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FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Yes, I am Likely to run for Governor



I Did Not Castigate Tope Alabi – Yemi My Lover



Hon Odimayo gives out scholarships

Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, Admiral Aduwo settle Aye-Igbotako LCDA dispute



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How to Make the new LCDAs Impact Our Communities

Once again I congratulate all Ikale indigenes on the creation of new local council development areas from the former Okitipupa and Irele local government councils. It is long over-due but as they say, "better late than never".

We expected at least four LCDAs and got three. It's not bad. I therefore commend all those who made this happen. Many people in the past started the campaign but could not get it. I therefore appreciate all those who have contributed to this success in one way or the other, then and now.

As community journalists, we too contributed to the campaign. We were particularly interested in the names of the councils. It was a brutal error that when Ikale Local Government was split, it became Okitipupa and Irele Local Governments.

So, we embarked on enlightenment that it was a "waste" of name using it in the name of the local government and in the name of the headquarters. Ekiti and Ondo did not do it like that. Akoko did not do it like and that is why we assume these places are so big.

More importantly, we needed to preserve the name "Ikale". I often explain to my kids and friends that there is no physical place we call "Ikale". It's our race and language that we call "Ikale". And I believe that makes us unique. So, we must

use every available opportunity to preserve that name. That was why I established the Ikale Awards.

Therefore, I am happy that our new councils have been appropriately named. When there is time for Constitutional Amendments, I do not need to lecture Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, Hon Jimi Odimayo and our state assembly members that we need to even change that of Okitipupa council to Ikale Central and that of Irele to Ikale East or so. It makes us territorially big. And the names unite us.

Let us continue to preserve our heritage. It starts with our name. So you can name your street or event centre or school to have that name.

Now, let us talk about how our local councils that hit the ground running. Let me state clearly that we must not have the mindset of councils which depend on Ondo State Government or Federal Government for revenue to run its affairs.

If we do that then the councils are just wastes. They will never positively develop our people and our communities. They will exist mainly to share whatever comes from Abuja among the leaders and councilors. The first thing we need to do is to design a super revenue base for the councils.

It is because we do not put the right leaders in place that we do not feel the impact of local governments. I mean leaders at State Level and at Council Level. At State level, we need to have a leader that would not hijack or steal council money.

Yes, they can and should monitor or superintend over the income coming from the Federation Account. Not steal it as most governors do. They are being stupid for doing that. Dr. Olusegun Agagu did the right thing when he was governor (God bless the soul of that man).

He pulled the council funds and the councils had to submit proposals on what they would do with the funds and Agagu then released the funds with close monitoring. Bola Tinubu did the same thing when he was governor of Lagos State. That was how he was able to call the bluff of the Federal Government, when President Olusegun Obasanjo seized Lagos funds.

When President Yar Adua released the funds, they were released to the councils. A wise governor would not steal council funds. He or she would rather ask that the funds be expended for strategic programmes and projects at the grassroots. Agagu also did this with OSOPADEC: He used funds coming from us as oil producing state to develop primarily the oil-producing states.

That was how he did the bridge,

EDITORIAL PAGE

the university and many other things. But when Mimiko became governor, he merely put an Ilaje man at the helms of OSOPADEC and used the funds to develop other areas. Get me right: The governor should not just release the funds. It should be approve the projects to be done and monitor. The governor ultimately takes the credit. Local councils are closest government to the people. Once a governor scores well at the local level, he or she will be extremely popular.

Then, we talk of IGR (Internally Generated Revenue). Senator Ibrahim is an expert in this area.

Apart from conducting numerous conferences and workshops on this subject, his MPA and PhD are on the project management. Anybody can spend money. The challenge is always how to get money. Even if you put a Baboon as Council chair, he or she would spend the money there, wisely or stupidly. So the first and major task of the new councils is to boost its revenue base.

With that, there will be money to do fantastic things for the people. I will advise the Caretaker Committee Chairs of the LCDAs and even the LGs to do the followings on this subject-matter:

1. Get an expert to train you and your team on Revenue Generation. Our problem in this part of this part of the world is that we think we know everything when we don't even know many things. It does not lower your integrity in any way when you seek knowledge.
2. The consultant will help you identify the sources of IGR that you can tap from your area. Revenues will come from within and outside the box. Within the box revenues are stuff like market stall rates, commercial bus tickets, etc. Most of those sources have been stolen by the State Governments.

While you guys jointly press for the State Government to revert the collection of those income heads to

local governments and LCDAs, you need experts to help you think outside the box on how to creatively generate income, thinking outside the box.

