



ARE:

# MEET IKALE BILLIONNAIRE SPORTS STARS



### Ikale Gold Award (Highest category)

1. Mr Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo
2. Dr. Seinde Fadeni-Oladapo
3. Dr. Remi Olatubora (SAN)

### Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Primary)

1. Chief S.E Lupo
2. Kingdom Heritage Model School, Okitipupa
3. St. Williams Nursery And pry school Okitipupa

### Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Secondary)

1. Stella Maris College (Old Students Association)
2. M.M.G.S. (Old Students Association)
3. Ofedepo High School, Okitipupa

### Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Tertiary)

1. Professor Francis Igbasan
2. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye
3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)

### Ikale Community Service Award

1. Barr Phillip Ogunjumelo
2. Mr. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo
3. Mr. Deolu Ijose

### Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler Award

1. HRM, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade (Uyi Oba 1, Lapoki of Aye Kingdom)
2. HRM, Oba G.B. Faduyile (Abodi of Ikaleland)
3. HRM, Oba Oluwole Adesayo (The Ahaba of Ajagba Kingdom)

### Ikale Culture Icon (formerly Special Award for Promotion of Ikale Culture)

1. Sir Demola Suzi
2. High Chief Omotola Emaye
3. Awawa FM Radio

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## Also In This Edition

\* Senator Jimoh Ibrahim gifts tear-rubber Land Cruiser to Rebuja

\* Quality interview with PRP and YPP Guber candidates

\* Agbo braces up! can he be lucky this time?

\* NUC's final visitation to University of Fortune, Igbotako in pictures

\* Plus all your Regulars, Martins Oloja, Divine Solomon, Sola Olatunji, Bitter Pills



Babatunde Francis Alli



John Otitoloju Akinmurele

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

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

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Bolu John Folayan, PhD

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## Ikale Awards And Matters Miscellaneous

**A**gbiiii dede oma Ikale ati a Apoi ooo! Ki jo y'aa mu da? Ayemafuge Ilaje! Awa ma ti ye o.

Greetings to everyone. As the economy bites harder and harder, my prayer is that God, in his infinite mercies, will continue to provide for us all o. I cannot lie, things are very tough. But I have seized to complain. As things get harder and tougher, people are still buying cement and building houses. They are still buying cars and are still doing all sorts of ceremonies. Therefore, the pray is not just that the inflation should come down, but that whatever the prices are saying, God should make us able to pay.

**THE GUBER ELECTIONS**

This is year is a defining moment for the people of Ondo State as in November, we shall head to the polls to elect our governor. Without undermining the possible of the other candidates winning, especially that of the PRP and YPP, the race, on paper is between the incumbent Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa and former deputy governor and veteran grassroots politician, Hon Agboola Ajayi.

Whoever emerges has the onerous task of re-developing our beloved state to the high pedestal that it should be.

My appeal to us all in Ikale and Ilaje is that we should do the elections peacefully. Both Agbo and Lucky are our own. I personally believe that Lucky has the edge theoretically. The legislators and the legion of appointees and Exco of LGs and LCDAs will work for him physically and financially.

Federal might is there, especially with a very political president on seat. But then, I am not God. If God says Ajayi will win the coveted position, nothing can change it. It will just be like a miracle. I was the political correspondent of Champion Newspapers many decades ago when Sir Michael Otedola against all odds emerged governor of Lagos State. True to his father's name, it "ote di ola" as bickering within the then Social Democratic Party (SDP) cost

the party that important victory. There is a similar development going on in Ondo State, but I don't it is an earthquake as it happened in Otedola's case. This one is just tremors, not earthquake.

I have at several for a (including open letters to the governor expressed by wishes and concern regarding what his priorities should be. Agriculture should be Number One priority for the government should be food-sufficiency..

I doubt if people vote contestants for congent reasons these days. Please ensure that you participate in the process robustly.

**IKALE AWARDS 2024**

The most prestigious scheme to recognize excellence in the Ikale is loading seriously. (I don't want to be writing Ikaleland again jare. It is superfluous, just as I think Yorubaland, Igboland etc are. Which one is 'land' in this latter. If we cannot write Ilajewaters, then Ikaleland is wrong).

From now through December and January, a huge chunk of Ikale News editions would be devoted to showcasing Award nominees and the eventual award winners. The last time we organized the prestigious awards was in 2006 at the Airport Hotel, Ikeja. We had held previous awards in Akure and Lagos and this time we are headed for Okitipupa our political and cultural capital for the next awards, slated for Friday December 27, 2024. All subsequent awards would be in various towns in Ikale.

Certainly, Ikale! Home is the best and the most appropriate place to honour the best of Ikale is in Ikaleland. There are about 15 award categories and three nominees have been approved by the Award Committee comprising of eminent Ikale citizens including past award winners. Going through the list of nominees tells you how competitive and prestigious Ikale Awards is! Any of these nominees is eminently qualified to win and whoever wins in just by stroke of grace of being preferred by our readers and members of the public. The voting is transparent.

Just log on to Ikale Awards on Facebook or WhatsApp and vote. You can also go to our website, [ikalenews.com](http://ikalenews.com), and vote for your preferred winner. You can vote for your own as many times as you want. Please share with other Ikale at home and in the Diaspora to vote.

The normal side attractions are also loading. The Biripo Dance competition is getting hotter, keener and bigger. The management of Ikale News will give N25, 000 each to the winner in male and female category. Entry is free. Of course there would be consolation prizes for the winners as well. In the last edition, the winner got over a hundred thousand naira. Our marketing executives are already looking for gifts in kind to be donated to the winners. We will also give the best dancer male and female, take-away Trophies! Then of course, we are doing all of these over sumptuous dinner. It promises to be the very best of Ikale culture.

**LET THE SCHOLARSHIPS CONTINUE!**

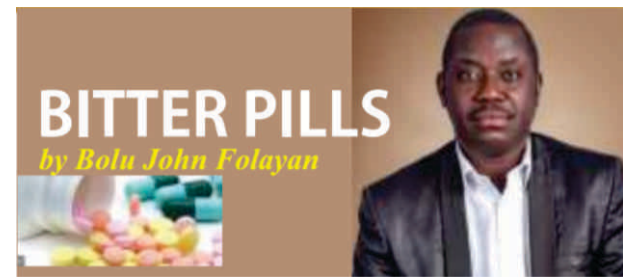
I am delighted that many Ikales at home and the in the Diaspora are rolling out scholarship schemes, following the footsteps of Dr. Jimoh Ibrahim (who started his scholarship scheme at age 25) and Professor Eddy Omolehinwa (who instituted a scholarship scheme I honour of his late wife two years). Many more scholarships are rolling out. The latest is the Margaret Olatunde Akinnusi Scholars in honour of two great educationists Ikale has produced. Many more are coming and like I always say, it may be coming in trickles now, it would turn to flood soon. In this hard times, an effort to alleviate the suffering of just ONE Ikale student is worth the effort. Who knows what that boy or girl would become tomorrow! Let us keep it rolling in. And, like me, you can support existing scheme if you do not have the resources to start your own full scale. You can support one scheme here and another there. God bless you as you do. And to the beneficiaries, please make the best of this effort. In future, you are going to look back and also give out scholarships. And to our local and state governments, this is it o. Finally, scholarships are not only for brilliant students or pupils o. They are also for the gifted in sports, drama, music etc. and of course for indigent students.

**Till next edition, an je ja ka hedo o!**

**Bolu John Folayan**  
Publisher

**BITTER PILL**

# Ikale and Ilaje Deserve Respect in the Comity of Yoruba Nations



Lagos... up to a dozen and half towns! No mention of Ikale or Ilaje Obas! Haba! Even in the colonial days, the Oyibos properly recognized us. The Abodi and Rebuja (Oba D.I.) represented us in far-away Ibadan. Imagine! It was an unpleasant embarrassment for me that none of my over a dozen legendary Obas in Ikale and Ilaje were mentioned to those kids. Those kids would of course grow up without knowing Ikale and Ilaje Obas. They may not even know a Yoruba race known as Ikale exists. Whose fault? Wait, I am coming to that.

I had another experience, a respected professor of history came to deliver a public lecture where I work. He mentioned a long list of nations that constitute Yoruba. When he was tired mentioning the Yoruba towns he knew, he crossed to Benin and Togo. Ikale and Ilaje were conspicuously missing. I stood up during the question and answer session to ask him the basis of such "unpardonable omission". Some people laughed. But he did not find it funny. He was embarrassed.

For us scholars, such omission is actually unpardonable, especially from a professor of history. He made the mistake most people are fond of committing – over-relying on secondary data. In scholarship, secondary data is what other people have written or found. Primary data is what you (the write) has found, by your own scientific inquiry. If the professor had taken time to dig further into Yoruba history, he could not have missed mentioning Ikale and Ilaje (even Apoi) when talking about Yoruba nations.

"This is part of the reason you see

**M**y wife had the privilege of writing a major Yoruba primary school reader titled *Alakoobere Yoruba KG, PRY 1-6*, which was recently approved by the Lagos State Ministry of Education for the education curriculum in the state. It took her six years to complete the work. We are taking it to Ondo State for approval soon.

In the process of writing the book, she had to research into the history and culture of the Yoruba people and it was through her research that I got to know that Ikale and Ilaje people have been under-reported in Yoruba history. I found it so disgusting! She had to rely on me to begin to search for Ilaje and Ikale contents for her book so that this same mistake is not committed in her book. It looked like a conspiracy by the previous Yoruba authors. Even the famous Daramola who wrote *Asa ati Orisa Ile Yoruba* who taught at Manuwa Memorial Grammar School Iju Odo for many years did not give Ikale the coverage it deserves

in Yoruba literature. The bitter reality is that "*Owo umale oun ghen mu ton ade ori e se ni*". You have to do it yourself. This is why I am keying behind the versatile historian and scholar, Professor Olukoya Ogen, who is constructing, reconstructing and deconstructing Ikale and Yoruba history as it should be.

You may have encountered the ugly experience of seeing Ikale and Ilaje missing in action when Yoruba nation roll calls are made. I have had over a dozen such nasty experiences. Let me share with you a few of them:

I was driving through Ibadan to Joseph Ayo Babalola University (JABU) a few years back and I ran into a radio quiz programme. The presenter was asking the kids the names of the traditional rulers of various towns in Yorubaland: Ibadan, Ijebu, Ile-Ife, Ogbomoso, Osogbo, Ilesa, Akure, Owo, Ado,

## BITTER PILLS

traditional rulers like Olugbo of Ugbo, Oba Obateru revolt against historical lineage of Ilajes attached to the Ooni of Ife. With due respect, I appeal that you do not commit such omission in future. Sir.” The professor noted my remarks, with thanks!

I do not see what other nations within Yoruba have contributed to Yoruba growth that we have not. In military, politics, sports, police, education, business and economy, entertainment/arts and other endeavours of life, we can rub shoulders with any town within Yoruba nations. Our strength is in the fact that Ikale is actually a federation. There is no town or village known as “Ikale”. We exist through our language and culture – food, music, character, etc. How can you then compare us with single towns like Ogbomoso or Osogbo. We are much bigger! Only territorial races like Ijebu, Egba, Ijesha and Ibadan can compare with us. These Yoruba races, like Ikale spread across numerous towns. We deserve some respect, men!

But we are the ones to re-write this warped history. Nobody will do it for us. My wife's book series is a trail blazer in this regard. I thank her profusely. She's from Egba. She has carefully captured our markets, food, marriage culture, traditional rulers into her book! The way *pupuru* is going places, before you know it, someone will tell you that *Pupuru* is Ondo food! Our editor is currently researching the origins of this magical cassava flour called *pupuru*. We will publish his article soon. That is part of it. Nobody will write your history for you, but you.

Some years ago when my club, Omo'so Club of Igbotako took our children on home on visits, we paid courtesy visit to Rebuja of Osooro. A very lettered king, the Rebuja told them a bit of Ikale history and till today, my children could not forget. They felt so privileged to sit with the Oba!

