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FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Gboluga



Agboola Ajayi

PRIMARY ELECTIONS FALLOUT

LEADERS DIVIDED

ARCHIVES:

Ikale Traditional Governance:

Focus On The Reluja



IKALE ACTIVIST AND LAWYER, DELE KUBOYE EMERGES AS "THIRD FORCE" FOR HOUSE OF REPS

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Opinion: Why Should Christians Be Afraid In Nigeria?

Wanted: An Ideological Political Party

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Getting set for Poli-thicks

Mo ki dede Ikale pata po! Apoi, Arogbo, Ilaje, Urhobo, Igbo, Hausa and other inhabitants of Ikaleland and other Yoruba who lie in Ikaleland and read *Ikale News* I send warm greetings from our team here.

We are sorry again for coming out late as usual. It is not because we are lazy or we do not consider our deadlines as sacrosanct. In journalism, deadline is deadline. It is rarely shifted. And you, as a journalist is expected to be disciplined to keep to deadlines.

In our case, we are a community newspapers. We believe it is important to tarry in some situations to cover important political events that we believe the people should understand. We cannot beat regular publications to breaking the news but we surely know better how to give such news perspectives that our people can understand.

I have noticed for a long time that most of our people do not have reliable information about the larger picture. Thus, they become so politically rigid that even when fire is on the mountain, they do not venture to reach out for kegs containing water and detergents to quench it.

For instance, how much does the average Ikale voter know about the APC candidate Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and his PDP counterpart, Vice President Atiku Abubakar? You will be shocked that the only the they know about Tinubu is "Emi lokan" and for Atiku that Obasanjo abused him. Besides that, the voter needs to be checking out information on the 2023 elections to be able to predict who could win and explore opportunities for alignments or realignments.

In other words, local election is not always only about the candidates contesting locally. I know of communities in this country that are not even interested in local elections. They concentrate on the national elections. More and more state governments are failing to perform. Kogi state is a good example. Why would I waste my time electing someone into Kogi State House of Assembly for example? To do what when the state governor has plundered the resources of the state beyond limits? Having a good Senator or a people-oriented House of Reps member is much better than relying on a state government, sometimes.

So, we are strengthening our Political

Desk with more volunteers. *Ikale News* is a community service project. We have very skeletal staff and a corps of volunteers who love the community. We are cooking lots of ideas to serve you better

First, we must ensure that our reports are object and balanced. I want to use this opportunity to tell our dear readers that to join the team. We can't do it alone. We need diverse perspectives on all matter that we cover in the newspaper. Send reports of events concerning you and our people and we will publish.

You can visit our website, Ikalenews.com and read more news for free. You can read old editions of *Ikale News* and download *Ikale News* stories and articles.

Ikale Personality Profile

We have introduced a new page to profile outstanding Ikale personalities making waves. If you know of any Ikale son or daughter making positive waves around the world, please send his or her profile to us at info@ikalenews.com or bolujohnfolayan@gmail.com. We like to shine the light on our people in the news. We are the best, anywhere you go. In the maiden column, we feature Dr. Sola Jimoh.

Asiwaju Benson Essay Competition and Fademi Quiz Competition

Because of the abysmally poor number of applications received from Igbotako students on the Asiwaju Benson Akindeju Essay Competition and the Fademi Quiz Competition, we have decided to suspend them to reload the concepts.

The challenge is not money to fund the events. I am putting my money down (supported by my friends) to do something to keep Big Ben's name on while also blessing people he left behind. And the Pa Fadeni's children are ready to support the quiz competition I instituted in memory of their father. But when the students and school authorities do not show interest, it is a sign that I would never achieve my objective.

It is a terrible thing to realize that education is not a priority for students and parents in Ikale. So sad. I am currently confused on what to do to immortalize these two late community leaders. I am thinking of an Annual Table Tennis Championship at Big Soul Hotel Igbotako to be named after Asiwaju Akindeju. May be that one would work. Everything is not about education. Sports talents are

important for harnessing because professional sports relate with age. You must start very early. But then, Big Ben was not a sports person. He was a showbiz person. So I am thinking if I should make it Musical Talent Hunt in his name.

Let me give you a little insight into that brainwave of mine. When Demola Suzi, our super-talented musical ambassador, started out, he had multitude of challenges. If you are a showbiz or music person, you would know instantly that Demola would be a hit. I did not have money to give him but I kept reassuring him that it was a matter of time for him. But Big Ben was able to support him (alongside other prominent Ikales) and look at him today.

There was a time Yinka Ayefele came to play in Ilutitun (or so) and Demi Suzi was invited to be the small card on the side. You would pity the boy. His public address system was like the one Bora Olugbo used to play to sell records in Igbotako in the 70s. The rest is history. Consider how many people eat directly or indirectly through the Demola Suzi Band. Now consider if more talents like him are discovered! If Big Ben were to be alive, he would jump at such initiatives.

For the Fadenis, I know they love education. Perhaps nothing else would appeal to them more than something education that is people-oriented. I don't now what to do. May we will present laptops to the best WASCE students in Ikale. Little efforts help. I know it. I have written about it several times how the Dr. Paul Akintelure that we celebrate today was at a cross road. He was in Manuwa Memorial Grammar School, in the final year, when his father, the legendary teacher "Akin Papa" died suddenly. The Igbotako Youth League paid for his WAEC. That very little assistance paved the way for him to proceed to the Federal Government College Odogbolu and later University of Ibadan to study medicine.

Those are the kinds of stuff we are interested in in *Ikale News*. Dr. Paul is ready to support indigent students who are brilliant like him. But someone has to package a scheme for that purpose. But when you advertise and no one is interested, hmmm..

Well, we keep pushing these ideas and somehow I know we will succeed. See you next month. *Till then, wo ma kado o!*

Sign


Bolu John Folayan, PhD
Publisher, *Ikale News*

OPINION

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS BE AFRAID IN NIGERIA?

“My brother, it is becoming increasingly disconcerting and very curiously so that it is safer to be a Christian in Afghanistan and Pakistan than in Nigeria. It is really concerning...How are you and family faring...?”

That is an excerpt from one of the many messages that I have been receiving from diplomats, family friends in the diaspora since the beginning of the year. I received the above message at the weekend from a prominent and significant family friend who works for an international agency located outside Nigeria. The family friend is apparently frightened by a recent letter (dated June 29, 2022 some U.S senators signed to the U.S Secretary of State, Antony Blinken on the danger Nigerian Christians now live with even as government of the day appears unconcerned about coordinated attacks on Christians.

It is really very sad for me to be writing on my faith when we should be writing contextually on what political leaders who have declared their intention and turn to run Nigeria should be saying and doing at this time. I mean here that at a time when we should be asking what most of the presidential candidates and their party leaders are doing abroad at this time when they should be cashing in on the current wave of get-your-PVC revolution to mobilise voters, we are here commenting on existential threat to Christians in a country that has produced some of the most respected Christian clerics even in global context.

It should be out of my character at this level but Buhari's Nigeria today has made this inevitable because I shouldn't be 'ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...'

I have been confessing several times here that I have benefited a great deal from a newspaper business Muslims set up in Abuja some 34 years ago. As I have been saying here, most of the Editors of the

newspaper, “Abuja Newsdaily” (1988-1993) are Christians.

And as I have noted here twice, not many young people are aware of the reasons I have always been very passionate about Abuja affairs. The nation's capital is actually my second home. My journalism career grew luxuriantly like yam tendrils in the rainy season, thanks to my relationship with the capital about 34 years ago when Alhaji Bukar Zarma, former editor of “New Nigerian” established the first newspaper the “Abuja Newsdaily” there.

I was pioneer Lagos Bureau Chief from 1988 to 1990 when I was promoted Editor of the newspaper. Abuja is the place my colleagues (bureau chiefs) including the dangerously hardworking Yusuf Ali, the ever-clean Sam Akpe, never-say-die Yomi Odunuga, etc named me “The Dean” of the Bureau Chiefs' 'cabal' while some others outside journalism would call me “The Mayor of Abuja”.

There is nothing extraordinary about the sobriquets other than my long-standing experience as a reporter, writer and editor in the 45 years old “capital of the federation”. This background is germane to the points at issue today in Abuja where religion & ethnicity have become political tools in the hands of our politicians.

