



ADEKUOROYE CRIES OUT

- Wrestling star cries to Tinubu, Egbetokun
- Alleges cover-up in her brother's death



DR. SEINDE FADENI-OLADAPO



SENATOR JIMOH IBRAHIM



HRM OBA G.B. FADUYILE



SIR DEMOLA SUZI



ODUNAYO ADEKUOROYE



ENGR. FELIX AYEJUNIKAWA



DR. JIDE MARTINS ADEWINLE



BARR. PHILLIP OGUNJUMELO



PROF EDDY OMOLEHINWA



PRINCESS OLADUNNI ODU



MR. SOLA FRED ADEKUGBE



MR. OLORUNNIMBE AYENUYO

Ukoto Oma Ikale: We Must Revamp Education In Ikale” McPherson University VC, Prof Igbasan



Aseyori Conference: Ganduje, Kekemeke, Adetimehin & others APC bigwigs pour encomium on Jimoh Ibrahim.



Ondo Governorship Election: Will He Be Lucky This Time?



“Im sure of winning” says Agboola Ajayi

“Aiyedatiwa will shock his critics ...

Says Grassroots Strategist, Labolah

**SEE FULL LIST OF
AWARD WINNERS
ON PG 5 & 6**

AWARD PRESENTATION
VENUE: ASEPH EVENT CENTER OKITI PUPA
DATE: DECEMBER 27TH, 2024
PLAN TO ATTEND

EDITORIAL PAGE

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Ikale Awards is Here Again!

By the grace of God Almighty, come Friday December 27, 2024, the 4th Edition of the Ikale Awards will hold at Aseph Events Center, Erinje Road Okitipupa, from 10 am to 3 pm. Waaaa! It promises to the wonderful.

This year's event is going to be so colourful. We have rejigged the Biripo Dancing Competition, such that the female and male winner will go home with a trophy or plaque for keeps. And the cash reward for them have been doubled. We are going to have Raffle Draw. This is our way of giving back to the community. For a ticket of N5000 to gain access to the event hall, you can will fantastic prizes – a brand new bicycle is our star prize. And we have so many other gifts including “Ikale Award Rice” bags and other stuff to engage the stomach during the Yelutide.

I am still tracking our best comedians in Ikale. I know of Iba and Iye Melody in Ode-Irele and of course I am a big fan of “Elenu

Ikale”. It is our job to support them and give them exposure. They are promoting our language and culture just as we in *Ikale News* are doing. So, where else will they have the centre-stage outside Ikale Awards?

For the first time in the Ikale Awards series, this year, we introduced online voting through Facebook and our website (ikalenews.com). What we used to do was for our readers to nominate award winners and our Award Panel would pick the final winners. We have reversed the process. The Award Panel now nominates and the readers pick final winners by voting.

This latter process is more reflective of the popularity of winners. It was good the Panel picks the nominees because there were balancing acts that we must effect. For instance, the nominees must spread out across Ikale. There is no Ikale town that does not have sons and daughters of distinction to win the various awards. So, the nominees you see this year were

products of intensive screening and balancing to ensure that the winners cut across. And as it would turn out, the voters also reflected this spread. In this year's Awards, there is no major town in Ikale that does not have at least one award winner. We did not plan it that way, although we let the nominees spread out.

We are proud of those who win this year. More winners will emerge in two or three years' time when we do another Ikale Awards. You said why not “next year?” No, no, we can't do Ikale Awards yearly. Apart from the huge cost of organizing the ceremony, we don't want to water down the awards. We want it to be our little Noble Prize Without Cast Backing. The integrity behind it is the “cash”. So we guard the scheme jealously. Ikale Awards can never be bought. There is nobody that have won Ikale Awards that we have regrets over. Rather, they have continued to soar higher and higher and higher. Here is my congratulations, first to ALL our nominees. And then to ALL OUR WINNERS. Thanks for making us proud.

Will Lucky be Lucky Again?

That's the headline my editor chose for one of our lead stories in this edition. Well, the voters would answer that question on November 16.

For me, there is no luck in this guber election coming up this month. I admit that Gov Lucky Aiyedatiwa was lucky to be picked as deputy and to emerge as governor. It ends there. Now the voting won't be on luck but on serious hard work of electioneering. Those who know Ondo elections logistics know how it is done. And that's how it will be done. Let us to out and our preferred governor, with strife and rancour. Both are our brothers, fathers or uncles. Agbo is from Apoiland. Lucky is from Ilajeland. Are both part of us? Whoever wins is gain to us, please. That is just the plain truth. We that are not politicians should behaving like politicians, carrying our “sara” past Moshalashi. It is so sad that we don't vote on issues and personalities again. We vote on the colour of the Naira. We must get beyond this in our politicking to vote for the best candidate. The same Americans that voted out Donald Trump voted him back in. We found it difficult to get materials on the PDP and Agbo Campaign Office. Obviously, it means they don't believe that *Ikale News* can add value to their campaigns. Whereas, we have been inundated with materials from the Lucky Campaign Office such that we have to be rejecting a lot of them to avoid bias in our reporting of the gladiators. But really, this is not our fault.

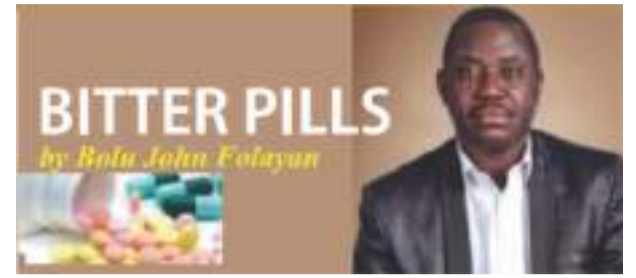
We also stumbled on the sad story of the mysteriously death of the brother of Ikale born wrestling star, Odunayo Adekuoroye. The Ilutitun-born wrestling superstar was devastated that such could be done to his family and wants the powers that be to unravel the matter. This is being looked into and we will give you reports as we progress. All the other menus are in this edition for your enjoyment. We are repeating Baba Liliken and Ikale Kids as usual. In this edition, our brand new Business Development Officer, Adebola Ademola starts her column for the youthful mind. Not youths only – including the youthful mind. We also drop two letters out of the several that we got from you to share with everybody.

Thank you so much. *Odon yii a ba wa ni ayo o.* Amin.

Bolu John Folayan, PhD, mnipr
Publisher

BITTER PILL

A Similarity Index of Donald Trump & Jimoh Ibrahim



The American presidential elections will continue to be the talk of the town for some time to come. Mr. Donald “Loudmouth” Trump, the one that grabs them by the pussy is back in power as president of one of the most powerful countries on earth, the USA. In academics, there is something we call “Similarity Index” – trying to see the extent to which our works are original or similar to other people.

In one of such chit-chats, on WhatsApp, on the American elections, I pointed out the striking similarities between the American president-elect and our own Senator Jimoh Ibrahim. One of the group members tackled me, dismissing any comparison between Trump and Jimoh, and I then reminded him that I am not only a journalist, I am an academic. I write dispassionately. I don't do *jeunalism*, a theory I have developed and published articles on in learned journals. A journalist is supposed to be a witness not an interested party. Whenever I have a personal interest in issues, I declare such interest so that those who rely on me on my analysis won't be disappointed. There is an uncle of mine who always called me to analyze elections for them and I have only missed it once. Why I succeeded was that I gave unbiased analysis. Interpretative writing is different from opinion writing.

So I DM the guy and my first line was: “Do not

say because you dislike a person, so you use that to assess the person”. By the time I did my analysis of the two billionaires, he took a bow. Here is what I did:

BACKGROUND: Both Donald Trump and Jimoh Ibrahim are from poor background. They are both self-made billionaires. They fought poverty with all their might and conquered it.

NATURE OF BUSINESS: Both Trump and Ibrahim made the bulk of their wealth from property and real estate.

PSYCHOGRAPHY: Both are strongly opinionated. They are somewhat social deviants who stay with their convictions regardless of being politically or socially correct. In manner of language, they are often brash. But in the next minute they are the most humble people you can see around. They are both extroverts. They are billionaires who do not like floating with the rich and wealthy in form of class dominance. They flow with ordinary people that is why people do not give them the respect they give to other billionaires.

RELATIONSHIP WITH JOURNALISTS: Both have cult followership in the media which is sharply divided. A section of the media love them, while the other hates them. Both are news makers any day. They know what to say to

grab the headlines. They both owned media organizations at some time. The media built them and the media try to pull them but they have learned enough to even manipulate the media whenever they want.

POLITICS: Both do not have political godfathers and don't care. As far as they are concerned, it is the pact with the people that matters. When Trump first contests, he literally fought top leaders of the Republican Convention, his party. He told them he had enough money to win the primaries and the election and he did. Ibrahim has a similar trait. While he respects elders of the party, he does not believe in godfatherism. Both are not swayed by popular opinions. To convince them you have to be convincing. It does not matter if they are the only two in a million that hold a viewpoint, so long as they are convinced that is the right view, they hold on to it.

RHETORIC STYLE: Both of them say it as it is, no matter whose ox is gored. Trump's comments are more lethal... like calling Kamala Harris “silly and empty-head”, calling Joe Biden “crooked Joe” and getting away with it. When his NICON insurance was seized from him during the Yar Adua Administration, Ibrahim called out the minister “Did I buy the company with your father's money”. Some people believe that if

BITTER PILLS

Ibrahim could talk in more gentle manners, he would get far in politics. But, like Trump, he does not care. “How can you compare someone with three PhDs with someone with two credit passes, the rest is P8 and F9?” he once said, referring during the APC internal wrangling. And both of them can boast about their credentials and abilities! Give them a written speech, they hardly would read it but rather would speak extempore.

AS STRATEGISTS: Donald Trump does not follow established patterns in doing his things. Go and check his records and history. And this resonates with Jimoh Ibrahim's. They are very original in the way they approach issues, always thinking outside the box. Ibrahim once

defined 'strategy' to me as “when everyone is going to West, head to the East but keep focus on why you are going”. They do not believe anything is impossible once you have the right strategy.

RELIGION: Both are Christians and they believe that whoever they are has been made possible by the Almighty God.

The above similarity index check does not mean these two achievers don't differ in some ways too. In fact, I am sure SJI won't agree with me on some of my analysis. There was a time he told me he is not an “extrovert”. I laughed and laughed. Who you come be? Introvert? Most successful people share attributes. Instead of learning their arts and seeing what we can pick or throw away, we throw the baby away with the bath water. Do you know that

President Bola Tinubu also have a lot of aforementioned attributes? Most self-made millionaires (who did not inherit their wealth) are deviants, for example. Go check out. They are great strategists.

Instead of teaching billionaires how to make money why don't pick aspects of what made them millionaires and try out, perhaps you can be millionaire too? Just a conjecture. **Ko si eni ti ko ni but**, all that matter is how you navigate your way to success legitimately.

Calling out NUIKAS urgently

Anyone who has the contact of the National President of the National Union of Ikale Students (NUIKAS) should please give mine to him. I have important issues to raise with him and his exco.

I read on the social media that NUIKAS, which went into the doldrums after the bright leadership years of Alaba Otekaye, Temola, Bayo Adekanle (many years ago) has been resuscitated. But I am yet to see the union in action since the rejuvenation.

My brother, Femi Akinnusi called me from Canada some months ago that he would to put up a modest scholarship in honour of his parents for Ikale undergraduates and post graduate students. Winners will go home with between N100k to N150k. We did adverts in two editions of *Ikale News* and followed up with a story. When I called Femi up last week for updates, he told me “Egbon, you won't believe that only ONE person applied for the scholarship.” There and then I told him what we shall do is to hold NUIKAS responsible. We shall send the Call for Applications via NUIKAS this time and see what happens.

I have had several disgraceful cases like this. Our people are no longer interested in matters of education. They are just carrying names that they are university and polytechnic students.

I remember when I started the online version of *Ikale News* I decided to set up a scholarship fund in honour of the late Aye entrepreneur, Pa Oladapo Fadani. I told Sister Funmi Olowogunle and Dr. Seinde Fadani who expressed readiness to fully fund the scholarship. I requested prospective candidates to fill online forms on Ikalenews.com. Only four persons did and I had to cancel the programme.

Is it that undergraduates do not read newspapers or view serious matter on social media? Because *Ikale News* has almost 7000 subscribers on Facebook alone.

Ah. O serious o. Let the President of NUIKAS call me so that we can fashion the way out for the union. With good planning, NUIKAS can secure over 200 scholarships which would go a long way to help our indigent students from Ikale. Many people want to set up small scholarships – five to ten beneficiaries and they don't want to do the wahala of making noise because of the small number. But we can coordinate and merge the efforts. The important thing is for these students to have financial relief in this very hard times.



INVITATION TO FORMAL PRESENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL AWARDS

It has been three years since our father's departure from us on Sunday September 12, 2021. We thank God for the incredible life he led and as painful as his passing has been to us, we shall continue to cherish many moment we shared together as a family as he remains alive in each of us - the children

To mark the third year memorial anniversary, the board of trustees of the Babatunde Anthony Akinmosin Foundation (a registered charity under the land succession and perpetual Act to perpetuate the ideals for which he had labored for many years) will be giving out educational grants to deserving brilliant but indigent of junior secondary (JSS) and senior secondary student of Lubokun Comprehensive High School, Igbotako and Community Grammar School, Igbotako on Friday November 8, 2024

In continuation of the legacy of our illustrious father who believed that education remains the avenue for social development, we shall also award annual **BABTUNDE AKINMOSIN PRIZE** to deserving indigenes who have achieved outstanding accomplishment in their various fields of endeavour. This is to disabuse he minds of the younger generation against the notion that the easiest way to get wealth and fame is by fraudulent means.

It is expected that, the foundation shall in line with its objectives, award these periodically and others for any cause deemed worthy of its support.

