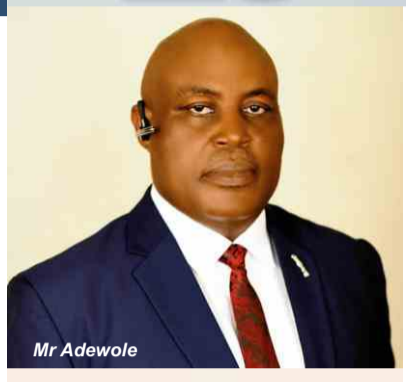


Get Out!

- Ikale people serve Okitipupa Oil Palm PLC quit notice
- Alleges breach of agreement, corruption and poor returns on 71 year old investment
- ISCRC goes to court as Obas, thought leaders disown NGO
- Gov. Aiyedatiwa intervenes, sues for peace



Bitter Pills: Call Sola Olatunji to order

Feature: Ayerin, Omololu call for Ikale unity, rally support for Ikale Awards

Okitipupa Market Fire Outbreak: Senator Jimoh Ibrahim Visits Scene, Donates N10m To Affected Traders



Ikale Awards '24 In Pictures



Pictorials Of Mama Fadeni's Final Passage



EDITORIAL PAGE

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Ikale Awards 2024 'Blues'

Mo ki dede Ilaje, Ikale, Arogbo ati Apoi t'ule, t'oko o. Happy New Year

Last month was extremely hectic for us at Ikale News. After more than 8 years last did one, we organized the prestigious Ikale Awards. Of course, because of our self-imposed standard to make sure every subsequent award is better than the previous, we over-worked ourselves. All of literally relocated to Ikale one month before the 27th of December (D-Day) to cross all the Ts and dot all the i's. Adebola, Big Sam, Labolah, Temmy, Blessing, and Bayo JJ all the way from Abuja trooped home to ensure our eight-month planning did not crash land.

Glory to God, it was a success. Aseph Events Centre, one of the best in Okitipupa, perhaps had never hosted such an assemblage of successful Ikale indigenes and their well-wishers. At 10.20, Bayo rushed to me and asked "Oga, what is happening? Only three persons in the hall!" "Don't worry, we will start soon," I replied. And he retorted: "with empty hall?" Of course I replied "Yes o" I am have been planning events for decades. I don't wait for anybody to

come. What I usually do is to organize the contents of the events such that the main events would peak in the middle when people usually arrive. Despite we indicated in our letters that the events would start 10 am and close 2 pm (most people usually do not indicate when their events would close but I do), people still came late.

I did not know that the Special Guest of Honour of the day, veteran politician, Pastor Segun Ayerin was already outside in his car. He had delayed his going to Akure/Owo for Aketi remembrance event because of the Awards and was worried that the event had not started. I reassured him I would start 11 am. He too was worried that people had not filled the hall by then. We started 11.05, just on time for the chairman, Afenifere scribe, Abagun Kole Omololu to step in. And two of the most eminent royal fathers in Ikale, the Rebuja of Osooro, HRM (Dr.) Gbadebo Bajowa and the Jegun of Idepe-Okitipupa, HRM Oba Michael Obatuga Adetoye stepped with splendor. What many people did not know was that as a mass communication expert, I leveraged on modern communications technology.

You don't really need to feed a hall to capacity when you do events such as awards. Just invite quality people that you want and others would watch online. Thanks to ojahelene.com, we were able to stream the event worldwide and more than 3,000 people watched the awards live. People are still watching on our website. As soon as the Rebuja and Jegun came in, the awardees and their guests came in like troops. By that time, Chief Oneounreye Arowojolu, one of the best biripo music exponents in Ikale was already doing what he knows how to do best. We simply enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to everyone who made it so fantastic. Iroyin to ko afojuba o. God to ikalenews.com/ikale awards to watch the event.

We all agreed at the event that we would set up a think-tank to repackage the Ikale Awards to make it richer and better. It's the only award that in Ikale that "just anybody" cannot win. And in subsequent edition, it would even be much more difficult to win Ikale Awards. I will keep you briefed on this. Congratulations to all winners for 2024 and those who assisted us one way or the other to make the event Successful.

Moving Forward On The OOP PLC/ISCRC Face-off

As at the time of writing this ten days into the NEW YEAR, the matter between an Okitipupa based NGO Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council (ISCRC) and the Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc is still what journalists call "running story" – the events are still continuing to unfold. But where we are now is that Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa has directed the state's parastatal in charge of investments to mediate between the two organizations. The police attempted to "douse" the rift but I am sure you trust that the police would handle it very well. No be so? And they did but counsel for ISCRC, Adeniyi Akintola & Co was not impressed. They fired a petition to the police, complaining that they were intimidating its client.

Elsewhere in this edition, I have expressed my personal thoughts on the issue. We call it editorial opinion in journalism. But also elsewhere in this edition, you would see our reports, which must be objective. So, there you would read about all sides to the story. We must say that while ISCRC supplied us more than enough information, OOP Plc did not avail us of any information justifying its actions or stance. We had to rely on sister media houses to scavenge information to ensure that we give you the other side. News reporting is different for editorial opinion. They have their separate columns. So, you can trust us to give you our unbiased reports as much as we have information. As a newspaper, however, we do not support the impunity that OOP Plc is unleashing on our communities. You do not have to agree with our position. That is why we encourage you to hold yours.

All your other regulars are in this edition: Baba Liliken, Ukoto Oma Ikale (the richest edition of that column so far), Ikale Kids and Special Reports are back. We have a special photo report of the funeral rights of the eminent Ikale community leader and mother of Dr. Seinde Fadeni. It is a fuller edition because we missed the December edition.

Till next edition, a ka hedo o.

Bolu John Folayan, PhD, mnipr
Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Commendation of the Ikale Awards Initiative

I am writing to express my appreciation for the recent announcement of the Ikale Awards and Biripo Dance Competition 2024, as detailed on your website. This initiative exemplifies your dedication to celebrating excellence within the Ikale community.

The selection of nominees across various categories, including education, community service, and cultural promotion, highlights a comprehensive approach to recognizing significant contributions to our society's development. Such recognition not only honors the recipients but also inspires others to strive for excellence in their respective fields.

Furthermore, the inclusion of new categories, such as Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler and Best Ikale Legislator, reflects a progressive vision that acknowledges the evolving dynamics of leadership and governance within our community. This inclusivity fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among the Ikale people.

I commend Ikale News for this laudable initiative. Your efforts in promoting Ikale values and ethos through information, education, and entertainment journalism are truly commendable. I look forward to the successful execution of the awards and the positive impact it will undoubtedly have on our community.

Yours sincerely,
Adeboye Eniola

Inquiry Regarding the Omoso Essay Competition

I am writing to seek clarification on certain aspects of the Omoso Essay Competition and Omoso Asiwaju Benson Akindeju Leadership Speech 2022, as announced on your website.

Firstly, I commend the initiative aimed at fostering intellectual growth and leadership skills among the youth of Igbotako Community. Such programs are instrumental in shaping the leaders of tomorrow and promoting educational development.

However, I have noticed that the timelines for submission of entries were slated for January to May 2022, with subsequent events scheduled for later that year. Given that we are now in January 2025, I am interested to know if there have been any updates or extensions to this competition. Specifically, are there plans to organize a similar competition in the current year, or have there been any modifications to the original schedule?

Additionally, I would appreciate information on the outcomes of the 2022 competition, if it has concluded. Insights into the winning essays and the impact of the program on participants would be valuable for community members who are keen on supporting and participating in such initiatives.

Thank you for your attention to these inquiries. I look forward to your response and to continued engagement with the enriching programs facilitated by Ikale News.

Yours sincerely,
Odewuyi Ajisafe

Still on understanding the GenZs published on November 2024

I am writing to share my thoughts on Generation Z and how they are shaping our society today. This generation has brought significant changes, especially regarding technology and social issues. They are very vocal about matters like climate change, equality, and mental health, which has helped raise awareness and drive positive change.

I believe it's important for us to understand their perspective and support their efforts. If we can create more platforms for them to express themselves, it will help build a stronger community for everyone.

Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to seeing more discussions about Generation Z in your publication.

Sincerely,
Adebola

Ojajuni Oyerinde Ajoke
Duetronomy, Ilaro
Ogun state

4th of January 2025.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my thoughts on the Ikale Award and its positive impact on our community. This award has helped recognize and celebrate the talents among our people, inspiring many to pursue their dreams. I would like to suggest that increasing awareness could boost participation in future awards. If more people know about it, it will encourage young talents to showcase their skills and contribute to our cultural heritage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing more coverage on the Ikale Award in your publication.

Sincerely,
Ajoke

\$100 billion in failed mega projects in Nigeria presents development opportunities

.... Weep, not for us

... Jimoh Ibrahim told the University of Oxford.

Mega Project expert Jimoh Ibrahim, a Senator from Ondo South Senatorial District in the Nigerian Senate and a speaker at the 2024 Oxford Major Programme Management conference, has advised global stakeholders not to lament Nigeria's 11,866 abandoned mega projects. Ibrahim encouraged them to view this situation as a significant opportunity for sustainable development. He noted that had these mega projects been successful, Nigeria might resemble the United Kingdom. However, he pointed to Ajaokuta, where the government has spent \$11 billion over 43 years without producing steel. The site has remained abandoned for those 43 years. Ibrahim also cited examples such as Malabo, Sure P, SAT One, and the National Library as part of Nigeria's failed mega projects.

Ibrahim acknowledged that corruption is a critical issue but emphasised that it is not confined to Nigeria; it affects many significant projects across geo-centric politics. "Yes, I recognise that corruption is a notable problem in Nigeria. I have observed cost overruns and schedule delays in the UK Crossrail project, which has escalated from the estimated total cost of £14.8bn to £18.7bn! Similarly disappointing, the US government faced a loss of \$65 billion in one megaproject, Nevada's Yucca, with no relief since the Obama administration cancelled the project after the staggering loss!"

Ibrahim stated that the Megaproject consistently brings complexities, as even the most prudent governments occasionally invest state funds in questionable initiatives. The Nigeria Challenge primarily pertains to the



difficulties in translating the benefits of mega projects into value creation. He urged the Nigerian government to prioritise completing abandoned megaprojects, requesting the Tinubu administration to designate all unused projects as "National Failed Projects" and to take steps to complete some of them.

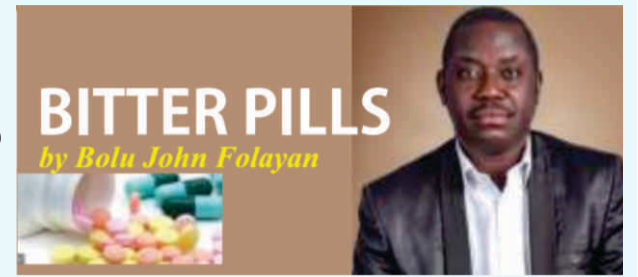
Ibrahim asserted that only operational mega projects can mitigate Nigeria's ethnic diversity. He referenced the Akpabio Stadium, Jonathan's successful railway, and Abuja and Lagos airports as remarkable successes of National Unity.

In return, the University of Oxford gave Ibrahim a certificate of appreciation and extended congratulations on his status as a proud alumnus of Oxford. He is globally celebrated as the first-ever Business Doctorate graduate of the University of Cambridge. Furthermore, his successful completion of the PhD in modern war and foresight in establishing the proposed University of Fortune in Nigeria showcased Jimoh Ibrahim's pioneering book on African mega projects at the conference. Jimoh Ibrahim is an alumnus of the MSc in Major Programme Management at the Said Business School of the University of Oxford.

BITTER PILL

Call this Interloper called Otunba Sola Olatunji to order?

