an election and it is so, or a Rivers where a Wike would operate within his party for another another party and the voters follow robotically.

In Ondo State, voters are stubborn and independent-minded. They would vote according to their conscience and defend their votes with all their might. Oh, that was then. But political merchandize still exists all the same. And the reason is that these politicians do not want to go into political irrelevance. They want to win their “units”, “wards” and “LGAs”. Otherwise, they are finished. Lucky Aiyedatiwa has far more “political chieftains” in Ondo State.

Any SA that loses his or her unit is in trouble. Any chieftain that loses his “base” will be fired from Abuja. They are the ones who work all night to ensure voters come out to vote and in the direction they want. They know everyone in the ward who is for whom. They know the ones they would take to exile until the election is over. APC has more “politicians” than PDP in this election. For this reason, APC will win big next month. One up

BITTER PILLS

for Aiyedatiwa.

4. **Media:** This is my constituency. With humility, I affirm that I am a communication and media expert. I know what the media can do in theory and practice. The media cannot decide much in telling who to vote for directly. So, pay-offs in jingles such as "Vote for Aiyedatiwa" or "Vote for Agboola Ajayi" mean nothing to voters. How media impact affects election is in telling the voters what to think about. It's called the Agenda Setting Theory.

Every nooks and crannies of Ondo State is currently inundated with Aiyedatiwa's billboards. Good tactics! That is the equivalence of body shots in boxing. The shots don't count but they weaken the opponent, preparing for the uppercuts to properly land on the face. The media generates its power by making the most noise, thereby creating an impression of a candidate's popularity.

Even when the candidate eventually rigs the election, people would believe he or she won. Managing the media today is highly expensive. Where will PDP get the resources to match Aiyedatiwa's media

influence? One up for Lucky

5. **Judiciary:** I have to be careful how I make the point here. Let me just say that the body language of the law and its interpretation looks more favourable to Aiyedatiwa than to Lucky. But, ironically, this is the biggest hope of Agboola Ajayi to win the election.

If he is very smart, he would hire smart, experienced and intelligent lawyers to work on this angle. He should not only look for technical infringements (like Neymar feigning a penalty) and who knows? I may work for him! Some referees (judges) are out of these world! I will still put Lucky ahead here, but instead of 1-0, I will put it 2-1. I hope that you know the two are not the same in the game of football?

6. **God Almighty:** Fear God o! O ni "emi ti ngbe ogo fun ole, ti enikan ko le bi mi". God can do anything at any time. I can never forget that Yakubu Aiyegbeni miss in the World Cup. Just to tap the ball into an empty net, Yakubu could not. This same Yakubu that had scored score 20

metres could not score from one metre (with a goal-keeper missing). Eru Olorun ba mi since then. The Scripture says it is not for those who strive or struggle but for whom God has chosen. That seems to explain the name Lucky (I am favoured) and also his surname Aiyedatiwa (the world favours us). Whether Lucky will be lucky again is up to the Almighty God. This is the only one of the six factors that I would put 1:1.

So, we do not need a soothsayer to predict a win for Lucky next month. He is favoured intellectually to win. Spiritually? I don't know about that.

Let us, however, go out to vote for our choices – even beyond Lucky or Agbo. I have written over and over on what whoever emerges should do to move Ondo State forward. They are in previous editions of Ikale News. For now, let us keep our fingers crossed. Congratulations to the winner.

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Ikale News Established June 1992



IKALE COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024 & Biripo Dancing Competition

**Plan To Attend Ikale Awards 2024 On Friday December 27,
2024 @ Aseph Event Centre, Okitipupa**

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IKALE AWARDS 2024

VOTING CONTINUES ON IKALENEWS.COM

The management of *Ikale News*, Nigeria's iconic community newspaper hereby announces the commencement of voting for Awardees in this year's **Ikale Awards**.

The **Ikale Awards** scheme was initiated in 1993 by the Publisher and Management Board of *Ikale News* to stimulate community development in Ikale, Ondo State by discovering and appreciating distinguished Ikale sons and daughters, institutions and organizations as well as non-indigenes who have shown exemplary leadership, character and remarkable contributions to the development of the society, especially Ikale society. Individuals who have distinguished themselves in their personal or professional callings are also recognized in the scheme.

The 2024 Edition is the Fifth in the Series of Awards since the first edition 31 years ago. The most recent edition was held in 2006 (18 years ago) at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Lagos.

The 2024 Awards Committee of eminent Ikale at home and in the Diaspora has approved a list three nominees per award and winners shall be determined by members of the public through their votes.

Members of the public are, therefore, hereby invited for their favourites from their nominees as follows:

IKALE AWARDS 2024 NOMINEES			
SN	AWARD CATEGORY	SOME OF PAST WINNERS	NOMINEES FOR 2024 (Only one person can win in each category)
1.	Ikale Gold Award (Highest category)	Chief Olu Akinfosile Dr. Olusegun Agagu Gen. Olu Bajowa, PhD (rtd) Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim Crosdale Juba (post humous)	1. Mr Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 2. Dr. Seinde Fadani-Oladapo 3. Dr. Remi Olatubora (SAN)
2	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Primary)	Kawe Funmi Primary School, Sagamu Success Group of Schools, Okitipupa	1. Chief S.E Lupo 2. Kingdom Heritage Model School, Okitipupa 3. St. Williams Nursery And pry school Okitipupa
3.	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Secondary)	Chief E.O. Agagu Chief B.A. Akinmosin	1. Stella Maris College (Old Students Association) 2. M.M.G.S. (Old Students Association) 3. Ofedepo High School, Okitipupa
4	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Tertiary)	Professor Isaac Olusola Akindutire	1. Professor Francis Igbasan 2. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)
5	Ikale Community Service Award	Dr. Abiodun Ijose Chief S.O. Akinnurun High Chief Jackson Okunfolami Professor Ernest Ola Obe Mr. Seinde Akinbuwa Asiwaju Benson Akindeju	1. Barr Phillip Ogunjumelo 2. Mr. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 3. Mr. Deolu Ijose
6	Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler Award	This is a new award category	1. HRM, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade (Uyi Oba 1, Lapoki of Aye Kingdom) 2. HRM, Oba G.B. Faduyile (Abodi of Ikaleland) 3. HRM, Oba Oluwole Adesayo (The Ahaba of Ajagba Kingdom)
7	Ikale Culture Icon (formerly Special Award for Promotion of Ikale Culture)	Chief Zeblon Omoranmowo Pa Durojaiye Akinbeyinje Chief Comfort Emaye Prince Yomi Akinmuda Chief Oneounreya Arowojolu Omoba Demola Suzi	1. Sir Demola Suzi 2. High Chief Omotola Emaye 3. Awawa FM Radio



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8	Outstanding Ikale Woman Award	Mrs. Andre Mrs. Carol Olusoji Akingbehin	1. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 2. Princess Oladunni Odu, PhD. 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)
9	Best Organized Community Day	New award category	1. Layelu Day 2023 2. Utako Day 2023
10	Special Award for Distinguished Performance in Sports	Grace Ebukuyo Monday Merotohun	1. Gianis Adetokunbo 2. Tolulope "Jordan" Omogbehin (Omos) 3. Odunayo Adekuoroye
11	Distinguished Ikale Professional Award	DSP Olubode Ojajuni Engr Olatunde Ojajuni Mr. Seinde Eric Ibini	1. Engr. Felix Ayejukanwa 2. Brig Gen. Felix Ohunyeye 3. Mr. Martins Oloja
12	Distinguished Ikale Club/Association	Omawa Club Ikale Noble Stars Club Ikale Development Union Ikale Social Club, Lagos	1. Okitipupa Divisional Association, Abuja 2. Fusion of Aye Development Associations (FOADA) 3. Irele Progressive Union
13	Best Ikale Legislator Award	New award category	1. Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, PhD, CFR 2. Hon. Jimi Odimayo 3. Hon Chris Ayebusiwa
14	Outstanding Ikale in the Diaspora Award	New award category	1. Prof. Salewa Olafioye (USA) 2. Prince Jimi Adekanle, JAF (Canada) 3. Barr. Phillip Ogunjumelo (USA)
15	Special Award for Distinguished Non-Ikale	Mrs Deborah Foluke Adeiye, Chief Olusola Oke, SAN Hon. D.I. Kekemeke Barr Abdul Olajide Ajana	1. Dr. Akinkunmi Oresanya (Omosanya Hospital) 2. Mr. Okeke (Sinako) 3. Urhobo Progressive Union, Ikale 4. Mr I.C.M. Okeke (synako) 5. Dr Oresanya Akinkunmi (Omusanya Hospital) 6. Urhobo Progressive Union in Ikale.
16	Distinguished Ikale Business Personality of the Year	Lerick Nigeria Limited	1. Dr. Jide Martins Adewinle 2. Mr. Sola Fred Adekugbe 3. Mr. Segun Obayando
17	Distinguished Ikale Local Government Administrator	Dr. Deji Akinwalere Mr. Fayefunmi	No qualified nominee

HOW TO VOTE:

1. Go to Ikalenews.com on Facebook or visit our website, [ikalenews.com/Ikale_awards_nominees](https://www.ikalenews.com/Ikale_awards_nominees) and vote for your favourite nominee
2. You can vote as many times as you want
3. Voting closes: **October 30, 2024**

INTERVIEW

“We are bringing back all ikale awards by popular demand”

Exclusive interview by Acting Editor, Samuel Olaniyan with Ikale News Publisher, Dr. Bolu John Folayan on why the management of the newspaper is organizing Ikale Awards after 18 years in the limbo.



I want to start with what I am most curious about this Ikale Awards of 2024, being a non-Ikale, sir. Why are you resuscitating the Award Scheme?

Thank you, Big Sam. There are several reasons why we bringing back the Ikale Awards. The first major reason is that by design, Ikale Awards was not to be taking place often. I bless got for Dr. Amos Akingba, who chaired the first award committee. He helped us to lay a solid integrity for the awards. Dr. Akingba said that because we were doing the awards for the first time ever in Ikale history, there would be a lot of people who deserved to be honoured. So, we could do it yearly or once in two years.

Thereafter, according to him, we should reduce the number of awards and the frequency so that it could have value and quality. After the first edition, we did it two years after and then three years after. The second reason for the gap was that we stopped publishing *Ikale News* for some years. This automatically meant that we could not do the Awards immediately.

The Awards project is a partnership with readers of *Ikale News* and if there was no *Ikale News*, then could not be Ikale Awards. We only revived *Ikale News* by popular demand three years ago. And we could not re-start *Ikale News* and immediately re-start Ikale Awards.

It would make it “jeun-jeun” awards. We had to restore our readership base before we could start the Awards again. The third reason we are back with Ikale Awards is that our absence created a vacuum. Various forms of awards surfaced. With

due respect to these awards (the more the merrier), we just have to straighten things up. **Ikale Awards** is the most prestigious awards scheme for Ikale people. There is no doubt about that. The fourth reason there was some gap is because it is expensive to organize the awards.

That is one major reason you will not see another Ikale Awards in 2025. It will be back in 2026 or 2027. The first edition was held at the University of Lagos. The second was at Lagos Airport Hotel and the third was at Owena Motel, Akure. The last one held in 2006 was also at the Lagos Airport Hotel. Considering the fact that our awardees do not pay for the awards, it is heavy burden on us to organize Ikale Awards.

Before I come to the technicalities of the awards, let me ask you 'what is the purpose or essence of the awards'?

It is to recognize excellence among Ikale people and Ikale societies. If awards are properly organized, it is a great way to stimulate community development. And that is the purpose of *Ikale News community* newspaper. Can you imagine that Ikale Award was the first award that the legendary Madam Comfort Omoge got in her lifetime – someone who had achieved fame across the length and breadth of Nigeria promoting Ikale culture? Mama personally came to the University of Lagos to receive her award. Even the legendary Chief Olu Akinfosile, the first minister of communications in the Republic had never gotten any award from his people for all that he did for us. He was so happy receiving that honour.

His speech is at the maiden awards ceremony at Unilag is reproduced elsewhere in this edition of *Ikale News*. You want to talk about Major General Olu Bajowa, Vice Admiral Akin Aduwo? We interviewed the iconic Biripo superstar Baba Zeblon Omoranmowo when he was awarded and he told us how fulfilled he felt receiving the award because that was the first time Ikale people would honour him. He had done over 20 albums by then! No awards. That's why over 90 per cent of people that we have awarded personally came to receive the awards. They appreciated the honour.

That others would now look up to winning the awards. So, the essence is for community development and personal recognition. People want to stand on the podium, listen to their citation and be decorated by their own people. They want to dance with distinguished ikales or participate in the awardees dance! I have seen a set of people who hate the words “thank you”. How I know that Ikale Awards is fulfilling this purpose is that those we awarded 31 years ago, 20 years ago have continued to do well. Some of them have awards in more than two editions. Someone like Chief Omotola Emaye chose to dedicate his life to promoting Ikale culture. He started playing our traditional music from Baptist Grammar School Ode Aye.

Many people derided him that if he wanted to play music, which one is *biripo*. That he could not be successful in life singing *biripo*. Look at him today. He won the award for promotion of Ikale culture in 2003 I think and he is being nominated again in 2024, because he has continued to work harder on that beat. Baba Zeblon is gone. Many of these biripo stars are gone. How do we breed the younger ones to step into their shoes? That is one reason for Ikale Awards and Biripo Dance Competition. Another example is Jimoh Ibrahim won the Distinguished Award in 1993 when he was just coming up and the Gold Award in 2006. He has won over 40 awards (including chieftaincy and academic awards) but the ones from Ikale are the one he cherishes most. He has been nominated for Best Legislator of the Year in 2024. Demola Suzi won award in the edition we held in Akure in the promotion of Ikale culture. He was just coming up then also. Look at him today. He is nominated for awards again this year. Just look at all of these people as they continue to excel. So, we are fulfilling our objectives in setting up the awards. We thank Almighty God.

How do you determine the Award winners?

When we started in 1993, the process was like



IKALE AWARDS SPECIAL

this. I will constitute an Award Committee comprising of eminent Ikale. Dr. Amos Akingba was the chairman of the first edition. Chief Willy Akinlude was the chairman of the one we did in Akure. Otunba Kole Omololu was chair of another one. We have various eminent Ikales on the Committee. We would publish award categories and call for nominations. *Ikale News* readers would now nominate their choices for each category.