They will even estimate for you how much revenue you can be making as IGR and how to make it. It will depend on your council. Look at Ikale North for example. From Aye from the Ore axis down to Igbotako to Omotoso to Adewinle, the council has huge natural resources to exploit. The LCDA has altogether over 40 villages apart from the major towns. Do you know that solid mineral resources abound around those places? Oh, Dr. Agagu did a number of studies there as a Geologist and found quite a number of them. The place has Timber and arable land. The LCDA is contiguous to Sagamu-Benin Express way right from Adewinle area, see that long stretch to Akinfosile, Omotoso to close to Ore. I understand that a big expanse of land there has been ceded to Dangote. That in itself is an advantage. They have a lot more unexplored. Between Omotoso and Aye, and between Omotoso and Iju Oke to Igbotako. On that stretch we can tap huge revenue by locating vibrant Area Offices. It's not about barricading the road and hounding vehicle owners. Let the experts do it for you. For instance, we can begin to excavate and replace those dated oil palm estates and replace with more valuable cash crops for export. All those villages will bounce back to live with appropriate viable projects. Do you know how the University in Igbotako will generate in income for the Ikale North LCDA? If you know, you will explore how to get indigenes of the area (who are super rich) at home and abroad to emulate Jimoh Ibrahim. Revenue experts will help survey the areas – including the one at Ajagba and advise on how to boost IGR. There is nowhere in

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Nigeria that is not blessed. It's just that we are lazy and poor in thinking. Other times, we do not want to go through the processes...like we have fast-foot mentality. We want to plant maize and harvest it the following week. Investment management and revenue generation does not work like that.

3. Deploy revenue experts to help you implement aspects of the Blue Print they give you and pay them their commission. Your councils may not have the human resources and expertise to implement some of the ideas. But bottom line is that the state government must release some funds to the councils to pursue some of this ideas. *Owo ni a fi n wa owo*. A council have have investments in Lagos or London. It does not matter. Experts know better how the money would come in. The political and administrative leaders will then have money to do roads, water, primary roads, etc. And that way we can feel the presence of government at the grassroots. That, I must emphasize, is when the euphoria and celebrations of our new councils will have meaning.

Till next month. *A ma ka hedo o!*



Bolu John Folayan (PhD)
Editor, Ikale News

BITTER PILLS

What is your experience with Ikale Artisans?

Perhaps you did not get question in the headline of my column in this edition: I wanted to share from your experiences dealing with Ikale artisans at home. Mine has been disastrous all through.

Let me start by going the memory lane. Our loving Ikaleland was disadvantaged for many decades and this really has contributed to our level of development till today. As a teenager in Ikale, I noticed that the top priority of every parent was to send their children to school. Those who chose vocational training were regarded as children who were not outstanding in the classroom. Our uncles, aunts, fathers and mothers who went to Lagos in the 70s to acquire vocational skills were few and those who returned home to set up were very few. In the area of Medical dispensary and Nursing aide, we had Baba Charlie Enigbokan. In photography, we had the legendary B.O. Jimba. Tailors were a bit more but not many in the entire Ikaleland.

Because of the rat race for education, it was even very difficult for these accomplished artisans to get apprentices! Apart from commercial driving and auto-mechanics, forget other artisans. I don't know about Irele and Ajagba side, in Osooro and Okitipupa, those who did auto-mechanics and commercial driving were mostly Urhobos. We really missed it badly.

The first major effort to address the situation was also embedded in formal education – when Modern Schools were established as a transition towards becoming teachers. The Catholic Church midwived the established of the a “secondary modern commercial school” and I had the privilege of following my father to school during holidays to what his student do the magic – writing in Shorthand and working on the typewriters. Dad was the Headmaster of St. Leo's Secondary Commercial Igbotako. It was this experience that inspired by typewriting skills, which later became very useful for me as a journalist.

So, at the beginning, Ikale really suffered from lack of proper career materials. It was by the grace of God that we had accountants, medical doctors and engineers. It was reason it took us long to have Senior Advocates in the legal profession: Everyone got to be a teacher. If you were not a teacher, you weren't successful. It was only in Okitipupa that one could get quality artisans.

Flip to the 1980s. Admission space was scarce for products of the Free Education Programme of the United Party of Nigeria (UPN) at the time. The youths had to troop to Lagos to learn trades. They went in droves. And they did not even bother to come back home to set up. It became so difficult often to get artisans to do the smallest tasks. Yet, the society (at home) needed their services very badly. It was around the period that many visionary and youthful

artisans at the time took up the courage to come back home to tap the huge opportunities in the country home. My Uncles, Niyi Akinluwo and Andrew Omoniyi ran very successful photography business in Igbotako. I also remember Bora Olugbo (forgotten his name) who sold recorded music. Of course we had so many “Lagos-trained” tailors.

Let us jump to the 20th Century. Many Ikale youths upon completion of their training began to troop back home. I remember one day when I was coming home with my wife (Egba by birth) and she would remind me to do this and that because we would not get someone to do it when we got to Igbotako. It was as bad as her saying we should grind pepper when coming home.

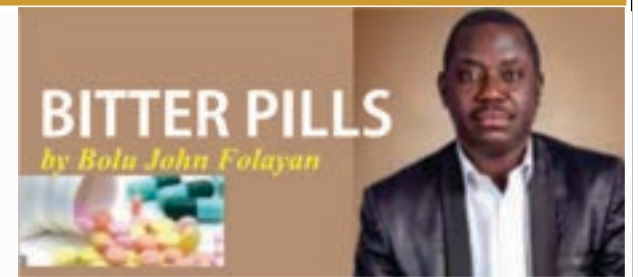
“Ki lode?” I would retort, “Ikale is not as bad o. We will get artisans of all sorts for anything when we got home.”

By the turn of the 21st Century, our communities were bubbling with artisans. From Ijuosun to Ajagba, Ome, Ode-Irele, Okitipupa to Osooro, we had artisans everywhere. A friend of mine who went home with me during my father's burial was shocked and remarked “your communities are bubbling as it is Lagos”. Unlike the situation in the early 80s when lights were out by 7pm in most Ikale towns, today, our communities are still bubbling till 10 pm, 11 pm. And it is down to the artisans pushing their trades.