See the post I got from one Otunba Sola Olatunji early in the year o:



"I have read different versions of history written by our elders and leaders. They were all full of multi-dimensional contradictions. Yes, no scholars or philosophers can claim 100 per cent historical accounts of any event. But I say it emphatically that the account of Akoko people in Ikale needs further clarification from researchers. Thanks.

"I agree that after the collapse of the Oyo Empire in the 19th century and the protracted kiriji wars that led into social displacements and the emergences of kingdoms in Yorubaland, I repeat that the Akokos are not part of Yorubaland dependants..."

I ran into the name Otunba Sola Olatunji in the social media because he used to write a lot about Ondo State. I must have published more than three articles by him in Ikale News. Mee ma fo onuya ghon gha rin. Just imagine the words coming out of his mind, just because he is consultant to Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc!

After reading his insult on my ancestry, I called one or two people to find out if he is related to Baba Alaba Abo, the late veteran tailor and community leader in Igbotako in those days. Lo and behold, Alaba Abo was the person who transmuted to Otunba Sola Olatunji, as I was told. He claims now that he is from Erekiti.

If I had known him to be a complete o-ne ghe-e, ghe e, I would not have bothered to chat him. What was my offence? When the non-governmental organization, Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council (ISCRC) informed me that it was taking up struggle with OOP Plc which has usurped our land for over 70 years (it wasn't bad to be so informed, because I have published Ikale News for over 30 years and by his grace I have a reputable name across Ikale), I advised the spokesperson of the group, Mr. Orimisan Adelokiki, to look for one Otunba Olatunji, so he could properly dialogue with the company. I had heard he was a consultant to OOP Plc on corporate social responsibility.

Adelokiki went searching for this Otunba. He lambasted Orimisan Adelokiki as joining the Igbotako rebels. him. I now messaged him, asking him while he was giving wrong counsel

to the management of OOP Plc against Ikale people.

He replied that he wondered why I decided to join Orimisan and a group of Igbotako people against OOP Plc when other communities were cooperating with the OOP Plc. He said Orimisan was acting alone and that OOP Plc had done its CRS over the years and had paid its dues to the land owners. The MD of the company later echoed that same lie.

Haba! I now took time to lecture him on the facts of the matter. I think, seeing how ignorant he had been, putting mouth in what he knew next-to-nothing about, got him angry and he sent me torrents of insulting texts. I had told him that I am not a land owner, being Akoko but that as a legit Ikale, I have a right to do advocacy for the land owners.

In any case the entitlements belong to a tripartite of Obas, Landowners and the Community, of which I am part. Of course, we (Akoko-Ikale) have land. Iju oke land is owned by Akoko. We have Ilado village. In Ilutitun and other places where Akokos settled that have expansive land and you must buy land from them. Ikale is in my blood up to the third generation on either side. My father's mum is from Okerisa, Ilutitun. My mother's mom is from Agirifan in Ilutitun. Her mom from Iju-Odo. I can go on. I now began to wonder where this Obuko grew up to insult my ancestry. Everyone knows who I am in Ikale. I don't make troubles. If you abuse me, I may not bother. But if you insult my ancestry,

I won't take it lightly.

At the Ikale Awards last December, I took time to explain the origin of Ikale. Different authors have slightly different accounts but the incontrovertible fact is that Ikale is a federation. People came from different places to settle in what is known today as Ikale. A majority came from Itsekiri, Bini and Ugbo and this reflects in our language and culture, Some of our ancestors came from Akoko, Ondo, and of course Ife. It is the same with other tribes. The Ondo (city) people came mainly from Oyo and Ife. No ethnic group dropped from the sky and emerged from the ground.

And Abagun Kole Omololu, a respected pan-Yoruba advocate, who steered the Ikale Awards ceremony, even pointed out that once you have lived in a place for over a period of time, you are no longer a non-indigene of that place. Omololu has lived in London for over 40 years and is a British citizen. He found no reason Urhobos and Itsekiri who have lived in Ikale for over a hundred years should not be seen as Ikale. A ten-year-old boy in Igbotako last December was the lead drummer (agba-drum) for the Umale masquerade of Odojomo. His father is Urhobo.

So, you wonder what came upon this Alaba Olatunji for him to profess his ignorance through insults. I don't need to be a land-owner to advocate that OOP Plc should quit our land or renegotiate its tenancy.

BITTER PILLS

Landlords in Lagos and elsewhere renew tenancy agreement almost every other year. How can you leave your own agreement untouched for 71 years, 21 years after the expiration of the original agreement.

We need our land for commercial agriculture. Alternatively, a fresh agreement has to be done and we need more presence in the management of the company.

Journalism, according to Harold Lasswell (who propounded the Functional Theory of Mass Communication) carries out the function of information, surveillance, correlation of the environment, cultural transmission, and of course entertainment. This gives me the right to support the current struggle to retrieve our land from the moribund Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc – an organization that has turned our dream into nightmare in Ikale.

I advised this man that he could not be talking about CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) when the company has not even fulfilled its statutory responsibility. CSR is voluntary support to the host community. It is even different from Community Relations. Both are part of Public Relations, which I studied to PhD level and have practiced for over 40 years!

My credentials intimidated this man and the next thing was for him to say he could pay my salary five times over. You don't blame interlopers like him. You blame the interloper who hired him. I told him that it is preposterous for someone hired to consult as community relations manager for a company to be creating enmity between the company and the communities.

He was so arrogant when confronted with the bitter truth that he knows very little about PR management. That you can write good English, even if you are an excellent journalist, does not make you a good PR specialist! I told him to go online to read about community relations management and he even got annoyed saying he does not have time to read theories propounded by Oyinbo people. I now told him to just google my name and see my works on line. He got further incensed.

And what I was telling him was simply not to escalate the matter on hand. I told him that if he gives OOP Plc the right counsel, the matter would be solved very easily. I don't know how much (money) he was given, but that made him to pour further venom on me

Me me fo one ghee-ghee ghon gha rin. I asked Olatunji if his father owned those 12,000 hectares, would he allow OOP Plc to treat him the way the current OOP Plc management is doing. Instead of replying my question, he poured further unprintable text to me.

I want all those who know him to please call him to order very fast. Already, he is fighting a lost battle. We are recovering that land and those who are been profiting from its mismanagement would be brought to book.

Orimisan Adelokiti and his colleagues at ISCRC have their own limitations and shortcomings in pursuing their worthy cause. Rather than attack them, we would call them and counsel them where we feel they are doing anything wrong. If the group refuses wise counsel, we left them learn from experience..

We have Obas that are educated and who truly love the community in most of our towns. We don't have Oba Alatenuje in Ikale, as far as I know. If OOP Plc has been giving these Obas anything, it is normal PR. They should please collect. Where collection (of gifts) becomes problematic is when the community gets nothing and the Obas are fed fat from its resources. Ours Obas can never ever sell out Ikale heritage. I trust them.

I told Olatunji, “ People can have different approaches to the issue, but we all are on the same page that we want the looting of our resources to stop. For what reason should we suffer like this? We don't have experts who can manage farms? Second, 71 years since the land was leased is no joke. I wasn't even born and my late that was 15 years old when that land was leased. My dad told me that he did Lebira in Agbetu side clearing OOP Plc land.

If you passed through Ilutitun lately, you would think that town is small. Same thing Ikoya and Irele, In fact, Irele's case is terrible. Irele is undoubted the biggest town in Ikale. But its indigenes have nowhere to build houses again. No land near the city centre to erect factories. Their land is taken up by a company that is barren of rewards for much of 71 years.

And someone would tell me the expired story of one Kiriji War and Oyo Empire. How dare you insult my intellectual competence. If I speak my dialect, Itsekiri, IlajeOndo, Benin, Owo people understand much more than those Oyo you mention. Your memory is fatigued.

On this OOP Plc matter, you and your cronies have lost the battle. Whatever areas of disagreement we have with we will iron out. There is no one true Ikale that would not flow with this cause. It is truly an idea whose time has come. Se wo gbo? Onuya lonuya.

“There is no one true Ikale that would not support this struggle against OOP Plc.

**It is truly an idea whose time has come.
Se wo gbo? Onuya lonuya.”**

POST SCRIPT:

I have received numerous calls from Ikale at home and abroad over this piece.

I have no choice but to sheath my sword. We disagree to agree.

Even though I felt really offended, and I still am, si ce Otunba is my egbon, as Ikale culture demands, I withdraw the offensive words that I used to describe him. I have nothing personal against him and his professional services to OOP plc.

I urge him to use his vantage position to speak truth and reason to those cheating our community over our resources.

Thank you all.

COVER

We Want Our Lands

- Ikale people serve OOP plc quit notice
- Allege massive corruption and decades of rip-off

by Bolu John Folayan and Sam Olaniyan



After seven decades of economic slavery under the Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc (OOP plc), Ikale people of Ondo State have wised up. They have given the management of the “moribund” company 30 days to vacate all land currently occupied by her.

The civil action, which may be followed with a criminal suit according to spokesperson of Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council, (ISCRC), Mr. Orimisan Adelokiki, the arrow-head of a consortium of land owners, community groups, traditional rulers and civil rights groups, spearheading the struggle.

The total land space of oil palm superintended by OOP Plc is..... It extends from Igbotako, Erekiti, Ilutitun, Ikoya, Okitipupa, Ode-Aye, Ode Irele, Iyansan and Ojuala. There is virtually no major town in Ikaleland without stake in the oil palm company but these communities have nothing to show for their investment from way back in 1954, according to ISPRC.

The ISCRC has hired eminent lawyers to lead the struggle.

Adelokiki told *Ikale News* in an interview: “We are hiring eminent Ikale Lawyers led by Abuja-based Akin Arikawe to file civil and criminal suits against the company and its leadership. We are building a team of 10 lawyers. I don't want to release the names of the other lawyers prematurely,” he stated.

The major demands of the organization are:

- Taiwo Adewole, the current MD/CEO of the company emerged in abnormal process and should be sacked;
- The MD's administration is fraught with alleged malpractices such as intimidation and illegal secret of shares belonging to the land-owners and the communities
- The host communities has nothing to show in well over 70 years of releasing land to the government which later relinquished its own shares, leaving the land-owners's shares
- The host communities have no land to develop build houses and develop

their hometowns by way of projects except inside tense forests because OOP Plc continues to occupy choice locations and refuses to release the land which it must now do by fiat and force of public opinion and the law.

- The current management of the company should be audited by the Nigerian Stock Exchange and Corporate Affairs Commission and all stolen resources of Ikale people must be reverted fully.

When ISCRC issued its demand notice on December 6th last year, the MD and his collaborators thought it was empty threat. They quickly hired one Otunba Alaba Olatunji, who describes himself as “community activist and CSR consultant” to sponsor attacks against Mr. Adelokiki and set him against the land owners.

Otunba Olatunji advised the OOP Plc to ignore Orimisan Adelokiki as an idle young man “with collaborators in Igbotako” and that “other communities are not acting with Adelokiki as they are happy with OOP Plc, which he said had been paying its dues to the landowners over the decades, although he admitted that past regimes before Adewole had mismanaged the oil palm resources.

But when the Adewole saw the magnitude of “forces behind and those sympathetic to” Adelokiki's demands, he quickly penned an ambiguous reply to Adelokiki which reads:

“We write to acknowledge your letter dated December 6, 2024. We have fully read your letter and fully appreciate its contents. We wish to state that there is the need to have constructive engagement to enable the company and your team exchange information in an atmosphere devoid of

COVER

rancor. Looking forward to a fruitful engagement to chart a good way forward to build enduring legacy between the company and the communities.”