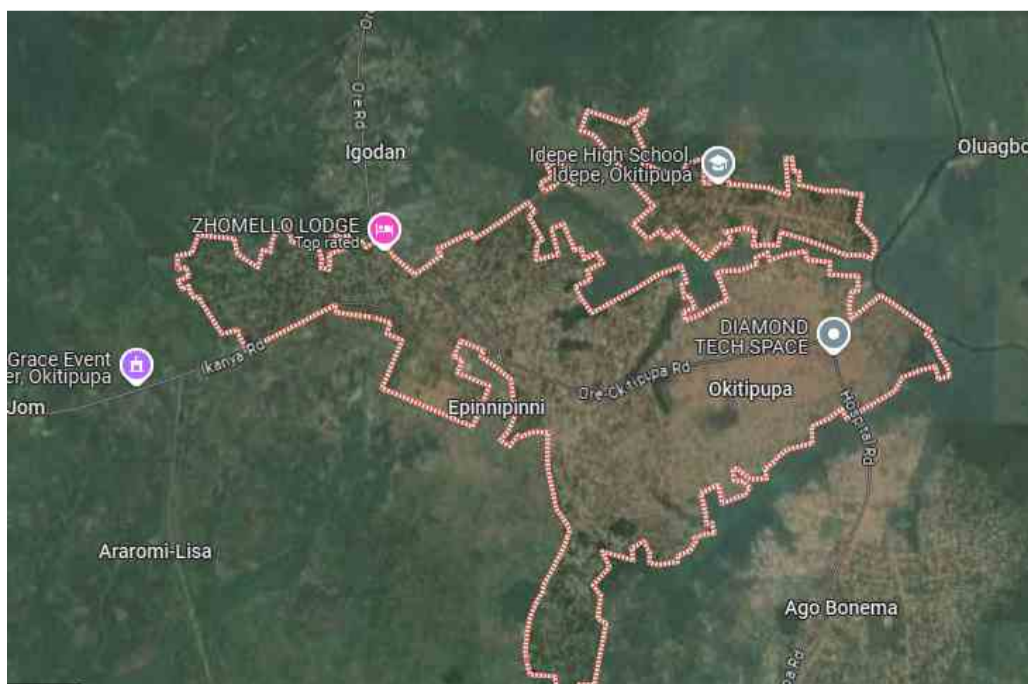
*“let us  
take time  
now to be  
pushing our  
own  
narratives  
”*

I respect works that connect our heritage to Ile Ife. I have no problem with that. But as a scholar and journalist, I see quite a lot of similarities between Ikale and Bini and Itshekiri culture just as I equally see our similarities with other Yoruba nations. Apart from Ondo city, Owo and Ilaje, there is no other Yoruba dialect that has “gh” in its alphabet. Our masquerade is strikingly similar to those of Bini and Itshekiri. The same for Ilaje people. Then talk of our music. I think it is only Ilaje and Ikale in the entire Yoruba nation that do

not use the gangan drum in their music. There was a time someone tried to introduce it to our biripo/asiko and Baba Zebon Omoranmowo condemned it. He insisted we must be original. This means without doubt that some of our people originated directed from the Ife axis while some emerged from the Bini, Ugbo, Itshekiri axis. Of course Yoruba founded those latter places I just mentioned. So we are Yoruba, no doubt about that. My submission is that we should place less emphasis on history and talk about the present. It is the present that becomes history. As it is said “what happens today becomes history the next day”. If we do not write who we are now, we would be obliterated from history, when tomorrow comes.

I thank God for our dialect and music. Ikale and Ilaje would have been obliterated from Yoruba nationhood with writers and historians! Our biripo in Ikale and Ilaje is unmistakably the same. No other Yoruba nation has it. Bini and Itshekiri do not play biripo. So, it is our music. The Ilaje people gave “zion music” to the world! Look at the influence of that music all over the world now. You cannot miss the long notes and sonorous tenor in Ilaje zion music. So, so unique.

So, let us take time now to be pushing our own narratives. I propose that we should have Ikale-Ikale Archives somewhere in Okitipupa where we can be documenting our history and artifacts as a people. Nobody will do it for us o.



**Ikale News** Established June 1992



# **Ikale Community Awards 2024**

**ADVERT**

# IKALE AWARDS 2024

## ANNOUNCING THE COMMENCEMENT OF VOTING

The management of *Ikale News*, Nigeria's iconic community newspaper hereby announces the commencement of voting for Awardees in this year's **Ikale Awards**.

The **Ikale Awards** scheme was initiated in 1993 by the Publisher and Management Board of *Ikale News* to stimulate community development in Ikale, Ondo State by discovering and appreciating distinguished Ikale sons and daughters, institutions and organizations as well as non-indigenes who have shown exemplary leadership, character and remarkable contributions to the development of the society, especially Ikale society. Individuals who have distinguished themselves in their personal or professional callings are also recognized in the scheme.

The 2024 Edition is the Fifth in the Series of Awards since the first edition 31 years ago. The most recent edition was held in 2006 (18 years ago) at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Lagos.

The 2024 Awards Committee of eminent Ikale at home and in the Diaspora has approved a list three nominees per award and winners shall be determined by members of the public through their votes.

**Members of the public are, therefore, hereby invited for their favourites from their nominees as follows:**

IKALE AWARDS 2024 NOMINEES			
SN	AWARD CATEGORY	SOME OF PAST WINNERS	NOMINEES FOR 2024 (Only one person can win in each category)
1.	<b>Ikale Gold Award (Highest category)</b>	Chief Olu Akinfosile Dr. Olusegun Agagu Gen. Olu Bajowa, PhD (rtd) Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim Crosdale Juba (post humous)	1. Mr Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 2. Dr. Seinde Fadani-Oladapo 3. Dr. Remi Olatubora (SAN)
2	<b>Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Primary)</b>	Kawe Funmi Primary School, Sagamu Success Group of Schools, Okitipupa	1. Chief S.E Lupo 2. Kingdom Heritage Model School, Okitipupa 3. St. Williams Nursery And pry school Okitipupa
3.	<b>Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Secondary)</b>	Chief E.O. Agagu Chief B.A. Akinmosin	1. Stella Maris College (Old Students Association) 2. M.M.G.S. (Old Students Association) 3. Ofedepo High School, Okitipupa
4	<b>Ikale Award for Distinguished Performance in Education (Tertiary)</b>	Professor Isaac Olusola Akindutire	1. Professor Francis Igbasan 2. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)
5	<b>Ikale Community Service Award</b>	Dr. Abiodun Ijose Chief S.O. Akinnurun High Chief Jackson Okunfolami Professor Ernest Ola Obe Mr. Seinde Akinbuwa Asiwaju Benson Akindeju	1. Barr Phillip Ogunjumelo 2. Mr. Olorunnimbe Ayenuyo 3. Mr. Deolu Ijose
6	<b>Outstanding Ikale Traditional Ruler Award</b>	This is a new award category	1. HRM, Oba Williams Akinmusayo Akinlade (Uyi Oba 1, Lapoki of Aye Kingdom) 2. HRM, Oba G.B. Faduyile (Abodi of Ikaleland) 3. HRM, Oba Oluwole Adesayo (The Ahaba of Ajagba Kingdom)
7	<b>Ikale Culture Icon (formerly Special Award for Promotion of Ikale Culture)</b>	Chief Zeblon Omoranmowo Pa Durojaiye Akinbeyinje Chief Comfort Emaye Prince Yomi Akinmuda Chief Oneounreya Arowojolu Omoba Demola Suzi	1. Sir Demola Suzi 2. High Chief Omotola Emaye 3. Awawa FM Radio



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8	<b>Outstanding Ikale Woman Award</b>	Mrs. Andre Mrs. Carol Olusoji Akingbehin	1. Professor Stella Abiodun Olowodunjoye 2. Princess Oladunni Odu, PhD. 3. Professor Abiola Oduwole (Nee Ijose)
9	<b>Best Organized Community Day</b>	New award category	1. Layelu Day 2023 2. Utako Day 2023
10	<b>Special Award for Distinguished Performance in Sports</b>	Grace Ebukuyo Monday Merotohun	1. Gianis Adetokunbo 2. Tolulope "Jordan" Omogbehin (Omos) 3. Odunayo Adekuoroye
11	<b>Distinguished Ikale Professional Award</b>	DSP Olubode Ojajuni Engr Olatunde Ojajuni Mr. Seinde Eric Ibini	1. Engr. Felix Ayejukanwa 2. Brig Gen. Felix Ohunyeye 3. Mr. Martins Oloja
12	<b>Distinguished Ikale Club/Association</b>	Omawa Club Ikale Noble Stars Club Ikale Development Union Ikale Social Club, Lagos	1. Okitipupa Divisional Association, Abuja 2. Fusion of Aye Development Associations (FOADA) 3. Irele Progressive Union
13	<b>Best Ikale Legislator Award</b>	New award category	1. Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, PhD, CFR 2. Hon. Jimi Odimayo 3. Hon Chris Ayebusiwa
14	<b>Outstanding Ikale in the Diaspora Award</b>	New award category	1. Prof. Salewa Olafioye (USA) 2. Prince Jimi Adekanle, JAF (Canada) 3. Barr. Phillip Ogunjumelo (USA)
15	<b>Special Award for Distinguished Non-Ikale</b>	Mrs Deborah Foluke Adeiye, Chief Olusola Oke, SAN Hon. D.I. Kekemeke Barr Abdul Olajide Ajana	1. Dr. Akinkunmi Oresanya (Omosanya Hospital) 2. Mr. Okeke (Sinako) 3. Urhobo Progressive Union, Ikale 4. Mr I.C.M. Okeke (synako) 5. Dr Oresanya Akinkunmi (Omusanya Hospital) 6. Urhobo Progressive Union in Ikale.
16	<b>Distinguished Ikale Business Personality of the Year</b>	Lerick Nigeria Limited	1. Dr. Jide Martins Adewinle 2. Mr. Sola Fred Adekugbe 3. Mr. Segun Obayando
17	<b>Distinguished Ikale Local Government Administrator</b>	Dr. Deji Akinwalere Mr. Fayefunmi	No qualified nominee

**HOW TO VOTE:**

1. Go to Ikalenews.com on Facebook or visit our website, [ikalenews.com/Ikale\\_awards\\_nominees](https://www.ikalenews.com/Ikale_awards_nominees) and vote for your favourite nominee
2. You can vote as many times as you want
3. Voting closes: **October 30, 2024**

## IKALE AWARDS SPECIAL

# “We are bringing back 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](http://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 Ikaledland: 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. Thi

s 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?**

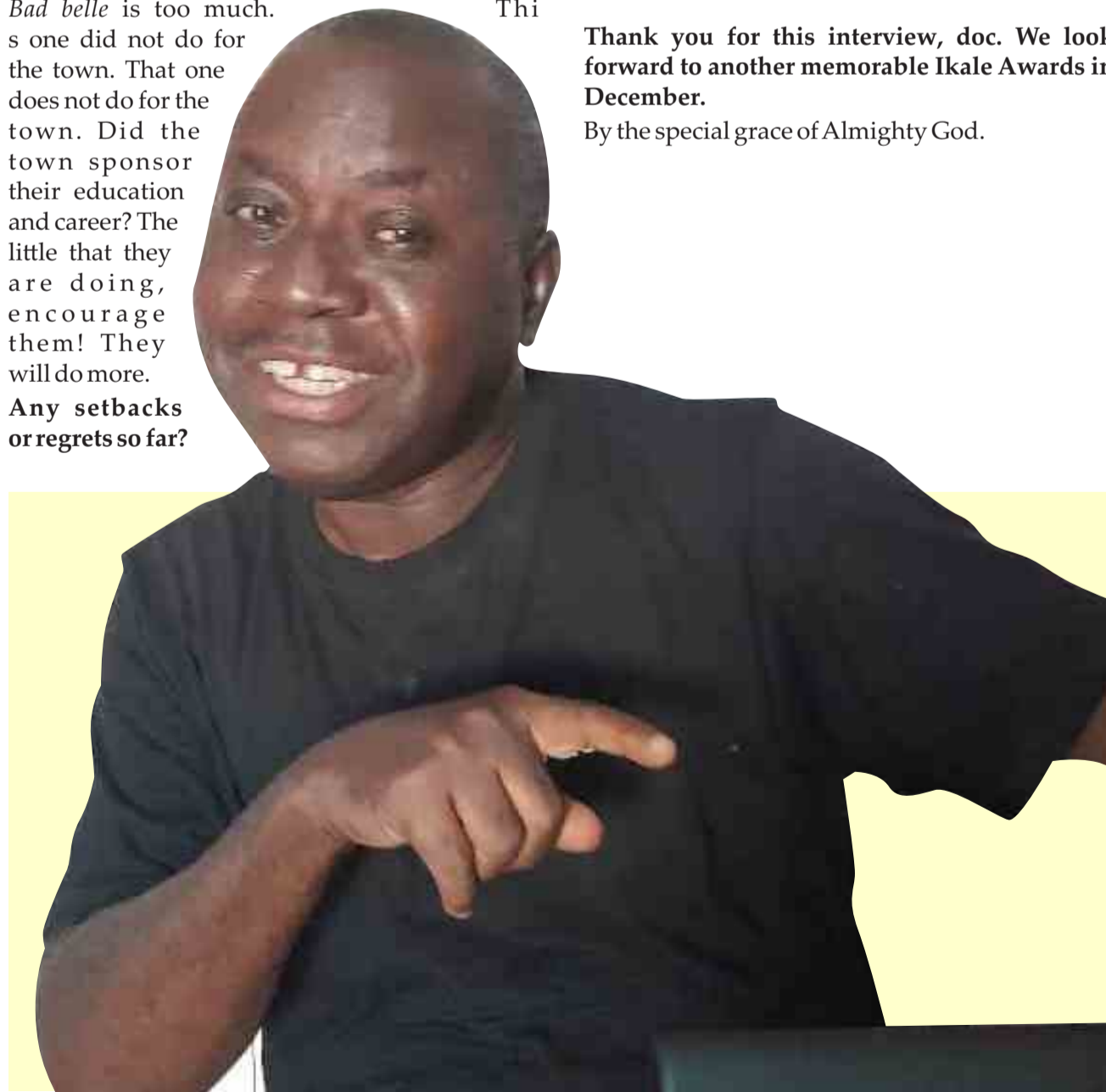
Sometimes, I feel ashamed at the quality of awards that I gave the first set of awards in the 90s. I didn't have the resources. Nevertheless, they accepted the award plaques. But in the most recent editions, we have improved on this. We want our awards to stand out in the shelves of our Awardees. God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



**IKALE AWARDS****“Nigeria will not disintegrate”****“Nigeria will not disintegrate”****SPEECH DELIVERED BY  
LATE CHIE OLU AKINFOSILE  
AT THE IKALE COMMUNITY AWARD 1993**

I feel highly honoured to be here to receive this award. I am sure my fellow awardees feel the same. Our gratitude is in two fold. In a society where wealth regardless of its source has become the prime factor of reverence and recognition, being honoured for communal service without consideration for wealth is refreshingly encouraging development. Again, in spite of the current depressingly limited confusing state of affairs that such an event can be organized is a tribute to the resilience of the Nigerian and Nigeria. It is a pointer to the possibilities of our future in Nigeria.