There are so many small and medium scale business we can't find in Ikale today: Furniture makers, business centres, POS operators, cooking gas dispensers, fashion designers, Fridge repairs, barbing salons etc. But, except Okitipupa and may be Ode-Irele, most of the other towns and villages still lack critical artisans. These include: good restaurants, carpenters, builders (bricklayers), and farmers. You read me: FARMERS. Out youths simply hate to be farmers. Let me not go off-track. I will take the issue of youths' hatred for farming in another issue of this column.

Where I am going *gan-gan* is the attitude of the available artisans. Most of the home-based artisans do not have kind words for anybody who imported artisans to do anything at home. I thought also they had a good point: If we do not patronize them, who will?

So when got provide resources for me to build my little “Lawue” in Igbotako, I convinced my wife (who was our Site Manager) to use local artisans. I want to announce that I regret that decision, till today. First, most of the artisans have no respect for punctuality. Sometimes, they just disappeared for days while under contract. Second, many of them lack the requisite skills. And if you complain about the quality of their work, they often get annoyed. Third, there is a culture among them to run away with your money without completing your job. I may also add that now certain vocations are not even available. The young ones do not want to learn a



trade again. We are back to where we were: Full cycle.

Hmmmm. *O de ga o!* In December, I decided to lift my ban on local artisans when I had to do a little civil work. I got this guy, a carpenter, following recommendations of four different persons. I asked him to write an invoice on a piece of paper and he did. I did not negotiate (because in the first place, I wanted him to find the job very profitable). I returned to Lagos before New Year. To cut the narrative down, this is August, the guy eloped with almost N100,000:00k. I am thinking of letting him cool of at Army Barracks when next I am home, not Police Station.

Who else will I call now? Even if they are available, what about their characters. When did we get it so bad that “integrity” that is the hallmark of Ikale people is lacking in many of our artisans?

I will like our Legislators to include the foregoing in their plans. Training and retraining is critical in today's world. These artisans need to learn that it is important for them to treat their customers right. Anyone without integrity is finished. It's not good to take money that should stay at home to stimulate the local economy via multiplier effect to artisans coming from Ore, Akure, Ibadan and Lagos. Don't they know that these Ikale can take them to the cities to do much bigger jobs if they do well? When they try you with something little, do it so well. Make sure your clients are satisfied; they will come back.

Knowledge is wealth. We in *Ikale News* are ready to partner with our legislators and philanthropists to re-train our artisans in business ethics, diversification, customer relations management, investing in fast-growing sectors etc. We need to think outside the box to develop human capital in our beloved Ikaleland. The politicians should know that life does not begin and end with distribution of bathroom slippers and grinding machines. I am particularly interested in partnering with anyone who can inspire our youths to go into commercial farming. Not just planting oil palm trees. Imagine, a coconut pod sells for N400-N500 in Lagos. Imagine someone plants 1,000 trees of coconut. Remember how medicinal coconut is. But our youths cannot wait the 5-7 years required for the coconut tree to bear fruits. I have not talked about orchards – planting 500 trees of lemon/lime. It's palm trees everywhere. Our forefathers who planted kolanuts were even wiser. Like I said, I will come back to this in subsequent edition. The critical thing now is to help teach our local artisans to be faithful and honest. They need to learn more vocations. It's just not enough to just be a carpenter. You can be a carpenter and painter; a plumber and painter; a barber and plumber. Etc. But in all of these, have “Ikale Character”

OPINION

INSIDE STUFF
With Oloja Martins



Who will cry when our leaders die?

"When you were born, you cried while the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world cries while you rejoice."—Ancient Sanskrit saying

The word on marble above shows the organic source of the topic. It is from a classic by Robin Sharma, the original 'Monk Who Sold His Ferrari'. The topic derives from his book, "Who Will Cry When You Die?" It is a time to resort to motivational writing for our leaders who don't seem to be listening to what oracles and sages in the civil society including the media have been saying and writing.

Our leaders appear to have missed the road again. They hate media reports of their listless activities. They don't like the constitutional role of the media – monitoring governance and holding government to account. They lean only on their understanding through their friends and relations who pose as consultants and experts.

They don't want to respect even the organic law of the land, the constitution, let alone public service rules and regulation. They don't like to comply with treasury rules as encapsulated in the financial instructions. They drop the appropriation acts as soon as the executive ink on the documents dry up. They don't study editorials and commentaries as warning signals and writings on the walls anymore. After all, our leaders have invested heavily in the multi-media business.

They don't need the 'irritation' of independent media anymore. After all, the political economy of a free press is quite toxic and complicated at this time. Our leaders can afford to recruit even media executives to do even dirty jobs for them.

They can pay hack writers to publish what they would like to read. They now pay dubious 'media entrepreneurs' to monitor adversarial reports about them. They constantly receive awards from such artful 'media entrepreneurs' who have polluted the media space. They have assisted in diminishing the influence and agenda-setting role of the media. Our leaders don't listen to what the people are saying through the media anymore.