The ISCRC followed up with a directive that people should steer clear of the estates or face the consequences. The MD now realized that the civil rights group meant business and ran to some traditional rulers in Ikale, most of who asked him to address the issues raised by the Council.

“Most of our Obas only guaranteed him that they would appeal to Adelokiki to ensure that ISCRC does not take laws into their hands or embark on violent means of pursuing its cause. The Obas advised him to sincerely address the issues at stake,” a source close to the Obas reliable sources informed *Ikale News*.

Having failed to persuade the Obas to disown Orimisan Adelokiki and his team, the management of the company ran to the state's police command. Meanwhile the ISCRC had also fired a letter to the governor, His Excellency, Dr. Lucky Aiyedatiwa and the State Commissioner of Police, unknown to them.

The State's Police Commissioner, through Area Commander, ACP Salami Jimoh, wrote a letter dated 5th January, inviting ISCRC to a meeting on January 9th. At the meeting, the CP told the ISCRC members that police is not a law court. That under the law, they are free to seek redress through lawful means. He only advised them not to be violent and not to cause the breach of peace..

On his part, Governor Aiyedatiwa referred ISCRC to the state-owned ONDIPA, (Ondo State Investment Development Agency), giving an assurance that it the state government would fairness to all sides.

At this point, the management of the company resorted to blackmail, sponsoring attacks against prominent Ikale people, including the publisher of *Ikale News*. It also tried to reach out to some land owners and community leaders to present Adelokiki and his group as lacking locus standi to make the demands.

Unconfirmed reports got to our News Desk that early January, attempts were being made to arrest Adelokiki on framed criminal activities such as him sponsoring illegal harvest of fruits in some oil palm plantations belonging to the community.

Another group was sponsored to dispatch rumours that Ilutitun community is not part of the demands because one person was alleged killed recently over skirmishes between OOP Plc.'s security operatives and illegal fruit harvesters.

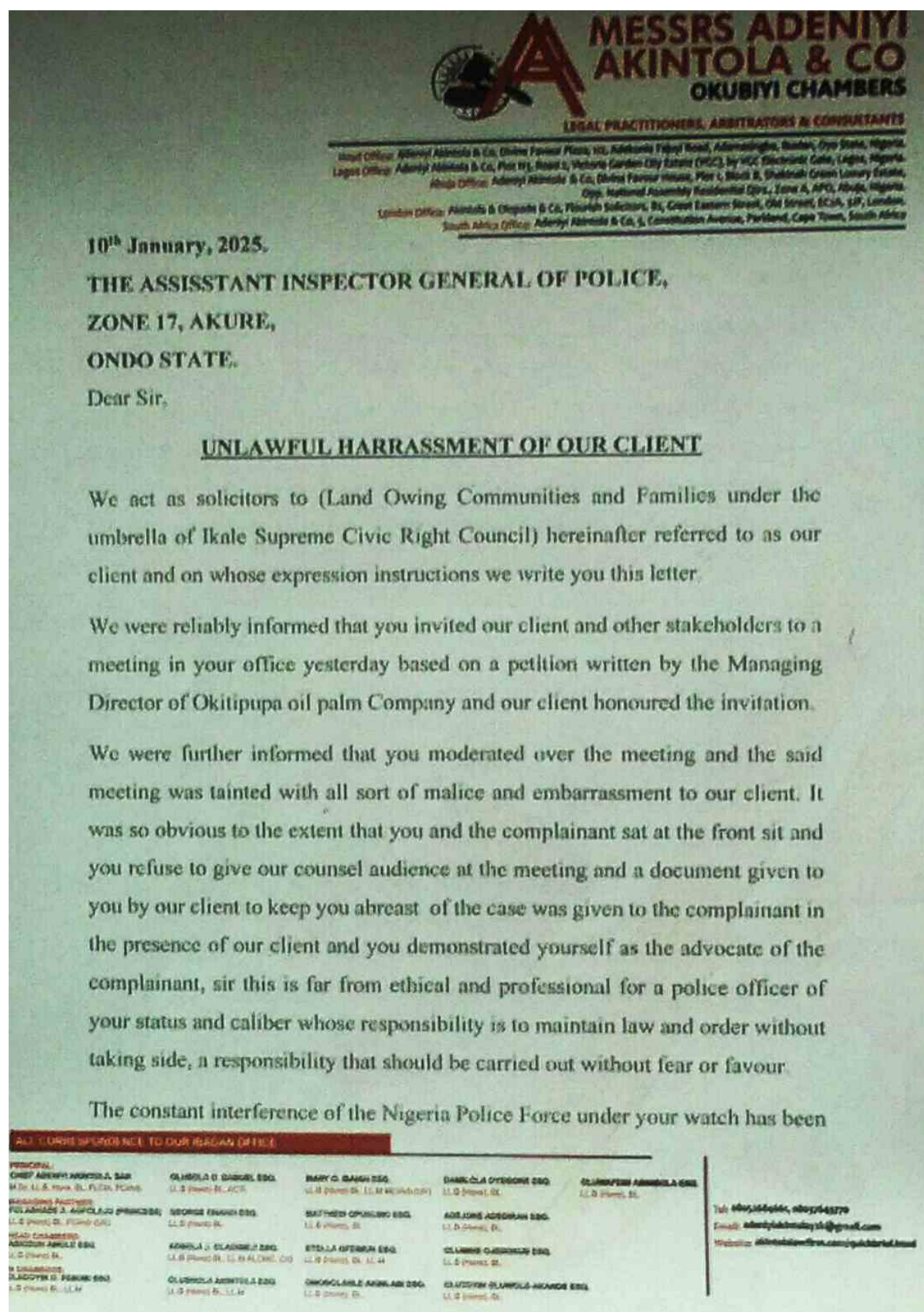
As at the time of going to the press, the ISCRC was putting final touches to its suit against the company. The council was also scheduled to meet with traditional rulers in Ikaleland at the Palace of the Jegun of Idepe-Okitipupa, HRM Oba Michael Adetoye Obatuga.

According to Adelokiki, “we are carrying all stakeholders along. This is not a personal

struggle. We are only saying enough of rip-off. We are educated in Ikale. No divide and rule can work this time. We are headed for the court all the way to Supreme Court. And that does not preclude lawful civil actions.”

At the time of going to press, Akin Arikawe and his team has given the company 14-day ultimatum before filing action before the high court.

Acting Editor's Note: See full interview with Spokesperson, Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council, Orimisan Adelokiki in this edition. Keep in touch with Ikale News Breaking Stories of Facebook and Ikalenews.com for developments.



harassment, intimidation and coercing of our client to do the bidding of the company over the same subject matter. The Executive Governor of Ondo State and the office of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of Ondo State are already handling the issue with an invitation to our client through this chambers and we do not know whether you are in touch with the government of Ondo State over the matter.

For the record sir, it is important to state here that our client had written a petition on this issue to the Executive Governor of Ondo State on this Matter and same was assigned to Ondo state Investment Promotion Agency to handle on behalf of the Governor. The first meeting was held on the 8th of January, 2025 wherein stakeholders explained their grouse to the representatives of the governor and the meeting was adjourned to a future date and yesterday the 9th of January, 2025 the Attorney General of Ondo State and Commissioner for Justice also intervened in this matter and discussed with us on behalf of our client looking for ways to resolve this issue amicably.

There was a lease agreement for a period of 51 years between our client and the company which the company has breached. The lease agreement and the said agreement has expired over 20 years ago without renewing same, the position of the law is very clear that where there is an agreement between a landlord and tenant and the agreement expires, the subject matter revert automatically to the landlord. This is what is expected of the company in the circumstance. The company ought to pay all the arrears of rent and leave the land honourably.

It is important to state here that the police has no business in meddling in a civil matter (land matters).

We humbly urge Nigeria Police Force, Zone 17, Akure, Ondo State to stop the harassment, intimidation and coercion of our client and allow the Governor, Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice and Ondo state Investment

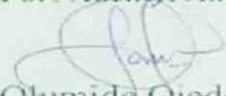
Promotion Agency to resolve this issue amicably or allow any aggrieved side of the dispute to ventilate its grievances in the law court of it so desires.

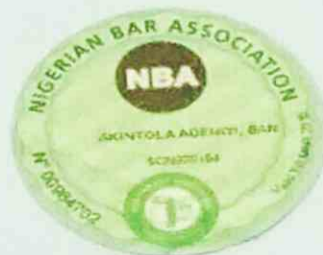
It was also brought to our attention that you have started calling and harassing our client on phone and intimidating them that if they go to the land again you will mobilize your men and kill our clients, this also shows that you are not interested in settling this issue but rather to escalate same because you are condemning our clients unheard and this harassment must stop immediately.

Any further attempt by the Nigeria Police Force to continue intimidating, harassing and coercing our client on the subject matter, moving forward, our client will have no option than to take legal action against you and the Nigeria Police Force which you represent if the intimidation threat, and harassment continue.

Thank you Sir,

Yours faithfully,
For: Adeniyi Akintola & Co.


Olumide Ojedokun Esq.
07061956098



IKALE VS OOP Plc FACE-OFF

Excerpts From A Conference Addressed In Akure By Spokesperson Of The Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council (ISCRC), Mr. Orimisan Patrick Adelokiki.

By Adebola Ademola



Mr. Orimisan Patrick in White dress and Other Members Of ISCRC

The much talked about press conference did not witness the expected tension envisaged going by the media hype about it. Orimisan Adelokiki, the young activist and spokesperson of the ISCRC came early and was surrounded by five members of the Council- all of them in their 30s and 40s. The AIG who called the conference alongside traditional rulers from the area obviously wanted to pre-empt breakdown of law and order. Adelokiki gave that assurance. However, the paramount ruler of Osooro Kingdom, HRM Oba Gbadebo Bajowa cautioned him in his opening remarks that his (Adelokiki's) was one who ceded the land to the Western State Government. Oba Bajowa said about a dozen elders, including his own father, High Chief Egbaiyelo Bajowa, was chosen to sign for the community. Apart from that, the meeting went on smoothly. Below were the highlights of what Mr. Adelokiki said.

Major grouse with OOPPlc

The ISCRC body is interested into advanced production of oiling. Oiling is an improved version of oil palm, where you can sell directly to international organizations, the aviation fuel. We need to recover our land because we believe the interlopers on this land, over time, who are have

been anchoring on government land to exploit and extort our people, reaping them of their resources, are called OOPC, a company that only exists in nomenclature, but they don't have physical presence anywhere except to come to our land and harvest, duped our people, take their money and put them at a malady. So as of this morning that I'm talking to you, January, 8th, 2025, our people are getting ready to cultivate in that land, based on the advice of our lawyer.

Illegal occupation without recourse to OOPPlc

There is nothing like illegal occupation on our part. Now, if your tenure is to default in keeping the agreement that you can have, peaceful reentry of your land. We wrote the OOPC, we wrote the MD on the 6th and he replied us, maybe on the 9th, I have the copy of the letter here - the soft copy. He replied to engage us that all our agitations are well noted and that they will respond to us. He asked us to fix the venue for the meeting before the protest. We fixed 27th for the protest and Zumelo Hotel Okitipupa was paid for. Unfortunately, one of the organizations' CSR, representative, in person of Otunba Alaba Olatunji, informed me on phone and was saying that venue we picked was not okay. There is nothing illegal in our actions. The

DSS invited me. I explained to the DSS, and I invited the DSS to the venue and the police. Unfortunately, they didn't meet up with that. But the day of our planned protest, I also wrote to the IG and copied the local police. They gave us security for protection of the life and property of our people at that time. But unfortunately, the (Police) Area Commander prevailed on me to shelve the protest. And the distinguished senator representing Ondo South, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, put up a direct call in the presence of the Area Commander and said he did not want trouble in Ikale... that the MD should and engage these landowners. He has not done this. If your tendency aspires, it is obligated. You are obligated to engage with your people. He also called the Attorney General of Ondo State. I am putting them, my name is Adelokiki Orimisan. So, you can see the extent we have gone to be law-abiding.