The importance of this ceremony is further amplified when placed within the events that have taken place in Nigeria beginning with our abnormal independence and governance, the continuous absence and therefore pride in a national psyche, couples with the attempt to foist what one commentator has described as Aaron's peace on us, particularly under Babangida and his deputy now head of state. The sad destruction of the moral basis of our national existence, the unbelievable betrayal of our people, the unscrupulous horse trading and jettisoning of principle and destruction of many politicians hitherto considered credible and the exchange of our opportunity for organizing and rearranging the Nigerian society for opportunism has no doubt been sad and humiliating. It is doubly so.

However, it is inspiring that we have not allowed ourselves to be dragged along into mortgaging our principles, our conviction and our beliefs. This

occasion further convinced me that those who have brought profanities to the temple will naturally not go unscathed. As I look back at the events of the last eight years in particular, I can only take solace in the belief that the veil of the masquerade has been removed and with time our people will soon demand that the king must dance naked and his associates, military or civilian called to account. So that those aspiring to governance through the military, through corrupt and cocaine and wealth will never be allowed to leadership in Nigeria.

Current constellation of events suggests that Nigeria, at least politics in Nigeria may not be the same again.

I must confess that I do not see the possibilities of this current administration leading us successfully to dependable change. At best, what it will foist on us would not be fundamentally much different from what we have witnessed in the past. There can be no effective and acceptable substitute for democratization of all our economic and political structures. Anything else would always remind ad hoc, temporary and a stop-gap. Only government incorruptly obtained by the people for the people and not a DLACRHY can achieve real change. Even as stop-gap, the current regime is an aberration in actuality. I say this because with or without Abioal, June 12 must be thoroughly and openly example in order to sustain the faith and hope of the people of Nigeria. It is the right of Nigerians to know in order to have a succession of clean, responsive, and reformative visionary

democratic governments.

The current administration cannot be much not continue with “business as usual”. There must be a civil replacement NOW. The progressive politicians that have canvassed for military administration may have not had their say and their way. The Nigeria masses feel different and do not share their opinions.

A military regime, in fact, the current be must military administration cannot meaningfully and responsible superintend over a constitutional conference that is expected to re-organized and rearrange Nigeria on a different basis of legitimacy. My position is based on the following premise:

a The current military regime as an offspring of the doubly discreditable and discredited Babangida regime has neither the moral or legal legitimacy to manage the affairs of Nigeria.

b If some of the statements credited to General Abacha and his colleagues are true, it means we are already going to the constitutional conference short-changed as in the last. It is fundamentally wrong and unacceptable for the administration to label some issues as untouchable. There can be no peace without justice and equality of all Nigerians. I must hasten to add that I am an ardent advocate for the unity of Nigeria. Those who know me will bear me out that I can never be taken into bisectional politics. It holds on attraction for me. I only believe that it is patently absurd and ridiculous for



# IKALE AWARDS

## “Nigeria will not disintegrate”

us to assume we are preparing for a constitutional conference were certain supposedly fundamental issues are not to be discussed.

In actual fact, the future of Nigeria as a united and indivisible entity is the only non-negotiable item. The disintegrations may shout themselves hoarse. Nigeria has come to stay and will remain one.

I say this again because to breakup Nigeria is to initiate a chain of actions and re-actions across the continent of Africa and possible send some groups back to foreign domination. We will eventually portray the Africa as incapable of managing a modern national station the basis of equality and justice, and we would thereby abandon less fortunate countries on the continent and the hops for racial equality and justice for black people in the Americas and the Caribbean, almost 99% of whom originate from the Nigeria of today. To my mind our greatest challenge remains our ability to deemphasize the spread of fundamentalism and continuation of ethnic loyalty over national pride in our nation.

The current members of this administration have demonstrated to us in concrete and precise terms that ethical considerations are no longer of importance in the Nigerian political process. We, however, feel different and distance ourselves from such immoral stance. Ethics and morality must govern and direct our social, economic and political process.

Any government that does not have the presence of mind to understand the monumental corruption of the Babaginda Administration and that the June 12 issue cannot be wished away either lacks the intellectual capacity to manage Nigeria or is innately and inextricably guilty of every wrongdoing his regime is guilty of.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me once

again congratulate the organizer of this event, especially Bolu, whose vision gave birth to Ikale News, and thank them most sincerely for their thoughtfulness and providing yet another oasis in the desert of cress opportunism and immorality.

I cannot and must not end my response without thanking all those input into my life from birth to now has made me your most senior awardees today because of the values and experiences and opportunities they gave me.

1. My mother, JOANINA OGUNJOLAGBE OMOGBEIN who lost her life at my birth

2. My Aunt EMILLY OGUNNUPE OMOGBEHIN who though pregnant took me into her arms and home for mothering and die three (3) years after my birth.

3. The Hausa nursing mother around our house who gave me her own milk, to survive like her own child unmindful of religious and ethnic difference such as some of us would be today.

4. My aged Grannie whose warmth and fervent Christian faith bought me through my kwashiorkor early childhood and moral instruction.

5. My eldest sister and two TEACHER brothers, ISAIAH and ABRAHAM who brought to Lagos and saw me through early education from infant to secondary and matriculation at the old Baptist academy in broad street.

6. My Teachers: Headmaster E.E. Esua and W.E. Okodi, S.A. Ladoke (later Chief S.L Akintoal of Nigerian History), Parapsychologist Z.O. Okunzua, Mr. Justice M.A. Odesanya, Dr. J.A. Adegbite (retired Principal of the Ikorodu Road Bapacad. E.E. Ejioke, Dan Okodi and Genorge N.A. OKafor who later years trained me in his chambers as a junior having assisted me ten to settle down in London before he returned to Nigeria. Teacher Okafor used to give me ten

shillings a month out of his meager salary because he consideral me a deserving young poor boy in whose future he had faith.

7. Umua-Ifejika, Bertram Nsonwu, Patrick Onyejkwé who as very senior students used to come down to the lower forms to feed me in their abode a very junior boy who is Yoruba about whom they have heard through non Yoruba teachers.

8. The Egyptian Moslem Pan Africanist nobility, Duse Mohammed Alli, Oxon an, Journalist, playwright and proprietor of the “Weekly Comet” Newspaper and his French American wife Madam Gertrude La Page, writer and Rosicrucian teacher to who I become a ward through my brothers in my final growing years, in the course of which I learnt politics, writing, history and Rosicrucian philosophy and Religion. They bequeathed all they had to me on their in the death in the 1940s which helped me to continue my education abroad in the 1950s in “the search for the Golden Fleece” which Zik had ingrained into the hearts and minds of young Nigerians in his mission of raising the dignity of the Blackman by achieving independence. Duse Mohammed Alli was exiled to Nigeria by the British on account of his fight for Egypt's freedom from British Rule.

He presided over the founding of the NCNC in 1944 by Ransome Kuti's students of Abeokuta Grammar School who established the first Nigerian Students Union before universities were established. I was a junior member in Lagos.

9. Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe who, obtained a portfolio from the NCNC after the 1959 Independence Federal Elections and appointed me to it without the Party knowing me 18 months after my return home from studying abroad and so launched me on the road which has brought me here today. Can and must I desert

# IKALE AWARDS

“Nigeria will not disintegrate”



ONE Nigeria which has brought me to colleagues and warm friends like Aminu Kano, Joseph Tarka, Lawan Danbazua and Yeriama Bella, the Zikists like Adewale fashanu, Chike Ekwuyasi, R.B.K.Okafor (all late). Obi Osita Agwuna, Mokwugo Okoye, Abubakar Zukogi, Seniors like the Hon. T.O.S. Benson, Chief Kola Balogun, Chief Adeniran Ogunsanya, Chief Harold Sodipo, Prince Alade Lamuye, Adeoye Adisa, Richard Akinjide, All of Whom gave me Encouragement in my younger years as politician and so many all over what is now thirty states of Nigeria, comprising different groups and cultures in the Nigerian peoples Party- Party of the SDP.

10. Your own families all Ikaledand for electing me on four different occasions to the Local Government, the House of Representative (twice) the constituent Assembly and by supporting me in Regional and National Party Leadership elections as did a majority in our state and Yorubaland.

11. I must thank my first wife, Edith who in spite of our vast difference of Race, culture, material origin and religion practices stayed with me in my underprivileged step out into publicservice.

Finally, I thank all those whom I have disappointed due to my imperfection over the years and beg them to forgive my ingratitude in one way or another.

In spite of the failures of all of us in Nigeria, I have doubt that we can sustain this Geographical entity as ONE NATIONA and support the SONS of the SMALLEST LANGUAGE GROUP as PRESIDENT on his own merit anytime tomorrow. Nigeria with her great natural resources can create great wealth without SAP, IMF, WORLD BANK and MAJORITY FOREIGN ownership of our own industries and national Assets.

Let us have FAITH IN OURSELVES, and abandon Arrogance, Intolerance and Injustice.

There cannot be ONENESS without

ALL NIGERIA children having equal opportunity to the education and the Federal College to which their God given abilities entitle them; nor can there be patriotism when we are unequal, apart from personal abilities, in opportunities for employment, business, the professions and public service at all levels.

The constitutional conference must made and teach the people to be masters of those who lead the nation and not their wards.

Accountability must be demanded of Leaders and the military must know it is TREASON to subvert elected Governance.

The greatest defence of the nation is the vote-of the people, if they sell or give it on narrow ethnic or religious premises our failure will continue.

**Chief Olu Akinfosile**  
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## INTERVIEW

### Comrade Alli Interview

# “I am confident of winning the Ondo Governorship election”

Says Comrade Alli, the PRP flagbearer



Babatunde Francis Alli

Our Acting Editor, Samuel Olaniyan recently had an interview with the youth flag-bearer of the People's Redemption Party (PRP), one of the few ideological parties seeking the governorship seat in Ondo State, come November. Below are excerpts.

Kindly tell us about yourself.

My name is Babatunde Francis Alli, the gubernatorial candidate of People's Redemption Party (PRP). Our party logo is Key (Kokoro). Our party is the oldest political party in Nigeria. It was founded in 1978. I joined the party some years back. Let me also state categorically that since I joined the party, I have never decamp to another political party; moving from one political party to another is not in my Style. I have rise through the ranks of the party; from ward coordinator to local government coordinator to senatorial

District coordinator to state chairman. However, before I threw my hat into this gubernatorial contest in Ondo State, I was the National Secretary of our great party, PRP. As to party administration, I have garnered alot of experiences over the years. I have served in the National Executive Committee (NEC) of late Malam Balarabe Musa, former Governor of old Kaduna state (now Kaduna and Kastina state), who later became the National Chairman of our great party, People's Redemption Party (PRP). I have transversed the length

and breath of the country performing party assignment. Through this process, I was exposed to alot of party politics. I have represented my party in many places including making presentation to the Senate Committee on Electoral Matters on Electoral Offences Commission debates.

The People's Redemption Party (PRP) believe in unbundling of Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) because the responsibility before the commission is too much; INEC is the government institution saddle with the responsibility of conducting election in Nigeria and at the same time, prosecuting Electoral offenders. Since financial criminality is not the responsibility of the police but EFCC. Why should Electoral Offences be left to INEC?. If these offenders are truly disciplined because of their wrong

doings during election, INEC should not be allowed to waste resources on the prosecution of these offenders. We in PRP believe that INEC must be unbundled to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. This is my second time of contesting for Ondo State governorship race. The first time I contested was 2020 and it was on record that I was the only candidate on any political platform that does not aligned with any political party for the purpose of getting monetary benefit. One of the errors in our political system is that we have 19 political parties contesting for the gubernatorial race. After these political parties presented their candidates to INEC and INEC have released their names and printed their logo on the ballot paper, they will later align with the richest political parties for monetary gains.

I regarded this as a way of confusing the electorates and I personally led a team to INEC to make an appeal to them that in the 6 months of operation of the new Electoral law there should be operational benchmark for political parties that will align with other political parties; the alignment should be done within 6months stated in the electoral law.

