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# Ikale News

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FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## APC ABRACADABRA PRIMARY ELECTION

# HOW BOLA TINUBU SAVED AIYEDATIWA

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- ▶ Why President Tinubu rescued him
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- ▶ Edema defects to NNPP, picks ticket



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NNDC rescues Ondo South from 17 years of blackout



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## Setting the Agenda for the New Governor

*Agbiii dede Ikale ati Apoi o? Ayemafuge Ilaje!*

Happy to be back again! We missed edition due to the altercations within the All Progressives Congress (APC) primaries as we wanted to get to the root of the matter before we come out, in order to properly record the event for prosperity.

What a primary election! *O ga o*. But, we move! We have to move. Expectedly, our cover story in this edition is on the APC governorship primary "election" and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) governorship election. As we usually, say "it has come and gone". Well, it has come and has not "gone". There is still a hurdle to face in November for the election proper. Political pundits say it would be victory for Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa of the APC. This is more so, according to the pundits, because the civil war within the APC has subsided. That was the major thing the PDP was banking upon to coast home to victory. The few pessimists who tip Hon Agboola Ajaji of the PDP to win base their views on the fact that APC has not really done genuine reconciliation and that there are still hundreds of "Otedola votes" that may go the PDP way. We see how it goes when November closes in. Come November, we are supposed to get a 'new' governor in our beloved state. Don't get me wrong. I am not insinuating that Aiyedatiwa would lose. I am hypothesizing that we are supposed to have a brand new governor after the election.

We have not seen the real leadership in Aiyedatiwa. He is currently doing "fidihe" and the primary elections took the greater of him. He had to be very cautious, He had to please quite a lot of people in his calculations towards getting the ticket. So, he couldn't really be himself, exactly. Now that he has gotten the ticket, I think he

will come out of his shell. Well, for Hon Ajayi, we know him fairly well. But as Deputy Governor, he was also a "fidihe" person – in fact a spare tyre. You never can know how good your spare tyre is until the original one has fault and you have to replace and use it. We can therefore say that both contestants grey horns in the business of governorship. Who is better between the two?

Who is better? I don't really know. We should be able to know who they are by the kinds of programmes they offer to pursue. In a typical civil service state like Ondo, welfarist programme for workers is compulsory. Also, investments in agriculture and infrastructure are very important. I expect the governorship aspirants to have specific programmes in agriculture and education. But the governor that will really excel would be one who knows how to generate income. I have said this for the umpteenth time. Governor Aiyedatiwa will find Senator Jimoh Ibrahim very useful in this regard. Good governance essentially costs money.

**Still on the choice of Deputy Governor for Ondo State**

Like-play, like-play, we are going to have a male deputy governor in Ondo State again, Shame!

If the candidates go ahead with their kites to fly their flags with male deputies, then it is an insult to the women fold of Ondo State. The women politicians did a rally some months ago to push for a female deputy governor. It fell on deaf ears. I think they should not let it go.

Women account for more of the votes in national, state and local elections. So, why are we treating the female folk like lepers in Ondo State. It is totally unfair. We have very intelligent women who can support the

governor to mobilize the people and enhance good governance. There are some aspects of governance that are very well suited for women. Examples are education, agriculture and youth development. In fact as Lagos did under Fashola and Ambode, a ministry, such as education can be ceded to the deputy governor as her main portfolio.

I assert the foregoing with due respect to the present nominees by Aiyedatiwa and Ajayi. We need a woman's face as our deputy please. Lagos has used female deputies twice. Ogun has used female deputies twice. Osun has used a female deputy once. Ekiti has used two female deputy governors so far. Ondo State has never done so. *Ki lo de?* Are our women so unqualified?

The woman deputy governor that we are looking may not be a politician. We have first-class professionals and academics who are women and are doing so well in their callings. Let us search for them and use them as technocrats in this incoming government, please. The assumption that women won't pull the votes is totally wrong. It is because our women are not playing their politics very well. That is why I must give kudos to Princess Oladunni Odu. Hate or like her, she is the most successful women politician Ondo State has produced to-date. And she has done exceptionally well (as commissioner severally, Chairman of UBE and Secretary to the State Government. I don't know if it was jealousy that made our women not to rally round her in the APC "civil war". That is bygone now. Fact remains, we need more of people like her who combines beauty and brain.

It is not too late. Those deputy governor nominees can still be substituted. I hope all the governorship candidates are listening.

**Pictures: Dr. Bolu John Folayan, Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, Pirncess Oladunni Odu**

## BITTER PILL

### Bitumen Exploitation: Stop this joke!

I ran into a story few weeks ago in which a group of oyibo investors (with their Nigerian contacts) suggesting to our governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa during a courtesy visit to the latter that they were bitumen investors and they were had plants in Ijebu Ode. They pleaded with the governor to allow them tap into our vast bitumen deposits in Ondo State to a refinery located somewhere in Ijebu Ode, *blab blabla*.

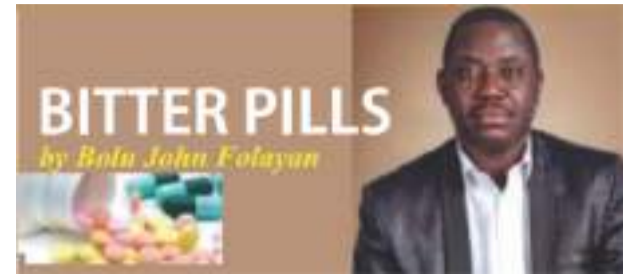
*If na joke, abeg make dem stop am one-time!*  
Let us prevent unnecessary Niger-Delta militancy in our area *jejely o*. Any plant that would mine bitumen located in Ondo State. Thank God, there are some deposits of bitumen in Ogun State. These investors should go and mind their own business.

By the way, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim (representing Ondo South) has begun the commendable first step in exploiting the vast bitumen deposits with his Bitumen Bill which would lead to the Bitumen Commission via an Act of the National Assembly. Let us not put the cart before the horse. Whatever Mr. Governor needs to do now is the support the Act being processed by the distinguished senator. When it comes to fruition, SJI, together with the governor will fashion out the best way to begin seamless execution and exploitation of the resources.

Usually, the first step after the Act is to examine the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). How will the exploitation affect our communities from Agbabu, to Irele (Loda) to Aye, Igbotako, Erekiti exis. The plants and Commission Head Office must be located in any of these offices. Among others, it will create employment and ancillary benefits for our people.

In addition, the State Government must examine the kinds of MoUs it signs with investor. We are suffering madly under the MoU our forefathers signed with the Western State on the vast land cornered for palm oil estates. These estates are moribund now and the people are not able to get farmland and land for industries. The systematic growth of our towns have been arrested by these estates in Igbotako, Ilutitun, Ikoya, Aye and Irele. So, affliction shall not arise a second time o! Governor, please tell these foreign investors and their local cronies to beat a retreat. (*Ji aghan ka ha nibo oran*). It is a silly comedy for anyone to suggest that our bitumen in Ondo South would be refined somewhere in Ijebu Ode.

Meanwhile, I like to commend Governor Aiyedatiwa for gradually restoring normalcy to the operations



of OSOPADEC, the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission. The last time there was sanity in that place was when Agagu was in in the saddle. Agagu ensured that people in the oil producing areas got first line of charge in expending oil incomes coming to the State. That was how he was able to construct the first bridge to the Riverine community and was able to establish the Ondo State University of Science and Technology (now Olusegun Agagu University of Science & Technology).

Those who succeeded Agagu put a son of the soil as leader of OSOPADEC but ensured that the people of the area did not benefit meaningfully. But, it is good to know



Jimoh Ibrahim

**BITTER PILLS***Bitumen Exploitation: Stop this joke!**Demola Suzi*

Aiyedatiwa, a son of the soil, is ensuring that people from the oil producing areas benefit from oil incomes coming to the state. This is how it should be. We are not saying others should not benefit, but let the people in the areas benefit. As you read this, the famous Aiyetoro Community is almost eaten up by coastal erosion. It is even beyond the State Government alone to handle. While that is being done, OSOPADEC must take care of our people.

Some people and communities in the Aiyetoro axis can be relocated and properly resettled. Igbokoda, the nodal town of all Ilaje and Arogbo which connects Ikale and Apoi can look more beautiful. The Lagos-Port Harcourt road, being constructed by the Federal Government will “stop-over” at Igbokoda as I heard. This is an opportunity to open up our area for development and OSOPADEC must be in the lead regarding this.

**Congratulations Ondo South!**

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven...seventeen years without electricity! Sounds incredible but it is true that was what happened to people in most of Ondo South Senatorial District: Ikale, Ilaje, Apoi and Arogbo. But, it is now a thing of the past. Congratulations to all!

How do we begin to thank people for a

feat of this nature and not miss out important names? I recall that the battle to restore electricity to Ikale, Ilaje and Apoiland has been on for over 15 years. We have to thank them all. But I want to place on record the efforts of Hon Mike Omogbehin when he was in the House of Representatives. He personally visited then minister of power, Mr. Babatunde Fashola. Then Engr Ife Oyedele, our traditional rulers who worked with the contractors (notably the Oniju of Iju-Odo, Oba Festus Olumoyegun. We have to thank former governor Rotimi Akeredolu for the little that he did. I also remember that Senator Bolu Kunlere also played some roles here and there. And then the incumbent Senator who promised and fulfilled his promise.

Jimoh Ibrahim's major promise when campaigning to represent us in the Senate was that he would bring back electricity to Ondo South. Jimoh Ibrahim personally spend over N600million to reconstruct cable lines from Omotoso to Igbotako. Upon assuming office, he ensured that the contractor was mobilized back to site and did the necessary lobbying. Thank you distinguished senator. We must not forget our past and present representatives at the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)

*Deolu Ijose**Otito Atikase*

for the activation of the Erinje step-down and the works on the Omotoso Power Plant. Finally, the media and advocacy individuals and group. I want to particularly put on record the effort of star artiste, Demola Suzi who released a hit song “Okunkun e ye wa” with a video CD on the problem. Finally, kudos to first-class manager and fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Deolu Ijose, who is the MD of Benin Electricity Distribution Company for doing the needful to electrify Ikaleland. God bless you all.

Now that we have electricity back, let us do the needful to ensure we make the best use of it. It is critical to procure meters and pay our bills. Once we pay our bills regularly, the BEDC will give us good supplies. Now, more cottage industries can spring up. Cost of agro processing would eventually go down. And our communities would transit from perpetual darkness to marvelous lighted communities.

*Ife Oyedele*

## COVER



# Ondo APC Abracadabra Guber Primary

- How Tinubu doused the flames of intra-party war over guber primaries
- How Aiyedatiwa pulled the master-stroke against Jimoh Ibrahim

By Ikale News reporters (Additional reports by Bolu-Olu Esho - Independent Newspaper)

The All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship primary was purportedly held in Ondo State penultimate Saturday and Sunday, but the crisis engendered by the manner the poll was conducted could have left the party in shreds but for the masterful and fatherly intervention of the president, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu

Never since the 1983 elections when the National Party of Nigeria (NPN) rigged incumbent Governor Adegunle Ajasin in a general election has the party witnessed such a charade.

Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, secretary of the election panel had on the eve of the primary informed all electoral officers to meet at the election materials distribution centre, which is a hotel in Ijapo Estate in Akure, the state capital, to collect the sensitive electoral materials at 7:00am.

Punctual were the affected electoral officials, they arrived at the venue as early as 6:00am because of the distance some of them would take the materials to. Around 9:00am, the chairman of the 2024 APC governorship primary committee, Usman Ododo, Governor of Kogi State, arrived at the venue.

The election officials had become curious because the accreditation was slated to kick off at 10:00am as highlighted by the election committee, yet no materials had been distributed at 9:45am.

When eventually the chairman of the election committee stepped out from the hotel, the members of the party who had been waiting to collect the electoral materials accosted him at the foyer of the hotel asking him when the distribution would begin.

To their great shock, Ododo told them that the electoral materials had been distributed, remaining those going to Akure North and Akure South local government areas.

He turned to one of his personal assistants for confirmation and the chap answered in the affirmative.

There was uproar, several questions rendered the air to which the Kogi State governor could not provide answer.

The waiting members of APC asked when the materials were distributed. The governor simply stepped into his waiting armoured SUV and off he went. One of the aspirants, Olugbenga Edema, raised the alarm that the election had been rigged before it was conducted. Unfortunately, he later discovered that there was no electoral materials anywhere, nor did elections hold anywhere.

In Oba-Ile in Akure North Local Government Area, an Assistant Editor-In-Chief of News Agency of Nigeria(NAN) Tayo Ikujuni, was manhandled and his gadget destroyed by the state Commissioner for Transport, Saka Yusuf-Ogunleye for asking questions when he started counting people in the queue even when electoral materials had not arrived.

There were reports of gunshots in Idanre, Supare and Akure, where people who were suspected to be supporters of other aspirants than the incumbent Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa were attacked.

Playing smart, sources disclosed that some members of the group were

**COVER***Ondo APC Abracadabra Guber Primary*

moving from one polling station to another taking video recordings to deceive those who may ask for proof of election.

A chieftain of the party, who was still in shock, said that what was displayed by the ruling party in the state was unprecedented in terms of self-deceit and impudent imposition.

It's a known fact that many of the aspirants didn't vote in their own election in their constituencies.

Olugbenga Edema saw the handwriting on the wall when Ododo declared that the sensitive electoral materials had been distributed at the same distribution centre where some of them got to at dawn.

An observer of the poll, who came from outside the state, simply said: "It would be a great risk to the present and future generations of Ondo State to allow those claiming that there was election on April 20, 2024 to run the affairs of the state."

A political pundit submitted that "No doubt, the national Chairman of the party, Abdullahi Ganduje and his team successfully made merchandise of Ondo APC governorship primary as he deceived many of the aspirants to pay for revalidation of all members of the party.

"He raked in over N400 million from the exercise alone, because one of the aspirants, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim said he paid over N100 Million to settle the revalidation of his supporters who are members of the party.

"Unfortunately, on the day of the primary, no member's register was made available for accreditation as there was no election in the state.

"Ganduje and his cohort mopped up N720million from sales of expression of interest and nomination forms from 16 aspirants besides another one whose money dropped in the party's account hours after closure of sales of form due to

poor network from his bank.

"Each of the aspirants paid N50 million, except the two ladies among them who paid N10 million each.

"It's an outright daylight robbery and Ganduje and all those who executed the purported primary should be made to answer questions from anti-graft agencies in the country, particularly if they are not talking about refund."

Some newsmen, who travelled outside the state capital, were at a loss when they discovered that the so-called sensitive electoral materials distributed were unable to find their ways to the supposedly polling stations.

According to some of them, members of the party were ready to participate in the primary. They had arrived at the usual polling stations being used by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) during the general elections, but they waited endlessly for the election officials who never arrived.

Some members of the party who spoke with INDEPENDENT disclosed that there was no election in the polling stations, yet results were released from the local government areas claiming that election held

A cursory look at what transpired at the collation centre where the results were announced by the returning officer, Usman Ododo, one of the Electoral officers who was in charge of Ifedore Local Government Area, Chief Oliver Okpala disclosed that he had a close shave with death.

He revealed that the roads were barricaded as members of the party in the local government didn't allow them access to the towns and villages.

Consequently, Chief Okpala recorded zero for all the aspirants and presented the same as the result of the local government.

When Governor Usman Ododo was announcing the final results, he ignored the incident at Ifedore Local Government and that of Idanre, Akure and Supare and announced Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa as the winner of the purported primary election.

At dawn, he rushed to Abuja to submit the results to the party's leadership at the



## COVER

national secretariat.

Despite the Governor Abubakar Mohammed-led Primary Election Petition Committee, Ganduje has hurriedly invited the aspirants to Abuja for reconciliation.

This raised the suspicion that the role of the committee has been usurped and whatever its findings might be would not matter.

At the reconciliation meeting, Ganduje was said to have pleaded with all the aspirants who attended the meeting to forget about the past in the interest of the party, asking them to accept the outcome of the purported primary election.

Without wasting time, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim was said to have told Ganduje pointblank that he(Ganduje) has no conscience.

The senator reminded Ganduje that he paid N100 million for members of the party's revalidation, yet he could not vote. He declared vehemently that nobody could tell him to accept the outcome of an election that was never held.

Another aspirant, Wale Akinterinwa was said to have told everybody present at the meeting that no election took place in Ondo State, revealing that he had drone video evidence to prove that.

He declared without mincing words that he would not accept the outcome of an election that was never held.

As a senior advocate, Chief Olusola Oke, another aspirant, tutored Ganduje on how a primary election should be conducted.

He told Ganduje and the national leadership of the party that "You deviated from your guidelines totally. I am thinking about party members who were violently attacked by thugs that were freely deployed to scuttle the entire process. It is difficult to accept the outcome of an event that never took place."

Olugbenga Edema, a barrister at Law, in his response to Ganduje's plea succinctly said: "Mr Chairman, you have 48 hours to redress the injustice. No election ever held in Ondo State.

In his response, another aspirant, Engr. Ife Oyedele said: "Imagine, I couldn't even vote in my ward. How do you organise an election that almost all the aspirants could

## Ondo APC Abracadabra Guber Primary

not vote? Mr Chairman, what your men did was wrong."

A professor of Medicine among the aspirants, Faduyile Francis, queried Ganduje, saying "You asked us not to talk about the election. I am a pathologist, on any event, a postmortem is important to ascertain what happens so that we can proffer solutions. No election was held in Ondo State."

In his response, the incumbent governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa in whose favour the purported primary election was recorded, was said to have arrogantly told other aspirants that "I plead with you all to join me. I have not filled out all the available positions because of a day like this. If I had filled all the positions, I would have overrun all of you in the election."

Jimi Odimayo, Diran Iyantun and Soji Ehinlanwo were said to have reserved their comments.

But Mayowa Akinfolarin, one of the aspirants, who was said to have stepped down for Aiyedatiwa a fortnight before the date fixed for the primary, was said to have accepted the decision of the party at the meeting.

Pundits said that from their findings, there was not an election but rather an allotment of figures in a hotel room by those who were supposed to conduct the election.

Faulting the scores, they wonder how an aspirant whose entire community, including the monarch, professed their support for would score 494 out of the 3097 valid votes in that community.

They also challenged the party's leadership to produce the membership register they used for the conduct of the acclaimed primary election.

To them, the election of Okitipupa Local Government that was held separately on the following day was just a diversionary tactic to allow them perfect the figures they generated.

Commenting on Akinfolarin's submission at the reconciliation meeting, pundits observed that the decision of those who made him(Akinfolarin) come second in the purported election is to prepare for the worse in case the party's leadership resolve to give the ticket to the aspirant that came second so as to retain the ticket in Aiyedatiwa's camp.

Beyond the controversies surrounding the conduct of the purported primary election, there may likely be a reenactment of the same section of the Electoral Acts that banned Zamfara State APC from participating in a general election a few years ago.

Ondo APC may suffer this same fate because of the party's penchant for disobeying court verdicts.



## COVER

## Ondo APC Abracadabra Guber Primary

One of the aspirants, Olusola Oke, SAN, has boarded the legal train that would take the party to the destination of great loss. He reminded the party's leadership that the National Chairman, Abdullahi Ganduje lacked the power to superintend on the Ondo State governorship primary on grounds that he had been restrained by a court order obtained from a Kano State High Court from conducting the primary. Ganduje, who had good relationship with Senator Ibrahim before the elections appeared helpless as the senator told him the party leadership disappointed him. Ganduje pleaded with Ibrahim to accept the outcome of the election.

Oke in his petition submitted to the Appeal Committee of the party declared that the purported governorship primary election was a nullity in the eye of the law on grounds that in spite of the valid and subsisting court order, Ganduje went ahead to organise, superintend and supervise the purported primary election. However, irrespective of the arguments of the leadership of the party and claims of Governor Usman Ododo-led Governorship Primary Election Committee Committee, it remains a mystery how the ballot papers for the primary election were distributed and where the figures being flaunted emerged from.

Recall that Dr. Benson Enikuomihin, a chieftain of the APC, legal practitioner and former Special Assistant on Oil and Gas to late Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu of Ondo State, had warned the leadership of the ruling party to address issues around the primary election in Ondo State or lose the state to opposition.

Enikuomihin who spoke on Arise TV warned the APC of the consequences of not holding a primary election, he said, "A man must be ready to bear the natural consequences of his action. If it doesn't do it well, it should remember that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is not a dead party. It's standing by to watch the shenanigans and the charades that APC as a party has embarked upon which is why we're praying that they should quickly rally round and get the things done well if not, we're on our own."

On if Olusola Oke and Jimoh Ibrahim



would support Aiyedatiwa to succeed if the appeal committee confirmed the Governor as duly elected candidate, the former board member of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) said, "Support him what? For an election that was held or a primary that was conducted? You can only build something on something for it to stand. If there was a primary and Aiyedatiwa emerges as winner there will be no problem," he said.

On if Oke will go to court, he said, "The options are available. Chief Oke appeared before the appeal committee. There's a principle in law which is principle of rightness and exhaustion. If the possibilities are all exhausted and you're still not satisfied, then you go for further step in that direction. That decision hasn't been taken.

"Omo Agege was the secretary of that committee. Governor Usman Ododo wasn't present on Friday, if he wasn't present, the secretary was to take charge. Omo Agege said that election materials would be distributed at Vom Hotel in Ijapo and we went there. Unfortunately, there weren't election materials. Upon what did they come out with result? No election materials, no returning officers? I'm not speaking because of Chief Olusola Oke. I'm a man that stands by my conscience. I'll say it the way it is, "no election held in Ondo State". Calling people to join hands with him doesn't arise. If there were elections, and may be

some irregularities exist, we can say, let us understand. But the foundation of the house is already destroyed. What can you build on it?