“
any
nominees of
Ikale Awards is
deserving of the
award
”

The decision of the Award Committee was final. But in the 2024 edition, we have reversed the process. We constituted an Award Committee of eminent Ikales. The Committee also determines how many awards and names of awards. We will now publish and members of the public (our readers basically) would now vote. The decision of the voters is final. This latter process is the trend for organizing credible awards now. It is transparent. Everyone would be able to monitor the votes on Facebook and Ikalenews.com (our website). As far as I am concerned, any of our nominees is qualified to win. To get to the top-three in a category is not a mean task.

How much does an awardee pay to win?

Winners of Ikale Awards get the awards on merit. They are not levied to become winners. Winners encourage their friends and well-wishers to congratulate them in the award brochure in form of adverts and we have introduced payment for tables (tables for 4 and Tables or 10) at the award ceremony. We will give two free invitation cards to winners but if they want more people to honour them at the ceremony, they need to buy tables. That is purely volitional. It is not compulsory. So Ikale Awards is not cash and carry.

Given the territorial spread of the Ikale nation, how do you spread the awards to cut across Ikale nations?

The Committee tries its best in this regard. In as much as all towns that make up Ikale nation cannot have equal number of awardees, the Committee tries as much as possible to let the nominations go round our strategic communities. Every town in Ikale has successful people capable of winning awards. To ensure balance, we review the origin of the nominee so they are not over-concentrated in one town. The Committee creates gender sensitivity too. You know Ikale culturally is biased against the female gender in terms of educating them. But today we have various women in

distinguished positions in the society. So we created the Award for Distinguished Ikale Women, so the young generation of female Ikale would have women to look up to.

Tell us the challenges you have faced organizing Ikale Awards over the decades

Well, the major challenge has been funding. Because we do not surcharge award winners, it is difficult to raise enough money to do the awards the way we would have loved to do it. But the awardees have been very understanding. When we started, the quality of the plaques we gave out was so poor but the awardees accepted it like that. We have improved so well in that area. We also provide quality lunch during the awards for free. That has been a challenge too. Then the logistics. So, this year we have introduced Table for Five and Table for Ten for those who want to bring their friends and associates. Every award winner will get two free Invites but beyond that they have to get a table. This, of course, is voluntary. It is not a condition for winning the award. It is to reduce our burden of finances. Hitherto, the only other option to earn get funds was through congratulatory adverts in the Award Brochure.

We had some disagreements with two of prominent Obas initially. They felt that I should not use the name “Ikale” to do awards. They wanted me to call it Ikale News Awards. But I was able to convince them that it is within my legal rights to do what I am doing. If the law allows me to register “Ikale News” then I can do Ikale Awards. People do the Most Beautiful Nigerian Girl Awards and stuff like that. And I told them I do not mind collaborating with the Obas or any institution for that matter, in organizing the awards. We are just trying to stand in the gap. And we are a registered organization with the Corporate Affairs Commission. Till now, we are open to collaborations.

Why is the Award Ceremony being moved to Ikale?

I thought you would ask the questions: Why did we hold the awards outside Ikale. Well, to answer your question, we have large chunks of Ikale people resident in Lagos and Akure. In fact, at the time we were doing physical or hard copies

monthly, we used to have 80 per cent of our sales in Lagos, and like 10 per cent in Akure. People at home weren't buying copies. But we relied on the home front to source our news. The people in the cities and abroad wanted to hear news from home. That was the strategic chemistry. So, it was very reasonable that we did the awards in Lagos. But when we held the Awards in Akure, the chairman, Chief Willy Akinlude (of blessed memory) convinced me that the best place to host the Awards Ceremony is in Ikale. According to him, home is the best place to celebrate our outstanding people. There and then I decided that all subsequent awards would be held in Ikale. The 2024 edition would be held in Okitipupa. The next one, probably in 2026 or 2027 will be held in Ode-Irele. From there we can go to Ajagba or come to Ode Aye or Igbotako or back to Okitipupa. That's our new concept. Home is the best, my brother.

Going through the previous awards, I noticed that the Committee has streamlined the awards – reduced the categories and the numbers and introduced two or three new categories. What is the objective?

The Committee found that some of the awards are duplicative. Also, there was need to reduce the number of awards. More importantly, there are few areas that we should take care of. The Committee has introduced Outstanding Ikale Traditional Rulers Award in order to refocus and encourage our Obas. In the decades that I have published *Ikale News*, I have encountered fantastic traditional rulers in Ikaledland: Obas who are committed to the development of their subjects and their communities. We need to encourage them. It may be tough picking the best this year. It is so when you introduce new award categories.

But the voters will judge. Like I said, any nominees of Ikale Awards is deserving of the award. We also introduced Best Organized Community Days. In the 90s, virtually every town in Ikale celebrated their community days. I relished covering these events because they showcased our heritage. They were rallying points to community growth and unity. My children loved attending those days. But we





IKALE AWARDS SPECIAL

found out that these days, only few towns celebrate community days. That was why we introduced that award category. In the past, we had Outstanding Ikale Farmer's Award and Most Outstanding Local Government Administrator. We have suspended those two categories for lack of qualified awardees.

We hope to revive them in the next awards because they are very important. We need our people to go into commercial farming. We need our local government chairmen to be up-and-doing. That is the government closest to the people. But they have been reduced to salary-paying parastatals unfortunately. Very sad. Sports is another area. Imagine that Victor Osimhe is from Ikoya or Akotogbo! We have focused too much on education. It's good. But we need to combine it with vocational and skill acquisition and talent harnessing. We need to encourage the young ones to embrace sports and entertainment generally. I personally plan to produce a full-length movie entirely in Ikale dialect, for instance. Nobody hires hands based on certificates again. It's based on your skills and talents.

A friend of mine queried the nomination of people who have never been to their roots for Ikale Awards...

[cuts in] Giani, Omos and Odunayo abi?

Exactly, sir

Wherever they are, they have Ikale in them their Ikale DNA. We have to remind them of that DNA in them that is making them to excel – Ikale DNA (*laughter*). Seriously, we are committed to sports promotion in *Ikale News*. But my brother, sports is dead in Ikaleland. Dead! This is very unfortunate. I attended Manuwa Memorial Grammar School in the early 80s. Sports was solid in all our secondary schools. We had superstars then across our secondary schools – Gbekuru, Scorroh, Afro, Pele Oguntimeju, Achebe, Ajao, Oguns – from MMGS to BGS to MHS, Stella Maris to UGS. In my set at MMGS we had the likes of Eric Idowu Balogun who was running sub-10 in 100 metres. I met the great Ebukuyo who was our Sports Prefect. She was representing Nigeria in athletics at the time.

All these stars became nothing. But our people who were raised abroad were able to develop their sporting prowess. If people like Ayotunde Olafioye (Jin-Jin-Jin), Yomi Omogbehin (Longman) and Mike Omogbehin (Kako) grew up in the UK, they would be among the best goalkeepers in the football world has produced! I can affirm that, for real. They were exceptional. So, we are not just dropping the names of Giani, Omos and Odunayo. For crying out loud, Giani, the number one basket baller in the world today is from Ode-Irele. His father, Tokunbo Olowo was my classmate at MMGS.

We played for Okitipupa Academicals Football team together. Omos is from the Omogbehin royal family in Igbotako. He grew up in Lagos and from there travelled to the US. Odunayo Adekuoroye is from Ilutitun. The lady does wrestling like a lioness. I know they cannot come and receive their awards. All these three are billionaires through sports. We will invite their family members to come collect them and we will send to them. The idea is to tell them we love them. And that we want

them to come and develop sports in their roots. Look at Israel Adesanya the kick boxing star.

He is proudly Ijesa and Nigerian! Omos sometimes speak some Yoruba after beating those American wrestlers silly! The two persons we have given sport awards so far are Grace Ebukuyo (of blessed memory) and Monday Merotohun. Merotohun represented Nigeria in Table Tennis many times at All African Games and the Olympics. If you go online, you will read that Merotohun is a native of Ado Odo Ota in Ogun State. That is not correct. "Merotohun" is pure Ikale name. Monday is pure Ikale *ponbele!* He is from Ayila, born to parents from Ilutitun. Ayila an Ikale town, though in Ogun State. And he was so proud of his Ikale Award. He sent his wife all the way from France or Germany in 2003 to collect his award. In the 1940s through the 80s, every primary and secondary school had a sports field. We did Inter-sports yearly – regularly – in my primary and secondary school days. Those are gone now. We have to start reviving sports from somewhere. It is a matter to discuss another day.

So far, what gives you the greatest joy organizing the Ikale Awards?

It is seeing the awardees feel a sense of being appreciated! These awardees are usually surprised that we invite them for awards. Whether it is for personal recognition or for supporting the community, people need to be recognized. Let us be proud of our people. Even those who are not supporting the community will do so when you encourage them. We don't celebrate our own in Ikale. It's that bad. *Bad belle* is too much. This

one did not do for the town. That one does not do for the town. Did the town sponsor their education and career? The little that they are doing, encourage them! They will do more.

Any setbacks or regrets so far?

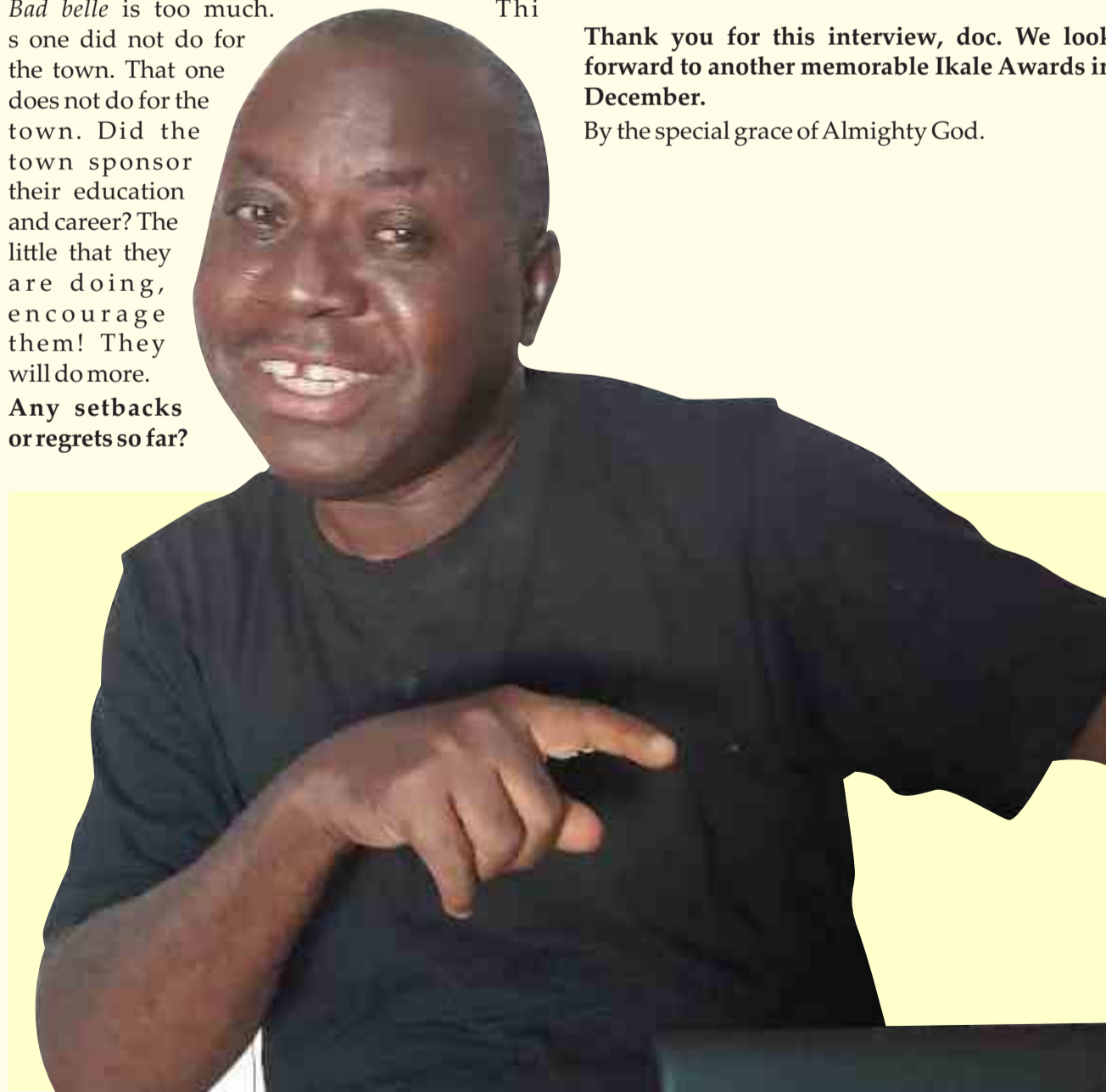
Sometimes, I feel ashamed at the quality of awards that I gave the first set of awards in the 90s. I didn't have the resources. Nevertheless, they accepted the award plaques. But in the most recent editions, we have improved on this. We want our awards to stand out in the shelves of our Awardees. God is helping us to achieve this.

Lastly, what should we expect from Ikale Awards 2024?

By God's grace, it will be glorious. It will come up on Friday December 27 in Okitipupa. The two main events of the ceremony (as usual) are the Biripo Dance Competition and the Awards Presentation. We will add a brief drama skit in Ikale dialect this time. But the Biripo Dance Competition is always the star attraction of the Awards Ceremony. We are giving N25,000= to the Best Male Dancer and N25,000= to the Best Female Dancer. Entry for the dance is free. Usually, the winners go home with over N100,000= because in addition to what we give, the awardees usually also give them money. In the last edition, Jimoh Ibrahim gave the best dancer N50,000= in addition. Lest I forget, this year, we are introducing Biripo Dance Trophy. We will surely get a sponsor for that. The winner will take home the Trophy and hold it for life like the Grammy or FIFA Footballer of the Year Award. We buy another trophy for the next Awards Ceremony... two trophies really; one for best male and the other for best female. We will provide sumptuous lunch and enjoy our culture. We need sponsors. Hopefully, we will get. I suggested Miss Ikale Pageant to also hold but the Awards Committee rejected the idea...that it would choke the Award Ceremony if we hold too many events.