I would like to use this background to trigger some rhetorical questions later about where rains began to beat us as a nation. We are talking about a nation where the bugbear called the national question is threatening the security of the nation again, no thanks to some emerging political mismanagement of the complex federation. In other words, when the newspaper civilization kicked us in the face in Abuja in 1988, there was a good country where religion and ethnicity did not play so much overt role in interpersonal relationships, let alone in recruitments into private and public enterprises. Then Alhaji Bukar Zarma, who hails from Borno state shaped the business plans of publishing the first newspaper in Abuja with Alhaji Hassan Adamu Wakilin Adamawa, from Adamawa state. They are both Muslims. But the

INSIDE STUFF With Oloja Martins



striking element in the story in 1988 in Abuja was that Alhaji Zarma, who advertised for vacancies for journalists in a national daily then did not consider religion and ethnicity when he hired very resourceful journalists from different parts of the country. One thing was clear then: he never asked any candidate's state of origin. And so coincidentally, all the senior editors and most reporters recruited from the North and South were Christians. This is the evidence: Mr. Nick Dazang (Christian from Plateau) was the pioneer Editor; Mr. Jackson Ekwugum (Christian from Delta State) was News Editor, Mr. Dennis Mordi (Christian from Delta State) was Chief Sub Editor; Mr. Samm Audu (Christian from Kaduna State) was Sports Editor; Mr. Skekwogaza Wasah (Christian from Abuja) was Features Editor, Martins Oloja, (Christian from Ondo State) was Lagos Bureau Chief. Other notable names in the newsroom then included Shok Jok, Camillus Eboh, Moji Olaniyan, Moji Olajide, Alex kabba, Emmanuel Obe, etc, all of them Christians. I have written this story several times.

This background shaped the atmosphere that led to the choice of Muslim-Muslim presidential election ticket of 1993, which some desperadoes are artfully referencing today.

It is therefore important for the outgoing president Muhammadu Buhari and his men to note that his (PMB) failure to fulfill his promise and even covenant with the people in the engrafted 'I-belong-to-nobody' words has caused more trouble for the nation he will be leaving in a turmoil on May 29, 2023. The president's governance jet is passing through some areas of turbulence at this moment and what we hear our pilot saying to Christians in the plane is: you have every cause to worry about your safety. There is ever growing perception that 'it is safer to be a Christian in Afghanistan and Pakistan than in Nigeria' at the moment. It is indeed concerning.

OPINION

INSIDE STUFF
With Oloja Martins


A former president once alleged that the Buhari administration has some hidden agenda: Northernisation and Islamisation of the country's polity. That perception has not been erased by actions and colour of appointments in this administration.

That is why it is concerning that even some conflict-sensitive senators in the United States who are also aware of the enormity of the challenges of managing refugees in Nigeria should there be a political crisis nurtured by religious war, are protesting to the Secretary of State, Antony Blinken at the moment. Only very few commentators on public affairs here are asking why in the face of apparent threat to Christians in Nigeria, even the political class and our representatives in National Assembly are curiously silent.

Specifically, five United State Senators – Josh Hawley, Marco Rubio, Mike Braun, James M. Inhofe and Tom Cotton – have jointly sent a letter to the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken urging him to immediately re-designate Nigeria as a “Country of Particular Concern” (CPC) under the US International Religious Freedom Act.

They alleged that recent acts of violence targeting Nigerian Christians have underscored the deteriorating state of religious freedom in the country.

In their letter, copied to Honourable Rashad Hussain, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, United States Department of State, the lawmakers stated, “As you are well aware, horrific acts of deadly violence have been committed against Nigerian Christians in recent weeks, including the massacre of churchgoers on Pentecost Sunday and the stoning of a Christian college student. Sadly, such violence has become all too familiar for Christians in Africa's most populous country.

“Last year, however, you inexplicably removed Nigeria's designation as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC) despite no demonstrable improvement in

the country's religious freedom conditions. On the contrary, the situation in Nigeria has grown worse. We previously urged you to immediately reverse your misguided decision, and we write today to renew our call.

“Recent high-profile acts of violence underscore the intense religious persecution that is regularly experienced by Nigerian Christians. On Pentecost Sunday, gunmen attacked St. Francis Catholic Church in Nigeria's Ondo state, reportedly killing at least 50 churchgoers. Last month, a violent mob brutally stoned to death Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu, a student at Shehu Shagari College of Education in northwest Nigeria. According to reports, some Islamist students were enraged by a “blasphemous” message Deborah had posted in a WhatsApp group, in which she said that 'Jesus Christ is the greatest. He helped me pass my exams.' Merely expressing one's Christian faith has apparently become tantamount to a death sentence in many parts of Nigeria.”

They stated that religious violence and intolerance directed toward Nigerian Christians had worsened in recent years and that one report documented more than 4,650 cases of Nigerian Christians who were killed for their faith in 2021. The lawmakers continued: Accordingly, Nigeria earns the dubious honour—for the second consecutive year—of being the deadliest country on earth for Christians. “We wrote last year that not only has the government of Nigeria failed to take meaningful steps to mitigate such violence, but Nigerian authorities restrict and crack down on religious minorities and detain individuals indefinitely on blasphemy-related charges. We remain concerned that the Nigerian government is failing to protect the religious freedom and basic safety of its Christian citizens.

“Furthermore, as this year's annual reports from the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and from your own Department make clear, Nigerian government authorities directly participate in the persecution of Christians, Muslims, and even non-theists, most

notoriously through arrests and convictions under blasphemy laws. Make no mistake: continued enforcement of state-sanctioned blasphemy laws enables the type of deadly violence that killed Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu and so many others.

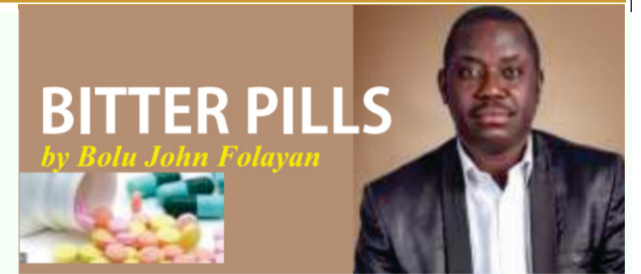
“When we previously wrote you, we were met with a response which failed to answer our questions about why the State Department views Nigeria as not having engaged in or tolerated 'systematic, ongoing, and egregious violations of religious freedom' or even 'severe violations of religious freedom.' This is unacceptable, especially because you are required by federal law to consider the recommendation of USCIRF—which, since 2009, has been to designate Nigeria as a CPC. In fact, USCIRF reiterated in its 2022 Annual Report that it was “appalled” at the removal of Nigeria's CPC designation.

“Despite public statements from you and other State Department officials condemning the recent bloodshed in Nigeria, the fact remains that the Department still does not officially regard Nigeria as a severe violator of religious freedom. “The State Department released its 2021 Report on International Religious Freedom on June 2, which starts the 90-day timeline for the Department to make its religious freedom designations. Given the abysmal state of religious freedom in Nigeria, it is incumbent upon you to reverse last year's decision and re-designate the country as a CPC. The moment demands that you do so without delay.”

This letter from the United States Senate is a significant reinforcement of the critical factors that have made a Muslim-Muslim ticket at this time a time bomb that can actually win election for a candidate who may thereafter lose the country. This is an avoidable bogeyman Buhari's Nigeria has triggered and that is at the roots of why young Nigerians are suddenly registering to vote so that we can retrieve the pearl we cast before a swine in 2015.

BITTER PILLS

WANTED: AN IDEOLOGICAL POLITICAL PARTY



On the third Monday of last month, I saw four missed consecutive calls on my phone. It was the vibrant Ikale activist, Barrister Dele Kuboye desperately trying to reach me.

I was a bit scared – well, let's say I was worried. That was because Dele does not make calls like that. First, he does not call me often. Second, once he calls twice and you don't pick he sends text. Eventually he reached me on WhatsApp with a tacit message, “Doctor, I need to talk to your on an urgent matter o. Kindly reach out to me. I had been calling your other line, no luck”.

I called him back the next day, and as usual he went into a long story of how he drew inspiration from me by being committed to Ikale development advocacy. And truly, I recall that he was not only an avid reader and writer for Ikale News when he was in secondary school, he was my Vendor in Erekiti-Luwoye.

Dele went on and on about how Ikale has not been lucky to have good representation at state and national assembly. He did not quite condemn anyone. But he pointed out that they did not do enough. Some, because they did not want to do. Some, because they could not muster the capacity to do more than what they did.

The long and short of his thesis may be surprised in Wande Coal's song “[Na Like This We Go Dey Dey?](#)”

Is this how we will be turning out elected people who would do

practically nothing until about four years, when they come back with sacks of money to renew their tenures? And the people would collect money and renew such mandates?

Na like this we go dey dey?

The attitude now is that nobody will go there and do anything to develop the community. They are seen as “all the same. so let us forget the theory of performance”. Perfor-kini?

Na like this we go dey dey?

Dele told me he would be running for House of Representatives in 2023. And having known that the PDP and APC primaries had been concluded, I asked him under which party platform he would contest. He proudly said Nigerian Youth Party (NYP). I hope I got the name right.

I was so elated.

It was the same theory which propelled us in 2003 to run for elections under a locally unknown party called All People's Party (later All Nigeria People's Party, ANPP). Jimoh Ibrahim went to Abuja to go and bring the party (as we say in local political parlance – *o la mu pati wa...*). Although we did not win any seat in the parliament and our governorship candidate did not win, we were happy we shook the entire Ondo State. Initially, they did not take us serious. But it got a point we were getting crowd in droves, in thousands...

How did we do it?

