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VOL II. NO 2S, AUGUST 2024.

FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NEW LCDAs MAY BE SCRAPPED



At The Bitumen Commission Bill Public Hearing, Abuja

As Supreme Court Judgement Rattles Aiyedatiwa

Also In This Edition



Full report on Bitumen Bill Public hearing



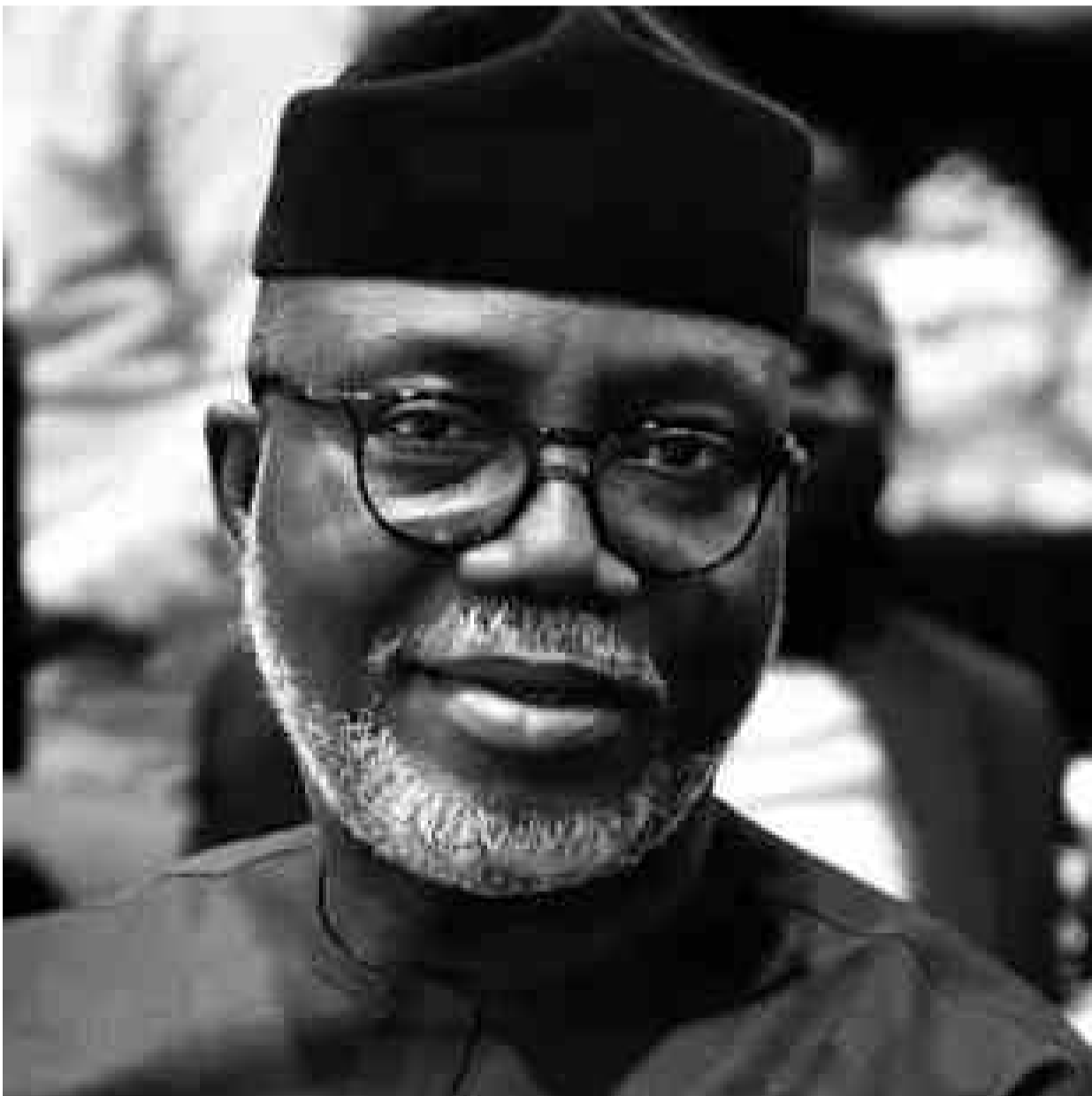
Ikale News Publisher writes open letter to Gov. Aiyedatiwa



Ukoto Oma Ikale: "we are not touts" says NURTW Boss



Martinz Oloja, Ori Adelokiki, Baba liliken, Ikale Kids are back



IKALE SCHOLARS AWARDS

MARGARET OLATUNDE AKINNUSI SCHOLARSHIP FORM IS OUT!

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EDITORIAL PAGE

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Compliment to all our readers at home and abroad.

How did the protest go in your location. Well, I know there was no protest in Ondo state. But elsewhere in Nigeria, ur people felt the pang of angry Nigerians. Even those in the UK has their own equivalence. Hmm

My personal view is that protest have their good and bad. Sometimes, we need to protest so that our leaders will know exactly what we are going through.

I've been close to many people in government, and I can assert that many times this people do not know what is going on in the outside world the hear and know that things are hard, but the context of this is a mirage to them.

Then protest do not have to come in the form of marching on the streets or committing violence and disorder. Yet it is very difficult to keep even the most peaceful

process from escalating into anarchy.

That we did not protest in Ondo state does not mean we are comfortable. I think what it means is that we accept Tinubu's plea that we give him more time.

I do hope he will reward that unique civil obedience at the right time

This edition contains your regulars : Ukoto Oma Ikale, Baba Liliken and Columns Martins Oloja is back. He has more time for us now that he has retired as Managing Director of *The Guardian*. Two new Columnist have been uploaded - Divine gift Column will write for us from the Gen-z Perspective, while consummate entrepreneur, Orimisan Adelokiki will anchor a new column to redirect our youths towards commercial farming. The concept of feedback is important in journalism. So these

edition accommodate three of over 25 letters that we received from my readers since February. Community journalism is not one way. It must be two way; we must hear from you out there.

From Next edition, we will close in on the November gubernatorial elections. Although as publisher, I support Mr Lucky Aiyedatiwa, Ikale news is available for all political parties and candidates at no fees, feel free to use this platform to promote your candidate please.

You will read in this edition my Open letter to Governor Aiyedatiwa. I hope it takes my advice. We were also able to get Canada based scholar and entrepreneur, Femi Akinnusi to speak on this Ikale scholarship initiative.

Enjoy the edition!
Till next edition.

**Bolu John Folayan, PhD mnipr
Publisher.**

Letter to the Editor:**Celebrating Ondo South's
Electricity Restoration**

Dear Editor,

Iwant to extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved in restoring electricity to the Ondo South Senatorial District after an unbelievable 17 years of darkness. This remarkable achievement wouldn't have been possible without the relentless efforts of individuals like Hon. Mike Omogbehin, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, and the numerous community leaders who fought tirelessly for our right to power. Their dedication has finally paid off, bringing much-needed development opportunities to our communities. Now, we must work together to ensure that we maintain our electricity supply by paying our bills promptly and supporting further infrastructure improvements.

Warm regards,

Tunde Olaseni
Iju-Odo

**Setting an Agenda for the New
Governor**

Dear Editor,

With the upcoming governorship election in Ondo State, it is crucial for the candidates to articulate clear and actionable agendas that prioritize economic growth and social welfare. Agriculture, education, and infrastructure development should be at the forefront of their policies. Furthermore, the new governor must focus on innovative revenue generation strategies, leveraging local resources effectively. Collaboration with experienced figures like Senator Jimoh Ibrahim can provide valuable insights into income generation. Let us elect a leader who is committed to driving Ondo State forward, ensuring prosperity for all residents.

Adekunle Ajayi
(Okitipupa)

**Embracing the Cultural Legacy of
the Ikale People**

Dear Editor,

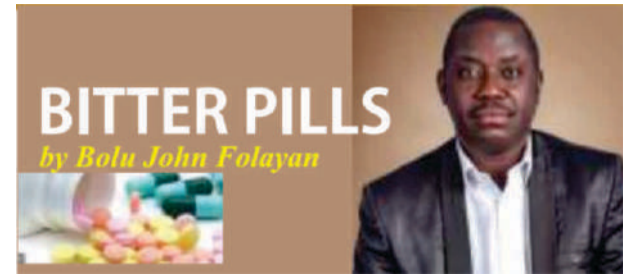
Iam writing in response to the editorial celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Ikale people. The pieces on our traditional festivals and crafts were not only informative but also a powerful reminder of our unique identity. It is heartening to see that despite the rapid modernization and the influence of external cultures, the Ikale people continue to uphold traditions that define our community.

I commend the efforts of local artists, cultural historians, and community leaders who tirelessly work to preserve and promote our cultural heritage. Initiatives such as the annual Oluge festival are instrumental in educating the younger generations and instilling pride in our roots. Let us all contribute to preserving these cultural practices that bind us together and keep the spirit of Ikale alive.

Regards,
Omotola Eniola (Tboy)
London

BITTER PILL

Open Letter To Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa



My Dear Governor,

Please accept my compliments. I need to put this letter in context from the start so you are not in doubt about its purpose.

Sir, the purpose of this letter is not to seek appointment or favour. It is to basically to reason with you on how to move our beloved state forward, politically, economically and developmentally. Please do not consider me for any appointment. We have scores of people so much qualified than me who can serve our state more dutifully. I am only writing this to contribute my ideas to make you one of the greatest leaders we have ever had in Ondo State. I have no doubt whatsoever that you will win in November, by God's grace. This is a personal opinion.

When you had issues with your former boss, the late Aketi Olurotimi Akeredolu (perhaps your toughest experience

politically), I did an open letter to Aketi to do the needful by handing over power to you. The rest, as they say, is history. And when you had to slug it out in the primaries, I did ask you not to waste our slot in Ondo South by serving only a term (maximum) and leaving it open. Of course, I preferred Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim (CFR) who I know quite honestly to be prodigiously gifted in finding solutions to our development challenges. As it turned out, you have emerged after a very difficult primary process. You played the game of politics from a different angle. Congratulations, sir.

Now, Oga Governor, get to work very fast. Yes, I know there is still election in November. I am very optimistic that you will win. I have considered options and your competitive environment, unless you lose on technical grounds (such as court of law), you will win. With three solid senators, house of reps members,

state assembly members and the Federal support, and of course all your giant primary co-contestants caving in to support you, how can you lose. So, sir, don't waste too much money and time on this election. You are highly favoured.

Sir, there is little time left for you to turn Ondo State round positively. You have use the last one year to do politics and stabilize. You have stabilized now, sir. Please get to work. Before I give my advice, let me paint a necessary background.

I had the privilege of serving in the ad hoc team that prepared the handing over notes of Dr. Olusegun Agagu. When the case instituted against him by Dr. Olusegun Mimiko went on appeal in Benin, he drafted me to join Dr. Eddy Olafeso (Commissioner for Information) to prepare some of his handing over ntes. Agagu was deeply intellectual. He had opportunity to bribe his way to win the case but he vowed never to cough the humongous amount being mentioned then to keep him power. He said he would rather work on his Plan B – 'leave with honours in case judgment was given to Mimiko.' It came out that way.

My participation in that team exposed me to the huge potentials of our state and how Agagu doggedly and systemically went about transmuted us to another "Lagos State" out of the blues. That informed how he left Alagbaka with almost N40 billion cash reserve and absolutely no debt to any contractor or pensioners. He had cleared arrears owed all contractors owed by the AD administration. In fact, just look for my political biography of Agagu (Olusegun Agagu:

A political biography). Pastor Femi

BITTER PILLS

Agagu can easily give you enough copies to go round your commissioners and permanent secretary. That book will be a rich resource material to take off from where Agagu stopped. I meant that. Some of the suggestions I will give you here are the reasons Agagu succeeded remarkably. I am very convinced you can do better than Agagu if you follow the advice. I also add here some of the ideas I got from the legendary Governor, the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande. I also wrote his biography (Legacies of Leadership). Governor Babatunde Fashola requested for a copy of the book when he became governor. I believe he found it very useful, because Fashola too was outstanding as governor of Lagos State.

Here we go:

1. PUT ROUND PEGS IN ROUND HOLES. There will be serious pressure on you for positions. You can and must satisfy such pressures, but always put the right persons on the job sir. You have enough hands in APC who are indigenes of our state who can do the job. Look for them from across the world and bring them home to help you. Jakande told me: "There was one person who worked so hard during the campaigns and he and everyone thought he would be made commissioner for works. I put him as commissioner in the civil service commission. Initially, he did not like it. But eventually, he came back to thank me that I put him where he fitted best."

2. DO PROPER DIAGNOSIS. Agagu used the intellectual approach to govern. A scientist never takes action unless he or she had diagnosed the problem. The problem of our leadership is that we try to solve problems without proper diagnosis. Use the 80/20 rule, i.e. spend 80 per cent of the effort to diagnose the problem. You will need only 20 per cent of the effort to solve the problem. Awo did it. Jakande did it. Agagu did it. Fashola did it. It

is scientific governance. It can never fail you. What is the problem? Oh, you have low IGR! Diagnose why. The why will tell you the solutions, if well done. As I write this, we are in the thick of Olympics. In the past we would have at least two or three Ilaje representing us in swimming there. The time of Imisi Jolomi! So, how did we go so low in sports? Poor agricultural yields? You have to start with diagnosis. So, sir, you have not started governance at all (with due respect). *E ba binu* that I put it like that. When Agagu was doing his diagnosis, politicians were impatient with him. They said he used one year to do Road Map. "*Se road map la fe je ni?*" He did not answer them. But it was the same thing Jakande did. During the campaigns, Jakande worked with data.

“
Ilaje
and Ese Odo
alone can match
what Gambia
produces.”

He wanted to do free education. At the time, schools in Lagos State were doing three shifts. With the stats, Jakande knew exactly how many classrooms he needed to construct, where and for how much. He had asked Ebitu Ukiwe the Military Administrator how much the State had in the coffers. That one said nothing in the purse, just like Buhari left nothing for Tinubu. That Jakande should forget his free education "joker".

So, Jakande knew he would meet the accounts in the red. He decided that he would raise land charges by 100 per cent and create the now famous Lekki Peninsula. That was how he got the money to do his free education. He abolished shift system the day he was sworn in as governor. He did not need any mega schools. The National Party of Nigeria (NPN) called his school buildings "poultry sheds". But they were good enough for what he wanted to do. And they were later re-developed to standard buildings by subsequent governors. Government is a continuum. You even had the privilege of doing your GCE in one of the schools, Mr. Governor (at Ikosi Ketu). You must have a Road Map, which will be your Bible.

3. GENERATE INCOME AND WORK WITHIN YOUR INCOME: If you want to develop Ondo State, you will need to look beyond Federal Allocations from Abuja, Mr. Governor. It won't move our state forward. We are so blessed with huge resources to succeed. Sir, do you know Dr. Agagu had perfected the location of Dangote Refinery in Olokola Ondo State before Gov Ibikunle Amosun frustrated it. It was not really Mimiko who killed that dream but he contributed by not prevailing on Amosun. Imagine if that investment is in our beloved state!. Dangote bought the land alone for \$100 million dollars from Lagos State Government! Not to worry. We still have the longest coastline by any state in West Africa waiting to be exploited. Gambia relies on fishing as a country. Ilaje and Ese Odo alone can match what Gambia produces. Arable farming is there. The lumbering that you see in Ondo State was not natural. Awo brought teak wood to Ondo and

BITTER PILL

Ogun States (Western State then). Teak never dies. You cut it, it grows. Tar sand... and the big one: Bitumen. Not to talk of oil and gas. You are sitting to stupendous wealth, Mr. Governor. Make the difference. But you need to make income. Money solves all problems. What you get from Abuja can never be enough. To generate the money is very simple. You have to reach out to those who have the talents to make money. Those who smell money from afar! You may use them as consultants.