"We cannot even talk about cancelation because it doesn't exist. All we're saying is that the leadership of the party should come and say that these people who participated in making a mockery of us in Ondo State shouldn't come near when there is going to be a redo of that election. If the party doesn't do it, I fear for the party. The opposition will take over," he added.

However, elders of the party stepped into the matter. Governor Aiyedatiwa unleashed the best skills in politics by keeping his head up while working underground to reconcile with the aggrieved aspirants. One after the other, they started dropping their guards.

The first batch of angry aspirants who suddenly silent in the middle of the protest were Engr Ife Oyedele, Professor Dayo Faduyile, Barrister D.I. Kekemeke and Dr. Diran Iyant. Hon Mayowa Akinfolarin who was gifted the second position by Ododo of course did not protest the award, as he had announced a week to the election that his supporters should vote Aiyedatiwa in the primaries. The reason these formidable aspirants dropped their protests is to respect the party leadership, according to sources. But incumbent senator representing Ondo South in the national assembly, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim would not listen to the



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pleadings, insisting that Governor Aiyedatiwa has not shifted ground in pleading that he stop his suit challenging the Ododo charade.

"It is not about me. It is not a do-or-die thing but we must do all we can to ensure that our party practices internal democracy. That is what this legal matter is about," he told journalists.

Soon, the smart billionaire and lawyer inundated the media with certified true copies of reports filed by INEC officials in over 70 per cent of the local governments wherein they confirmed in black and white that no election took place.

Armed with the strong evidence and others he had compiled, Senator Ibrahim hired constitutional lawyer, Chris Uche (SAN) and headed to an Abuja to file a suit seeking to void the Ododo election, declare that APC had no candidate and then to order a new primary election.

The damning evidence presented to court by Sanator Ibrahim seriously desbalised the Aiyedatiwa group, even though an official in the national office of INEC had sworn to an affidavit that elections did take plane. Aiyedatiwa and the party's state and national leaders were true to themselves having gone through previous similar cases decided by the Supreme Court. They knew trouble was looming and decided to pile more pressures on Jimoh Ibrahim.

The first batch of emissaries lead by the governor himself (with Pastor Femi Agagu, Hon Olabimtan and State APC Chairman, Engr Adetimehin team members brought nothing fruitful from their five-hour meeting with Ibrahim at his Asokoro resident, in Abuja.

But Aiyedatiwa showed that he was a very tactical politician as he mounted more subterranean pressure by persuading Afenifere leaders, Pa Reuben Fasoranti and Chief Olu Falae to throw their heavy weights as "peace makers in the civil war". Senator Ibrahim, again declined their requests unless the Ododo Abracadabra was quashed first.

Aiyedatiwa had to opt for his last joker: getting President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to prevail on the stubborn lawyer to cave in. In fact, before Aiyedatiwa and the party leaders asked President Tinubu to

intervene in the dispute, Asiwaju Tinubu had decided upon his return from his short holiday abroad to allow a level playing field all through.

A party chieftain told *Ikale News*," The idea that Tinubu endorsed Aiyedatiwa from the start is not correct. The truth is that Tinubu was comfortable with either Jimoh and Aiyedatiwa or any of the candiates. You would recall that a week to the election when the president's name was being hawked that he had instructed Interior Minister, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo to announce Aiyedatiwa as the President's choice, the president directed that the rumour be dispelled. So, if the president Aiyedatiwa had opted for Aiyedatiwa, he would not have directed BTO to make that announcement."

Another party source alleged that Tinubu was rooting for Aiyedatiwa, thinking he could win as incumbent but as the primary drew near, Jimoh Ibrahim and Oluisola Oke appeared sure to defeat Aiyedatiwa hence the Lagos APC caucus in Abuja thought the idea of a free and fair primary could cost Aiyedatiwa the ticket.

Mr. President eventually prevailed on Ibrahim to support Aiyedatiwa in order to give the Ilaje Ese Odo the opportunity to lead the state for the first time.

Said a source close to the president: "The president met with two elders of the party in the state that he has fond respect for and they put forward the argument that Jimoh Ibrahim is Ikale and that Ikale had produced a governor before in Olusegun Agagu but that "the people in Ilaje Ese Odo" the oil producing areas have never produced the governor. The president explained to the senator that the principle of equity demands that Aiyedatiwa should be allowed to do his four years which does not foreclose Ikale from still producing the governor after him."

Senator was full of gratitude for the president for making over seven private calls and having several physical audiences with him.

"I cannot refuse my president. I was so honoured the way he handled the matter and I am convinced that he meant well. As the leader of my party and the president of the country, there was no

way I could have refused what he requested me to do. I therefore, withdrew the case. I will also honour my word to work with Governor Aiyedatiwa, who is my brother to ensure APC produces the governor, come November." He was quoted as telling a close associate.

The Senator later addressed his supporters (popularly referred to as Aseyori) to brief them of the developments. He promised to continue to nurture the group as a way of building APC from the grassroots but he was unequivocal that he would support Governor Aiyedatiwa in the November election.

Investigations by *Ikale News* show that both Ibrahim and Aiyedatiwa have closed ranks while some of the other supporters have continued to show enmity to one another – a clear indication that they do not understand the tenets and praxis of politics.

Meanwhile, political watchers are still at crossroads on what another grassroots veteran and serial governorship contest, Chief Olusola Oke (SAN) would do as next course of action. Oke had suddenly disappeared from the political radar while Jimoh Ibrahim was in the battle front during the APC civil war. Reliable sources said the legal luminary was waiting in the wings to contest in another party, being certain that Aiyedatiwa would be knocked down by the Supreme Court. Oke was sure he would easily beat Agboola Ajayi and any other candidate. This strategy may have failed. Oke may eventually support Aiyedatiwa as party man, because his history of decamping from one party to another portrayed him as an inconsistent politician and he would not want that reputation to stick to him.

Another contestant in the primary, Barrister Edema has picked the ticket of another political party and is sure to contest in the election in November.



Pa Reuben Fasoranti

## NEWS

# “I am fulfilled over the restoration of electricity in Ondo South” says NDDC rep, Atikase



Atikase, NDDC Boss Other Dignitaries @ the commissioning

The Honourable Commissioner representing Ondo State on the board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Hon. Otito Atikase, has expressed gratitude to the Federal Government on the commissioning of the Erinje electricity project which restored electricity to most communities in the coastal zone of Ondo South, which had been in permanent darkness for over 17 years.

Speaking to reporters at the inauguration of the project by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Wednesday, 22nd May 2024, and the Honourable Minister of the Niger Delta Ministry, Engr Abubakar Momoh, Atikase thanked all those contributed to the feat one way or the other, especially the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

This magnificent project, which cost a substantial 8.1 billion naira, includes several key components: A 45km 132kV feeder line from the Omotosho Power Plant to Erinje; Two 60 MVA, 132/33kV transformers at the Erinje substation. And Rehabilitation of 33km of 33/11kV transmission lines from Okitipupa to Igbokoda, Ugbonla, and other Ilaje neighbouring communities, as well as construction of a 1km rigid pavement with drainage.

The Erinje power substation is specifically designed to serve five local government areas in the oil-producing belt of the state. This region has been grappling with total darkness for the past 15 years, making this project a significant milestone in restoring electricity and hope to the

communities.

Hon. Otito Atikase expressed great optimism that the socio-economic activities in this region will be significantly revamped on the people are reconnected to the power grid. He also calls on all stakeholders to remain committed to protecting this vital infrastructure against vandalism, emphasizing that security is a shared responsibility.

This project represents a new dawn for the residents of Okitipupa, Irele, Ilaje and Ese Odo as it promises an enhanced quality of life and increased economic opportunities for the people.

In a groundbreaking move set to transform the socio-economic landscape of Ondo South, President Bola Tinubu declared the project as a testament to his administration's commitment to sustainable development and economic revitalization.

The Ode Erinje Power Substation, which draws energy from the Omotosho Power Plant, would light up over 2,000 settlements in five local government areas. Engr. Momoh emphasised that the project is aligned with the Federal Government's fourth priority: unleashing energy and natural resources for sustainable development.

"This project guarantees uninterrupted power for Okitipupa and its environs, fostering business growth and lifting countless families out of poverty," Engr. Momoh stated. He highlighted the transformative impact reliable power supply has on local economies, particularly in

By Samuel Olaniyan (Ag. Editor)

facilitating job creation and boosting small and medium enterprises.

For almost two decades, Okitipupa and surrounding areas languished in darkness, disconnected from the federal power grid. The economic stagnation resulting from this prolonged blackout stifled local businesses and hampered development. The newly commissioned transmission line and substation promise to reverse this trend, reactivating businesses and creating a vibrant environment for success and empowerment.

Engr. Momoh called on local communities to safeguard the new infrastructure against vandalism, ensuring its longevity and optimal functionality. "The government has fulfilled its promise; now it's the community's turn to protect this valuable asset," he urged.

Ondo State Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa lauded the project as a beacon of sustainable development, marking a definitive end to the region's power woes. He reiterated his administration's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and ensuring stable electricity supply. The Governor also acknowledged President Tinubu's leadership and unwavering support in realizing this project.

Chairman of the NDDC Governing Board, Mr. Chiedu Ebie, and NDDC Managing Director/CEO, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, echoed these sentiments, highlighting the project's significance within President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda. They assured continued efforts to bridge infrastructural gaps and stimulate economic activities across the Niger Delta.

The event was attended by dignitaries, including members of the Senate Committee on NDDC, traditional rulers, state legislators, and other eminent personalities. Their presence underscored the project's monumental importance and the shared optimism for a brighter, more prosperous future for Ondo South. Mr. Osigwe Omo-Ikirodah, the special assistant to the Hon Minister of Niger Delta Development, said "as power flows through the newly commissioned lines, the people of Okitipupa and its environs can look forward to a future filled with renewed hope, economic revival, and sustainable growth, all thanks to this visionary project facilitated by the NDDC under the Ministry of Niger Delta Development."

Hon Atikase reaffirmed his commitment to serving the interests of the people of Ondo State, emphasizing that he remained dedicated to advancing the development agenda of our beloved state and ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive and prosper.