We offered a “third alternative”, also called The Third Force. It is the same thing Peter Obi is trying to do currently. It was what brought Accord

Party to prominence in Oyo State. So those who could not get PDP and AD ticket ran to us and we handed them tickets. The greatest achievement of ANPP those days was that we had proper Ward Executive constituted in the entire Ondo State. In less than two years, we had structure on ground. We hosted the current President Mohammadu Buhari in Ondo State. He slept in Igbotako for three days!

But we were naïve politically. In terms of political strategy and logistics, we scored zero. Even at that, we what we really got wrong was not sustaining our efforts. The bedrock of the party, Jimoh Ibrahim left the party famished and in the lurch. Those who sustained the effort made it big latter. A shining example was Senator Olujimi who went on to be deputy governor and senator.

Let me not digress to much *jare*. Dele Kuboye should sustain his initiative. Anything can happen. Almighty God says whatever he purposes to do would happen. But my counsel to Dele is that if he does not win, he should continue to build this party. I am openly declaring that the next time I am home in Ikale, I will declare my membership for this political party.

This PDP/APC thing is not going to work for our beloved country. We need a party will sound ideology. I was lucky to alive in 1979 when the Unity Party of Nigeria, Nigerian People; Parry (NPP). All the five political parties were: were ideological: National Party f Nigeria (NPN) was republican to the left; United Party of Nigeria. The (UPN) was welfarist. The Nigerian People's

BITTER PILL

Wanted: An Ideological Political Party

Party (NPP) was establishment/socialist, People's Redemption Party was utilitarian-focused (the greatest good for the largest number), etc.

With such arrangement, the voters easily had clear choices. Those more to the right chose NPN. Those who were welfarist chose PRP and NPN. If not for the military that truncated that experiment mindlessly, by now, we would have had a true Workers Party, Green Party etc as it is where we imported the culture of democracy.

Where we often get it wrong is that we want to win now-now. That is very wrong mindset. I am not saying a good candidate cannot win with young unknown parties. Rather, I am saying, it takes time and planning to win.

Again, a young ideological political may not win but can be operated like a pressure group. With their numbers, they seek alliance with the bigger parties! Imagine the Youth Party can boast of just 100,000 voters (sure bankers) for the 2023 election in Ondo State. The party can approach Abubakar Atiku or Bola Tinubu and give conditions (interests of the party) to support either of them. The winner of the last Ekiti governorship election won with a little over 200,000 votes. So, what are we saying when we have 100,000 votes?

Previous new parties fizzled out because they were operating within the box. Politicians who decamp from PDP to APC and vice versa and "Ojelu" not "Oselu". They are looking for what to eat. From 1979 to 1983, decamping was rare from UPN to NPN and from NPN to UPN. In fact, it was anathema to decamp from

a party like Aminu Kano's PRP to NPN. Not only would the leadership not admit people who did not fit in to their folds, the members too would not want to join a party that would make them look like a fish out of water.

The way to grow a new young party is to start small. The elections are becoming fairer and fairer now. So, by the time INEC conducts local government elections, it would seize to be a charade that it has become in the hands of state INECs. Therefore, the young party could start with capturing three Councillorship seats, nine councillorship seats, and ultimately producing the chairman of the local government.

This will give that party opportunity to demonstrate ideas and programmes. Look at what Governor Zulum is doing in Borno. And with that the party launches for Reps or Senate and before you know it, it has become a force to reckon with.

I wish Barrister Dele Kuboye in this trail-blazing effort. Who says he can't win the Reps? Did Sir Michael Otedola know that "ote would dola" for him when he contested for governor of Lagos State? Otedola is brewing in Irele and Okitipupa LGAs. How it ends no one can ascertain.

Unfortunately I don't think I can join a Young People's Party now as I head towards 60. I am not a young person. May be soon, however, "ma la mu party wa nati Abuja". We have to start from somewhere. We will look for truly people-centred leaders to contest at that local level. If elections are free and fair, they will win! You don't need all these bales of naira in sacks to do



politics. It is because PDP and APC have boxed us into that corner and we seem helpless.

When Chief Olu Akinfosile and late Dr. Abiodun Ijose ran for offices, the people raised money for them. They knew these people had a track record of service and love for the people and the community. Today, who born anybody without money to venture into politics.

But I am saying it is doable with ideological political parties. I am not talking of *jeunjeun* platforms like Labour Party that is being used to court dissidents from PDP and APC, but a party that is truly focused and ideological. People would volunteer their houses, vehicles, time, talents, even money, and other resources to grow the party. This is the reason I don't believe Sowore is serious in his struggle. If he had followed this my recommended approach, starting from Kiribo, our community nearby where he hails from, by now, his party would be in contention for House of Reps in Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency.

Meanwhile, I wish Dele and the other two contests Hon Gholuga and Prince Odimayo favour before the electorates. I have great hopes for Nigeria. The rot is too much. So we must be ready to start a slow sure process to recover our country from rudderless political parties. As a social scientist, I believe that it is easier to solve a problem when you start from the parts and not from the whole.

God bless Ikaleland.

OPINION

Random Talks With Dayo Williams

Bye-Bye, Sadio Mane

Dayo Williams

On June 22, the German giant, Bayern Munich, unveiled Sadio Mane as one of its top signings for the coming season, thus effectively putting to rest the speculations surrounding his time in Liverpool FC, my darling club.

For his new club, Mane, 30, and current African Footballer of The Year will be plying his trade at the Bundesliga side for the next three seasons, other things being equal.

For us at Liverpool and for me as an impassioned fan of one of the most successful English clubs, I had thought the club and its management would do everything possible to keep one of its most iconic wingers in recent times on its card for the next few seasons but alas, it was not to be.

He wanted out and he was allowed to go. Perhaps in the fullness of time, we'd know the issues that triggered his sudden exit from the club when all seemed to be well, at least, in the open.

Whatever it's, for being a loyal servant of the club from 2016 to 2022, doing amazing stuff and scoring incredible goals, totalling 120 with 38 assists in all competitions for the club and dazzling the EPL with his scintillating performances, Mane deserves nothing but adulation and commendation from all Liverpool fans.

We could not have asked for more from one of the most decorated attackers of the club in its over a century of existence. The number of titles he won tells it all: EPL, Champions League, FA Cup, FIFA

Club World Cup, EFL and UEFA Super Cup.

Mane, a scion of Senegal, and a true son of Africa, we are truly grateful to you for your services to Liverpool while your stay here lasted. You proved your mettle and left behind giant footprints in the sands of time at Anfield.

There is no doubting the fact that you were a dutiful, diligent and graceful servant of Anfield and your imprints fully etched in the sands of time bear eloquent testimonies to your prodigious capacity and sense of commitment to the club.

The trio of you- Mane, Firmino, the Brazilian sensation and Mo Salah, another proud son of Africa- never before seen in the annals of our history, wrote an entirely new history for Liverpool, terrorising teams, tearing defences apart while sending defenders south in chase of a non-existent loose ball and scoring amazing goals like the true mercurial players that the three of you are.

During your tenancy here, you won everything winnable with the club. And your contributions to these victories were not only of gargantuan proportions, you also brought panache and elan to bear on your deliveries as the impassioned footballer that you are.

Like everything good must come to an end one day, your time with Liverpool has come to a denouement and with you taking another route to achieve more accomplishments in this business of football whose half-life is



short, I completely understand and empathize with you. I can only wish you the best of luck in everything you do.

Although I am gutted to see you go at this material time, because I had thought you could still do three more years for us, you can only deliver your best when you are happy in an environment. It is the same way for every professional. Sometimes a change of environment could ignite the passion in one to do more and achieve more.

Grateful to you for all the scintillating memories. Arsenal, Man United and the rest of them will never forget your mesmerizing runs, quick footedness and the numerous dummies you sold them while skating your ways to goals.

How many can I talk about? Your unbelievable energy? Your aerial capacity? Sense of positioning or quick thinking in the final third? A lot to talk about. I hope you replicate all these for your new landlord to truly prove the sort of alpha talent that you are.

I will be watching out for you, bro, though the German league is less pronounced in Nigeria, nevertheless, the internet is there to check out what is happening to one of my favourites.

Best wishes to you, a proud son of Africa and may you never walk alone in Munich as you never walked alone while you were here with us. I hope and do know you will make Africa proud with your new club as you have always done wherever you go.

POLITICS

PDP splits over Gboluga, Sheba, Agbo

By Bayo Jimoh



...POWER TO THE PEOPLE

The dust threw up by the emergence of the former Deputy Governor of Ondo State, Agboola Ajayi and the lawmaker representing Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency, Ikengboju Gboluga as the Senatorial and House of Representatives candidates of People's Democratic Party, PDP (respectively) has refused to settle.

Agboola and Gboluga emerged as the candidates of the opposition party at a primary conducted in May. While Agboola defeated the incumbent Senator, Nicholas Tofowoma, to clinch the ticket in a keenly contested election.