In keeping with the provisions of his will, we shall convert hid residence to a public library to be known as B.A Akinmosin Memorial Library.

We thank God for his enviable landmarks in human capital development, education and service to humanity in general as we remember his deep faith and love for humanity, hard work and his sense of duty to Igbotako Community as the pioneer

Principal, Lubokun Comprehensive High school, Igbotako (1979 – 1983), Principal, Community Grammar School, Igbotako (1983 – 1985), Chairman, Ikale Local Government Council (1986 – 1987), Chairman / Director, Igbotako Community Bank Nigeria Limited and St. Leois Secondary modern school, Igbotako and as the chairman Parents – Teacher Association Community Grammar School, Igbotako.

AUSTINE FEMI IDOWU AKINMOSIN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
THE BABTUNDE ANTHONY AKINMOSIN FOUNDATION

Ikale News Established June 1992



IKALE COMMUNITY AWARDS 2024, Biripo Dancing Competition & Raffle Draw

ABAGUN KOLE OMOLU
Chairman of the Day

ALL IKALE TRADITIONAL RULERS
Royal Guests of Honour:

PASTOR OLUSEGUN AIYERIN
Guest of Honour:

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

BLOCK THE DATE NOW !!!



IKALE AWARDS 2024 WINNERS



DR. SEINDE FADENI-OLADAPO
Ikale Gold Award



SENATOR JIMOH IBRAHIM
Best Ikale Legislator Award



BARR. PHILLIP OGUNJUMELO
Outstanding Ikale in the
Diaspora Award



DR. JIDE MARTINS ADEWINLE
Distinguished Ikale Business
Personality of the Year



HRM OBA G.B. FADUYILE
Outstanding Ikale Traditional
Ruler Award



SIR DEMOLA SUZI
Ikale Culture Icon Award



PRINCESS OLADUNNI ODU
Outstanding Ikale Woman Award



PROFESSOR FRANCIS IGBASAN
Distinguished Performance in
Education (Tertiary)



ODUNAYO ADEKUOROYE
Special Award for Distinguished
Performance in Sports



ENGR. FELIX AYEJUNKANWA
Distinguished Ikale Professional
Award



IKALE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION, ABUJA
Distinguished Ikale Club/Association



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
Distinguished Performance
in Education (Secondary)



UTAKO DAY 2023
Best Organized Community Day



MR. OLORUNNIMBE AYENUYO
Ikale Community Service Award



**Special Award for Distinguished
Non-Ikale**



St. Williams Nursery & Pry School
Distinguished Performance in
Education (Primary)

*Ikale Awards 2024 Winners Continued***SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**HE. GOV. LUCKY
AIYEDATIWADR. AKINDADE
AKINGBAMR. SOLA FRED
ADEKUGBETEMI EMMANUEL
OLOGUNORISAPROF. EDDY
OMOLEHINWAMR SEGUN
OBAYANDI**Lagos State to Replace LCDA Elections with New Administrative Structure**

In a groundbreaking move poised to reshape local governance, the Lagos State Government has announced its intent to discontinue elections for its 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). This policy shift, shared by Hon. Lasbat Meranda on behalf of Speaker Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa during a stakeholders' meeting, signals a significant restructuring effort in the state's approach to local administration. The proposal, encapsulated in a new legislative bill, "A Bill for a Law to Provide for Local Government System, Establishment, and Administration and to Consolidate

All Laws on Local Government Administration and Connected Purposes," introduces the establishment of 37 Area Administrative Councils. These councils will operate alongside Lagos' 20 constitutionally recognized local governments, creating a dual framework for local administration.

Under the bill, each of the new councils will be led by an Area Administrative Secretary, a position filled through appointments that require approval from the Lagos State House of Assembly. The Deputy Speaker stated that this new

administrative structure is designed to enhance governance, especially in more remote communities, and to accelerate local development by improving access to essential infrastructure and services.

According to Hon. Meranda, the revised structure will bring government closer to the people, fostering an inclusive and responsive system aimed at addressing the needs of residents across all areas of Lagos State.

The bill is currently under review, with further deliberations expected as the state legislature assesses its potential impact on local governance and development.

INTERVIEW

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

How do you determine the Award winners?

When we started in 1993, the process was like



IKALE AWARDS SPECIAL

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

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

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

How much does an awardee pay to win?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why is the Award Ceremony being moved to Ikale?

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

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

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

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

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





IKALE AWARDS SPECIAL

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

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

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

[cuts in] Giani, Omos and Odunayo abi?

Exactly, sir

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is seeing the awardees feel a sense of being appreciated! These awardees are usually surprised that we invite them for awards. Whether it is for personal recognition or for supporting the community, people need to be recognized. Let us be proud of our people. Even those who are not supporting the community will do so when you encourage them. We don't celebrate our own in Ikale. It's that bad. *Bad belle* is too much. This one did not do for the town. That one does not do for the town. Did the town sponsor their education and career? The little that they are doing, encourage them! They will do more.

Any setbacks or regrets so far?

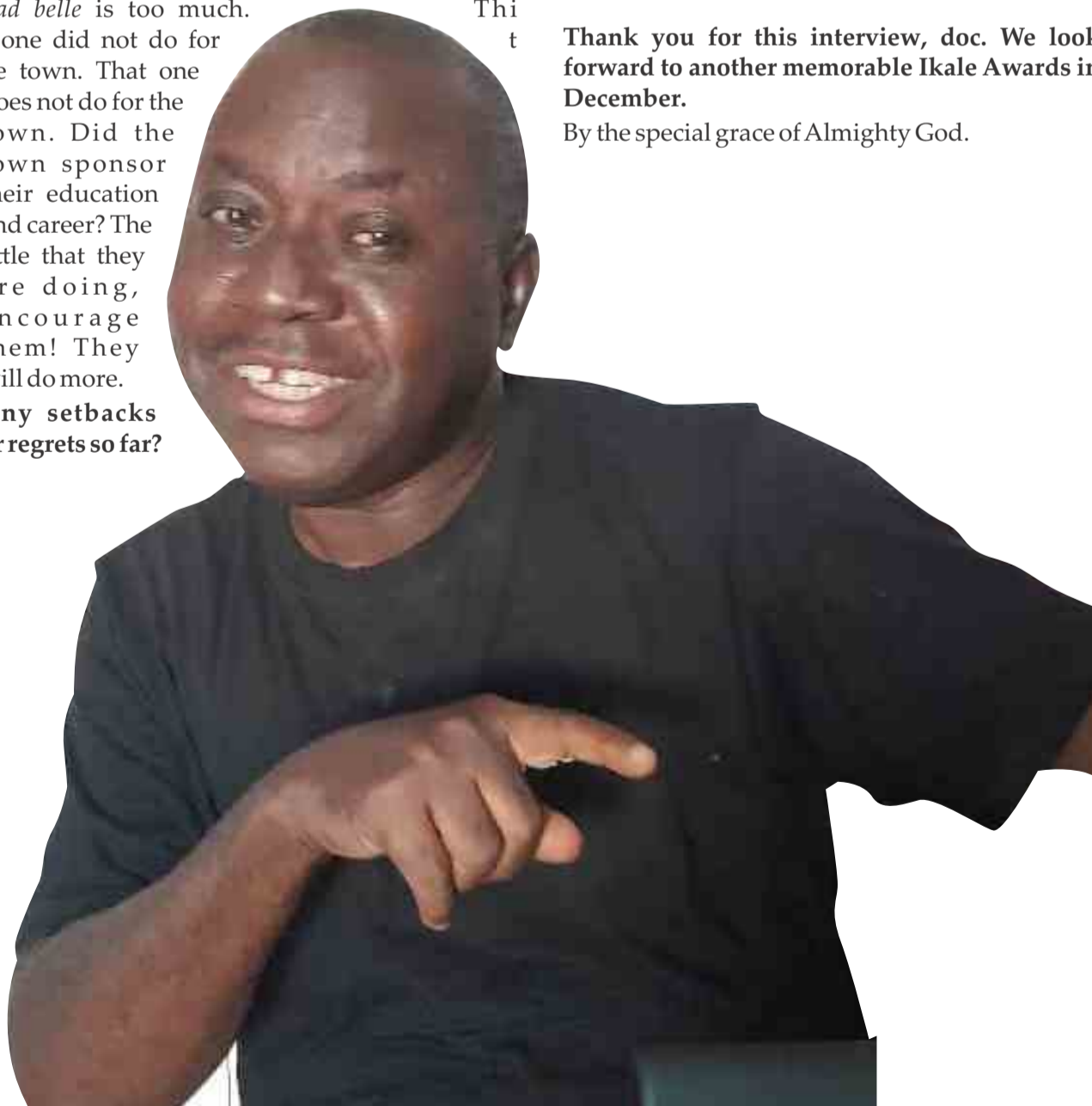
Sometimes, I feel ashamed at the quality of awards that I gave the first set of awards in the 90s. I didn't have the resources. Nevertheless, they accepted the award plaques. But in the most recent editions, we have improved on this. We want our awards to stand out in the shelves of our Awardees. God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

Lastly, what should we expect from Ikale Awards 2024?

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

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

By the special grace of Almighty God.



HOT SEAT

“Aiyedatiwa will shock his critics with a stellar performance as governor”

Special Interview the grassroots mobilizer, Ibikunle Ikuyinminu a.k.a Labolah

In this interview with our Acting Editor, Sam Olaniyan, popular grassroots politician and activist, Ibikunle Ikuyinminu opens up on many issues on Ikale politics and why he is committed to community development activism.



Let us about your family background, home town, and so on

Thank you. I am Hon. Ibikunle Ikuyinminu, known in social and political circles as Labolah. I was born in the late seventies to the Stephen Ikuyinminu family of Lumeko Quarters in Ode-Aye, Okitipupa Local Government Area in Ondo State. My dad, Sir Stephen Temidayo Ikuyinminu (gone to glory) was a respected community leader who worked as a tutor and retired as a Headteacher and later contested and won election as the Vice Chairman of the then Ikale Local Government. As Vice Chairman, he was also appointed as Supervisory Councillor for Finance and Economic Planning. He was a well respected officer in the Methodist Church Nigeria, having been a Society Steward, Circuit Steward, Diocesan Treasurer, and was later elected Lay President of Igbobini Diocese although he chose not to accept thus for reasons he told those who were close to him in his lifetime. He was, for very many years, a member of the conference and his activities earned for him the Methodist National Award of Officer of the Order of the Wesleys (OOW), making him the first awardee to come from Aye Circuit. My mum, Mrs Hannah Ikuyinminu is a retired Headteacher and she is today in private life after her 35 years of meritorious service in the teaching profession. She hails from Ode-Erinje and she is the third child of

late Pa Thompson Morayo Oladokun Ayadi, another notable political phenomenon in his lifetime.

I attended Methodist Primary School, Ode-Aye where I obtained my First School Leaving Certificate and later proceeded to Unity Secondary School, also in Ode-Aye, and later Baptist Grammar School, Ode-Aye where I obtained my Senior School Certificate. I proceeded to the Federal Polytechnic, Ado-Ekiti for a National Diploma in Accounting, but the desperation to see the four walls of the university compelled me to go for a degree in Marketing at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State which I completed in 2024 and I did my mandatory youth service in Benue State afterwards.

Tell us about your career

For my mandatory youth service, I worked as Administrative Assistant/ File Clerk at the Office of the Chairman, Gwer West Local Government, Naka, Benue State. I was later employed as Senior Correspondent at Third World Media Limited, Publisher of Ikale News. From there I moved to Newswatch Magazine as Business Development Officer (BDO) in Ondo State. I really thanked Dr Bolu John Folayan, a first-class journalist, for discovering the passion for

journalism in me and nurturing me along that line. Although I have moved on to other jobs, I am still an Executive Editor with *Ikale News*. You know, it is a community newspaper. *Ikale News* is not a commercial project. Dr. Folayan really helped me to broaden my skills in print journalism.

I studied Marketing, really, *Ikale News* rose to become the oldest surviving community newspaper in Ondo State and one of the most reputable in Nigeria. Again in 2008, I joined Mega Asset Managers Limited. It was a corporate sub-broking firm affiliated to Core Trust and Investment Limited, a member of the Nigerian Stock Exchange. In less than 2 years in the service of the Company, I rose to become Deputy Manager of Akure Branch and was later preferred as Manager of Ikare-Akoko Branch until I resigned to join 'The Staples', a magazine published by Network Publishers.

For 4 years, I managed the media organization as Editor-in -Chief. I was also in the service of Olabisi Onabanjo University (Information and Technology Management School) where I worked as a part-time lecturer handling marketing classics and relevant courses. That was around 2010 to 2012, until I joined Newswatch Magazine in December 2012 as Reporter and Business Development Officer as I told you earlier.

I left Newswatch Communications Limited in 2014 to join Planet Security Guards Limited as General Manager. While there, I doubled as CSO of the Mother and Child Hospital in Akure and that afforded me a very great opportunity to be very close to the Governor of Ondo State at that time, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko. I remember a night he visited the hospital and had to call me on phone to conduct him and the Senate President round the premises. That is by the way sha. I left Planet Guards to join Stevenice Communications Limited, a Media and Public Relations Firm and till today, I remain a Director in the company. Again in 2019, I joined De Cool Cola Limited as the Ondo State Sales Representatives and resigned in 2022 to pursue a private research on a book which will be out in few months.

You are always moving! Why couldn't you

HOT SEAT

continuation of “Aiyedatiwa will shock his critics with a stellar performance as governor”

stay with a company and grow with it?

(General laughter)

As a young man I was desperate to make it fast. That drive in me is the push. In some cases, I moved because the company was not doing so well but in some others it was because of the challenges of the new job. I love challenges. Challenges don't scare me. Just give me the job, I will deliver.

You are also a prolific author...