4. FORM SYNERGY WITH CIVIL SERVANTS. Civil servants can make or mar your administration. You have to know how to work with them and work without them. There are some works that only civil servants can deliver and some that civil servants can never deliver. Sort them. Don't loathe civil servants. Don't they are ignoramuses. But you have to creatively use them. A mix of technocrats, politicians and civil servants helped Fashola, Jakande, Agagu and the grandmaster, Obafemi Awolowo to excel. When you want something done very fast, don't give to civil servants. They will slow you down. But when you want something meticulously and methodically done, you must commit to civil servants. If you don't want to go to jail after being governor, let civil servants and technocrats control your due process office.

5. EMPOWER POLITICAL BROKERS: This was the only mistake Agagu made. This is Nigeria. People are already saying you are tight-fisted. The politicians are there to chop. How to develop the state is none of their business. You have to find a meeting point. My suggestion is that you keep some projects (that are not so

fundamental) for them. They have their own merits and advantages. You need to continue to enjoy the support of the people, for instance. They are the ones who will do it. And, honestly, they need money to do this job. You have to empower



CJN, ARIWOOLA

them. It won't stop you from doing the greater works. For instance, you may create low-handing projects such as building 5,000 solar powered boreholes, 100 rural roads and squarely give it to political leaders. It does not mean you won't supervise them to deliver. But ensure that you empower politicians.

6. SET PRIORITIES: Mr. Governor, you need to have clear focus. 24 years after Jakande governed Lagos State, everyone can remember his top four priorities: Free education, free health, full employment and housing. You cannot solve all problems at once. Stick to your top priorities.

7. BE PRUDENT: You already are, from what I hear. That's the way to go. Run the state using our ethos in Ikale/Ilaje/Apoi culture. We do

things in moderation. We brought nothing to this world and we would go with nothing. All these wealth our politicians are amassing is pure madness. Do not join them. Build people. Build institutions. And be prudent (not aka-gum). Being miserly is not the same as being prudent.

Mr. Governor, you don't really have time. You cannot wait till after November to start planning. Start now: Right now! Before you are sworn in in February, you are ready to go. Your Road Map must be fully ready. The structure of the new government must be ready now. All these appointments you have been making, with due respect, won't take you anywhere sir. Not that the people you have been appointing are not good. Oh, they are fantastic! But the structure of your government is the problem. You are still working within the box. You need to think and work outside the box sir. Start by constituting a Committee to develop your Road Map immediately.

That's going to be the Bible of your Administration. They will do the diagnosis of the state for you. If you want to generate N50 billion IGR per month, tell the team. You will be shocked they will tell you how you can do it. Is it not ideas? You will be shocked how whiz kids will come up with impossible ideas to generate even much more for you. Our problem is that politicians will not allow these guys to step close to you. You have to know how to draw the line.

You must write your name in gold. Money will finish. There is no amount of money you will make in government that will make a difference in your life. Concentrate on leaving lasting legacies like Awolowo, Jakande and Agagu did. May God help you, Mr. Governor.

COVER

NEW LCDAs MAY DIE -As Supreme Court ruling rattles State Governments

By Samuel Olaniyan (Acting Editor)



the Exco to approve the new councils.

But as political altercations for succession of the late governor Rotimi Akeredolu escalated, Gov. Aiyedatiwa, now a substantive governor allegedly bowed to a state high court judgement brought by the People's Democratic Party (PDP) against the new law. The governor therefore ordered the suspension of the inauguration of the council areas. (See full list in this edition of *Ikale News*).

Now that the governorship election (scheduled for November) is approaching, Gov Aiyedatiwa eventually bowed to pressures from political pundits to find a political solution to the creation of the council areas which in general terms made the All Progressives Congress (APC) more popular in the state on the premise that failure to do so could cost the APC victory in the November elections.

Initially the governor promised to hold elections into the councils and council development areas before the November election. He quickly cancelled the plans for no stated reasons and constituted caretaker leadership for the councils and council development areas. Within 24 hours of the lucky governor's action, the Supreme Court decided on the contentious case brought by the Federal Government that councils recognized in the 1999 Constitution must henceforth access their funds from the Federal Account directly and not through the state governments or Joint Accounts with State Governments.

The template Asiwaju Bola Tinubu started when he created LCDAs as governor was for the 20 LGs in Lagos State to share its statutory income from the Federation Account with the remaining 33 LCDAs that the State House of Assembly created. This template was adopted by several other state governments nationwide (notably, Ekiti, Ogun, Oyo and numerous other states). Some other states did not create LCDAs yet they feasted on incomes belonging to local councils. As president, Tinubu began to field the pangs of poor governance and strategically decided to bring government close to the people. He

There are indications that the newly-created local government development councils in Ondo State may die a natural sudden death, following a recent Supreme Court on revenue allocation in the Federation.

The development is already sending shockwaves across states. While some state governments (like Ondo and Lagos) have formed special committees to assess the situation, some others (notably, Gov. Seyi Makinde of Oyo State) have decided to take up the Supreme Court on the issue. Already, Seyi Makinde is instigating chairmen of the LCDAs he created to form a power bloc against the Federal Government.

The reason the governors have been rattled is because virtually all of them feed fat on local government income and they have practically grounded activities of governance at the third tier.

The [Ondo](#) house of assembly, in August last year has passed the bill for the creation of 33 additional local council development areas (LCDAs) in the state. Presenting the report of the committee at the plenary on Tuesday, Abayomi Akinruntan, deputy speaker of the house, said there is a need to consider the cultural homogeneity of the people in boundary demarcation of the new LCDAs, urging the state's surveyor general to take note.

Akinruntan spoke in respect of protests by some communities that kicked against the creation of the LCDAs, as a political exercise aimed at ceding their ancestral lands to other communities. On his part, Oladiji Olamide, the speaker, said the bill was in line with the state government's goal to fast-track development at the grassroots. The state's acting governor then, Lucky Aiyedatiwa led



felt that if the councils access their funds directly, it would make more positive impact on the people. This is especially so because most of the state governments divert local government funds away from the statutory functions of local government and this had created a wide gap in delivering dividends of democracy to the masses. Tinubu therefore approached the Supreme Court for ruling on the matter.

Below are the highlights of the Supreme Court judgment:

- **Direct payment to Local Government:** The Supreme Court ordered that federal government should pay allocations due to local governments directly, bypassing state governments
- **Abolition of Joint State Local Government Account:** The judgement abolished the old practice of a Joint State Local Government Account (JAC) where money was paid to state governments' accounts for disbursement to local governments.
- **Financial Autonomy for Local Governments:** The Supreme Court further granted financial autonomy to local governments, allowing them to receive funds directly and managing their affairs without interference from state governments.

- **Prohibition on State Governments Dissolving State Governments:** The highest court also decided that no state government has power to dissolve duly elected local governments as identified in Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution
- **Promotion of Transparency and Accountability:** The court directed the local governments that they are legally liable to account for funds they access from the Federation Account and that they must henceforth show probity and accountability.

While the ruling was widely received with joy across Ondo State in the rural areas even amongst politicians the state government was rattled and at the time of going to press was at a loss on what to do. The major option left for it to sustain its 33 LCDAs now is to fund it directly. For instance, before the JAC, Okitipupa local government council used to collect between one and two billion naira sometimes, per month. It was able to do quite many project projects for instance under the Olusegun Aiyerin administration. But since the introduction of JAC, the councils only paid salaries.

Said an Irele-based APC chieftain who craved anonymity: "During the time of Ayo Ifayefunmmi, Irele local government gave

bursaries to our students. Now, a local government only buys cars for councilors and the chairman. It is that bad. This supreme court judgment will restore government at the lower level of governance."

The party chieftain commended Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa for restoring the LCDAs as enacted by the House of Assembly but stressed "unfortunately, you cannot build something on illegality."

A Lagos based community activist, Chief Olu Aiyebiwo told *Ikale News* that the only hope for sustaining the councils is for Aiyedatiwa to work out an arrangement with the old councils where the councils were created and also provide additional funding for the LCDAs from the state's own resources, not local government's resources.

He stressed further: "For example, if SDP wins Okitipupa local government election, it may not fund the LCDAs from its statutory incomes. This means the LCDAs have to generate their own incomes. But if the same party controls the council and LCDAs, then the LCDAs can be treated as "area offices" of the main council."

Reliable sources informed *Ikale News* that the National Assembly would soon complete the outlawing of State Electoral Commissions, which means that elections into councils would be conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). That would be the final death sentence on the LCDAs. It becomes illegal to conduct election into the councils.

Ikale News publisher, Dr. Bolu John Folayan, expressed hope in the rescuing the LCDAs if Gov Aiyedatiwa can think outside the box.

"What I mean by that is that the governor should simply enact a law that would make these LCDAs "area offices" of the council. For example, Ikale North LCDA and Ikale East LCDA and Ikale West LCDAs etc. would be Area Offices of Okitipupa and Irele Local Government Councils. So, when Okitipupa gets its allocation from Abuja, it would on its own give a percentage to the LCDAs. The LCDAs would be headed by Vice Chairmen. That way the lacuna is off. The LCDAs can generate income and spend. Its budget would come to the council for approval however. Etc."

Meanwhile, some of the council development areas in Ikale are already roaring for action. But without money and especially statutory funds, they are just political lame ducks.

COLUMN

The Spirit of Nigerian Youths: Shaping the Future from Our Villages

Nigeria is a country full of young people who have big dreams and the energy to make them come true. In our rural areas, far from the busy cities, these youths are showing incredible strength and creativity. They are essential to the future of Nigeria, bringing change and progress right from our villages.

Rural areas in Nigeria might seem quiet, but they are buzzing with life because of the hard-working youths. These young people are the backbone of farming, which is a big part of Nigeria's economy. They work tirelessly on the farms, growing crops and raising animals to feed not just their families, but the whole country.

Even though there are many challenges, like not having enough resources or good roads, young people in the villages are very innovative. Many of them start small businesses to meet the needs of their communities. From making handmade goods to using technology to improve farming, they are full of entrepreneurial spirit. For example, some young people are using mobile apps to help farmers with weather forecasts, market prices, and farming tips. These innovations are not just improving lives but are also inspiring other youths to become tech entrepreneurs.

Education is very important for the progress of our young people. In

the villages, getting a good education can be tough, but the desire to learn is very strong. Community groups and NGOs help by providing books, scholarships, and training in various trades. Vocational training centers are especially helpful. They teach young people skills like carpentry, tailoring, and mechanics. These skills help them get jobs or start their own businesses, making them self-reliant and contributing to the community.

Young people in the villages also keep our rich cultural traditions alive. They promote traditional music, dance, languages, and customs, which strengthens their sense of identity and community. Many of these young people are becoming leaders in their communities. They fight for better roads, schools, and healthcare. They organize groups, participate in local meetings, and work together to solve community problems. Their leadership shows their commitment to their community's future.

“
Ikale
youths wherever
they may be should
serve as tools for
rural development
at home.”

Gen-Z THOUGHTS



with Divinegift Solomon

Nigeria's future depends on empowering its youth, especially those in the villages. To do this, we need to invest in education, infrastructure, and technology. Better healthcare, reliable electricity, and the internet can transform rural areas, opening up new opportunities. Supporting young entrepreneurs with funding, training, and mentorship is also crucial. When young people have the support they need, their innovative ideas can grow, driving development across the country.

In conclusion, the youth in rural Nigeria are a symbol of hope and a force for change. Their resilience, creativity, and commitment to their communities are shaping a brighter future. By supporting them, we can build a stronger Nigeria where every young person, no matter where they come from, has the chance to succeed.

I therefore urge our Ikale youths wherever they may be to serve as tools for rural development at home. The future belongs to the youths.

Editor's Note: Divinegift is a mass communication student of Redeemer's University, Ede.

NEWS

PDP NWC Set up Caretaker Committee for Ondo



National Publicity Secretary, Peoples Democratic Party, Debo Ologunagba

The National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has established a State Caretaker Committee for the Ondo State chapter of the party. This development was announced in a statement issued on Thursday and signed by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba.

According to the statement, the caretaker committee was formed in line with Section 29(2)(b) of the party's Constitution. The statement read, "The National Working Committee of our great party, the Peoples Democratic Party has on behalf of the National Executive Committee pursuant to Section 29(2)(b) of our Constitution (as amended in 2017) approved the

composition of Ondo State PDP Caretaker Committee to run the affairs of the Ondo State chapter of our party."

The newly constituted committee is tasked with overseeing the party's operations in Ondo State as specified in Section 21(2)(a-b) of the PDP Constitution. The committee's mandate will last for a period not exceeding 90 days (three months), or until a new Executive Committee is elected.

The members of the Caretaker Committee are as follows:

- - Rt. Hon. Bakkita Olufowobi Bello (Chairman)
- - Oluseye Judes Olujimi (Secretary)
- - Tola Alabere (Member)

- - Dayo Awude (Member)
- - Bobby Omotosho (Member)
- - Fadope Amos Oniosayo (Member)
- - Olawuni Owolabi Fasonu (Member)
- - Barr. Moses Awofade (Member)
- - Boluwaji Bamidele (Member)
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- - Engr. Dare Akinwale (Member)
- - Kemisola Adesanya (Member)
- - Babatunde Daudu (Member)
- The NWC also urged all leaders, key stakeholders, and members of the party in Ondo State to maintain unity and collaborate towards the party's progress in the state.

Source: Rayo.

FOR THE RECORDS:

See Full List Of LGAs And LCDAs Transition Committee Members

Following the postponement of local government election by the Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission (ODIEC), the Governor of Ondo State, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has constituted Transition Committees for the 18 local government areas and 33 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the State.

The transition committees are to oversee the affairs of the LGs and LCDAs in the State until the local government election is held by the electoral body.

Meanwhile, the State government is currently examining the concerns raised by some communities over the delineations carried out during the creation of the LCDAs with a view to making the necessary amendments.

The members of the transition committees for the LGs and LCDAs are as follows:

ONDO STATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA AND LOCAL COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AREA TRANSITION COMMITTEE.