Gboluga polled 36 votes to defeat Sheba who polled 30, Sheba. Reliable sources indicate that many chieftains of the party who had issues to settle with Hon Gboluga have found it difficult to accept that they have to work with the Ilutitun-born pharmacist to win the election in February. Some of Sheba's arch supporters of the former Acting Chairman of the Federal Character Commission, include; Senator Boluwaji Kunlere, Chief Eddy Olafeso, Hon Niyi Adebuseye, the several ward chairmen of the party.

At the time of filing this report, *Ikale News* can authoritatively report that prominent leaders in PDP in Ondo South Senatorial district have resolved not to support the two candidates

Some of the members of the party who pleaded for their names not to be mentioned told *Ikale News* that they would prefer to vote for a different person from Agbo and Gboluga

Said one of them: "Some of our leaders in this senatorial district were unhappy over the emergence of the duo. We can't work for candidates who do not respect our leaders, whose performance has been abysmal to say the least,

Another chieftain of the party confided in our correspondent: "We can't glorify failure, *Ikale*, *Ilaje* and *Apoi* are too blessed to have mediocres in the National



Agboola Ajayi

Assembly. Imagine someone who left out party shortly after he lost at the governorship primary, he came back without following the due process and what to fly the flag of this party this will never happen".

Some of the party chieftains are not happy that Agboola only recently rejoined the PDP from the Zenith Labour Party where he was the candidate of the party in the 2020 gubernatorial election in the state and that it would be an insult to cede the ticket to him.

Ikale News investigations however reveal that the issue between the party chiefs and Gboluga/Agbo smacks personnel animosity. "There is bad blood between them and this may cost the party the senatorial and the House representatives seats in 2023. The party may not recover from it and the APC may capitalize on that now that a Yoruba is flying its presidential ticket," a grassroots political analyst told our correspondent.



Gboluga

NEWS

Igbotako Denies Indigene's Involvement In Kidnapping

By Bayo Jimoh

Igbotako, a community has debunked police report that an indigene of the town, Adeola Omoniyi were involved in serial kidnapping of children.

The alleged kidnapper who was paraded at the Ondo State Police Headquarters in Akure alongside her father, disclosed that she has been working in connection with her father, Ilesanmi, who usually pays her a sum of N30,000 for each toddler kidnapped and deposited at his place in Igbotako.

However, in a statement on Monday, the community said the parents of the alleged kidnapper are not from Igbotako but a neighboring community. The statement, signed by the Councillor representing the ancient town, Hon. Segun Olajide, added: "Our attention has been drawn to a false and misleading report that the suspected female kidnapper, Adeola Omoniyi, claimed to be from Igbotako.

"Having read the reports of the incident, we are disturbed that she mentioned Igbotako, we made our findings and it was revealed that the accused parents have no traceable lineage and connection to our town.

The statement further revealed that the parents are from a neighboring community and not Igbotako as falsely reported. We urge the general public to kindly take note," the statement said.

When contacted, Hon Olajide told Ikale News that the lady and her father are residents of Gbaragada Village and that they probably hailed from Ilutitun but migrated to the Ikale Village located in Ogun State.

He explained that the man's name is Ilesanmi Omoniyi but is more popularly referred to as Ijabodi.

"He had a wife but the wife had divorced him. The woman had a boy and a wife for the man and the man fostered the two as single parents on the girl travelled to Lagos in search of the Golden Fleece only to come back few months ago reportedly insane.

"the man had been using local medical knowledge to tackle the problem but I think success has not been forthcoming and somehow the lady escaped and reportedly accused his father of being linked with kidnap.

Hon Olajide told Ikale News that he had adequately brief the paramount ruler of Osooro, The Rebuja Oba Gbadebo Bajowa of the development who instructed him to brief the divisional police headquarters in Igbotako of the community's side.

"This has been done and we have assurance that the DPO has communicated the true even to the State Police Command in Akure," Olajide stressed.

The Police Headquarters in Akure had paraded one Adeola said to hail from Igbotako and claimed that she confessed to kidnapping children and



selling each child for N30,000 to her father for the past two years.

She allegedly told the police that her father, Ilesanmi Omoniyi, had been taking delivery of the victims and later paying her the sum of N30,000 for each operation.

"I'm a kidnapper. I kidnap little children and I always deliver them to my father in his house at Igbotako.

I was successful with the first two children I took but I was caught with the third one" she reportedly claimed, adding that after delivering the kids to her father, he used to give her N30,000 for each operation and that she would use the money to take care of her daily needs.

When the detectives asked her what her father used the toddlers for, she allegedly claimed she did not know and that she never bothered to find out what

NEWS

continuation on Igbotako Denies Indigene's Involvement In Kidnapping

her father did to the toddlers after collecting the money.

He was the one that told me to always bring the children to him. I picked the first child from Ilutitun and the second from Ilowo," she said.

Recounting how she nabbed, she said;

"It was when I was taking the child away that the mother raised alarm. People gathered to beat me and I was taken to the police station before I was moved to Akure.

I have been doing the business for about two years. The first one was in 2021 and the second one this year. I always offer to help the children when they are alone they will follow me."

However, upon questioning, Adeola's father, Ilesanmi denied the crime and insisted that his daughter lied against him.

"My daughter used to stay in Lagos. She got sick and they brought her to me in Igbotako. She was stark naked when they brought her to me. I later took her to a church where the pastor said I should pay N80,000. I sold my cassava and I paid the pastor. He later told me that she is better but few days after he called again that he could not find her as she had left the church.

"I'm the one that she used to bring the kids to. I have never given her N30,000. It was six months after she left the church, we have been looking

for her that I heard that she went to steal a child". He said. The state's police spokesperson, SP Funmi Odunlami, disclosed that the suspects will be charged to court

after the investigation is concluded. Concerned community leaders responded swiftly by investigating the report which they later found out was incorrect and might have been due to the mental imbalance of the lady.

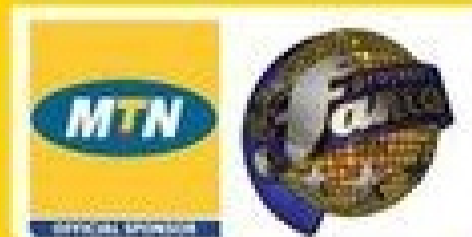
The community, however, said it would give full cooperation to the police in their investigations and has therefore formally briefed the divisional office of the police officially of its readiness to assist it in further investigations.



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INTERVIEW

Ikale Activist And Lawyer, Dele Kuboye Emerges As “Third Force” For House Of Reps

By Bolu John Folayan



Let us have a brief about who you are please

My name is Dele Kuboye. I am from Erekiti Luwoye, Ikaleland. That means I am from Okitipupa local government area of Ondo State. I was born in the early 1970s I had my primary education in Iju Oke and Erekiti and proceeded to Community Grammar School, Igbotako. I went from there to Adekunle Ajasin University, where I studied law and graduated in 2005. I did my national youth service in Jos Plateau State; that is after my obtaining my BL at the Nigerian Law School.

You started law practice after NYSC?

No. I went to UK see in search of the proverbial Golden Fleece. I was there for a few years and came back 2010 to fully establish my law firm and get into some business activities. I established my law firm and set Carrington Supermarket in Akure. I am also property business.

Good. Now let us talk political. I have always known you to be an activist. Why partisan politics now?

Well, sir, I have decided after due consultations to come into politics. Our people (Ikale) have not been properly

represented for a long time. We have not had a responsive representation in the national assembly. I think I am capable, culturally, socially and sufficiently educated to give our people good representation at the national assembly.

The irony of this political representation matter is that youths and women account for the larger number of votes. Yet, none of them ever gets in there. Why?

It is unfortunate. Most youths nowadays are interested in money. They will not do anything unless you give them money. As you rightly observed, those who are younger are not ready. The ones called “Not too young to run” and not running. They are the ones campaigning for the older generation. That is why we are stepping into the foray. With a lot of advocacy, we will change the situation.

You are vying for the House of Representatives under which party?

We have been part of the All Progressive Congress (APC) and the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) for quite a number of years. What do we have to show for it? No electricity for over 15 years consecutively.

No development. So, running under those parties will not enhance what we want to achieve. I am coming out under the platform of the Young People’s Party (YPP).

What they will tell Peter Obi is what they will tell you: No structure on ground I can proudly tell you that we have structures. Our exco is fully in place in the 23 wards making Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency. That is what we call ward structure. By the end of July, we will be

fully in place in the nooks and crannies of the area.

To cover the two local governments, we need about 400 units and we are almost there. Many prominent persons in both APC and PDP are coming to join us and we have been welcoming them. They are people of solid integrity.

Are you sure you can match these older or bigger parties naira-for-naira? Because in the last primaries, what my eyes saw in terms of naira distribution...money matters o. Where are you going to get money Dele?

Well sir, I am fully aware of the role of money in politics or elections. The day I declared to run for this office, we started spending money. For example, we obtained the nomination and expression of interest with money. We have been going round and that costs money. But to answer your question directly, we are not going to be able to match them money-for-money. But we will match and surpass them in terms of integrity, intellect, advocacy for advocacy. We know that by now Ikale people know the category that they belong in Ondo State. Yes, we need money but it is not going to be all about money.