Sadly, they don't understand the times. We have written and written, spoken and spoken million truths to their power. They pretend to be deaf and dumb. They are even specialising in denying reports they regret giving out. They engage lawyers to write to the editors to remove even authentic stories from digital portals. They don't want anybody's voices

of reason and wisdom. They don't want the law to rule them. They are the law. They are the lords. It is rule of lords, not the rule of law. They don't care about features that after elections, there should be governance. They don't care about the implications of winning elections and losing the people. They don't listen to commentators who warn daily about the danger of ignoring civic competence in governance.

They celebrate mediocrity as long as the mediocrities and neophytes they recruit are loyal and useful for tomorrow's political engagements. They employ mercenaries daily to appear on early-hour television shows to deceive the people. They don't know about the power of the truth they daily bury in the grave.

They haven't read in their classics that you can bury truth in a grave but it won't stay there. Yes, our leaders lean only on their understanding. They can't understand why Arthur Miller once warned leaders to note that, "a good newspaper... is a nation talking to itself". They don't know why a leader of leaders once preferred a newspaper without government to a government without newspaper. They want to kill the independent media.

But we will not give up the fight for a new Nigeria that works for all. That is why I would like to resort to motivational talks to our leaders. May be that will make them listen. Let's share some tested words of life with them.

I would therefore like to encourage our leaders to get some soft power from words of grace from the masters such as Robin Sharma, among others who have been motivating successful business and political leaders who care to listen to what the civil society, including the media is saying to them. I mean leaders who will not bury the truth told to their power in the grave. And so let me introduce some wisdom nuggets from the classics of Sharma, "The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari".

It isn't a compilation of editorials. It is a compact and useful book our leaders should read too. But they should also ask their political consultants and aides to buy for them the one that inspires today's topic: 'Who Will Cry When You Die?'

We are unarguably passing through an area of turbulence and our pilot, the commander-in-chief, is supposed to tell us that there is nothing to fear. But we the citizens in the flight can't believe the hubris from our pilot that we have nothing to fear now.

This is therefore a time to motivate our leaders at all levels that they need to do some introspection on who will genuinely cry in this country if they die today. We may even

extend it to them to reflect well on 'who will cry if their regime, sorry government dies today?'. That is the motivational message here today. It is also a time to stir their conscience about what another author and inspirational writer, David McRaney calls "the public goods game".

"When you were born, you cried while the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world cries while you rejoice."—Ancient Sanskrit saying

Does the gem of wisdom quoted above strike a chord deep within our leaders? Do they often feel that life is slipping by so fast that they just might never get the chance to live with the meaning, happiness and joy they think they deserve? If so, then this very special book ('Who Will Cry When You Die?') by leadership guru Robin S. Sharma, that has transformed the lives of thousands, will be the guiding light that can lead them to a brilliant new way of living and governance.

In this easy-to-read yet wisdom-rich manual, Sharma offers more than 100 simple solutions to life's most complex problems, ranging from a little-known method for beating stress and worry to a powerful way to enjoy the journey through life while creating a legacy that lasts. When our leaders are finally ready to move beyond a life spent chasing wealth and popularity through media from pages and prime time without life-changing projects, to one of deep significance, this is the ideal manual for them.

They need to reflect today on a life of significance, Rick Warren, another purpose-driven author has written extensively about. Our leaders who keep recycling themselves from commissioner to governor and from governor to senator and from governor to minister should look into the seed of time and ask themselves: Who will cry when you die? If this set of dealers, sorry leaders feels that few people will miss them, it may be a time to make some changes.

To give your best and to enrich other people's lives takes a bit of effort, but it's worth it. All these never-do-well leaders should aim to find personal fulfillment and live their lives to their full value. They can make an active change by using their time productively and recognising what is most important to the people. They will then realise that the best version of them is one that will surely be missed by others.

In 'Who Will Cry When You Die?', Sharma offers advice on overcoming the difficulties of life while developing personality and skills.

Our leaders, once again, ask yourself: Who will care about you when you die? Have you ever thought about who will attend your

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EXCLUSIVE**“Yes, I am Likely to run for Governor”**

- Exclusive interview with APC Chieftain, Dr. Paul Akintelure
- Speaks on his media and political career
- Assesses the Aketi Administration

In this interview with our Special Projects Executive, OLUWASEYI OGUNSOLA, All Progressive Party (APC) chieftain, community leader and medical doctor, Dr. Paul Akintelure speaks on politics, medical practice and the development of Ondo State.

Doc. Thanks for squeezing time for this interview sir. Let's start with your background. Many of our readers want to know about your background, especially your early life.

Well, my name is Dr. Paul Akintelure, a native of Igbotako Okitipupa Local Government Area – more accurately now from Ikale North Local Council Development Areas of our beloved Ondo State. I started primary school at St. Anthony RCM Omotoso and moved to St. Pius Catholic Primary School Igbotako after my dad was transferred as a school teacher from Omotoso to Igbotako. After my primary education at Igbotako, I gained admission into St. Louis Secondary Commercial in Igbotako. I was very brief there. I left the place for Manuwa Memorial Grammar School, Iju Odo. There I did my West African School Certificate Examination and came out with Division One. We called it Grade One then. Then I attempted the Joint Admission Matriculation Board exam and I was admitted to study Biochemistry at the University of Benin/ Same time, I also gained admission to Federal Polytechnic

Idah, where I was offered Civil Engineering. And The Federal Polytechnic gave me admission to study Marine Engineering.