ONDO NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Akoko North East LGA

- Mohammed Olawale Mutiu - **Chairman**
- Folashade Gold Vice - **Chairman**
- Adeniyi Olayinka Bilau - **Secretary**
- Sunday Fagbemi - **Member**
- Arowolo Amisu Tosin - **Member**
- Fatima Folashade - **Member**
- Alhaji Umar Abdulasi - **Member**

Isowopo Lcda

- 1 Hon. Olupo Ibrahim - **Chairman**
- 2 Arohunmolase Taiwo - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Obayomi Philips - **Secretary**
- 4 Balogun Christiana - **Member**
- 5 Adeyanju Rowland - **Member**
- 6 Akinola Yina - **Member**
- 7 Adeniyi Akinrinbola - **Member**

Akoko North West

- 1 Olukoju Samuel Ajayi - **Chairman**
- 2 Akeju Ojo Francis - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Amubieya Adeniyi - **Secretary**
- 4 Salami Mujidat O. - **Member**
- 5 Akoja Ayodele Emmanuel - **Member**
- 6 Adekanbi Opeyemi Funmilayo - **Member**
- 7 Orisakiya Oduoyin Raphael. - **Member**

Arigidi /Erusu LCDA

- 1 Abiola Ojo - **Chairman**
- 2 Alade Ayorinde Michael - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Tanimola Emmanuel Mobola - **Secretary**
- 4 Abiola Mary Oluwamodupe - **Member**
- 5 Bello Eunice Bosedo - **Member**
- 6 Sunday Ogunjobi - **Member**
- 7 Adebayo Olatunbosun - **Member**

Irun/Ogbagi LCDA

- 1 Mohammed Taofeek - **Chairman**
- 2 Bello Ekundayo Vice - **Chairman**
- 3 Adesuyi Joseph Kayode - **Secretary**
- 4 Dauda Tobi - **Member**
- 5 Akinu Janet - **Member**
- 6 Balogun Olusiji - **Member**
- 7 Babalola Oluremi - **Member**

Akoko South East

- 1 Engr Ayegbo Omolehin Jude - **Chairman**
- 2 Olatunji Ademola - **Vice Chairman**

- 3 Olupese Kayode - **Secretary**
- 4 Mrs Idehen Ireti - **Member**
- 5 Balogun Kolawole - **Member**
- 6 Olofin Ahmed Ojo - **Member**
- 7 Omolehin Ebenezer Donald - **Member**

ILELABO LCDA

- 1 Alaye Adesina - **Chairman**
- 2 Owabori Samson - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Oguntoye Oluwabunmi - **Secretary**
- 4 Olatunji Beatrice - **Member**
- 5 Akuji Bode - **Member**
- 6 Adegboro Adeola Henry - **Member**
- 7 Tope Omoare - **Member**

AKOKO SOUTH WEST LCDA

- 1 Ayo Ajana - **Chairman**
- 2 Olumide Siliku - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Sakara Sunday Theophilus - **Secretary**
- 4 Amuroko Lawrence Jaiyeola - **Member**
- 5 Ojo Olenija - **Member**
- 6 Apata Moses Babatunde - **Member**
- 7 Adelakun Yaya - **Member**

Akoko South South LCDA

- 1 John Ayo Emmanuel - **Chairman**
- 2 Adeyelu Abioldun Lawson - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Daramola Adeyinka - **Secretary**
- 4 Adeyemo Olarewaju - **Member**
- 5 Agbi Adekunle Joshua - **Member**
- 6 Sunday Odunayo Solomon - **Member**
- 7 Shele Tope Samuel - **Member**

Ose LGA

- 1 Adunbi B. Idowu - **Chairman**
- 2 Kayode Okeowo T. - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Omage Folorunso - **Secretary**
- 4 Akinsola O. John - **Member**
- 5 Solomon Komolafe - **Member**
- 6 Akeredolu Oluwambe - **Member**
- 7 Mrs Sekinat Jimoh - **Member**

IREKARI LCDA

- 1 Denis Adekunle - **Chairman**
- 2 Odogun Babayemi Daisi - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Ajimuda Taiwo Oseni - **Secretary**
- 4 Animola Kolawole - **Member**
- 5 Foluke Catherine Abayomi - **Member**
- 6 Osho Godwin - **Member**
- 7 Agbogun Oluwafemi - **Member**

OREDEGBE LCDA

- 1 Olufowose C.O - **Chairman**
- 2 Ebegbe Benson F. - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Apenuwa Funmilayo E. - **Secretary**
- 4 Oduola Samson A. - **Member**
- 5 Okoudoh Ojo E. - **Member**
- 6 Prince Adekunle Olowojoba - **Member**
- 7 Com Adesunloye Idowu - **Member**

OWOLGA

- 1 Adegbegi Samuel Olabade - **Chairman**
- 2 Olugbode Oluwole - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Aderibigbe Alexander Oluwana - **Secretary**
- 4 Olanitori Olaolorunpo Samuel - **Member**
- 5 Clara Egbinola Adekolu - **Member**
- 6 Sherifat Obayemi - **Member**
- 7 Emmanuel Ayodele Bobade - **Member**

OWO EAST LCDA

- 1 Aganun Olatunbosun Samuel - **Chairman**
- 2 Olomiye Madewa - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Areoluwasola Moday - **Secretary**
- 4 Adebajji Modupe Josephine - **Member**
- 5 Orisadare Bila Bright - **Member**
- 6 Tope Sunday Imolehin - **Member**
- 7 Idris Ayodele Abubakar - **Member**

OWO NORTH EAST LCDA

- 1 Samuel Ogundele - **Chairman**
- 2 Taiwo Babatunde Adako - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Balogun Olu Isiaka - **Secretary**
- 4 Mrs. Abaire Elegwa - **Member**
- 5 Ogunbodede E. Funmilayo - **Member**
- 6 Rabi Rafat - **Member**
- 7 Adegboro Oluwole - **Member**

OWO NORTH WEST LCDA

- 1 Bar. Alaba Eniola - Ajipe - **Chairman**
- 2 Fajemiluyi Patricia Ruth - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Kazeem Sunday Gbenga - **Secretary**
- 4 Fagbamila Stephen Kehinde - **Member**
- 5 Famusiwa Odunayo Olarewaju - **Member**
- 6 Saka Oseni - **Member**
- 7 Ilesanmi Olalere - **Member**

OWO SOUTH LCDA

- 1 Lawalson Shehu Jimoh - **Chairman**
- 2 Ojomo Mary Achile - **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Razak Nurudeen - **Secretary**
- 4 Patience Balogun - **Member**
- 5 Tunde Adeleye - **Member**

FOR THE RECORDS:

6 Jimoh Olaposi Obabire **Member**
7 Mubarak Adekanbi **Member**

ONDO CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

AKURE NORTH LGA

1 Fayanju Omotayo **Chairman**
2 Adewole Helen Busola **Vice Chairman**
3 Faduma Emmanuel Oluwadare **Secretary**
4 Hon. Adebayo Bamidele Johnson **Member**
5 Olorunlogo Temitope **Member**
6 Johnson Ogunbolade **Member**
7 Ayomide Popoola **Member**

IGBAOTUN LCDA

1 Oguniyi Ibikunle Victor **Chairman**
2 Dapo Filani Funmi **Vice Chairman**
3 Oluyede Aderonke Stella **Secretary**
4 Falae Babatunde Toba **Member**
5 Adeniyi Olakunle Paul **Member**
6 Omolohun Ogunsuyi **Member**
7 Fagoroye Adesoye **Member**

AKURE SOUTH LGA

1 Gbenga Fasua **Chairman**
2 Adebayo Ayodele **Vice Chairman**
3 Roseline Olanireti **Secretary**
4 Adegbonmire Adeolu **Member**
5 Oluyi Isaiah **Member**
6 Toyin Bosede **Member**
7 Abiodun Ajisegiri **Member**

AKURE EAST LCDA

1 Bar. Kayode Taiwo Samson **Chairman**
2 Adedeji Ezekiel **Vice Chairman**
3 Oyedeji Adegboyega **Secretary**
4 Ogunleye Kehinde **Samuel Member**
5 Ogunlaka Idowu **Member**
6 Kike Ilesanmi **Member**
7 Hon. Femi Adodo **Member**

AKURE WEST LCDA

1 Sunday Adejuyigbe **Chairman**
2 Hon Dare Adeniyi **Vice Chairman**
3 Tajudeen Babalola **Secretary**
4 Joke Badmus **Member**
5 Ifedayo Adewole **Member**
6 Ogini Abigail **Member**
7 Janet Ajiboye **Member**

OYEMEKUN LCDA

1 Ologometa Lawrence Ifedayo **Chairman**
2 Falade Ayodele **Vice Chairman**
3 Akinmoyo Toyin R. **Secretary**
4 Adeleye Damilare **Member**
5 Ajonijebu Victor **Member**
6 Adebayo Olarenwaju **Member**
7. Foluke Esther Olofinluyi **Member**

IFEDORE LGA

1 Ajikiola Oluwasogo Clement **Chairman**
2 Dare Boboye **Vice Chairman**
3 Omolanwa Olajide Johnson **Secretary**
4 Adepoju Odunayo Josephine **Member**
5 Olowoyeye Lanre **Member**
6 Sadiq Adeniyi **Member**
7 Odofin Isaac Oluwasesan **Member**

IFEDORE CENTRAL LCDA

1 Adetanmi Richard Adetoye **Chairman**
2 Awoseye Collins **Vice Chairman**
3 Alarapon Adewunmi **Secretary**
4 Odeyemi Isaac Bola **Member**
5 Adelua Adenle **Member**
6 Seun Ajape **Member**
7 Adanlawo Cosmos **Member**

IJARE LCDA

1 Ajayi Kunle **Chairman**
2 Falana Kayode **Vice Chairman**
3 Godday Oni Olorunwa **Secretary**
4 Adu Temitope **Member**
5 Otaki Ajibola Ekamefa **Member**
6 Oluwajana Kehinde **Member**
7 Oluyemi Damilola **Member**

IDANRE LGA

1 Bar. Smart Adeyui Omotadowa **Chairman**
2 Mr. Bankole Akinselure **Vice Chairman**
3 Kayode Gbenga Jacob **Secretary**
4 Hon. Akinola Rasaki **Member**
5 Mr. Akinsiju Opeyemi **Member**
6 Mrs. Jejelosa Olawatoyin **Member**
7 Mrs Wuraola Oluwagbemiga **Member**

IDANRE CENTRAL LCDA

1 Aroloye Kayode **Chairman**
2 Olomola Kolawole **Vice Chairman**
3 Akinola Adeyefa **Secretary**
4 Adewole Oye Abimbola **Member**
5 Akinduyo Folake **Member**
6 Adesioye Idowu **Member**
7 Gbolagun C. Wale **Member**

IDANRE SOUTH WEST LCDA

1 Adeoye Kunle **Chairman**
2 Akinfala Felix **Vice Chairman**
3 Aribigbola Mobisola **Secretary**
4 Alli Raimi **Member**
5 Gbomedo Shola **Member**
6 Akinnudoye Temidayo **Member**
7 Akinuoye Lanre **Member**

ONDO EAST LGA

1 Ogunduyilemi F. Joshua **Chairman**
2 Oguntimehin Oluwaseyi **Vice Chairman**
3 Fadoju Adelayi **Secretary**
4 Fapohunda Olayinka **Member**
5 Ogunfusika Kehinde **Member**
6 Fred Akinkuoye Kelly **Member**
7 Akintunde Temitope **Member**

ONDO NORTHEAST LCDA

1 Jimoh Adebayo **Chairman**
2 Princess Mary Akinfolarin Tennyson **Vice Chairman**
3 Akinwale Fredrick **Secretary**
4 Com. Olabanji Oluwamuye **Member**
5 Okafor Adesua Omolana **Member**
6 Adeoye Adeniyi **Member**
7 Owoseni Jamiu **Member**

ONDO WEST LGA

1 Ayotunde Akinfolarin **Chairman**
2 Alhaji Bashiru Oluwole **Vice Chairman**

3 Babatunde Fakiyesi **Secretary**
4 Ayodeji Dapo Kunle **Member**
5 Bankole Olabisi (OJ) **Member**
6 Akinifesi Veronika **Member**
7 Mrs Agunbiade Adeola **Member**

ONDO NORTH WEST LCDA

1 Onidare Sunday B. **Chairman**
2 Oshifeso Abimbola **Vice Chairman**
3 Akintelure Olatinbo **Secretary**
4 Salami Ibrahim **Member**
5 Aro Olaotan Charles **Member**
6 Kasali Risikatu Debor **Member**
7 Ogundalenu Henry Olawale **Member**

ONDO SOUTH WEST LCDA

1 Dr. Ola Felix Akinola **Chairman**
2 Adelosoye Maxwell **Vice Chairman**
3 Oseni Nasirat **Secretary**
4 Joshua Olarenrewaju **Member**
5 Awodun G. Dele **Member**
6 Adeola Racheal **Member**
7 Ayoola Caroline Mowa **Member**

ONDO SOUTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

ILE-OLUJI/OKEIGBO LGA

1 Mr. C.a Akinrelere **Chairman**
2 Miss Sade Adetayo **Vice Chairman**
3 Adenugba Lawrence **Secretary**
4 Ogunmakinwa Gbenga **Member**
5 Akinbolusire Yemisi **Member**
6 Mr Rotimi Kasali **Member**
7 Akinpeloye Adetola **Member**

ILE OLUJI WEST LCDA

1 Apostle Olu Akinyugha **Chairman**
2 Hon. James Olufemi Ojo **Vice Chairman**
3 Akinbobola B. Akinyele **Secretary**
4 Mrs. Elizabeth Adeyosoye **Member**
5 Mrs. Adewole Olayemi **Member**
6 Oyelade Ismaila Omotayo **Member**
7 Emmanuel Openiyi **Member**

OKEIGBO LCDA

1 Adebare Adeboye **Chairman**
2 Fasogbo Adebisi **Vice Chairman**
3 Pastor Sunday Ige **Secretary**
4 Olasupo Segun J. **Member**
5 Martins Olu Akiniyi **Member**
6 Mrs Adenike Ogunjimi **Member**
7 Mr Lateef Oyebade **Member**

ODIGBO LGA

1 Adegoroye Taiwo M. **Chairman**
2 Stephen Akinwehinmi **Vice Chairman**
3 Akinriboya Kehinde **Secretary**
4 Ogundare Waheed **Member**
5 Sara Boluwaji **Member**
6 Oladele Olaniyi David **Member**
7 Akinmutimi Caroline **Member**

IFESOWAPO LCDA

1 Adeolu Akinseyoju **Chairman**
2 Rasheed Giwa **Vice Chairman**
3 Ilesanmi Akingbade **Secretary**
4 Fatima Olawale **Member**

FOR THE RECORDS:

5 Alhaji Mutiu Owoseni **Member**
6 Abass Oyebanji **Member**
7 Mr Fadoju Sunday Olaniyi **Member**

IREPODUN LCDA

1 Akitolayo A. Gbenro **Chairman**
2 Ayobami Ojo **Vice Chairman**
3 Iwapele Otumilara **Secretary**
4 Akinusi Johnson Abiodun **Member**
5 Hon. Jimoh Owolabi **Member**
6 Olaribigbe Deborah Aliyat **Member**
7 Oyewole Sherifat **Member**

OKITIPUPA LGA

1 Igbekele Akinrinwa **Chairman**
2 Omosebi Modupe **Vice Chairman**
3 Obolo Kayode Monday **Secretary**
4 Agbajuni Femi **Member**
5 Mathew Oyewunmi **Member**
6 Monehin Abiodun **Member**
7 Ogunyemi Ogunyemi **Member**

IKALE NORTH LCDA

1 Omotayo Enikuemehin **Chairman**
2 Owonola Abiodun Emmanuel **Vice Chairman**
3 Kowe Odunayo Amos **Secretary**
4 Arikawe Olugbenga **Member**
5 Nejo Egun **Member**
6 Adeyoriyu Adelekan **Member**
7 Abdulqadir Zakariyya **Member**

IKALE WEST LCDA

1 Kumuyi Olufunke **Chairman**
2 Okeniran Ayodele **Vice Chairman**
3 Oyepitan Sunday **Secretary**
4 Olanusi Agboola **Member**
5 Akindona Orire **Member**
6 Gbologe Alex Funmi **Member**
7 Akinbobola Peter **Member**

IRELE LGA

1 Hon. Ali Olaniran **Chairman**
2 Oluwadaisi Akinrodoye **Vice Chairman**
3 Mrs. Adekanye Aminat Adenike **Secretary**
4 Hon. Adenegan Kehinde Sunday **Member**
5 Mrs. Akindoyeni Folukemi Flora **Member**
6 Mrs Ademeso Florence **Member**
7 Mrs Olanuren Juliana **Member**

IKALE EAST LCDA

1 Hon. Deacon Akinfe Olajide **Chairman**
2 Henry Akintoye Ojamomi **Vice Chairman**
3 Betiku Ayetan Wale **Secretary**
4 Ho. Otutu Adeyemi Godwin **Member**
5 Ajiboye Faith **Member**
6 Oluwole Idogun **Member**
7 Omosugba Olatunde **Member**

ILAJELGA

1 Toyin Ogungbire **Chairman**
2 Olumide Omotehinse **Vice Chairman**
3 Adeyoriyu Omowole **Secretary**
4 Lebile Banidele **Member**
5 Ayantuga Oluwambe Olayemi **Member**
6 Ogunyemi Adeola **Member**
7 Ajanaku **Member**

ILAJE CENTRAL LCDA

1 Magnus Aralere **Chairman**
2 Mrs. Irinyemi Roseline Olayemi **Vice Chairman**
3 Dr. Olatunji Bayo Segede **Secretary**
4 Adeleke Gbanje Thick **Member**
5 Olayemi Metibemu **Member**
6 Hon. sikemi Anita Atibere **Member**
7 Fela Ibojo **Member**

ILAJE EAST LCDA

1 Oripenaye Maurice Ola **Chairman**
2 Liberty Ipentan **Vice Chairman**
3 Womisan Erukusi **Secretary**
4 Demola Omotehinse **Member**
5 Logo Francis Adepoju **Member**
6 Siju Ikuepenikan **Member**
7 Fola Omololu **Member**

ILAJE AHERI/ETIKAN LCDA

1 Orofin Esther **Chairman**
2 Ogungbure Jide **Vice Chairman**
3 Odolo Segun **Secretary**
4 Okuntade Dickson **Member**
5 Jolomi Ifeloju **Member**
6 Johnson Toluwase Minary **Member**
7 Com Ayeye Oladeji **Member**

ESE-ODO LGA

1 Anifowose Bayo **Chairman**
2 Modimu Beaut **Vice Chairman**
3 Richard Omosehin **Secretary**
4 Femi Omolaja **Member**
5 Bolorunopani Paul **Member**
6 Sunday Adaranijo **Member**
7 Aina David O **Member**

AROGBO LCDA

1 High Chief Ebimobowei Caleb Molos **Chairman**
2 Hon. Jemi Samuel Ebijoh **Vice Chairman**
3 Hon. Uduboh Ofoyeju **Secretary**
4 Hon. Princes Charity Thiti G. **Member**
5 Hon. Ogidiogo Aladey **Member**
6 Perry Ofoetitan **Member**
7 Hon. Tiewei Perejitei Isreal **Member**

The Appointment Takes Immediate Effect.