Thank you for that compliment. I am a proud author of several books including "Seinde Fadeni Oladapo: A Quintessential Role Model" and "Concise Marketing for Secondary Schools". I have three other works under way, including the history of my hometown, Ode Aye.

As the Special Assistant on Mobilization to Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, what are your key responsibilities, and what have been your notable achievements so far?

I make strategic mobilization planning such as developing and implementing mobilization strategies to ensure Governor Aiyedatiwa and the All Progressive Congress come out victorious in the November 16 Governorship Election in the state. To this extent, we have been conducting stakeholders analysis and identifying key mobilization targets as well as communication and outreach such as leveraging media channels, social media, and events for mobilization. For well over one month now, we have been meeting with relevant stakeholders and institutions. We ensure the people get to know the policies of the government and the measures His Excellency has been taking to ensure the people benefit from the activities of the government. The people deserve to know what the government has in Stock for them and how re-electing APC can bring the expected development to the state and this gospel we have been about to preach, God helping us day-by-day.

So, the whole essence of the appointment is just to generate votes in the election?

No, no, no. That is a misconception. I only told you that because that is what I am doing at the moment. After the election, mobilization must continue. It is my job at the grassroots level to keep people informed about what the governor is doing and plans to do. It has to do informing the populace and carrying them along. How many people in my ward listen to the radio or watch TV or read newspapers? But I am here to constantly inform them. And it is two-way. I also let the

governor know what is going on at the grassroots. As we progress, more schedule would be given to us. But suffice it is to say, I stand for the governor at my grassroots level in all matters of governance. I have the capacity to represent him at that very micro level of governance and it is very unique for our governor to do this novel idea of having PAs at Ward Levels

How have you successfully mobilized support for the APC across grassroots areas so far:?

I have conducted series of meetings with stakeholders. I have also been able to solve teething problems. It has not been easy. If you want to succeed on this kind of job you will have to spend your allowance to do certain things. "Erun orofo ee jo namu-namu" my Acting Editor. I cannot market my governor without solving some of the problems of my constituents. But I am not complaining. I am enjoying. After the elections and by the grace of God we get to power, the governor will also do his own and we will deliver to the grassroots. Governor Aiyedatiwa wants to make impact at grassroots level. We are to be his trusted hands and ears at the level. I am succeeding by the grace of God.

What we hear is that Aiyedatiwa is not really popular. It is alleged that he was imposed by powers from above. A state that boasts of SANs. Professors, etc. Do you think this will not affect his chances of winning this election?

It will not. It is not degrees that you need to be a good political leader. Perhaps the best governor Nigeria has produced, the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande was never a graduate. He had only Diploma in Journalism as his highest qualification but this man established the Lagos State University that has today become two universities, churning out professors. Gov Aiyedatiwa is highly cerebral. Listen to him speak. And so far, you can see how he has been governing us well. That is what the people vote APC in November election.

We can understand that you will defend your boss. Yet some other people say Odatiwa has no clear focus in terms of programmes. That by now, one should be able to say this and that are his priorities.

Again, that is not correct. People have to realize that Gov Aiyedatiwa faced a very challenging political tsunami in this state, starting from when his former boss, the late Gov. Rotimi Akeredolu was sick till he passed on to glory. His preoccupation at the time was survival. After this came the primaries. And you know how tough it could be to face political giants like Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim, Chief Olusola Oke and Wale Akinterinwa. After securing surviving the contest, he has faced governance squarely. Yet he has been able to show that the civil servants, education, job creation, and infrastructure as his top priorities. There is no doubt that. So, his focus is very clear.



Ibikunle Ikuyinminu

HOT SEAT

continuation of “Aiyedatiwa will shock his critics with a stellar performance as governor”



Ibikunle Ikuyinminu

What challenges have you faced in this role, and how have you addressed them?

The major challenge is that the people's expectations are much and the resources of government cannot go round. Aye is my primary constituency. There are over 200 wards across the state. It is difficult to fight for your own area amongst the lot. But what I have been advocating is that our people should come together and ask for something that would be beneficial to them generally. The government cannot locate project in every ward. With good road network, a project in Aye can benefit people in Okitipupa and Igbotako, even Ore and vice versa.

With the 2024 gubernatorial election nearing, how is your office preparing for voter mobilization, and how are you tackling voter apathy in certain areas?

We have been doing our best. I am sure that by the grace of God the entire Ayeland and its villages would vote en-mass for Gov Aiyedatiwa. He is our own and we are comfortable with his leadership.

As grassroots political mobilizer, is your mandate limited to your ward in Ode Aye or you can operate across the state?

I can operate anywhere in Ondo State but my primary area of operations is Ayeland.

What do you like in Mr Lucky Aiyedatiwa most exceptionally?

He simple style of leadership. Well, a lot of people say my governor is aka-gum (that he is stingy). I would rather say he is prudent. Mr. Governor is very meticulous. I admire his humility. He is a typical Ilaje man: Very

principled. I support him because he represents us in Ondo South, especially in the Old Okitipupa Division. He is an Ilajeman to the core that he knows that he must develop Ondo South, including his home base, Ilaje land. He is the first Ilaje to be governor and I am sure he will use the opportunity to develop Ilaje communities. These communities generate most income the state gets, yet, there is nothing to show for that. Gov Aiyedatiwa will correct this anomaly.

What do dislike most about the Luckyman? Or is he a perfect human being?

(Laughter). Well, no human is perfect. But quite honestly I cannot think of one dislike right now. May be...I would have loved him to have more women in his cabinet. Mr. Governor is a listening leader. Very unassuming.

What initiatives has the Ondo State government introduced to tackle development challenges in rural communities like Ikale, particularly in infrastructure, education, and healthcare?

Those have been his priorities so far. He has been dedicated to completing existing projects. By next year when he officially begins his term of office, you will see wonders of governance in the areas you have mentioned.

How would you assess the chances of Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa in the upcoming election, and what strategies are in place to secure his win?

Oh, we are winning hands-down. Aiyedatiwa is going to win the election by landslide. His chances are very bright. For strategies, I cannot disclose it. I keep it close to my chest. But you will see that he will win.

Our people a leader who be a. Blessing to the people is easily known at the spadework. What do you think Mr Lucky has done to deserted full endorsement rhus month?

15. How is your office encouraging youth involvement in politics, particularly in Ikale and across Ondo State?

What strengths does Lucky Aiyedatiwa bring to the table as a candidate, and what feedback are you getting from Ikale/ilaje/Apoi communities?

Honestly, the rousing reception beat my expectations. I was on the campaign trail of the governor to Ilaje, through Ikale and when he was in Odigbo. It has been wonderful. Well, what he brings to the table is the experience he had under Aketi and the one he has so far as governor are huge strengths for him. He is not coming in in

HOT SEAT

February as a Jambite governor, even though constitutionally he will spend only a term. That term is going to witness wonders for all citizens. The last time our son of there as governor (Dr. Agagu) we saw how he reset the template of governance. He is still the standard yardstick to assess other governors till today. Gov Aiyedatiwa will match and surpass that achievement, hopefully.

How would you evaluate the APC-led government's performance in Ikale with this T-pain biting the citizens harder?

It is birth pains. *Ayo lo ma bade* and we will smile at the end of the day. We cannot continue as usual and hope to fix this country. It is unfortunate. I feel the pain too but we will overcome. President Tinubu means well for the country. Yesterday, the minister of works, Dave Umahi came visiting and explained to us the implications of the coastal road from Lagos to Port Harcourt which would branch at Igbokoda. That is very huge for us in Ondo South. More would come by the grace of God.

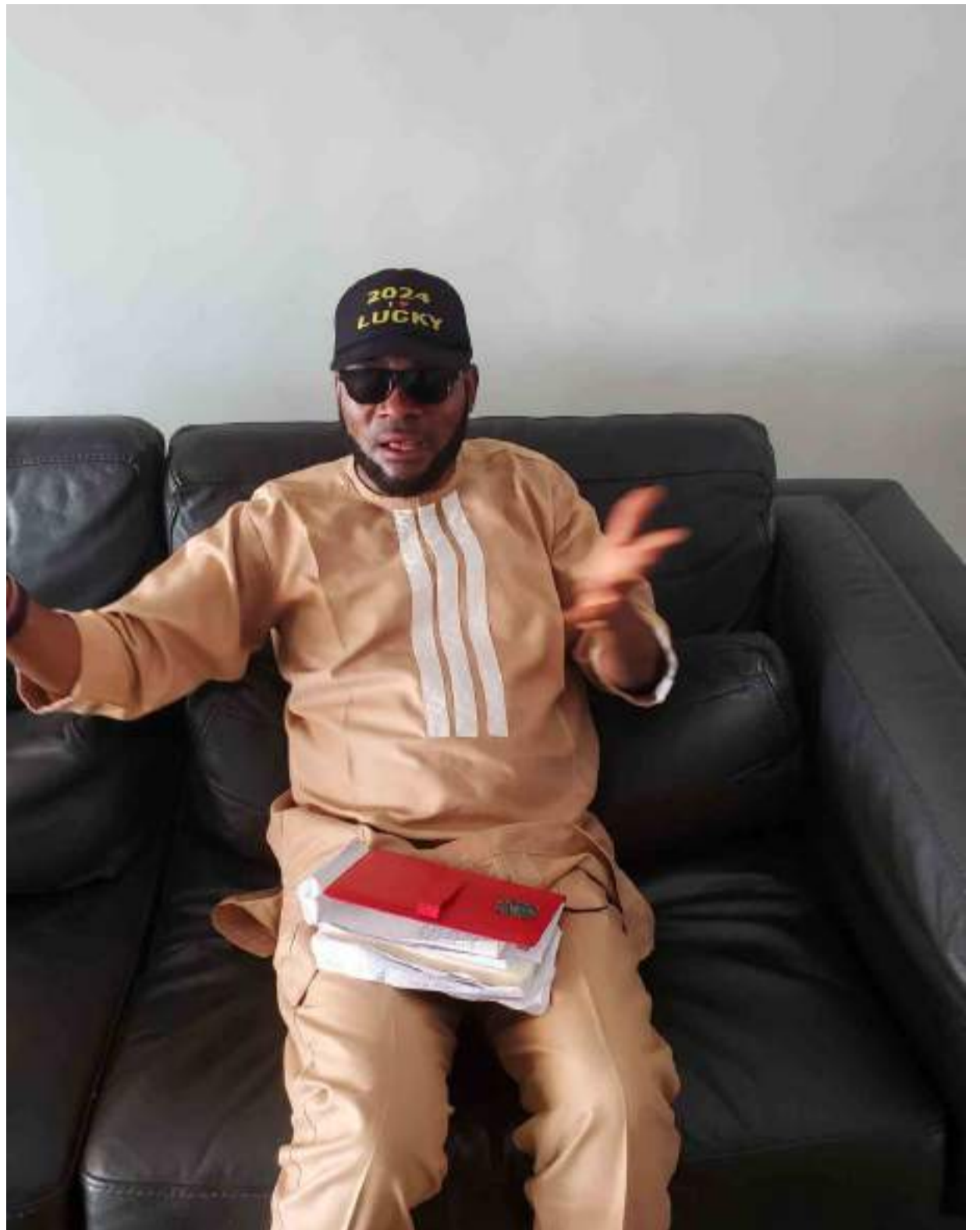
How you combine your passions of being a journalist, a politician or political activist, church activities, and being a public servant?

By the grace of God, I am coping. The key thing is that I love what I am doing. When you follow your passion, you will always be happy.

Thank you for the interview, Mr. Labolah

Thank you Mr. Editor.

continuation of "Aiyedatiwa will shock his critics with a stellar performance as governor"



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COVER

Adekuoroye Cries For Help

-Ikale born Nigerian wrestling star cries out for help

Exclusive Story by Sam Olaniyan (Acting Editor)



These are not the best of times for Ilutitin-Ikale born Nigerian superstar wrestler, Odunayo Adekuoroye. The female wrestler, who represented Nigeria in the recent Olympics and has won more medals for Nigeria than any other person in wrestling, wants the President Bola Tinubu to intervene over the mysterious murder of brother, Temidayo Adekuoroye.

Close associates of the wrestler said her dismal performance at the recent Olympics was partly due to the alleged killing of his brother.

“Odunayo has not been herself since the mysterious death of Temidayo and she often loses concentration. She is so emotionally attached to Temidayo and that should be expected.” A close family

friend old ikale News in Akure.

Nigerian wrestling icon, who is among those to be honoured in December with Ikale Awards in Okitipupa, told our reporter: “My mantra has been to see what I can do for Nigeria and not Nigeria will do for me. I have done my best for Nigeria, now I want Nigeria to help me.”

Odunayo believes the blue murder of his brother was being covered up. Here is the story:

Temidayo Adekuoroye, a dedicated worker for the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) for over a decade, met an untimely end while fixing a transformer in Igbonla, Kwara State. On July 16, 2024, Temidayo was reportedly electrocuted

while atop an electric pole in the line of duty.

Initial accounts suggested that the IBEDC had ensured power would be cut off during maintenance. Yet, at the peak of his work, electricity was allegedly restored, leading to his fatal electrocution.

The family, led by Temidayo's father – a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police—filed an official petition, detailing the disturbing inconsistencies they have encountered. Upon learning of his son's death, the elder Adekuoroye began his own inquiry, only to find no police report had been filed and no investigation had begun. He was met with a troubling lack of cooperation from IBEDC officials. According to the petition, the IBEDC claimed Temidayo was on an “unauthorized assignment,” only to later retract that statement under pressure from the family, who had evidence otherwise.

The family's petition, prepared by legal representatives TOKILEGAL, alleges that IBEDC's inconsistent accounts of the incident have deepened their concerns. “It is bewildering that an incident of such magnitude which resulted in the death of Temidayo Adekuoroye was not officially reported to the police by IBEDC for investigation,” the petition states. IBEDC initially claimed that power had been cut off to ensure safe maintenance, but power was inexplicably restored while Temidayo was atop the pole, leading to his fatal electrocution.