They did that to an extent in the last election in Ekiti. Today, our people are frustrated. You see the frustration in them. I think they are going to take advantage of this situation and vote the right person. People are now more conscious of the fact that they are being ripped up. We have stepped up advocacy in this regard. We are deploying the social media and we are making impact. By the grace of God the money that would be needed would be provided.

Lawyer, we hear from reliable sources that you are a Third Force; a third alternative. We hear that people who were not happy about the last primaries in APC and PDP pushed you forward as a third force. Can you confirm or deny that?

INTERVIEW

continuation on the Interview With Dele Kuboye

I can confirm that many people felt aggrieved as you said. It is normal to have that in a democracy. So if that benefits me fine. But it is not as if people were not disgruntled in the other parties, I would not be contesting. I would say that the development there is boosting my candidacy. I thank those who look up to me in that regard. We need their experience. For now, people are rooting for Dele Kuboye in person.

It seems I am even more popular than the party. But in due course, the party will take its due position.

More candidates will emerge and that will make the party more popular than all of us.

What will be your priorities if elected? What will you do differently?

I will first use my position to unite our people. We have too many divisions amongst our people. We have never

been this divided. We will put in inclusive programmes. Representing our people at the National Assembly is a national duty, as you know.

I will ensure that in that lower chamber, I will ensure that we put in place laws that will protect the youths of this country and provide for the coming generations. Then I will come back home to ensure that we have Federal presence in terms of education.

That will take care of so many things automatically, such as employment and infrastructure.

We will lobby, working with other members of course, to bring a higher institution to Ikaleland.

Government owned educational institutions would be more affordable by our people. It is the duty of the government to ensure we have good health for our people. We should have a

Federal health institution in our area. If need be, I will work with my Ilaje and Ese Odo counterparts to ensure that this is done. Health is wealth. Health is very important.

Third, agriculture and the environment. We can do quite a number of things also working with the private sector. It is not all about government. I will ensure that we lobby to put our roads in order. Well, you can say how do I do this among almost 300 legislators but I don't mind to prostrate to get things. We differ in our approach. That is why we should vote in there someone who is humble and is ready to beg if need be to serve. It is call to service.

Lawyer, thank you for this candid interview. We hope to be able to speak with you again before the elections next year, *Ki Olorun so gbogbo wa.*

Amin. Thank you sir.

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POLITICS

Tofowomo tackles Agboola, alleges he is using false academic records - "It is pure blackmail" says Agbo



Nicholas Tofowomo

The Senator representing Ondo South senatorial district, Nicholas Tofowomo, has dragged a former Deputy Governor of Ondo State, Agboola Ajayi to a Federal High Court sitting in Akure seeking his disqualification as the 2023 Senatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for the district over his alleged controversial academic records.

Hon. Alfred Agboola Ajayi is joined in the suit as first defendant, Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) are second and third Defendants respectively.

In a suit number: FHC/CS/AK/ 83 /2022 filed on Tuesday July 5, 2022, Senator Tofowomo who came second in the PDP senatorial primary, said Agboola did not meet the constitutional requirements for contesting the 2023 general election

as contained in the interpretation and application of Section 66(1)(i) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Section 29(5) & (6) of the Electoral Act, 2022 as well as other relevant laws.

Tofowomo through his lawyer, Mr Femi Emodamori, claimed that the court should determine if together with the totality of the facts before the Court, the 1st Defendant (Agboola) did not present false information and/or forged certificate(s) in his INEC Form EC9 and the other documents attached thereto which he submitted to the 3rd Defendant (INEC) as the candidate of the 2nd Defendant for Ondo South Senatorial District in the 2023 General Election.

"I verily believe that the 1st Defendant (Agboola) lied and/or swore to a false information when he stated in Exhibit FEE4 (the Affidavit For Correction of Date of Birth which he submitted to

the 3rd Defendant) that he was issued the 2004 WASSC (Exhibit FEE3) No. NGWASSCS 5529745 and claimed "that in the said Certificate my date of birth was mistakenly printed as December 8, 1980 instead of 24th September 1968".

The Senator also stated that "Whether, having regard to Section 29 (6) of the Electoral Act, 2022, the 1st Defendant (Agboola) should be disqualified as the candidate of the 2nd Defendant (PDP) for Ondo South Senatorial District in the 2023 General Election.

He urged the court, "A DECLARATION that having regard to S.66(1)(i) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), S.29(5) of the Electoral Act, 2022 and judicial authorities which include the Supreme Court decisions in MODIBBO V USMAN (2020) 3 NWLR (PT. 1712) 470 and PDP V. DEGI-EREMIENYO (2021) 9 NWLR (PT. 1781) 274.

"AN ORDER of this Honourable Court disqualifying the 1st Defendant as the candidate of the 2nd Defendant for Ondo South Senatorial District in the 2023 General Elections.

"AN ORDER of this Honourable Court declaring the Plaintiff, having scored the 2nd highest number of votes in the 2nd Defendant's Primary Election for Ondo South Senatorial District held on 23rd May, 2023, as the candidate of the 2nd Defendant for the said Senatorial District in the 2023 General Elections.

"An order of this Honourable Court directing the 2nd and 3rd Defendants to substitute the Plaintiff for the 1st Defendant as the candidate of the 2nd

POLITICS

continuation on Tofowomo tackles Agboola

Defendant for Ondo South Senatorial District in the 2023 General Elections,” Tofowomo prayed the court.

In a swift reaction, supporters of Agboola Ajayi fired back at the incumbent senator, condemning his move as that done by someone who could not take defeat in good faith.

A prominent Ilaje politician, Hon Banji Okunomo took to the social media to lambast the senator, insisting that he should have taken the primaries as an act of God and respect the wishes of party delegates who voted in the elections.

According to Okunomo, many Ikale,

Ilaje and Apoi rallied round Tofowomo when he was seeking to go to the senate when his own people did not support him. He now wondered why he could not reciprocate same gesture when the same people now wanted another person to represent the area.

He pointed out that a competent court of law had decided on the issue Agboola's certificates and that in law such a matter would not be listened to by any court again.

“The matter is making noise over is Res Judicata. It means the matter had been decided to finality and this kind of issue would only split the party and make room for the opposition,” he

stated.

A PDP chieftain in Irele also faulted the step taken by the Senator: “Even if Tofowomo wins at the high court, Agbo will appeal and we will be on it until the elections.

That is one thing. The second thing is that after winning Agbo or after winning Tofowomo, will supporters of the two giants ever come together to work for PDP success in the elections? I don't think so. I think the Senator is paving way for Jimoh Ibrahim's victory through his action. You don't bomb the bridge after crossing the river. You never can tell”

PROFILE

Ikale Personality Profile



Jimoh, Akinsola

HOME TOWN:
Igbotako

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED:
University of Lagos; University of Ibadan and University of Fribourg,

Switzerland.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Ph.D in Peace and Conflict Studies programme of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria Postgraduate Diploma in Federalism, Decentralization and Conflict resolution.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION:

Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria as well as Nigerian council of registered Insurance brokers.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

Over 15 years career in the private and public sectors covers insurance practice; risk management consulting and research publications in maritime security, peace and conflict issues.

He has attended international conferences, training and workshops

including the 24th summer University of Federalism in Switzerland and the downstream and upstreams energy insurance and risk Management Training with JLT academy, UK. Expert in strategic risk management, underwriting and claims, negotiation, investment/Life operations, regulatory compliance, technology acquisition and implementation, consolidation/integration of business processes and the design/implementation of security and safety procedures to improve operational efficiency.