Role of ONDIPA

When I was in Abuja two days ago, I received a call from Ondipa, from one Barrister Tomomewo, that the governor directed the body to intervene..., because I wrote to the Governor. The Governor minuted our letter to Ondipa to invite us for a dialogue. We just came from there. And I made it expressly clear that this invitation was coming a bit too late, because we are waited for 71 years without any aorta of development in the life of our people. Yet, we said, no problem. We are ready to listen to our Governor. That was why we wrote.

Community rip-off allegation

Our people have been living in mystery. We have written to the EFCC to investigate the fraud that has been reported in the company. We asked the EFCC to help us trace the volume of 10.7 billion. In 2021, 2023, 2024, the company harvested a volume of 7.7 billion from this land, and they didn't invest 1,000 in our land. Anywhere they have investment or social services in our land, they should come and point to it. The oil mill itself has not produced one litre of a vegetable oil in the last 31 years. So I wonder what they call a Plc. It's just a nomenclature where we have some people eating at the detriment of our people. Thank you. Thank you so much.

COVER

“We need our lands and our resources illegally taken hostage by OOP Plc now. No amount of intimidation and divide-and-rule can stop that” – *Adelokiki (ISCRC Spokesperson)*

In this exclusive interview with our Acting Editor, Sam Olaniyan, spokesman for Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council, ISCRC, discloses why the organization is fighting the 'mother of legal battles' with the MD of Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc and its management. Excerpts:

Let us start the interview on the issue of local standi. We hear the OOP Plc is saying you have no locus standi to institute legal battle and civil disobedience against them...

I won't waste my time discussing what is the business of lawyers to do. When we get to court, their lawyers will educate the judges on the meaning of *locus standi*. But let me state that it is their usual strategy to cause divide-and-rule amongst Ikale people so that they can milk our resources to its bone marrow. These lands we are talking about were leased to the government over 70 years ago. The various families who owned the land are well-known in every community. They can have differences amongst them as families but they can always resolve them. I am Adelokiki. Any bonafide son and daughter of Igbotako know that I belong to the families which gave land for the Estate. So, what are they talking about locus standi? Then, every Ikale born citizen of Nigeria has right of locus standi. Our fathers and grand fathers worked in the setting up of these estates from 1954, clearing land, serving as labourers (*Lebira*, hoping that their future offspring would benefit. Here we are in 2025. Nothing to show for 74 years! We are worse than Niger Delta here, my brother.

We are coming to that. So, you are saying you have legitimate right to give the company quit notice on the land

Absolutely. No true-born Ikale would not buy into that. If not for the intervention of the elders, traditional rulers and the police, we would make the place ungovernable for them. Those who make peaceful change impossible are calling for violent change. Go everywhere, see Ikale youths suffering. Immediately you enter Ikale from Akinfosile (Village), you see kilometres of oil palm estates. If you enter through Ore, the same thing. If you enter



Mr Adewole

through Delta and Edo, on the creeks, the same thing. Nothing for the community. This is 2025. We won't take it again. Igbotako has 1,561 hectares; Ilutitun 901; Ikoya, small as you see that our ancient town has 1,298 hectares of oil palm estates. Irele has 1,417, Apoi has 1,492. Iyasan is the biggest. It has over 2, 000 hectares. Imagine! Over 12, 000 hectares and we have not done recent surveys o. The ISCRC wants to do drown survey. Because they kept expanding the estates beyond what our forefathers signed. Palm oil and oil palm everywhere ... so much so it is the logo of most of our social clubs. It is the logo of our community newspaper, *Ikale News*. Our fore-fathers did not sign our death warrants. They meant well. They might not be that educated but they signed up properly. They involved their sons who were educated

(though we did not have lawyers then). It is the OOP Plc that refused to keep the agreement since 1954. It was from one rip-off to the other. *O ti to!* Enough!

When you say “we”, who are you referring to?

Ikale people. Landowners and all bonafide Ikale people. Oh, you are looking at my size and network. I, Orimisan Adelokiki... I am nothing o. But I represent people who matter, Ikale people. How many people are National Democratic Coalition (NADECO)? Didn't the group change the entire Nigerian political landscape? The ISCRC represents an idea whose time has come. Anybody moving against us is moving against the flow of River Gbagbaa, River Penpen, River Oluwa, River Yewa and River Aluma combined. What they

COVER

did not know was that we have people solidly behind us. It was our strategy not to disclose them. The few people we mentioned jostled them. But we have not even scratched the list of people and institutions behind us. How dare you come from Ekiti State to take us as slaves in Ikale! No way.

What are your demands?

OOP Plc is dead as company. A company that has not declared profit for decades, how can it declare dividends, my brother? How can it now be doing Corporate Social Responsibility, CSR? But because the company has kilometres of oil plantations worth billions, some people give the semblance of a company and invades the estate, harvesting the fruits. They will now give peanuts to some people that they call landowners. They give licence to their cronies to be making the harvests. We now told them: "there is no company again. Let us have back our land. You have not be faithful to the agreement signed by our forefathers, give us our land. But because they know that in law, the owner of the land owns what is on the land, they are refusing to do that simple, normal thing. We are also on the side asking the present management to account for their stewardship. Our investigation shows that they made billions of naira from these estate in the past decade. We need accounts. Stealing is a criminal offence in Nigeria. Give accounts. And we will check. That should not be difficult to do now? Give us account and we conduct our own integrity check on the accounts. Those palm trees are older than most of us still around. The average Ikale person can calculate how much you make from a palm tree in a year. It is not space science. No one can lie to us about that. In short, our demands are:

We demand, immediate vacation of the entire land by the Okitipupa Oil Palm Company, your agents, privies and all the occupants of the said acquired land under whatever guise and return same to our clients.

We demand, immediate revocation of all certificate of occupancy purportedly issued to anyone, corporate bodies or institutions on the land save the portion being used for public purposes such as government schools, hospitals or institutions owned or built by government of Ondo State or Federal

Government of Nigeria if any.

We demand immediate payment of the arrears of rents long overdue and payable to the traditional rulers, land owning families and communities at the current and prevailing monetary values as well as the 60% profit due to the land owning committees, families and the traditional rulers of Ikale land within 14 days of your receipt of this quit notice.

The allegation is that you and your Council are not making your demands in the legitimate way?

Those who say that are simply insulting our common intelligence in Ikale. How else do they want us to demand for our rights? We wrote a letter to the company, giving it 21-day notice. Is that not the law? I was told one Mr. Olatunji is the consultant to the company, I looked for him and told him of our intention. But I found out he was speaking Greek while I was speaking Ikale to him. I now

What do you mean by that?

He was talking about CRS and that Ikale people are happy with OOP Plc. Even if you are paid hundreds of millions as consultant, how can you say that? I realized he was either incompetent or sold-out to his belly. We wrote to the governor of the state and copied the police. We visited our traditional rulers. All of these show that we meant well! They had all the opportunities to do the right thing but their

eyes are fixated on the billions of naira they make from the estates year in, year out. So, we followed due process. And we are still following due process. They are the ones not following due process. Someone called me offering five million naira to stop the struggle. I am not it sure it is not from the company. If it is from them, they have missed it. Anybody that messes up in this struggle, Ikale youths will attach them. Quote me. It is not about me. In fact, I am trying to repress them, telling them to calm down a bit as our elders advice.

But we heard you planned some protests? That is the mistake people make. Civil, lawful protest is fully provided for in our statutes in this country. So long as we do not breach the peace, we can protest. And at the right time, we will protest. Public protest is evidence that people support a mass action. Sebi they are saying it is only Orimisan that is behind it. So, when we stage our protest, and they see hundreds of thousands of Ikale youths and elders, they will know. But our elders and those who are bigger than us advised us to tarry on the protest. Their reasons is that we need to plan it properly so it does not get out of hand and so that we can give it necessary publicity worldwide. Yes, worldwide. All Ikale at home and in the diaspora and into this o. Go round Ikale towns, there is no land. Some Ikale in the diaspora came home last year with some Chinese investors looking for land. The want



COVER

to invest into mechanized farming. They could not find land! Must we plant oil palm alone? Ikale is suitable for cocoa that is selling like gold now. Ikale is good for cashew and rubber. The oil palm plantations can go with other commercial crops. And we need to process agric resources before exporting them. Enough of all the nonsense. Let them leave our land! It's game over for them. We will fight this to finish.

You also alleged that the current MD/CEO got there illegitimately?

Yes. If he disagrees, let him tell us the process of his appointment. In what capacity did Aketi (former governor) appoint him? Is OOP Plc a state government parastatal? Then, again, we are saying that since Mr. Taiwo Adewole got there as MD/CEO, his governance has been far from being transparent.

Can you give some examples?

I can give you loads of examples. We have it on good authority that he sold shares of some landowners without the consent of the respective landowners. That is criminal, if true. Then, who are those he said he had been paying rents and land charges to? Do they represent the landowners and the communities? In Igbotako, Sogban Family owns the largest stock of the land being used by the company. There is no single thing to show; not even a borehole or family office. Is that Okomu and Presco are doing in Delta and Edo? In Ikaleland where people are educated? Where we have SANs, professors, first-class politicians, including senators and reps members? If the leadership of the company means well, it ought to ensure that what it gives gets to the rightful owners. But we know anyway that nothing is given. We are considering handing that aspect to the EFCC. We are discussing with our lawyers.

This matter may drag for years in the court. What happens to the fruits? The company can continue to milk the estates in the meantime and...

Our lawyers are competent and experience. We will get specific order from court restraining OOP plc from further stealing our resources until the case is resolved. A Receivership coordinated by the Landowners and

Stakeholders will manage the resources in the meantime. Yes, they leased land from us. Our parents leased to government. And government interest has been sold. What right has the government to sell?

Land Use Act gave government all rights over land.

A layman would reason like that. Not lawyers. Go and check the Land Use Act. The interests of families and original land owners are fully guaranteed. Obasanjo enacted Land Use Act to make it easy for the government to acquire land for development. Ok, why does the government pay compensation after acquiring land? When our distinguished senator, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim needed land for his university in Igbotako, he bought land from several families in the place. About four difference families sold to him. Our people are very organized and educated. He now proceeded to government to obtain C of O on the land. Where is our own compensation from government for allegedly selling on seizing over 12,000 hectares? Where is that done in the 21st Century? If you divested from the project, automatically, the land should revert to the original owners!

What is you lose this case up to the Supreme Court?

But how will that happen? Have you not been listening to me? The facts are clear – very clear. It's not cumbersome at all. And editor, you look at it, let's assume that the company is up and alive, should it be an Ekiti person that should head it? I know more than four Ikale professors of agronomy, of agriculture, of management. We have people who are competent. You now bring an Ekiti man to come and ship our collective wealth with impunity?! When last was NDDC headed by someone who is not from Niger Delta? Affliction shall not arise in Ikale again. We have taken over our land. We are just waiting for legal on seal on this. We are already planning an international conference to attractive investor. Our Kabiyesis should be living in opulence due to our resources. You now throw peanuts at them. Not again.

One last question for you: Are you not afraid for your life?

Unless God wills it, no one can take my life. It is a struggle beyond me. People should not personalize the struggle around me. We may disagree amongst ourselves, but we must be able to agree in the interest of the large interest of the community. We are doing just that.