When Mr. Adekuoroye, Temidayo's father, sought clarification from IBEDC, he encountered a web of

contradictions.

“Initially, the staff said he went for an unauthorised assignment, but later, they retracted this when confronted with contrary evidence,” the petition highlights. Despite multiple requests from the family, IBEDC has refused to release Temidayo's personal mobile phone, which they believe may contain crucial details about his final interactions and any work-related issues he may have faced. The company's explanations of the demise of Temidayo is hard for Odunayo to believe.

“It doesn't add up,” says Odunayo. “Someone, somewhere, needs to tell us what really happened that day. That is what we demand. This is one thing I want Nigeria should do for me for the little I have done for Nigeria. We must not be treated as 'nobody' in a country we have given so much, both my father and myself,” she told Ikale News.

Odunayo, known for her victories on the wrestling mat, now finds herself grappling with a battle of a different nature—a fight for truth and justice for her brother.

“There's a deliberate attempt to conceal the truth,” the family's petition asserts, pointing to IBEDC's alleged lack of cooperation. The company's apparent pressure on the family to expedite Temidayo's burial, including suggestions about burial locations without the family's consent, has intensified their suspicions.

The petition details Temidayo's previous concerns over workplace safety and alleged threats he confided to friends. “The deceased confided...in a friend and showed his friend some evidence on his phone,” the document states. The family suspects that his phone may hold answers to these troubling incidents, but IBEDC's refusal to release it has only fueled their distress.

Despite IBEDC's initial claims that police were investigating the incident, the family discovered otherwise. “Representatives of our client were shocked to discover that there was no ongoing police investigation into the incident,” the petition explains. With no police report filed, the family's suspicions of a cover-up have only grown.

The legal representatives of the Adekuoroyes are urging civil rights organizations to support their plea for accountability. “Our client is deeply distressed by IBEDC's insistence on avoiding accountability for this tragic incident,” the family's lawyer, TOKILEGAL, states.

“This isn't just about us,” Odunayo declares, “Every worker deserves a safe environment, and those responsible for any negligence must be held to account.”

Supporters from the Ikale community and beyond have rallied around the Adekuoroyes, adding their voices to the call for justice. They believe that Temidayo's death, if ignored, may set a dangerous precedent for countless other workers across Nigeria who risk their lives daily without adequate safety protections.

The public relations officer of Ikale People Welfare Association (IPWA), Engr Kehinde Eborukan told Ikale News that the wrestling star has formally reported the case to the Association.

“Yes, I can confirm that we are the know and our first step is to formally present the case before our representative in the Ondo State House of Assembly, Hon Chris Aiyebusina, and our representatives in the National Assembly, Hon. Jimi Odimayo and Senator Jimoh Ibrahim. We are sure we will get justice through them.”

Eborukan was confident that the Adekuoroye Family would get justice.

“We are going to throw in all we have to back our illustrious citizen who has served Nigeria diligently even at risk to her life. The family head was also a retired policeman who served Nigeria meritoriously. This should not happen to them. We are not saying the electricity company is guilty as charged. We are also asking for transparent justice.” He told Ikale News in an exclusive interview.

As the saga unfolds, Odunayo's advocacy has sparked a groundswell of support. Local community members and even fans of her wrestling career have expressed outrage at the apparent disregard for the Adekuoroye family's concerns. “They're treating us like we don't matter,” says Temidayo's father. “But we know our rights, and we will keep pushing.”

Odunayo's commitment to justice serves as an inspiring reminder of the power of resilience and family solidarity. While her battle might be far from over, her voice grows louder with every passing day. She intends to use all available platforms, including social media, to gather public attention and demand accountability.



Late Mr. Temidayo Adekuoroye

NEWS

Aseyori Conference: Ganduje, Kekemeke, Adetimehin & others APC bigwigs pour encomium on Jimoh Ibrahim.



... _As thousands of Aseyori leaders promise to deliver landslide victory for APC on Saturday._

This year annual conference of Aseyori group was a remarkable gathering as the National Chairman of the largest party in Africa, Alhaji Abdullahi Ganduje, PhD led Governor of Ondo state, H E Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa ably represented by his Deputy, H.E Dr. Adelami, Hon Kekemeke, Eng Adetimehin, APC Southwest Executives, Senatorial Chairmen and other party stalwarts to University of Fortune, Igbotako to grace the great gathering.

Aseyori political sub - group is a master work and strategy plane template of Senator Representing Ondo South, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, PhD + 2, CFR to defeat H.E Agboola Ajayi in all 66 wards of the Senatorial District in last year general election and makes him the first APC Senator to emerge in the

history of the Senatorial District.

Aseyori is the largest Subset of APC group in South West, Nigeria. The group that metamorphosed to Aseyori Leekansi last year with executives in all units, wards and local governments of the state.

The chief commander of the group, Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, CFR directed all the leaders present to work assiduously in their respective ward and unit for the victory of the party on Saturday.

In his words "Politics is a social game, so don't fight for me, or argue on my behalf, I can fight for myself. Don't take flying rumour about me and the party, organise your units and wards and ensure you vote for APC on Saturday.

"We achieved it during 2023 election when I

defeated Agboola Ajayi with 110,665 votes against 65,784 votes and Tinubu also won here, we shall repeat it on Saturday so that APC will be victorious with large margin and a journey to make Ondo state record highest percentage of votes in 2027 for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR like last general election starts immediately in Aseyori after Saturday's election " the billionaire lawmaker said.

Also, Sen. Tayo Alasoadura, the Chairman of Aseyori in the state, urged the members to work assiduously in all their units and wards to ensure that election is won by APC.

In his response, the National Chairman of APC in Nigeria praised the Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, CFR for delivering the renew hope in his Senatorial District and Ondo state.

" Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, CFR is a good model of renew hope in Nigeria with the Impactfull representation delivering in the Senatorial District and the state as a whole.

We are here to motivate and encourage you but you are motivated and courageous too even before we are, so make sure you all vote for APC for our party to be victorious next Saturday," Ganduje said.

An Aseyori media interview with chieftain of the political group and former Chairman of Irele local government in the state, Hon Nicholas described the conference as an indication of where the pendulum will shift to on Saturday.

In his words " without exaggeration, there was tension in APC before because Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, CFR and his followers are determinants factor in Saturday election. Aseyori group has 27 executives in all units of the state, the same 27 in all wards and local governments of the state, if you do your calculation very well our executives are more than 70 thousands apart from elephant purse of our leader. If you recall, Jimoh Ibrahim made the late Akeredolu the Governor with that fantastic strategy then even without this structure. You can weigh the gravity of his support to APC at a time like this with this structure. To be realistic, this conference is a relieve to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, a relieve to Ganduje and to all APC in the world that APC has won Ondo with this huge support of our boss" Nicholas said

Ayochris for Aseyori media

COLUMN

Youth Connect

Understanding the GEN-Zs

Hi Ikalefolks under 40 and their friends who read read Ikale News regularly.

The Publisher of Ikale News last month told me last month to start a column tagged YOUTH CONNECT. He wants youthful readers of the community newspaper to be enlightened about goings-on around the world concerning youths.

The articles in this column will focus on the GEN Z generation and the millennial generation - on their lifestyles: fashions, culture, food, and the impact of social media. I will be looking at how these two groups are changing the world elsewhere, and I hope Ikale, Ilaje, Arogbo, and Apoi youths will benefit a lot from the column.

Gen Z generation refers to people born between 1996 and 2010. They're the second-youngest generation between millennials and Generation Alpha. Gen Z identity has been shaped by the digital age, climate anxiety, a shifting financial landscape and behaviourable outburst and imbalance attitudes depending on their immediate social environment as it the major influences on the so called Gen Z's . On the other hand the millenials generations are those born between 1981 and 1996 (ages 23 to 38 in 2019) is considered a Millennial, and anyone born from 1997 onward is part of a new age and generation (Gen Z)

The Millennials, born roughly between the early 1980s and mid-1990s, exhibit a penchant for authenticity, social consciousness, and experiences. In contrast, Generation Z, born from the mid-1990s to the early 2010s, values individuality, digital fluency, and instant connectivity.

One criticism of GenZ is that they have been taken captive by the social media. How does social media really impact Gen Z?

Social media profoundly shapes Gen Z's worldview, influencing their self-image, relationships, and perception of the world. It provides a platform for self-expression, activism, and connection, but also exposes them to cyberbullying, comparison culture, and mental health challenge. Looking into the comparisons it obvious that the millennial generations are more morally standard and organised more in attitudes than that of the Gen Z's generation which makes them(millennial)

more productive, responsible, intelligent and aware of the environment and well cultured.

More on the millennial: they have the ideologies of the 80's and 90's up bringings as this makes them familiar to their roots, cultured and even more religious according to the teachings and ideologies impacted to them by their parents, they learn to play like a child among their friends, neighbourhood, also have the raw experience of everything around them in details also be guided by either their parents or guardians, playing the full night moons, eating from neighbours cooking pots, coming home late to be scold by parents, going for religious practice either you catholic, protestants, or Arabic schools. You go visit your neighbours after coming back from school which you can even go stay with neighbours while your parents are yet to come back from work, you have a long walk from school to home alongside your friends, you do the local child's play mummy and daddy, you get rough back home from school, you play with all different kinds of objects, importantly you learn everything raw from the street, parents, uncles, aunties and guardians learning from different teachers and tutors like the adage in yoruba ENIKAN LO BIMO; IGBA-OJU LO NTO meaning only couple birth a child but it the whole community that helps raise it up.

Though I am not Ikale, I know These generations are always aware of not wanting to embarrassed their parents and lineage so they are extra very cautious of what they do and how they act in the society also very alert on peer group influences. Being a millennial born gives you a sense of responsibility and also being part of Gen Z, which makes you stand out or exceptional. That's to say as a millennial born you can create wealth or ideology by yourself as it is imperted that education is the key simply because there wasn't anything like social internet monetizations like the Tiktokers and the facebok couples with the Youtube where you can make money either you are graduate or not, so these make the millennial standout.

The Gen Z's generations are the smartest generation and money makers generations as matter of fact social media has done more good than harms to the Gen Z's generations listen along the millenials in so many ways eg: social



With Adebola Ademola

spaces has firstly open the eyes of the world to many dark ages and ways we used to think things were which are not so special in the African community at large, Internet has made us see well, has grown and sharpened our horizons, it has given us knowledge at the palm of our hands even without leaving the four corners of our bedrooms, social media has exposed the Gen Z's to fast growth, awareness, information, education. Let us highlight some obvious advantages and benefits on GEN Z's social media trends:

Gen Z has a distinct preference for platforms that offer visual, interactive, and short-lived content such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube. They enable them to express themselves creatively and connect with like-minded individuals. stay updated on trends and pop culture, Gen Z uses social media to find jobs and employment, It allows them to be able to interact with different new brands Radio stations, Tv stations, newspapers, informative apps has given them informations and tips on how to go about a particular things and what to expect out there thereby given to them on how to deal with it.

Social media also help reconnect old friends and maintain relationships that might otherwise fade due to time and distance.

You can shape the world around you as a Gen Z and Millennial. We will discussing more of this in subsequent editions. But we will also dwell on lighter stuff like fashion, entertainment, dating, etc. It is going to be a mix bag

Your views are always welcome, and I can assure you I will publish them on this page.

Till next edition. A ghan le o!

COVER: POLITICAL ANALYSIS**WILL HE BE LUCKY THIS TIME?**

- Gov Aiyedatiwa flaunts his achievements in Office as November polls count down
- Eddy Olafeso leads the opposition to convince Ondo people not to vote Aiyedatiwa



As citizens of Ondo State go to the polls this month to elect their governor, the incumbent governor has not been quiet in shouting his achievements across roof-tops from his Obe Nla Ilaje town to Epinmi Akoko in the northernmost parts of the state, convincing the people on why they should allow him spend another four years in Alagbaka Government House. But veteran People's Democratic Party (PDP) stalwart, Dr. Eddy Olafeso is also combing the towns and villages, warning the people of the state of dire consequences if they allow Aiyedatiwa and the All Progressives Congress (APC) to continue in office.

While the People's Democratic Party candidate Hon Agboola Ajayi keeps the focus on what he wants to do differently, Aiyedatiwa's strategy is to drum up what he has been able to do. The choice to make is now left with voters.

In just 300 days, Aiyedatiwa has been able to show that he is people-centred. He prefers to do programmes that directly touch people and their welfare. Check out some of his major achievements

in this regard:

- Approval of N73, 000 new minimum wage
- Payment of outstanding salaries & allowances
- Payment of over N4 billion in gratuity to retirees
- Upward review of allowances of health workers
- Extension of years of service of teachers
- Payment of wage awards (N35k & N15k)
- Payment of salaries or before 25th of every month
- Issuing promotion letters with immediate financial benefits
- Monthly meeting with labour leaders on state finance
- Payment of salary arrears of ex-political office holders
- Payment of 2024 leave bonus
- Approval of extension of grade level for LG workers

Indeed, Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa has in less than one year in office set the record for the number of awards and honours bestowed on a sitting governor by different labour unions in the State.

Just recently, the National Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) formally endorsed him to continue in office. This was coming a week after another popular union, the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) also endorsed him for the November 16 governorship election,

Presenting the award to the governor, the State President of NULGE, Fredrick Akinrilola, expressed deep appreciation to him for consistently addressing the concerns of the union and prioritizing the welfare of its members. "We have witnessed remarkable growth and progress under your leadership, you have always shown a genuine commitment to our issues, and this is why we, as a union, have unanimously decided to endorse you as our preferred candidate for the November 16 gubernatorial election", he said.