Thank you for this interview, doc. We look forward to another memorable Ikale Awards in December.

By the special grace of Almighty God.



HOT SEAT

Why I chose Biripo over juju, highlife and pop while in secondary school

-Biripo superstar, High Chief Omotola Emaye

-In this exclusive interview with Acting Editor, Samuel Olaniyan, Biripo star Chief Tola Emaye bares all about his humble beginnings in music and his next moves to present the father of all traditional music in Ikale and Ilaje. Enjoy it



Let us into yourself, for the benefit of our readers who may not know you, sir.

Good morning, the Editor of Ikale News. My name is Chief Samuel Emaye Omotola, the Arogun of Idepe, Okitipupa, the Afilujoye of Ikale land. I am also the Awayemate of Ome Kingdom, and Oba Biripo of Ikale, Ilaje, and Apoi. I was born in Ode-Aye, to be precise, but I am a native of Idepe

Okitipupa. My father's name is Chief Jeremiah Emaye, Ikugbnmie, the Olowogboye of Idepe Okitipupa and my mother's name is Mrs. Olaribomi; My father is from Abusoro quarter. I started my primary education at Lafe, LA School, Lafe, in the present Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State. I was born precisely April 1st, 1960. So I am a little bit above 64

years old now. I attended Methodist Primary School, Ode Aye immediately after the civil war. So we moved back to Ode-Aye where I completed my primary school. I later went to Methodist Secondary Modern School, Ode-Aye and my working experience spanned from where I learned the art of grading at UAC that is AT&P Agbaje so I later proceeded to work at Central Airline Lagos but I came back for my secondary education in the year 1982 at Baptist Grammar School. That was my background

How did I become a Biripo artiste?

Yeah, my father was very good at singing Biripo but he did not form a band. So, my sojourn in Biripo music I can say is hereditary. But what baffled me most was that my mother gave birth to 13 children and I was the last child. Out of these 13 children, I am the only one that is singing. So that is another thing of which I can say is a destiny from heaven, apart from hereditary. So that

was all these things started in the year 1983 at Lumeko Quarter, O started playing this music already I was at

Baptist Grammar School by then so I was a member of a cultural troupe the Baptist you know at that time school used to do organize a cultural competition among secondary schools. So that 1983 my senior who was singing beautiful at that time for BGS, in person of Igbekele Leji and Mr Poroye they were at class four already about to start preparing for their life. So I was chosen to lead the

HOT SEAT

Continuation Of Why I Chose Biripo Over Juju, Highlife And Pop While In The Secondary School

school group. That was how we started. We came for a competition at a

Government Field, Okitipupa and we came second. You know at that time the Ikale Local Government was one, no Irele local government. Everyone converged from all over. Comprehensive High School Ilutitun came first and we came second led by my very self at that time. Ondo State states usually engaged the secondary schools' bands, especially those that were playing cultural music to perform at Akure. We normally went to Akure at that time to perform for government/ I later BGS in 1985.

That was the very year I formed my band. I decided to go and join Nigerian Army because of financial constraint to further my education. But one of our master named Gabriel Lewona, who happened to be my blood brother at Lumeko, advised me that I should continue playing this Biripo music... that the future was bright for me, that I should realize that Baba Zeblon and others that were playing this music are not educated like me.

That was the turning point that made me not to join a grand army. So I decided to play biblical music as a career. I formed my band with 12 members at that time. And the hit that is me, Adewole Ogunbameru, who then came to Ode Aye to engage me that I should lead Oja Ufe Biripo at Ilutitun. Whenever they have an engagement, I was the one that would go and lead the band. I was two records for them. So I was not in the album sleeve because I knew I had my own band. So, in 1986, I waxed

my first record to the glory of God. It was titled Ise Oluwa. Thank you.

Why were you so close to the legend, Baba Zeblon Omoranmowo?

Truly, I was very close to Baba Zeblon. Baba Lelerekoko. Baba

Omotayo Tewe, Baba Ajana. Yes. Baba Kubeyinje. Baba Omoboye and any others were who were the legends are gone now I was close to many of them in order to learn the rudiments. I am so close to those elderly ones that are singing Biripo. You have to know about the rudiment of Biripo. The best biripo artistes are for instance very versed in Ifa divination.

Biripo has many types. Which one is your own – Lelerekoko or Zeblon type?

Biripo does not really have parts. But

it has what I may call rudiments. When we play Biripo at burial ceremony of very old people, or Kabiyesi, it is different from the one that we play during naming ceremony or house warming. In this sense, we can say we have four or five basic types then: Kiriji, Ojeghe, Ladeogho, real Biripo. We have Oluse. There is something also called Agalamasa. All of them have different beats. These were the things I learned from Baba Zeblon. Most of the young artistes may not know all these. For instance,



HOT SEAT

Ladeogho is usually played during marriage ceremony. Kiriji is played when we want to bury an Oba or old man. Ojeghe is played for ceremonials. The real biripo is first. The only thing that distinguishes other biripo and mine is that I formulated my own style of beats in a modern way. The only talking drums then were Agba and Iye Ilu. In my own, oma ilu talks. That is my unique brand.

Tell us some members of your band please

Presently, I have about 30 members. My manager is Mr. Idebi Joshua Odunayo. He has been with me since 1988 and he is still with me, He is a good manager. We have Ewesiji, the floor manager. Others include: Malo, Tope, a utility player – he can sing and he can beat the entire four drums; we have only female in my band and is the one dancing for us. She is Funke She hails from Ode Irele. We enjoy ourselves doing the job.

How do you relate with other biripo

Continuation Of Why I Chose Biripo Over Juju, Highlife And Pop While In The Secondary School

artistes?

Good question. When Baba Zebi was alive, I approached him that we should set up Association of Biripo Artistes. I wrote to the young artistes of the time and invited them. Five of us started the association, Mr Ibayemi. Chief Oneounreye, Mr. Ogunboye Ten Kobo and Mr Pius Metulukuro. Now we have 15 corporate members now. Well, not all biripo artistes have joined but that is where we are. The association has been of tremendous benefit to members. If I want to go and play in Lagos now, I do not need to carry instruments. I will just call any of our members there and they would provide the drums and equipment. They can even back me in singing. The same thing when those in Lagos or Akure come to Ikale to perform. We back them. When members have ceremonies, we rally round. In short, we are one family. We have even done joint albums.

We heard you would soon be 30 or 40 years on stage. What's cooking about that?

It is 40 years. It's a milestone. It's worth celebrating. Already, we have started working.

We Are putting a committee in place. People like Dr Bolu Folayan, your publisher ...he is a member of the committee. The committee chairman is a renowned royal majesty. Others include

Mr. Omasule from Irele, Professor Kunle Latumile from Idepe Okitipupa, and the host of others. They are walking around the clock now to make sure that the event is superb and well organized.

I am using this medium to call on all Ikale sons and daughters to rally around me. I have done my bit to promote our culture and I am still doing it. The Committee will reach out to all Ikale sons and daughters/ The event is next year by the grace of God

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NEWS LINE



Omo'ba Odimayo: A Beacon of Progressive Change for Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency”

Omo'ba Odimayo - The Quintessence Of Progressive Transformation For Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency

Since assuming office as the Member of the House of Representatives for Okitipupa/Irele, Hon. Okunjimi Odimayo has made significant strides in enhancing the well-being of our community.

Odimayo's dedication to public service is exemplified by the recent facilitation of 20 federal job opportunities for our constituents. This initiative not only addresses unemployment but also empowers families and stimulates local economic growth.

In addition to job creation, Hon. Odimayo is championing healthcare

advancements through the ongoing construction of a Solar Powered Modern Medical Laboratory Center in Ode-Irele.

This state-of-the-art facility aims to provide accessible and quality medical services to our community, ensuring that residents receive timely diagnoses and treatments. The integration of solar power underscores a commitment to sustainability while improving health outcomes.

These initiatives are not just projects; they represent a transformative vision for our constituency.

By investing in employment and healthcare infrastructure, Hon. Odimayo is fostering a more resilient

and prosperous Okitipupa/Irele. The positive impact of these developments will be felt for generations to come.

We commend Hon. Okunjimi Odimayo for his unwavering commitment and service to our community.

Together, let us continue to support and engage with our leaders to achieve even greater progress for Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency.

Christopher Owowa is a Special Assistant on New Media to Hon. Okunjimi Odimayo.

COVER

MOTHER OF ALL 419s - Man fakes engagement, impregnates lady and disappears In Okitipupa

By Adebola Ademola



In a heartbreaking and shocking revelation, Chinenye Anyanwu, a Nigerian woman, has opened up about her marriage, which turned out to be a complete deception. In a detailed

In an interview which has gone viral on the social media, Chinenye recounted her experiences of love, betrayal, and the emotional devastation that followed. What started as a dream-like romance with her "husband", one Olumide, who is allegedly an Ilaje based in Okitipupa.

The lady quickly descended into a nightmare, leaving her alone, heartbroken, and pregnant.

Chinenye and Olumide's love story began online, where they quickly

formed a deep connection. Olumide presented himself as a kind, loving, and perfect partner. Their whirlwind romance culminated in a courtship that seemed ideal. "He proposed the very first time we met in person," Chinenye recalled. Overwhelmed with love, she accepted, and by 2019, they were married in a court ceremony. But behind the facade of a fairytale, cracks were already starting to show.

Just three weeks into their marriage, Chinenye began noticing troubling signs. Her husband, who had always been open and communicative, suddenly became distant. At first, she attributed it to the pressures of newlywed life, but as the days went by, it became clear that something was

amiss. She uncovered her first major red flag: Olumide had lied about his origins.

Olumide had told Chinenye he was from Ilaje, a community in Ondo State. However, after digging deeper, she discovered that he was actually from Okitipupa, a different local government area within the same state. While the difference in location seemed minor, it was enough to plant seeds of doubt in her mind about the man she had married.

Despite her growing concerns, Chinenye tried to confront Olumide about the discrepancy. His response was dismissive but plausible. He explained that the people of Ilaje often migrated to Okitipupa, and such confusion over local government boundaries was common. Chinenye, still in the early stages of marriage and wanting to believe the best, accepted his explanation. But it wasn't long before other troubling signs emerged.

Communication with Olumide's supposed family members also started to unravel. Chinenye had spoken to several people who claimed to be his relatives before their wedding. But after their marriage, these "family members" became elusive. As she tried to reach out to them, it dawned on her that these individuals may never have existed. The man she married, it seemed, was a stranger.

The situation worsened when Olumide abruptly disappeared. Just weeks after their wedding, he vanished, leaving Chinenye to face the uncertainty of their relationship alone. Days turned into weeks, and

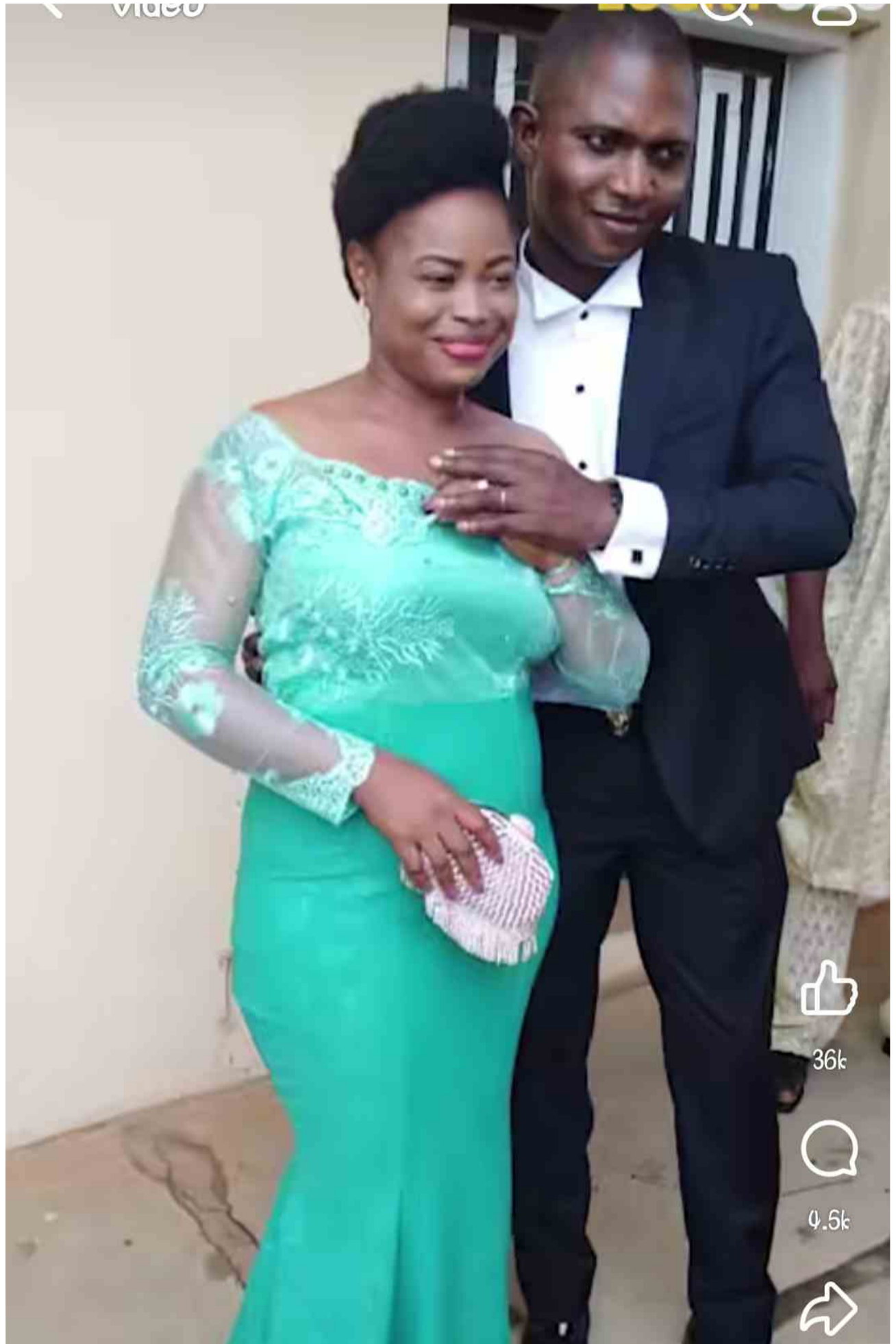
she heard nothing from him. Calls went unanswered, messages were ignored, and he effectively cut off all contact. Chinenye was left confused and heartbroken, as there was no return of Olumide after leaving for Lagos. In the midst of this emotional turmoil,

Chinenye discovered she was pregnant. Initially, she saw this as a possible way to reconnect with Olumide, hoping the news of their child would bring him back. But when she finally managed to inform him of her pregnancy, his reaction was indifferent, almost cold. It was at that moment she realized the extent of the deception she had fallen victim to.