But I was not satisfied. I had very strong passion for medicine. It was not just about being brilliant or good in the sciences: I wanted to read medicine rather than going to those schools. I therefore went to Federal Government College. Odogbolu for my Advanced Level GCE or Higher School Certificate as it was known then.

There. I emerged the best student in Biology. I proceeded to the University of Ibadan where I read Medicine and Surgery (MMBS) in the university. I saw hell because of poverty and that's why I drew a battle line between me and poverty so I could fight poverty throughout my existence. I won't describe myself as rich but I don't want poverty around me.

I don't like it. It's not good for humans and I thank God Almighty to helping this far.

Education has made me to overcome poverty and that is why I will continue to support education at any level that I can... primarily to fight poverty. When the mind is properly educated, poverty must vanish from such mind.

Interesting. But why medicine? Why not teaching like your dad. Or engineering since you were good in the sciences and you even got multiple admissions to study engineering?

I have a grandmother (maternal) and grandpa (paternal) was a CBA traditional bar attendant and I was very happy... joyful when people delivered babies under their care. Same way my grand mother was also a herbalist. She specialized mostly on child birth and infertility and taking care of young kids.

So each time the patients came to thank them, I was proud of them. That really made him choose medicine when somebody appreciate

I like it and he followed their steps. At the time, as a village I had never set eyes on a medical doctor. So began to search: what could I become if I studied what my grandparents were doing. That was how I got to know I had to study Medicine. I therefore decided that I would study medicine.

How was practice as a medical doctor...before you establish Broad Hospitals Group.

Like I said earlier my passion was strong in medicine. In career matters, passion is very important. When you have great passion for something, you are unstoppable. I knew my onions and then I really take care of the sick when I was in Island Maternity hospital in Lagos, I was in the emergency I was everywhere and at a point in time I just felt I should be doing things on my own so I established my



EXCLUSIVE*Jimoh Ibrahim...continued from pg 6*

Broad Hospital immediately I left general hospital in Lagos initially there were challenges because of funding. But a Yoruba adage says: 'ibi toba le lan ba okunrin' I met ups and downs. To the glory of God, I overcame. Medical practice has made me fulfilled.

How specifically did you get the money to set up a big hospital like this...perhaps the biggest in Ikotun Lagos sir?

Believe me. It is my passion, determination and God Almighty. The thing is that we did not start big like this. We started small and grew to become big. We were good at our job and patients and clients kept coming. And of course, coming from that poor background, we were very prudent.

What is the ailment that is more common among the people today that you think people should be educated about? And what is your advice on how to contain the ailments?

For now the commonest (ailment) in our environment is malaria. And the reason is v e r y s i m p l e . From the medical viewpoint, malaria is complex, though it looks simple... a lot of issues which are caused as a result of Protozoa and also as a result of our environment stagnant water; the environment is dirty and mosquitoes grow in environments that are dirty Once it bites and the plasmodium parasite is transmitted and that continues to create a problem as it infiltrates the blood cell the liver. Sickle cell related diseases are also of concern to us medical practitioners in this part of the world. A pregnant woman can have complications through abortion preterm delivery, mental health malaria is a problem and the earlier the government pay serious attention to malaria the better.

Doc, malaria justv efuses to leave Africa despite billions of Naira spent to eradicate it. Any hope still?

What can best tackle Malaria, in my opinion is getting the vaccine against Malaria. It is doable. How many months did it take for the world to tackle Covid? If all tropical countries come together and are determined to get the vaccine, they will get it. The only hope, apart from periodic treatment is vaccination. A lot of people have made attempts to get the

vaccine. We are hopeful that they will get the vaccine.

Being a successful medical doctor what are your advice for youth that want to study medicine and become successful like you sir?

Besides the factors I mentioned earlier, I want to add that as a student who wants to study medicine, first they have to be above average. Their IQ must be high. The person must be dedicated and must not be careless. He or she must be focused. It's a serious "business" . Medical practice is a profession of service. You must be able to deprive yourself from many luxuries. You must read well and widely. Holidays are scanty in medicine. These days it is even more expensive; so you must be sponsored or have enough money to buy learning resources when you are in school. Yes, it is expensive. But it is worth the effort.

Let's leave medical practice and come to community development. As one of the people who revived Igbotako Development Forum (IDF) Utako Day Celebrations, what motivated you then?

The vision was great. It was like communal orientation. If you grew up in the village setting, you would understand what I am saying. In growing up, the entire village – the community – developed us. So when we have grown up and weathered the storms, we feel compelled to give back to the community. So we wanted our society to be well. We wanted our youth to have paradigm shift from laziness to attitude of career formation and independence. We don't want our youth to be beggarly. It's not our culture at all. We want them to be people can raise their heads above their shoulders.