Governor Aiyedatiwa has earned himself the title of a workers-friendly governor due to the premium he has placed on the welfare of civil and

COVER: POLITICAL ANALYSIS

public servants in the State. This was crowned recently when he announced his approval of N73, 000 as the new minimum wage for workers in the State. The Governor said even though the federal government approved N70, 000 as the new minimum wage, Ondo will go a step further by paying N73, 000 to its workers.

The Governor also declared that the era of part payment and percentage-based salary payments is over, assuring that such practices have become a thing of the past in the State. Workers now receive their salaries on or before the 25th day of every month.

The Aiyedatiwa administration in January paid the January 2017 salary arrears owed to the Civil Servants and in March he paid three months' salary arrears of the staff of the Rufus Giwa Polytechnic Owo. The monthly N35, 000 wage award to public servants to cushion economic hardship was one of the highest in the country, while civil servants also enjoyed free shuttle buses to relief them of the cost of transportation to and from work every day for six months.

While it is no longer news that all inherited outstanding of salaries and allowances of all categories of workers have been cleared, it's worth mentioning that, barring any unforeseen issues between the office of the Accountant General and salary domiciliary banks, the governor has expressly directed that workers' salaries be paid between 24th and 27th of every month. This is in addition to sustaining the payment of the wage award which has now been extended to all the state-owned tertiary institutions.

Perhaps the retirees have been most grateful to the governor. While pensioners also receive their monthly pension and gratuity alongside the salary payment, the government also makes deliberate monthly savings toward bulk defrayment of backlog of gratuity. Under this arrangement, this administration has successfully cleared outstanding gratuities from year 2012 to 2015. The beauty of it is that the governor gave a directive that the disbursement is done quarterly.

Furthermore, not only that the promotion of deserving officers is given attention but timely too. For the first time in the recent history of the state, promotion letters were issued to officers as early as July with immediate financial benefits. It is also interesting to note that Governor Aiyedatiwa has directed that the 2025 promotion and subsequent



years should not be later than January of the particular year.

Noting the importance of Training of the workforce, Aiyedatiwa's administration is doing everything possible to reposition the Public Service Institute, Ilara-Mokin, PSTI to adequately meet the Training needs of the state Public Servants. While recently launching the e-learning Portal of the institute, the Governor directed the management to immediately commence the process of building a 40-Room hostel accommodation to allow for residential study programme.

“One can also safely say that the harmonious relationship that exists between the state government and the Labour Leaders accounts largely for the industrial peace that reigns in the state. Not only do workers get what they deserve, but Labour Leaders sit down monthly with the government to discuss how receipt from the Federation Account is channeled to areas of need, thereby giving transparent to governance,” the governor's spokesperson, Ebenezer Adeniyani said in a statement..

Other achievements of the Governor in this sector include the upward review and payment of hazard allowance to health workers in the State and review of salaries and entry point of Medical Doctors; implementation of tutors' elongation of service from 35 to 40-year length of service and from 60 to 65 years of age respectively to shore-up

the dwindling staff strength in public schools and full implementation of the workers' Contributory Health Insurance Scheme.

The Governor also paid two of the three outstanding months of salary arrears of the former political appointees in the State. The beneficiaries are those who served under the administration of Dr. Olusegun Mimiko as governor of the State between 2009 and 2017. They include those who served as members of the State Executive Council, Senior Special Assistants, Special Assistants, Education Secretaries and board chairmen and members.

Olafeso, a former commissioner for information and ex-South West chairman of the PDP has declared that it would be a political disaster if the APC retains power in the state.

Okitipupa born Olafeso, who doubles as Chairman of the Agboola Ajayi Campaign Council, expressed confidence in the party's vision for the state. Speaking at a town hall meeting with traditional rulers in Ifon, headquarters of the Ose local government area, Olafeso highlighted the transformative potential of the PDP candidate Agboola Ajayi's well-structured manifesto.

According to Olafeso, Ajayi's past achievements and leadership experience make him an ideal candidate to address the state's pressing issues. Addressing security concerns, Olafeso lamented the growing insecurity, particularly noting the

COVER: POLITICAL ANALYSIS

unsolved murder of the late Olufon of Ifón. He expressed hope that under PDP leadership, the people of Ondo State would see substantial improvements in both safety and governance. Olafeso sought the support of traditional leaders and local residents, assuring them that the PDP's governance would positively impact the community's welfare.

On public education regarding voting rights, Olafeso shared that the party has already taken substantial steps toward voter enlightenment. He urged citizens to protect their votes, emphasizing that they should feel empowered, not intimidated, by the presence of security personnel. "Ondo State citizens are encouraged to come out and vote for their chosen candidate without fear. Security forces are there to protect, not to intimidate," he stated, adding that the PDP would work to safeguard voters' rights throughout the election process.

Olafeso also called on security personnel to remain neutral and professional, urging them to prioritize the protection of citizens' rights. "Security personnel should not interfere but uphold their duty to defend the people's rights," he advised.

Meanwhile, PDP governorship candidate Agboola Ajayi reiterated his commitment to grassroots governance and community-focused leadership. Ajayi outlined plans to strengthen the state's security apparatus, pledging to enhance the Amotekun Corps with modern equipment and resources. "We will work to ensure that all citizens in Ondo State feel safe and secure. Our administration will reinforce security strategies to bring peace and stability to our communities," Ajayi affirmed, promising to address the root causes of insecurity and create a safe environment across the state.

Hon. Alfred Agboola Ajayi has the edge in winning elections, if experience is anything to go by. He was councilor, council chairman, reps member and deputy governor. He even contested for senate and governor, so facing the electorate is familiar terrain for him.

A seasoned politician and former Deputy Governor, Agboola Ajayi's name has become synonymous with political resilience and a track record of service spanning several decades. Ajayi first entered the Ondo political scene in the late 1980s as the Chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the Old Apoi Ward 1. His early entry into politics, at just 20 years old, marked the beginning of a career that has positioned him as a veteran leader in Ondo State.

Throughout his journey, Ajayi has worn many hats, from Supervisory Councillor to local government Chairman, and eventually, a member of the House of Representatives. As Chairman of the House Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Ajayi's influence extended beyond Ondo, allowing him to impact regional policy and development. His tenure as Deputy

Governor under Governor Rotimi Akeredolu strengthened his credibility as a leader capable of advocating for the people of Ondo, even amidst political challenges.

Agboola Ajayi's campaign centers on a vision for sustainable development, rural empowerment, and security enhancement. Known for his commitment to grassroots development, Ajayi has outlined plans to boost Ondo's agricultural sector, improve road networks, and enhance healthcare access across the state. His strategy includes bolstering local economies by providing farmers with resources, creating jobs, and supporting small businesses.

Security remains a central concern for Ajayi's campaign, especially following rising insecurity in recent years. He has pledged to strengthen the Amotekun Corps by equipping them with modern resources and extending their reach to ensure safety throughout the state. Ajayi's approach is rooted in his belief that security is foundational to development and that a safe environment encourages investment and growth.

With his reputation for transparency and a focus on the rural populace, Ajayi appeals to voters who desire change in governance. His supporters believe he has the experience, vision, and resilience to lead Ondo through pressing challenges and toward sustainable growth.

Yet, Aiyedatiwa is not a push over. Though very unassuming, Mr. Lucky Aiyedatiwa is political strategic who works behind the scenes to get the results that matter.

Said a top political analyst in an interview with Ikale News: "His style of politics is similar to that of Goodluck Jonathan. He is a man of few words. He lets results talk for him. It was not a coincidence that Governor Rotimi Akeredolu picked him to be his deputy governor and how he survived the volatile political terrain to become acting governor and governor was also due to astute politicking.

"He likes to be under-rated. That is what he likes. And before you know it he is coasting to victory." He stressed.

Born in the oil-rich community of Obe-Nla in the Ilaje Local Government Area, Aiyedatiwa's roots are embedded in the oil industry and the Niger Delta's socioeconomic landscape. His education spans from Lagos State College of Education to the University of Liverpool, where he earned an MBA. This diverse educational background has informed his pragmatic approach to governance, focusing on economic policies that drive growth and ensure resource optimization.

Aiyedatiwa's tenure as Governor has focused on

continuing infrastructure development, expanding healthcare access, and enhancing educational systems. He aims to leverage his experience with the NDDC to ensure that the oil-rich regions of Ondo benefit more directly from the state's natural resources. His administration has launched several road and infrastructure projects aimed at boosting the state's economy, connecting communities, and improving accessibility for trade and mobility.

So far Aiyedatiwa's major promise to Ondo people is and infrastructure. While Aiyedatiwa acknowledges the challenges Ondo faces, he is keen on promoting policies that enhance the quality of life for citizens, with a special focus on education and health. His roadmap also emphasizes fostering partnerships with private sector stakeholders, which he believes will spur job creation and economic stability.

Both candidates share a vision for Ondo State centered around growth, security, and infrastructure development. However, their approaches diverge significantly, with Ajayi's focus more grassroots-oriented and Aiyedatiwa's perspective more top-down, leveraging his experience and relationships in both the public and private sectors.

Security, an essential theme in both campaigns, highlights Ajayi's intent to empower local security outfits like the Amotekun Corps, contrasting with Aiyedatiwa's broader focus on state-level security and collaboration with federal agencies. While Ajayi promises rural agricultural development, Aiyedatiwa's emphasis leans towards improving urban infrastructure and attracting investments that benefit the entire state. As the election approaches, both candidates have garnered significant support, with each appealing to different segments of the electorate. Ajayi's supporters see him as a champion of the people, someone who understands the pulse of Ondo's rural areas and has the experience to enact grassroots reforms. Conversely, Aiyedatiwa's supporters appreciate his continuity in governance, his ties to critical economic sectors, and his pragmatic approach to managing the state's resources.

In all, analysts predict a neck and neck contest, with Aiyedatiwa having a slight upper hand. But some pundits predict an upset based on the current economic difficulties in the country. The decision remains with the voters.

FOR THE RECORD

FINAL LIST OF CANDIDATES

2024 Governorship Election

Ondo State 16th November 2024



	POSITION	CANDIDATE	PWD	AGE	GENDER	QUAL.
1	 GOVERNOR	FALAIYE ABRAHAM AJIBOLA	X	64	M	BSc.
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	IKUYAJOLU FEMI SAMUEL	X	36	M	BA
2	 GOVERNOR	AKINULI FRED OMOLERE	X	63	M	FSLC, Modern Sch. Diploma
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	ADEYEMI ADETUNJI OLUWATOYIN	X	67	M	FSLC, WAEC
3	 GOVERNOR	AJAYI ADEKUNLE OLUWASEYI	X	37	M	FSLC, SSCE, Degree
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	DADA OLUWANYA DAVID	X	38	M	NECO HND
4	 GOVERNOR	NEJO ADEYEMI	✓	42	M	FSLC, NECO, LLB
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	IBRAHIM RASHEED OLAIDE	X	56	M	FSLC, SSCE/WAEC
5	 GOVERNOR	AKINNODI AYODEJI EMMANUEL	X	39	M	FSLC, SSCE
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	MOYOSOLA ELIZABETH Olorunmonu	X	49	F	FSLC WAEC Diploma
6	 GOVERNOR	AIYEDATIWA LUCKY ORIMISAN	X	59	M	FSLC, GCE, NCE
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	ADELAMI OLAYIDE OWOLABI	X	66	M	FSLC, WASC/GCE BSc (Business Administration)
7	 GOVERNOR	POPOOLA OLATUNJI TUNDE	X	66	M	FSLC, GCE
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	ADEDEJI TAIWO AYORINDE	X	40	M	FSLC, SSCE The Polytechnic Ibadan
8	 GOVERNOR	OGUNFEYIMI ISAAC KOLAWOLE	X	75	M	FSLC, WASC, School of Agric Cert.
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	AFOLABI AROWOLO FOLORUNSO	X	63	M	FSLC, WASC
9	 GOVERNOR	FADOJU AMOS BABATUNDE	X	56	M	WASC/GCE
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	AJAGUNNA OLAREWAJU ABIMBOLA	X	36	M	NECO
10	 GOVERNOR	OLORUNFEMI AYODELE FESTUS	X	59	M	FSLC, GCE, PhD
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	ADU OLABISI OLUBUKOLA	X	52	F	O'Level, HND
11	 GOVERNOR	OLUGBENGA OMOGBEMI EDEMA	X	57	M	FSLC, WASCE, BSc.
	 DEPUTY GOVERNOR	ROTIMI EMMANUEL ADEYEMI	X	59	M	FSLC, WASCE/GCE BSc.

IKALE KIDS

Ikale Culture

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

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

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

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

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

Oma yeri jo :

Oma yeri jo o, oma yeri yo

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

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

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

A ka ba wa jo, aka bawa yo:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Iye mo ne o (My mom)

Iye omo. (True mother)

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

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

E fun wa ni iyawo wa

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

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

E wa wo ohun t'oko iyawo gbe wa:

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

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

Awa legbe oniyawo:

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

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

Baba o, baba o baba o:

Baba, o baba o baba

Oluwa da baba si fun wa

Baba o baba o, baba o

Oluwa da baba si fun wa.

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



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

Baba wa, ara yin a le.:

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

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

Loju yin , arugbo ni mummy:

Loju yin arugbo ni mummy

Loju yin arugbo ni mummy,

Darling, lo'ko pe won

Dear loko n pe won

Sweetie loko n pe won o

To ba dale .

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

Baba wa :

Baba wa, ara yin a le,

Wa lemi gigan, wa pe fun wa o.

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

Iya mo mi lo:

Iya mo mi lo. Baba mo mi lo

Iya mo mi lo, baba mo mi lo

Fa dura sin mi o,

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

Kin ma mosi, kin ma kagbako ni ile oko.

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

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

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



All You Need To Know About Ikale Awards 2024

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

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

How did you obtain short lists of awardees?

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

Why is the Awards Scheme not yearly?

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

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

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

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

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

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

How much is Gate Ticket to the Awards?