Prince Ebenezer Adeniyang,
Chief Press Secretary to the Governor of Ondo State.
July 10, 2024.

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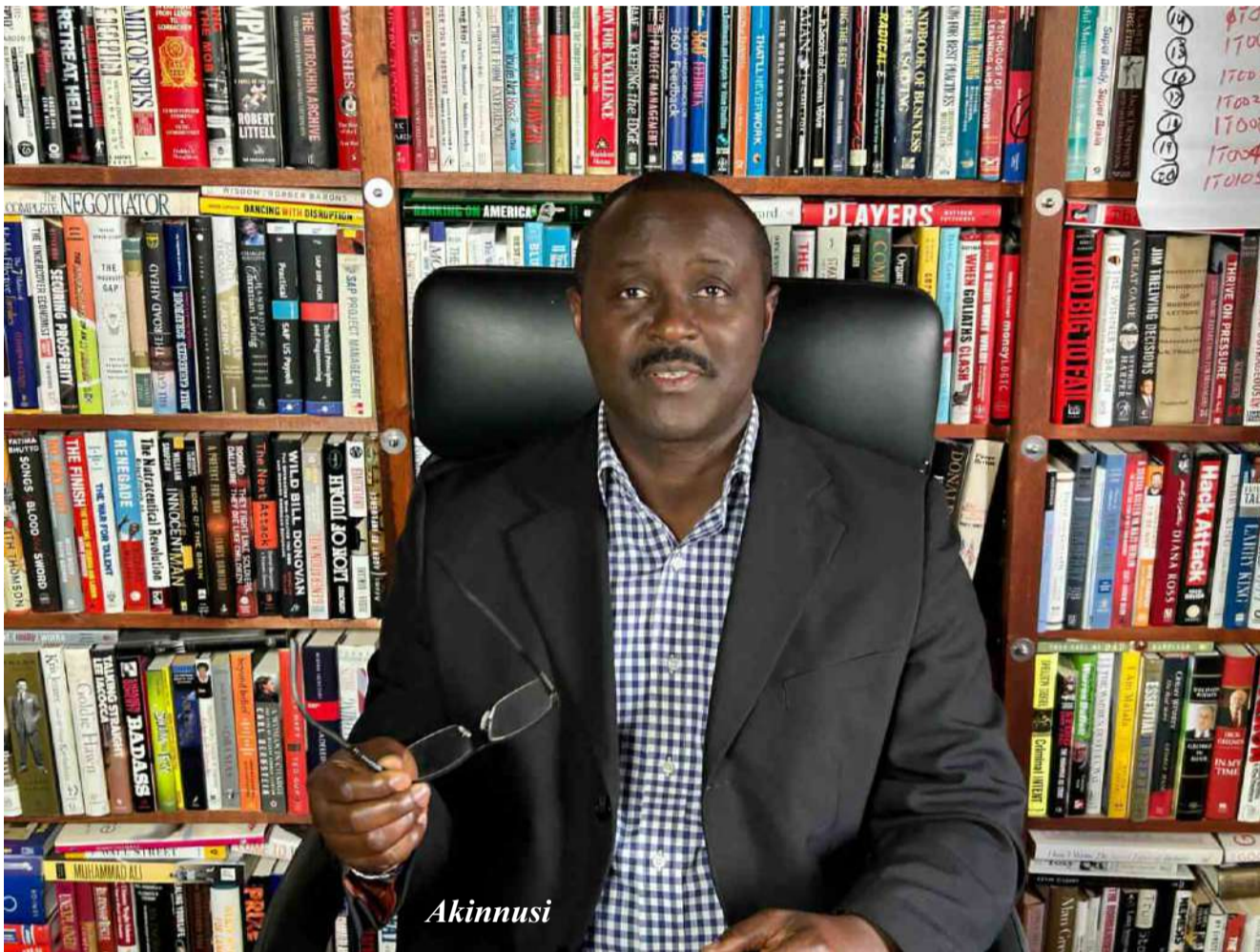
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INTERVIEW

"We need to support education of Ikale children' that is our legacy"

Canada-based scholar, Femi Akinnusi speaks to Ikale News on Ikale Scholars' Awards.



Tell us a bit about your dad and mum, please

Both our parents were academics. Mom was from Igbotako, the daughter of Chief Amos Ojajuni of Idimiloro street. She spent her early childhood in Ikale land before graduating from Bayero University, Kano. She taught English Language and English Literature at secondary school level, retired in 1999 and relocated back to Okitipupa where she spent the rest of her days serving in her local church and mentoring young family members and children in the community. She was a schoolteacher for over thirty years.

Dad was from the Moko family of Okitipupa and spent his early childhood in Ikale land. He has degrees from Universities of Ibadan and Ife and he lectured in English Language and English Literature in various tertiary institutions including Kwara Tech and the College of Education Ilesa where he retired as a Principal Lecturer. He also moved back to Okitipupa post-retirement in 1999 where he served a

Superintendent of schools who helped ensure standards were maintained in the local community schools. He was very active in his immediate community and was instrumental in supporting and mentoring members of his community and ikales in furthering their education. He had a fondness for farming and retired to his Palm Tree plantation where he took delight in tilling the land.

As educators, they ensured that their children had the best possible education and family support and extended this to the larger community.

Why are all the children fond of Ikale, although you weren't raised in Ikale?

Both our parents were quite fond of Ikale land and spoke the Ikale language to us growing up. Although they both taught and lectured English Language and English Literature, the language of communication at home

was Ikale. My siblings and I have very fond memories of travelling home for Christmas or holidays from Kano, Ilorin and Ilesa where our parents worked for most of their professional careers. From visiting our grandparents in Igbotako, to spending time with Uncles, Aunties and other family members in Ojokodo, Okitipupa, immersing ourselves in the delightful local cuisine and culture were some of the highlights of our youth and it is virtually impossible not to want to associate with our place of origin. To this day, we still eat pupuru, fish and sea food, marigbo, teji etc. whenever we can lay our hands on them. Both our parents also regaled us over the years with amazing stories of their childhood days, courtship and family history, it all seemed so magical!

Did they instruct you to set up this Scholarship Scheme?

Not at all, the idea was formed when we came home for our father's funeral and heard so many people speak about how he and mom had supported them through their academic endeavours over the years. We were already looking for a way to honour our late mother's memory (she passed away, 20 years ago this year) and it was quite clear we needed to continue their support for the community and Ikale land in general. This initiative is to continue their legacies while honouring other Ikale greats, including 2 of our uncles, Prof. D.M Akinnusi and Dr. A.P Akinnusi who both passed on recently.

Tell us the objectives and modalities of the Margaret Olatunde Akinnusi Scholarship Initiative please

The main objective of the Scholarship initiative is to financially support, in

INTERVIEW

our own little way, identified academic scholars of Ikale origin while also providing mentorship and networking opportunities towards making the results of their research beneficial to Ikale land through contributing to the socio-economic advancement of the Ikale people.

A panel has been set up to assess received applications and decide on who to award the scholarship grants to. All members of the panel are from Ikale land.

When you say proof of being Ikale to pre-qualify, what do you mean? Does it cover someone born and bred in Ikale, even though he is Urhobo? I ask because you are a Canadian citizen because you have lived there for long. You weren't even born there. So why should an Itsekiri or Urhobo who knows no other place but Ikale not benefit from this scheme?

The initiative is not meant to discriminate against anyone. However, considering this is meant to benefit

Ikale land, preference will be given to those born in Ikale or who's parents are from Ikale land. My late Father did not discriminate based on place of origin, he spoke fluent Urhobo and it will be a great disservice to his memory to exclude anyone who was born in Ikale land from this.

6. Is the scholarship meant for only university undergraduates or post graduates or those in Polytechnic and Colleges of Education can apply.?

The maiden scheme is geared towards university undergraduates and postgraduate scholars. We will in the future consider expanding to other tertiary institutions.

How many people will benefit from this maiden scheme?

We expect 10 scholars to benefit from this maiden scheme as follows: 3 Doctoral, 3 Masters and 4 Undergraduate scholarships.

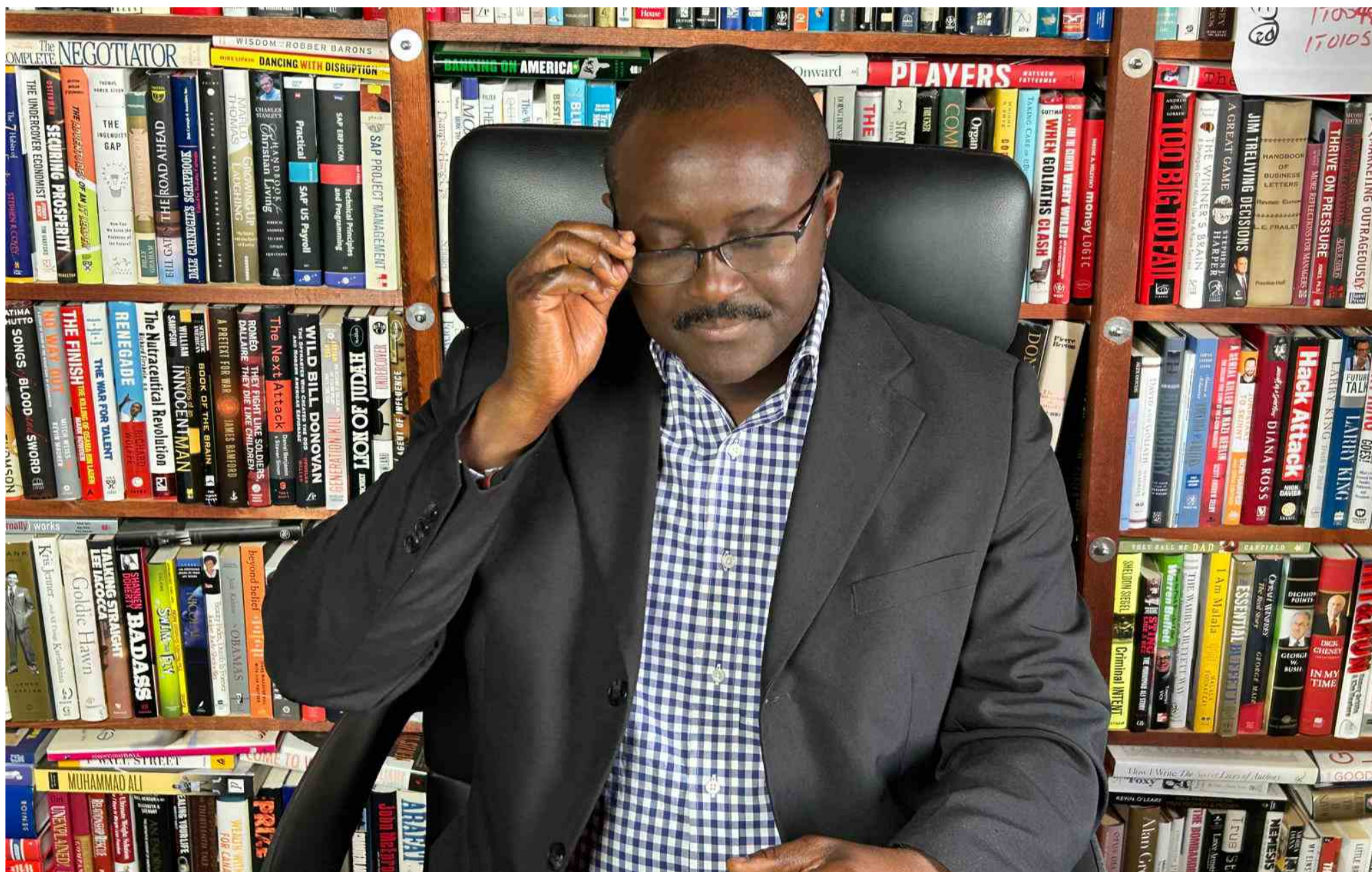
What other things should we expect in the near future from this

Initiative?

The plan is to contribute in our own little way towards the educational and socio-economic advancement of Ikale land. We expect this initiative to, in the not-too-distant future, expand into providing mentoring and networking opportunities for recipients while building a strong alumni group capable of making solid contributions to the community. We aim, long-term, to encourage research in areas that will benefit Ikale land, through Agriculture value-added, environmental improvement and providing an enabling environment to support the commercialization of small scale manufacturing concerns arising from academic research among others.

How would compare how politics is done in Canada and Nigeria? What are the similarities and differences?

Being a completely non-political initiative, I will prefer not to comment on the political terrain in Canada or Nigeria.



FEATURE

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim closes in on bitumen exploitation in Ikaleland



Our publisher, Bolu John Folayan, was in Abuja for the public hearing on the Bitumen Commission Bill sponsored by Ondo South Senator, Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim. He files this report...

The Conference Room in the Red Chambers was filled to capacity. Academics, lawyers, politicians, civil servants, rights advocates, investors, insurers, students representatives and all categories of “interested parties” were well represented.

The polemics went on for more than three hours ... and what is the subject? Should the Bitumen Commission Bill sponsored by distinguished lawyer, businessman and politician representing Ondo South sail through? After, public hearing, the next stage is for the Committee of the Whole Senate to ratify the final copy and send it to the House of Representatives for the

ceremonial concurrence. It then goes to Mr. President for signing. It becomes law. Then the National Assembly appropriates funds and pronto, exploitation of the vast deposits of bitumen in Ondo South begins.

It has been a journey of more than 50 years, with various administrations at state and federal level paying lip service to the subject matter. Former governor, the late Dr. Olusegun Agagu made the most effort in the realization of the dream of getting the bitumen deposits exploited, especially because he was a geologist. Agagu got President Olusegun Obasanajo to visit Agbabu and some spade work started. But that was as far as it went.

Immediately Senator Ibrahim got elected he quickly dusted the project and drafted his bill – it is the third or fourth bill by the 10th Senate and those

preceding his bill were bills from the executive arm. This shows how desperate he was to ensure he revives the project.

The Nigerian Senate, through its Committee on Solid Minerals, noted that it is ludicrous for a country looking for alternative to oil and gas not to tap the \$110 billion global bitumen market. Despite having one of the largest bitumen deposits in the world, Nigeria continues to lag behind, missing significant economic opportunities.