And we needed a platform to do that. At individual levels, various indigenes support in various ways. I paid attention to education that was the reason why sometimes we had to assist students to pay school fees and some other things. Having IDF enabled us to pool resources. We also wanted our culture to be improved that was why during IDF the culture is so dominant that we catch them young. We also need to build community spirit. How can we do that if we don't come together and think together? The major challenge however is that our youths are not too enthusiastic about IDF and I think that's the bane of the development of IDF. But there are fresh attempts to tackle challenges and bring IDF back to the front stage so that we can come back to our normal life. When

we were active, IDF built the police station in Igbotako (which by the grace of God is now a Divisional Police Headquarter. We also did a lot in the Town Hall opp St. John Anglican Church. We did a lot of free medical treatment at that time and we have been supporting the General Hospital at that level. Through IDF we can prove that "agbajo owo la fi nsoya." So I urge all Igbotako indigenes and all Ikale to support their community a s s o c i a t i o n s .

Now that Igbotako is now a local government council, how do you feel about the great development and what advice would you give the pioneer leaders of the c o u n c i l ?

Igbotako becoming LCDA headquarter is a great development. It will bring government and governance development to the grassroots; it means there will be more attention to the ward to the councils. But I think I must emphasize that where the headquarters is located is not the utmost concern. I will like communities in each LCDA to work in unity. We are one. Ajagba and Akotogbo people cannot say they are now not related to Irele. Aye, Erekiti, Iju Oke and Omotoso are Ikales like Igbotako people. My advice to the leadership of the council is to be dedicated and take it as a priority that the development of the environment is paramount and for development to come there must be openness transparency accountability and the leadership must welcome genius advice fro or the development we need a lot to do about our attitude. Spread out the facilities that you establish and we will all be happy in the new councils.

What advice will you give the community and also how to develop the community?

Good grassroots governance. We all know the duties of the local council. Develop our markets, construct primary and secondary roads, boost primary education and so on. But I want our leaders the chiefs the paramount rulers to emphasize honesty and discipline...for women and respect for the younger ones. Unity is very important for without unity we can achieve nothing.

Doc, there are rumours that you are going to run for governor of Ondo State in 2024/25. Can you confirm or deny this?

I have received clarion calls. Everybody wants me to run for governorship in Ondo State. In fact some have written and

EXCLUSIVE

threatened that if I don't want to fund my campaign that they will pay for me on their own and they will use all means to force me into it. I really thank them for this and I have replied some of them that yes I have listened to you but I needed to seek the face of God and consult my political leaders and followers at all levels and they have given a go-head. So by the grace of God, Yes, I will offer myself for leadership at that level if I get the final clearance from God Almighty. I have told them that yes it is true and the one more thing is that I'm waiting for God I have placed it before God and in no time God will give me an answer. May be I should inform you that I am not afraid to run. I have contested the governorship in our beloved state before as running mate to Aketi. So, I have the experience. So when the time is ripe we will formally inform our people through *Ikale News* and other media. It is the people's project, not mine.

APC as a political party has been ruling Ondo state government for the past 6 years how will you assess their ruling has there development in Ondo state under APC b e s i n c e r e s i r ?

For APC, it has been very challenging environment because of the economic the global crisis and then the natural issues that wile had in the past the Covid 19 gave a t h o u g h t i m e At a time APC was trying to do its best as it is the leadership of APC is doing a lot to make sure that the society is revamp the economy of the state.

What will be your priorities as governor if you get the party's ticket and get elected e v e n t u a l l y ?

My priority, is to ensure that there creation of wealth leading to employment opportunities for the youths our youths are very intelligent very hard working but since they have nothing to do that's why some have resorted to social delinquencies. My attention will be on job creation, security and agriculture when this are maintained there will be good education without employment without developing agriculture the technology enhanced agriculture. We can no longer accept to be regarded as a civil service state. With our huge potentials for agricultural resources? No no no.



By the time we develop agriculture food will come in' balance diet will come in and in a way to improve our health sector when I'm in power my attention will be towards that even though I'm a medical doctor my vocations have been agriculture and politics. I have fishery and piggery farms I operate poultry and I also have oil pal plantation. So, I am not speaking theory to you.

So as a governor I'm going to transform into a larger portion where by students unemployed will have room for vocational training and skills acquisition so this are my idea about how we can transform that particular sector. I have travelled widely and have seen our agriculture does the magic in countries like South Africa, Netherlands and the United States. We have no reason to be waiting for Abuja to give us money to run Ondo State. That should be our supplementary income, not our main income, just like it is in Lagos State.

How will you describe or access President Bola Tinubu's Administration since his inauguration?

Even in less than 100 days, we can see that he has made some profound advances in the governance He is one president that has been bold enough to tell quality the truth it's a fact that the bane of our development is subsidy. I grew up to know oil subsidy. He knew we were in trouble except we remove the subsidy. He has done that and we can see what has been coming in but what the problem is the payments of our debts which I think he is working towards. I will say so far so good. But I know his best is yet to come.

Two of your children are into medical field. Is it because you are a medical doctor?

Not exactly. I highlighted for you to be a medical doctor you must be very intelligent God in its infinite mercy gave me those children with high Q and I can't stop them from doing what they like they have teachers in school careers, supporters and they did a lot and each time they assessed them they always recommended they go for sciences and go for medicine. If they do not have the interest or capacity which would I force them. It's passion. Thank God one of them is a lawyer!

My first daughter read medicine in the United Kingdom the second son read medicine in the UK the third (child) read law in the UK then the youngest one is also studying medicine in the UK. My own is to attach importance to education I give priority to education I make sure they have quality education wherever I can afford to give them that quality education.