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

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

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

When will winners be known?

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

OPINION

How Undergraduates Should Prepare for Life Post-Graduation



College/University life can feel like a world of its own. For four (or more) years, students are often immersed in a mix of studying, socializing, and exploring new interests. But eventually, the question of “What comes next?” looms large. The transition from college/university to post-graduation life can be thrilling, intimidating, and confusing all at once. It's a time when students are eager to start careers, build independence, and set out on their own paths. Yet, many find themselves unprepared for the realities of life outside of college.

To help ease this transition, it's crucial to start preparing well before graduation day. There are practical steps you can take while still in university to set yourself up for success, stability, and confidence as you embark on the next chapter. Here's a guide to preparing for life after university.

1. Begin Building a Professional Network Early

In the University, it's easy to focus on academics, assignments, and friends. But after, your network can be one of the most valuable assets in your career. Networking doesn't have to be intimidating or formal; it's simply about building connections with people who can help guide or support your professional journey.

Start by making connections with professors, attending career fairs, and engaging in internships. Professors can offer advice, recommend you for roles, or connect you to industry contacts. Similarly, career fairs introduce you to recruiters and companies actively seeking young talent. Internships, meanwhile, give you firsthand experience in your field and allow you to meet people already established in the industry.

Remember that networking isn't just about asking for favors. Be genuinely curious and open to learning from others. Build relationships by staying in touch, following up on meetings, or simply asking for advice. These contacts can prove valuable once you're job-hunting or seeking career guidance.

2. Gain Real-World Experience through Internships and Volunteering

While university/college courses are essential, employers highly value real-world experience. Internships, part-time jobs, and volunteer roles in your field are all excellent ways to build a foundation of experience before you graduate.

Even if an internship isn't in your dream field, the professional skills you gain like communication, time management, and teamwork are transferable and valuable in

Gen-Z THOUGHTS



with Divinegift Solomon

almost any career. Volunteering can also be a great way to gain practical experience and demonstrate your commitment to causes you're passionate about. These experiences also add weight to your resume, helping you stand out from other recent graduates who may lack hands-on experience.

3. Learn the Art of Personal Finance

Many students are so focused on studying and getting good grades that they overlook the importance of personal finance. Yet, knowing how to manage money is critical in the “real world.” Begin by educating yourself on budgeting, saving, and credit.

Start with a simple monthly budget that tracks your income (even if it's just allowance or part-time earnings) and expenses. Make an effort to save a portion of any income you earn, no matter how small, and learn the importance of an emergency fund.

Credit is also a critical area to understand. Building good credit in college, by using a credit card responsibly or paying off any student loans on time, can open doors in the future when you may want to rent an apartment, finance a car, or take out a loan. Many graduates enter the workforce burdened by debt or poor credit simply because they didn't understand these basics; getting a handle on them now can save you a lot of stress later.

4. Develop Practical Life Skills

Graduating from university brings a level of independence that many students haven't experienced before. Cooking,

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cleaning, and handling basic repairs are all skills that can help you live more comfortably and save money.

If you're living on campus, try to cook wisely, and if you're not able to cook (you buy food), spend wisely. Familiarize yourself with recipes, meal prep, and the basics of grocery shopping. Similarly, learning simple home maintenance skills, like how to change a light bulb, unclog a drain, or sew a button, can come in handy and save you from constantly calling for help.

Additionally, time management becomes even more crucial after college. Balancing work, personal life, and other responsibilities can be challenging, so practice using planners, digital calendars, and setting realistic daily goals now. These practical skills may seem minor, but they contribute significantly to your overall independence and adaptability.

5. Refine Your Communication Skills

Strong communication skills are valuable in any career. College is an excellent time to refine these skills, as many jobs post-graduation will require clear, concise, and professional communication.

If you're someone who's shy or introverted, start by participating more actively in class discussions or joining clubs where you can practice speaking in group settings. Written communication is just as important, so make an effort to improve your writing skills, especially if you're in a field where you'll be drafting emails, reports, or proposals. Many universities offer free writing centers, so take advantage of these resources to get feedback on your work.

Effective communication skills not only help in professional settings but also in personal relationships, interviews, and networking situations. They can make you a more confident and persuasive individual, which will serve you well beyond your college years.

6. Research Potential Career Paths and Companies

By the time you graduate, you'll ideally have a general idea of the career path you

continuation of how Undergraduates Should Prepare for Life Post-Graduation

want to pursue. But it's not uncommon for students to be uncertain about their options. Start exploring career paths related to your major early on, researching job descriptions, industries, and growth opportunities.

Look into companies or organizations that align with your values and interests. Many students choose to apply widely when job-hunting, but knowing which companies resonate with your goals can help you focus your efforts. Go online and explore profiles of professionals with jobs you admire, and see what steps they took to get there. Additionally, informational interviews with people in your target roles can provide insight and help you assess whether a certain path is right for you.

7. Create a Job Search Plan

The job search can be a daunting process, with the way our country is now, especially if you're unsure where to start. By creating a job search plan, you can stay organized and focused, even if the process takes longer than expected.

Begin by setting goals for how many jobs you'll apply to each week, and dedicate specific time slots to working on applications. Keep track of where you've applied, interview dates, and any follow-ups. Tailor your resume and cover letter for each role, highlighting the skills and experiences that align most closely with the job description. Don't get discouraged by rejections, treat each application as a learning experience.

Remember to tap into your network for potential job leads. Sometimes, reaching out to a professor or mentor for guidance or letting people in your field know you're job-hunting can open unexpected doors.

8. Embrace a Growth Mindset

Graduating from university and entering the workforce often involves a steep learning curve. Transitioning from student life to professional life can be overwhelming at times, but approaching it with a growth mindset can make the process smoother.

A growth mindset means believing in your ability to learn and improve, even if you encounter setbacks. Instead of feeling discouraged by challenges or mistakes, view them as opportunities to grow. In your first few jobs, you may not know everything right away, and that's okay. Be open to feedback, actively seek new skills, and remember that progress takes time.

In conclusion, preparing for life after college or university doesn't happen overnight, but with a proactive approach, you can ease the transition and set yourself up for success. By building a network, gaining experience, mastering personal finance, refining life skills, and developing a growth mindset, you'll be well-equipped to face the challenges and opportunities that come your way. Embrace these years as a time for growth and exploration, because with the right preparation, life after graduation can be filled with excitement, learning, and fulfillment.



Ultimate Guide: Difference Between Undergraduate, Graduate and Postgraduate

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POLITICS

“I am sure of winning” says Agboola Ajayi



Former deputy governor of Ondo State and the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in the forthcoming governorship election in the state, Agboola Ajayi, tells PETER DADA about his chances at the poll, among other issues

The election is just a few days away. How has your campaign been so far?

The campaign has been both hectic and joyful. It is hectic because people are generally frustrated with the system. They have lost confidence in the electoral process and in politicians. They (people) feel it's a waste of time to participate in the process because they haven't seen the impact of government.

But for us, it's also been joyful because the people believe in us. They have confidence in our capacity to make a difference and are eager for change. They appreciate what little we've been able to achieve, even in the face of challenges, and they're showing massive support for us.

So This Happened Reviews 17-year-old Nigerian awarded full...

With what you have gathered from the people in the campaign, do you have any worries about this

election?

Yes, the only worry is the Resident Electoral Commissioner of the state, Mrs Oluwatoyin Babalola. Our party has raised an allegation against her. One organisation alerted us that Oluwatoyin has been having a series of meetings with the All Progressives Congress government, especially the governor and the party chairman, and we found out that it was true.

The government has enough; they have their way of accessing and getting information. If they want to be honest, they know what we are saying that it is true. So, we felt that this woman is partisan. So, she can never be fair. We know she was born and brought up here; she is an Ondo State indigene. I don't know how else they want us to prove that.

Since Oluwatoyin was born, she has never spent a night at Gbara Odo. She has lived all her life in Akure here, her parents live in Akure here.

Oluwatoyin was residing in Akure until she was appointed. I don't know why INEC should post her here. Maybe they didn't know this information before.

We have told them to remove the woman because

she cannot be fair. So, that one alone created a lot of suspicion, but we are going to resist it.

But with your clamour, the woman is still in the office. Does that mean that INEC turned deaf ears to your request? What will you do if she is not changed till the election day?

She must be changed. We won't keep quiet, and if they make any attempt to allow her to conduct the election, the people of the state will not take it lightly with INEC. I want to appeal to INEC not to allow a repeat of what happened in 1983.

They cannot continue to do this. So, that one alone has created suspicion. We said for the credibility of this process, they should change this woman and bring in another person who is not from this area. If they bring anyone from anywhere who is not from this state, we are fine, but they should allow a level playing ground.

For a candidate to say they want to use the template they used in Edo. What a shameful society! Everybody condemned the election in Edo State, but they are saying they wanted to use the template of Edo State, and INEC could not come out to say, 'No, you are on your own. We are going to conduct a free and fair election.' The

POLITICS

continuation of "I am sure of winning" says Agboola Ajayi

days are numbered, and we are here watching the process.

But INEC chairman was here in the state, and I think he said the commission had learnt its lesson from the Edo State election, and that the Ondo State election would be an improvement. Don't you still trust INEC with that statement?

Do you believe him? It's an immediate thing. I'm afraid I'm going to be at a stakeholders' meeting. I'm going to cancel all my engagements and be there. I will tell him (INEC chairman) that the problem of this country is INEC. I will do so because when you don't elect a credible leader who has integrity, what do you expect? The life of this state is in the hands of this person. The moment we miss it, we will be affected as a state.

I am a beneficiary of free, fair, and credible elections. When we had an election then, here in Ondo State, no single person raised an eyebrow. My opponent was the first person to address me, and he said the contest was free and fair, and that Agboola Ajayi won squarely. He congratulated me. That's how it's supposed to be. Why must our election continue to end up in litigation every time?

When are we going to have the processes that are supposed to produce credible people? I think INEC should live up to expectations. If they cannot do it, they should tell us that they can't do it. I'm going to tell (Mahmood) Yakubu, 'You should not come and set Ondo State on fire because we are not going to accept it'. It's not possible. Nobody can intimidate us. This is our state, and we will not allow it to burn anymore.

The issue of vote-buying is now rampant in the electoral system in Nigeria. People accuse the PDP and APC of involvement in the menace. What is your reaction to this?

Well, I don't know about that. Is it not somebody receiving N1.2bn monthly that can do that? Do I even have the money to buy votes? I don't even have the money to do it.

Friends were the ones spending money for my campaign, not me. I think the issue of vote-buying will not happen in this election and the security agencies should be on alert. If you see anybody with money to buy votes, they should collect the money and prosecute that person. That's how it should be.

What measures have you put in place to curb rigging against your party in the forthcoming election?

That's my secret. We are going to the election, and we are going to win. So, don't worry about that.

You seem to have much confidence in winning the election. Why is it so?

We have won already. Don't worry yourself. Is it not Saturday, November 16 election? Have you seen how an incumbent governor is panicking like this before? I was happy that it was on a live programme. I asked him (Lucky Aiyedatiwa) questions and he

said he has not borrowed money since he became governor. I said, well, for me, even if I become governor today, if there is a need for me to borrow money for development, I will borrow.

There is nothing bad if a government borrows money for development. Get me right; I won't borrow money to pay security vote. I won't borrow money to be eating sardines. But if there is a need for a government to invest and borrow money for development, why won't you do it? That's one aspect.

Secondly, I said, 'It's fine, and we thank God he (Aiyedatiwa) has not borrowed money and he equally confessed that the allocation has increased in a very fertile way. We thank God you have collected so much money, more than N150bn and you can't show us one kilometre of road that you have tarred, and no single project has been inaugurated, not even a health centre of N2m.

My brother, our people are tired of the clueless government, and they can't wait for election day to come. I was born and raised here. So, I understand the people's needs intimately. I know what's lacking in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and general governance. I've practised politics here; I'm not a stranger coming in to try and understand the landscape.

I understand the plight of our people and the kind of transformation we need across sectors – whether it's education, health, transportation, or agriculture. My focus has always been on systemic change, not on blaming or criticising anyone, but on moving the state forward with a fresh and workable agenda.

This is the second time you are contesting a governorship election in this state. From your perspective, what will you say is the major problem facing the state?

The major problem we're facing is the lack of genuine leadership. When you have someone in a position of power who lacks the understanding of how to lead, then the people will suffer. We've seen mediocrity persists, and it's weighing heavily on the development of the state. There is so much potential here, but it's being hampered by poor leadership. This is why I'm in the race to bring a change and to ensure that we put an end to this mediocrity for the sake of the people.

What are your plans to bring a change to the people of the state?

In our agenda, security is a priority for me, and for a good reason. I was part of the team that developed the regional security framework, the Amotekun, which has had some successes today. But I believe we need to do more to keep our people safe. One of my initiatives would be to create specialised security units for different localities based on their unique challenges and vulnerabilities.

Also, leadership has to be more transparent about

security votes and how they're used. People deserve to know how their resources are being allocated, especially when it comes to something as crucial as security.

Health is also a critical area. We've seen life expectancy decline due to treatable conditions like high blood pressure, stroke, and malaria, which are common here. I want to tackle this head-on.

On education, I am going to declare free education in primary and secondary schools. If a governor in a month is taking N1.2bn, the subvention of (state-owned) Adekunle Ajasin University when I was the deputy governor was N232m. With this new minimum wage, maybe it has increased to N350 or N400m. From that N1.2bn, I will give them N150m as an additional subvention; do the same thing to UNIMED (the state-owned University of Medical Sciences). Give N100m or N200m to Rufus Giwa Polytechnic.

So, when you spend about N700m or N600m from that N1.2bn, you still have enough money for security. Anybody who thinks he wants to be governor to be rich, the person is going to miss it, and that's what's happening to them. So, in terms of money, we have a lot of money that can be enough for all of us. I assure you that teachers will be recruited, and I will train and retrain them to gain capacity. I will impact positively in the area of education in Ondo State.