By this time, Chinenye's dream of a happy marriage had fully crumbled. The man she thought she knew had turned out to be a fraud, and now she was left to raise their child alone. As the months passed, the weight of her situation began to take its toll. She lost her job, and the financial strain of being a single mother became overwhelming. Yet, Chinenye continued to push forward, determined to provide a better life for her son.

Reflecting on her experience four years later, Chinenye now understands that her marriage was built on lies from the very beginning. She believes that Olumide had targeted her with a premeditated plan to exploit her trust. From his fabricated background to his disappearing act, everything seemed designed to deceive her.

In her Facebook post, Chinenye bravely shared her story in the hopes of warning others about the dangers of online relationships. While her initial connection with Olumide felt genuine, the reality was that she had married someone she didn't truly know. Her tale is a stark reminder of the importance of trust, honesty, and transparency in relationships.



What makes Chinenye's story even more poignant is the emotional toll it has taken on her as a mother. Raising her son on her own has not been easy. The financial and emotional strain is immense, but Chinenye has not given up hope. She has reached out to her community, asking for support in her efforts to rebuild her life. Her resilience in the face of such adversity is inspiring.

Chinenye's story has also sparked conversations about the risks associated with online dating and the need for caution in relationships formed over the internet. While many online connections result in successful relationships, her experience is a reminder that not everyone is who they claim to be. It is crucial to verify information and take time to build trust before committing to a lifetime with someone.

As Chinenye continues to move forward with her life, she is focused on building a stable and loving environment for her son. Despite the challenges she has faced, her love for her child remains unwavering, and she is determined to create a better future for both of them.

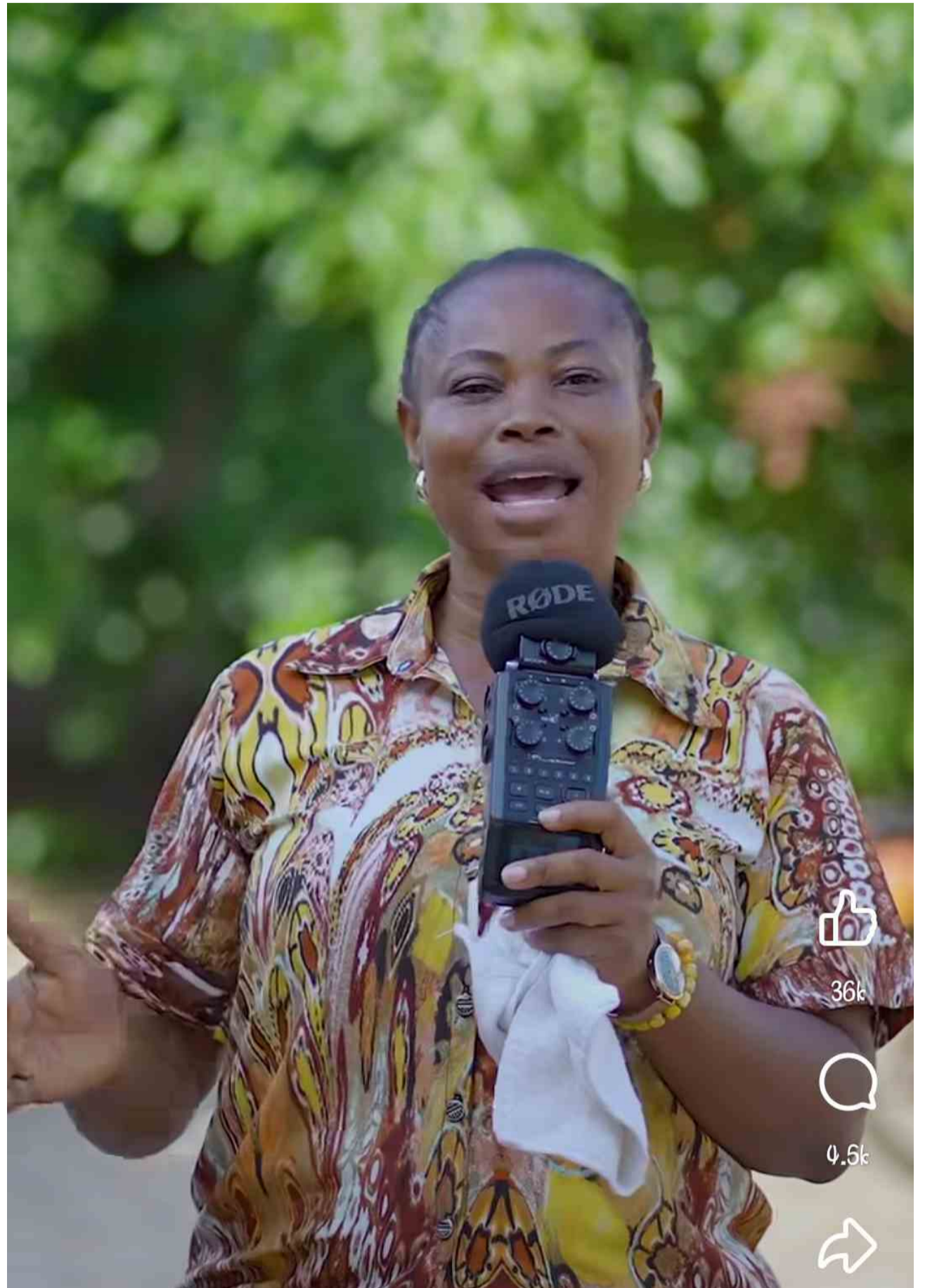
Ultimately, Chinenye's story is a tale of resilience and survival. She has endured emotional and financial hardships that would break many, yet she continues to fight for her child's future. Her courage in sharing her story is a testament to her strength, and her journey serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of self-awareness and trust in relationships.

In the end, Chinenye has learned some hard truths about love, trust, and deception. While she may never fully understand why Olumide chose to deceive her, she has made peace with the fact that her life will move on without him. Today, her focus is on raising her son and rebuilding her life, one step at a time.

Her experience has left her with the opinion that, she can still date and meet new people, but she doesn't want to consider marriage as an option anymore. This is a reminder that while marriage can be a beautiful union, it is only as strong as the trust that binds it. Without trust, even the most seemingly perfect relationship can unravel, leaving behind nothing but heartbreak and unanswered questions.

In a vox pop conducted on the saga by Iksle News, various Iklale, Apoi and Ilaje indigenes condemned Olumide's wickedness.

"This is not in our character at all. We are not saints but this is not in our character. This man has brought our cherished name into disrepute," said Bgenro Omosuyi, a resident of Okitipupa.



In her comment, Sade Akinseloyin, a student of Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba asked that family members of Olumide should hand him over to the police.

Said Sade, "We saw his face on Facebook. So his family members should give him up to the police right now. We don't want criminals of this order in our community."

The Acting Public Relations Officer of Iklale People's Welfare Association (IPWA), Engr Kehinde Eborukan also condemned the saga.

"We are going to offer assistance to Chinenye to nab this Olumide. Unless he is not from our community. In our culture we give out criminals lurking in our families. I can assure you that we will get to the bottom of the matter, unless of course this Olumide is not Iklale or Apoi or Ilaje,"

Ebiruksn urged Chinenye to contact IPWA through Iksle News to formally take up the matter.

POLITICS

Obayagban boosts Odatiwa in Irele LGA



In a significant display of support for the re-election campaign of Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, Honourable Bidemi Joshua Obayangban has donated megaphones, public address system and financial resources worth about N5 million to all 23 wards in Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency.

The gesture is aimed at empowering the grassroots machinery of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and ensuring a unified, loud, and clear message resonates across the local government area.

The donation went separately as Okitipupa Local Government and the two local councils development authorities under it got their own a week before the wards in Irele Local Government and the local council development authority under it got their own a week after.

The Special Assistant to the Governor of Ondo State and Convener of Sunshine Youths Progressive Forum has afforded party leaders and supporters the opportunity to effectively communicate the party's manifesto, achievements, and plans to the electorate, thereby facilitating a more informed and engaged citizenry.

Furthermore, the financial support accompanying the communications equipment is to alleviate the logistic and operational burdens, allowing party members to focus on mobilizing support, canvassing votes, and ultimately ensuring a resounding victory for the APC in the gubernatorial election coming up next month.

On hand to receive the donations were the Chairmen of the APC in Okiripupa and Itele Local Governments, Hon. Bode Ikulala and Chief Z.A Omoge, and witnessed by chieftains of the party in the local government areas, including Barr. Morayo Lebi, former governorship aspirant, Pastor Segun Aiyerin, Commissioner For Commerce and Industry, as well as Prof. Simidele Odimayo, Special Adviser to the Governor of Ondo state on Health, reaffirms Hon Bidemi Obayangban's unwavering commitment to the APC's success, demonstrates his dedication to the prosperity and development of Ojiripupa/ Irele Federal Constituency and sets a commendable example for fellow party members and stakeholders to emulate.

eminent party members have lauded

the appointment of Obayangban, known in social and political circles as OC General, as Special Assistant to the Governor on Forestry. For instance, an immensely impressed Segun Muyiwa, when cornered by our correspondent remarked that 'OC General is a round peg in a round hole and he has been using his wealth and intellect to contribute to the welfare of the society'.

According to this Ode-Aye born social crusader, Hon. Bidemi had not been appointed into a political position when he started providing scholarships for education, building roads and providing portable water in the streets, and providing a high standard of environmental hazard management, among others.

" So now that he had been offered an appointment", remarked him, "one can be sure he would do excellently well," he stressed.

Muyiwa appealed to the people of Okitipupa/Irele to see this foremost philanthropist as the best among those who are eminently qualified for the next Okitipupa /Irele Federal Constituency if they want to bridge the gap between promises and fulfilments.



All You Need To Know About Ikale Awards 2024

How many award categories have been slated for the 5th Ikale Awards

Fifteen categories with two of them - Ikale Award for Distinction in Education split into three sub-categories and Special Recognition Award split into five sub-categories.

How did you obtain short lists of awardees?

The management of Ikale News usually sets up an Award Committee which screens nominees. In the previous awards, readers of Ikale News sent nominations to the Committee and the Committee takes final decision. But after wild consultations, we decided to reverse that. We would scout around and make nominations and the burden is now passed to our readers to pick the winner by voting. For this year, the voting takes place on Facebook and on our website, Ikalenews.com It has been very transparent and interesting. You can even follow-up the voting and those who vote for whom on Facebook are open. The idea behind that is for winners to emerge by popular choice because we are doing it on behalf of Ikale people. It must therefore reflect the wishes of Ikale people as much as possible. We usually conduct our investigations behind the scenes. That's why most winners of Ikale Awards have been pleasantly surprised. While some have been in the limelight, many others are hidden somewhere doing great things.

Why is the Awards Scheme not yearly?

It is for several reasons. When we did the maiden awards in 1993, it was the very first of its kind. So, there was a backlog and over 20 people were honoured. On the advice of elder statesman, Dr. Amos Akingba, who was chairman of the awards committee, persuaded the committee to adopt the two-year or three-year award system so as to enhance its quality. The other reason is that it is expensive to organize the event. The other reason is to make the awards very qualitative, so that people could look up to the ceremony. We held the awards last in 2006 at the Airport Hotel, Ikeja Lagos and we would have held it at least three times since then but we rested Ikale News because of the prohibitive cost of printing materials. It was too expensive not just to print the newspaper but also to circulate. Ikale News is a special kind of publication that you cannot put on the newsstands. So, when modern technologies favoured online journalism, we resumed the newspaper about three years ago. Since we normally do the awards every three years, 2024 becomes another Ikale Awards year. Without the newspaper, we could not do the Awards because the awards is a joint project of Ikale News and members of the public.

Why is it that so much is said about the integrity of the Ikale Awards?

Generally, awards should have integrity. This means only those deserving to be awarded win. It means the process of selecting winners is transparent and reliable. We have ensured this from the start. Yes, many people reach out to us to give them awards or ask that we give certain people, all we do is throw the name up for screening. You can go through the list of nominees and if you see any name not deserving in the category we put them you can flag them. You can do that anonymously and we will remove such. We do not joke with the reputation of the awards. We ensure that the award is not cash-and-carry. Winners are not required to pay a dime. To defray our costs, winners and their friends and associates can do congratulatory adverts in the

Official Brochure or/and buy a Table-for-Five or Table-for-Ten at the ceremony. These are voluntary. If you are not interested in advertising in the Brochure or you don't want to buy Table, just come and receive your award.

Why did you create the non-voting category, if indeed the readers determine the winners?

We called that "Special Recognition Awards". It has always been part of the scheme to give special recognition awards. We decided to place the category outside voting because many people may not know these nominees. For instance, they may not know Dr. Amos Akingba, a distinguished Ikale who risked his life to fight for this country. General Sani Abacha almost killed him as a NADECO chieftain and he had to run for his dear life at a time. He was a close follower of Chief Olu Akinfosile, a leader of Ikale Central Organization (ICO) for decades. He has been a hero that loves to work behind the scene. If you ask people to vote for him, many of the younger generation may not have known him. It would not be fair to say he is not deserving. The same thing the state governor, Mr. Lucky Aiyedatiwa. His award is not Best Governor or this and that. We are recognizing what he is doing for Ikale people, hoping that it would spur him to do more for us. The same thing Professor Temi Emmanuel Ologunorisa, the Vice Chancellor of OSUASTECH. If we ask people to vote to him, his name might not ring bell. He is not from Ikale but he has done well for us managing that University. They are equally deserving and we therefore gave them wild-card entries as award winners.