If we have such guideline, the candidate who intend to align with other political party can do that on or before August 15 in the case of Ondo State governorship election, so that those candidates who are serious minded in the election will be known and INEC will be prevented from printing a very long ballot paper containing the logo of political parties whose candidates are not serious about contesting for the election. This will save the country from the huge cost that INEC will incur from printing this long ballot paper. I can say authoritatively that three political parties will be contesting in the

# INTERVIEW

## “I am confident of winning the Ondo Governorship election”

forthcoming Ondo gubernatorial election. These political parties include PRP, APC and PDP. The report we have on this is already present everywhere. Some of these candidates are not running but they are running after a political party or the chairman of other political parties that will give them money so that they can align with them. It is not structure that they are running after. PRP will never be part of such arrangement.

Almost all the political parties in this race did not any structure and members that cut across the state except for only three political parties of APC, PDP and PRP. I would regard the candidate of PDP as a member of APC, because he has been oscillating around various political parties. In 2020, His Excellency, Hon. Agboola Ajayi was the candidate of the Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) after loosing in the PDP Primary election to Mr. Eyitayo Jegede SAN. While in 2016 election, he was the deputy Governorship candidate of the APC and he won the election with the late Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu before they both parted after political crisis that erupted between them. So I would not consider Hon. Agboola Ajayi as a member of APC.

The candidate of NNPP, Hon. Gbenga Edema participated in the APC primary election, while the candidate of SDP and Labour Party, Otunba Dele Akingboye and Chief Sola Ebiseni participated in PDP primary election before pitching their political tent with their respective parties. So far, I am the only consistent candidate in this race. We have 18 political parties participating in the Ondo State governorship race, only two of these candidates are bonafide members of their political party. I mean my person and Governor Lucky Orimisan Ayedatiwa of the APC. While the candidates of the other political parties are regarded as visiting candidates.

How many of these candidates have spent two or three years in their respective political parties? Do they know what their political parties stands for? That is why the programs of the candidate of PRP is People oriented in nature. I am veteran of the



Party. I am bold to say that I love my political party and I believe in the ideology of the party.

### Give an insight into the ideology of your party sir?

The ideology of People's Redemption Party (PRP) are five. We call them the principle of People's Redemption Party (PRP). For record sake, the ideology of People's Redemption Party is like religion or faith and it is the belief of our members. It diffentiate PRP from other political parties. The challenge we have with other political parties is that they have manifestoes but there is any correlation between their manifestoes and the programs of their candidates.

The first principle of PRP is value and equality. That is actually the basis for rule of law. The second principle is the alienable right of every member to determine who will lead him from his free choice. This is not because you bully him with security agent during election or forced him into a condition where poverty is weaponized upon him that he will cheaply sell his vote for the aspirant during election. Thirdly, the PRP believe in true and genuine Federalism. We don't believe in unitary system of government we practice in Nigeria in the name

presidential system of government. The fourth principle is that PRP believes in state control of its resources. PRP believes in government regulation of the economy. PRP believes in government regulating the economy. Through this process, the government is seen as a regulatory agency. PRP believe in the rejection of anything that supports external relation at the detriment of the people. The fifth principle is that PRP rejects imperialism.

### Considering the declaration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the removal of fuel subsidy during his inauguration on May 29, 2023. Would you say the decision is ill- planned and Mr. President never got it right?

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has taken his oath of office before declaring that subsidy is gone. By so doing, it was the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria that made such announcement, but it was ill-executed. Policy discussion and implementation is a function of research, but the President failed in this regard because he has not spent a minute in office and he has not even settle down governance as no memo or handover note have been received from the previous administration to know what the previous administration has down regarding payment of subsidy. Even the President has not put in place pragmatic policies and programs to reduce the burden of subsidy removal on the masses. The President did not use the power of that office to activate the necessary research.

No matter what he claimed he has at his disposal, no matter what he may claimed to know as the leader of the party in power then, which he leverage on to assume office, he will not be able to do it. Although, the President may not want to confess it now, but I am sure he will be regretting this decision because if you are claiming to improve the well being of masses or to lead them in the right direction, a pronouncement from you sent them into abject poverty and severe hardship. This is leadership, you are infallible. Why can't you tell your people,



## INTERVIEW

### “I am confident of winning the Ondo Governorship election”

you are sorry. Then, you come back to the drawing board and discussion will then be initiated around this issue. This is my view on the issue of subsidy removal. I don't think the President acted base on research and anything done outside that is wrong, although it may look right to the President and his associates but it is absolutely wrong. While the effects of this policy is there to seen by everyone.

#### **Are you saying APC has not provided the desired change?**

This is evident. The way to truly know the impact of any policy implementation is through the effect on the people who are at the receiving end. Today, every individual in Nigeria is apprehensive about the nationwide End bad governance protest that happened in August. The reason for the protest is the harsh economy policies of the government.

If a government assume office just about a year ago and the entire nation was destabilized. The EndSARS protest that happened in twilight of the previous administration was restricted to the southern parts of the country, but this planned protest cut across the country. If the government performed excellently the protest won't have erupted. However, there is a wide disconnect between this government and the people. This is not only at the federal level as this is also applicable in Ondo State.

I don't know whether Governor Lucky Ayedatiwa is getting the feedback from the people of the state on his style of governance. Either a governor is accidental or not, the onus lies on him to take responsibility because people are suffering. I have travelled across this state since we started our campaign and I have seen worst condition of our people. I pity the people due to what I saw. I visited places in Irele, Ose, Ese-Odo and some core interior parts of the Ondo North. I continue to ask whether there is government in the state because if there is government, there will be governance. All you see about APC in this state and at the federal level is politicking and politicking. The other day, the Senate President have the effrontery in

a country of over 240million people to say that the life of the President is more important than that of other citizens.

#### **Is your comment on Governor Lucky Ayedatiwa style of governance is not sentimental because the admirers of the governor believe he started on a good footing especially on the payment of worker's salary, payment of pension arrears and gratuities to pensioners, road construction and rehabilitation among others. Is this a frank assessment of this administration?**

When a government claims to be working by building roads and payment of salaries, gratuities and pension, such government is joking. There are projects initiated by Aiyedatiwa's predecessor - late Oluwarotimi Akeredolu. These projects include construction and rehabilitation of roads, bridges among others. When Aiyedatiwa assumed office, he ordered contractors to go back to sites, meaning development must continue. What have we see since Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa came into power? Is it governance we are seeing or politics? The case of Governor Aiyedatiwa is like a case of a man who is feeding his children at home. This man assume two things - They will all become better citizens tomorrow as he thought he is adding to the country on term of human capacity.

But the answer is capital No. Because the children he feed very well at home did not guarantee that they will be asset. The people who are stealing and engaging in all form of crime are fed by someone in order for them to grow up. Probably, if nobody have the opportunity to feed them, they would have died and the menace they constituted in the society may not be there. So you can't be leading a state without having a futuristic goal. What is the economy trust of the present administration in Ondo State that will separate the state from the pack of the failed states in the next four to five years? What is the defined goal of this government which I should judge the impact in the next three or four years, should in case Aiyedatiwa win in the forthcoming Ondo State governorship

election. The People's Redemption Party (PRP) on 19th of June has presented its manifestoes to the good people of Ondo state. But Aiyedatiwa never presented his manifestoes to the people of the state. What we see is his aides telling us what they feel he will do if he is elected. I disagree with this arrangement because the program did not belong to them but their boss- Governor Aiyedatiwa. So it is important for the Governor to present his manifestoes to Ondo people. Actually, I don't think Aiyedatiwa is having any manifesto and if he is having one, if it is put side by side with my manifestoes and it is better than my own I will support his candidature. Any economist or developmental consultant who is into sustainable development issue will know that APC government in Ondo State never implemented sustainable development goals (SDGs) related programs and policies. In 2015, the United Nations came up with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which will come to an end in 2030. That means SDGs will be implemented for 15years. Late Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu came to power shortly after the introduction of Sustainable Development Goals. In the 2016 election and his assumption of office in 2017, I have not heard anything relating to Sustainable Development Goals in the mouth of any APC leader in Ondo State.

#### **Can you rate the Aiyedatiwa in office so far?**

My rating of Aiyedatiwa administration today is like that of a man who think giving food to his children is a way of securing their future. Infact as a good father, you should know that it is not every food you can give to your children. I will like to know our economy plan in Ondo State and how our farmers can come on board to compete with farmers outside. I will also like to know the plan of the governor towards industrializing the state and infrastructural development. However, my rating about the present administration in Ondo State is zero. The government is only committed to policking.

The previous administration of Iate Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu in

## INTERVIEW

which Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa is the second in command created Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs), some portion of the state kicked against it, precisely the Akokos who are in the same Senatorial District with the late Governor Akeredolu. That shows the government did not have the buy-in of this stakeholders, unless nobody would have kicked against it.

This scenario shows that there is division all over the state..I am bold to say that there is no inclusivity in this government. Ordinary APC primary election was marred with violence and alot of people end up in the hospital. That shows policking is the hallmark of his administration at the detriment of the welfare of the populace. Sometimes ago, I was asked about my view on the directive give by Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa that political appointees should resume at the newly created LCDAs against the verdict of a competent court proscribing the creation of these LCDAs. I said having gone to an higher court to appeal the judgment, that singular effort gave the governor the effrontery to appoint people to govern the LCDAs and directed them to resume work. That means a stay of execution on the subsisting judgment.

On the other hand, there is an issue, the Supreme Court in its verdict ordered that money belonging to Local Government from the federation account should be paid directly to the Local Government purse. My question is this. Supposing Local Government election in Ondo State was conducted and APC, SDP, PRP, PDP and other political parties won some chairmanship seats, who will provide the funds for the running of these LCDAs when monies from the federation account is paid directly into local government purse. This is basic reason why I said Aiyedatiwa is fond of politicking and leaving out governance.

The governor failed to realize that governance will call him to order. Aiyedatiwa's predecessor did this thing, why did Aiyedatiwa failed to bring everybody together. The court also said the law of the state cannot be sign outside the

## “I am confident of winning the Ondo Governorship election”

boundary of the state. If Mr. Governor is a democrat who adhere to rule of law, he would re-present the bill on the creation of the new LCDAs to the state House of Assembly instead of going to the court to appeal the judgement. By so doing, he will inform the people of the state on the situation that warranted the re-presentation of the bill, so that the People can make their input. However, the controversy surrounding the creation of the LCDAs in Ondo State is due to their usual fire brigade approach.

### What lessons have you learnt from your previous defeat in the last governorship election?

I won't call them lessons because the things that happened were not unexpected. Those of them that can be prevented as thing grew were prevented. Whoever that think he will buy votes during the forthcoming Ondo State gubernatorial election is joking because the people of Ondo state are more

informed and conscious. Ondo people are dignified, how can we be subjected to this level of ridicule in governance in the comity of states.

The issue of vote buying was obvious in the last election; people have to be motivated before they come out of their houses to vote. But all those things have been knit in the board. We also discovered that a large percentage of our people are apathetic to voting and that inform our Style of campaign since we started. People needs to be informed and we have done a lot in this area. Ondo State have over 500,000 people who did not vote in the last election.

This demography did not want to vote because they do not believe in governance and the capacity of those in power ro deliver the dividend of good governance. Ondo state government at a time have almost become what people regarded as government of the father, mother and



# INTERVIEW

## “I am confident of winning the Ondo Governorship election”

their children. For the first time in the annals of the state, we heard that someone forged the signature of the governor and nothing was done to punish the culprit. These strange things are happening in the APC administration in the state. During the last election some people said it was not the turn of Ondo south but it is now the turn of the south based on unwritten arrangement. If it is the turn of Ondo south, I believe I am eminently qualified to contest since I am from Ode- Aye in Okitipupa Local Government.

### **Candidly, are you favoured to become the next governor of Ondo State based on the present zoning arrangement?**

By zoning, I am eminently qualified. Let me tell you this, the people of Ondo state know their next governor and he will emerge on the platform of People's Redemption Party (PRP). We are winning the election, there is nothing called the power of incumbency, because power belong absolutely to God. Even at the federal level, an incumbent president have been defeated in an election in this country. I am saying boldly that we are winning this election. We are not exercising any fear because our government shall be a Government 2 of inclusivity. We have Dr. Olusegun Mimiko as the only former executive Governor of Ondo State that is alive. Recently I wrote an open letter to him, when I heard the rumour that he would be moving to APC and I advised him not to do so.

I told him no matter the human error he has committed in the past, he should not commit another error. I implored him to stay in his present political party and if he decided not to be in politics he should retire. As the only elderstatesman in the stature of a governor in Ondo State, I advised to open his door to everyone who intend to seek his fatherly advise no matter their political affiliation. Dr. Olusegun Mimiko once told me that the reason why he moved from one political platform to another is that any platform he saw will obstruct his good intents for the state. Apart from former Governor Mimiko, the Deputy Governors who are alive are also leaders in the state. The former deputy

governors include Otunba Omolade Oluwateru, Alhaji Alli Olanusi, Alhaji Lasisi Oluboyo and Hon. Agboola Ajayi. Based on the judgement of the court, Alhaji Lasisi was not recognized as a former deputy governor.

These are leaders in the state. By the grace of God, if I win the election, the incumbent Governor, Hon. Lucky Aiyedatiwa will become a leader in the state. All past and serving senator are not excluded as leaders in the state. It is high time leaders in this state put politics at side and foster unity and progress of the state.