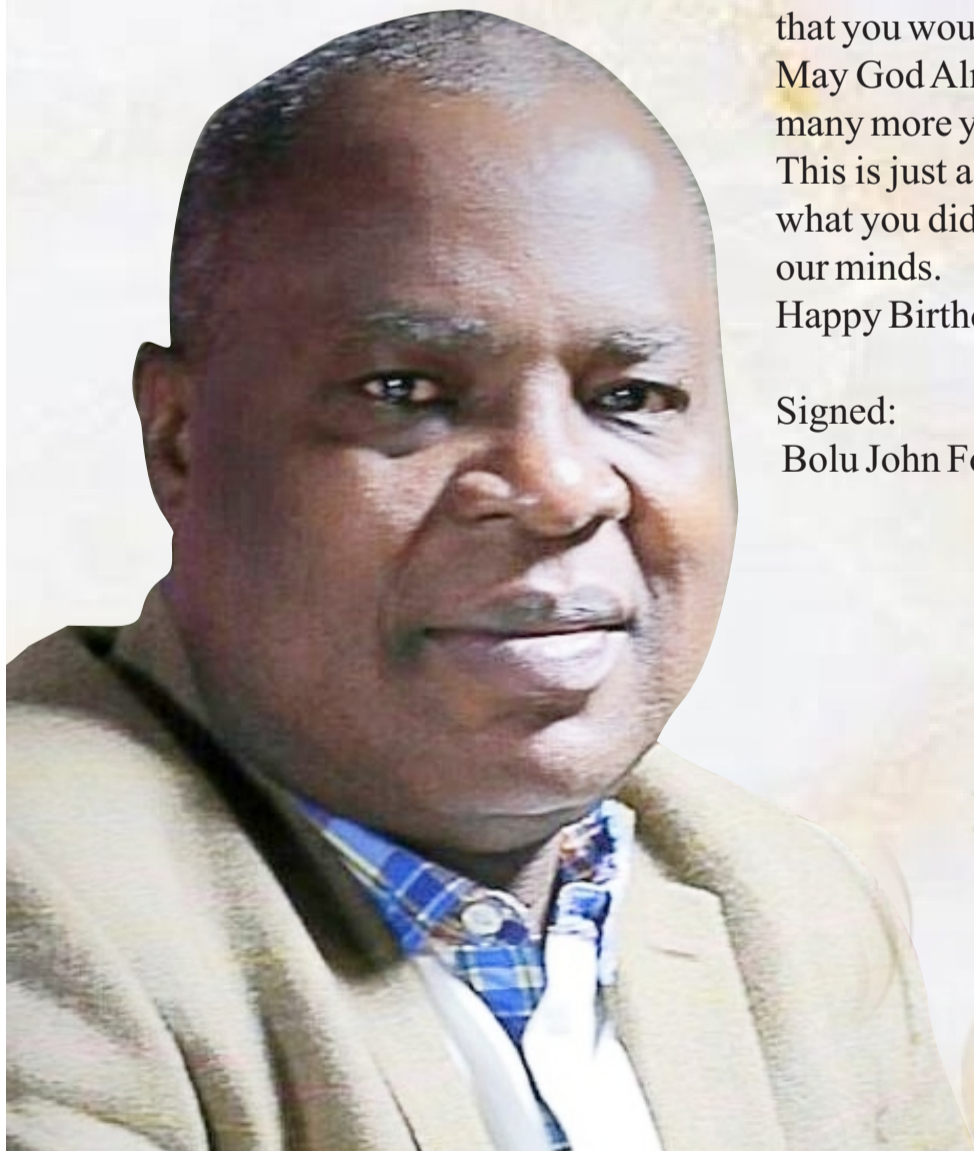
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On behalf of the children of Hon. Mrs. Christie Bola Aiyelemi, I hereby congratulate Dr. Paul Akintelure, the Founder and Chief Medical Director of Broad Hospitals, Lagos, on the occasion of the his 60th birthday.

We thank you sir for the wonderful care you gave our mother throughout her health challenges. You gave our mom the treatment you probably only gave to your own biological mom and you bluntly refused to collect any medical fees from us. You put Mummy in a VIP room and did the very best you could for an entire year for free.

And whenever we insisted on defraying the medical bills you never ceased to tell us that Mummy was your wonderful teacher and that she contributed to who became and also was a mentor to your wife, Funmi and that you would not collect medical bills on her.

May God Almighty continue to reward you and grant you many more years on Earth, sir.

This is just a little way of letting you know we appreciate what you did for us several years ago remains indelible in our minds.

Happy Birthday, Dr. "Minor"

Signed:

Bolu John Folayan, PhD

ARCHIVE**Profile of Ikale Traditional Governance Institutions.
THE REBUJA OF OSOORO KINGDOM**

By Bolu John Folayan, PhD (Publisher, Ikale News)



therefore named "Gbadebo". No wonder then he later became the Rebuja of Osooro. He literally brought back the crown, as his name implies.

Oba Shadrack Gbadebo Bajowa started his elementary Primary School at St. Stephen School, Igbotako and

later to St. John's Anglican School, Igbotako where he completed his early Primary Education in 1956. Alayeluwa Oba Bajowa, was born to a Christian home and Lubokun Royal family at Igbotako in the Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State of Late Chief Ezekiel Akinmoladun Odunwo Bajowa, a son of Akingbagbohun, the son of Jomos Oyetoyo. His mother, Mrs. Bolatiwa Didunyemi Bajowa was born to Olugbodo Royal family as a Princess by late Oba Danebi, the Onipe of Ubu in Ogun State waterside. In quest for further education, Oba., Gbadebo Bajowa, went to Lagos on the 6th of January 1957 with his late uncle,

Zebulon Ujobire Bajowa, He immediately, on getting to Lagos, started evening lesson to pass his GCE ordinary level. The thirst for further education was not possible because his parents were couldn't afford his Secondary Education. Upon this background Oba Bajowa felt that without money he could stilt rise above his level. He went to Etti Institute of Stenography as young as he was. His determination to succeed in life led him through to obtain certificate in royal society of arts in secretary studies at an advanced stage.

He also obtained certificates in secretarial services, office layout and productivity from the Nigerian Institute of Supervisory Management. Oba Bajowa's high commitment to the Christian faith is a legacy he inherited from his parents reflects as he is an active member of various Christian organizations including Cherubim and Seraphim movement, during his early years. Young Prince Gbadebo Bajowa loved singing, and playing football, His late father was a professional tailor, a famer and an occasional palm wine taper as well as a community leader who was highly respected in the entire Osooro Kingdom.

Prince Bajowa during the days of his father especially when he was still a teenager had no time to play around as such. This was due to his desire to

Life they often say is struggle: You struggle to be able to fit into life and succeed. You may have to struggle for position, power, authority and influence and some time for survival! Many attain greatness through circumstances of one's birth and sometime through hard work. All the above illustrates the life of Oba Gbadebo Bajowa, Lubokun IV, Rebuja of Osooro, He belongs to the group of people who rose to success via circumstances surrounding his birth and by dint of hardwork.

He was born during the burial ceremony of Lage Oba Danebi (his mother's father), at Ubu and was

ARCHIVE

accomplish a lot in life to be able to stand on his own after sometime. His late father also did a lot to encourage him as a youth, for instance, Prince Gbadebo was not allowed to go to the farm. He spent most of his leisure hours under the tutelage of his brother, Prince Oluyemi Omokuwajo Bajowa who usually engaged him in extra academic studies as his later father would not like to pamper him by allowing him to play around.

During the later hours of the day, especially during moonlight, the young prince enjoyed his listening to folklore and tales from the elders together with his mates. Late Pa Ezekiel Akinmoladun Odunwo Bajowa, the father of Oba Gbadebo Bajowa, was not discriminative during his lifetime. At festival periods like Christmas, Easter and harvesting time, he usually bought new clothes for all his children. His mother Alice Bolatiwa Duduyemi Bajowa a farmer was a greater lover of children; she usually ensured that meals were always ready at required times for the children. She also liked neat environment hence she always made sure that her children appeared in neat clothes. His mother was known for always praying for her children to succeed in life and to survive her, as most Ikale women were fond of. In the slightest misdeed, his mother would not curse any of her children but rather she would correct them in love. She was such a loving and caring



mother.

After his course as a secretary in Lagos, Prince Gbadebo started his working career with CMS Bookshop now CSS as secretary. He resigned his appointment and joined Marina Agencies now United Nigerian Insurance Company. From there he proceeded to the following organizations: Eagle Star Insurance, LANGOK KINGSONS Nigeria Ltd, Tower Aluminum Nigeria Ltd. Ikeja, Intercotra (Loyds Depo Apapa,) Standard Bank Nigerian Ltd, (Now First Bank), Chief Obafemi Awolowo Law Firm, Nigerian External

Communications Limited (later NITEL) from where he resigned his appointment to become the Twelfth Rebuja of Osooroland in 1977.

During the above periods, he was a "darling" to all his employers who would not want him to leave them to take up appointment elsewhere. Considering his high level of performance, as an efficient Secretary, he used to be a very dutiful officer who can be relied upon for very effective work without supervision. All of these attributes helped him later as an Oba. He is very reliable and of sound and

ARCHIVE

balanced judgment. As he was a great asset to all his employers, in whom much trust can be put, he became a great asset to the community and entire Ikaleland.

As a resourceful and intelligent secretary, for instance, he used to close for the day's work when there was no more to be done for the day. That is why till today, no one can find Oba Gbadebo idle. He is always busy with one thing or the other.

Oba Bajowa's life ambition was to become a verbatim reporter in the House of Representatives having obtained the necessary qualification. His inspiration to become a verbatim reporter began the very day he went to the house of parliament to see his brother, major General Oluyemi Bajowa (rtd) while working there as a clerk. There, Oba bajowa saw verbatism reporters recording the proceedings of the house at a very high speed' there and then Oba Bajowa derived is desire to be one of them in the future. Today, even if Oba bajowa did not become a verbatism reporter as was anticipated, he rose to the pinnacle of his carrier as a secretary before the nature beckoned to him to become an Oba.