## Political Roundup



# INEC Observers Expose Flaws in Ondo State APC Gubernatorial Primaries

**O**ndo State, Nigeria - In a significant development, Local Government Electoral Officers [Observers] of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) have delivered a damning verdict on the recently concluded gubernatorial primary election of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Reports from 11 out of the 18 local government areas have indicated a glaring absence of elections, with INEC monitors unequivocally stating that no voting occurred in their respective LGAs. According to detailed reports, electoral officers from Ifedore, Ilaje, and Akoko South East LGAs have declared a complete failure of the electoral process. These officers have cited the unavailability of electoral materials and a lack of result collation as the primary reasons for the breakdown, which occurred on April 20, 2024. Certified True Copies (CTC) of these reports, which have been submitted to the Resident Electoral Commissioner of INEC in Ondo State, have cast serious doubts on the legitimacy of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa's

emergence as the APC flag bearer. The reports categorically discredit the validity of the electoral process that led to his nomination. In addition to the aforementioned LGAs, INEC officers in the remaining eight LGAs have echoed similar sentiments. They highlighted widespread irregularities and logistical failures that plagued the primary elections. These officers have pointed out that the absence of electoral materials and a lack of proper coordination led to a situation where voting could not take place, rendering the entire process questionable. One electoral officer, speaking on the condition of anonymity, described the situation as "a complete mockery of the democratic process." The officer further elaborated, "The people of Ondo State were deprived of their right to choose their candidate in a free and fair election. What transpired on April 20 was a blatant disregard for democratic principles." The reports have sparked a wave of controversy and have led to calls for an investigation into the conduct of the APC primary elections in Ondo State. Several political analysts have weighed in on the matter, suggesting that the legitimacy of Governor Aiyedatiwa's candidacy is now

under serious threat. Dr. Olufemi Adeyemi, a political analyst based in Akure, commented, "The revelations from the INEC observers are troubling. If indeed no elections took place in such a significant number of LGAs, it raises fundamental questions about the entire process. The APC and INEC must address these concerns transparently to restore public confidence." The APC leadership in Ondo State has yet to respond to these allegations. However, party insiders indicate that a statement may be forthcoming in the next few days. In the meantime, opposition parties have seized upon the reports to criticize the ruling party's handling of the primaries, calling for a complete overhaul of the process. As the situation unfolds, the people of Ondo State and political stakeholders nationwide will be closely watching how INEC and the APC address these serious allegations. The integrity of the electoral process remains a cornerstone of Nigeria's democracy, and ensuring its transparency and fairness is of paramount importance. The INEC's findings are likely to have far-reaching implications for the political landscape in Ondo State, potentially impacting the upcoming gubernatorial election and beyond.

**GUEST COLUMNIST:** Dr. Benson Enikuomehin

## Senator Jimoh Folorunso Ibrahim Salute To A Man Of Courage



When I visited you on August 10, 2023 at the Senate Building of the National Assembly Complex, I found out that you were cut for the job. You revealed a lot to me of your plans for the Southern Senatorial District. The plans were real and very doable.

I left your office with a firm belief that the Ondo South got it right in sending you to the Senate. Of all the persons that participated in the phoney just concluded abracadabra APC Governorship Primary Election, you were the first to inform me of your intention. When the heat of the primary was on, I did not pick you as my preferred candidate, but in all the interviews I granted where your name was mentioned, I was full of praises to you because of what I know that you represent.

Distinguished, I can say without equivocation that since 1979 to date

that people have represented us in the Upper Chambers, your just one year in that office has created the impression that a man of finny, courage, intellectual sagacity and a square peg in a square is in the saddle.

I followed your campaigns throughout the period. You started earlier than everybody and you sustained the same tempo all through. Kudos to you my brother.

When the "Mega Fraud" of APC Governorship Primary Election took place on the 20th of April, 2024, you were clear in your thoughts that the "Unrighteous deed" will not rule in Ondo State. You followed all the party's laid down rules for seeking redress with precision. I followed you.

When your co-aspirants (for whatever reasons they may have) chickened out from taking the party on in the embarrassing Governorship Primary Election, you stood out and filed the

necessary processes in the Federal High Court challenging the neausating primary. I salute your courage.

At every given time in the history of a people, a person like you must always come up to rescue the situation. I am so ashamed that people I hitherto respected as men of honour have now descended into the abyss, eating crumbs at the altar of the gods of belzebulb.

Distinguished, you remind me of Prophet Micaiah who stood his ground not to follow the 400 false prophets urging King Ahab to go to battle at Ramoth in Gilead. 1kgs.21:1-53. Prophet Micaiah was bullied, called unprinted names by the false prophets, yet the man remained undaunted in speaking the truth.

My beloved brother, you have spoken the truth since this shenanigan began. I encourage you to stay on. Men of courage are known by the audacity in which they pursue their cause of action. Don't listen to the side talks by feeble minded people. Be focused as a flint.

On my part, I will be willing to join the team of your lawyers to see the logical conclusion of this matter. My services shall be pro bono. Peradventure, you need me as a witness, I am fully ready. I encourage you Sir, to be steadfast, unwavering, committed and dogged in the pursuit of this noble cause.

I SALUTE YOUR COURAGE MY SENATOR. RIDE ON

*Acting Editor's Note: Otunba (Dr) Benson Enikuomehin, FCPA wrote this piece in the heat of the debacle over the APC governorship primaries. We only published it for record purposes.*

# NNPP candidate, Ayeni withdraws from race as Edema picks up the ticket



*Edema*

Israel Ayeni, the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) governorship candidate for the upcoming November 16 election in Ondo State, has withdrawn from the race. Ayeni had secured the party's ticket on April 26 by garnering 100 votes, defeating his sole competitor, Prof. Ibrahim Ajagunna, in the party's primary.

In a letter made available to journalists on Wednesday in Akure, Ayeni announced his withdrawal, stating it was in the party's best interest.

"I, Ayeni, Oluwatosin Israel, a governorship candidate of NNPP for the November 16, 2024 election in Ondo State, hereby voluntarily withdraw my candidacy from the contest. My withdrawal is in the best interest of our great party, NNPP," the letter read.

Peter Olagookun, the NNPP State Chairman, confirmed Ayeni's withdrawal, explaining that Ayeni stepped down to pave the way for a stronger candidacy within the party. Olagookun informed journalists that a substitution primary would be held on

Wednesday to select a new candidate. He emphasized that this change is aimed at fortifying the party's position for a successful outcome in the forthcoming governorship election.

Soon after Ayeni's step-down, Barrister Oluwbenga Edema, a prominent aspirant from the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), was announced the candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) for the November 16 governorship election in Ondo State. Edema's candidacy follows the voluntary withdrawal of the NNPP's former candidate, Ayeni Oluwatosin.

In a letter made public on Wednesday in Akure, Oluwatosin stated, "I, Ayeni, Oluwatosin Israel, a governorship candidate of NNPP for the November 16, 2024 election in Ondo State, hereby voluntarily withdraw my candidacy from the contest. My withdrawal is in the best interest of our great party, NNPP." NNPP State Chairman, Peter Olagookun, confirmed Oluwatosin's withdrawal, noting that Ayeni stepped down to facilitate a stronger candidacy for the party. Olagookun explained, "Ayeni willingly withdrew his

candidacy to make way for the party's better candidacy."

Edema, reflecting on his new candidacy, emphasized the importance of internal democracy within political parties. "One of the most important aspects of the democratic process is the issue of internal democracy in the affairs of the political parties," Edema said. He stressed that internal democracy should be predictable, transparent, and compliant with the Nigerian Constitution, the Electoral Act, and party constitutions.

Criticizing the APC's primary election, Edema stated, "It is in the public domain that the purported primary election conducted by the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) on 20/04/2024 for the selection of its gubernatorial candidate for the 16th November 2024 election is lacking in these attributes and, as such, cannot be described as democratic."

With Edema's emergence as the NNPP candidate, the party is set to bolster its position ahead of the upcoming governorship election in Ondo State.



*Ayeni*

## OPINION

# Senator Jimoh Ibrahim's Supersonic Performance: A New Era for Ondo State

By Dayo Joseph



Since Senator Jimoh Ibrahim was sworn in as the lawmaker representing Ondo South Senatorial District, he has continued to raise the bar of legislative representation

SJI's dedication to his constituents has been unwavering, constantly engaging with them through town hall meetings and public forums.

His legislative focus on education, vocational training, and economic empowerment has resonated deeply with his constituents, who see him as a true champion of their interests.

His ability to attract projects and resources to his senatorial district has been impressive, earning him the admiration of his peers and the gratitude of his people.

As a respected voice in the Senate, he has also been a strong advocate for the interests of his state and region, working tirelessly to promote the development of Ondo State and the welfare of its people.

With his exemplary performance, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim has set a new standard for legislative representation in Nigeria, inspiring a new generation

- *Education:* Senator Jimoh Ibrahim's academic achievements signify a depth of knowledge and expertise that transcends the ordinary. His desire to improve education is reflected in his philanthropic efforts, such as building a university in his senatorial district.

- *Harnessing Bitumen Resources:* Senator Jimoh Ibrahim sponsored a bill aimed at unlocking the economic benefits of bitumen mining, signaling his dedication to realizing the state's untapped potential.
- *Global Perspective:* As Chairman of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, SJI brings a wealth of global experience and insight to the table, promising a global perspective in decision making.
- *Philanthropy:* SJI philanthropic endeavors, spanning decades and funded personally, attest to his commitment to improving lives and ensuring people-oriented programs.
- *Unity and Cohesion:* Senator Jimoh Ibrahim's loyalty to the party and the President is unwavering

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim's legislative achievements demonstrate his dedication to addressing the needs of his constituents and improving the lives of Nigerians.

His bills have focused on key areas such as education, vocational training, and insurance reform, showcasing his commitment to sustainable development and economic growth.

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim has sponsored the following bills-

- A bill seeking the establishment of a Bitumen Development Commission
- A bill seeking the establishment of a Federal Data Bank that would cover every sector of the economy and provide data for development of both the public and private sectors.

.A bill for the establishment of Federal Polytechnic, Igbokoda, Ondo State

.The Insurance Bill, 2023

.National Vocational Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2023

- Compulsory Free Universal Basic Education Bill, 2023

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim has also moved a motion to establish a Bitumen Development Commission to develop a legal framework for the regulation of bitumen development in Nigeria and to prevent unconventional sources from taking advantage of research-enhanced applications over other competitors.

These bills reflect Senator Jimoh Ibrahim's passion for empowering young people, supporting entrepreneurship, and promoting sustainable energy solutions.

With his impressive legislative record and vision for the future, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim is poised to continue making a positive impact in the lives of Nigerians. His supersonic performance has set a high standard for legislative excellence, inspiring a new generation of leaders to follow in his footsteps

# PHOTO NEWS

## Faces At The Final Funeral of late community leader & educationist, Prince Isaiah Adefolase Ojajuni in Igbotako and Ikoya



*Eldest Child, Mrs Bola Ogundiran*



*THE LATE PA OJAJUNI*



*At The Wake Keep*

**PHOTO NEWS**

Faces At The Final Funeral of late community leader & educationist, Prince Isaiah Adefolase Ojajuni in Igbotako and Ikoya





## POLITICAL NEWS

# Ondo 2024: Why Ajayi emerged PDP governorship candidate



Ajayi

**M**r Agboola Ajayi, a former deputy governor of Ondo State, emerged the governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the Nov. 16 poll in the state in what observers interpreted as a strategy to "beat incumbent Aiyedatiwa from Ondo South".