The type of education they acquired is not diluted. They went to Corona Sschool with good teachers and well developed infrastructure which developed the children and prepared them for higher education anywhere in the world. That foundation must have helped them. I give God the glory.

How are you able to balance your medical line , politics and community development and being a family man that has not affected your our personal life

It is planning. I have a very cooperative family and workforce. God specially made myself for me. She is a pillar of support for me. My elder brother Mr. Lola Akintelure is another support because he himself is very good in terms of achievement him as a chartered accountant. He holds the larger family together. There is time for everything. I delegate as appropriate. And when I need to see my patients personally I do so. It is all planning. If not the hospital won't be in the pedestal that it has been. I plan very well so that my medical practice, my family, community service and interest in politics would not disturb one another. I also leverage on technology. Today, it is not compulsory that you must be face to face with your patient. I bless Almighty God.

Thank you again for this interview. I wish you more successes in all your endeavours sir.

Thank you Seyi. My regards to your Publisher.

NEWS



Ondo Assembly Okays Bill for Creation of New 33 LCDAs

The Ondo State House of Assembly has passed a bill for the creation of 33 new Local Council Development Areas (LCDA), after it passed through the third reading at the plenary. The bill is waiting for assent by Acting Governor Lucky Ayedatiwa

The Assembly passed the bill *after it passed 3rd reading at Assembly Plenary today 15th August, 2023.*

The newly created Local Council Development Areas are to co-exist with the existing eighteen Local Governments in the state.

According to the assembly, the development aims to enhance governance, ensure effective service delivery, and promote grassroots development in the state.

The bill was set in motion by Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, who transmitted the bill to the house for ratification.

To ensure broad public

participation and gather diverse perspectives, the bill was subjected to public hearing where aggrieved communities submitted memoranda.

The bill was subsequently referred to the Committee of the Whole House for further deliberation.

During the plenary, the Deputy Speaker, Abayomi Akinruntan, presented the committee's report as he emphasised the significance of considering the cultural homogeneity of the residents when demarcating boundaries for the new LCDAs.

He maintained that the approach will foster unity and inclusivity among the various communities within the state.

Akinruntan added that the state Surveyor General's office will play a crucial role in the boundary demarcation process, ensuring that the newly created LCDAs align with existing geographical and cultural factors.

He further stressed that the approach will help to prevent conflicts and

promote harmonious coexistence among the people.

Majority Leader of the House, Ogunmolasuyi Oluwole moved a motion for the passage of the bill into law and was seconded by Ogunlana Christopher.

In his ruling, the Speaker, Oladiji Olamide, who commended the governor for the creation of the new LCDAs, expressed optimism that all noticeable observations and recommendations by the House will be effected as appropriate.

He appealed to the people of Ondo State to keep hope alive and eschew acts that could generate undue rancour which can jeopardise the reigning peace in the state.

"Let me appeal to the good people of Ondo State to please keep their hope alive as current position of the House is not an end in itself but a means to a positive end," he said.

NEWS

Ondo Sacks LGA Chairmen and Councillors, lobby peaks for LG/LCDA chairmanship

Ondo State Government has sacked all 18 LGA Chairmen and their councilors, following the constitutional expiration of their tenure.

A statement by the Chief Press Secretary to the Acting Governor Kenneth Odusola Stevenson, in Akure, directed them to vacate their offices, while the Heads of Administration in the 18 LGA's are expected to take charge immediately.

The statement reads "The constitutional tenure of the elected Chairmen and Councillors of Local Governments in Ondo State ends today, 30th August 2023. " This implies that all Chairmen and

Councillors would vacate their respective offices accordingly and hand over the administration of the Local Governments.

"Pursuant to the foregoing and in order not to allow for vacuum, the Acting Governor of Ondo State, Hon Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has directed the Heads of Local Government Administration in the eighteen (18) Local Governments across the State to take charge of the administration of the Local Governments forthwith, pending further directives from the State Government.

"The outgoing officials are also enjoined to handover properly, please.

"It further added "The State Government appreciates the outgoing Chairmen and

Councillors for their meritorious services to the people of Ondo State, while also wishing them the best in their future endeavours."



Acting Governor
Kenneth Odusola Stevenson,

Ilaje Communities seek senate support against coastal erosion

By Samuel Olaniyan

Members of Ilaje communities have intensified their campaign towards saving their communities from coastal erosion by seeking the support of the Senate Chairman on Ecology, Senator Seriake Dickson.

Hon. Barr. Fadeshola Ojamomi and professional colleagues played host to Sen. Barr. Henry Seriake Dickson. The former Governor of Bayelsa State and current Senator Representing Bayelsa West at the National Assembly is the Chairman, Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change. He was happy to meet with young influential minds, media influencers, environmentalists, and advocacy groups across Nigeria to discuss elaborately on his plans for this additional portfolio.

Senator Dickson highlighted his notable accomplishments spanning various sectors in Bayelsa, including the recent Excellence in Environmental Leadership Award for his outstanding contributions to the issues of environment. This prestigious award was bestowed on him by a coalition of 20 non-governmental organisation

He praised the former governor for empanelling an International Commission on Oil Spills to assess environmental damages, determine responsibility, and develop a new legal framework for accountability and compensation in the area.