The public hearing discourse was driven by organized by the Senator Samson Ekong, the lawmaker representing Akwa Ibom South. Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, South and the bill's sponsor, in his address, also lamented Nigeria's inability to capitalize on its vast bitumen resources. According to Ibrahim, Nigeria holds the third-largest

FEATURE

bitumen reserves globally, following Canada and Venezuela, yet remains absent from the list of key players dominating the international bitumen market.

"Nigeria's untapped bitumen potential represents a glaring missed opportunity for economic growth," Ibrahim stated. He noted that nine countries currently dominate the global bitumen market, some of which have fewer resources than Nigeria. **He highlighted that the Ondo State alone boasts the largest bitumen deposit in Africa, valued at an estimated \$42 billion

Ibrahim emphasized that if Nigeria's bitumen deposits were properly harnessed, they could substantially finance the national budget. "The global bitumen and heavy oil resources are estimated at 5.9 trillion barrels, with more than 80 percent of these resources located in Canada, the US, Nigeria, and Venezuela," he said.

He also noted that the global bitumen market, valued at \$107.12 billion in 2023, is projected to grow to \$146.58 billion by 2030. Despite this, Nigeria has not been able to establish itself as a significant player among countries like the United States, Germany, the UK, and China, which currently dominate the market.

"Establishing the Bitumen Development Commission of Nigeria will foster innovation and improve strategies for financing resource development, offering a significant alternative revenue source for Nigeria," Ibrahim asserted. This proposed commission is seen as a critical step toward unlocking Nigeria's full potential in the global market.

Senator Ekong, Chair of the Senate Committee on Solid Minerals, underscored the urgency of creating a

robust legal framework to support the development of Nigeria's mineral industry. Ekong noted that doing so could significantly expand the country's earning power and contribute to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), all while creating numerous job opportunities.

"We need to capitalize on our mineral wealth, and bitumen presents a golden opportunity," Ekong stated. He also commended Senator Ibrahim for his commitment to advancing the solid mineral sector, especially for bringing attention to the vast bitumen deposits in Ondo State and other regions, including Edo, Ogun, Akwa Ibom, and Lagos.

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The hearing urged the Senate is urged to act swiftly to establish the Bitumen Development Commission as it would be pivotal in driving the exploration and development of Nigeria's bitumen resources, ensuring that the nation does not continue to miss out on the economic benefits of this lucrative market.

Senator Adeniyi Adegbonmire, representing Ondo Central, voiced his strong support for the Bill, underscoring its anticipated benefits for Ondo State and Nigeria at large.

"The legal framework will be provided at the Senate after the hearing, as the passing of the bill into law is not only for the benefit of Ondo South but Ondo State in general and Nigeria as a whole," he stated. The Senator's remarks echoed the sentiments of many who view the Bill as a pathway to regional development and national prosperity, particularly in resource-rich areas.

Representing Ondo State at the hearing in Abuja, Engineer Rasak Obe, Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, highlighted environmental considerations alongside economic prospects. He stressed the importance of conducting thorough environmental impact assessments to prevent ecological challenges in exploration areas. "Since Ondo State is not the only producing state, the Board Chair of the Commission should rotate among producing states while environmental impact assessment should be dutifully carried out," Obe advised, calling for a balanced approach to resource management.

The hearing also featured presentations from other key stakeholders, including Mrs. Cole Isiah Esuabana, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Innovation Science and Technology, who represented her minister. Other contributors were Mr. Peter Obasi, Executive Secretary of NEITI, and Dr. Mrs. Mokutima Ekpo from the Federal Ministry of Justice, who pledged that careful consideration would be given to the legal intricacies of the framework. Their inputs stressed the importance of crafting a robust legal infrastructure to support the commission's operations effectively.

Chief Henry Olatujoye, the Asoju Oba of Ikaleland and President of the Ode Aye Development Association (FODA), got a standing ovation with

FEATURE

his paper calling for the collective support of Ondo South for the Bill. He asserted that the Bitumen Commission could significantly elevate Ondo South's global standing and improve the welfare of its residents. "The entire Ondo South is solidly behind the desire of their Senator to make sure the bill sees the light of day," Olatujoye declared, reflecting widespread regional optimism about the project's potential to transform the local economy and enhance living standards.

On Bitumen Commission bill, Senator Ibrahim sponsored 100 youths from Ondo South Senatorial District to attend the hearing. He lodged them in a five-star treatment to give them "the kingly treatment" to use the words of his media aide, Chris Ayo.

"His idea is to expose the younger ones to the process before the eagle lands. They witnessing the public hearing of Bitumen Commission bill hearing means a lot to them. Now they can see how it works in Abuja. It is not about sitting at home and not knowing how things are done." Ayo Christ told *Ikale News*.

Thus, the successful hearing was a major step for him. Everybody supported his bill. Even officials of the Ministry of Solid Minerals who argued that Bitumen Commission is a usurpation of the function of the Ministry were lambasted by the "army" of interested parties who quickly pointed out the existence of various commissions such as National Universities Commission (NUC) which has not usurped the job of the Ministry of Education and the Niger Delta Commission which stands apart from the Ministry of Niger Delta.

Later at a lavish reception for some of the participants at the hearing held at Nikon Luxury Hotel same evening, Senator Ibrahim thanked all those who contributed to the success of the public hearing.

"I was surprised at the interest shown by our people. I am very delighted. Even some people came on their own and they contributed meaningfully. I have no doubt that the last stages will be successful and that Mr. President will sign the bill into law." He said.

On the benefit of having the commission in place, the Senator explained that it is important to put the horse before the cart.

"We have had a lot of problems in the oil and gas sector because exploitation started before the extant laws were enacted. Once these oil companies are entrenched, it became difficult to make the necessary laws. In this case now, any investor coming will meet our laws in black and white. So, we start on the same page." He said.

On whether the interest of the host communities have been properly taken care of, the Senator reaffirmed positively.

"I would be foolish not to have ensured that. The law has taken care of that and there is a percentage of employees that must even come from the host communities. Environmental degradation and all that have been factored in." he added.

Typical of him, Dr. Ibrahim boasted that his strategic thinking is working. I made three major promises when campaigning to be a senator: restoration of electricity, employment and infrastructure. Electricity is done. Infrastructure is going on massively. Now on employment, some people think I would do that only in getting people Federal jobs... yes, in the next few weeks, I will distribute at least a dozen letters to our people that I have facilitated their jobs at that level. What is the quantum of that compared to the number of my people looking for jobs. But when the Bitumen project takes

off, people would be employed in hundreds and thousands, directly and indirectly. That is strategic thinking," he declared to a standing ovation in the hall.

Senator Ibrahim said that his next commitment would be to ensure that his university takes off next year with the first sets of students.

"I am sure over 200 people would work in that university and I feel so fulfilled imparting my people so positively," he said to another round of ovation.

In a significant move towards enhancing Nigeria's economy, the Senate's Public Hearing on the proposed Bitumen Commission Bill was convened to gather input from stakeholders across various sectors. The Bill, when enacted, is expected to end bitumen importation, thereby boosting Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Chairman of the hearing, Mr. Sampson, emphasized the crucial role of stakeholder engagement, stating, "This Hearing is to allow the input of all stakeholders," highlighting the government's commitment to transparency and inclusivity in policymaking.

The hearing was marked by an impressive turnout, with Mr. Sampson describing it as a "very huge success" and commending Senator Jimoh Ibrahim for ensuring robust representation from Ondo South. Mr. Sampson further noted that it was one of the most attended Public Hearings of the 10th Senate, underscoring the widespread interest and the strategic importance of the Bitumen Commission Bill. This high level of participation reflects the national significance of the initiative and its potential impact on local and national economies.

PHOTO NEWS

Faces at the Public Hearing on Bill on Bitumen Development Commission in Abuja



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FEATURE IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken



Ikale News: Baba Liliken le o. It's been quite a age. I have been searching for you all over the place. The other time, you they said you went to were in at the PDP meeting. Today, you are coming from APC convention.

Baba Liliken: It is true my son. In this period we are in the best way to survive is to benefit from all possible avenues.

Ikale News: Aaah, Baba. **Wo fe je ni Ugbo, je ton ka je ni Mahin.**

Baba Liliken: It simply means you want to benefit from two different angles. Ugbo and Mahin are two major towns in Ilajeland. But they are apart. So when someone is trying to benefit from both ends, we refer to them as people who want to eat in Ugbo and also eat in Mahin.

Ikale News: Baba, someone sent me a text message to interpret an Ikale proverb for him. Kindly help me.

Baba Liliken: What is the proverb?

Ikale News: O jii "Ji a ba mu

ikeegbe ghun one, si o ye ji a yin okun e no rin" If you give a goat to someone as a gift, it is appropriate to give the person with the rope (on the neck of the goat). Is the rope a spiritual thing, Baba?

Baba Liliken: . No. That proverb is saying that when you delegate duties, leave the person the full compliments to carry out the duties. Don't continue to control him or her.

Okay, let me now give you the proverbs that I have for you today. They are three: **Agba 'yi o kehun fo, aa ke utan hare.** The translation is "the elder that does not talk frankly will regret when his inaction leads to problem." The direct translation is this:" the elder that runs who speaks tongue in check will run with a bow-leg. We use this proverb to underscore the need to talk frankly as an elder so that one will not regret it.

Ikale News: "Utan" in ikale means thigh, isn't Baba?

Baba Liliken: You are correct. The other proverb is "Mo le eku e, ko se ji we le ejo ghun mi?". It translates "I sent a rat after you, why are you sending a snake after me.?"

Ikale News: I know the meaning of that one, Baba. It means why are you repaying my good deeds for you with evil

Baba Liliken: Very correct. If you emply someone out of job into a position and he or she starts stealing your money, you can tell him or her:"it was rat I sent to you, why are you running after me with snake? -"Mo le eku e, ko se ji we le ejo ghun mi?".

Ikale News: What is the last proverb for the day Baba lila?

Baba Liliken: Ikale ji: "Ji oko e je ba mu oko lila do e, si o ye j'e ka gbi ni". If your husband sleeps with you with a big penis, you are supposed to be groaning, not shouting."

(General laughter)

Ikale News: But Baba, if she is enjoying it, she is supposed to shout!

Baba Liliken: The proverb has nothing to do with sex like that, my son. It means don't expose what gives you happiness for the world to see. The world does not like one to succeed or enjoy. Do your thing secretly or quietly. Some people just bought a car or build a house and they post it on Facebook. Before you know it, he or she starts having problem. Another proverb that means the same thing is "bi usu e ba jina tan, ju we je, hedo mu owo boo" . "When you have finished cooking your yam and you are eating it, use your hand to cover it."

Ikale News: Hmmm, Baba. That is very profound. Thanks for the proverbs in this edition.

Baba Liliken: Wo se o. Ka hedo o.

NEWSLINE



Aiyedatiwa puts smile on the faces of Ondo retirees

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has approved the release of N1 billion for the payment of outstanding gratuities to local government workers and primary school teachers who retired 12 years back.

According to the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Amidu Takuro, the beneficiaries have started receiving their dues.

Takuro explained that the governor's decision to release the funds in bulk is aimed at ensuring that retirees receive their gratuities in full, rather than in installments. He praised Governor Aiyedatiwa for his sensitivity to the plight of retired civil servants and his commitment to paying their entitlements promptly.

The commissioner recalled that the immediate past governor, Oluwarotimi Akereolu, had paid the first tranche of gratuities arrears late last year, and Governor Aiyedatiwa has decided to continue this trend on a quarterly basis. He urged retirees and the entire workforce to support the Aiyedatiwa-led administration.

UTOKO OMA IKALE

“We don't have thugs 'area boys' in our motor parks in Ondo State” - Odudu

In this edition, we bring you an unusual UKOTO OMA IKALE. We hear of leaders of transport unions in some states there the leaders are touts and garage boys. But true leader is not someone who schemes out conflict possibility, but someone so has prepared for all the possible challenges, hindrances, troubles and conflicts before they arise. To a committed leader, therefore, there is no sacrifice too big to bear for peace to reign and for the smooth running of tasks that will benefit a large number of people. In Ikaleland, commercial drivers are well-respected. Most of them are well-read. We don't have street urchins or “area boys” in our motor parks. We are cultured people. It is in this regard that we feature in this edition, a leader who is using Ikale ethos to set the template of leadership of commercial drivers in Ondo State.

Comrade Ademola Odudu, Ode-Irele born icon and state chairman of the national union of Road Transport workers (NURTW), Ondo State, is a leader in every sense of the word. Since his assumption of office, he has been moving round to reconcile all the aggrieved members of the union and he has been going about the noble course of seeing a better NURTW in Ondo State. In this interview with our Executive Editor, IBIKUNLE IKUYINMINU, Odudu speaks on the state of the union, the reform agenda, relationship with state house, among other issues. Excerpts:

Let us start this interview by asking you to tell us a little about yourself for the benefit of some of our people who may not be very familiar with you.

Thank you. I am comrade Odudu Ademola. I am a native of Ode-Irele, Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State. My mother is from Ese-Odo Local Government area of the state. I am a driver by profession. This is a job that has seen me transverse the various nooks and crannies of this country called Nigeria. Is there any state or major city in Nigeria that I have not had the privilege to know? And today, to the glory of God, I am the state Chairman of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Ondo State. I guess this is detailed enough.

Yes, but your growing up sir, how was Ode Irele in those days?

Yes, as I said, I hail from Ode-Irele. I had my elementary education in Edo State, precisely Igbinoba Primary School, Igbogwi. I also attended Igbogwi Grammar School where I obtained my Senior School Certificate. I was not privileged to go further on the educational ladder owing to paucity of funds. But for the School Certificate that I obtained, I think it is something I should be grateful to God and my parents for the privilege. In other words, if you look at school Certificate holders in those days, they are far better than graduates of today. This goes to say that the standard of education in those days cannot be compared with what obtains today. That limited education has helped me a lot. How would I have coped as leader of thousands of commercial drivers without any formal education. Education is a legacy that we do not joke with in Ikale. My growing up was a mixture of my sojourn in my Ikale country-home and my sojourn to Edo



where I went to school... Well like many of my contemporaries, I was never born with a silver spoon in my mouth. Instead, it was with a shovel. But then, I was determined I would make it in life at all cost. What then could have taken me there? It is hard work. I faced my career as a driver like someone who would not make heaven if he failed to deliver

on his daily mandates. And today, the result is there for anybody to see. I am the number one driver in the state and with the paraphernalia of office at my disposal, I say God has been faithful to me.

At what point did you decide to take driving as a profession?

UTOKO OMA IKALE

It was in 1990. How I wish you can ask me how it happened.

Please feel free to tell me sir.

Thank you. I think it is the call of God. I grew up in a family where you seek divine instruction on the choice of a profession. I was about to go for a recruitment exercise at the National Drug and Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) when I saw a vision that I needed to travel. And this involved traveling by road. I met with a prophet and the prophet kept reminding me that the first driver in the Bible was Noah. He told me how God asked Noah to go build a boat which he did and which he used to convey people and animals from places to places. And I could vividly remember that there was no case of casualty or accident as he ferried on the boat. Noah indeed was the first driver in the Bible. Where I am going here is that heaven established driving as a profession, and indeed a very lucrative one. It is a job that one has to reckon with and which has to be respected. Transportation is the business of moving commodities and people from one destination to the other. Ironically, people only hinge their scope or concept on transportation, that is the business, but they conveniently forget or neglect the act of driving, that is the one behind transportation movement. In the olden days, driving was seen as a sacred phenomenon. People kept wondering how a house can move. Who pushes the said house to move from place to place became a serious riddle to be unraveled. The early vehicles (Morris, Bedford, etc) were powered and ignited by physically winding their propellers. This is just to provide an explanation into the transformations in vehicle evolution. I am happy about these developments, but there is the need to match such evolutions with appropriate policies and plans. Hence, my administration as the state Chairman of NURTW would be geared at enhancing the professional performance of commercial drivers in the state. We shall concentrate on the activities of our members.