Ajayi, one of the seven aspirants that contested for the ticket, polled 264 votes and his closest co-contender, Mr Kolade Akinjo had 157 votes while Mr Olusola Ebiseni came third with 99 votes.

Mr Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, the Chairman of the seven-man 2024 PDP Governorship Primary Election Committee, declared Ajayi winner after the exercise on Thursday in Akure.

Ewhrudjakpo, the deputy governor of Bayelsa, said "Ajayi having satisfied the requirements stipulated by the electoral guidelines of the party is therefore declared the winner."

He explained that 623 delegates voted out of expected 627 delegates across the 18 local government areas of the state.

According to him, 621 votes were valid while there were two invalid votes.

Reacting, Ajayi thanked the party for conducting a free, fair and credible election that would spur the party to victory in Nov.16 poll.

He asked all members of the party to work with him in order to ensure a landslide

victory in the forthcoming election.

Ajayi, who was deputy governor during the first term of the late governor Rotimi Akeredolu, said that a united PDP would defeat the ruling All Progressives Party (APC).

The former deputy governor, who was the governorship candidate of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) in 2020, promised to bring every member of the party together.

"This victory is for PDP members and democracy. I commend the committee for conducting a free, fair and credible election.

"It is a result that cannot be compared with other party. Nobody is complaining.

"I will try my best to bring all aggrieved members together so that we can coast to victory in Nov.16," he said.

NAN reports that other aspirants that contested the primary are: Mr Adeolu Akinwumi who got 64 votes, Mr Bamidele Akingboye had 24 votes while Mr Bosun Arebuwa had 2 votes, and Mr John Mafo got 9 votes.

Sources close the PDP said delegates to the primary election picked Aiyedatiwa because of his strong political tentacles across the state, being a former deputy governor to the late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu.

"Agboola has the resources when compared to the others to give Aiyedatiwa a fight. And you know that

PDP believes in the power of unity. They see Agboola as a rallying point. He has contested for governor before and he knows how to traverse the terrain" a PDP chieftain told *Ikale News*

A former chieftain of the PDP in the state, Hon Niyi Adebuseye, however said Agboola Ajayi stands no chance against Aiyedatiwa in the November elections.

"I have been in this political terrain for long enough. I think Aiyedatiwa will win the election." He told *Ikale news*.

Adebuseye, a former member of the Ondo State House of Assembly told *Ikale News* exclusively that he would soon lead over 500 leaders and members of the PDP in Igbotako to join the APC in support of Senator Jimoh Ibrahim.

He stressed that even though the PDP remains a formidable party, the current political equations and the personalities of the contestants, to him, point to APC as the favourite winner

"Power belongs to God Almighty. But from rational political calculations, I see an APC victory in November. The major reason APC could have lost was if Senator Ibrahim had gone all the way to the Supreme Court with his suit. And with that presidential intervention, APC will be coming back stronger," he said.

# PHOTO NEWS

## Book Presentation Of 365 Days Of Bola Ahmed Tinubu Written By Bolu John Folayan & Tai Balofin @ Ya'adua centre, Abuja, May 28, 2024



*SGF, Senetor George Akume, Prince Arthur Eze, Dr. Umar Ganduje, (3,4&5) from right lead the lunching*



*Special Address By Prof. Balofin*



*L-R: UNILAG Mass Comm 87 Classmates, Prof. G Akashoro, Prof. Balofin, Dr. Folayan and Dr. Akasoro*



*Cross Section of Dignitaries*

# PHOTO NEWS

Book Presentation Of 365 Days Of Bola Ahmed Tinubu Written By Bolu John Folayan & Tai Balofin @ Ya'adua centre, Abuja, May 28, 2024



## POLITICAL ROUND-UP

# Ondo 2024: Why I withdrew suit against Aiyedatiwa's nomination – Jimoh Ibrahim



Governorship aspirant, Jimoh Ibrahim, has withdrawn his suit filed at the Federal High Court in Abuja against the nomination of Lucky Aiyedatiwa as the candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the forthcoming governorship election. The withdrawal comes after several weeks of efforts to get the senator to back down on his grievances against the conduct of the 20 April primary election of the APC. Mr Ibrahim, who represents Ondo South in the Senate, had sought a cancellation of the primary election for failing to comply with the constitution of the country and the APC. He urged the court to order a fresh primary election to determine the rightful candidate of the party ahead of the 16 November governorship election. He also sought an order barring the APC from participating in the coming election should it fail to conduct a fresh primary election. The Federal High Court had on Monday approved the transfer of the suit to Akure in Ondo State following the request by the defendants. However, in a statement on Tuesday, Mr Ibrahim announced his discontinuation of the case. He said his withdrawal was due to his respect for President, Bola Tinubu, who

had intervened in the matter. He said Mr Tinubu had insisted that the case be withdrawn for him to chart a new course for the party and also improve on its internal democracy. "I cannot disobey the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria because the issue I am fighting for is not personal," he said. "It is simply to improve internal democracy, which the President has promised to improve on. My respect for the President is absolute." Mr Ibrahim hinted that his decision to withdraw the suit followed hours of meeting with the President, expressing appreciation for Mr Tinubu's wise intervention. "The APC in the state has expressed gratitude to me for withdrawing the suit, saying it was a product of efforts of reconciliation by the party at the state and federal levels," he added.

APC Director of Publicity Steve Otaloro said the withdrawal was not conditional, noting that all parties stand to benefit. Meanwhile, while the news of the withdrawal of suit was reaching party members, the members of the executive of the APC in Ode-Aye Ward 1, Okitipupa local government area of Ondo State, announced the suspension

of a female governorship aspirant, Folake Omogoroye, over her refusal to withdraw a court case against Governor Aiyedatiwa on certificate forgery. Ms Omogoroye had approached a Federal High Court in Abuja challenging the certificate reportedly acquired by the governor. Those also suspended by the leadership of the party in the ward included four members of the executive, Ayesan Tunde, the Organising Secretary; Jemiken Seyi, Assistant Public Relations Officer (PRO); Adebayo Omobayo, the Assistant Welfare Secretary and Eweje Omotayo, Assistant Treasurer. They were accused of anti-party activities. Akinsowola Awodele, chairman of the ward, signed the suspension letter, supported by 12 other exco members. According to the letter, Ms Omogoroye was suspended due to "anti-party activities and flagrant disobedience to constituted authority of the party." Ms Omogoroye had also called for the cancellation of the party primaries held in April over alleged irregularities. Mr Otaloro said the state headquarters had yet to be briefed. He noted that reconciliatory efforts would also ensure the suspension issue was resolved.

# FEATURE IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken



## Oma Ikale

**Ikale News;** Baba le o. How Ikale many proverbs do you have for us this month?

**Baba Liliken:** I will give you as many as you are ready to take. I am sure you will find them very interesting and enlightening. But first, as a good, teacher, let me give you a test. Tell me any four of the Ikale Proverbs that I have told you so far.

**Ikale News:** Ah, Baba iyen de a le die o. We call it impromptu test. I used to have a professor those days that used to do that. He would just come to class and do test...without any warning o

**Baba Liliken:** Yes now. I had only Grade II but Grade II of those days is of higher quality than you B.Ed now. Hmmm *ji Oloun ko wa yo o. Oya me gbo...(May God deliver us...I am listening)*

**Ikale News:** Okay Sir. Ine: “**Ema**

**uboyi obiren gwo bima, jaa ta fi ji gbe ago ti una**”. Eji:

“**Igi 'yia a mu eyin ti, j'e gbene duro, bo ka gwo lu'ne ee le pa one**”. Iketa: “**Wo gha n'aye, emi la e mo gha n'aye; we wa ka bimi gho kiseyi Oron ti ri?**”

**Baba Liliken:** *Wo gbiyanju. O kun ikeren..*

**Ikale News:** “**Omade ee ma oogun, e peun efo; e e ma fi uku 'yi aa pa reyen**”.

**Baba Liliken:** *Wo gbiyanju gidi.* Now, let me give you additional proverbs that are relevant to the present times. **Oliwin ee sun aran, yana wagho sun aghota.** Translation: “the person that excreted feaces (shit) did not excrete worm, you that is a passer-by (who saw him excreting) now you excrete a venomous snake!”

**Ikale News:** Wow! Baba, I know the meaning. The person who is concerned about a matter is

quiet...is not even saying anything. You that is not directly concerned you are the one making trouble.

**Baba Liliken:** Excactly. You got it. It's like in this political dispensation now. Our sons Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim and Dr. Paul Akintelure are seeking the ticket of the APC to be our governor. Their supporters now start fighting each other, calling out one another. Whereas this two distinguished sons go about peacefully in love and would never smite each other. You will now ask them, “can you be more concerned than the persons contesting?” *Ko se ke, ji Oliwin ee sun aran, ji yana wagho ti e sun agbaadun?*” I still used the proverb last week when settling a quarrel between two youths in Iyansan. One said the other borrowed money from him and refused to pay back. It was a very big fight o. I settled the matter and the person who borrowed gave the lender two weeks to pay back. The mother of the lender now said “no”. She said the borrower would not pay as he promised. We now started appealing to her. She refused o. So I now asked her: *Oliwin ee sun aran, ko se ke mama, ji yana wagho tie sun aghota?*

**Ikale News:** Very relevant to our times, Baba. The English have a similar proverb to that: “Why are you more Catholic than the Pope?”

**Baba Liliken:** Good! Let me give you one more: **Ikale jii...** “**One yi aa gha ko ja ee, ji a ton duro dee, ee gha koja e.**” The person you would leave behind and you then wait for (to catch up with you) it is better you don't leave that person

# FEATURE *IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken*

behind.

**Ikale News:** Yes... it is better you take him or her along with you so that you pace up together.

**Baba Liliken:** You are a very good student. That is it. It really means also that you carry out your responsibility now so that you will not have to make extra effort or waste time doing it later. For example, try to support your siblings now that you should so that their failures in future would not fall back on you.

**Ikale News:** Thank you Baba. One more for this month, and we go...

**Baba Liliken:** **Owo Umale, oun ghen mu ton ada ori e se rin.** The masquerade adjusts his crown by himself. The masquerade is one wearing the crown. He is in the best position to know where the crown does not fit not his assistant or people watching the masquerade. The English equivalent is "The person who has the shoe on knows where it is pinching him", although that really a translation. They have similar meaning. The Owo umale proverb is saying you are in the best position to turn your life or matter better.