This is the reason for our communal trust that is written in our manifestoes. The division that political party affiliation has brought to us are enormous almost satanic. For instance, the youth leader of APC is on one side of the street, while the youth leader of PRP is on the other side of the street and the street was characterized with rancour and violence because two opposing political parties are there. Yoruba is not usually like this. But we allow names of political parties to create enmity among us.

No National Chairman of political party that is an indigene of Ondo state. Only my person and Dr. Olu Agunloye are National Secretaries of political parties who hail from Ondo State. Then what are we killing ourselves for? That is why I always emphasize on government of inclusivity. I did my Masters degree in Project Management. If you did not bring everybody on board in what you are doing, you are on your own. This is the reason why government of APC in Ondo State is creating problem in the state with the creation of Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs). What are the parameters used in dividing the existing Local Government into LCDAs. Although we have put the issue of LCDAs behind us till they resolve it. By the grace of God, if I assume office, we shall create a new LCDAs based on equity and inclusivity. Through these LCDAs, we shall raise new crop of leaders. Our government shall be inclusive as we shall

bring everyone on board including the weakest and most vulnerable.

Let me end this line of discussion by saying the manifesto and constitution of PRP are the same. It is a document you can take to the court to enforce compliance. But in other political parties, it is a different ball game as their manifestoes is different from their constitution. That is they can take their constitution to court for interpretation over the crisis that erupted from their primary election. In this situation, they are not held responsible for their manifestoes. Only PRP out of the 18 registered political parties in Nigeria today that have that unique feature. It is one reason PRP must be votes in the forthcoming governorship election.

### **What would you do differently in the health sector if elected as Ondo State Governor?**

Governor Olusegun Mimiko did excellently in the health sector. All his lofty ideas, programmes and innovations under the Caring Heart are great and second to none but they were threw into dustbin of history by his successor. What we shall do differently in the health sector is that the Mother and Child will be resuscitated, but it will not be limited to Ondo and Akure alone.

I would upgrade Mother and Child Hospital, Ondo but it will be performing that same function. Medical Village, Ondo will become a tourist center under my administration. We have find out and I have personal experience when my mother was sick and I was referred to a laboratory outside Ondo state to carry out a test on her.

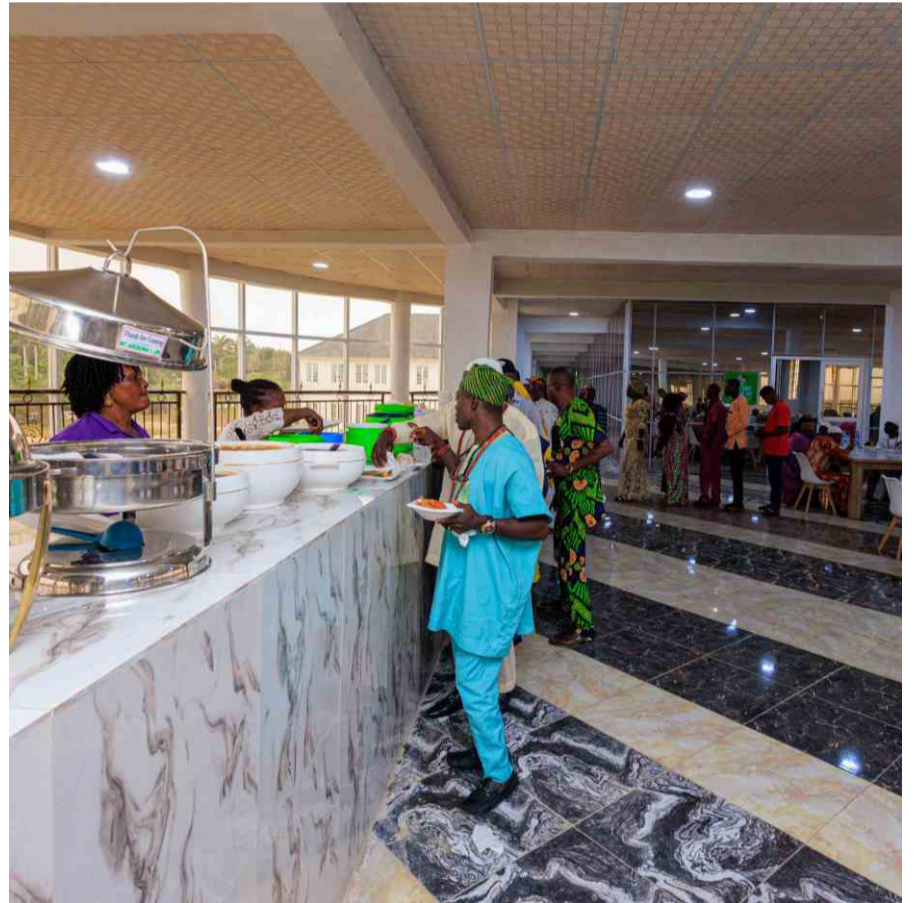
I then asked whether Trauma Centre, Ondo can't run such test and I was told that the machine used for such test is available in the center but it was not working.

Comrade Alli, I wish you the best as your go to the polls again

**Thank you.**

# PHOTO NEWS

## Faces and sites at the final approval meeting of Fortune University, Igbotako on the 13th Sept 2024



# PHOTO NEWS

## Faces and sites at the final approval meeting of Fortune University, Igbotako on the 13th Sept 2024



# FEATURE IKALE PROVERBS with Baba Liliken



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

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

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

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

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

**Baba Liliken:** What is the proverb?

**Ikale News:** O jii "Ji a ba mu

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(General laughter)

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

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

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

**Baba Liliken:** Wo se o. Ka hedo o.

## NEWS

# Governor Adeleke Leads PDP Campaign Council in Ondo for 2024 Elections



**H**is Excellency, Governor Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke of Osun State, arrived in Ondo State tonight to chair the maiden meeting of the National Campaign Council for the upcoming 2024 governorship election of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). The meeting, which is seen as crucial for the PDP's efforts in Ondo, marked the formal start of the party's strategic planning for the election.

Expressing optimism about the campaign, the PDP candidate for the Ondo governorship race, His Excellency, Former Deputy Governor Agboola Ajayi, commended the influence of Adeleke's "Imole" leadership style, which he noted had already made a

significant impact in Osun State. Ajayi voiced his belief that the grace that led to Adeleke's success in Osun would extend to Ondo, giving PDP a strong chance at victory in the upcoming election.

Governor Adeleke arrived with a strong delegation from Osun State, signaling his commitment to the campaign. Among those in his entourage were Chief of Staff Alhaji Akinleye, Commissioner for Commerce and Industry Bunmi Jenyo, and Commissioner for Inter-Party Affairs Biyi Odunlade. The group also included Special Advisers and key aides such as Mallam Olawale Rasheed, Fausat Sarumi, and Akintunde Bello Sheriff.

The South-West National Vice Chairman of the PDP, Engineer

Kamorudeen Ajisafe, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of the campaign. He expressed confidence in the party's chances, stating that "failure is not an option" for the PDP in Ondo. Ajisafe acknowledged the vital support from Osun State and urged the party faithful in Ondo to remain humble and united in their efforts.

As the meeting progressed, Governor Adeleke led a special session of mutual engagement, where he shared his experience as a successful election strategist. Drawing on his own electoral victories, Adeleke assured the PDP members in Ondo of his commitment to ensuring a strong, well-coordinated campaign for the upcoming election.

**ADVERT****CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

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

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

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

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

The criteria for awarding the scholarships will include the following:

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

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

[ikalescholar@gmail.com](mailto:ikalescholar@gmail.com)

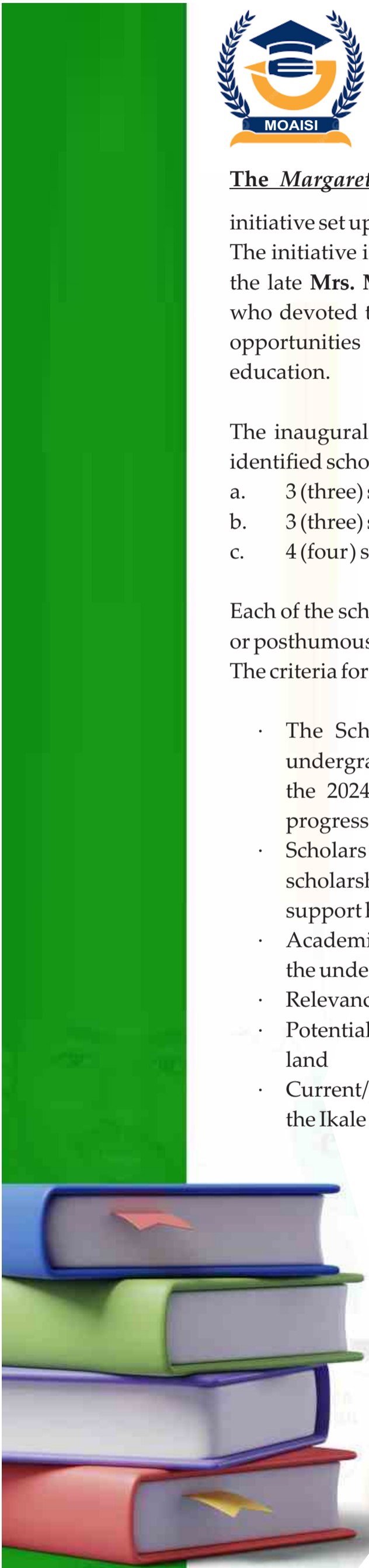
***Application is completely free!***

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

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

**Closing date for applications is September 30, 2024**

Signed: Femi Akinnusi





# OPINION

## Tactics of Survival for Students When Times Are Hard



The life of a student is often perceived as a golden period—filled with the excitement of new learning experiences, the thrill of independence, and the forging of lifelong friendships. However, beneath this surface, many students face significant challenges that can make this phase of life incredibly difficult. The pressures of academic performance, financial struggles, social dynamics, and the daunting task of planning for the future can all combine to create an environment of stress and uncertainty. For some, these challenges can feel overwhelming, especially when external factors, like economic downturns or personal crises, add to the mix.

When times are hard, it's essential for students to develop and rely on effective survival tactics. These aren't just strategies to get by—they are tools for maintaining well-being, managing stress, and ensuring that you can continue to thrive despite the difficulties. Whether you're dealing with financial pressures, mental health challenges, or the general stress that comes with being a student, knowing how to navigate tough times can make all the difference in your academic journey and personal growth.

The following guide outlines practical and actionable survival tactics that can help you stay afloat when the going gets tough. From budgeting tips to mental health strategies, these insights are designed to equip you with the tools you need to manage the challenges of student life effectively. By embracing these tactics, you can not only survive but also emerge from these tough times stronger and more resilient.

### 1. Budget Wisely: Every Penny Counts

One of the most common challenges students face is financial strain. Whether it's tuition fees, rent, or daily expenses, money can be tight. The key to surviving financially is learning how to budget.

Start by listing all your income sources, including any part-time jobs, scholarships, or allowances. Then, outline your essential expenses—rent, utilities, food, and transportation. After that, you can allocate what's left to non-essential items like entertainment or savings.

Use apps or spreadsheets to track your spending, and regularly review your budget. Look for ways to cut costs, such as cooking at home instead of eating out, buying used textbooks, or using public transportation. Remember, every penny saved is a penny

### Gen-Z THOUGHTS



with Divinegift Solomon

earned, and these small sacrifices can make a big difference in the long run.

### 2. Prioritize Mental Health: It's Okay to Not Be Okay

The pressure to succeed academically can be overwhelming. When times are tough, it's easy to neglect your mental health in favor of pushing through assignments and exams. However, this approach is not sustainable.

Acknowledge your feelings and take breaks when you need them. It's okay to admit that you're struggling. Reach out to friends, family, or counselors who can offer support. Many universities provide free or low-cost counseling services, so take advantage of them.

Additionally, practice self-care through regular exercise, adequate sleep, and mindfulness techniques like meditation. Sometimes, a short walk or a few minutes of deep breathing can make a significant difference in how you handle stress.

### 3. Develop a Support Network: Lean on Others

During tough times, having a strong support network is crucial. Building and maintaining relationships with classmates, roommates, and friends can provide emotional support and practical help when you need it most.

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Whether you need someone to proofread your paper, lend you a book, or simply listen to your concerns, your peers can be invaluable resources. Remember, everyone is in this together, and helping each other out can foster a sense of community.

Furthermore, consider joining student organizations or study groups. These can provide a sense of belonging and a break from the solitary grind of studying. Plus, networking within these groups can lead to academic collaborations or even job

# OPINION

## *Tactics of Survival for Students When Times Are Hard*

opportunities down the line.

### 4. Time Management: Balance Is Key

When you're juggling classes, assignments, work, and personal life, time management becomes essential. The ability to prioritize tasks and manage your time effectively can make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Start by organizing your week with a planner or digital calendar. Schedule your study sessions, work hours, and social activities, ensuring you allocate time for rest and self-care. Breaking tasks into smaller, manageable chunks can also prevent you from feeling overwhelmed.