How much is Gate Ticket to the Awards?

The ticket is N5,000= (Five Thousand Naira) Regular. That entitles the holder to participate in the Raffle Draw to win big prizes such as Standing Fan and Bicycle. Those who buy Tables have tickets automatically for five or ten as the case may be. The tickets would be available at the venue because we have to control crowd. Admission is strictly via the tickets.

What are the side attractions of this year's events?

We will have quality meals and drinks and enjoy fantastic time-out. Past award winner in Promotion of Ikale Culture, Chief Oneounreye Arowojolu and his Biripo Group would be on the band stand. We will have several Ikale Comedians perform also and of course the Biripo Dance Competition is coming up. We have increased the cash prize and now the winner for male and female would take home a trophy for keeps. The Raffle Draw is being introduced as a give-back to our readers and the community for all their support. The entry ticket qualifies everyone to win. We have standing fans and a rally bicycle as the star prizes for now. Before December, we might still get more prizes. We are still reaching out to people to donate these gifts for the Raffle Draw. It's throw-back to the people.

When will winners be known?

Voting closes end of October on our voting platforms on Facebook (Ikale Awards Group) and our website (ikalenews.com) on October 31st. Within 48 hours, winners would be announced as breaking news on Ikale News online. Thus, what we are doing on December 27, 2024 is the formal presentation of the awards.

PHOTO NEWS

Faces At The Empowerment Of Widows And Students At The 10th Founder's Anniversary Of Cac Hope Of Glory, Ode-Aye

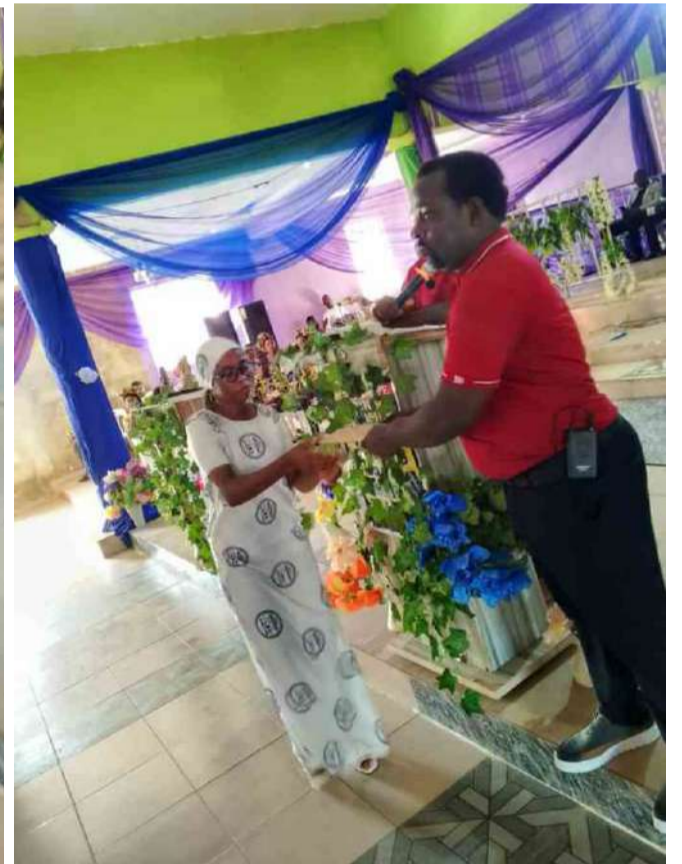
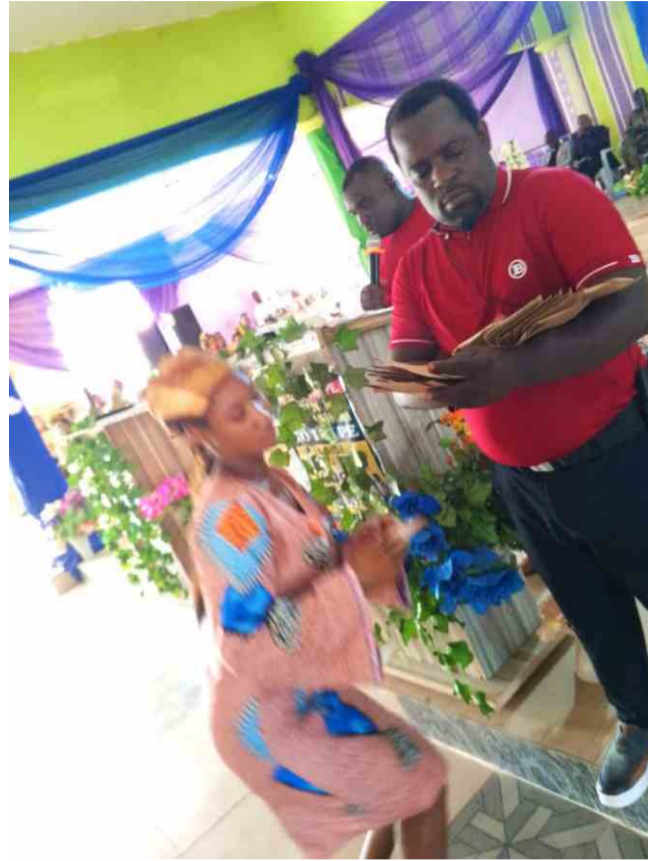
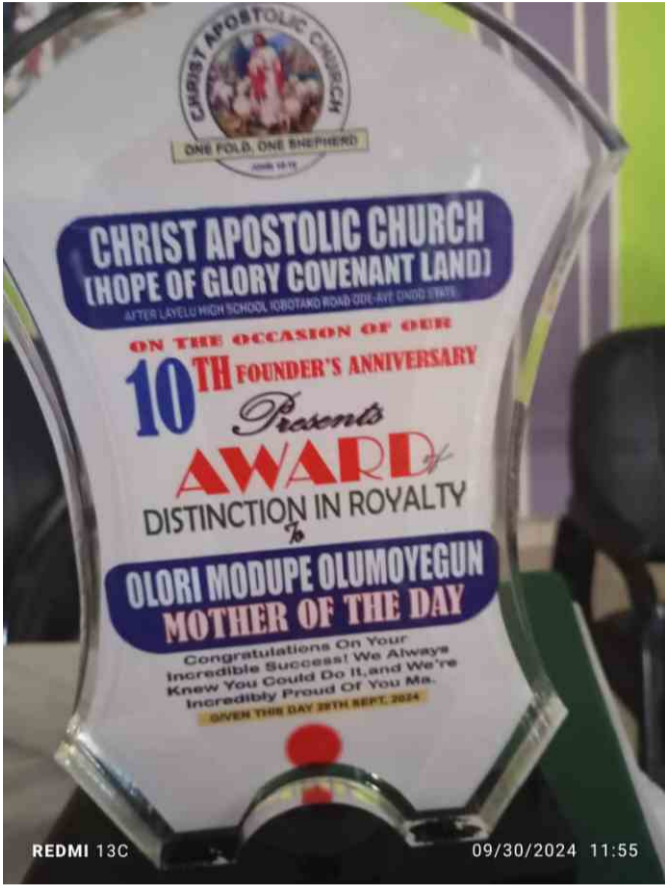
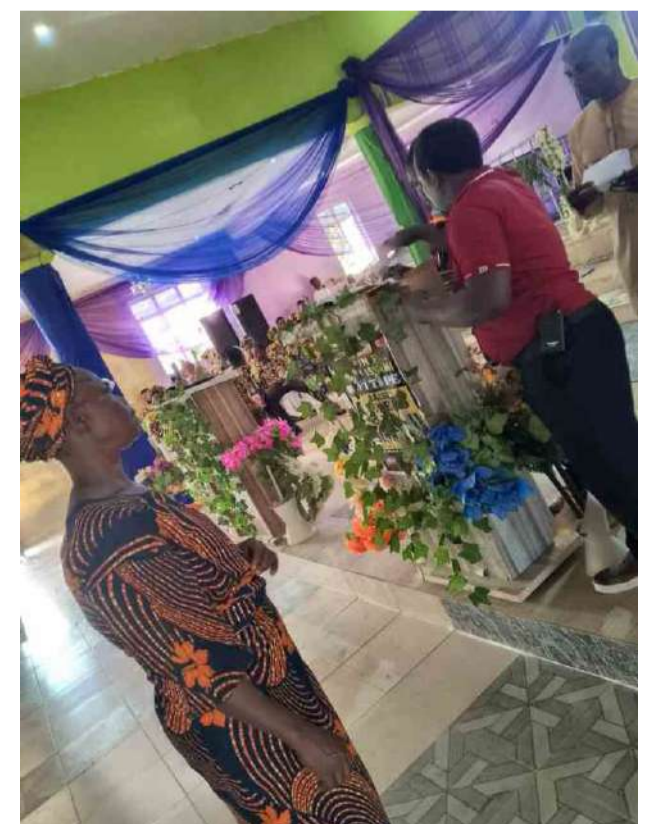


PHOTO NEWS

Faces At The Empowerment Of Widows And Students At The 10th Founder's Anniversary Of Cac Hope Of Glory, Ode-Aye



FEATURE IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken



“Aghan je j'a ton uli se, jaa ta fi a fe pa ekuntele”

Ikale News: *Baba mo bino o.* I am not happy with you

Baba Liliken: I know why. It is because I have not been available to give you fresh Ikale proverbs for two editions now. *Maa bino* (Don't be angry). Let me use an Ikale proverb to hammer that home: “**Oke ti'be, oun ee jej'a ri ti oghon ni**”. Transliteration of that is that “The hill here prevents us from having a clear view of the other hill”. By translation, it means “pressure of work”

Ikale News: *Wow!* Some of these our proverbs are so unique. I have tried to find many of them in standard Yoruba Proverbs Books, they are not there. Some are there, but the way we construct in Ikale is different.

Baba Liliken: That is the way it is with proverbs. It draws from the culture and environment of the speaker of the proverb. So, if another community uses, it may not be apt. Every community has its unique proverbs and it is very good that *Ikale News* is compiling our own.

Ikale News: Baba, I heard one good Ikale proverb from one of our elder statesmen in Ikale last month and I quickly grabbed

it. I was at the meeting of stakeholders in Igbotako in General Olu Bajowa's house. In trying to explain his point, the General said “**mo ji j'aghan jeje ton uli se, jaa ta fi a fe pa ekuntele.**” I loved it. But I did not grab the full meaning.

Baba Liliken: The translation is “let us put our house in order before we complain that some people are giving us problems” or “let us ensure that we do the needful before we start blaming our problems on intruders.”

Ikale News: *A ba jooo.* The General was talking about security in the ancient town.

Baba Liliken: Yes, it s the same as what the Englishman means saying “remove the spec in your eyes before you look for the specs in other people's eyes” but you can see that it is still different.

Ikale News: Very true Baba.

Baba Liliken: Let me give you three more Ikale proverbs for this edition. Ikale ji: “**agekun ejo, ejo meji re yen**”. Translation is “a snake cut into two means two snakes” but the real meaning is that “your problem is not properly

solved.”

Ikale News: *Ee ye mi Baba. Baba I don't understand*

Baba Liliken: It's simple. When you cut a snake into two, that snake can still bike you. And its tail is the most venomous part than its teeth. So, literally, you have two snakes to contend with. It can also use it when someone is solving a problem and creating another one. And you know if you cut a snake, it will be very angry at you. *(laughs)*

Ikale News. Yes Baba. So, like one church the other time in Igbobini. The pastor was accused of causing problems and he was transferred to be a District Officer. From there he gained more powers and continued to terrorize the local church...

Baba Liliken: *O ti ye e ju* (You so much understand it). They should have sacked the pastor and sent him away. They forget that “**agekun ejo, ejo meji oun en mu sire ni**”

Baba Liliken: Have you heard this? “**Ijekuje ee je ji erun agba to'do**”?

Ikale News: Yes. That translates “an elder fails to speak with authority when he or she compromises his or her integrity.” “Ijekuje” translates “eating here and there”.

Baba Liliken: Very correct. You will compromise your integrity if you are fond of incessantly seeking or receiving favours from people. My last proverb for this edition is: “**Ugben lo hi uren ajo, o gbuli e donne**”. That is how we say it in Ikale dialect. In Yoruba language, it is a bit different. Yoruba says “**Bi igbin nfa, ikaraun re a tele**”. The Ikale version transliterates: “The snail embarks on a journey and carries its house along”. But the Yoruba version transliterates: “The shell of a snail wherever the snail goes.” The Ikale version emphasizes that the Snail deliberately carries his house along when he embarks on a journey. It means you don't leave something important or crucial behind when doing important things. The Yoruba version emphasizes the follower while our own emphasizes the leader.

Ikale News: Baba “**iyi a ri ni ade o tuugho**” (let us call it a day>”

Baba Lliken: Thank you. *Se wee bino ma?*

Ikale News: Gede-gede. (At all!)

NEWS

ODSG approves rehabilitation, construction of solar-powered water schemes in Ondo South.



As part of the Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa administration's efforts to provide clean and accessible water and prevent cholera outbreaks in Ondo State, the Commissioner for Water Resources and Sanitation, Sunday Akinwalire, has inspected water schemes in Okitipupa and parts of the Southern Senatorial District.

During an inspection at a moribund water scheme in Iju Odo, Akinwalire announced the governor's approval for the rehabilitation of the water scheme to provide potable water to the community.

He said, "Mr Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, learned that the water project had become moribund and directed us to take immediate action to restore the water scheme."

"All logistics have been put in place to ensure the water scheme becomes operational in the next few days."

In response, Oba Festus Oyedele Oyemoyegun, the Oniju of Iju Odo, thanked the governor for his support in restoring the community's water scheme and promised to ensure full security for the project when it is finally rehabilitated. He also expressed his support for the governor in the forthcoming election.

In Ilutitun, the commissioner inspected the solar-powered reticulated borehole, which currently serves at least 2,000 households in the community.