**Baba Liliken:** Have you heard of this one? **"Oma'ne ee le sidi bebere, j'a ko ireghe hi oma onomue?"**

**Ikale News:** Yes, of course. I heard it when Dr. Olusegun Agagu was contesting for governor. Some Ikale were against him. They supported Ondo man. Ikale elders warned them that **"Oma'ne ee me sidi bebere, j'a la ka ko ireghe hi oma onomue?"** (You cannot dislike your own child's buttock saying it is not properly shaped and you now put look for another person's child to put beads" But they did not listen. And the man the put beads in his bum-bum really dealt with them. *Laughters.*

**Baba Liliken:** You are now very versed in Ikale Proverbs. I am very proud of you. Tell Ikale people o. In this PDP and APC governorship primary, they should vote for Ikale contestants. **"Oma'ne ee me sidi bebere, j'a la ka ko ireghe hi oma onomue?"**

**"Oli tene, oun e si tene rin o.!"**

Now let me give you more: Ikale jii..."**Ugben ku, ilakose ee gha'we; e se ogoji ogo, ipeer'ee wa. Ki bo omiye tun gha?** Translation: *The snail died, the small snail did not fast; the did 40 days (for Ugben), the periwinkle did not come: Where is family bond?"*

Egben (snail), Ilakose (a smaller kind of snail) and Ipere (the Ikale version of periwinkle) all have similar attributes, being species of the same family. What differentiates them is basically their sizes. The prover is used to tell someone to show care in good and bad times, especially when someone is going through a difficult time.

**Ikale News:** Hmmmmmm"

**Baba Liliken:** Actually there is a similar one to that proverb. **Aburo e ra ile, wee m'oko; o kan uli, wee mu uso, bo ba ya were, ne aa gbe?** Translation: Your younger brother bought land, you didn't pick a hoe; he roofed the house, you didn't pick a nail. If he runs mad, are you not the one who will care for him?

**Ikale News;** I love it. It means one should celebrate brotherhood in good times because if bad times come, one cannot deny his own blood. It also means we should not jealous of our younger ones when they are doing well.

**Baba Liliken:** You are correct. Many of our people do not want their younger ones to be greater than them. They see is as taboo that they have not built a house and their younger one has done so. The next one is **Oneyi ee ba ne omade, ee d'erun hi aka."** Translation: *The person who doesn't have small children does not put his load on the local oven.* As you known the local oven is usually high up in the kitchen. Our old women find it difficult to retrieve things from up there and often have small children who usually helps out.

**Ikale News:** Oh, I see. So if someone asks me why I am not contesting for governor of Ondo State, I can reply **"oneyi ee ba ne omade, ee di erun hi aka o"**, meaning **"it is beyond my capacity."**

**Baba Liliken:** Good! Your are fast becoming an Ikale sage!

**Ikale News:** Ola Baba Liliken ni o. (*general laughter*)

**Baba Liliken:** Till next edition, *Wo ma ka hedo o!*

# UTOKO OMA IKALE

## “Enough of politics face governance” - Otunba Olatunji tells Aiyedatiwa

*In our Special Column on distinguished Ikale citizens, UKOTO OMA IKALE, for this month, we are featuring Otunba Sola Olatunji, a shipping magnate, rights activists and community development advocate. Although he does not often emphasize the political side of him because he sees himself more of an activist than a politician, Otunba Olatunji can be correctly described as a politician. He is very well known for his bluntness as well as his passion for community development. He spoke to our Acting Editor, Samuel Olumuyiwa Olaniyan. Excerpts:*



**Kindly introduce yourself to IkaleNews readers sir.**

**M**y name is Otunba Sola Olatunji precisely. I am from Okitipupa local government area of Ondo State. I'm into business and a shipping magnate into oil and gas trade all my life. I am currently the president of Ikales in Lagos I do some level of politicking in Lagos too I'm a philanthropist. I've been running philanthropy for more than twenty years. in Lagos and even in Ikale. I am also a writer, I'm sure you would have been reading some of my lectures online.

**Tell us a bit of your educational background**

I attended Ogun state university, so these are just minor, I don't want to tell about my education I deliver lectures everywhere in the universities, I have delivered lectures in OSUTECH, there are couple of lectures that have turned down because no time for me . One, I delivered one lecture at the

university prestigious University of Ibadan recently precisely on the 13th of March this year.

**You are also a politician!**

Yes, I am. I am a member of the APC that does not stop me from telling them, prevailing on them on what to do. I do not want to look back to because I want to renew the work I have done at most. We want a better society. We must come there to shape our society through information, through reminding our leaders about their obligation to the people. All of these are key things and that is part of what we do. We need to change the society for the better. Of course, my writing did not start when I was in secondary school. It went on to the 70s, 79s, and 80s. So I have been writing for a long, long time. So that is how I have been writing. So over to you.

BAll right, sir. Thank you for that wonderful overview of yourself, sir. So, I want to know, sir, Otunba Sola Olatunji, I really want to know about your upbringing. What was it like? Especially being an Ikale man, Give us the

background ino your family life, sir.?

Well, this is exciting. My background is not different from what other children of my life went through growing up in the ikale at that time, in the 70s and early 80s. So, I, as a person who came out, I came from a very poor family where we had to go to the school in the morning to fetch water. And from there, I actually went to a modern school in Igbotako before going to the secondary school in Ikoya. So, we were about six or four in the family. And my dad passed on very early. So, I had to struggle to go to school. Just like other children of my descent. That's how. So it was challenging. It was really challenging.

Very, very challenging. I thought challenging my family and I don't know what to do. I've been able to break the chains of poverty. But I'm not there yet. But I've been able to break a good bit of poverty and that's why when you look at my religion, it only is there towards how to ameliorate the problems of the single population of Nigeria. Because there is poverty in the land. As long as there is poverty, and as somebody that have tasted poverty, you will not want his enemies to be poor, I went home some time ago and one of my friends called me. He said he's surprised that someone like me could go to school and be the giving out lectures at the universities and things like that today. And that someone like me could talk to people, give our money to people, run into lots of things, we have meetings, talk, and we speak to our political bigwigs.

**There have been clamour that Ondo South has not really lived up to expectations, especially when compared to other Senatorial districts,**

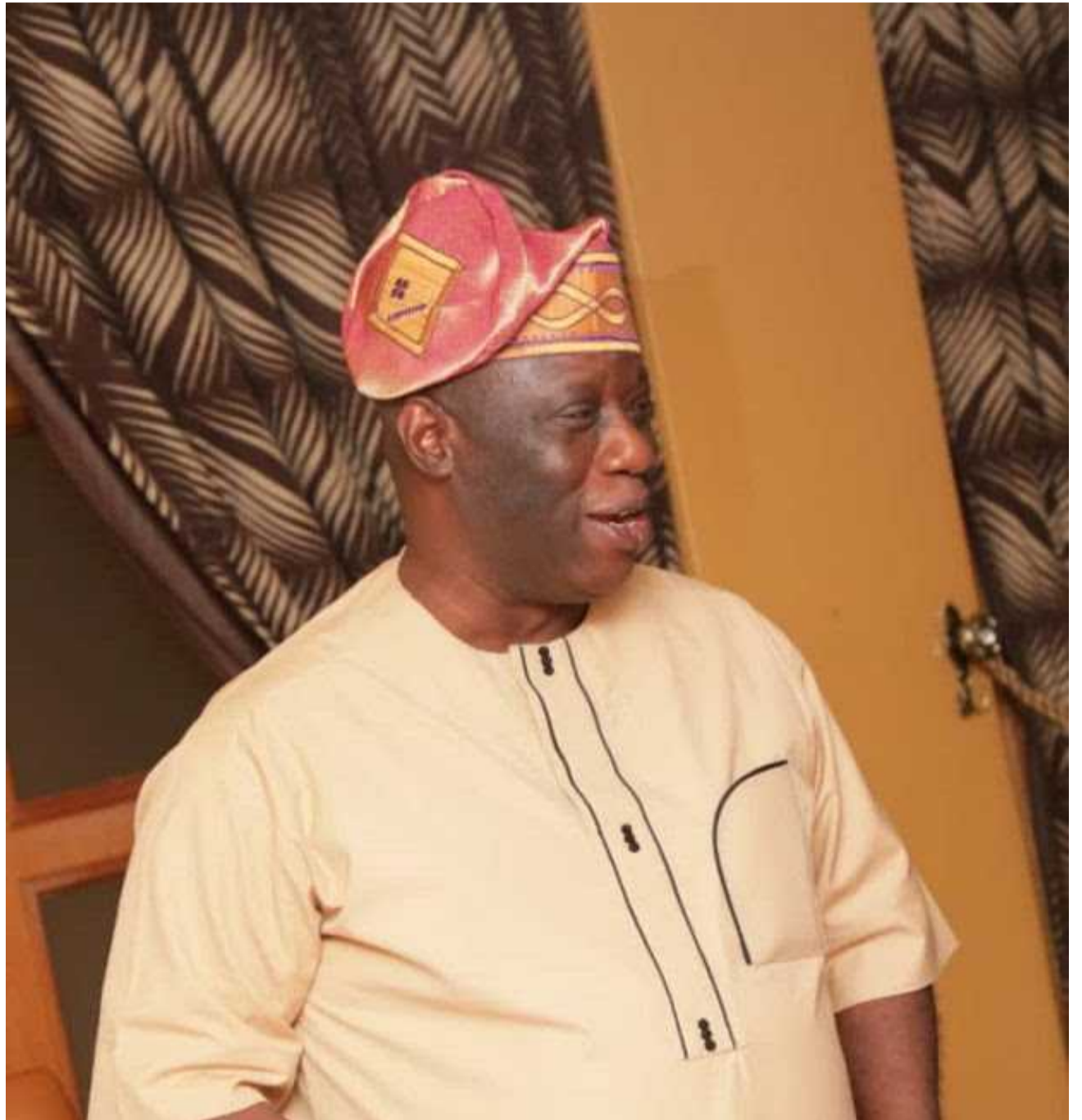
**UTOKO OMA IKALE****“Enough of politics face governance”  
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just recently Ondo South just got restored to the National Grid after about 20 years of power outage. Do you think Ikale as a whole and Ondo South is lagging behind in terms of infrastructure in the state, as a result of the two decades of darkness?

Thank you for this question. Well, if I don't want to be emotional, sentimental, I totally agree that Ondo South is lagging in infrastructural development, and that the political environment as it relates to positions and opportunities in Ondo State, we have not been getting our own benefits, so if you look at it we have not been getting our own benefits so if you look at opportunities available to the south vizaviz we have not been well compensated. We are the income and revenue nerve centre of the state. We have all sorts of resources that can take the state high if properly harnessed. So, for this area not have electricity for two decades has taken us back two decades.

Let's take it one by one. You see politics and economy are interwoven. Therefore you cannot separate them. There was an agreement I believe that power should be rotated, in the politics of the state, I believe every well-meaning citizen of the state will applaud that initiative. It was not written; I believe in what is called equity, justice, and fair play. I believe in what we are looking for in governance, that it is for you to transform society you must ensure that all our Senatorial districts have their unique powers in terms of power rotation. You can recall that after the death of late Dr Segun Agagu, Ondo South has been left behind by subsequent administration. Everybody was interested in their own domain in terms of development. They will recall that, remember that OSUSTECH was abandoned for years during Dr. Oluseguni MIMIKO. The university was turned into a forest. Olokola Project created that Dr. Agagu initiated, which was to only open the maritime hub of the state. It was jettisoned. The road project, the one linking Okitipupa to Ode Irele and the Old Idapo Marun was abandoned.