(Cuts in) Most members of the public see commercial drivers as stubborn and rascals...!Area boys', thugs, etc. What is your take on this?

Well, as far as products are concerned, we have original and counterfeits. So when we are talking of NURTW members, we have the original and the counterfeit. We have the good, the bad and the ugly. The good ones are those who, like yours sincerely, are truly called to

that profession. For this class of people, the spirit of leadership will truly abide with them. The spirit of driving, taking care and maintaining orderliness and safety will be with them too. But the counterfeits came into the profession drinking and smoking from garage to garage, from bus stop to bus stop. These are never do wells who lack sound home training, who lack mission and determination to succeed in life. And this is where we appeal to our leaders at all level to take leadership as something very serious. As the breadwinner of your family, you are a leader in your own right and by personal merit. As the Oba of a community, as the Chairman of a local government, you are a leader. You do your own part by ensuring that you handle your subjects to a level they can be serious in life. So as an organization, we will try hard to continue to sensitize our subjects, I mean the drivers, to be responsible and responsive. Ikale people mould their children. Wherever you find Ikale, you see them laying good examples. We do not have street urchins and 'area boys' in Ikale. How can you be a street thug in Ikale and be respected? I am not saying we have it 100 per cent but generally, we have "Omoluabi". No politician can use us as thugs. There are university and polytechnic graduates amongst us. We have respected retired civil servants. They are bringing their wisdom and knowledge to impart on us very positively. So, my brother, Ondo State NURTW is very different. Even when you enter our garages (parks) you are treated with mature, decent culture. That notion of thugs does not apply to us. I can say this of our chapters in the entire Ondo State.

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(parks) you are
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In specific terms, what do you think is wrong that you want to correct that your predecessor failed to do?

I don't think I would say anything is wrong. Rather, what I would say is that the present administration is doing the best it can do. Leadership is a chain. We have taken the baton now and with the help of God, we will do our best. The current administration has certain ideas. We have designed a plan that we want to execute for the union. I trust my abilities and capabilities. Before now, I have been tried and tested in very sensitive positions within and outside NURTW. I am transparent and accountable in all my activities. I always put people first in everything I do in and out of the union. As the state chairman of our dear union, I will ensure that all the state's activities are transparent. I will ensure that my administration is truly accountable to the people of the state. I will bring sanity into the system. Our members will be trained and retrained so they inject fresh blood into the union. My administration says no to using our boys as thugs. There is appropriate disciplinary actions for any offence committed by our members. Now, I tell you a story. I was at a petrol station somewhere in Alagbaka some days back. Two of our driver were on queue for fuel and arguments over space and who arrived first caused them to exchange in physical combat and they could not even identify the state chairman. So what we did was to get their identity and invite them to the office for punishments commensurate with the offence they committed. With the collaborative efforts of my excos, you know it is the human followers that constitute the powers of the masquerade, we will take the union to the next level.

So, there are a lot of things we are trying to correct. We want to ensure our boys have a bit of education. Even the constitution of the union stipulates it that anybody who want to hold the position of treasurer, secretary, the chairman must have at least little education. He has to be able to read and write, even though to become a driver, if you want to follow our constitution, drivers must be able to read high way codes. That is what I am bringing into the system in Ondo State not only in Ondo State, we make sure other officers in other states follow the same steps. **Let us look at some political issues in the state the primary, the just concluded primaries PDP, APC would you say in either of the two cases, there has being transparent primaries?.**

You can see by yourself, the exercise of the primary is very smooth, there is one thing in election; when election is been conducted

UTOKO OMA IKALE

and there is no breakdown, there no violence, there is no snatching of ballot paper, there is no casualty and everything go smoothly and you see even though at the margin of the winning, and this is pure election and not just election it comes through the divine call of God, God has divine the winner to be the flag bearer of the party APC.

Gov. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa is a man you are very passionate about and why are you supporting him?

I have to support him. He is a gentle man to the core. He is a God-fearing man, and he is a person who has risen above temptation. You saw what happened to him when he was a Deputy Governor so any human being who does not fear God is about to fall. When God is fighting for somebody it does not make sense to fight for the person. So, Aiyedatiwa is not fighting for himself, it is God that is fighting for him, because for him to overcome the impeachment and humiliation and everything just want away it is God's doing, not any man power. Just look at his name "Orimisan" and his surname "Aiyedatiwa". They are very spiritual names. But we in the union are not necessarily political. Our members have individual political freedom. As a body, however, we have no reason not to support the present administration led by His Excellency, Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa.

How do you think your union can benefit from his administration if elected?

We know that one is 100 percent we are going to benefit not only our union the whole Ondo State is going to benefit from the government of Aiyedatiwa. But all what we need is to support him and his government. This is democracy, the government of the people by the people and for the good of the people and as a gentleman as a man who knows what he is doing well educated who has experience, some people are saying he is not a politician. He is more than a politician. We will benefit because he has thrown the Olive Branch to us. He has indicated interest to help commercial drivers in the state and we believe him. The first task is

for him to get elected. After that, we can talk of benefits to us. But we have our programmes and requests ready.

Let us come back to Ikale land, would you say Ikales are united?

Yes Ikale has to be united either they like or not. They have to be united because there is no other name like Ikale, and there is no where you can go that there is no Ikale. Ikale is one of the best tribes we are having in Nigeria if you can see any Ikale man, you will see some Ikale values principle in him or her. At the moment I won't way we are disunited. But we can be more united.

Many Ikales who are up there in the social and economic ladder fail to give back to Ikale. They fail to go home, they believe witches may kill them if they come home.

Do you think that thinking is justified?

It is not peculiar to Ikale. Not only in Ikale, we have some people from Kogi State that are already turned to indigene of Ondo State. Not even going back to their state. You know we have some foreigners in Nigeria here who are based in Nigeria that are not going back to their country. It is a tradition for some people. Once they travel out of their community, to go back there is a problem, if somebody wants to die even though he is abroad, he will die. So sometimes there is what in the bible is said *WON KII NI OLA NI ILU RE NITORI TO OGUN EJE*, so some people who are trying to keep themselves for one reason or the other, you don't so much blame them all what we need is to give them advice as to what they are were doing so, for those who God has blessed should look back to their community and make sure they raise hand of help to them, so that you there will also benefit from it, and they will start their own journey of life. Honestly, I won't blame those who have such fears. Families differ. For me, as I told you I didn't even grow up in Ikale but I keep to my roots. Some people live abroad and they make it a point of duty to come home yearly. No evil happens to them. But some others, if they should go, something evil could happen

to them. In terms of helping others, I think lately Ikale people on top are helping others below. It can be better, however.

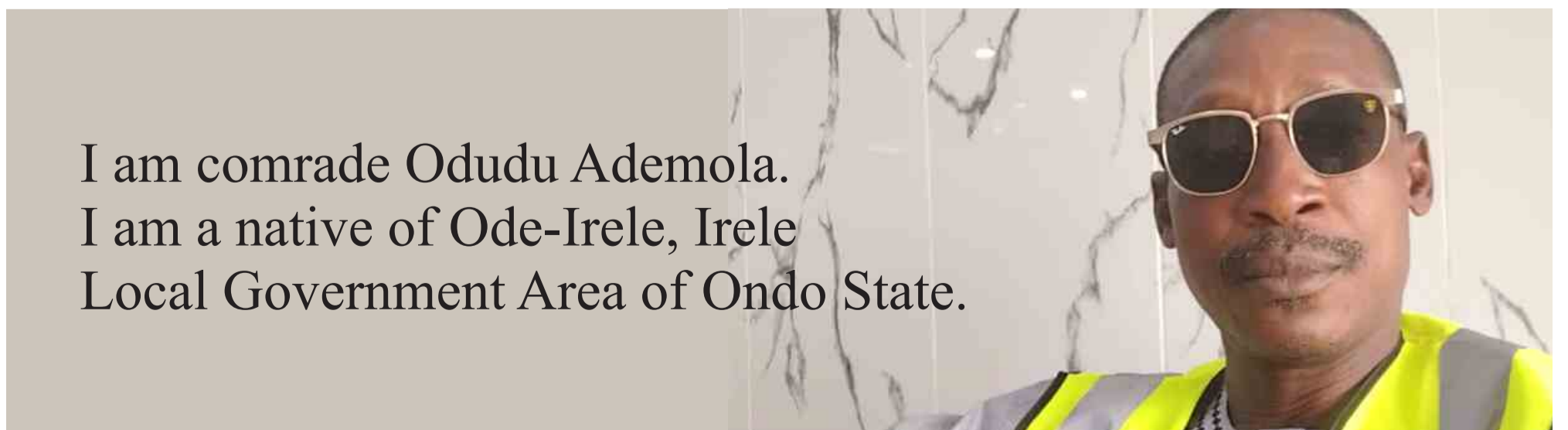
So as the state chairman of NURTW ONDO STATE you must be a very busy man. How do you unwind after a typical day's job?

It is a busy job. But I enjoy it all because it is job that I was called upon. I have to take responsibility; it is not man's doing. It is the work of God. Once God positions you, He gives you the spirit of leadership and give you all the power you need to follow up to that job. So, when God has appointed you to the position he gives you the power. When He appointed Solomon, He gave him the wisdom, when He appointed Daniel, He gave him the weapon to overthrow his enemies

Finally sir, what is your message to the people of Ikale as the next governorship election is around the corner.

First, I will appeal to us all to be united. United we stand, divided we fall. And on the governorship election that is around the corner, Ikales should learn to put their acts together and support a man who God has ordained. If you trace the story of Governor Aiyedatiwa, you will agree with me that he is an uncommon human breed who will always overcome all episodic odds. The litigation over the recent primaries has come to end. Let me say here that I salute the doggedness of our brother, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim. He is our illustrious son. By the grace of God, his own time will come some day in the future and we will work for him. I thank him for deciding to work with Governor Lucky. This is the time or Aiyedatiwa and we must all support him. Sincerely, I am not talking politics. I am talking leadership. We need the right leadership. It shall be well with us in Ikale. It shall be well with Ondo State. I greet all Ikale people at home and in the Diaspora. *A mama gbagbe ule o. (Let us not forget home o)*. Kudos to the *Ikale News* team. You are the number one community newspaper in Nigeria. Well done.

I am comrade Odudu Ademola.
I am a native of Ode-Irele, Irele
Local Government Area of Ondo State.



OPINION

The South-west Govs Must Embrace Farming To Enhance Regional Prosperity As Obafemi Awolowo Envisioned

Sola Olatunji.



In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "Why should there be hunger and deprivation in any land, in any city, at any table when man has the resources and the scientific know-how to provide the basic necessities of life?" The issue lies not in a lack of resources but in a lack of willpower. Amplifying this philosophy further, good governance is also about humanity, and human existence is not guaranteed if there is perennial hunger without swift intervention by the political authority in any society.

In the 1950s, specifically 1954, when Chief Obafemi Awolowo became the Premier of Western Region of Nigeria, he initiated a social revolution with impactful policies in health, education, and agriculture. These policies transformed the region's socio-economic landscape, leading to food security and prosperity. Through strategic agricultural expansion schemes, rural farm settlements,

and farm estate development, the Western Region became a food hub, with farmers transitioning from poverty to affluence. The region thrived on cash crops like cocoa, oil palm, and rubber, as well as food crops like yam, cassava, and vegetables. This agricultural boom led to significant infrastructural development, such as the iconic Cocoa House in Ibadan and the Western House in Lagos. The prosperity from farming amplified the region's diversification strategy and enabled the region to diversify into other profitable ventures, sustaining growth and development, and these astronomical developments attracted the envy other regions.

However, from the mid-1990s onward, successive political leaders shifted focus away from agriculture, the goose that laid the golden eggs and began to embrace white

elephant projects or at best, elitist projects, neglecting the sustainable farming policies that once ensured food security. Today, the region, once renowned for its agricultural abundance, is struggling to feed its population and has to rely on other regions for food supplies. It's regrettable that a region naturally blessed with arable land and a youthful population has since abandoned its agricultural heritage. Our political leaders must revive Chief Obafemi Awolowo's legacy by reinstating rural farm settlements and promoting estate farming development as edifying his cap alone without embracing his philosophy will amount to nothing. The current governors of Oyo, Lagos, Ogun, Kogi, and Niger states have shown commendable efforts in agricultural development, and their initiatives should be adopted and replicated across the region. The 76 agricultural clusters model by Governor Usman Ododo in Kogi

OPINION

state should be embraced. The Agbowa Rice Mill projects by the Lagos State government that can sufficiently meet the rice needs of the West Africa region ought to be fasttracked. The Epe Agric hub and food supermarket projects be crystalised to really redeem our agricultural heritage in the region.

There is nothing bad in replicating what is good in other countries in Nigeria. India once experienced acute hunger and food shortages, reminiscent of Nigeria's current situation. The Indian government took decisive action by importing massive quantities of food, stabilizing prices, and ensuring food availability. This strategy, combined with the Green Revolution, which introduced modern farming techniques and high-yield crop varieties, transformed India's agriculture, making it one of the world's largest food producers today. Nigeria can learn from India's proactive approach by adopting modern agricultural techniques and ensuring food security through strategic interventions. This 150-day food import duty-free will not have any meaningful impact with the kind of food inflation ravaging our economy. It would make more sense if this window is extended to 12 calendar months so that the federal and sub national government can roll out their strategies for food security and possibly with some of them already stabilizing food prices.

In Brazil, the "Zero Hunger" program, initiated in 2003, significantly reduced hunger and poverty through integrated policies

focusing on social protection, food security, and support for family farming. The program's success lay in its comprehensive approach, combining immediate food aid with long-term agricultural development and social inclusion strategies. Nigeria could implement similar integrated policies and possibly exhaume its Green Revolution and recalibrate Operation Feed the Nation to address both immediate hunger and the underlying causes of food insecurity. Its compelling we adopt the multidimensional approach to substantially end hunger in Nigeria. Today ,Rwanda has achieved remarkable agricultural transformation through the "Crop Intensification Program," which focuses on land consolidation, improved seeds, fertilizers, and farmer education. This program has significantly increased food production and reduced hunger. By investing in farmer education and modern agricultural practices, Nigeria can enhance productivity and achieve food security.

It is regrettable that the Western Region, blessed with arable land and a youthful population, has abandoned its agricultural heritage. Political leaders must revive Chief Obafemi Awolowo's legacy by reinstating rural farm settlements and promoting estate farming. The current governors of Oyo, Lagos, Ogun, Kogi, and Niger states have shown commendable efforts in agricultural development, and their initiatives should be adopted and replicated across the region. To address food

insecurity, it is essential to integrate farming into public education, from primary to tertiary levels, converting idle lands in schools into productive farms. This hands-on approach will ensure students gain practical agricultural knowledge, making the curriculum relevant and impactful.

In conclusion, hunger should not be downplayed by any political leadership. Historical examples, like India's massive food importation strategy during times of acute hunger, demonstrate the importance of prioritizing food security. Nigeria must avoid food riots by consistently designing and implementing sustainable agricultural policies, ensuring every citizen's basic need for food is met. By doing so, we can honour the enduring legacy of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and secure a prosperous future for the Western region and, by extension, Nigeria. With the latest baptism of LG autonomy by the Supreme Court, barring any further manipulation by the kleptocracts, it's expected to open up the grassroots for socio- political and economic engineering to achieve prosperity for all. The penchant for multiplicity of taxes on citizens and the economy that is currently on depression by political authority is counterproductive as no nation in modern history has taxed its way to wealth. The ingenious way to reflate our economy is to expand production, especially agriculture.

Editor's Note: Otunba Olatunji is an Ikale-born writer and rights activist.

LIQUID

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IKALE KIDS

Ikale Fashion (Part 1)

Hello wonderful Ikale children. How are you enjoying your holidays? Make sure as you take time to rest as you are also preparing for the new class. Let us learn more about Ikale in this edition.