At the palace of the Orungberuwa of Ode-Erinje Kingdom, the commissioner revealed that the governor had also approved the construction of a new solar-powered borehole for the Erinje community.

"The governor has approved the construction of a solar-powered

borehole, further reinforcing his commitment to safeguarding the health of the people of Ondo State," he added.

Chiefs in the community, including Chief Aiyeniya, expressed their unwavering support for the governor and promised that public facilities would be properly maintained when completed.

Additionally, the Halu of Aye Kingdom, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade, was informed about the approved solar-powered borehole project for his community.

The commissioner noted that this effort aligns with the state government's broader goal of ensuring the health and well-being of its citizens through improved water infrastructure.

IKALE KIDS

Ikale Culture

Hello beautiful Ikale children. *Ki ghon ti ri ke? (How is it?)*

How is our studies? Hope you have started reading ahead and taking notes of what your teachers teach you. The earlier you started, the better grades you would have, all other things being equal.

In this edition I want to discuss an important part of our culture in ikale and the Yoruba as a whole. This is: Different Ikale songs at various ceremonies.

Yoruba and Ikale love celebrations, and different songs emanate from the occasions. For instance, marriage ceremony, naming ceremony, burial of aged, birthday, chieftancy, celebration of the community day, political rally, school ceremonies etc.

Marriage : One of the most common Ikale songs at marriage ceremonies is “Oma y'eri jo”

Oma yeri jo :

Oma yeri jo o, oma yeri yo

Oma yeri yo 'nu ile o, jo ogbigba ma'gba o, Ogbigba maa gbaa ma 'mowo , jota mi ma yo o.

This is a prayer song that says the child that I see and dance and rejoice, may death not snatch him or her from me. They sing it to appreciate God for the bride or groom being celebrated. People always love to sing it as it's a lovely prayer song.

Another lovely one is “A ka ba mi jo.”
(Come dance with me).

A ka ba wa jo, aka bawa yo:

A ka bawa jo oo, e ka bawa yo (Come dance with us, come help us rejoice)

E'ka bawa yo, Igbado yo ge ghe n'ori o (Rejoice with us, (our) maize bears flowers)

Igbado, igbado, igbado yo geghe n'ori o.

This one says rejoice with us as our fruit is bearing fruit. Rejoicing about the celebrations of the child as he or she is of age. When a flower sprouts from a maize, it is a joyful sign to the farmer that the maize he or she planted is about to bring forth maize fruits/pods. Any time they sing the song, parents are usually emotional and happy.

At occasions such as marriage, the mother usually is also a star. It is a good occasion to appreciate the good mother. And I love how Ikale and Ilaje/Apoi people do this.

'Yemi o, iye ire.:] (My mom, good mother)

Yemi o, iye, ire, (My mom, good mother)

Iye mo ne o (My mom)

Iye omo. (True mother)

The foregoing is a fantastic song when introducing the mother on the engagement or wedding day. It simply means my mother is a good mother, the mother I have is a mother indeed who love her children..

Other Yoruba sub-groups like Ife, Egba, Ijebu, Ijesa also have similar songs. Let me share some of them with you.

E fun wa ni iyawo wa

E fun wa niyawo wa, iyawo o rodo mo o, omi n be lagbala wa , anobi lai be yin o.

Give us our wife , the wife will not go through the stress of fetching water from the stream as we have tap water in our compound. It simply means the bride will not go through stress and will enjoy the new family.

E wa wo ohun t'oko iyawo gbe wa:

E wa wo ohun t'oko iyawo gbe wa , e wa wo ohun toki iyawo gbe wa, o fowo re ra ohun to dara , o gbe wa sile ana re

This one too is sang during engagement ceremony, it says come and see what the groom brought, he used this money to buy good things and brought it to his in-laws.

Awa legbe oniyawo:

Awa legbe oniyawo , egbe olowo, awa kii se Egbe olosi afigo laso, awa kii se Egbe olosi afigo laso.

This one is singing the praises of the groom's family, saying they are capable and rich enough to take care of the bride.

Baba o, baba o baba o:

Baba, o baba o baba

Oluwa da baba si fun wa

Baba o baba o, baba o

Oluwa da baba si fun wa.

This one is simply praising and praying that God should protect and keep the father of the bride or groom.



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

Baba wa, ara yin a le.:

Baba wa , ara yin a le , wa lemi gigan wa pe fun wa o.

Singing and praying for good health and long life for the bride or groom's father.

Loju yin , arugbo ni mummy:

Loju yin arugbo ni mummy

Loju yin arugbo ni mummy,

Darling, lo'ko pe won

Dear loko n pe won

Sweetie loko n pe won o

To ba dale .

This is singing praises that the mother of the bride or groom is ever young and still appealing to the husband.

Baba wa :

Baba wa, ara yin a le,

Wa lemi gigan, wa pe fun wa o.

This is a prayer song for brides father or groom's father during wedding.

Iya mo mi lo:

Iya mo mi lo. Baba mo mi lo

Iya mo mi lo, baba mo mi lo

Fa dura sin mi o,

Iya mo mi lo, baba mo mi lo fadura sin mi o.

Kin ma mosi, kin ma kagbako ni ile oko.

This is the song of prayer by the bride requesting that the parents should pray and send her forth to her husband place , so no evil will befall her and she will prosper.

Next edition, I will continue with Naming ceremony songs in both Ikale and Yoruba generally. Keep being a good child till next time and beyond.

I know you will have some difficulty knowing how to sing those songs. Just tell Daddy and Mummy to sing them for you. They know how to sing them.

OPINION

Why Government Should Extend TETFund and NELFund Benefits to Private Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria

nelfund
NIGERIAN EDUCATION LOAN FUND
... increasing access to higher education



Education is a vital foundation for any nation's growth. In Nigeria, this is especially true as higher education plays a significant role in shaping the future of young people and the overall development of the country. Nigeria's tertiary institutions, which include universities, polytechnics, and colleges, are responsible for training the next generation of leaders, innovators, and professionals. However, not all of these institutions receive the same level of support from the government. While public universities benefit from government initiatives like the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFund), private institutions are excluded from these opportunities. I will continue by giving definition to TETFUND and NELFUND.

TETFund (Tertiary Education Trust Fund) is an intervention agency established by the Nigerian government to provide financial support for the improvement of infrastructure, academic research, and staff development in public tertiary institutions, including universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. The fund is primarily sourced from a 2% education tax paid by companies in Nigeria. TETFund's goal is to enhance the quality of higher education in Nigeria through projects that improve learning environments, provide training opportunities for lecturers, and promote

research and innovation. While NELFund (Nigerian Education Loan Fund) is a government initiative designed to provide financial assistance to Nigerian students pursuing higher education. The fund typically offers loans to students in public tertiary institutions, allowing them to cover the costs of tuition and other educational expenses. NELFund aims to make higher education more accessible to students from lower-income backgrounds by providing them with an affordable way to finance their education, which they can repay after graduation.

This article explores why it is important for the government to extend TETFund and NELFund benefits to private tertiary institutions. By doing so, Nigeria can create a fairer and more effective higher education system that serves the needs of all students, regardless of whether they attend public or private schools.

1. Increasing Access to Education

One of the biggest challenges in Nigeria's education system is the limited capacity of public tertiary institutions. Every year, hundreds of thousands of students apply to universities, polytechnics, and colleges, but only a fraction of them get admitted due to the limited number of available spaces. Public institutions are often overcrowded,

Gen-Z THOUGHTS



with Divinegift Solomon

and this leads to a lack of resources, poor infrastructure, and a low quality of education for many students.

Private tertiary institutions help fill this gap by providing additional spaces for students. However, because they do not receive government funding, they rely heavily on tuition fees to cover their costs. This makes private education more expensive and out of reach for many Nigerians. If the government extends TETFund benefits to private institutions, these schools can improve their facilities, expand their capacity, and ultimately admit more students. This would ease the pressure on public schools and give more Nigerian students the opportunity to pursue higher education.

2. Promoting Fairness and Equity

The current arrangement, where only public tertiary institutions benefit from TETFund and NELFund, creates a divide in the quality of education available to Nigerian students. Students in public institutions often have access to better facilities and more affordable tuition fees due to government support, while their counterparts in private institutions face higher costs and sometimes fewer resources. This inequality is unfair because both sets of students contribute to the development of the country, and both should have equal opportunities to succeed.

By extending TETFund and NELFund to private institutions, the government can promote fairness and equity in the education sector. All students, regardless of where they study, deserve access to quality education and resources. Private

OPINION

continuation of Why the Government Should Extend TETFund and NELFund Benefits to Private Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria

institutions also contribute to the national education system by producing graduates who go on to work in various sectors of the economy. Therefore, they should not be excluded from government assistance.

3. Encouraging Research and Innovation

Research is an essential part of higher education, as it leads to new discoveries, innovations, and solutions to societal problems. In Nigeria, however, the level of research output from tertiary institutions is relatively low, partly due to a lack of funding. TETFund has been a crucial source of funding for research in public institutions, but private institutions are not eligible for this support, even though they have the potential to make significant contributions to research and development.

Many private universities have the capacity to carry out groundbreaking research, but they are limited by their financial constraints. By extending TETFund benefits to private institutions, the government can encourage more research activities across all tertiary institutions in Nigeria. This would boost the country's innovation capacity and help Nigeria become more competitive in the global knowledge economy.

Moreover, private institutions often have international partnerships and collaborations, which could help drive research that addresses local and global challenges. Supporting research in private institutions would not only benefit these schools but also contribute to the country's overall progress in science, technology, and other key fields.

4. Supporting Human Capital Development

Nigeria's development depends on its human capital—the skills, knowledge, and capabilities of its people. Tertiary institutions play a critical role in building this human capital by training professionals in fields such as medicine, engineering, law, and education. Both public and private institutions contribute to this effort by producing graduates who enter the workforce and help drive economic growth.

However, private institutions are often left to

fend for themselves without government support, which limits their ability to offer the same level of training and education as public schools. Extending TETFund benefits to private institutions would allow them to improve their programs, hire qualified staff, and provide better learning environments for their students. This would lead to the production of more skilled graduates who are ready to contribute to the nation's development.

Additionally, NELFund, which provides loans to students in public institutions, could be expanded to include students in private institutions. This would help students from lower-income families afford private education and ensure that they are not left out simply because they cannot pay the high tuition fees. By making higher education more affordable, the government would be investing in the future of Nigerian youth and the country as a whole.

5. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships

In many parts of the world, public-private partnerships (PPPs) have proven to be an effective way to address challenges in education and other sectors. In Nigeria, private institutions are already playing an important role in providing education to students who cannot be accommodated in public schools. However, there is potential for even greater collaboration between the government and private institutions, particularly if private schools are given access to TETFund and NELFund benefits.

By extending these benefits, the government would signal its commitment to working with private institutions to improve the quality of education in the country. This could lead to more partnerships between the public and private sectors, which would benefit the entire education system. For example, private institutions could collaborate with public schools on research projects, staff training programs, and infrastructure development. Such partnerships would strengthen the education sector and ensure that all institutions, both public and private, are working towards the same goal of national

development.

6. Improving the Overall Education Standard

The ultimate goal of extending TETFund and NELFund benefits to private institutions is to improve the overall standard of education in Nigeria. A strong education system is the foundation of a prosperous society, and every student deserves access to the best possible learning environment. By providing financial support to private institutions, the government can help raise the standard of education across the board.

This would not only benefit the students who attend private schools but also the country as a whole. With better facilities, more qualified staff, and increased research output, private institutions would be able to contribute even more to Nigeria's development. Furthermore, a higher standard of education would produce graduates who are better equipped to compete in the global economy, bringing more opportunities for Nigeria's youth and helping to reduce unemployment and poverty in the long term.

In conclusion, extending TETFund and NELFund benefits to private tertiary institutions in Nigeria is not just a matter of fairness—it is a strategic move that would benefit the entire education system and the country as a whole. By increasing access to education, promoting equity, encouraging research, and supporting human capital development, the government can ensure that all tertiary institutions, both public and private, are able to fulfill their potential. In the end, this would lead to a stronger, more inclusive education system that serves the needs of all Nigerians, regardless of where they choose to study.