Estate	Hectares	Acres	2021 (Naira)	2022 (Naira)	2023 (Naira)	2024 (Naira)
Igbotako	1,561	3,903	136,587,500	214,637,500	370,737,500	487,812,500
Ilutitun	901	2,253	78,837,500	123,887,500	213,987,500	281,562,500
Ikoya	1,298	3,245	113,575,000	178,475,000	308,275,000	405,625,000
Erinje	168	420	14,700,000	23,400,000	39,900,000	52,500,000
OFS	402	1,005	35,175,000	55,275,000	95,475,000	125,625,000
Isowa	233	583	20,387,500	32,037,500	55,337,500	72,842,500
Aye	542	1,355	47,425,000	74,525,000	128,725,000	169,375,000
Irele	1,417	3,543	194,837,500	423,987,500	336,537,500	442,812,500
Apoi	1,492	3,730	205,150,000	354,350,000	466,250,000	580,125,000
Iyansan	2,040	5,100	280,500,000	484,500,000	637,500,000	784,375,000
TOTAL	10,054	25,135	879,725,000	1,382,425,000	2,387,825,000	3,141,875,000

Adeniyi Akintola & Co.

THE MANAGER,
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM COMPANY,
OKITIPUPA,
ONDO STATE.

Dear Sir,

NOTICE TO QUIT

We act as solicitors to your landlords (Land Owning Communities and Families under the umbrella of Ikale Supreme Civic Right Council) hereinafter referred to as our client and on whose expression instructions we write you this letter.

You will recall that there was an acquisition of land in 1954 when the old Western Region at Irele in Okitipupa Division of the old western region for the purpose of cultivation of palms, production of palm oil and allied products.

The said acquisition was community oriented with rental value of 45 pounds per annum payable to the traditional rulers of Ikale Land and this was the practice until 1976 when Ondo State was created.

After the creation of Ondo State in 1976 all lands in the state were vested in the government subject to usage for public purposes only.

However, the land was purportedly transferred to your company which you have in turn created public shares that were sold to very many private individuals with your company trading with our clients' acquired land without concurrent input and consent of the owning land communities and families.

It is instructive to state here that in the Original agreement between the acquiring authority and the various communities together with the Obas, the oil palm company was to cede 60% of the profits earned to the Obas and Owning land families but this clause has not been upheld by your company for over 50 years now.

The said lease agreement between your company, our clients and other shareholders had since expired but your company failed refused and neglected to enter into another agreement with other necessary stakeholders and as a result of this, it resulted failure to comply and pay the necessary dues to our clients and other stakeholders and failure to enter into another lease agreement.

We therefore have the instructions our client to demand as follows:

- i. Immediate vacation of the entire land by the Okitipupa Oil Palm Company, your agents, privies and all the occupants of the said acquired land under whatever guise and return same to our clients.
- ii. Revocation of all certificate of occupancy purportedly issued to anyone, corporate bodies or institutions on the land save the portion being used for public purposes such as government schools, hospitals or institutions owned or built by government of Ondo State or Federal Government of Nigeria if any.
- iii. Payment of the arrears of rents long overdue and payable to the traditional rulers, land owning families and communities at the current and prevailing monetary values as well as the 60% profit due to the land owning committees, families and the traditional rulers of Ikale land within 14 days of your receipt of this quit notice.

Failure on your part to comply with the foregoing demands within 14 days of the receipt of this letter, we have the instruction of our clients to commence necessary legal action against your company for the ejection of your company from the said acquired land with all the attendance dire consequences and embarrassment.

You have been warned.

Yours faithfully,

Oladoyin Oyeyemi Oyelami-Fesobi (Mrs)
Head of Chambers
Adeniyi Akintola & Co.

NEWS

Jimoh Ibrahim Champions Coastal State Creation, Rejects Ijebu State Merger

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, representing Ondo South Senatorial District, has renewed his call for the creation of a Coastal State from Ondo State, emphasizing the need for rapid development of the riverine communities in the region.

The senator made this declaration while receiving the Ikale Award for Best Legislator, in recognition of his impactful contributions to his constituency. He highlighted the progress of his proposed bill, which recently passed its first reading at the Senate. The bill seeks to amend the constitution to facilitate the creation of a new Coastal State from Ondo State.

Senator Ibrahim dismissed any suggestion that Ondo South could become part of the proposed Ijebu State. "Ondo South can never be part of Ijebu State," he stated firmly, underscoring the region's unique identity and developmental needs.

He expressed confidence that the bill would pass its second and third readings



L-R, DCP (Prince) Olubode Ojajuni, Oba M Adetoye, the Jegun of Idepe and Oba G. Bajowa, the Rebuja of Osooro at the installation of the new Oba

in the Senate, paving the way for a new chapter of growth and equity for the people of Ondo South. The senator also reiterated his commitment to championing legislative initiatives that prioritize the welfare of his constituents.

The Ikale Award for Best Legislator acknowledges Senator Ibrahim's tireless efforts in advocating for the socio-economic advancement of his constituency and Ondo State at large.

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How to Celebrate Your Parents and Mentors During the Festive Season



The festive season is a time of love, joy, and gratitude—a perfect moment to reflect on those who have influenced and supported us. In Nigeria, where family values and mentorship hold a special place, this period provides an excellent opportunity to honor parents and mentors with thoughtful gestures that go beyond material gifts.

Here are meaningful ways to celebrate your parents and mentors during the festive season, ensuring they feel cherished and valued.

1. Spend Quality Time Together

One of the most heartfelt ways to celebrate is by being present. Whether in rural or urban settings, take time to engage in meaningful conversations, reminisce about cherished memories, and enjoy their company without distractions. For those living far away, returning home can be the greatest gift, filling your parents' or mentors' hearts with joy.

2. Prepare Their Favorite Meals

Food is central to festive celebrations in Nigeria. Take the opportunity to cook traditional dishes like pounded yam, egusi soup, or moi-moi while adding their favorite meals to the menu. This effort shows love and care, and the act of sharing a meal together strengthens bonds.

3. Give Thoughtful Gifts

Gifts need not be extravagant to be impactful. Consider items that reflect their needs or

interests—a warm shawl, a book, or a handwritten card expressing your gratitude. A simple, thoughtful gift can convey deep appreciation and love.

4. Organize a Small Gathering

Host a modest gathering to honor them. Invite family and close friends to share a meal and publicly acknowledge their impact. A heartfelt speech or tribute highlighting their sacrifices and guidance can make the occasion even more special.

5. Help with Tasks or Projects

Show your appreciation by assisting them with tasks they may struggle to complete. This could include helping on the farm, repairing household items, or supporting their professional or personal projects. Practical support demonstrates care and thoughtfulness.

6. Create a Memory Album or Video

Compile photos, messages, and memories into an album or a short video montage. Include contributions from friends, colleagues, or other mentees whose lives they've impacted. This keepsake will be a source of pride and joy for years to come.

7. Engage in Spiritual Activities

The festive season in Nigeria often includes church services and spiritual observances. Attend these events with them or organize a

Gen-Z THOUGHTS



with Divinegift Solomon

home devotional session if they cannot attend in person. Sharing in these spiritual moments strengthens emotional and familial bonds.

8. Celebrate Their Achievements

For mentors, publicly acknowledging their influence is a powerful gesture. Write a tribute, share it on social media or in a local publication, and express how their guidance has shaped your life. For parents, a presentation of family achievements, no matter how small, will fill them with pride and fulfillment.

9. Commit to Self-Improvement

The best gift you can give is to embody the values and lessons they've instilled in you. Use this season to reflect on your goals, share your aspirations with them, and demonstrate a commitment to becoming a better version of yourself.

10. Be Fully Present

Beyond physical presence, emotional presence matters. Engage deeply with your parents and mentors—listen attentively, laugh together, and create meaningful memories. Setting aside distractions like phones shows respect and prioritizes your relationship.

Final Thoughts

The festive season is a time to celebrate love, family, and community. By honoring your parents and mentors with thoughtful acts of gratitude, you not only strengthen bonds but also highlight the values of appreciation and respect that form the foundation of lasting relationships. Whether through time, gifts, or words, let your celebrations reflect genuine love and heartfelt gratitude.

PRESS RELEASE BY THE ONDO STATE GOVERNMENT ON THE DISPUTE.

Ondo State Government To Facilitates Resolution Between Okitipupa Oil Palm PLC and Host Communities

The Government of Ondo State reaffirms its steadfast commitment to nurturing a harmonious relationship between local communities and the businesses operating within our esteemed State.

Recent developments concerning OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC and the allegations raised by certain host communities regarding the Ondo Oil Palm Company (OOPC) have drawn the immediate attention of His Excellency, Dr. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa.

In this regard, His Excellency, Dr. Lucky Aiyedatiwa has called for formal negotiations between OOPC and the host communities to address the expressed grievances.

The Office of the Honorable Attorney General of Ondo State stands prepared, as directed, to facilitate these essential discussions, ensuring that all stakeholders collaborate towards a constructive resolution.

We recognize the crucial role that OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC has played in our economy over the years, significantly enhancing investment and enriching our local landscape.

We are determined to ensure that all enterprises within our jurisdiction operate in accordance with legal standards while making substantial contributions to their surrounding communities. We therefore urge all parties to exercise restraint and explore every available avenue for communication and resolution before resorting to more drastic measures.

To this end, we have specifically mandated law enforcement agencies and other relevant governmental bodies to diligently investigate the matter and work towards an amicable resolution of any issues between the management of OOPC and the host communities.

We wish to underscore that the Ondo State Government will not tolerate any form of illegality or self-help from any party involved. We encourage all stakeholders to adhere strictly to the principles and mandates of the law as they navigate the issues at hand.

We remain unwavering in our dedication to safeguarding the interests of local communities while fostering an environment conducive for investors to a responsible business practice.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all stakeholders for their commitment to the welfare of the people of Ondo State.

For: Attorney General of Ondo State.

'Yomi Adebayo

Technical Adviser to the Honorable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.



Ikale News publisher calls on Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and Hon. Jimi Odimayo to intervene in OOP Plc communities dispute

Ikale News Publisher, Dr. Bolu John Folayan has appealed to the Senator representing Ondo South, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim and Prince Jimi Odimayo, representing Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency in the National Assembly to urgently step into the fledgling dispute between Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc and the host communities.

In a press statement, the veteran community journalist and scholar commended a non-governmental organization, the Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Coalition (ISCRC) for its boldness to confront the company and its cronies milking the community of its resources but insisted that there was need for a broader stakeholder coalition to resolve the fundamental issues on the dispute.

He commended Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa on its neutral position and willingness to resolve the differences among the stakeholders and urged the Ikale community to take advantage of the opportunity to sort the problem amicably.

“Our communities have nothing to

show for OOPlc's occupation of over 10,000 hectares of its land for 71 years. Various persons have used the company to enrich themselves at the expense of the communities and there is no land again for commercial farming and to build houses except inside the dense forest. Unprecedented crisis is looming as the youths are angry and are only being restrained from taking laws into their own hands,” he stated.

According to Dr. Folayan, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and Hon Odimayo have the predigree to coordinate amicable resolution of the problem by doing the followings very urgently:

- Summon a stakeholders meeting (comprising of representatives of families which signed the lease of agreement with the Western Regional Government; traditional rulers in the affected communities, Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the matter (not limited to ISCRC), elder statesment, and other legislators in the affected area).



Ikale News Publisher,
Dr. Bolu John Folayan

Table demands of the stakeholders, that is, lead a delegation of the united stakeholders to face OOP Plc at the meeting with ODIPA, which Gov Aiyedatiwa handed the matter to proffe mutually-beneficial solutions. Dr Folayan, who established Ikale News in 1992, noted that the ISCRC, as constituted, cannot serve as holistic umpire in the dispute, being an interested party in the matter and that “it is very important that Ikale people

Ikale News publisher calls on Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and Hon. Jimi Odimayo to intervene in OOP Plc communities dispute

attend the negotiation with a united voice.”