Last edition we discussed about Dressing in Ikale culture. This edition we want to go a step further by talking on fashion olden days and now

There are various ways by which people Express themselves in fashion.

Hair making : Hair making is common both among Males and females. In the olden days. The women just Plate their hair In different styles, we have suku, patewo, aja loso, ipako elede, kolese, . That is all back, all back and base, police cap. Evelyn king, feathers. Zig zag, whh is in the garden, 2 steps, June 12, Koju soko, kkoyin sale, Concord, for tread or rubber pineapple, centre Parton, etc.

These days plating of hair is not limited to females alone our youths in Ikale too now do dread or weave their hair. This is not so in the olden days, males that fo their hairs are considered irresponsible.

olugbu ; is the hair Normally plaited for bride. It is ceremonial hair for weddings, beads will be sewn on the hair to make It beautiful.

Tattoo,; this is a way of fashion too, tattoos is fashionable both in the olden days and modern days. They draw different designs on the body. It is always permanent. It is no longer in vogue. Note that the tattoos are different from the ones sports people and artistes do now. We don't have tribal marks in Ikale, although some old people have Ondo tribe mark (one long vertical mark on either side of the chick), such is extremely rare, and it waa purely fashionistic.

There is also the make up powder, (the the type that lasts long is known as "maju" in Ikale; lipstick mascara, eye shadows (locally called "tiroo" and eye pencils are means of beautifying oneself. .. in the olden days they used "osun". It was a form of powder, laali , they will use form o marker meant for beautifying the body. They draw different beautiful designs on the hands and legs of the bride. It is common amongst muslims and northerners.



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

Earrings, necklace, bangles, wrist watches, beads are also worn to bring out one's beauty but these are usually moderately done.

Another fashion is the use of waist beads for young ladies. It was common in the olden days and gradually coming up now. Yoruba and especially Ikales believe it is very important to dress well and the way you dress will depict how you will be addressed.

Hope you are able to gain our two things. Next edition, I will talk about Ikale dresses for male, female, adult and children. Till next edition. Keep being a good ambassadors of Ikale.



Abodi



ADVERT



THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE, NIGERIA

(Office of the Registrar) | www.futa.edu.ng

SCREENING OF UTME & DIRECT ENTRY CANDIDATES FOR THE 2024/2025 UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA online registration for Post-UTME screening exercise for the purpose of admission into ALL COURSES/POGRAMMES for the 2024/2025 Academic Session commences on Wednesday, 7th August and ends on Friday, 20th September, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates who scored a minimum of 180 in the 2024 UTME conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and Direct Entry (DE) candidates who made the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) their First Choice Institution are eligible for the screening.

In addition, candidates must possess at least five (5) credit passes including English Language and Mathematics at not more than two (2) sittings in O' level examinations conducted by WAEC, NECO and NABTEB or their equivalent.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Candidates are required to:

visit the University website www.futa.edu.ng for information; complete and submit the University Post-UTME Application Form ONLINE; and Print out a copy of the Registration Form.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

The Registration Form is mandatory for all eligible candidates to complete for the screening exercise.

Please note that the candidate's UTME Registration Number and the Full names (as it is on JAMB slip) be correctly provided at the point of payment and registration.

After payment, each candidate should visit the University website and complete the online Registration Form.

SCREENING FEE

The screening fee is Two Thousand (N2,000:00) Naira only payable at any Bank on Remita platform after generating the necessary code.

Candidates who fail to register within the stipulated period will not be eligible for the Screening.

For more information or clarification, candidates can visit the University website www.futa.edu.ng or call any of the following numbers: +2348062484770, +2348073308578, +2347062320151, +2348034277322, +2348034655619, +2348126049786

Please note that any UTME candidate who is not screened will not be considered for admission in the University.

Also note that for any candidate to be considered for admission this year in the University, such candidate must have reached the age of 16 years with effect from 1st October, 2024.

Also, candidates must ensure that their O' level results are uploaded on JAMB CAPS and share FUTA on or before Friday, 20th September, 2024.

Failure to do this will render the affected candidates ineligible for admission.

SIGNED: C. O. ADELEYE
Registrar

POLITICAL UPDATE



Odimayo rallies support for Aiyedatiwa towards Guber election

One of the prominent Member of the House of Representatives, representing Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency, Omo'ba Okunjimi Odimayo, has pledged to fully support the campaign of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa ahead of the forthcoming November 16th gubernatorial election.

He made the pledge in Akure recently while donating his gubernatorial primary campaign office to the Governor ahead of the forthcoming poll.

Odimayo and other Members of the House of Representatives in Ondo met with the governor last month to declare their unwavering support

ahead of the upcoming gubernatorial election.

The lawmaker emphasized the importance of unity and collective effort within the party to ensure a resounding victory in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

"We are at a critical juncture, and it is imperative that we stand united to secure a prosperous future for Ondo State. "This campaign office is a symbol of our unwavering support and our determination to work tirelessly for the governor's success, Odimayo stated.

According to Odimayo's media director, Victor Adedeji, the Irele prince also promised to leverage

his influence and support base to mobilize massive support across the eighteen local government areas in the state.

He expressed confidence that with coordinated efforts, the party would achieve a landslide victory. "We have already started extensive grassroots mobilization, and I assure you that our efforts will reach every nook and cranny of Ondo State," he added.

As the campaign season intensifies, Odimayo urges party's leaders and members to work across board to ensure the victory of the governor in November election.

OPINION

Ikale youths must embrace agriculture to build a sustainable economy

By Adelokiki Orimisan

I want to thank the publisher of *Ikale News*, our own inimitable role model, Dr. Bolu John Folayan, for giving me the opportunity to write a column in our foremost community newspaper. Thank you sir, for believing in my dreams! Together, we shall take our beloved Ikaleland to loftier heights in Jesus Name.

The primary focus of this column will be our youths. Why our youths hate agriculture is what I do not understand. If you want to get them annoyed, talk to them about the need to go into farming! And as we discuss hunger, it rarely occurs to them that they can hit their own gold mine or oil rig by investing into agriculture. We have vast arable land in all parts of Ikaleland. So, what is the problem?

Recently I was in Mile 12 International Food Market in Lagos. I could not believe my eyes at the sight of long queues of trailers bringing different kinds of good products from the North to Lagos. Wow! The economic value of the Lagos food market is in billions of dollars: Livestock, foodcrops, all sorts of food!



Lagos has over 40million population, and many countries in West Africa depend on Lagos food market to feed their citizens. Many states in the South has food/Fish markets

That daily naturally attracts flood of foods products in large and unimaginable proportions

Yet we have no farms, virtually in the South. Even subsistence farming is almost dead.

I am fully aware of Lagos state governor's commitment recently in unlocking the

unlimited potentials in Agriculture sector. Lagos state governor was in France recently to understudy Live stock development through France, which is driven by advanced technology. Also, a Mexican company arrived Lagos recently on commercial scale Agriculture.

I wonder what is wrong with us in Ondo State with all our God-given climatic conditions We have 75% Sunshine in a year. We longest sea coast in West Africa by any state or region. Yet we cannot go into full scale commercial agriculture (farming, livestock and fishing), to target Foreign, Direct investment (FDI)

Ondo State has a population of close to 5Million people. Ondo is a the gateway to five Eastern states, and many South South states with thick population yet no food bank exists to project into the future food security market potentials. We are the only in the South West with rich opportunities for fishing, courtesy of our Ilaje and Ese Odo terrain. We are the gateway to the North courtesy of our longitudinal geographical spread which terminates up in Akoko on the Kogi boundary. Yet our youth cry of unemployment and of hunger.

All it requires for a serious government that has creative revenue generation at his heart is to set up Cluster farming / Farming/Settlement on both crops farming /Livestock and to build "Ware houses" and install modern technology in warehouses for preservation. It is not about going to Abuja to collect allocations.

From just cocoa production /Oil palm alone, Ondo can compete with Ghana/Ivory Coast to build a sustainable

YOUNG INVESTORS



With Orimisan Adelokiki

economically viable economy. Imagine, we cannot create 100,000 jobs for our energetic youths in five years! ,

I am sad. So sad. What is wrong with us in this part of the world? Our women are most industrious and resilient from studies that I have read. They work 365days of every year.

Yet, they get no government support except to haul them into buses to Akure for propaganda, after giving them peanuts.

My heart bleeds seeing a large percentage of our women trooping to big churches cathedrals for divine intervention to address poverty and hardship. Unfortunately our government is the greatest enemy of our women Our government has failed to tap from the abundant energy of our creative women, for sociopolitical and economic development

I doubt if Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa can save our youths and Ondo women. May be after him, we will have a creative and enterprising governor who can take Ondo state, out of economic woods. But Gov Lucky can still put his name in gold in this area. One way for him to start is for him to organize the First Ondo State Food Security Summit. He will be pleasantly surprised at what will come out it.

Till next month, think seriously about farming. It is a gold mine.

Editor's Note: Comrade Adelokiki Orimisan is the CEO D.W.M Nigeria LTD. He is passionate about agriculture and national development

NEWS BRIEF

Former Igbotako Omooso President gets Senate appointment

Eminent medical doctor and former president of Omoso Club of Igbotako, Dr. Olusegun Ayodele has been appointed the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio.

The appointment was facilitated by Senator Jimoh Ibrahim who represents Ondo South in the National Assembly.

Dr. Ayodele, who retired as a Chief Medical Officer with Irele local government council is also the Director-General of Aseyori Family, a political movement midwived by the billionaire business magnate and politician, Dr. Ibrahim. The appointment take effect from January 3rd, 2024.

Meanwhile, Senator. Ibrahim has lauded the appointment of Dr Ayodele as Senior Legislative Aide to the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, describing feat as a plus to Aseyori political family.

According to him, Dr. Ayodele would bring his rich experience in the civil service and politics to bear in his new appointment. He prayed the Almighty God to grant him more grace and wisdom to excel in the new office.

Meanwhile, the President of Omoso Club of Igbotako, Asiwaju Yomi Omogbehin has congratulated Dr. Ayodele over his new appointment.

“We are proud in Omoso Club to have produced a person of immense qualities to this distinguished position and we are sure that Dr. Ayodele will use the new office for the betterment of not only Igbotako but also the entire Ikaleland and Ondo South.” He said in a statement.



Ondo Lawyer Sues Aiyedatiwa over LG Caretaker Committee

Legal practitioner and human rights activist Tope Temokun has taken Ondo State Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa to court over his decision to appoint caretaker committees to manage local governments instead of holding elections.

The Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission (ODIEC) had postponed the local government election indefinitely, citing non-compliance with guidelines by political parties.

In the lawsuit, eminent Ikale lawyer, Temokun argues that the governor's actions violate the 1999 Constitution and the Local Government

Administration Law of Ondo State. He claims that appointing caretaker committees deprives him of his right to vote in and have a democratically elected local government council.

Temokun is seeking a court declaration that the governor's actions are illegal and unconstitutional, and an order to conduct local government elections to put in place democratically elected councils. He also wants a perpetual injunction to stop the governor from appointing caretaker committees.

This lawsuit comes after the Supreme Court granted financial

autonomy to local governments and declared that state governors cannot appoint caretaker committees or hold local government funds. The Ondo State Government recently constituted transition committees for newly created Local Council Development Areas, sparking controversy.

Meanwhile, the deputy chairman of Ikale North LCDA Caretake Committee, ...aka "Equity" has swung into action, rallying youths in the LCDA to plan the development of the Council Area.

TRIBUTE

Oye Akintola Arikawe (1964-2024): A liberalist left with the mark of Kindness. A Tribute. By Jimoh Ibrahim CFR



The Late Oye Clement Akintola-Arikawe

He was a kind person, a liberalist and a gentleman who was focused on every issue of life. He will not be ready to satisfy everyone because He is not the Lord Jesus Christ. But he proved he knew what to do with many issues in the life dashboard.

He was a liberalist and undotted in whatever he believed in, and for a long time, as if he knew he would soon depart the sinful world, He was to himself in righteousness such that we knew He would make heaven. A super achievement beyond the colossus He was on earth. Egbon mi, Oye Akintola Arikawe good night. The liberalists argued the exigence and the compelling collaboration and

corporations in the ordering for international peace and security arising from the challenges of food and hunger; this is so because of the liberal belief that global politics is about more than the maximisation of power and wealth or security. The issues of food insecurity and hunger must be approached, and liberals are convinced that individuals and states are capable of cooperating even though the international system is anarchic.

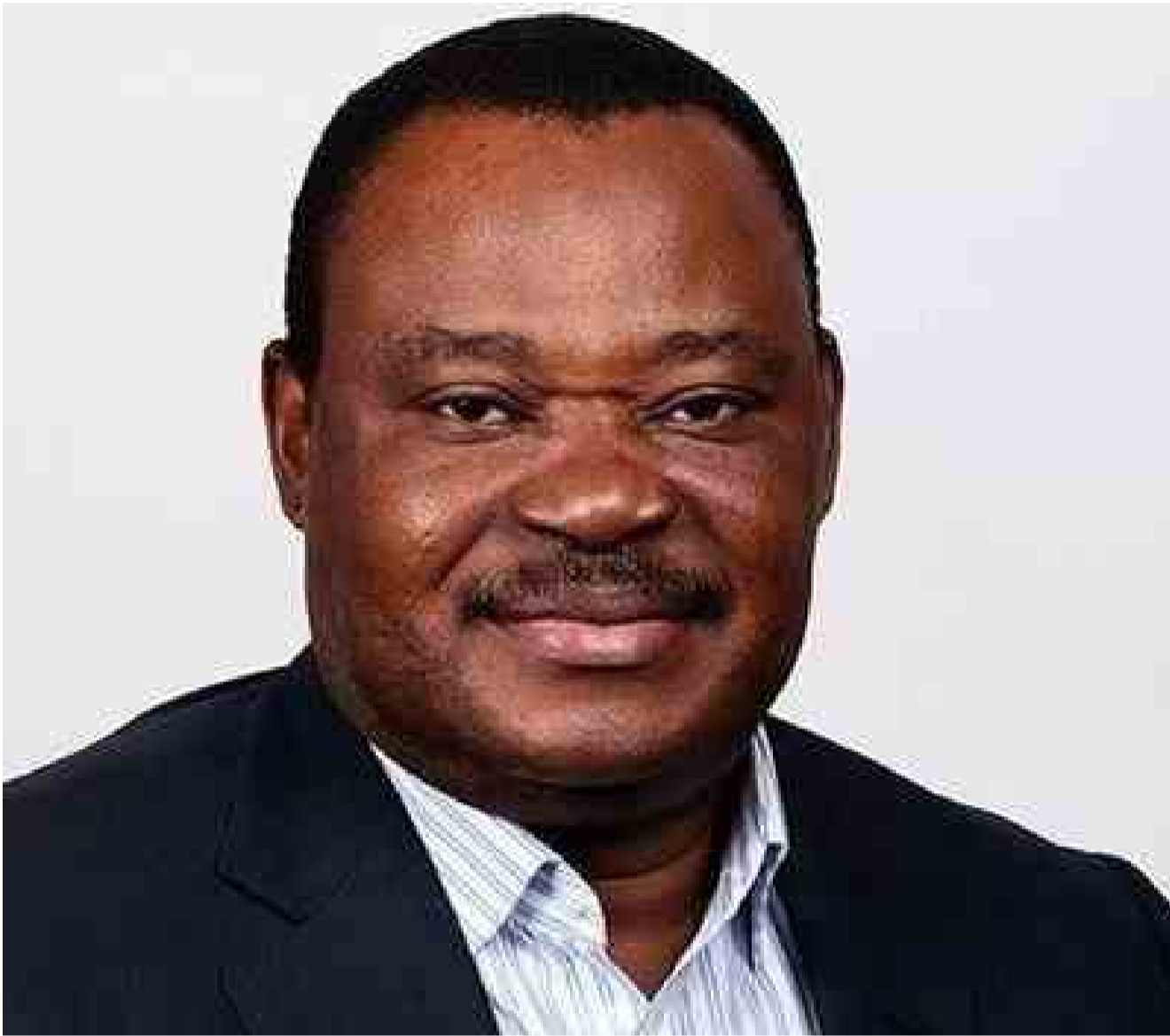
Oye Arikawe, like Grotius and Kent, the acclaimed father of international law, explained the causes of war (*jus ad bellum*) and conduct in war (*jus in bello*). They explained that most states have a

deeply rooted obligation to create and respect rules. The collective interest of the international society. This is so for man's nature as a rational and social creature. It gives rise to a commitment to reciprocity in international dealings. They posited that states, despite the anarchic nature of the global system, could bring about a sense of perpetual peace. States can create percentual peace, and the need for the maximum corporation to avert the danger of food insecurity and hunger is imperative as Kent further listed three essential conditions for engagement: 'a republican constitution', 'conditions of universal hospitality', a 'federation of free states. In Kent's argument, the most critical aspect of food security is the 'conditions of universal hospitality', which is the basis for states to protect against food insecurity and hunger.