Remember to be realistic about what you can achieve in a day. It's better to complete a few tasks well than to do many poorly. Also, learn to say no when your plate is full—overcommitting can lead to burnout.

### 5. Seek Out Resources: Don't Go It Alone

Universities offer a wealth of resources designed to help students succeed. These include academic advising, tutoring services, financial aid offices, and health services. Unfortunately, many students are either unaware of these resources or hesitant to use them.

Don't hesitate to seek out these supports. If you're struggling with a particular subject, visit a tutor or attend office hours. If you're facing financial difficulties, speak to a financial aid advisor about scholarships, grants, or emergency funds. There's no shame in using the resources available to you—after all, they exist to help you succeed.

### 6. Embrace Flexibility: Adapt and Overcome

Life is unpredictable, and things don't always go as planned. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances is a critical survival skill. Whether it's a sudden change in your financial situation, an unexpected academic challenge, or personal issues, being flexible can help you navigate tough times more effectively.

Be open to adjusting your goals or changing your approach when necessary. If you're struggling in a particular class, consider talking to the professor about alternative assignments or seeking help from a tutor. If your part-time job isn't providing enough income, explore other employment options or side gigs.

Flexibility also means being kind to yourself. Understand that setbacks are a part of life, and they don't define your worth or your future. Learn from them, adjust your plans, and keep moving forward.

### 7. Cultivate Resilience: Strength Through Adversity

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from difficulties. It's a skill that can be developed over time and is crucial for survival during tough periods.

Start by focusing on your long-term goals rather than getting bogged down by short-term challenges. Remind yourself why you're pursuing your education and what you hope to achieve. This perspective can provide motivation during tough times.

Additionally, learn to view challenges as opportunities for growth. Each obstacle you overcome builds your resilience and prepares you for future difficulties. Remember, resilience isn't about avoiding hardship; it's

about facing it head-on and coming out stronger.

### 8. Find Meaning in the Struggle: Purpose Fuels Perseverance

When times are tough, it can be easy to lose sight of why you're enduring these challenges in the first place. Finding meaning in your struggles can provide a sense of purpose and motivate you to keep going.

Reflect on your goals and the bigger picture. Why are you pursuing this degree? What do you hope to achieve in the future? Keeping these long-term objectives in mind can help you persevere through difficult times.

Moreover, consider the lessons you're learning through your struggles. Adversity can teach you valuable life skills such as problem-solving, time management, and resilience. By finding meaning in your experiences, you can transform challenges into stepping stones for future success.

Surviving as a student during tough times requires a combination of practical strategies and mental resilience. By budgeting wisely, prioritizing your mental health, building a support network, managing your time effectively, seeking out resources, embracing flexibility, cultivating resilience, and finding meaning in your struggles, you can navigate these challenges and emerge stronger on the other side.

Remember, it's okay to ask for help and take breaks when you need them. Tough times are a part of life, but with the right tactics, you can survive—and even thrive—during these periods.



## OPINION

## Ikale youths must embrace agriculture to build a sustainable economy

By Adelokiki Orimisan

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

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

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



Lagos has over 40million population, and many countries in West Africa depend on Lagos food market to feed their citizens. Many states in the South has food/Fish markets That daily naturally attracts flood of foods products in large and unimaginable proportions Yet we have no farms, virtually in the South. Even subsistence farming is almost dead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## YOUNG INVESTORS



With Orimisan Adelokiki

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# IKALE KIDS

## Ikale Fashion (Part 2)

**H**ello beautiful ikale children, how was our holiday, gradually the holidays is ending I'm sure by the time you are reading this piece the holiday would have ended and you would have resume, or back in school

Last edition we discussed about dressing and fashion in olden days and modern days. We talked about different hair making and styles, different tattoos, makeup, earrings, bangles, necklaces and ankle chains, and other fashionable accessories. I promised to discuss about Male and female dresses and dressing.

Dressing well is very important in our culture and the way you dress will dictate how you will be addressed. The occasion also depict the kind of dressing.

Ikale love to dress well to occasions. Generally, we have casual dresses, work or business casual, official dresses, outing and ceremonial dresses, and under wears.

Casual dress: This are manly dresses worn at home or to places not really serious dressing, it may be casual visit to a friend, family, supermarket, or any other places.

For males this may be TShirts, short or trousers, jeans, it may be worn with palms sandals,, canvas or kitto.

In the olden days, such dresses may be those worn at home or to go to the farms, or visit a friend.

Types of Male native dresses:

Under wear: singlets, pants and boxers.

Buba and sokoto (Top and trouser. This is still worn today with agbada good to go for all important occasions.

Dandogo: it's a flowing long dress for men and it usually have side joining like the women six pieces. like hausa

dresses.

Dansiki: smaller than agbada. beautiful for casual occasions.

Buba: it's a beautifully sewn top on sokoto. Not too big.

Gbariye: this is also a flowing long top but the hands are not big..

Oyala: sewn like agbada but not big like agbada or dandogo,

Sokoto: can be worn on different tops. It's in different types and shapes.

Soro: long and fitted. Can be worn with, dansiki, oyala or buba.

Kembe: big and three quarter in size. Like Bermuda shorts.

Fila,: abeti aja, its usually long and has shape on the two sides like the ear of dog.

origi: long and can be shaped to any side.

Females dresses:

Buba and Iro: top and wrapper won to



**Deaconess Omotayo Folayan**

different occasions.

Gele: head tie, to compliment the iro and buba.

Ipele/ iborun it may be aso Oke or sego,

Skirt and blouse, in different styles.

Gown, it may be long or short.

Top and trouser.

Under wear: Bra, bra top,, pants,

I hope you are able to gain one or 2 things..

Till next edition continue to be good children.

Bye.



**Dansiki**

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

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

**ELIGIBILITY**

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

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

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Candidates are required to:

visit the University website [www.futa.edu.ng](http://www.futa.edu.ng) for information; complete and submit the University Post-UTME Application Form ONLINE; and Print out a copy of the Registration Form.

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

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

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

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

**SCREENING FEE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SIGNED:** C. O. ADELEYE  
Registrar

## OPINION

# Ondo Guber: Who Wears the Crown in November?

*By Sola Olatunji*



*Lucky Aiyedatiwa*



*Agboola Ajayi*



*Babatunde Francis Alli*



*Bayo Jimoh*

The political atmosphere in Ondo State is frenzy. The pots of strategies are boiling by the day on how to either wrest power from the incumbent party or fight tooth and nail to remain at the Alagbaka House at all costs.

The political game between the two major political parties (All Progressives Congress and People's Democratic Party) has become like a piece of biscuit which only a person with power of clairvoyance can tell you where it will break. No one with mere mortal eyes knows where the pendulum swings.

. I have decided to remain silent about happenings in my home state for some time now so that people who are never objective in analysing issues will not take me up. But as the political temperature of the state is gathering momentum, there is no way I can 'sidon look', apology to the late Chief Bola Ige. I can't keep quiet forever, especially as we navigate through the unfolding political drama in the State because whatever decision we make in terms of politics in November will ultimately determine the direction of the economy of the state in the next four years.

As we all know, politics and economy are intertwined and almost inseparable. In truth, the state is currently facing political uncertainty because of so many unresolved political differences amongst the political elites, which may amplify tension within the political circle as election draws near. In the last few months, we have witnessed a series of defections across party

lines, especially within the two most dominant parties in the state. This kind of situation is not unusual as we gravitate towards the November gubernatorial election. While this philosophy of my party is my party, may be right, it must also be emphasized that politics is a serious business, and with good governance, citizens are rewarded for their loyalty to political parties. As we march on to the November 16 election, some political parties are facing internal rebellion similar to the cold war between the US and Russia after the Second World War in 1945.

This may sound strange to some people, but it is the true reality in the state. It would be recalled that not all the political parties competing in the forthcoming election in November had a peaceful primary election early this year. While a few of them have appeased and mend fences with their aggrieved members, others have arrogantly refused to pursue true reconciliation, believing that victory is certain.

Suffice to say here that there is no certainty in human life and same as politics. it's foolhardy and also inappropriate for any political party to go into any election with a divided house. For instance, the last presidential election in 2023 would have gone ,the opposition way ( PDP) if Atiku, Peter Obi, and Kwakwaso had resolved their differences and put their house in order It's almost certain that any political party not willing to pursue true reconciliation before any election is frantically laboring in vain. In politics, you can't plant laziness and hope to reap success. It is

hard work first and later comes success.

In these circumstances there are many political parties in this contest that I can't even remember their names. Who is even interested in any political party, in view of the mood of the state? I think the electorate are getting more sophisticated by the day. They are more interested in the performance of every individual in the past. They are interested in capacity, charisma, and integrity. In short, I foresee a situation where the electorate will not determine the result of the forthcoming governorship election through the popular acronym 'dibo ko sebe' (vote buying) or stomach infrastructure.

Any political party that is not willing to stay connected and mobilise the grassroots to guarantee their victory should await a terrible defeat. Election is a serious project and should be treated that way despite the fact that poverty has been so weaponised to hoodwink potential voters. But I can almost vouch for our people in Ondo State that our electorate are more reliable and dependable when it comes to making any political decisions. We can say it with all certainty that our people will stand on the side of justice rather than pecuniary interests and vote for their conscience.

Our people will never vote along party line, reflecting on the mood of the nation. They will vote for capacity and conectivity with the grassroots, and I can almost predict that the logo of any political party competing in the election may not count.

## NEWS

# Senator Ibrahim Gifts Car To Rebuja

By Samuel Olaniyan



Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, representing Ondo South Senatorial District in the 10th National Assembly, presented a Toyota Land Cruiser Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) to His Imperial Majesty Oba Gbadebo Bajowa, the Rebuja of Osooro Kingdom in Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The presentation took place at the traditional ruler's palace, in the presence of the kingdom's chiefs.

In his address, the billionaire business mogul explained his gesture: "I am presenting this vehicle to you for you to be comfortable while travelling to any place. If you are going to attend the Council of Obas meeting in Akure, I want your colleagues to know that you are from a kingdom full of honourable people with rich cultures and traditions."

Senator Ibrahim further stated, "I also want you to implore you to continue to support the government of President Tinubu's policies." He emphasized his intention to enhance the comfort of the traditional ruler and ensure he is on par with his counterparts from other kingdoms.

Oba Bajowa, in turn, expressed his gratitude for the Senator's kindness, stating, "You have not done this for me alone but for the entire Osooro kingdom. This is unprecedented and even your performance so far at the Senate remains a watershed in our political history."

He acknowledged the Senator's contributions, referencing the bills Ibrahim had presented in the Senate addressing the needs and challenges of the people. Oba Bajowa concluded by affirming support for President Tinubu's policies, "We shall continue to support the policies of President Tinubu because we know he means well for our country."



## NEWS

# Court Bars Olorunfemi from parading self as Labour Party Guber candidate for Ondo 2024 Election



The Federal High Court in Abuja has refused an application by Dr. Festus Ayo Olorunfemi to join the ongoing suit over the Labour Party's governorship ticket for the upcoming 2024 Ondo State Governorship Election. This decision was delivered during a resumed hearing on Monday, in a case where Chief Olusola Ebiseni and Adedayo Ezekiel Awude were declared as the Labour Party's Governorship and Deputy Governorship candidates, respectively.

The suit, filed on August 6, 2024 (Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/1105/2024), sought several declarations, including the right of the Labour Party to produce fresh candidates for the election following the withdrawal of its initial candidates, Olorunfemi and Dame Olabisi Adu-Okunniyi, on July 9, 2024. The plaintiffs also requested the court to compel the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to publish the names of Ebiseni and Awude as the official candidates for the November 16, 2024 election.

Olorunfemi had initially been chosen as the party's gubernatorial candidate during primaries held on April 25, 2024, alongside Adu-Okunniyi as the deputy candidate. However, both candidates

voluntarily withdrew, citing personal and financial reasons. Olorunfemi, in a letter dated July 9, 2024, submitted his resignation, stating, "After consultation with my immediate family and supporters, based on financial constraints, I hereby withdraw my candidacy and request the party to replace me."

The Labour Party subsequently conducted a fresh primary on July 18, 2024, where Ebiseni and Awude emerged as the new candidates. Despite this, Olorunfemi attempted to rejoin the case, claiming an interest in the matter. However, during Monday's hearing, Justice Emeka Nwite ruled that Olorunfemi's attempt to join the suit came too late. The judge emphasized that the time had been abridged to 14 days for interested parties to file their processes when the case first came up on August 12, 2024, and Olorunfemi had not taken advantage of that window.

The plaintiffs, through their affidavits, argued that Olorunfemi's withdrawal was final and irreversible, referencing affidavits and official party documents that confirmed the withdrawal. INEC, in its counter-affidavit, presented evidence

supporting Olorunfemi's withdrawal, including a letter signed by the Labour Party's National Chairman and Secretary, but also included a controversial second letter allegedly retracting the withdrawal, which the plaintiffs disputed as unauthorised.

Justice Nwite's ruling concluded that any serious contender for the Labour Party ticket should have promptly filed to join the suit, stating that "being a pre-election matter, time is of essence." With this, the case now awaits a final ruling on September 27, 2024, when the court will decide whether INEC is obligated to publish Ebiseni and Awude as the Labour Party's official candidates.