All these programmes involve money. How do you intend to fund them in light of the ongoing economic downturn?

Honestly, funding is indeed a challenge, but it's not insurmountable. My approach will be to cut down on wasteful spending and increase efficiency in governance. Additionally, we will attract investment by creating a stable, transparent environment that appeals to both local and foreign investors. Revenue generation is possible with the right policies. When people see that their money is being used effectively, they will cooperate.

What have been the roles of the PDP national leadership in your ambition?

I must be sincere with you; I have been enjoying tremendous support from the party, the PDP. The two PDP South-West governors have been wonderful. Governor (Ademola) Adeleke (of Osun State) was the first. He came to inaugurate the committee before going back. Governor (Seyi) Makinde spent five days with us.

Governor Adeleke was in town for some days, and we campaigned for three days. The national campaign committee will spend three days in Ondo State before the election. They are ready. So, we've been enjoying tremendous support from the party. We appreciate that because they know the importance of Ondo State.

NATIONAL NEWS REVIEW

Akure-based Lawyer Urges Governor Aiyedatiwa to Enforce Ondo Court Ruling on Financial Autonomy for State Judiciary and Assembly

Samuel Olaniyan



An Akure-based lawyer, Mr. Femi Emmanuel Emodamori, has issued an open letter to Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, calling for swift compliance with a recent Ondo State High Court judgment mandating financial autonomy for the state's Judiciary and House of Assembly. This compliance, he emphasizes, aligns with Section 121(3) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), which underscores financial independence for these arms of government.

In his detailed letter addressed through the Honourable Attorney-General of Ondo State, Emodamori recalled a meeting with Governor Aiyedatiwa on August 20, 2024, during which the governor expressed commitment to upholding statutory financial autonomy for both the Judiciary and Legislature. Emodamori pointed out, however, that despite advancements in infrastructure and security under the previous administration, there was limited compliance with this crucial constitutional provision.

The lawyer stated that this oversight motivated him to file two suits, referenced as AK/18M/2024 and AK/19M/2024, in which he challenged the state's compliance with the constitutional autonomy mandate. On October 7, 2024, Hon. Justice A.O.

Adebusoye ruled in favor of Emodamori's case, issuing judgments celebrated by many as well-researched and impartial. Emodamori attached certified copies of these judgments and requested Governor Aiyedatiwa's urgent directive for full adherence to the court's orders.

Emodamori underscored that Section 121(3) of the 1999 Constitution was reinforced by the Fifth Alteration (No.6) Act, 2023, which clarifies protocols for allocating funds to the Judiciary and Legislature. It also mandates the State Accountant-General to report both federal and state-generated revenues within seven days following the monthly FAAC meeting to ensure accountability.

The 2023 constitutional amendment further obliges the State's Commissioner for Finance and Accountant-General to fully disclose revenue inflows and release due funds to the Judiciary and Legislature no later than one week after funds become available. "Your Excellency must be proactive in ensuring these fundamental provisions are upheld," Emodamori stated, emphasizing the risk of legal implications for non-compliance.

In his letter, Emodamori cautioned against allowing any official to undermine these financial

statutes, noting that failure to uphold them could have serious repercussions for the Office of the Governor. He referenced Hon. Justice Niki Tobi's stance in *INAKOJU v. ADELEKE (2007)*, which deemed abuses of fiscal responsibilities as potential grounds for impeachment, highlighting the importance of strict adherence to fiscal mandates.

"Collectively, we bear a duty to ensure full and prompt compliance with Section 121(3) of the Constitution," he continued, urging the governor to prioritize these judicial directives for the peace, stability, and sound governance of Ondo State.

Concluding, Emodamori urged Governor Aiyedatiwa to instruct relevant officials, including the Attorney-General, Commissioner for Finance, and Accountant-General, to enforce the court's mandate. "I am confident, given Your Excellency's commitment to financial autonomy, that you will take prompt action to uphold Section 121(3) of the Constitution in Ondo State," he expressed in his closing, reaffirming his support for the administration's dedication to constitutional rule and good governance.

NEWS

Ondo PDP Candidate Agboola Ajayi Pledges to Save Aiyetoro from Sea Incursions



Agboola Ajayi, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate in Ondo State's November 16 gubernatorial election, has vowed to tackle the ongoing issue of sea encroachment in Aiyetoro, Ilaje Local Government Area, if elected. Ajayi made this promise during a PDP campaign visit to Ajapa community in Ese-Odo Local Government Area.

In response to an appeal by His Royal Majesty Godwin Aboyewa, the traditional ruler of Ajapa Kingdom, Ajayi pledged to prevent the centuries-old Aiyetoro community from being lost to the ocean. Expressing his concerns, the Ajapa monarch emphasized the urgent need for action, warning that without intervention, his community "may not be spared from this avoidable disaster."

Ajayi assured the monarch and community members of his dedication to the cause, stating, "I want to appreciate the brotherly love and patriotism you have shown here today, calling on us to save Aiyetoro from total extinction."

The PDP candidate continued, "If elected, I can assure you, we will push the sea back by at least two kilometers from Aiyetoro. This is not going to be by magic; it's a carefully planned project. We are prepared to give the people back their city and even create permanent towns in our riverine areas."

Ajayi further criticized the ruling APC government, claiming it has "run short of ideas on how to save the Aiyetoro community." He promised that his administration would prioritize not only Aiyetoro's reclamation but also the security and stability of all riverine communities in the region.

During his campaign tour in the local government, Ajayi also visited Bolowo, Arogbo, and Igbekebo, where he continued to share his plans for sustainable development and improved infrastructure across Ondo State's riverine areas.

NATIONAL NEWS REVIEW

Kano State Revokes Accreditation of 14 Government House Journalists Amid Rising Tensions

Samuel Olaniyan



The Kano State government has withdrawn the accreditation of 14 journalists covering the Government House, with immediate effect. This decision was announced by Sanusi Bature Dawakin-Tofa, spokesperson for Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, via a message posted in the Government House Press Crew's WhatsApp group.

In his message, Dawakin-Tofa directed the affected journalists to return to their respective media houses, which are now expected to assign replacements. "Gentlemen of the press," he stated, "Permit me to thank all of you for a job well done in the last year and a few months. Unfortunately, while I was away in the Republic of Serbia last week, some issues arose, and the leadership needed to make a decision at this critical time."

The journalists affected by the revocation represent prominent media outlets, including ARTV, NTA, Freedom Radio, Radio Kano, and AIT. Those whose accreditations were

revoked include Aliyu Yusuf, Sani Suraj Abubakar, Adamu Dabo, Naziru Yau, Sadiq Sani AA, Rabiun Sunusi, Umar Sheka, Jabir Dan'abba, Simon (AIT Cameraman), Nasiru Danhaki, Abdullahi Sule, Murtala Baba Kusa, and Ibrahim Muazzam.

While the official communication did not clarify the reasons behind this decision, sources close to the matter suggest that recent tensions between the Government House press team and the Department of State Services (DSS) may have been a factor. During a condolence visit by Governor Yusuf to Jigawa State following a tragic petrol tanker explosion, DSS operatives restricted the number of journalists allowed to accompany the governor, leading to a confrontation.

Further complicating matters was an incident during a visit by Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed, when some members of the Kano press team reportedly used a government vehicle, an action viewed

as inappropriate by state officials.

In addition to these incidents, insider sources suggest deeper, unresolved issues may have influenced the government's decision. "The speculations are true, and there are many more complex issues at play in the Government House," a source within the press team revealed, choosing to remain anonymous. "That's why I'm not surprised by this abrupt call for replacements."

An ongoing strain between the Kano State government and the media has also been cited as a contributing factor. A recent incident in which a journalist was struck by a stray bullet near the Government House gate remains a point of contention. Although officials downplayed the event, insiders claim it highlighted underlying tensions and contributed to a broader climate of media restrictions and internal disputes, which may have led to the recent overhaul of the Government House press crew.

NATIONAL NEWS REVIEW**Ondo APC Chieftain Akinterinwa Praises Sanwo-Olu, Ganduje for Strengthening Party Unity Ahead of Governorship Election***Samuel Olaniyan*

A prominent figure in the Ondo State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Wale Akinterinwa, has extended his heartfelt gratitude to Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the APC National Chairman, Abdullahi Ganduje, for their instrumental roles in fostering unity within the party. Akinterinwa's statement came following the launch of the APC governorship campaign in Akure, where he emphasized the party's cohesion and resilience.

Speaking on the importance of a united front, Akinterinwa described the APC as a "one, strong and indissoluble family," underscoring the need for solidarity among party members to ensure a successful outcome in the upcoming governorship election. In his statement, issued by his spokesperson, Segun Ajiboye, Akinterinwa expressed profound appreciation for the support and commitment

shown by Governor Sanwo-Olu and Chairman Ganduje, highlighting their "fatherly role" in uniting APC members in Ondo State.

"I want to express my deepest appreciation to the duo of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State and the national chairman of our great party, H.E. Abdullahi Ganduje, for the fatherly role they played to unite members of the APC family in Ondo State ahead of next month's governorship election," Akinterinwa stated.

In addition to acknowledging party leadership, Akinterinwa expressed gratitude to his supporters and those who share his vision for a united and prosperous Ondo State. "I also wish to once again register my appreciation to my supporters and all those who believed in our dreams and commitment to building a united and prosperous Ondo State," he remarked.

Akinterinwa also called on all members of his support group, known as the WA family, to rally behind APC's candidate, Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa. He urged them to "go out there and work for the success of our great party, the APC, and its candidate, Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, in the election."

Reiterating his commitment to the party's ideals, Akinterinwa reminded his supporters of their collective promise to support all APC candidates. "This was the promise we all made – to work and ensure the success of the APC and all its candidates in any election," he added.

As the Ondo governorship election approaches, Akinterinwa's call for unity and dedication highlights the APC's strategic focus on maintaining internal cohesion and harnessing support to secure victory

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,

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Let's talk about livestock business'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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UTOKO OMA IKALE

“In Ikale, integrity is worth more than gold or silver” -Prof. Igbasan

In this edition, Acting Editor, **Sam Olaniyan** was guest to McPherson University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Francis Igbasan to feature in our Ukoto Oma Ikale Column. The Ikale Award winner and former Deputy Vice Chancellor of Olusegun Agagu University of Science & Technology recalls his early years in Ikale and how he has managed to turn-around the university, owned by the Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria, located in Seriki Sotayo, Ajebo, in Ogun State. Enjoy the interview

Can you tell us about your background: the family, education, and growing up?

I was born in Ode-Irele in the present day Irele Local Government Area of Ondo State into a very humble family called Igbasan. My parents were disciplinarian and I learnt a lot from them at a very early age. I had my Primary School education in Irele and I completed it in 1974. I proceeded for my Secondary School Certificate Examinations (SSCE) in 1982. My result was good and I secured admission on merit to the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) where I studied for Bachelor of Technology Degree in Animal Production and Health. I graduated with a First Class honours degree in 1988. I proceeded to the premier university, the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, in pursuit of more knowledge. I completed my Master's Degree in 1990 from UI. I moved to the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada for my doctorate a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the in 1997. I was a recipient of the Federal Government Postgraduate Scholarship which he utilized for his Master's programme. I also won the 1993 Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for his doctoral programme which I utilized at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Growing up was challenging because there are few printed books in my possession and libraries were very scares but I was determined to succeed.

As a son of the Ikale soil, how has your upbringing and background in Ikale shaped your values, worldview, and leadership style?

The integrity and the work culture of Ikale people are infectious and unquestionable. As a young lad, I saw hard working people around me. As early as 6:00 a.m you would see people moving around about their businesses. So, unconsciously or subconsciously, I knew, I must work hard if I must succeed. Besides, I



have a father who would always say that “...bata re adun ko ko ka, to ba kawere, bata re adun ko ko ka (You will rank among the best if you study your books well). In Ikale we were brought that way: there was no option to hardwork if you want to succeed. So the message resonated and registered in my heart. Additionally, I do hear of this professor and that professor... So, I would say to myself... 'I would be one of them if I work hard'. The rest is history today to the glory of God. You see, on leadership style, I adopted inclusive leadership approach. My people will say 'agbajowo lafi n soya' (all hands on deck). So I play my role so well and success becomes natural when you play yours well too. These are important lessons that were unconsciously but meticulously etched in my

heart till today.

Can you share any memories or experiences from your childhood in Ikale that have had a lasting impact on your life?

There are numerous scenarios and personalities that inspired me as a child while growing up. Christmas period is one of such. Numerous Ikale sons and daughters from different parts of the world would come into the localities. *Laughs...* I was also anticipating meeting new friends and hearing stories about amazing places I have read in books. I heard a lot about Lagos and the many endless dramas of living in Lagos. *Laughs.* I heard a lot about the United Kingdom and many place from Ikale sons and daughter who

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have resided in the beautiful place but would always come back home to celebrate with us.

How did you pick your discipline? What inspired you to be a lecturer?

Well, agriculture has always fascinated to me right from my childhood days. I love animal production and husbandry. I love the ways animal care for their young ones too. So, I was interested in the things they do and the rearing processes. Therefore, Animal Production and Health was just a perfect choice for me. Besides, my Agricultural Science teacher in secondary school and the crop of lecturers I interacted with at my undergraduate and postgraduate level also inspired me greatly. Having gained all the necessary experience, the best decision was for me to raise another crop of animal scientists who would in turn become models for others.

How do you balance the demands of leading a University with staying connected to your roots and community in Ikale?

Laughs... I am a home boy! I love my people and I have tried to stay connected as much as possible. I love my roots. A plant that disconnects with its roots will not survive.

What does being nominated for the prestigious Ikale Awards 2024 (and eventually winning) mean to you, both personally and professionally?