**So the road linking Ikale from Okitipupa, to Akinfosile, Omotoso had facelifts under Mimiko...**



That's not correct. Nothing of the sort. It was only during the late governor Akeredolu, which immediately led us towards establishing the .University, which is the training of men and women. It doesn't know any group or tribe or anything. It's for everybody. But at least our children in their classes, will have access to a degree, I mean, to attend such a higher education, unlike in the past where they have to go to Akungba, have to go to Akure, have to the life, another way to fix. By the way, for them to have a degree and a position within the academy is an advantage. Why will you abandon all of those projects? So, you have to complicate the matter. Mimiko went ahead to set up another university in his hometown, the third university there (there is Wesley University by the Methodist Church in Ondo City.)At the expense of the earlier one that has been set up! So, when you look at all of this quantum infrastructure that we have embraced in terms of continuity and the

rest of it, I don't understand. For me, it's like we are being sub charged over time. That is the truth.. When you compare that with the kind of development in, central, you look at how Akure has been uplifted, you look at how the career and all the rest of it, i have traveled to almost everywhere in Ondo State, and all those things are the same. So, you compare the entrepreneurial development in Ondo central, Ondo north and south, the gap is there. The gap is visible. You can see there's no need for us to ask questions. If you look at Akinfosile road Nothing is there. It's cut off. If you look at Omotoso to Ikale road , it's almost impassable. If you look at the Ore to Okitipupa road , that road is the only one that is open. There is no, nobody has touched, the road no government in the last 16 years or there about have done anything on that road.

**Mimiko concentrated on Mega schools...**

Misplaced priority. If you look at this, if you look at schools, if you look at



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education in that zone, some of them have turn to the forest, You can think of any way you want to evaluate, the way to evaluate the success or the growth or development of our education in Ondo states. What you do is to look at, look at secondary school and primary school. Most of the schools are already dilapidated. In fact, in most cases, it is the parents that are now recruit teachers that pay their salaries. And most of the people that we have at the, I mean, at the helms of affairs in terms of policy makers, benefited from free education and all this something. So, they no longer remember that they were children of the poor. You have to look at that.

You have to look at that. You understand? So, they don't remember the children of the poor to improve, whereas that is where you have intellectuals, people that can think and make contribution to the development of society. So, for me, our education, our education, I cannot count how many times i have taken down drugs to public health centers to public schools, to build boreholes, Most of the people that became owners of the schools as a result of privatization today were those people that ran the banks that they ran it, that they should be in jail, became beneficiaries of this schools through the backdoor.

The thing there is that, these people don't have the money to bring new investments to support the privatization project. So what they do is to keep on freezing the Nigerians with a estimated billings system, and this is criminal. In other parts of the world, I've done research, there's no country in the world where consumers provide meters. It is discos. This discos is not limited to meter. It's not in the world.

You understand what I'm saying? It's not limited to that to provide the part of their infrastructure to enhance efficiency. They use it, to meter consumers. Why do you want the consumers to provide meters? To provide you with that. It's part of their infrastructure that they should deploy meters, It is the practice all over the world, except in India. So it is this part of the game that is materialized by bringing banks. They brought back, they brought the banks down. And how come all these banks? They couldn't come back here. So

some of these people cannot provide funding. So they have to now be, like, like pushing Nigerians to keep on funding their projects. This is the absurdity we're having in the country. So whatever issues we have there, has been as a result of the failure of the process of privatisation



**No matter the  
fingers of the devil  
behind the manipulation,  
the truth will continue  
to manifest.**



**I want us to talk about, quickly, about what has been going on in the Ondo political arena. You know, we had, in the All Progressive Congress, where they had election, a primary election, supposedly, where we have the incumbent governor, Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, who emerged as the eventual winner of that primary election. And also, we have one of your kinsmen, who happens to be a from Ikale, the current senator representing Ondo South Senatorial District, that is Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, who, you know, came fourth eventually. And, he was going to go to court and challenge everything. So, what's your view of the political,, happenings in APC? Do you think it might hamper their chances at the coming elections?**

Well, thank you very much for this very brilliant question. One of the reasons why I joined APC is because I've been part of the struggle all my day, all the days of my life. I've been part of the struggle for an egalitarian society. Now, look. I have experienced poverty. Therefore, for me, poverty is a bitter pill, that one should not wish is perennial. Therefore, I've been fighting hard all, all my life...to see how we can better the

lives of our people. Removing them, I mean, it is not easy for people to be begging to feed. Imagine when you have children and you cannot send them to school. You cannot provide food for them. You cannot feed. They live in abject poverty, some of the problems, actually it is not, the didn't cause some of these problems.

It was as a result of poor policy of the government. Because the essence of government is to provide security for the citizens. And also ensure that the welfare of the women of the country, of the citizens are taken care of. So in that case, the essence of government, it becomes obligated on the part of government to come up with policies, policies that will better the loss of the citizens. So that was actually the basis for joining the All Progressive Congress (APC). I say that. This party, in terms of philosophy, in terms of, we believe in progressivity, which is part of my ideology from childhood. Now, I also believe that there is no way you can have a progressive society if public institutions are not functioning well. If you manipulate public institutions to your advantage, you will not be able to get the best. Oo course, you will not be able to talk about a progressive society in that case.

That will be, what you are trying to bring to the frontline, will be described as kleptocratic, or curroptocracy. What I mean by this is, where are people putting their wings to power? At the basement of the larger and more private society, where what is called internal democracy is the hallmark of, I mean, internal democracy. Where parties allow due process to take place before leaders are in mind, is the hallmark of democracy.

If you have read any of my recent write-up you will know that as for me there is no way you can try to bury the truth that will continue the truth will continue to manifest that's the truth the truth will come. No matter the fingers of the devil behind the manipulation, the truth will continue to manifest. That is the truth. So there was no election that would rule elections, which is antithetical to democracy, to internal democracy. And

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once you don't have your primary election rights, you can never have the real election rights. That is it.

**Is that to assume that the chances of Governor Aiyedatiwa and APC or the general election might be slim?**

I'm sure you are from Ondo state . Are you not in Ondo state. Maybe you don't know. There is an easy one in the path of APC. There is no amount of reconciliation that can save the party from a disaster, if care is not taken. The people are now conscious. They are conscious of their rights. There is injustice due to the need for it. I would have thought that the party would come for another primary election. And the decision was made. Now people just exchange money and bury the interests of everybody. They decide to bury the interests of everybody, which is to conduct a peaceful primary election that is devoid of any manipulation now they believe that they can talk to you. And you did it like that? There is uneasy calm now. And so anybody that dares to say that APC is winning the election may be daydreaming. He's just dreaming he's just dreaming. I don't know, but I can tell you that people are unhappy.

**Ok sir, thank you for that insight. And I was going to find out what is your own assessment of the current administration of Governor Aiyedatiwa, having spent much of his time as an acting governor, then transitioned into a full-time governor and also seeking re-election what do you think of his administration so far?**

Well, you're asking the right question. What do you want me to say? As Editor of Ikale News, even if you are not from Ondo State, you should have been what our governor has been doing. He has been busy going and spending most of his time politicking. Can you show me any developmental agenda she has so far, unless you remind me of one. So I don't know. I think he has spent all his time doing politics, just fighting to return as an actor. I don't know. So that's what I've seen. I've not seen any developmental.

When I talk about developmental, I want

to really talk about, if you look at the statistics available, recently, the most expensive state in Nigeria. What it means is that food is costlier than any part of the country. So that means inflation is high you know, this is an early part of the states. That was really recently. So people are virtually not seeing anything. The government is virtually not doing anything, apart from politics. So, I mean, that's what I can tell you. That's what information I have on my people.

**And let's talk about the affairs of Ikales in Lagos so far I'm aware that you've been championing the people of Ikale in Lagos, how has it been like so far?**

Well, it has been an interesting experience, It has been an interesting experience I can tell you that we have done a couple of things we are making progress and we are doing it legally. Ikale has been in Lagos for years. Before I was born, my parents emigrated to Ikale

to work and all the rest. They came to Lagos, they have been here. But at a point in the early 70s, look, we cannot live in Lagos and not be afraid of what is happening in Lagos and some of our people agreed with me that we have to go back. And that was how Ikales in Lagos was formed, which I later said, no, It's all really in profits we still have to continue with this. And that was how Ikale Heritage Development Association was formed. It was still registered with government. We have our permits and our derivatives. And we're essentially working. And we cover our activities. We have given over the years grants to our people in Lagos, 15.3 million as grants to our people in Lagos. Apart from that, we have supported our people to get employment in Lagos. During the COVID-19, we've shared food. I can't speak...I don't have the figure on that. We distributed food items. Courtesy of Lagos state. Apart from that, we also



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participated in many programs initiated by Lagos state government. Apart from that, we also did medical outreaches medical treatment for our people we have people who live in Lagos right now we have another project which is a medical insurance for 200 people who live in Lagos That's the kind of things we have been doing, and all our kabiyesi and prominent people at the Ikale Land are behind us. We have been doing that. I Remember, General Bajowa also invited me to interact with him on this. We should also extend this thing to the Ikale Land . And we are working on that. But for me, that's what is called, that's the effort we are clamoring for.

It's not about you. People have called me. These two governors have invited me to participate in that. I told them that no, that I don't need to be in government to be able to push my philosophy. That whenever I have been in corporate work all my life, and even in my corporate work, I have been doing my best. To ensure I have been a strong voice in my corporate work. everywhere in my community where I have been I have a strong voice. So in my society, I have always, in fact, if you remember, if you recall. I set up the biggest Vocational Center in Ondo State when Dr. Akeredolu invited me into the politics of Ondo State.

After the COVID-19, we took a deal from the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to train, (Nexim....., and other corporations. So we trained over 2,700 for the federal government, so that was, we believe that rather than focusing on looking for jobs, people try and build their society on the springs of entrepreneurship. That's what has taken China to where it is. That's what has taken Singapore, Malaysia, and all these countries we talk about, to where they are. You have to focus in India first. That's exactly what happened. The idea of making everybody to look for jobs, look for jobs from where? Let's create our own jobs ourselves. And the Indian is that definition. That is true until people started to agree that they took the land and the place was demolished by government.

**Very interesting and inspiring.**

Thank you. So, you can see all the initiatives, our initiatives have only been, you know, that's the truth. That's the extent we have committed ourselves to human development. That's our motto.