Oba Bajowa's many honours include:

1. Notable citizen of Nigeria (NCN) 1987 by the Oluyole institution of management and vocational studies

2. Justice of peace (JP) 1988 By the Ondo State Government
3. Institutes Highest ward of honorary fellowship (FIAMN) by the certified and distinguished traditional administrator
4. Institute highest award of honorary fellowship (CDTA) by the Nigerian certified and distinguished traditional administrator
5. Honourable fellowship of the Nigerians Society of Philanthropist (FSNP) INC by the Nigerian society of philanthropist.
6. Honourable fellowship of the Nigerians Society at Philanthropist (APPEL) By the Africa part of peace and exceptional leadership
7. Oba Bajowa was president at the defunct Ikale Local Government and later Okitipupa Local Government
8. He is the Patron, National Students Union as well as President and/or Chairman of man Clubs and Association all over the country
9. He was Pro Chancellor of Adekunle Ajasin University where he influenced so many trail-blazing achievements.

Having mounted the throne at the age of 35, Prince Ghaticho Bajowa who succeeded Oba D.I. Juba was the youngest Rebuja ever to ascend the throne of the legendary Osooro

Kingdom (comprising of Ilutitun, Iju Odo, Igbotako, Erekiti, Iju Oke down to its adjunct settlements up to Ajobandele and parts of Ogun State). Following his unanimous nomination as the New Rebuja, the King Makers forwarded his name to the Ondo State Government and approval of his appointment was made on the 22nd of July 1977 which was published in the Ondo State of Nigeria Official Gazette, Notice no 189 on 20th October 1977. The ceremonial and traditional installation of Gbadebo Bajowa as the New Rebuja was glorious. It was the first time the Jomo Yetowo Ruling house would produce a candidate and the entire community embraced his choice.

The journey has not been an easy one for the Rebuja who was caught off at the prime of his youth to come and live in the village. But November 1977 would remain indelible in the history of Igbotako and Osooro. The entire Osooro came to together for the installation. Comfort Omoge (rising star at the time) and Juju superstar, King Sunny Ade were at the bandstands. Igbotako was totally agog. All women were clad in white dress and witnesses say there has not been a day like that since then in the historic town.

Looking back, Oba Gbadebo Bajowa gives all the glory to God Almighty. He described his journey of life as reflection of destiny and that he is full gratitude to God. An orator and great writer, Oba Gbadebo loves peace and always embraces anything that would unite Osooro Kingdom.

ARCHIVE

Letter to Jimoh Ibrahim

Osooro Kingdom under Oba Gbadebo Bajowa: Legacies of peace and unity

The greatest achievement of any political leader whether traditional, democratic or military is to attain peace for the community. Traditional rulers whose tenure were marked with crisis and insecurity have no good portions in the record of history of such community. Thus, analysts believe that the greatest achievement of Oba Bajowa is “peace and unity”

Many people take it for granted that there is absolute love in Osooro Kingdom today just by coincidence. It is not so. It is the product of silent works and lobbies for individual citizens and towns to attain this and the arrowhead has been Oba Bajowa. A very humble king, Oba Gbadebo would do anything possible to have peace. Even when hamlets and villages under did things that should irk him as the paramount ruler, Oba Gbadebo would use maturity and wisdom to tackle such issues and usually he would have the last laugh, although initially his subjects sometimes think he was slow to act. Rather, he is a very methodic person.

Oba Gbadebo used his profession as a writer to maximum effect. to develop. He has written thousands of reference letters many of which fetched his subjects admissions, employments, promotions, etc At other times, he would jump into his car at his own cost to ensure his reference letters get through. No wonder, Osooro indigenes are soaring high in various professions across the nation. In terms of amenities,

he contributed to the establishment of Comprehensive Health Centres (later General Hospital) in Igbotako, Iju Odo and Ilutitun, apart from various other maternity centres. Electricity projects were also commissioned in Igbotako, Iju Odo, Erekiti, Iju Oke and Omotoso during his reign. Other various progressive achievements were: reinstatement of Igbotako Police Station which is now a Divisional Police Station (attained in collaboration with DCP Bode Ojajuni), Bishops Court in Ilutitun, Community banks, Town Halls, revival of Chief Magistrate Courts (in collaboration with the Igbotako Development Forum, upgrading of Igbotako Post Office to a departmental status, construction of churches and renovation of the town's mosque, and the reconstruction of of the Logholoma Water Scheme.

Oba Bajowa has been dedicated to improving the living conditions of his people as much as humanly possible. Despite his own meager resources on mounting the throne and his own personal responsibilities, he is always at home to help people.

The political life of the people of Osooro has witnessed what could be described as tremendous transformation during his 30 years on the throne. He encouraged the participation of Osooro indigenes in politics through motivation and unflinching support, knowing very well that when indigenes occupy political offices, they would certainly use their

political influence to bring development to the communities. Today, Osooro is one of the major centres of political activities and calculations in Ondo State. The Governor of Ondo State currently, is a subject of the monarch and through his spadework and activities of other indigenes, there is no doubt that some day, Osooro will produce the President of Nigeria. For his contributions to the development of the community, Oba Bajowa has carted home various awards, including Justice of Peace (1988), Fellowship Award of the Nigerian Society of Philanthropists, Highest Award of the Institute of Administrative Management of Nigeria. He is patron of so many clubs and societies including the National Students Union. Here is 45 *Kaaaaaabi-ye-si* and *gbosas* for a man of great intellect and an accomplished orator; a man of peace, a lover of unity of progress, indeed a man who has brought succor and development to his people.

Previous Rebuja:

- *Omajuwa was the first Oloja at Ode Moribodo His son, Monogbe succeeded him while Ojagbedo succeeded Monogbe. Bamido succeeded Monogbe Lubokun succeeded Bamido Lubokun 1 was succeeded by Akinboyewa. Akinboyewa was succeeded by Ikuyinminu succeeded Ikudamoro David Emoruwa Negwo succeeded Ikuyinminu. Cornelius Adeoye succeeded Negwo Daniel Juba succeeded Adeoye while Shadrack Gbadebo succeeded Oba Juba.*

ARCHIVE

About Osooro Kingdom

*Umale Masquerade Dancers*

Osooro Land is the melting pot of Ikale tradition; Being the home to one of the nine Ikale groups (Ikale mehan). Osooro is situated in the south western region of Nigeria, about 200 kilometers east of Lagos, between Ijebu Ode, and Ore along the Lagos/Benin city express way. Okitipupa a bustling city and Local Government headquarter for the region is about twenty minutes drive from Osooro land.

Osooro is an amalgamation of many towns, villages and hamlets namely: Ilutitun, Ijuodo, Igbotako, Erekiti, Ijuoke, Ilado, Agbetu, Abusoro, Akinfosile, Omotosho, Okeola, Ayetoro, Idogun, Ago Lailo, Mile 4, Lobuko, Ilebe, Ago Taiwo, Ago Lailo.

Osooro`s neighbors to the east are the Edos (Benin, Edo State), to the West are the Ijebus (Ogun State), the Ondos to the North and the Ilajes to the south (Ondo State).

Osooro is surrounded by rolling hills and valleys with fresh springs and rivers that swell before emptying into the lagoon and the Atlantic ocean. Blessed with natural resources (kaoline for natural paint and chalk, Butimen for natural asphalt), palm plantations stretched across the land, evidence of abundant natural resources and agriculture the region can produce.

*Akoko women singers***FESTIVALS**

Socially Osooro bubbles with festivals and traditional activities such as Iwo, Etadun, and Umale

At present, The paramount king of Osooro is His Royal Highness, Oba Shadrack Gbadebo Bajowa JP. Lubokun IV The Rebuja of Osooro. Other traditional rulers in Osooro include, Oba Lorofun Of Ijuodo, Oba Majuwa of Ilutitun, Olu Oke of Ijuoke, and many Baales and Chiefs who are leaders of smaller communities such as Agbetu, Abusoro, Lobuko, Ilebe etc..

Osooro Resources Organization is engaged in an aggressive drive to maintain our heritage of unity, attract domestic and foreign investment in agriculture, education, and technology. We are committed to this effort and call on all people for support.

Culled From: <https://akinscogist.blogspot.com/2015/05/read-history-of-osooro-here.html>

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ADVERT

Oladapo Fadeni Quiz Competition 2022

REQUEST FOR ENTRIES

As part of its social responsibility of advancing educational development of Ikaleland, the management of **Ikale News** is collaborating with the children and friends of legendary Ode-Aye born entrepreneur, the late Chief Oladapo Fadeni to organize an annual Quiz Competition among all secondary schools in Ikaleland. All bonafide students (Ikale and non-ikale) whose schools are located in Ikaleland (i.e. Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas) are eligible to apply for this competition.

The competition is open to bonafide secondary school students in public and private schools in Irele and Okitipupa Local Government Areas in two categories. (a) Junior Secondary School (JSS) Category
(b) Senior Secondary School (SSS) Category.