Ebiseni, speaking to journalists after the court session, declined to make any detailed comment on the proceedings, stating, "I am not permitted to speak on the matter already submitted to court." However, he expressed confidence in his standing within the party, highlighting his previous roles, including serving as a two-time commissioner and his involvement in the 2023 Presidential election legal



**NEWS****Shunning of protests by Students leaders in Ondo state:  
A testimony to prioritization of Education sector by  
Governor Aiyedatiwa's administration says Laolu Akindolire**

**T**he commissioner of Education, Science & Technology in Ondo State, Hon Laolu Akindolire has praised, the executive Governor of Ondo State, His Excellency, Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa for taking education as priority in the state.

The Commissioner made the disclosure in his new month greetings. In his words " The students of tertiary institutions in Ondo State will not take part in protest that starts today due to prioritisation of education sector

by Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa's administration. The processes of payment of bursaries and scholarships to Ondo state indigenes had begun and would be completed few weeks as stated by the Governor on Tuesday"

You will recall, that Governor of Ondo State, Hon Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa on Tuesday approved the payment of bursaries and scholarships to the students of the state origin in tertiary institutions and the Nigerian law schools.

The commissioner now charges

students to remain in their campuses and continue with the teaching - learning processes.

"It is also advisable that students remain on campus to focus on their academic pursuits to avoid exposure to any potential danger during the planned protests"

While wishing people of Ile-oluji/ Okeigbo and Ondo state a glorious new month as he charged people of Ondo State to not be deceived by anybody as Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa is committed to transformation of Sunshine state.

# OPINION

## 'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Jonathan Franzen: e-books are damaging society

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

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

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

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

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

# OPINION 'Time To Grab Opportunities In Livestock Noise'

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

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

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

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

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

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

'Let's talk about livestock business'

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

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

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

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

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

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

##

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

**INTERVIEW****Interview with Ondo Governorship candidate,  
John Otitolaju Akinmurele, Young Progressives Party, YPP***By Bayo Jimoh***BAYO JIMOH**

**I**n this interview with our Abuja Bureau Chief, BAYO JIMOH, Young Progressives Party, YPP, Governorship candidate, in November 16th gubernatorial election in Ondo state John Akinmurele, 43-year-old who served at the Department of State Services (DSS) for 13 years until he retired voluntarily in 2022 is former President of the Students' Union Government, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo state, and hails from Ilutitun in Okitipupa Local Government Area of Ondo State. He spoke to IKALE NEWS on his chances of winning the election.

**Can you briefly introduce yourself and your background?**

My name is John Otitolaju Akinmurele, a retiree of State Security Service(SSS) and an entrepreneur. I hail from Ilutitun, Okitipupa, LGA, Ondo State, Nigeria, and am proud of my roots. With a strong educational background in Accounting, Legal Criminology and a successful career spanning Public and Private practice, I have developed a unique blend of leadership skills, business acumen, and community engagement.

Throughout my life, I have been driven by a desire to make a positive impact and contribute to the growth and development of my community. This passion led me to venture into politics, where I aim to bring about transformative change and restore hope to the people of Ondo State.

As a gubernatorial candidate under the Young Progressives Party (YPP), I am committed to harnessing my skills, experience, and network to drive sustainable development, empower our youth, and revitalize our economy. I am a firm believer in the power of collaboration, integrity, and transparency in governance.

**What is your driving force to be the number one citizen of Ondo State?**

My driving force to become the number one citizen of Ondo State is rooted in my passion to serve and make a meaningful difference in the lives of our people. Here are some key motivations: **Desire to Transform Lives:** I am driven by a strong desire to improve the living standards of our people, creating opportunities for economic growth, education, and healthcare. **Sense of Responsibility:** As a proud son of Ondo State, I feel a deep sense of responsibility to give back to my community and contribute to its development. **Vision for a Better Future:** I have a clear vision for a prosperous, peaceful, and progressive Ondo State, where everyone has access to opportunities and resources to thrive. **Passion for Good Governance:** I am committed to bringing integrity, transparency, and accountability to governance, ensuring that our state's resources are utilized efficiently and effectively. **Empowering the Youth:** I am driven by a desire to empower our youth, providing them with opportunities for education, skills development, and entrepreneurship, to unlock their full potential. **Restoring Hope:** I want to restore hope to our people, who have been disillusioned by failed promises and underdevelopment, and inspire a sense of pride and ownership in our state.

These motivations fuel my ambition to become the number one citizen of Ondo State, and I am committed to working tirelessly to achieve this vision.

As the candidate of the Young Progressives Party for the November governorship

# INTERVIEW

## Interview with Bayo Jimoh

election in the Sunshine state, do you think your experience and training as an intelligence officer has prepared you enough to govern Ondo State if elected by the people?

As a former intelligence officer, I believe my experience and training have provided me with a unique set of skills that will serve me well in governing Ondo State. Here are some ways my background has prepared me:

**Strategic Thinking\_:** My experience in intelligence gathering and analysis has taught me to think critically and strategically, skills that will enable me to develop effective policies and solutions for Ondo State.

**Problem-Solving:** Intelligence work requires creative problem-solving, which will help me tackle the complex challenges facing our state.

**Attention to Detail:** My training has honed my attention to detail, ensuring that I will be meticulous in my decision-making and governance.

**Leadership:** As an intelligence officer, I have led teams and managed resources, preparing me for the leadership role of Governor.

**Security Expertise:** My background in intelligence will enable me to effectively address security concerns and ensure the safety of our citizens.

**Collaboration:** I have worked with various agencies and stakeholders, teaching me the importance of collaboration and building partnerships to achieve common goals.

**Adaptability:** Intelligence work requires adaptability, which will serve me well in responding to the evolving needs of our state.

While my experience as an intelligence officer has provided a strong foundation, I also recognize the importance of governance and leadership in a democratic setting. I have complemented my experience with extensive research, consultation, and engagement with stakeholders to ensure I am well-prepared to govern Ondo State effectively.

What are some of the programmes and policies you intend to pursue if elected as Governor?

As the candidate of the Young Progressives Party for the November governorship election in Ondo State, my administration will focus on the following programmes and policies:

**Economic Development Industrialization:** Establish industrial parks and clusters to attract investors and create jobs.

**Agricultural Revolution:** Implement mechanized farming, provide support for farmers, and develop agricultural value chains.

**Entrepreneurship:** Provide training, funding, and mentorship for entrepreneurs, especially youth and women.

**Education Free Quality Education:** Provide free education from primary to secondary school, with a focus on quality and infrastructure development.

**Skills Acquisition:** Establish vocational training centers to equip youth with employable skills.

**Education Infrastructure:** Renovate and build new schools, with a focus on digital learning and technology integration.

**Healthcare Universal Healthcare:** Implement a universal healthcare system, ensuring access to quality healthcare for all.

**Health Infrastructure:** Renovate and build new healthcare facilities, with a focus on primary healthcare.

**Health Personnel:** Train and employ more healthcare personnel, with a focus on rural areas.

**Infrastructure Development.**

**Road Network:** Develop and maintain a robust road network, connecting rural and urban areas.

**Water Supply:** Ensure access to clean water for all, through boreholes, water treatment plants, and pipe-borne water.

**Electricity:** Improve electricity supply, through grid expansion and renewable energy sources.

**Security Community Policing:** Establish community policing initiatives, to ensure security and trust between citizens and law enforcement.

**Security Infrastructure:** Develop and maintain security infrastructure, including surveillance systems and emergency response centers.

**Youth Empowerment:** Empower youth through education, skills acquisition, and entrepreneurship, to reduce crime and insecurity.

**Good Governance Transparency:** Ensure transparency in governance, through open budgeting, procurement, and

decision-making processes.

**Revitalisation of the civil service**

**Accountability:** Establish accountability mechanisms, including anti-corruption agencies and citizen engagement platforms.

**Citizen Participation:** Encourage citizen participation in governance, through town hall meetings, public consultations, and feedback mechanisms.

These are just a few of the programmes and policies my administration will pursue if elected. Our focus will be on delivering impactful, sustainable, and inclusive development for the people of Ondo State.

What is your rating about Governor Aiyedatiwa 's administration in the last seven months?

I share the sentiment of many Ondo State citizens who feel that the past seven months have been marked by mediocrity and underperformance. Despite receiving over #70 billion from the Federal Allocation Account, the current administration has failed to deliver meaningful progress, with the only notable achievement being salary payment.

Unfortunately, the living standards of our people have deteriorated, and the state's resources are being misused for political gain. It's unacceptable that governance has taken a backseat to political ambitions.

The people of Ondo State have had enough, and we are ready for a change. Come November 16, we will vote for a new direction, a new leadership, and a new vision. We will vote for the Young Progressives Party (YPP) as the next Governor of Ondo State.

It's time for a government that truly serves the people, not just the interests of a few. We demand better, and we will get better with YPP."s who feel that the past seven months have been marked by mediocrity and underperformance. Despite receiving over #70 billion from the Federal Allocation Account, the current administration has failed to deliver meaningful progress, with the only notable achievement being salary payment.

# INTERVIEW

## Interview with Bayo Jimoh

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Governor Lucky Aiyeditiwa is presently the Governor and candidate of the ruling party All Progressives Congress. Don't you think you will be facing an uphill task squaring up against the Governor?

As a candidate for the Young Progressives Party (YPP), I acknowledge that running against the incumbent Governor Lucky Aiyeditiwa and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) will be a challenging task. However, I believe that the current administration's underperformance and disconnection from the people's needs have created a strong desire for change.

Here are a few reasons why I'm confident:  
Dissatisfaction with the status quo: Many Ondo State citizens are unhappy with the current state of affairs and are eager for a new direction.

Grassroots support: Our campaign has been building a strong grassroots network, engaging with communities, and listening to their concerns.

Fresh perspective: As a young and dynamic candidate, I bring a fresh perspective, new ideas, and a commitment to transformative governance.

Anti-incumbency sentiment: The APC's performance has created an anti-

incumbency sentiment, which can work in our favor.

Coalition building: We are building alliances with other political parties, groups, and stakeholders to create a strong coalition for change.

While it won't be easy, I'm confident that our message of hope, change, and people-centered governance will resonate with the electorate. We will run a strong, issue-based campaign, and I believe that, together, we can achieve a historic victory in November.

Until recently, Ondo State, in particular, and the South West in general was considered unsafe due to dare devil to attacks and kidnappings. This, of course, led to the establishment of the Amotekun Corps, which was championed by late Governor Rotimi Akeredolu. What is your assessment of the Amotekun security outfit vis-a-vis the security of lives and property in Ondo state?

The Amotekun Corps has been a vital initiative in addressing the security challenges in Ondo State and the South West region. Here's my assessment:

Positive impact: Amotekun has helped to:

Reduce kidnapping and banditry: Amotekun's presence has led to a decrease in kidnapping and banditry incidents, making the state safer.

Boost morale: The establishment of Amotekun has boosted the morale of citizens, who feel more secure and confident.

Complement existing security agencies: Amotekun has collaborated effectively with the police, military, and other security agencies to enhance security.

Challenges and areas for improvement:

Funding and logistics: Amotekun

requires sustainable funding and adequate logistics to maintain its effectiveness. Training and capacity building: Continuous training and capacity building are necessary to enhance the skills and professionalism of Amotekun personnel.

Community engagement Amotekun must deepen its engagement with local communities to build trust and gather intelligence.

Overall, Amotekun has been a positive initiative, and with sustained support, improved funding, and enhanced collaboration, it can continue to play a vital role in ensuring the security of lives and property in Ondo State.

What is your view about President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration so far?

As the administration continues to redefine priority areas and reform the economy, it's crucial to acknowledge the pressing issues of hyperinflation and hunger affecting millions of Nigerians. We urge the President to: Intensify efforts to combat hyperinflation; Implement policies that address the root causes of inflation, ensuring price stability and reducing the burden on citizens.

Deliver food commodities to the people Establish a timeline for food delivery programs, ensuring vulnerable populations receive necessary support, and work towards sustainable food security solutions.

Communicate progress and timelines: Regularly update the public on the administration's efforts, providing transparency and building trust.

By addressing these pressing concerns, the administration can make a tangible impact on the lives of Nigerians, complementing its economic reform efforts. We look forward to seeing meaningful progress and relief for the citizens.

**SPECIAL FEATURE**

# Ikale Mega Sports-stars: Reconnecting them back to their root

By Samuel Olaniyan (Acting Editor)



The Ikale people have long been known for their resilience and talent in various sectors. From academics to entertainment, they have produced numerous luminaries whose names resonate far beyond their borders. One area that stands out is sports. Over the years, Ikale has birthed remarkable sports personalities who have earned global recognition for their prowess. Yet, while their exploits abroad continue to earn them accolades, there is a growing sense that many of these stars have turned their backs on their roots.

From basketball to track and field, the Ikale region has produced sports stars whose names still echo through the global sporting community. Some notable athletes include legendary Giannis Adetokunbo, Thanasis Adetokunbo, Odunayo Adekunle: Tolu Jordan Omogbehin who took their talents to greater heights, representing Nigeria on international stages or pursuing their dreams in foreign leagues.