He emphasized that if Dr. Ibrahim and Hon Odimayo are not able to foster a common voice of the communities on the matter, aggrieved parties could seek redress in the law court but stressed that litigation might drag for too “and might not lead to a win-win outcome”

According to him, going to the ODIPA meeting as disjointed forces naturally would lead to failure.

The community development activist berated the management of OOP Plc management declaring that it had been meeting the statutory needs of Ikale people, describing the statement as “reckless and insensitive.”

Dr. Folayan warned the company to stop instigating violence and crises in Ikale communities, using divide-and-rule tactics while stacking away billions of naira worth of resources illegally. He warned the management of the company against relying on self-serving consultants who determined to cause disharmony in the community.

“The wisdom of our fore-fathers in leasing the expansive land was to create jobs for their offspring and facilitate development of Ikale communities. Seventy-one years after, where are the jobs? Where is the development? We are on ground here. When trouble starts, these belly-aching consultants who do not live in the community would be far from reach. And the few traditional rulers who are not on the side of the people on this matter will regret such action.” he said.

Dr. Folayan reassured the management of OOP Plc that if the company means well for Ikale people, it has nothing to fear in taking advantage of the olive branch offered by Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, stressing that, rather, it stands to gain more through such dialogue.

“OOP Plc has encroached on other land



Okitipupa Oil Palm

not leased to it. There is no proper corporate governance. The company is not posting profit, not to talk of meaningful CSR. Ikale people have gifted entrepreneurs who can suggest ideas that can even move the company forward. But it cannot be business as usual for them.

The returns on the land it occupies is too poor for us as communities. We need to retrieve much of the land as our people are interested in going to commercial agriculture massively. Cocoa and rubber earn more than oil palm derivatives now. We need our land and we want OOP Plc to be better managed. Even the Ondo State Government stands to gain from proper resolution of the dispute because it is losing IGR from the poor management of the resources.” He

stressed.

The veteran journalist urged Senator Ibrahim and Hon Odimayo, as elected representatives of the people to rally other stakeholders and put their names in gold, “and if OOP Plc or any of the stakeholders is not happy at the resolution, then then can proceed to seek solution via litigation.”

“They are lawmakers. They have oversight functions in matters of policy and law. This is a matter of law. And they are both men of integrity who will be respected by all the stakeholders. Jimoh Ibrahim will call a spade a spade, not matter who is involved. He must lead Ikale people to this ODIPA meeting and seek amicable solution to the matter.”

Why Ikale Traditional Rulers, SJI And Thought Leaders Dissociated Themselves From ISCRC

Atop the imbroglio between Ikale people and Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc, traditional rulers in Okitipupa and Irele Local Government summoned an emergency meeting to dissociate themselves from Ikale Supreme Civil Rights Council, ISCRC. Earlier, the Senator representing Ondo South, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim and the Publisher of Ikale News, Dr. Bolu John Folayan, had issued statements distancing themselves from ISCRC.

Their principal reason was the modus operandi of the ISCRC.

When agitations stepped up early last year at different forums on the rip-offs perpetrated in Ikale by the leadership of Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc, it was only remaining a matter of “when” action would be taken against the company. So, when the ISCRC, led by a young activist from Igbotako known as Orimisan Patrick Adelokiki confronted the company's leadership, most Ikale thought leaders supported him.

But barely seven days after its December 2024 against the company, had demands of the ISCRC taken confusing dimensions. One the one hand, the group demanded new CSR programmes and yet within the same breathe was asking the company to vacate the land. Yet, the NGO, in its actions, acted as if it is now the new owners and managers of the 10,000 hectares of oil palm estates.

Various leaders privately summoned Mr. Adelokiki in order to streamline its demands but he rebuffed them.

Eminent community leader, General Olu Bajowa (rtd) in a memo to Ikale News publisher mid last year, had noted:

“The reclaim of our palm estates for mechanized agricultural projects, will not only promote food security but will address issues of empowerment and employment of the youths who are now roaming the streets, in towns and cities in Ikaleland.”

The Jagunmolu of Ikaleland however detests confrontations with constituted authorities and as a lawyer insisted that legal and peaceful means must be adopted.

Said Dr. Folayan, in his remarks: “I personally engaged Mr. Orimisan Adelokiki because I admired his courage to bell the cat. It is quite commendable that a young man like that would commit millions of naira to institute legal action against a pest against our common resources known as OOP Plc. But we disagreed on principles regarding the mode of



taking over. He insisted that he has taken over and can now manage the vast estates, I disagreed. There has to be a legal backing to do that. Even in the house you built with your own money, you need a legal backing to eject the tenant and another court order to enforce the judgment. I told him that I found it strange to connect how he would become owner and manager of the land, assuming OOP Plc is pronounced illegal occupier. I told him the primary task now is to have a common front to make our demands. Post-dispute management of the place is a totally different thing.”

“He told me I am not a SAN but only a veteran journalist and that the SANs told him he could enter the land and manage it even before going to court and before the meeting with Ondipa. At that point I had to dissociate myself.”

Meanwhile, the police in its wisdom felt that forceful takeover of the land could lead to violence and breach of the peace.

The paramount ruler of Osooro Kingdom, the Rebuja, Oba Gbadebo Bajowa severally held meetings with Mr. Orimisan in personal capacity, reassuring him that he would not obstruct his legitimate civil rights but that the way he was going about it could lead to crisis and even deaths, which he would not want to happen in his kingdom.

“In the 80s, the issue of illegal entry of the farms led to deaths. And the Military Administrator at the time visited by palace in Igbotako to plead with me on restoration of order. I knew what it took to restore peace but the dead were gone forever.” The Kabiyesi told Ikale News.

The traditional rulers had to distance themselves from Mr. Orimisan as he escalated his confrontation with the Police leadership in Ondo State, threatening to sue the police for

intimidation and harassment.

Meanwhile all traditional rulers are putting together a strong representation at the Ondipa meeting initiated by the State governor, Dr. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, to resolve the dispute.

Reliable sources informed Ikale News that the governor is determined to give fair adjudication on the matter, having seen that the OOP Plc has a very bad case.

“It is not just a matter of CSR which OOP Plc has absolutely nothing to show. It about breach of agreement and criminal conspiracies. The governor is aware of the wrongful sales of shares belonging to these Ikale communities but it does not want to directly intervene first, hence pushing it to the Ondo State Investments and Properties Agency,” a governor's office source told our reporter.

At the time of going to press the popular monarch had summoned another private meeting with the activist.

Various opinion leaders across Ikale who spoke to Ikale News called for peaceful and legal means of engaging the Okitipupa Oil Palm Plc on the matter.

Said Professor Sam Akinwotu: “It is popular and meaningful cause to redress the injustice that OOP Plc has committed deliberately or non-deliberately against the Ikale people. It is not a struggle started by my brother Orimisan Adelokiki but having come out, we thought we should have an all-inclusive struggle. That is why I have not been involved.”

Respected lawyer, Barrister Morebise called for a conference of Ikale thought leaders from diverse professions to come together and present a common agenda to embrace the peace initiative of the governor.

“If Ondipa is not able to resolve the matter, we can seek legal redress. But we have an offer now on the initiative of the governor and I think it is better to properly articulate our demands. We still have lots of evidence out there that we need to harness to fight our case. We cannot do so in an atmosphere of rancor or one-show.” He told our reporter.

COLUMN

CosmoWorld With

Ondo Guber Poll: Vote Buying And The Looming Effects On The Polity

Politics has been seen as one of the subsets of humanity and the tool for societal development pertinently since it connotes, above every other human-formulated theories, a means to appeal to the consciousness, well-being and appreciable involvement of the people either as leaders or followers; as the elected officers or the "electees" (voters) or whichever way.

Noteworthy, the society thrives better with participatory systems of government which somewhat explains the presidential system of government operated by Nigeria even if it is not well practiced as though borrowed from the United States of America.

In a democratic society, leadership is enshrined either by appointment or election. However, in most democracy-practicing countries, elections have been the instrumentality employed to carry the people along. This singular people-driven democratic practice has been in vogue for centuries until these hydra-monstrous electoral perfidy permeates our democratic space.

Nigeria returned to yet another democratic dispensation in 1999, which culminated in the country's Fourth Republic on May 29, that same year and started amidst great hope, aspirations and human-driven expectations. Although the military regime that birthed the process could not swayingly convince the masses on its successful reality. In fact a larger section of the populace them, still believed it could herald the dawn of good governance in the country. Alas! twenty-five years after the commencement of democratization in Nigeria, the political landscape is yet to exude any clear evidence of good governance. Here in Nigeria, we pay lips service to the rule of law since the independence of the judiciary has been jaundiced, elections and electoral processes are subvertedly controlled by the privileged elite, and political parties and other important public institutions are manipulated just to favour the political opportunists.

Ondo State, just a year plus to notch the golden jubilee of its creation was the first place to birth the philosophy of progressivism in Nigeria. That happened in the heyday of Chief Obafemi Awolowo Jeremiah when himself with some other leaders of note met at Owo to start the journey that projected what some political gladiators today called themselves- The Progressives.

Historically, the state had produced democratic leaders from Pa Adekunle Ajasin, Chief Adebayo Adefarati, Dr. Olusegun Agagu, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu and the incumbent Governor cum Governor-elect for the next four years, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa. While every dispensation had its peculiarity on election matters in the

state, the advent of vote-buying can be traced to the Second Term Aspiration of Dr. Olusegun Mimiko. It was during his era the coinage that best described vote buying came into our electoral lexicon. "Dibò, ko sebè". Ever since then, riggers of elections have abandoned the old tactics of ballot snatching, violence, falsification of election results to a non violent system- Vote Buying.

Very unfortunate that leaders who are desperate to rule jettisoned the practice of campaigning with practicable manifestos to embrace the buying of people's conscience during elections. They latched on the ascerbic penury in the land to take advantage of the people and control their minds.

This is what pervaded the political landscape of our dear Sunshine State in the Guber Poll that brought in Hon. Orimisan Lucky Aiyedatiwa. The November 16 Governorship Election in Ondo State has come and gone but the lasting effects of the ignoble doings of that election will forever remain with us as the beneficiaries of the deeds of vote-buying.

The major contenders for the Alagbaka Government House, Hon. Agboola Alfred Ajayi of the People's Democratic Party and Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa of the All Progressives Congress were reportedly guilty of this menacing practice. Both parties doled out money to voters to the range of SEVEN THOUSANDS NAIRA {#7, 000} to TEN THOUSANDS {#10, 000} across the state.

While some economic pundits argued that the election periods ensured free flow of money in circulation which consequently boosted the economic growth of individuals, private organisations or public enterprise, the negative effects on the polity is damning.

By implication, no youth or any individual without the huge financial war chest can venture into politics even when the intention to serve the people right is there. This can inadvertently the spate of crime among the youth as the desperate ones will do everything possible to amass wealth just to get what they want. Anyway, it's incontrovertible that most of these leaders are drug barons and money laundering syndicate. Leadership positions definitely will be for the highest bidders as the poor will never dare to contest.

Invariably, vote-buying could be said to eliminate candidates with meagre campaign funds. Connotatively, the electoral victories will be purchased rather than won freely, fairly and credibly. Obviously, this leads to state capture which on the



Ogunbemi Adeyemi Orimisan

other hand compromises the credibility, legitimacy, and integrity of the elections and its institutions.