Oye Arikawe, who studied Government, Economics and Geography at an advanced level at the Ondo State College of Art and Science Ikare alongside Akintola Aliu Jimoh (of blessed memory) and Gbenga Oresanjo, advanced the arguments in support of Thomas Hobbes or the Hobbesian theory of man aggressiveness in the state of nature they agreed with Thomas Hobbes that a world without government, forces humanity into a constant state of war because there is no way to trust in the excellent peaceful intention of others.

We must always be on the ground, lest we be attacked. This condition in which no ruler or judge can resolve disputes and establish security is anarchy. In a lawless world, Hobbes argued that our life must revolve around survival, leaving no time for agriculture, the art, or the sciences of anarchy. Hobbes concluded that "man's life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short." Oye Akintola's belief in the Hobbesian argument explains his behaviours of always supporting the government and

TRIBUTE



institutions or constituted authorities, and he would rather obey all laws once they are from the Leviathan.

Egbon Oye was in my house in Dubai recently, and as usual, I saw him fully complying with the Leviathan rules. We discussed his incredible respect for government, power, and politics. He was of great interest to Bola Tinubu's success at the poll (then). We engaged this discussion further as I disagreed with his belief in the power of the Leviathan. I told Egbon Oye then that with the incredible failure of Buhari, Boko Haram remains a critical challenge.

I argued that Boko Haram underscored the Hobbesian thesis of man's aggressiveness in the state of nature and the Nigerian government's failure to provide public goods. In my opinion, this precipitated the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency. As a result, the citizen contests their right to life (in danger), withdrawing their loyalty and support from the government and the armed forces. The current praxis explained the power shift from the Nigerian government to the identified local group (Boko Haram). The change, as I argued, is accompanied by continued

violence between soldiers and the insurgent, resulting in mass civilian casualty, genocide, systemic rape, and unquantifiable property destruction, fostering insecurity. Egbon Oye asked me a question in the presence of his visitors, "Ibrahim, and I answered ... yes sir, and he asked, "When will you stop reading."

Egbon Oye was never a realist who posited that international politics revolves in essential ways around acquiring and exercising power. The aggressive accusation of power prevents the seed of conflicts or a state of statism. This plays out in the intellectual origins of the realist paradigm, which lay in the classical world. For example, Thucydides' History of the Peloponnesian War is set in the context of Athens' war with Sparta over hegemony in the Mediterranean world in 431-404 BC. The realist further argued that international institutions to which the liberalist relied on collaboration have no power. They can only act for the power that created them. Thomas Hobbes explained the imperativeness of the state as absolute since the international system is anarchic. He explained that the nature

of man requires those laws enacted by the Leviathan to be respected otherwise, and according to him, the state of nature is bellum omnium contra omnes ('war of all against all). This argument raises the bar of sovereignty and the imperative power of the hegemon.

If you want to understand Egbon Oye, read the life and times of the liberalists. He wanted cooperation and collaboration in all issues of life. He tried to support or provide support; he wanted democratic peace. He planned to return to Igbotako for the rest of his life, perhaps to teach occasionally at the University of Fortune. On the two plots of land he bought from another liberalist family, Otunba Oyin Famodun (of blessed memory). He built his house in one and gave the other one to the Mountain of Fire and Miracle, his church. On one occasion, when I was running for the senatorial election, He came looking for me, and we met at the University of Fortune site in Igbotako.

He asked me how He could help. I told him, Sir, all was going well and that you had come looking for me, which was sufficient. Egbon Oye, give me one million Naira to support my election. He knows I am rich, but it matters not to him a liberalist; he did what he had to do in human kindness. I know he will be greatly missed by the Arikawe family home and abroad. Still, I took symmetry in that we exchanged notes in Dubai on the family's progress. I must thank God he has a very supportive wife who will carry on the excellent work. Egbon Oye, my senior in secondary school (Igbotako Community Grammar School), was a gentleman of excellence, a leader, and a supporter of the Bible. adieu esun re o egbon mi!

Ibrahim is a Federal Republic of Nigeria Senator and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Inter-parliamentary Worldwide. He holds PhD in Management Science from the University of Cambridge and another PhD in Modern War. The Federal Government of Nigeria has honoured him twice with OFR and CFR.

OPINION

'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Jonathan Franzen: e-books are damaging society

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

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

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

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

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

OPINION 'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Let's talk about livestock business'

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

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

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

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

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

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

##

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

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION DAY LECTURE

THEME:

ABANDONED MEGA PROJECTS IN NIGERIA:
ANY RESPITE FROM NIGERIA UNIVERSITIES?

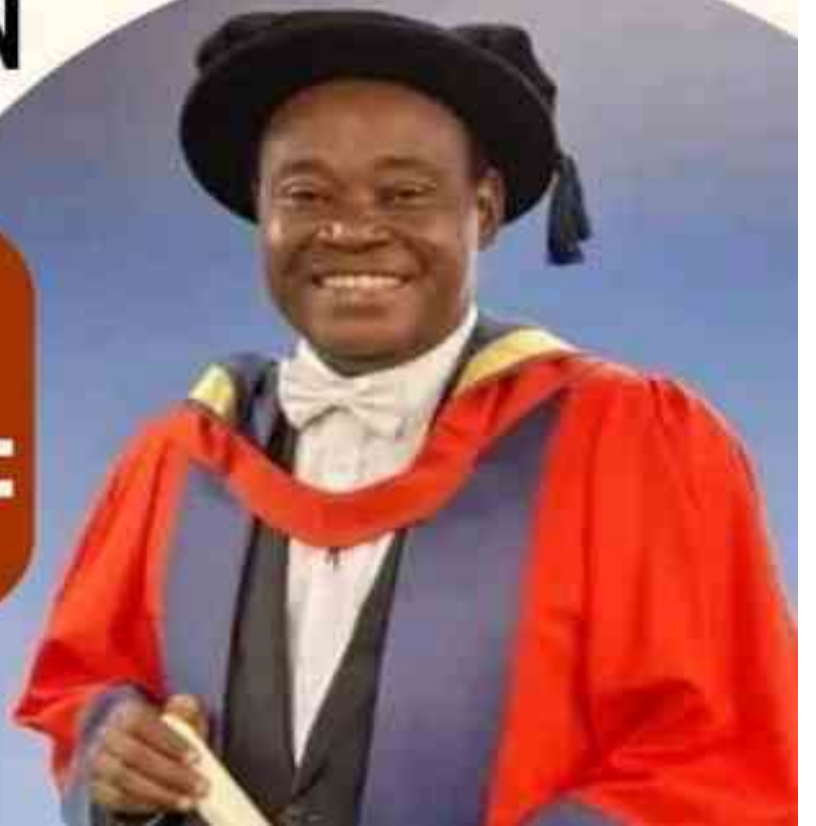
TUESDAY 20TH
AUGUST, 2024



11AM
PROMPT



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO
AUDITORIUM, FUTA



Senator Jimoh Ibrahim to Deliver Lecture in FUTA on Abandoned Mega Projects

As part of its 43rd-anniversary celebrations, the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) will host Billionaire Business Magnate and Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Jimoh Ibrahim, for its 2024 Foundation Day Lecture. Senator Ibrahim, representing Ondo South at the National Assembly, is scheduled to speak on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Obafemi Awolowo Auditorium, FUTA.

The Oxford-trained expert in mega project management will be addressing the critical issue of "Abandoned Mega Projects in Nigeria: Any Respite from Nigerian Universities?" This topic is not new to Ibrahim, who has extensively discussed the challenges of abandoned projects in Nigeria in numerous television interviews, particularly on Channels Television. His past remarks have highlighted the detrimental impact of these projects on the nation's development and the urgent need for strategic solutions.

Professor Adenike Temidayo Oladiji, the Vice-Chancellor of FUTA, will preside over this event, which promises to be a significant intellectual discourse aimed at

exploring the potential role of Nigerian universities in addressing the pervasive issue of abandoned projects.

Jimoh Ibrahim's deep concern for this topic is further evidenced by his substantial research work, which has explored the complexities of project abandonment in Nigeria. His academic credentials include a Doctorate in Business from the University of Cambridge Judge Business School and a Ph.D. in Modern War Studies from the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom. In addition, Ibrahim has completed a Master of Science in Mega Project Management at the University of Oxford Said Business School, underscoring his expertise in managing large-scale projects.

In various interviews, Ibrahim has repeatedly emphasized the need for a systematic approach to prevent and address project abandonment, calling for stronger institutional frameworks and increased accountability. His upcoming lecture at FUTA is expected to build on these themes, offering insights into how academic institutions can contribute to reversing the trend of abandoned

projects across Nigeria.

Aside from his significant contributions in the public sector, Ibrahim's business interests span multiple industries, including hotels, insurance, banking, oil and gas, real estate, and airlines. He has been a prominent figure in Nigeria's economic landscape and continues to influence the nation through his work in the Nigerian Senate. Currently, he is focused on building Fortune University in Igbotako, Ondo State, a world-class institution set on 150 hectares, which will be the first private university in the Southern Senatorial District of Ondo State.

In recognition of his extensive public service, Ibrahim has been honored with the titles of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) and Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR), reflecting his outstanding contributions to the nation.

As FUTA looks forward to its Foundation Day, the spotlight will be on Senator Ibrahim as he delivers a lecture that is likely to offer critical reflections and actionable strategies on how Nigerian universities can help tackle the persistent problem of abandoned mega projects in the country.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Margaret-Olatunde Akinnusi Ikale Scholarship Initiative is a non-political initiative set up to identify and support scholars of Ikale descent in Ondo State, Nigeria. The initiative is to honor the legacies of the late **Chief Samuel Olatunde Akinnusi** and the late **Mrs. Margaret Adeola Akinnusi** (Nee Ojajuni), an academic married couple who devoted their lives and careers to training, educating and providing mentorship opportunities for members of their community up to High/Secondary and tertiary education.

The inaugural session will, for a start, provide up to **10 (ten)** scholarship awards to identified scholars of Ikale origin as follows:

- a. 3 (three) scholarships at Doctorate level @ N150,000 each
- b. 3 (three) scholarships at Masters level @ N100,000 each
- c. 4 (four) scholarships at Undergraduate level @ N50,000 each

Each of the scholarships will be named after an illustrious person of Ikale descent, living or posthumous, who has contributed to the field of education and other diverse fields.

The criteria for awarding the scholarships will include the following:

- The Scholarship initiative is open to all students enrolled in a full-time undergraduate, Masters or Doctorate program in any Nigerian University during the 2024/25 academic session. Valid evidence of enrolment and/or academic progression will be required.
- Scholars starting their education in October 2024, will also be considered with their scholarship awards given in January/February 2025 upon providing evidence to support his or her application
- Academic excellence, not lower than CGPA in the second class (lower division) for the undergraduate awards.
- Relevance of the area of study to the improvement of the local community
- Potential environmental and or socio-economic impact of area of research on Ikale land
- Current/past community involvement, and/or a well-articulated plan to improve the Ikale community (bonus point)

For details on how to apply for consideration, interested scholars are enjoined to send an email to:

ikalescholar@gmail.com

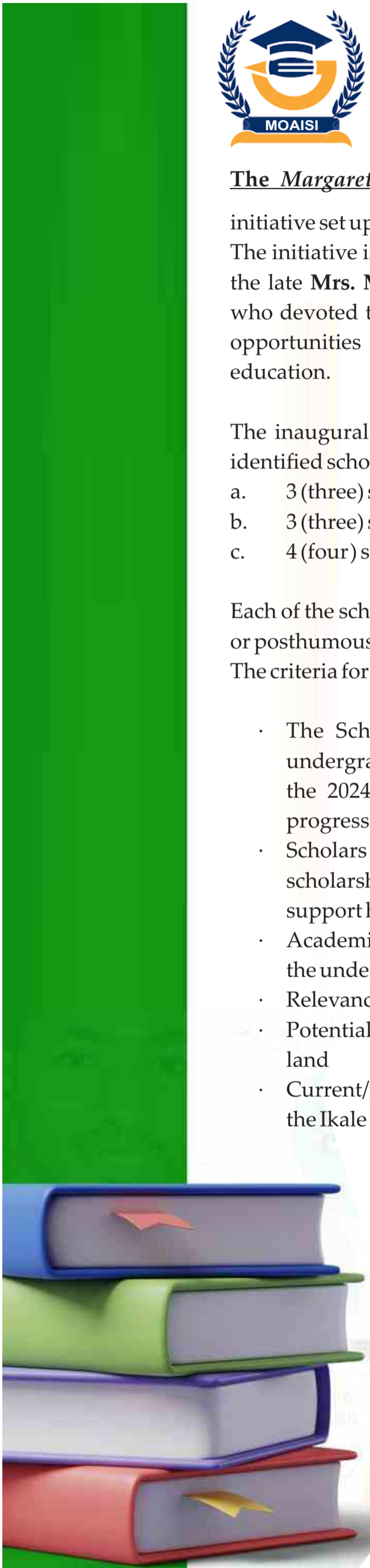
Application is completely free!

More details on those the scholarship awards will be named after will be publicized in the September edition of *Ikale News and on social media*.

A committee has been set up to review potential candidates with the first set of scholarships scheduled to be awarded at a ceremony at Okitipupa, in October, 2024.

Closing date for applications is September 30, 2024

Signed: Femi Akinnusi



POLITICAL UPDATE



Odimayo Rallies Support For Aiyedatiwa Towards Guber Election

One of the prominent Member of the House of Representatives, representing Okitipupa/Irele Federal Constituency, Omo'ba Okunjimi Odimayo, has pledged to fully support the campaign of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa ahead of the forthcoming November 16th gubernatorial election.

He made the pledge in Akure recently while donating his gubernatorial primary campaign office to the Governor ahead of the forthcoming poll.

Odimayo and other Members of the House of Representatives in Ondo met with the governor last month to declare their unwavering support ahead of the upcoming gubernatorial election.

The lawmaker emphasized the importance of unity and collective effort within the party to ensure a resounding victory in the upcoming gubernatorial election.

"We are at a critical juncture, and it is imperative that we stand united to secure a prosperous future for Ondo State. "This campaign office is a symbol of our unwavering support and our determination to work tirelessly for the governor's success, Odimayo stated.

According to Odimayo's media director, Victor Adedeji, the Irele prince also promised to leverage his influence and support base to mobilize massive support across the eighteen local government areas in the state.

He expressed confidence that with coordinated efforts, the party would achieve a landslide victory. "We have already started extensive grassroots mobilization, and I assure you that our efforts will reach every nook and cranny of Ondo State," he added.

As the campaign season intensifies, Odimayo urges party's leaders and members to work across board to ensure the victory of the governor in November election.