**So far have you reached to to previous administrations with this initiatives. Have they called you to serve and all that? Ok. Let me put it in another form: Is there any plan to move into politics full time or to come back home to, you know?**

East or West, Home is the best. Definitely, I will be choosing Ikale land to serve my people. I will not stay forever in Lagos There will be a time for me to do that. I have to come back home to stay with my people and share my experience with them. Some of these (that I talked about) I'm already doing now. I will certainly come back home. The second one you asked...Yes. You can see the multidimensional approach that I'm planning. And to express my view. To do my politicking. For instance, I write. And my writing is doing a lot. I have written severally to the president. I'm just telling you how I have about 100,000 followers. They read my articles all over the world. So I didn't just start today. So all of these things are things I do to shape this society. That is one leg of my politicking: Advocacy. So through that, through that, as a social crusader, you shape the society for the better. I do not intend to get appointments tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

I'm not expecting that. There are other areas. Where I can continue to serve the government and the people. That is most important to me. What is important to me: The people. I don't belong to groups of people that are just working out that they want to serve people. Rather, I mean, for you, you say you want to serve people. Show evidence of your service even before you think of going to government. A Yoruba adage says, you that *“eni ti a da aso fun eniyan, ti orun re laa koko wo.”* – *“the person who wants to clothe others, you first look at what he or she is wearing.”* Let us see what the donor is putting on. You cannot be fighting for government, just because you want political position. Without having a good

pact in your community, you should not step out to serve at political level. That was how it used to be. You can go to some other community in the Ikale land and mention my name and see what I have contributed. But I am not in government! My commitment to see is to see how I can use my position to improve the future well-being of our people.

**Before you go, we want to know what's your advice for youth out there in Ikale who have a similar background to yours. Like you said, you know “Rome was not built in a day.”**

Well, my life is a school. It's life. When you come out into the world, outside the four walls of institution, you come back to the world to come and learn. And this is a borderless circumcision. You are not in school. You are not in regulated environment. Here, the world is regulated fine. But you are freer. You have come to the world to come and learn a new thing. You are not there to learn. And the reality of life is that there is no life without learning And learning is the experience we are talking about. So, there must be patience on the path of the youths as they learn. One of the things we lack in Ikale is we did not have mentors. You need to learn from experienced people to be able to break this urge for quick wait. Consistency is very key. If you are from the background like I came out from, and you think you want to be a millionaire overnight, that would be difficult. Well, it's your business. But I know there are such ways we don't last. So, we must be patient. We will get there, if we are. We must learn from people who are ahead of us. We must believe in our elders, our leaders. Genuine leaders. Not leaders that are using people to make money. So, (I am not talking about) not unreliable people that want to use people to make profits but people of integrity who are genuinely committed to the development of societies. In two words: patience and tolerance.

**Alright. Thank you very much, Otunba Sola Olatunji.**

God bless you. Cheers and regards to your publisher.

# IKALE KIDS

## Dressing in Ikale culture

Hello beautiful and handsome Ikale kids. How is studies I hope you are already preparing for your promotion examinations? It's better to start early and remember you must come out with good results. I still expect feedback and contributions on this page this will give me the assurance that you are enjoying or gaining from the write ups.

Today we want to discuss on Fashion and Dressing in Yoruba land and we will now lay emphasis on Ikae If we are not able to conclude it we shall continue in next edition.

Yoruba people are fashionable and love to dress well. They believe the way you dress says a lot about you. Dressing good is both attributed to both men, women young and old. Even a small child appreciates it when the mother dress him or her well and will flaunt it. Dressing

begins with taking care of our hair to our toes and nails. This means from head to toes.

Fashion is in different forms, and it includes:

Dressing, facial marks this is common in olden days in some part of Yoruba land but not common in Ikale. I have not come across any ikale with facial marks either young or old, powder, makeovers, waist beads, ankle chain nose rings. Earrings, necklaces, costumes, Gold, trinkets, tattoos, Hair making etc All these are ways of dressing and fashion.

**Dressing:** clothing's is both for covering our nakedness and also fashionable. We have different types of dresses both for Males and females. We have

Casual wears:, for homes or going out that is not so serious.  
Formal: office or Business wears,



**Deaconess Omotayo Folayan**

Party dresses.  
Casual wears, this is for both Males and females young and old. These are dresses we are comfortable with and are worn in the house or to casual places. Such as market, visit to a friend's place. Weekly programmes or outings, malls. Etc.

Formal/ Business/ office wears are worn to places like offices, to interviews, formal engagements or parties , churches, Business meetings.  
Parties, these may be natives or English.

For "native" dress, we have up and down for men with cap. For Yoruba it may include agbada : which is usually big and worn on the top and trouser. They call it Buba, Sokoto and Agbada , then fila.

The agbada is of different styles these days . In the olden days we have Agbada this is usually big and flowing. In the olden days Oyala is like agbada but smaller in size, this is common with our young men this days. They wear it mostly to wedding or birthday parties. it is fitting And looks nice on them.

When next you see someone wearing such at party just remind your mum or dad that it was called Oyala in the olden days.

*Dansiki*, its usually not big but its fashionable. They shape it on the two sides to make it beautiful and



*Party Dress*

## IKALE KIDS

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smart on the body. These days both Male and females sew dansiki with Sokoto or trouser. Its beautiful and fitting.

**Kembe:** this is a kind of trouser that is usually big and is from the waist down the knees. It's usually three quarter in size . In today's fashion they call it Bermuda shorts. It's beautiful and fitting. Its common among ladies though some men sew it for casual and they use Ankara, adire jeans materials. Senator materials or cotton to sew it. They may sew top or shirt top to match it.

**Ladies dresses :** ladies have different styles of dresses. They have skirt and blouse, gowns, both in English and native wears, trousers, iro and buba. That is top and wrappers . Women also have gele and ipele to match their traditional dress.

**Under wears :** these are worn to cover our nakedness before wearing the main dress. For ladies we have pants , bra, bra top. Under skirt, bum shorts .

For men we have boxers, pants and singlets.

Other means of fashion for dressing includes. Make up or makeover. This is common among females and both young and even older people make up. They use powder, eye pencil, eye shadows, mascara, lip sticks, lip gloss, contour, and so on..

Hair dressings include, weave on. Wigs, attachments to weave hair into different styles. Dreadlocks etc. This days some men especially younger men also weave their hairs too Andd also locks their to make dreadlocks . This is common among musicians and artists.

Other means of fashions are ear rings, nose rings, necklaces, ankle chain, bracelets, bangles, neck beads in different forms and designs, costumes, gold necklaces, rings, wrist watches. . In the olden days it is fashionable for ladies to put on waist beads. And even now thhe fashion has return as its common for most young girls to use

waist beads , noise rings and ankle chains.

Tattoo, tattoos was common in olden days as part etc fashion and its common among young people now too. Another type of fashion that is distinct in Ikale culture in hair making Is Olugbu hair. It is usually made for brides on their wedding day. Its involves ceremony, with songs and dances on the day ass they are doing it . It's a traditional hair do whereby beautiful beads are sewn on the brides like a queen. They hhave special women that do it. These are done for beautiful and well cultured brides and are usually beautiful on them.

Next edition we shall talk about facial marks, types and the area that has each marks. Importance of the facial marks to the people and other things about. Till we meet again. Be obedient and good children.

*Anleo!*

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# COMMUNITY SERVICE

Shots Of The Multimillion Naira Igbotako-irowa Road Single Handedly Being Constructed By Ceo Of Mega Chicken Limited, Evang. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo



# PHOTO NEWS

## Burial Of Late Dr. Akinnusi @ Stella Marris College Okiti Pupa



*Dr Akinnusi Laud To Rest..faces At The Creception*



*Femi Akinnusi (first son)*



*Veteran broadcaster, Chief Oluwole Akinbo (MC at the occasion)*



*L-R: Deaconess Tayo Folayan and Mrs Femi Akinnusi*



*Ikale News crew, Publisher, Dr Bolu Folayan (left) and Editor, Sam Olaniyan*



*Bandstand*



# POLITICS



## Ondo Governorship Campaigns Start July 19, says INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has lifted campaigns for governorship elections with effect from July 19, 2024

This was disclosed recently by a National Commissioner and Chairman of Information and Voter Education Committee of the commission in Abuja.

Olumekun highlighted, "A total of 17 political parties are participating in the election. Notably, no party has nominated a female candidate, while the African Democratic Congress (ADC) has nominated a candidate with a disability (a paraplegic)."

The released the final list of candidates and their running mates for the Ondo State governorship election scheduled for 16 November. This announcement was made by Sam Olumekun, the National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee, through a statement issued in Abuja on Thursday.

Olumekun stated, "The personal details of the candidates and their running mates have been displayed at INEC offices in Ondo State's local government areas." He further noted, "In accordance with

Section 33 of the Electoral Act 2022, two political parties, the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), held fresh primaries to replace their initially nominated candidates and their running mates by the 10 June deadline. Additionally, five parties, namely the African Action Congress (AAC), the Action Democratic Party (ADP), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP), and the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), substituted only their running mates."

He added, "The final list, which details the candidates' ages and academic qualifications, has been published at INEC's Akure office and uploaded to our website and social media platforms for public access." Olumekun reminded candidates, their agents, and supporters to adhere to the law and INEC's guidelines during campaigns, emphasizing, "The commission once again reminds candidates, agents, and their supporters of the provision of the law and the commission's guidelines governing such activity."

He stressed the importance of conducting

activities with civility and avoiding inciting language, violence, voter inducement, and other legal infractions as stipulated in Sections 92-97 of the Electoral Act 2022.

Meanwhile, The People Democratic Party (PDP) has announced Festus Akingbaso as its deputy governorship candidate for the upcoming 2024 Ondo State election. Akingbaso currently serves as the representative for the Idanre/Ifedore Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives and has a background as a member of the Ondo State House of Assembly. The announcement, made on Sunday, pairs Akingbaso with the PDP's gubernatorial candidate, Ajayi Agboola. Together, they will contest against the incumbent Governor Aiyetidawa in the November 2024 election.

Akingbaso brings a wealth of legislative experience and a deep connection to his hometown of Idanre, positioning him as a strong running mate. The PDP is positioning this duo as a formidable team ready to bring new leadership to Ondo State. Festus Akingbaso, the PDP's deputy governorship candidate, is a native of Idanre.



# Jimoh Ibrahim Donates N1 Million To Breast Cancer Patient



The Senator representing Ondo South in the Senate, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim has donated a sum of one million naira to Abiye Ayeyemitan who has been diagnosed with Stage two of Breast Cancer.

Ayeyemitan from Igbotako, Okitipupa Local Government Area of the state is a widow and mother of two. It would be

recalled that old students of the Igbotako Community Grammar School had called for Two Million Naira donation from colleagues and members of the public for the patient for chemotherapy and medical test.

Upon receiving this message and being a member of the Alumni Association, the Igbotako-born

business mogul in his magnanimity donated one million to the patient on Tuesday.

He assured Abiye Ayeyemitan to be strong and not lost hope in this difficult time, assuring her that God will perfect everything about her.

At the time of going to press, another illustrious Igbotako son, Barr. Philip Ogunjumelo added N1million to the pool of funds to save Abiye.