Objectives

- To stimulate educational development of Ikaleland
- To contribute positively to the individual preparations of students intending to sit for Junior and Senior West African School Certificate Examinations
- To foster friendship among young Ikale people
- To provide some support for intelligent and brilliant pupils/students in Ikaleland
- To energize interest of the young ones in educational pursuits

Methodology

How to Apply

- a) Applications are open from January-March of every year from eligible students who are to register and submit their applications online by the completing the Application Form through ikalenews.com.
- b) Each interested school is to be represented by two TWO (2) students for each category
- c) The Principal of each school wishing to present competitors is to complete application forms online on behalf of the contestants.
- d) In completing the application form, the School will be required to indicate the following with respect for each category that it is competing in:
 - I. Full name of the education institutions
 - II. Indication if it is a private or public school
 - III. Full names of the student nominees
 - IV. Telephone Numbers of the students (if they have)
 - V. Email addresses of the students (this is compulsory)
 - VI. Location of the your educational institution
 - VII. Name and signature of the Principal
 - VIII. Telephone number of the Principal

Note:

1. Information provided by competitors will be verified and information found to be false leads to automatic disqualification of the application.
2. Institutions can substitute representatives after Round One, if they so wish. But such should be done also online before the commencement of the Second Final Round
3. No entries will be allowed after July 31 2022
4. Uploading of passport photos of competitors is compulsory

Competition Process

The Junior and Senior Secondary School competition will take place concurrently as follow:

- Application and processing of entries (January 1- July 31, 2022)
- Round One (concurrently for Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas) (April – July 2022)
- Final Round concurrently for Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Areas) (June- Aug 2022)
- Grand Finale (To be held in either Ode-Irele or Okitipupa on October 1, 2022)

Subject Areas

The competition will based on the following subjects:

Senior Secondary Category:

MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, GOVERNMENT, HISTORY OF NIGERIA, and IKALE CULTURE

Junior Secondary Category:

MATHEMATICS, INTEGRATED SCIENCE, YORUBA LANGUAGE, CIVIC EDUCATION, ENTERPRENEURSHIP and IKALE CULTURE

Application fee: FREE

Star Prizes:

1st Prize –

Certificate, Trophy and One Hundred Thousand Naira Cash (with numerous consolation prizes for school and winning students)

2nd Prize

Certificate, Plaque and Seventy Thousand Naira Cash (with numerous consolation prizes for school and winning students)

3rd Prize

Certificate, Plaque and Fifty Thousand Naira Cash (with numerous consolation prizes for school and winning students)

So many numerous consolation prizes are being provided by the children and friends of the late Chief Oladapo Fadeni, which the competition is named after.

The Quiz Competition video will be uploaded on ikalenews.com

Watch out for development and progress on this event in ikalenews.com, Nigeria's Number One Community News Media Network.

Signed: Bolu John Folayan, PhD
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

FEATURE

IKALE KIDS

The Importance of Good Character

Hello kids,

How are you and your studies?

Last time we discussed *The Importance of Good Character*. We explained the need for us to have the following characters traits that you will find valuable as you grow up. These are: passion, respect, fairness, humility, honesty and obedience above all godliness. I hope you were able to pick these characters and have started making use of them. I can assure you that if you have those attributes, you would be great.

In this edition, I want to the flipside of those character traits. I will tell you a story and you must pick lessons from it that will help you as you grow up because even too much of some character traits can cause problems for you.

Be careful of the type of help you render.

Long time ago, there was good relationship between animals and human beings. One day, the snake was running from the eagle that wanted to kill and eat it, so it ran as fast as it could to avoid being killed.

The snake came across a farmer in his farm and begged him to save him from the Eagle that was about to kill him. The farmer said there was nowhere to hide him so the snake suggested that the farmer swallow him so that if the Eagle searched everywhere it could not see him and he would come out when the Eagle might have left.

So without hesitation and thinking twice the farmer swallowed the snake in his stomach to hide the snake.

Truly the eagle came and as expected, searched everywhere and could not see the snake. He later asked the farmer if he had seen the snake, the farmer denied seeing the snake. The Eagle left, the farmer now asked the snake to come out as the Eagle had left and no more in the

vicinity. But the snake declined and said the farmer's stomach is more comfortable than the outside.

The snake added that his kidney, lungs and other parts are even more nourishing and good for meal. The farmer begged and begged but the snake did not answer. The snake began to eat all the food the farmer eat everytime.so the farmer began to shrink. Soon, he became very lean.

Many of the animals were worried and they asked him what happened as they saw the farmer emaciating every day. They also begged the snake to come out but it refused. So, one day, the marabou stork bird (known in Yoruba as *Akalamagbo* came to the farmer that he would ask the snake to come out and that as soon as it does, he should use a sharp rod to hook and bring the snake out.

So as the snake was coming out the farmer wanted to use the sharp rod to hook the snake and bring out but the rod hit the bird by the neck and the gullet almost cut. So the bird dropped the snake back into the farmer's stomach and the bird went to treat himself.



After few weeks the vulture also came to help out, using the same method but the rod hit the head of the vulture and that explains why till today, the vulture has a bald head.



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

With no help in sight. The farmer resigned to his fate. This story is the origin of the Yorubaa proverb that says. *Oore ni Igun se to palori, oore lakalamagbo se to yo gege lorun.* (The help that the vulture rendered that it became bald head, the help the Marabou stork bird did that it has a protruding gullet.)

One day, the tortoise came and asked the farmer what happened and he told him the story. So, the tortoise (always clever) persuaded the snake to come out, so that he would not decide the case hearing from one side.

He asked the snake too to come out and say his part so he can see his face to face as he's seeing the farmer too and that after he must have given his own report too he will go back to the farmer's stomach. So the snake came out to say his own part and was not allowed to re-enter the farmer. That was how the tortoise saved the farmer from the ingrate snake.

Children were you able to learn one or two lessons from the story?

You must be careful and weigh all options when rendering help. Do not render help that will backfire on you later. These days the world is full of evil people. Whatever help that will affect you negatively do not do it. Also do not be an ingrate like the snake. We should not pay evil to someone that was good to us especially at critical time. That is why Yoruba elders counsel the younger ones: "Se oore ni won" ("Measure the good deeds that you do" i.e. be careful when doing good.

Till next month keep being a good (Ikale) child.
Bye. O dabo.

GALLERY

Stella Maris College Old students remember Alma-matter, Constructs New Gate



GALLERY

Stella Maris: Dignitaries And Old Students At The Ceremony





OMOSO CLUB OF IGBOTAKO

OMOSO ESSAY COMPETITION & OMOOSO BENSON AKINDEJU LEADERSHIP SPEECH 2022

CALL FOR ENTRIES

In pursuant of its mandate to instigate the moral, social, economic, human capital and educational development of Igbotako Community and its indigenes, the Omooso Club Igbotako hereby announces the commencement of its Annual Essay Competition & Omoso Asiwaju Benson Akindeju Leadership Speech for the Year 2022.

The competition is in two categories for undergraduates (those who are students of polytechnics, monotechnics, universities or equivalent tertiary institutions within and outside Nigeria).

Eligibility

- § At least one of the biological parents of the competitor must be bonafide indigene of Igbotako (as verified and confirmed by the Paramount Ruler of Osooro Kingdom, Oba Gbadebo Bajowa)
- § Competitor must be a verifiable student of the institution claimed for in the 2022/2023 academic session
- § The event will be in two steps:
 - i. Prequalification Essay: The contestant is required to submit in typewritten form an essay written by him or her on the topic: THIS IS WHERE I WILL BE IN 2032, in between 700 to 1,000 words.
 - ii. Final Presentation: Ten (10) finalists (writers of the best ten essays) will be selected for the final selection in which they will deliver the Omooso Asiwaju Benson Akindeju Leadership Speech. The contestants will have no prior knowledge of the exact topic of the speech until one hour to the presentation.

How to Apply

Eligible sons and daughters of Igbotako who wish to participate in the competition should do the following:

1. Log on to ikalenews.com/events/omoso-competition
2. Complete application form
3. Upload your essay with your photograph
4. Submit

Note: The entry form is FREE

Final Competition

1. The ten most outstanding competitors will be given access to make the OMOSO ASIWAJU BENSON AKINDEJU LEADERSHIP SPEECH which will be viewed on zoom worldwide.
2. The ten finalists will be given a topic on LEADERSHIP, one hour to the commencement of the zoom conference and a distinguished panel of experts will assess them and pick the top-three speakers.
3. Each of the contestants will make their speeches in 10 minutes

Prizes

First Place Prize – N70,000 (Seventy thousand naira cash), + Plaque + Certificate
 Second Place Prize – N50,000 (Fifty thousand naira cash), + Plaque + Certificate
 Third Place Prize – N30,000= (Thirty thousand naira cash), + Plaque + Certificate

Timelines

January – July 2022: Submission of entries

July 2022: Announcement of the Best 10 Essays

September 2022: Omoso Asiwaju Akindeju Leadership Speech 2022 + Presentations of Prizes to Winners

NOTES:

- ü The top-three winning essays will be published in *Ikale News*
- ü Videos of the Omoso Asiwaju Benson Akindeju Leadership Speech will be uploaded on ikalenews.com and *Youtube*.

Signed:

Omoso (Dr.) Olusegun Ayodele
(President)