IKALE AWARDS

VOTING SO FAR (RESULTS SO FAR)

IKALE AWARDS TOTAL VOTE COUNT			
SN	AWARD CATEGORY	NOMINEES FOR 2024 (Only one person can win in each category)	
1.	Ikale Gold Award (Highest category)	1. Mr Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 2. Dr. Seinde Fadeni-Oladapo 3. Dr. Remi Olatubora (SAN)	337 411 125
2	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Primary)	1. Chief S.E Lupo 2. Kingdom Heritage Model School, Okitipupa 3. St. Williams Nursery And pry school Okitipupa	58 36 115
3.	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Secondary)	1. Stella Maris College (Old Students Association) 2. M.M.G.S. (Old Students Association) 3. Ofedepe High School, Okitipupa	254 123 35
4	Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Tertiary)	1. Professor Francis Igbasan 2. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)	324 114 96
5	Ikale Community Service Award	1. Barr Phillip Ogunjumelo 2. Mr. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 3. Mr. Deolu Ijose	129 145 94
6	Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler Award	1. HRM, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade (Uyi Oba 1, Lapoki of Aye Kingdom) 2. HRM, Oba G.B. Faduyile (Abodi of Ikaleland) 3. HRM, Oba Oluwole Adesayo (The Ahaba of Ajagba Kingdom)	161 277 84
7	Ikale Culture Icon (formerly Special Award for Promotion of Ikale Culture)	1. Sir Demola Suzi 2. High Chief Omotola Emaye 3. Awawa FM Radio	250 122 55
8	Outstanding Ikale Woman Award	1. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 2. Princess Oladunni Odu, PhD. 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)	117 119 49
9	Best Organized Community Day	1. Layelu Day 2023 2. Utako Day 2023	135 197
10	Special Award for Distinguished Performance in Sports	1. Gianis Adetokunbo 2. Tolulope "Jordan" Omogbehin (Omos) 3. Odunayo Adekuoroye	27 37 123
11	Distinguished Ikale Professional Award	1. Engr. Felix Ayejukanwa 2. Brig Gen. Felix Ohunyeye 3. Mr. Martins Oloja	481 69 15
12	Distinguished Ikale Club/Association	1. Okitipupa Divisional Association, Abuja 2. Fusion of Aye Development Associations (FOADA) 3. Irele Progressive Union	116 77 20
13	Best Ikale Legislator Award	1. Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, PhD, CFR 2. Hon. Jimi Odimayo 3. Hon Chris Ayebusiwa	370 113 45
14	Outstanding Ikale in the Diaspora Award	1. Prof. Salewa Olafioye (USA) 2. Prince Jimi Adekanle, JAF (Canada) 3. Barr. Phillip Ogunjumelo (USA)	126 88 150
15	Special Award for Distinguished Non-Ikale	1. Dr. Akinkunmi Oresanya (Omosanya Hospital) 2. Mr. I.C.M Okeke (Sinako) 3. Urhobo Progressive Union, Ikale	135 121 96
16	Distinguished Ikale Business Personality of the Year	1. Dr. Jide Martins Adewinle 2. Mr. Sola Fred Adekugbe 3. Mr. Segun Obayando	216 121 119
17	Distinguished Ikale Local Government Administrator	No qualified nominee	NIL
18	Special Recognition Awards	<u>Automatic winners:</u> 1. HE, Gov. Lucky Ayedatiwa 2. Dr. A.A. Akingba (Elder statesman/NADECO Chieftain); 3. Mr. Segun Obayando 4. Prof Temi Emmanuel Ologunorisa (VC, OASUSTECH); 5. Prof Eddy Omolehinwa (retired Dean, University of Lagos).	NON VOTING CATEGORY

E-Signed:

S.O Olaniyan
Ag. Editor

Voting Continues on
IKALENEWS.COM and ends
October 30



The Entire Royal Family of
Senator Michael Atijosan Emmanuel Onunkun OON
Of Okunnughi/Lumure And Fapetu Of Joola Dynasty Of Ilutitun-Osooro In Okitipupa LGA.

Cordially request the presence of

to the

Burial CEREMONY

Of Our Beloved Husband, Father, Brother, Grandfather, Great Grandfather & Inlaw

SENATOR MICHAEL ATIJOSAN EMMANUEL

ONUNKUN OON



Funeral Arrangements:

Service of Songs: Wednesday, 23 October, 2024
@ His Residence, No 18, Loni Street, Erinje Road Okitipupa, Ondo State.
Time: 5:00PM

Wake keep: Thursday, 24 October 2024
@ his residence, Rebuja Road, Ilutitun, Okitipupa Ondo State.
Time: 5:00PM

Funeral Service: Friday, 25 October 2024.
@ The Cathedral Chuch of Ebenezer, Ilutitun, Okitipupa LGA, Ondo State.
Time: 10.00AM

Reception follows immediately after the interment
@ Morubodo College Field, Ilutitun, Okitipupa LGA Ondo State.

RSVP

Mr. Sef Onunkun: 07054040897
Mr. Ayodele Onunkun: 08064548750
Dr. Morenike O. Alaka: 07067070027

PRINT @ TG GRAFIX: 08062970717

RSVP

Mr. Sef Onunkun: 07054040897
Mr. Ayodele Onunkun: 08064548750
Dr. Morenike O. Alaka: 07067070027

NEWS

Olatunji Applauds Ondo Govt Over N3.5bn Approval for Public School Renovation



Chairman of a socio-cultural group, Ikale Heritage Development Association, IHDA, Otunba Sola Olatunji has applauded the Ondo State government over its recent approval of N3.5 billion for the renovation of dilapidated primary schools buildings across the state.

Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, had approved a N3.5 billion counterpart fund for the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) to support the construction and renovation of public primary schools across the state during

the week at the State Executive Council meeting.

Olatunji had published a heart-breaking article in the crystalNews.com on Monday lamenting the state of primary and secondary schools in Ondo State, warning that these two levels of education in the state may soon go into extinction if urgent steps are not taken.

Reacting to the swift response of the Governor, Olatunji said: “We need to appreciate the governor and the government for the prompt response

to my clarion call.

“We are grateful to the governor and the management team of public education in the state for their quick intervention. Like I said severally, our articles are meant to remind our public office holders of their social contracts with citizens.”

According to the Commissioner for Education, Mr. Olaolu Akindolire, the approved counterpart fund will fetch the state over N7 billion for the construction and renovation of public schools across the three senatorial districts.



Mrs Alice Adekunbi
Fadeni
Nee Ikutiminu

16th April 1926 - 20th September 2024
Aged 98 years

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE SAY GOODBYE TO A
LOVING SISTER, MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER

SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH 2024

ODE-AYE, ONDO STATE

POLITICAL HARVEST IN APC

Emorioye, others dump PDP as Aiyedatiwa aide takes campaign to NURTW in the town



It was a significant milestone for the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the two wards in Ode-Aye on Sunday 15th September, 2024 as the party admitted no fewer than thirty prominent members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) into the Progressive fold.

Receiving them were the Chairmen of the two wards in the town, Chiefs Obanla and as well as Special Assistant to the Governor, Hon. Ibikunle Ikuyinminu.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of Ward 1, Chief Obanla was full of gratitude to God for the bountiful harvest which to him signaled the dead of PDP in the town. He noted with joy the worth of the new members in the Ode-Aye political equation and assured them that they would enjoy equal treatments with old members of the party in the scheme of things.

In his own submission, Special Assistant to the Governor, Hon. Ibikunle Ikuyinminu took the house memory lane while he recalled his experience working politically with some of the decampeses who have been very wonderful and fantastic in the politics of Ode-Aye, Okitipupa Local Government and Ondo State at large. He corroborated on the earlier submission of the Ward 1 Chairman that they all would be given equal treatments with the old members of the party.

Among the decampeses are Hon. Akin

Emorioye, former Supervisor and ranking member of the PDP who has hitherto occupied several party positions in the town and in the local government area, and Segun Aiyelabola, another notable political phenomenon in the town.

Emorioye, while addressing the gathering on the rationale behind the exit from the PDP, noted that with the way Governor Aiyedatiwa has been handling the affairs of the party, APC would continue to be the party to beat. He counted scores of figures that were in the PDP and who are now in the APC today as another great factor as he and other decampeses felt the need to see what his former leaders in the PDP saw that made them shift camp to the APC. He assured the leadership of the party that with the arrival of the new members, the party would coast home to victory in the November 16 Governorship Election in the state.

Also present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of Ward 2 in the town, John Akinduro, Secretary of Ward 1, Funmi Ogungbemi, his Ward 1 counterpart, Akin Iwakun, Women Leaders and Youth Leaders of both wards and some other party leaders and executives.

In a related development, the wind of

defection blew in Ode-Erinje and Aiyeka Igbodigo where prominent PDP members dumped the party and joined the ruling All Progressive Congress. Among them were Owolala Folorunso, Ifanayanjo Idowu and Omoniyi Bamidele (Erinje) as well as Rotimi Akindele and Tunde Arowosomo (Aiyeka /Igbodigo), all former leaders in the PDP. The decision to pitch their tents with APC was consequent upon series of meetings held with them by APC Chieftain, Dr. Jide Adewinle and the motivations they got from same on how they would be treated in the event that they shift their camp to the party.

Meanwhile, Special Assistant to the Governor, Honourable Kunle Ikuyinminu has met with the executives of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) in the town on the need to support Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa in the November

16 Governorship Election in the state. Ikuyinminu reeled out the obvious benefits the union will get in the course of doing this and the leadership of the union has promised to sensitize their members on the need to identify with Governor Aiyedatiwa and APC to ensure that the dividends of democracy get to them at the grassroots level.

PHOTO NEWS

Special Asssistant to the Governor, Ibikunle Ikuyinminu (Labolah), receives decampees to the APC in Ode Aye



OPINION

'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

The age-long challenge of 'information overload' is beginning to affect us in this part of the world and our leaders at all levels are exploiting it to prevent people from deepening understanding of the multifarious challenges they daily ignore in the context of their primary responsibility – security and welfare of the people.

Yes, 'information overload', that blight, which can be seen as the excess information available to a person aiming to complete a task or make decision. This new challenge to mankind, which now impedes the decision-making process, daily results in poor (or even no) decision being made – on issues of urgent national importance. In Nigeria, we need to be wary of this virus that Alvin Toffler, a futurist warned about since 1970.

If we would like to understand the clog, "information overload" here is the beginning: In the 1970 book, "Future Shock" by author and futurist Alvin Toffler, he said future shock is, "the dizzying disorientation brought on by the premature arrival of the future. It may well be the most important disease of tomorrow".

BBC's Matt Novak, a features correspondent, had earlier noted that there is no denying Toffler's international influence on the way we think about the future. His words: "I have seen Future Shock in virtually every used bookstore I have visited from Portland, Oregon to Cartagena, Colombia. With over six million copies sold, it clearly struck a nerve in 1970 and beyond. Toffler explains in the book that, "just as the body cracks under the strain of environmental overstimulation, the "mind" and its decision processes behave erratically when overloaded."

In a radio interview shortly after the release of his book, Toffler warned that the exhaustion he saw throughout the world was tied to his new future shock theory. "I think there's a tremendous undercurrent of dissatisfaction in America; people saying I want out, it's moving too fast, it's moving away from me; a sense of panic; a sense that things are slipping out of control and I don't think that there's much we can do in our personal lives to counteract that," he said.

Toffler's assumption was that the future is something that happens to us, rather than with us. It is something out of our control that will inevitably overwhelm us".

The same BBC's Novak had in the same 2012 warned that the 'information overload' he was deconstructing was getting "out of control". He added then that "Whilst some will take comfort in Toffler's words, some of the notions seem rather quaint forty years later. Just as people today throw around the number of tweets sent per second or the amount of video watched online, in the early 1970s Toffler followers and techno-reactionaries liked to scatter their own figures to show the magnitude of the problem..."

In the same Futurist essay that decried the rise of the number of TV channels, the author Ben Bagdikian went on to overwhelm readers with even more daunting numbers, explaining that computers would sooner than later be able to store information at a rate of 12 million words a minute, whilst printers would be able to pump out 180,000 words a minute; something that would collide violently with humanity's ability to process information.

It was a warning that we still hear today in many contexts. For example, author Jonathan Franzen, an opponent of



electronic books, argues that traditional paper tomes give humanity some much needed stability in a world rocked by change. He fears that this rapid pace is hurting us. His words: "Seriously, the world is changing so quickly that if you had any more than 80 years of change I don't see how you could stand it psychologically".

Jonathan Franzen: e-books are damaging society

Jonathan Franzen has launched a passionate defence of the printed book, warning that our desire for the instant ...

These men who saw tomorrow then had advised that we should "accept change". Yet history seems to suggest we ride these waves of change.

Toffler, Bagdikian and Franzen are not necessarily wrong or even alarmist in their concerns that we should seek to control our own technological destinies. But to Novak, futility should not win the argument. The argument here is that our consumption of media is largely within our control. We have a choice in the matter. We can change the channel, turn off the TV, or close the laptop lid. These are our choices, and it is hard to see how any of them are irrational or happening to us rather than with us.

That seems to be the therapy we can't apply to manage the change construct we now face in Nigeria.

Which is why I think the information overload is already affecting us and state actors in our milieu are exploiting this mind-boggler to underserve and confuse us with their distracting propaganda, misinformation and disinformation, so regularly. Some of the operatives deployed on various social media platforms by some state actors, dealers,

OPINION 'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

sorry leaders use tragi-comic weapons of mass deceptions. Some other hatchet writers, whose god is their belly, employ some subterfuge approach to overload and feed our spirit with material that can prevent us from seeing available opportunities that Asians and even Middle Easterners are exploring and exploiting in Africa's most populous nation. We need to deal with this overload that daily blurs our visions and diminishes our performance indices, our efficiency and effectiveness.

Doubtless, we are being daily fed with frivolous pieces of negative pieces of information overload about our place in the world of knowledge development. What we can easily access now is the number of federal, state and private universities. We can't access data on how these numerous universities have been affecting our knowledge development and indeed our intellectual capacity to solve our current enormous challenges.

At press time, even in the media, we didn't know who and what to believe about Aliko Dangote's \$20 billion worth of modern Refinery where more than one hundred journalists spent about eleven hours on facility tours last Sunday.

Dangote told the journalists last Sunday that he actually paid a whopping \$100 million to the Lagos State Government for the sprawling 'Dangote's Planet' Plots of Land in Ibeju Lekki, Lagos. He confirmed to the aristocracy of the Nigerian media across platforms that from next month, he would have capacity to begin commercial distribution of PMS among others. Before journalists could ask Lagos State Government for confirmation about the use of the \$100 million worth of Title Deeds (Certificate of Occupancy) Dangote confirmed the then Governor Babatunde Fashola handed him, another information load had filtered in from the petroleum industry regulators, which suggested that Dangote might not be able to operate the refinery he claimed was ready.

At the weekend, we were told that the Refinery was only 45 % complete and that the licence to commence commercial

production hadn't been given him, even though he had begun partial distribution of diesel. Anyway, let us wait for more fireworks and more information load(ing) from some principalities and powers who had actually begun to spread some "well written" bad verses on the Dangote Refinery to the effect that, "the Dangote Refinery is a scam", after all.

'Let's talk about livestock business'

Anyway, what I actually wanted to write on is the information overload on the Livestock Sub-sector I began to comment upon last week as a companion/commemorative piece on iconic Wole Soyinka @80.

Recall this: I had then averred that the President who had just then proclaimed creation of Livestock Ministry from a February 2023 Report and Blueprint inspired by a former Governor of Kano State, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje had stoked another fire of controversy that instantly put the Fulani on a line of fire.

Recall also that I had then suggested that the president's information and re-orientation managers should organise a strategic national re-orientation campaign to deal with the negative perception that the new Livestock Ministry must have triggered.

So today, I would like to begin a serial on the limitless opportunities that the Livestock Subsector offers all of us instead of the challenges that the mere mention of Livestock business offers via information overload.