Vote-buying undermines the integrity of elections as the winners are often the highest bidders and not necessarily the most popular or or much sought after candidates. It often leads to protests and blame-games among parties and candidates after elections. It, therefore, discourages conscientious people from taking part in politics and prompts citizens to lose confidences in state institutions. Vote trading equally tends to perpetuate bad governance. It not only compromises the wellbeing of those who sold their vote for instant gratification but also the future of those who did not sell their votes but are inevitably exposed to bad governance that results from such a fraudulent process. For every vote traded, many people will suffer the unintended consequences when the traded votes make the difference between winning and losing in the election.

The effects of vote-buying are endless with multiplicities but all can't be adumbrated either fully or partially.

The future of the polity is bleak except the country electoral umpire stop paying lips service to our electoral laws and the constitutional provisions supporting elections are upheld. Also, elections' offenders should be punished to serve as deterrent to others. The government at the centre must stop taking side and allow even the weakest political party to thrive believing in the doctrine of fairness, equity and justice.

Ondo State is fast losing her place of pride in the polity as the pace setting state in virtually all sectors of life now that desperados and Maradona of politics-news have taken the centre stage across the divides of political parties.

Osooro Connect

OSOORO CONNECT

HON. ADETOYE OYEWOLE
COUNCILLOR
IGBOTAKO I

HON. OYEGUN OLANIYI
COUNCILLOR
IGBOTAKO II

HON. AKINDURO TEMITAYO
COUNCILLOR
IJI-ODO-ERIKITI/IJI-OKI

HON. OLAMIDE ADEWUNMI AKINGBULLU
COUNCILLOR
ILUTITUN WARD I

HON. OMOPELUMI OLIBODE
COUNCILLOR
ILUTITUN WARD III

HON. MORENIKE AKINNAWONU
COUNCILLOR
ILUTITUN WARD II

HON. ANDREW OGUNSAKIN
CHAIRMAN

IKALE KIDS

Bring Back Ikale Home Training

Happy new year my beloved kids. How are you and the family. Happy resumption. You must determine to supersede last year Goals. And it starts from now.

Today I want to discuss Importance of Home training in the home.

Ikale parents believe in good home training for their children. And a child that did not have or reflect home training is regarded as worthless and the people will not have regards for the parents in Ikale .

There are different way parents training there children. Both formal and informal. There is home training,how children are expected to behave at home, in school, in the churches, surroundings, society. A child with bad character is regarded as lacking home training.Home training helps a child to have good behaviour and how to talk to people and especially adults. If a child is well behaved , such a child is regarded as having home training. Ikale parents, like their children to be well behaved and cultured.

They don't want their children to bring disgrace to them with bad characters so they correct them always. Parents teach their children from infancy so it will be part of them.

The various means of home training are numerous, but we shall discuss the most important ones.

Language and means of communication: Most ikale parents speak their language and dialect to their children. So they can speak it well. Even though the modern parents speak English to them they also speak ikale language to them, if your parents have stopped speaking ikale to you,Pls tell them to start speaking it to you again. It is very important. . For instance if you go out and they want to discuss something that they don't want those outside to hear, they will

speak Ikale to you. Pls dont be ashamed to speak it or for your parents or elders to speak it to you.

They will teach you how to speak respectfully to both elders and even your mate. Avoid cursing yourselves.

Parents also train their children non verbal language through eyes contact , nose and other body language and the children must understand.. if a mother or father does not want a child to do something, they can tell through body language..

Another sign of home training is being respectful, the way you talk to adults,your pear group, contemporary and also your attitude to issues.

NEATNESS : A child with good home training must be neat organised. You must clean and arrange your environment. As an Ikale child you must sweep your house , environment and arrange your room and environment when you wake up in the morning. You must wash plates and also clean the kitchen. . You must also wash your clothes always, bath every morning



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

and wear clean clothes when you bathe, Ikale mother's appreciate good cook , and therefore count it worthy for their female children to know how to cook good food. So they teach them how to prepare food early.

Another important part of home training Is to know your lenage⁶ and history of your family, lineage and village etc.

As part of home training, ta child needs to be focused and determined. If you want to be successful , you need to be courageous, persever and be patient. These are part of the attributes of our past and successful leaders. .

It is good to make good decisions from January so as to achieve achieve good.

I hope you are able to learn one or two things.

God bless bless you greatly. .



COLUMN

Youth Connect

Work life between millennials vs Gen-z



This differentiation highlights how cultural, technological, and economic factors have shaped the contrasting attitudes of millennials and Gen Z toward work and money. It sets the stage for an engaging analysis of how these perspectives are influencing workplaces and society as a whole.

1. Work Ethic vs. Outcome-Oriented Mindset

Millennials: Known for their strong work ethic, millennials often emphasize the importance of hard work, long hours, and dedication to career growth. They were raised in a transitional period where traditional workplace norms were still highly valued. Many millennials seek purpose in their jobs and are willing to "pay their dues" to climb the career ladder.

Gen Z: This generation tends to prioritize outcomes over the process. Raised in the age of rapid technological advancements, Gen Z values efficiency and often looks for ways to achieve financial success without overexerting themselves. Side hustles, freelancing, and viral opportunities are often preferred over traditional career paths.

2. Work-Life Balance vs. Life First, Work Second

Millennials: They tend to balance ambition with passion. While millennials want meaningful work, they are often willing to sacrifice personal time to meet career goals. The "hustle culture" of the early 2000s heavily influenced their approach to work.

Gen Z: Gen Z is more vocal about valuing life over work. They are quick to reject jobs that demand too much of their personal time and mental energy. For Gen Z, financial stability and flexibility are key, even if it means switching jobs frequently or pursuing less traditional paths.

3. Career Loyalty vs. Career Fluidity

Millennials: Often display loyalty to employers, staying in positions longer if they see opportunities for growth. They are willing to invest years into their careers, sometimes prioritizing company goals over personal aspirations.

Gen Z: This generation is less attached to specific employers. They are not afraid to "job-hop" or quit roles that don't align with their values or provide adequate



With Adebola Ademola

financial reward. They focus on leveraging opportunities that offer immediate benefits.

4. Skills Acquisition vs. Quick Wins

Millennials: Often prioritize acquiring skills and building expertise over time. They value mentorship, professional development, and experience as part of their journey to success.

Gen Z: While they are highly entrepreneurial, Gen Z tends to prioritize quick wins. They are more likely to capitalize on trends, social media, or gig work to achieve financial goals without committing to long-term skill development.

5. Monetary Motivation vs. Purpose-Driven Success

Millennials: While millennials value financial stability, they often seek jobs that align with their personal values or provide a sense of purpose. They're willing to accept lower pay for roles that allow them to make a meaningful impact.

Gen Z: Gen Z is more pragmatic and sees money as the ultimate measure of success. They often prioritize high-paying opportunities, even if the work itself isn't deeply meaningful, as financial independence is their primary goal.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY



Mrs Alice Adekunbi
Fadeni

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THE FUNERAL CEREMONY OF MRS ALICE ADEKUNBI FADENI



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THE FUNERAL CEREMONY OF MRS ALICE ADEKUNBI FADENI



FEATURE *IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken*



Ikale News: *Baba Liliken, le o. A ku odon, a ku iyedon o!*

Baba Liliken: *Eeee, oma mi. Emi a s'opo e o. Hmmm, a de kuu T-paini yi o.*

Ikale News: *Ee, Baba lila*

Baba Liliken: *Mo ne owe Ikale meron hun e. Dede e original owe Ikale ni, although two of them are also spoken in some other Yoruba communities.*

Ikale News: *Oya Baba. Let's go.*

Baba Liliken: *Ikale jii...ki e ti bi oma ni ogba, ji ee m'usu?* Translation is "how can you give birth to a child inside the yam barn and the child cannot recognize yam when he or she sees yam?"

Ikale News: Hmmm, let me take a guess, Baba: It means an Ikale child should naturally know how to eat yam.

Baba Liliken: (smiles): No. You missed it. You do not interpret proverbs in the ordinary plain meaning like that. There is always a secret meaning. That proverb means it is awkward for someone to grow up in an environment and not know the culture of that environment. For example, if some is born and bred in Paris, France and cannot speak or does not understand the French Language, you can say "*ki e ti*

bi oma ni ogba, ji ee m'usu? What you are saying is that it is absurd not to understand and exhibit of the culture of where you are raised. It has nothing to do with yam.

Ikale News: I see, that is a typical Ikale proverb. Number two...

Baba Liliken: *Ugbegbe ti s'ajuwe uboyi aa mu okun hi.* Ugbegbe means 'ake'ngbe' in Yoruba (gourd in English). It is the one that the old palm wine tappers use and it has a deep round neck and a pot-belly. If you want to tie a rope to it, naturally you tie it to its neck. There is nowhere else to tie rope that the rope would stay. It translates "the gourd has indicated where one is to place

the rope”

Ikale News: I can try out the usage of that one because last week I heard the proverb from an Ikale elder when some of them were arguing about Bishop David Oyedepo, his deputy and his successor. Some of them were wondering he asked Bishop Abioye, his deputy to retire, and he immediately promotes his son. I asked him: “who do you think he wants to succeed him in the Ministry?” The old man said *ugbegbe ki sa'juwe uboyi aa mu okun hi*.

Baba Liliken: Perfect. You got it. In the last Edo election. The incumbent governor never saw anything good in his deputy. He praised another candidate to high heavens. That means he was not going to support his deputy. You use it when you don't want to say the obvious directly. Let me give you the fourth **Ikale News:** No, the third.

Baba Liliken: Okay. *Aji omade go, wo jii bee ti ku; k'a pa?* We the young person is stupid, you so long as he or she does not die, what would kill him or her? (Is it not stupidity). It is used to emphasize the need for parents to discipline the child.

Ikale News: Like the Oyibo equivalent, “spare the rod, spoil the child”.

Baba Liliken: Exactly. It also has a similar meaning to the English proverb “a stitch in time saves nine”, though not directly. You need to correct stupid behaviours (including lack of good initiatives, petty bad

habits, not being smart, etc.) in the little child very early. Some parents believe that “omode lo nse” (“he or she behaves like that because he or she is still a child”). It is not always so. Don't pamper the child when he or she does not know or do what he or she is supposed to do; he or she may not grow old to correct it because that thing you did not correct can kill him or her.

Ikale News. *Wow!*

Baba Liliken: Our last Ikale proverb today says: “*Oju meren e bi oma ni, sugba oju ugba ki y'e gho ni.*” Transliteration: “It is four eyes that give birth to a child, but it is 200 eyes that nurture it.” Translation: “It is the responsibility of the entire community to train a child”.

Ikale News: Hmmmm. Oju meren... that is two eyes of the father ... two eyes of the mother...that is four eyes who give birth to that child. The 200 eyes are those of the community members. Wow. I experienced it growing up with my grandpa in Iyansan. If I did anything untoward in town, other people in the community not even related to me would not just report me to my parents; they spanked me right there, if need be.

Baba Liliken: Yes, that is the typical Ikale community: The entire community trains every child. When they scold you, your own biological father or mother dared not complain.

Ikale News: *Ahaaa* that is the origin of “the parent who asks you to help him or her beat the child is not happy inside when you beat that child” – “*ba ni na omo mi, ko de'nu olomo.*”

Baba Liliken: My fifth Ikale proverb is: *One yo te iwin male, o bi dandan ji ke'tan ren.* Transliteration: “The person who steps on feces compulsorily would not walk normally”. It means *mistake or lack of caution always leads to visible consequences/outcomes*. The Englishman uses a harsher equivalent: “The evil that humans do, trail them”. But the two proverbs are not really saying exactly the same thing. Our parents in those days usually walked bare-footed. If they mistakenly stepped on feces, they start to limp or walk bow-legged as a result. That's the origin.

Ikale News: Thank you Baba. Let me go and be practising the usage of these five proverbs. My problem is that I always forget the right proverb when I need them most.