Track and field athletes from Ikale have similarly distinguished themselves, competing in major tournaments like the

Olympics and World Championships, putting Nigeria on the map for speed and endurance. However, as the years pass, it seems these stars have drifted away from the community that nurtured them.

In this edition, we present three of the world's best sports stars who are from Ikale, Ondo State.

**Odunayo Adekunle: (Wrestler)**

Odunayo Adekunle's rise to stardom is an inspiring story of resilience, grit, and sheer determination. Odunayo was raised in Akure, the capital of Ondo State, Nigeria. Adekunle's early years were characterized by financial hardship. Unconfirmed sources said his parents are from Ilutitun. Another source named Ode Aye, but we could not determine the accuracies of the information as at the time of going to the press. Her name however lends credence to the fact that she is from Ikale.

As a child, she hawked goods on the streets to support her family, balancing the pressures of daily survival with a deep-rooted passion for sports. Wrestling, a path

her family initially opposed, became the medium through which she transformed her life and broke free from the limitations that poverty placed upon her.

Her passion for wrestling began in secondary school, where she joined her school's wrestling team. Despite initial resistance from her parents, who saw no future in a sport that lacked financial security, Adekunle's talent quickly became evident. At just 16 years old, she entered her first major wrestling competition and shocked everyone by winning. This victory was the first of many that would define her career, propelling her into the national and international spotlight as one of Nigeria's top wrestlers.

One of Adekunle's key milestones came when she competed at the Commonwealth Games, winning gold in the women's freestyle wrestling event. This achievement not only solidified her position as a wrestling powerhouse but also gave her a platform to inspire young Nigerian girls to pursue their dreams, no matter the obstacles. Her dedication to training and relentless pursuit of excellence is a testament to her character, showing that success in sports, as in life, is born from hard work and perseverance.

Her career, however, has not been without challenges. Adekunle has had to navigate the complexities of being a female athlete in Nigeria, where sports resources are often limited, and female athletes are frequently overshadowed by their male counterparts. Yet, despite these challenges, she has continued to push boundaries. Her achievements are a reflection of her tenacity, including six African Championship titles and a remarkable track record at global events, from the World Wrestling Championships to the Olympics.

Mentally, Adekunle credits her success to a unique approach to handling pressure. She frequently highlights the importance

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of mental toughness in her career, citing that her ability to stay focused and calm, even in the most difficult moments, has been a key ingredient to her success. She often draws strength from her difficult past, using it as motivation to keep pushing forward, aiming for nothing less than becoming Nigeria's first female Olympic wrestling champion.

Arguably, Odun is the greatest Nigerian female wrestler ever. No other female wrestler from Nigerian gets near her haul of medals in the sport. And she could have done much better if government has been supporting her. Her achievements till date came from more personal efforts and sacrifices.

As she prepares for future tournaments, including the Olympics, Odunayo Adekunroye continues to inspire a new generation of athletes in Nigeria. Her story is a powerful reminder that no dream is too big, and no background too humble, for someone determined to rise to the top. Adekunroye's legacy is more than just her accolades in wrestling; it is her impact as a symbol of hope and possibility for Nigerian youth across the country.

**Thanasis Antetokounmpo "Adetokunbo" (Greek- Nigerian Basketballer)**

Thanasis Antetokounmpo's journey to

professional basketball has been marked by determination, hard work, and resilience. Born in Athens, Greece, in 1992 to Nigerian immigrant parents, Veronica and Francis Adetokunbo, with his dad being an ikale and the mother, a Delta Ibo. His parents were also very fine athletes. Thanasis grew up in a tough neighborhood, facing financial struggles and discrimination. Despite the challenges, he and his younger brother, Giannis Antetokounmpo, developed a deep passion for basketball, using the sport as a pathway out of hardship.

Thanasis began his basketball career in Greece, playing for Filathlitikos in the Greek second division, where his athleticism and defensive skills quickly earned him recognition. His dedication to the game led him to the NBA G League in 2013, where he played for the Delaware 87ers and the Westchester Knicks. Although he did not initially land a stable spot in the NBA, his persistence paid off when he was drafted by the New York Knicks in 2014, although he only made a handful of appearances for the team.

Despite the setbacks, Thanasis never gave up on his dream of playing in the NBA. He returned to Europe, playing for top teams like Andorra in Spain and Panathinaikos in

Greece, where his performances caught the attention of NBA scouts once again. In 2019, Thanasis signed with the Milwaukee Bucks, reuniting with his brother Giannis. While he has often played a limited role on the team, his high energy, defensive prowess, and leadership have made him a valuable contributor to the Bucks' roster.

One of the highlights of Thanasis' career came in 2021 when the Milwaukee Bucks won the NBA Championship, giving him a well-deserved spot in basketball history alongside his brother. Though not a star player, Thanasis' importance to the team goes beyond statistics; his work ethic, positive attitude, and relentless hustle have endeared him to his teammates and fans alike.

Throughout his career, Thanasis has embraced the role of a "glue guy," someone who does the dirty work on the court, motivates his teammates, and lifts the team's energy. His willingness to sacrifice personal accolades for the team's success is a testament to his character and commitment to the sport. Beyond his on-court contributions, Thanasis has also been a proud ambassador for his family, his Nigerian-Greek heritage, and the values of hard work and perseverance.

In addition to his NBA success, Thanasis is known for his involvement in charity and community work, often giving back to underprivileged communities both in Greece and Nigeria. His story serves as a powerful example of how determination and a strong work ethic can help overcome obstacles and pave the way for success, even when the odds are stacked against you. Thanasis Antetokounmpo may not be the most celebrated member of his famous family, but his contributions to basketball and his remarkable journey are impossible to overlook.

**Giannis Antetokounmpo "Adetokunbo" (Greek- Nigerian Basketballer)**

Giannis Antetokounmpo, born in Athens, Greece, to Nigerian immigrants, has emerged as one of the most celebrated players in basketball. His early life was defined by hardship, growing up in poverty and selling goods on the streets of Athens to support his family. Despite these struggles, he discovered basketball at a young age and quickly showed immense potential.

In 2013, the Milwaukee Bucks drafted Giannis as the 15th overall pick. He rapidly evolved from a raw talent into a dominant



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force, thanks to his incredible athleticism, work ethic, and versatility. Standing at 6 feet 11 inches with a 7-foot wingspan, Giannis's unique skill set allows him to play multiple positions, earning him the nickname "The Greek Freak."

His breakthrough came in the 2018-2019 season when he led the Bucks to the best record in the NBA and earned his first MVP award. Known for his high-flying dunks, defense, and playmaking, Giannis continued to improve, and in 2021, he led the Bucks to their first NBA championship in 50 years, solidifying his place among the game's elite. Beyond his physical abilities, Giannis is admired for his humility and dedication. His rise from poverty to NBA stardom is a testament to his perseverance, making him a global ambassador for basketball and a source of pride for both Greece and Nigeria. Now an NBA champion and two-time MVP, Giannis Antetokounmpo's career continues to inspire millions worldwide, both on and off the court.

### Tolulope Omogbehin (WWE Wrestler)

Tolulope Omogbehin, better known by his ring name Omos, has rapidly ascended in the world of professional wrestling, captivating audiences with his towering presence and remarkable agility. Standing at a staggering 7 feet 3 inches tall, Omos's sheer size sets him apart, making him one of the most physically imposing figures in the WWE today. Born in Lagos, Nigeria, he moved to the U.S. for education and eventually found his way into the world of sports, playing basketball before venturing into professional wrestling.

Omos made his debut in WWE's Raw brand in 2020, aligning with notable stars like AJ Styles, which quickly elevated his profile within the company. His in-ring prowess, combined with his undeniable charisma, established him as a formidable force, often overpowering his opponents with ease. Despite his massive frame, Omos showcases surprising agility and ring awareness, earning him the respect of fans and wrestlers alike.

In a sport dominated by larger-than-life personalities, Omos brings a unique blend of power and athleticism. His partnership with AJ Styles, one of WWE's most technically gifted wrestlers, allowed him to grow as a performer. Together, they won the WWE Raw Tag Team Championships at WrestleMania 37, a significant milestone in his young career. The partnership not only boosted his reputation but also helped him



refine his craft, adding depth to his character beyond his physical attributes.

Omos's Nigerian heritage plays an important role in his identity, and he proudly represents his roots on the global stage. His journey from Lagos to WWE has resonated with fans worldwide, particularly those from Nigeria, who see him as a symbol of perseverance and success. His story mirrors the path of other Nigerian athletes making waves internationally, like NBA stars Hakeem Olajuwon and Giannis Antetokounmpo, further highlighting the country's rich sporting legacy.

As Omos continues to evolve, he is setting the stage for a dominant career in WWE. His rivalry with other big men in the company, such as Braun Strowman and Bobby Lashley, has further cemented his role as one of WWE's top attractions. Many fans and critics believe Omos is destined for singles championship success, with a potential world title run in the near future.

In a relatively short time, Omos has established himself as a dominant figure in WWE, and his future appears bright. As he

continues to build on his skills and gain more experience, the wrestling world eagerly anticipates how far this Nigerian giant will go, with many predicting he could become one of the most dominant champions in WWE history.

### Forgotten Home: A Growing Disconnect

While the achievements of these Ikale sports stars, should be a source of pride for their homeland, a worrisome trend has developed. Many of these stars appear to have distanced themselves from their roots, rarely engaging with the communities they once called home. Ikale youth, who once saw these stars as role models, now feel abandoned. The disconnect between the Ikale sports icons and their homeland has grown so wide that the region is now asking: "Where are our heroes?"

Ikale's sporting infrastructure has largely remained undeveloped, with dilapidated facilities and minimal investment in youth sports development. This stagnation has had a direct impact on the region's ability to produce new talent. Unlike other areas of Nigeria that have benefitted from the philanthropy of their sports stars, Ikale has

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largely been left out of this trend. The result of this disconnect is stark. Young, aspiring sportsmen and women in Ikale today lack the proper mentorship and support they need to thrive. With their idols out of reach and no significant role models offering guidance or support, their passion for sports is slowly diminishing. Some of these youths, who might have grown into professional athletes, are choosing alternative paths due to a lack of opportunities and infrastructure.

The potential for sports to act as a vehicle for socioeconomic advancement is immense, but without the involvement of Ikale sports stars in reinvesting into the community, the local sporting scene remains stagnant. Many other regions of Nigeria have seen their sports stars return to build schools, develop sports academies, or serve as ambassadors for social change. Ikale, however, remains underserved in this regard.

Sometimes this year, Giannis and his mother came visiting to Nigeria, but sadly the said visit only ended in Lagos, without recourse to them visiting their late father's hometown Ode-irele, also Omos on his part prefers staying and living in the US, although he often identifies with his kinsmen, in this

regard, only Odunayo deeply identifies with her root, as she commonly tour Ondo state and is even aiming to start a sports camp to inspire other young athletes like her to stardom.

It is important to note that this trend is not irreversible. While the present may seem bleak, the future holds hope for change if both the community and the sports stars can come together. Ikale sports stars must understand the influence they wield and the lasting impact they can make on the younger generation. Investing in the community could be as simple as establishing sporting academies, providing scholarships for young athletes, or organizing talent development programs.

State and Local government authorities also have a part to play in facilitating this reconnection. These are billionaires and the government laments that it does not have funds to promote sports. By ensuring transparency in sports administration, creating policies that encourage athletes to return, and honoring those who have achieved success, a supportive ecosystem can be developed to attract the involvement of these stars. Its high time Governor Lucky

Aiyedatiwa sprang into action. Just like he embraced and incorporated Comedian Seyi Law into his government, he should reach out these sports super stars, while extending a hand of friendship to these great sports ambassadors.

Additionally, social media provides a unique opportunity for engagement. With platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, these athletes can easily connect with their communities, raise awareness about the need for sports development in Ikale, and even crowdfund for various community-based projects.

History has shown that when athletes return home and contribute to local development, it can spark a chain reaction that leads to far-reaching changes. In several parts of Nigeria, sports stars have built facilities that have churned out the next generation of athletes. Drogba did it in Ivory Coast, Sadio Mane did it in Senegal, Lionel Messi did it in Argentina, it is high time for Omos, Giannis and Odunayo to do it for Ikale.

As many Ikale stars approach the twilight of their careers, it is time for them to think beyond their individual accomplishments and consider the legacy they want to leave behind. Their wealth, influence, and global networks can be leveraged to create opportunities for the next generation, ensuring that the Ikale region continues to produce world-class athletes.

Ikale's sports stars have undeniably put the region on the global map, but the disconnect between them and their homeland is troubling. If these stars remain absent from the community, the region's sporting potential may remain untapped for years to come. However, by returning home and contributing to local development, they can not only transform the lives of young Ikale athletes but also ensure that Ikale remains a beacon of sporting excellence for generations to come.

The time for reconnection is now. Postscript: On its part, Ikale News has nominated the three great Ikale Nigerian stars – Giannis, Odunayo and Omos, for honours in the 5th Ikale Awards coming up in Okitipupa on December 27, 2024. Good luck to whoever emerges winner amongst them.