And here is the thing, we need to deepen our understanding that Livestock subsector is much more than cattle rearing by the Fulani. Behold, one of our leaders and specifically Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State had gone ahead of the President's creation of the Livestock Ministry to show example through strategic revival of Fashola Farm and Ranch near Iseyin, Oyo State. This isn't a campaign for Governor Makinde, who just revived a Ranch the late Chief

Obafemi Awolowo actually established as Premier of Western Region. It is a verifiable testament to possibilities and opportunities in Agriculture Business of which Livestock is a subsector. It is just a way of drawing our attention to some challenges we harp on, which Indians, Chinese and Lebanese investors see as opportunities in our country. I mean we often feed our spirit with so much negativity through the obnoxious information overload so much that we can hardly recognise that sometimes we need to look at the 'burning bush' that isn't 'consuming the bush' yet. The way I see this is that we may not be able to change the way the current President has been running the country. He doesn't seem to be a leader that would study the implications of the proverbial "burning bush" that isn't consuming the bush yet. He isn't likely to change anytime soon no matter the number of open letters we write to him daily on the need to change strategy. But there is some solace in the words of Alan Paton in his classic, "Cry The Beloved Country": "When the storm threatens, a man is afraid for his house. But when the house is destroyed, there is something to do. About the storm, he can do nothing, but he can rebuild a house..." That is where we are, no thanks to the presidential system that hands four years to any winner of our presidential election. We can look for opportunities in the challenges the governance system creates for us. And one of such challenges is the Livestock Subsector. Even as we discuss why the President should not have created another Ministry out of the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, let's look at the seeds of time in the Livestock Subsector and detect the ones that can flourish in the land of our birth. That livestock Sub-sector is too important to be left to the President and Fulani alone. Let's borrow some brilliance from Governor Makinde and his 'Animal Farm' in Fashola, near Iseyin. Let's look at some architecture in the Livestock ruins.

##

We will continue with the Livestock opportunities properly, if next week comes (by His grace).

A portrait of Chief Mrs Alice Adekunbi Fadeni, an elderly woman with a warm smile, wearing a red and blue striped headwrap and a red floral top. The background is a solid teal color.

CHIEF MRS ALICE ADEKUNBI FADENI

1929 - 2024



With heavy hearts but gratitude to God for a life well spent, we announce the passing away of our aunt, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Chief Mrs Alice Adekunbi Fadeni, who slept in the Lord on Friday 20th September 2024.

She will be remembered for her warmth and kindness which touched the lives of many.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

We kindly ask that you keep our family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

Dr Seinde Fadeni
For the Family



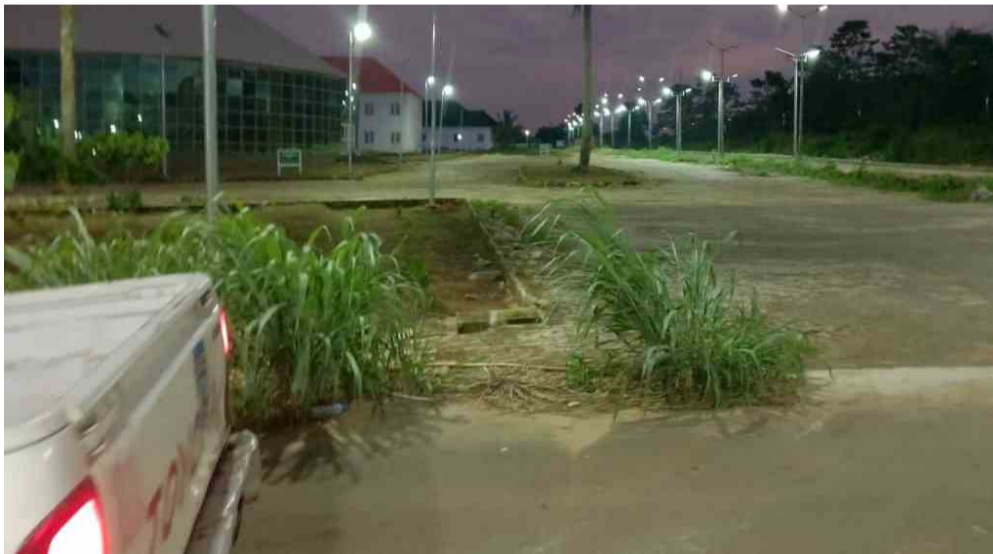
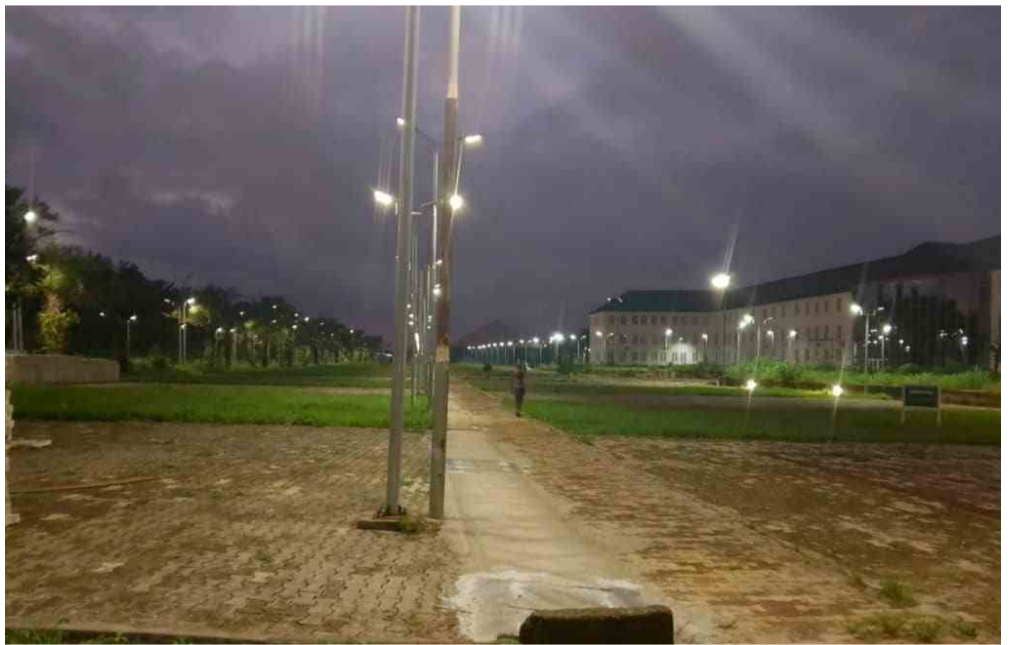
PHOTO NEWS

Igbotako Leaders of Thought Meeting hosted by eminent community leader, General Olu Bajowa PhD in pictures



PHOTO NEWS

Loading ... the first private university in Ondo South



UTOKO OMA IKALE

Getting an interview with Irele-born Group CEO of Tempo Group Limited, Mr. Segun Obayando is tough. Much as he loved to speak your number one community newspaper, he is evidently a busy man. After months of trying, Mr. Obayando put a call through to our Director, Bayo Adekanle who initially linked up our Abuja Bureau Chief/Head Special Projects, Mr. Bayo Jimoh with him that we should come for the long-sought interview. We managed to pin him down for an hour. For the interview. Below are excerpts from the chat in his Abuja office.

Good day sir. Let's start by having your background...birthplace, early life, growing up.

I was born in Ode Irele, in Ondo State, and grew up in a large household. Though we weren't particularly born with the proverbial golden spoon yet it was a loving and supportive environment. Like every other child in my community, I went to school and had my fair share of hustling. We were taught the value of hard work early on, and that shaped me as a person.

Tell us some of the things you were fond of doing in those days that you still cherish

Back in those days, I enjoyed spending time with family and friends, especially participating in communal activities. Those simple moments, like sitting around with my cousins or friends after school or helping out in the community, still remain special to me. They taught me the importance of relationships and teamwork, values that I still cherish today. We would like to know about your parents, sir. What influences did they have on you?

My parents were humble, hardworking individuals. My father was a disciplinarian who believed in education and integrity, while my mother was and is still the heartbeat of our home; a prayerful and virtuous woman. My father was also a transporter and from him, I had my first lessons in understanding the business structure around the transportation sector. Both of them instilled in me the virtues of perseverance, kindness, and respect for others, which have been my guiding principles.

How did you begin your career?

'My career began with several small hustles and ventures right from my university days. I have always loved to do



something of my own. I tried my hands at various businesses, from driving a taxi to owning a printing press. It wasn't always smooth, but each step taught me resilience and gave me the experience I needed to handle larger ventures in the future.

My career journey includes roles at Megform Limited and as a Senior Supervisor at Black and White Reingung GMBH in Berlin, Germany, from 1994 to 1997. I later served as Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman of Industrial and General Insurance Limited, London. After I acquired substantial managerial and leadership skills, I founded my first company, Temple Resource Nigeria Limited, which started as a printing

press, in September 1998. In 2008, I established the Development Training Resource Centre Abuja for capacity building and personal development with headquarters in the United States. My current interest is in the Computerised Vehicle Inspection Service project which is operational in over 28 states in the country.

This VIO initiative really launched you into national and international reckoning. Where did the inspiration come from?

The inspiration came from my desire to create something impactful. I noticed the gap in vehicle inspection services in the country and the dire need for safer roads. Growing up, my father would celebrate when his vehicle passed the MOT test. He would call us and kill goats and share

UTOKO OMA IKALE

drinks. The system was that disciplined then. There was order in the system but I later observed that such security discipline was absent in the country which has led to loss of lives and properties on the roads. So, I told myself, Segun, you have lived in about 5 different countries abroad, you see how they takes safety of lives seriously. Why don't you go back home and start this project to contribute your quota to the country? I did and the rest they say is history.

Tell us the achievements or impact of the programme so far, sir.

At the risk of sounding modest, I must say, the CVIS program has revolutionised how the Vehicle Inspection Service across the nation inspect vehicles, improving road safety and saving countless lives. We've gained the trust of both the government and the public, and today, we are recognised both locally and internationally for our innovative approach to vehicle inspection. We've also created over 1,000 direct and over 5,000 indirect jobs and boosted the local economy in the process. No state can claim to be innovative in the transport sector if it hasn't subscribed to the computerised vehicle inspection service. So, I say, it's impact cannot be denied.

Some people say you are lucky. That the government accepted your concept...what's your take?

I wouldn't say it's just luck. It's more about being prepared when the opportunity presented itself. I had done my homework, researched extensively, and ensured that my concept was solid before approaching the government. Yes, the government's support was instrumental, but it was hard work and persistence that got us there.

Let's come back home, sir. How do you see the level of development in Ikale? How do you think we can grow more rapidly?

Ikale has made some progress, but we still have a long way to go. To accelerate development, we need to focus on infrastructure, education, business

development and youth empowerment. We need better roads, schools, and healthcare facilities to attract investments and improve the quality of life for our people. Look at the impact the construction of the Ayeka-Ode-Irele has brought to Irele, Ajagba even up to the coast! Irele is vast and blessed. Government cannot do it alone but must take the lead in creating the opportunities.

In this regard, sir what are you doing or planning to do to contribute your quota to moving Ikale forward?

I'm committed to contributing to Ikale's growth in my own humble way. I am heavily involved in grassroots activities and I oversee some initiatives that's focused on youth development, entrepreneurship, and skill acquisition. I believe that if we can empower the next generation, we'll see tremendous growth in various parts of Ikale.

How do you think our traditional rulers can play more visible and effective roles in community development?

Traditional rulers have always been the custodians of our culture and community values. They can help drive development by working closely with local governments, encouraging investment in our communities, and being advocates for education and social welfare. You know that in Ikale we love our culture and tradition and the traditional rulers are the custodians. Without being confrontational, traditional rulers should engage political leaders to develop the communities.

Some people have suggested that you join politics so you can help people more. Is that under consideration? I've heard that suggestion many times, but I believe you can help people in different ways, not just through politics. For now, I'm focused on making a difference through my businesses and community initiatives.

But who knows what the future holds?

How do you think Ikale culture and ethics have helped you to be successful?

Ikale culture places a high value on integrity, respect, and hard work. One of my guiding principles is in this proverb, "A kì í jà ágbà lórí, kí a tó jà àbíké."

(One does not bypass the elders to make decisions while addressing the youth.) These values have been at the core of my success. Growing up with these principles has made me a better leader and a more effective decision-maker. I just told you about my parents. It is virtually the same in every family in Irele and other parts of Ikale. Our community does not respect crooks no matter how rich. The recognized virtue is hardwork. You must protect your family's reputation, so that when they ask "ki oma one wo gha?" (who are your parents), you would proudly say so and not be ashamed.

How do you relax or wind down as a very busy CEO?

I try to spend time with my family whenever I can. Family keeps me grounded. I also enjoy reading, taking long walks, and occasionally traveling to unwind. Balance is key in everything, even with a hectic schedule.

The Award Committee of Ikale Awards 2024 has nominated you in two categories: Distinguished Business Person and Special Recognition Awards. Only three of you out of about 60 nominees have gotten more than one nomination.

Did this come to you as a surprise?

Yes, it did come as a pleasant surprise. I never set out to win awards; my focus has always been on making an impact. Honestly, I did not see it coming. But I am deeply honored by the recognition and grateful for the support of the Ikale community. East or West, North or South, home is the best.

Thanks for this interview, sir.

Thank you for having me. It's been a pleasure to share my journey.

NEWS

Senate Nominates Jimoh Ibrahim Into African Parliamentary Union Executive Council



...Ibrahim Appreciates Akpabio, Senate

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Inter-parliamentary Worldwide has been nominated as a member of African Parliamentary Union Executive Council by President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio.

Jimoh Ibrahim is currently attending African Parliamentary Union conference, with some Nigerian senators, as Nigerian National Assembly delegation at the 82nd session of the Executive committee and 46th conference of African Parliamentary union holding in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad.

The billionaire business mogul, who is representing Ondo Southern

Senatorial District at the Senate, appreciated the the Senate and the President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio for the his nomination.

Jimoh ibrahim is also representing the President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio at the ongoing Chad conference which began on Saturday, October 5, 2024 in N'Djamena, Republic of Chad.

Some salient issues affecting the continent ranging from economy to security would be deliberated on by all the members states for the development of Africa.

The confab would come to a close on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.