Baba Liliken: You have to use them frequently. Otherwise you will forget. And if you use proverbs when speaking, your audience would respect you. They will say you speak wisely... you have the voice of the elders. (*Laughters*)

INTERVIEW

DCP Bode Ojajuni Lauds Ayeka Monarch at Staff of Office Ceremony



The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Ogun State Command, Olubode Ojajuni, has commended the Lumure of Ayeka, Oba Babatunde Michael Ayeyowa, for his leadership qualities and potential to bring development to the Ayeka kingdom.

Ojajuni made the remarks during the official presentation of the instrument and staff of office to the monarch by Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa in Ayeka, Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ojajuni expressed confidence in Oba Ayeyowa's wisdom and vision, noting that the traditional ruler has what it takes to foster progress and unity in the community. He also offered prayers for the monarch's long life and good health, emphasizing the importance of stable and effective leadership for the growth of Ayeka.



The event, which celebrated culture and tradition, was attended by dignitaries from across Ondo State and beyond, including traditional rulers, government officials, and indigenes of Ayeka. Ojajuni's presence underscored the support of law enforcement and other

sectors for the monarch's reign.

The ceremony marked a historic moment for the people of Ayeka, who expressed optimism about the development prospects under their new king.

NEWS

Aiyerin Cautions Market Traders on Use of Electrical Appliances Following Okitipupa Fire Outbreak



Okitipupa, Ondo State – Pastor Olusegun Aiyerin, the Commissioner for Commerce, Industry, and Cooperative in Ondo State, has appealed to market traders to prioritize electrical safety following a fire outbreak at the Okitipupa Caring Heart Market on December 12, 2024.

The fire, believed to have been caused by a power surge, broke out at around 1 a.m., destroying 18 shops. Eyewitnesses reported that nine open shops were initially consumed by the flames before the fire spread to other sections of the market.

Accompanied by HRM Oba Michael Adetoye Obatuga, the Jegun of Idepe, and local government officials, Pastor Aiyerin visited the market to assess the damage and offer government support.

The timely intervention of Oba Obatuga was instrumental in preventing further disaster. Upon learning of the fire, he immediately contacted the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), which swiftly disconnected the electricity supply, averting the risk of the flames spreading



across the market and nearby areas.

Speaking during the visit, Pastor Aiyerin expressed gratitude that no lives were lost and assured affected traders of the government's commitment to restoring normalcy in the market. He highlighted the administration's responsiveness, saying, "You have put in place a responsive government, your government, and the people's government to guarantee your wellness

and support at all times."

The Commissioner emphasized the need for traders to exercise caution in their use of electrical appliances, stressing that vigilance and safety measures are vital to preventing such incidents in the future.

As reconstruction efforts begin, local authorities are focusing on improving safety standards and implementing strategies to safeguard businesses in the market from similar disasters

NEWS

Governor Aiyedatiwa Presents N655b 2025 Budget Estimates To House Of Assembly



Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa of Ondo State has presented the 2025 state budget, aptly named the "Budget of Recovery," to the state House of Assembly. The budget was unveiled during a plenary session presided over by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji, at the Assembly Complex in Akure on Tuesday.

The total budget for 2025 is N655.23 billion, with N248.923 billion (37.99%) allocated for recurrent expenditure and N406.307 billion (62.01%) earmarked for capital expenditure.

A breakdown of the budget reveals that the largest allocation of N238.572 billion (36.40%) is for infrastructural development. Other key areas receiving

significant funding include public finance with N125.456 billion (19%), education with N77.024 billion (11.80%), and agricultural development with N56.102 billion (8.60%).

The budget also includes allocations for the administration of justice (N132.163 billion), trade and industry (N8.839 billion), health (N46.016 billion), and environment and sewage management (N13.084 billion). Further, general administration receives N34.398 billion, information (N3.230 billion), legislative administration (N7.636 billion), regional development (N8.869 billion), community development (N14.128 billion), and energy (N3.742

billion).

In his address, Governor Aiyedatiwa expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the people of Ondo State for their overwhelming support in the recent gubernatorial election and for maintaining peace during the electoral process. He also acknowledged the achievements of his predecessor, the late Arakunrin Odunayo Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, whose legacy laid a strong foundation for the state.

"We have delivered on our promises, and now we seek to consolidate our gains through the 2025 Budget," Governor Aiyedatiwa said.

The Governor highlighted his

NEWS

administration's key achievements in agricultural development, infrastructure projects, and human capital development, noting that these areas remain top priorities. One significant highlight was the procurement of the Ondo State Mass Metering Scheme (O'Datiwa Meter), aimed at improving electricity distribution in underserved regions.

Governor Aiyedatiwa also announced the issuance of an interim Independent Electricity Distribution License to Anyingba Independent Electricity Distribution Company, allowing them to operate in the Southern Senatorial District. This is expected to improve electricity service quality across towns like Ese-Odo, Irele, Okitipupa, and Ilaje. Furthermore, a provisional license was granted to BEDC Electricity Ondo

Limited, a subsidiary of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company, for the management of electricity distribution in the state.

Additionally, Governor Aiyedatiwa provided an update on the 2024 fiscal year, noting that the state revised its budget from N395.257 billion to N492.045 billion due to inflation and the removal of fuel subsidies. Despite these challenges, the state's revenue collection reached N352.1 billion by the third quarter, representing 71.56% of the total target. However, capital expenditure performance was impacted by inflation, with N49.957 billion spent by the end of Q3.

Looking ahead, the Governor emphasized that the 2025 budget aims to tackle socio-economic challenges and foster prosperity for the people of

Ondo State. Key priorities include enhancing food security, expanding human capital development, improving infrastructure, and investing in sustainable economic models like the blue economy and renewable energy.

In his response, Speaker Rt. Hon. Olamide Oladiji commended the Governor for his administration's achievements, which he said contributed to his electoral success. The Speaker assured the public that the budget would undergo thorough scrutiny to ensure it positively impacts all citizens. He also pledged that the Assembly would accelerate consideration of the 2025 Budget Proposal.



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.

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

FEATURE

Why Ondo South Must Retain The Governorship Beyond Aiyedatiwa's Tenure

Ondo State's political history reveals a striking imbalance in the distribution of power among its senatorial districts. While the northern and central zones have had more opportunities to govern, the southern senatorial district has been systematically shortchanged. Dr. Olusegun Agagu's administration lasted only one term before being interrupted. If the same fate befalls the incumbent deputy governor-turned-governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the south would yet again fall short of its rightful share in Ondo's political leadership. To address this imbalance and ensure equity, it is imperative that the next governor of Ondo State also emerge from the southern district. Here are compelling reasons why this argument holds weight:

1. EQUITY AND JUSTICE DEMAND IT

The principle of equity is a cornerstone of democratic governance. Ondo South, comprising economically significant areas like Ilaje, Okitipupa, and Irele, has consistently contributed to the state's economy, particularly in oil and gas production and agriculture. Despite these contributions, the district has not enjoyed commensurate political representation or infrastructural development.

Agagu's one term and Aiyedatiwa's ongoing term, limited by legal and political circumstances, still leave the south underrepresented compared to the central and northern districts. The governorship should not shift to another senatorial district until the south has had the opportunity to complete two uninterrupted terms, in line with the eight-year standard set by other zones.

2. ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS JUSTIFY POLITICAL COMPENSATION

Ondo South is the economic backbone of the state, hosting oil-producing communities and serving as the hub for agricultural production. The region's revenue contributions through oil royalties and agricultural exports make it deserving of sustained political leadership to address its unique challenges. A governor from the south would be more attuned to the

developmental needs of the region, such as coastal erosion, oil spillage mitigation, and infrastructure deficits. It is only fair that the people who drive the state's economy be granted the opportunity to guide its governance for a full term to ensure their interests are adequately represented.

3. HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR ROTATIONAL GOVERNANCE.

Ondo State has followed an informal rotational system of governance among its three senatorial districts. The central district, through leaders like Dr. Olusegun Mimiko, completed two terms (2009–2017). The northern district, with Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, served for almost two full terms, with additional four years of Chief Adefarasin.

This leaves the south glaringly disadvantaged if it does not retain the governorship for another full term after Aiyedatiwa to balance the political equation. Such an imbalance risks creating a sense of marginalisation among the people of Ondo South, potentially undermining unity and trust in the state's political system.

4. AIYEDATIWA'S LEGAL LIMITATION IS A SOUTHERN OPPORTUNITY

Lucky Aiyedatiwa's administration, regardless of its duration, is legally capped at one term. While this may preclude him from contesting, it does not negate the south's claim to the governorship. Aiyedatiwa's tenure represents only a fraction of what the south is owed in political leadership. The argument that his short term suffices for the south is flawed and inconsistent with the principles of fairness applied to other zones.

5. POLITICAL INCLUSIVITY AND COHESION

Neglecting Ondo South's rightful claim to leadership risks alienating a significant segment of the state's population. This could exacerbate feelings of exclusion and reduce political cohesion. Ensuring that the south completes its two terms would foster



inclusivity, strengthen unity, and affirm the state's commitment to equitable governance.

6 THE "TWO-TERM STANDARD" IS THE STATE'S TRADITION

The central and northern senatorial districts have had the privilege of completing two uninterrupted terms in the governorship. Denying Ondo South the same opportunity would establish a double standard, suggesting that the south is less deserving of equitable treatment. This could set a dangerous precedent that undermines the credibility of the state's political leadership.

CONCLUSION

The governorship of Ondo State must remain in the southern senatorial district for at least one more term to correct the historical imbalance in political representation. Allowing the south to complete its rightful eight years in office is not merely a political favor but an act of justice, equity, and fairness.

It is time for the people of Ondo South to assert their position and ensure that their voices are heard. Only through sustained political leadership can the district address its unique challenges, unlock its full potential, and contribute even more meaningfully to the growth and prosperity of Ondo State.

Let justice and fairness prevail: Ondo South deserves its full two terms after Aiyedatiwa.

Olufemi Aduwo

NEWS

Okitipupa Market Fire Outbreak: Senator Jimoh Ibrahim Visits Scene, Donates N10m To Affected Traders ..Promises To Install Borehole, Solar Lamps



Senator representing Ondo Southern Senatorial District, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim CFR on Thursday visited the scene of the fire outbreak at Okitipupa Market in Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The senator, upon information on the fire outbreak at the market, visited the scene of the inferno where market stalls were destroyed.

He visited the scene with some traditional rulers from Okitipupa Local Government Area expressing his sympathy for the owners of the stalls that were consumed by the fire

When the billionaire business mogul realized that the people would have been able to put out the fire but for unavailability of water in the market,

he, therefore, promised to sink borehole in the market for the use of the traders.

He also promised to illuminate the market by installing solar lamps in the environment for security reasons

Having assessed the level of damage and loss recorded by the owners of the shops, Senator Ibrahim immediately donated a sum of N10 million to the owners of the stalls to cushion the loss recorded.

While addressing the people at the market, Senator Ibrahim said: "I want to express my sympathy with you for the loss of your stalls.

"I came down here with our

traditional rulers immediately I was informed about the fire outbreak to come and see you and the gravity of the destruction.

"I was told that you would have been able to put out the fire when it began if there had been water here.

"To prevent recurrence of this development, I will come and sink a borehole here for you to use. I will also light up the market with solar lamps which would be installed soon.

"I have seen the level of destruction and the losses being recorded by the affected shop owners, I am donating a sum of N10 million to you so that you can use it to purchase another goods."

NEWS**Okitipupa Market Fire Outbreak: Senator Jimoh Ibrahim Visits Scene, Donates N10m To Affected Traders ..Promises To Install Borehole, Solar Lamps**

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