Being nominated for this 2024 Ikale Awards is wonderful. In a way, it is an affirmation that my people affirm or should I say appreciated my humble personal achievements and the very little contributions to the development of the state. I sincerely appreciate the organisers and the people in general for this honour. We have so many outstanding academics in Ikale and for me to be nominated and voted for is something I deeply cherish, especially considering the fact that Ikale Awards stands out in terms of integrity.

What do you think the Ikale Awards represent for the Ikale people, and how do you feel this recognition can be a catalyst for further development in the community?

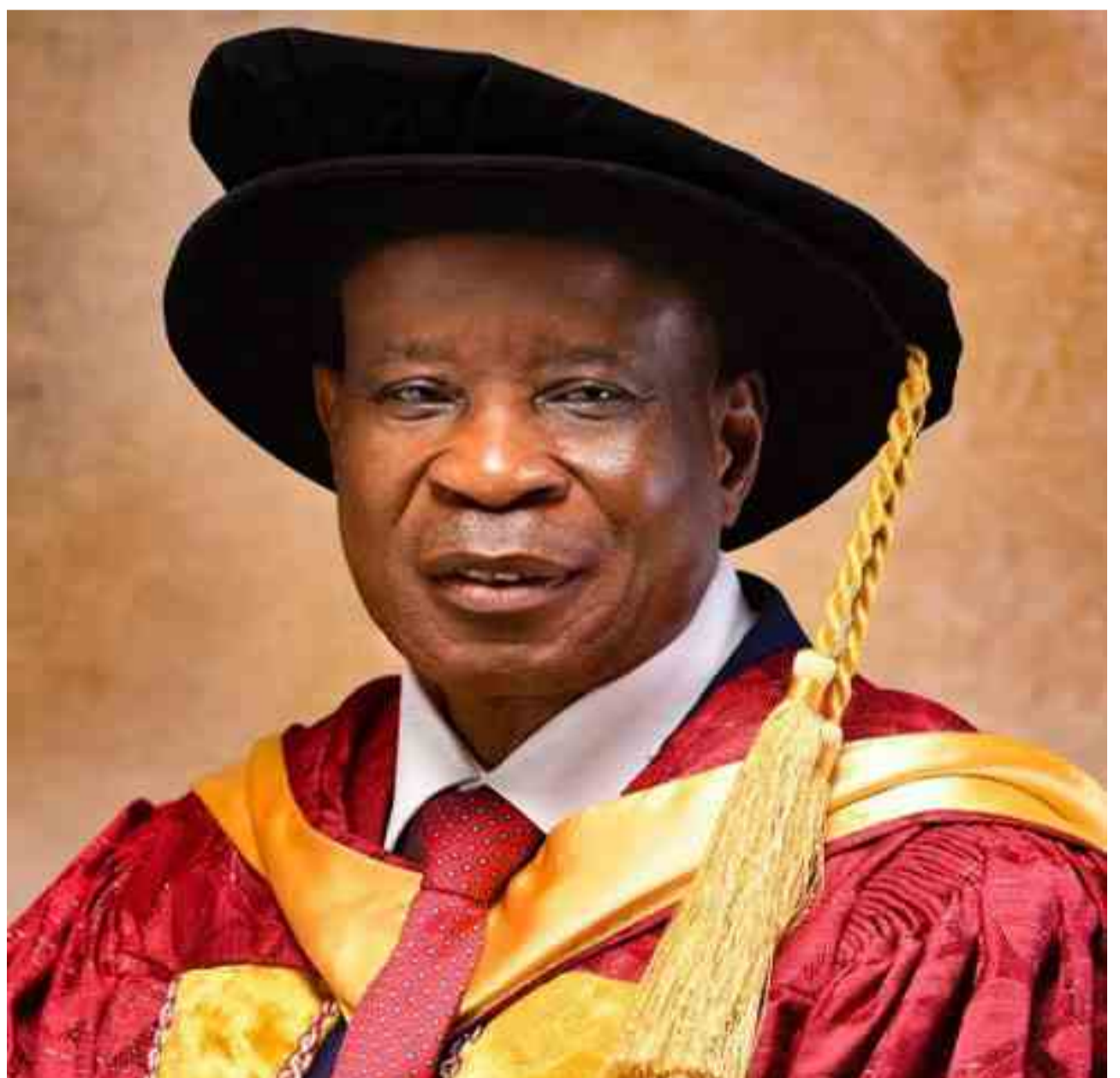
I think the Ikale Awards is fast becoming an institution of a sort. It is our Grammy, Oscar of some sort. With the standard that has been set I believe the award will remain relevant. For the Ikale people, I think they see the award as a

symbol of excellence, a mark of diligence and exceptionality. In my opinion, all the previous, present and future recipients see the award as an invitation to do more. And really, it encourages one to do more.

How has your tenure as Vice-Chancellor impacted the growth and development of McPherson University, and what are some of your proudest achievements so far?

Since I became the Vice-Chancellor on August 1, 2022 I have been trying to expand the infrastructural and the academic frontiers of the University. So far, the Lord has helped us to commission 10 solid structures that have given the University shape-all in just 26 months! We have also introduced new programmes such as Law, Health Information Management, Public Health among many others. We give glory to the Almighty God. When I assumed duty, I discovered that there was actually no route maps of development in the University and when I was coming for the interview, I also have a vision for the University which I put before the panel. When I assumed duty, immediately I constituted a committee just to develop this vision that I have which is five years strategic plan. The five years strategic

plan is a normal thing a university ought to have, which is the road map; and that follows in developing the system which I did when I came. The five years strategic plan has eight points agenda, which I can call like a Bible that we have been following up religiously and to see that by the time I finish my tenure here, the next three years, I should be able to look back that if I have not covered 80% of it, 100% of it, I would say 70% to 80% off those things I put in that five years strategic plan we have followed gradually. This agenda includes accelerated physical development, you will agree with me that if we move around now, you see, we have actually done a lot in times of physical development. The last two years, we have commissioned two college buildings, three hostel buildings and started to put together befitting auditorium for the students, that would accommodate at least 5,000 students and we have other hostel buildings that are ongoing, We are also planning for more to come in the area of physical development, if you move around, there are laboratory too, which we equipped with more advanced equipment. When I came on board particularly the Medical Science programme there was nothing to write home about, but if you go to the



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laboratory now, you will see that we have state of arts equipment, and also in the Medical Science which is now one of the programme we have gotten accreditation for professional certification not only the NUC accreditation. The NUC which is the National University Commission, is our supervisor, so we have secured accreditation for all these programmes, We have also secured the professional accreditation, which will make these students be able to practice by the time they leave the system. Go to our Library, you see we have more than enough books and Internet facilities available on campus. We have started a College of Law. Our Library is states of the art library even when Legal Council came they commended the materials we have in the Library that even institutions that has been established for years, cannot compete with what we have. That was the comment the DG of Law school gave when he was rounding up the visit. So, that is to tell you that we have facilities to train our students and make learning easier for

them.

Research is one of the mandates of any institution. We have our three mandates: teaching, research and community service. We have not taken it lightly at all. Since I came on board, we have organized seminars to join our lectures on how to write grant winning proposal. We brought somebody from US who came around to train our lectures on how to write proposals that can win grants internationally and we thank God, we have seen two of our lecturers who have won grants. Prof. Nwoko won grants, one of UK bodies give him a grant that is worth about £53,000. Recently Dr. Adigun won grants from from the UK Academy of Chemists. I can see that the training that we have been putting them through is yielding positive results. And then we found academic conferences, and our lectures are interested in that, and have put some papers together. We have been funding both academic and professional conferences, locally and overseas. We do that, because that

is the only way that we can compete in this system. Also, this is another way we can also make the name of the university to be known around the group. So we encourage research and then we encourage our staff to do quality research and also apart from that we are also planning to also set aside money for research which literature can write proposals and then there will be a committee that we screen all these proposals, and then the university will now fund those that are successful with some amount some of money.

What vision do you have for McPherson University in the next five to ten years, and what are the key areas you plan to focus on?

Well, thank you very much, I thank God for what he has done, for his faithfulness and for putting me in this office. It is a challenging office and we thank God that we have been able to navigate amidst the challenges we have come across in the course of administering this university in the last two years. I assumed duty here on the 1st of July, 2022 and we have been able to navigate through all the challenges that have come our way, through the support of people, management, staff and stakeholders, the proprietor of the Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria under the leadership of the General Overseer Rev. Dr. Sam Aboyeji and the General Board of Trustees under the leadership of Engr. Kunle Allen and the Governing Council under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Babatunde Idowu. All these stakeholders have been supportive. I also want to mention that the Chancellor of the University, has also been supportive Engr. (Dr.) Mutiu Sunmonu. from the staff and students, I have enjoyed tremendous support from these segments since I assumed duty here.

In the area of students enrollment. every reminder is actually gone up and at least we have recorded over 400% improvement in the area of enrollment, when I came on board I met about 430 students on ground and we can talk about over 1500 students that we have on campus now. We are hoping that the next enrollment, there will be significant improvements and we have put in machinery in place, we have brought in new blood into the enrollment committee. We have enrollment committee, we have expanded our committee now and inaugurated the committee and then we are also supporting the committee financially and with material,

whatever support that the committee needs via supporting the committee. We are looking at the possibility of matriculating over 1000 students in the 2024/2025 academic session and then we have the capacity to admit over 1000 new students so I believe that by the grace of God we will be able to meet this target by next academic session. You know, we have to build infrastructure as we admit more students.

We have a bakery, we are also into farming. We have been doing that and recently we started water production business in conjunction with the church and that one has started in April, I can say that we don't we don't have much from that now because it is still at the teething stage ready to develop. But from the bakery we thank God that at least it is an improvement, we have built a new bakery now from the money we got from the bakery and some other sources that we put together. We did not use university fund in terms of tuition fees, and other things. The money from the venture is what we used to build the bakery and we have a modern bakery that meets the demands of the people in the environments, the communities within the environment, and we will be able to Expand to Ibadan especially during church conventions activities we should also be able to meet their demands. Also, we have embarked on large scale farming especially the cultivation of cassava last year. This year alone we have sold cassava worth over 3.5 million Naira, by next year we should be able to get more than 10 million Naira from cassava because all those farmland that we used last year, we are also replanting cassava there immediately we do the harvesting. So before I complete my tenure I believe that we must have occupied 80% of McPherson land And not only by building infrastructures alone, but also using the land for productive farming. As mass communication programme is one of the best in the South West. That department got 95 per cent in the National Universities Commission (NUC) accreditation. We are working on our radio station license which will be used for both training and to also generate some income.

What challenges do you face as a leader in Nigerian academia, and how do you work to overcome these challenges?

Waaaaoooo! High turn-over among my staff has been one of the challenges I am facing. Just when you are planning to build a system around someone, you will just hear that the person has *japa!* *Laughs...* Another challenge is the inability of private Universities to access the TETFund research and development grants. Since we are all producing manpower for the nation and the world, I think we should all have

equal access to the TETFund,

How can Nigerian universities, particularly private institutions like McPherson, help address the major challenges facing the Nigerian educational system?

Of course, it is through R&D (research and development). The tertiary institution is the place all the buck stops when it comes to knowledge. After there, you go to God. There is no problem that we face currently as a nation that our academics cannot sit down and resolve. Like I said earlier, let private varsities have access to TETFund's grants. I can tell you that so many inventions are wasting away in the labs in Nigeria with no support to commercial them.

In your opinion, what role does education play in the development of the Ikale community, and how can more youths be encouraged to pursue higher education? And how can Ikale people benefit from you being the VC of the McPherson University, sir?

“We are working on our radio station license which will be used for both training and to also generate some income”

Ikale people place value on education. Quite honestly, I must confess that today's youths in Ikale are straying away from this legacy. We cannot blame them. We need to encourage them, the more with incentives. I am a serial beneficiary of scholarships. We must go back to the drawing board and plan how to encourage our youths to pursue education. On how Ikale people can benefit, well, they are already benefitting. I know we have more Ikale undergraduates here than before I came in. We also have several Ikale on our staff list now – academic and non-academic. Some of our people are scared of taking their wards to private universities because they assume it is far more expensive than public universities. I have served at high levels in both and I can tell

you that the gap is not as wide as people assume. Public universities have some miscellaneous charges and in a private university such as ours, education is total. All students are boarded. The students graduate as at when due, etc. So, when you put it side by side, ultimately, it is worth it sending your children to McPherson University. We will create more forums to enlighten our people on these opportunities.

What contributions do you believe the Ikale people can make to national development, particularly in the areas of education and governance?

We are everywhere serving the country in education and governance. Ikale are quality people. We are in hot demand and will continue to support the growth of our fatherland.

Let's go a little private: What role does your heritage play in your leadership style and your vision as Vice-Chancellor of McPherson University?

Ikale culture, family name and heritage are very important.

You were one Dr. Olusegun Agagu's political machine in those days! You are not as political as you used to be, at least openly. Do you miss partisan politics?

Obviously, the exigencies of my work as VC do not allow me to do that. But I still relate to some ways. My political associates still consult me and I can only state that I am doing the little I aaad

Will you go back to politics after your tenure as VC?

I can't say. That one is in the hands of God Almighty, who directs our paths. Politics is service to the people and it comes in different ways. You can serve in government as a consultant or technocrat, not necessarily contesting election.

Looking back on your academic career, what would you say is your proudest achievement, and how do you want to be remembered as a leader?

I have never thought of placing them on a scale. But I can tell you some memorable experiences I have had. Graduating with a First-class and proceeding to take on my Master's and PhD degrees abroad despite coming from that poor background was a proud achievement. There are quite a lot of others. When I leave here, obviously, it will extend the list because of what we are doing here at McPherson University.

FEATURE IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ikale News: Very true Baba.

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

solved.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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