Ojamomi also expressed gratitude the Senator for providing leadership and direction when he was a Governor. He noted that Corp members were very



Ilaje Community

secured during his regime, students were more encouraged to go to school. and how the distinguished Senator.

Hon. Ojamomi urged the Senator to help restore hopes to the people, especially those in the Niger Delta who are worst hit by Ecological Disaster and Climate Change. He noted that communities like Idi-Ogba, Awoye, Mese, Ayetoro (UNESCO World Heritage Site) amongst others in Ondo State have been washed into the Atlantic Ocean due to the continuous rise in sea level , oil exploration activities and more extreme weather event.

He further stressed that the Ecological funds accrue to states are not been used for its exact purposes. He emphasized that successive Governments have abandoned areas affected by ecological problems and rather spend the resources devoted, on cosmetic projects and personal lifestyle. Ojamomi also pray the Senator to use his Capacity, wealth of experience and expertise in ensuring that the Provision of Section 12(1) of the NDDC (establishment) Act, no longer be misinterpreted. People from Oil producing

areas must no longer be shortchanged or schemed out of appointments. Only those who are members of the Oil producing communities should be appointed into the executive positions of the NDDC.

The Senator in his response, called on the Federal government to pay attention to the reckless deforestation taking place across the country. The Senator also promised to take advantage of his new position as Chairman, Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change to collaborate with all critical stakeholders on the issue of the environment and climate protection. He reiterated that he will do everything possible to ensure NDDC regains its glory.

He pledged to use all platforms available to him to advance the cause of the environment, the ecology and climate change. "As the Chairman of the Senate Committee of Ecology and Climate Change, I will work with all NGOs in Nigeria, support the efforts of all institutions and bodies, to advance the cause of the environment, PARTICULARLY to join the campaign against coastal erosion.

FEATURE

Omo'oba Jimi Odimayo Assures Constituents Of Quality Representation

By Samuel Olaniyan (Acting Editor)

Irele Prince and Member House of Reps (Irele Federal Constituency), Okunjimi Odimayo, Member of the House of Representatives for Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency, has restated his commitment to quality representation for the benefit of Constituents.

Hon. Odimayo made this disclosure during a Constituents meeting held at Ode Irele Civic Centre today.

The lawmakers commended the good people of Irele and Okitipupa Local Governments for their unflinching support, stating that their support will not be taken for granted.

Hon Odimayo stressed his efforts to address the blackout in Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency and other local governments in Ondo South Senatorial District as part of his campaign promises to hit the ground running.

He also added that he has drawn the attention of stakeholders in power to the plights of his constituents as part of measures aimed at providing long-term solutions to the blackout.

The Business Mogul also informs the people of Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency about the ongoing Free Lessons throughout the federal constituency, emphasizing that it is part of his commitment to improve educational development and promote learning among pupils.

He also highlighted his dedication to improving people's sense of belonging, adding that 69 constituents have been selected in the previous few weeks as part of his efforts to empower them for a sustainable future. They will be selected every six months to ensure that everyone is involved in the distribution of democratic dividends," he said.

Hon. Odimayo thanked his constituents for their unwavering support for the President Bola Tinubu-led administration, adding that he has good intentions for the country.

"In my capacity as our representative, I am currently compiling the names of five hundred constituents to be paid fifty thousand naira each as part of my efforts to alleviate the hardships caused by subsidy removal. I stress that the selection will be fair and



Jimi Odimayo

unbiased.

The Philanthropist declared that he is currently working on two bills, namely the Bill for the Establishment of the University of Agriculture and the Bill for the Establishment of Federal Medical Center in Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency which will be presented upon the resumption of the National Assembly from recess.

He equally hinted to constituents that 3.5 kilometres of street lights have been approved for the Irele/Okitipupa federal constituency noting that he would not relent in working for the advancement of Irele and Okitipupa local governments for the benefit of mankind.

Prince Jimi Odimayo assured to empower the youths in his federal constituency through the provision of job opportunities and skills development calling on the teeming youth to join hands with him to deliver his electoral promises.

Reacting, the Chieftain of APC in Irele Local Government, Chief Femi Moyegun applauded Hon. Jimi Odinayo for his giant strides geared towards ensuring qualitative representation in Irele/Okitipupa Federal Constituency.

Also, Mr Gbenga Opetusin from Okitipupa Local Government described Hon. Odimayo as a quintessential representative who has committed to

excellent representation for the benefit of his constituents.

Chief Shehu Olajide and Pa Vincent Igbasan equally lauded Prince Jimi Odimayo for the steps he has taken so far in ensuring dividends of democracy get to the doorsteps of all his constituents.

Hon. Shadrach Olowojuni (Segro) while delivering the vote of thanks on behalf of the Lammaker extolled the people for their support for Prince Jimi Odimayo and others in the last 2023 general elections.

In the meeting were; Former Secretary to Ondo State Government, Hon. Ifedayo Absgunde, Irele Local Government Chairman, Hon. Olusegun Ajimotokin, Irele Local Government APC Chairman, Chief Z. A Omoge, Hon. Shadrach Olowojuni (Segro), Hon. Femi Okunjemiruwa, Dr Tunde Monehin, Hon. Olajide Akinfe, Irele Local Government APC Women Leader Chief Mrs Titilola Omosowo, Chief Femi Moyegun, Chief Akinfe Akinmarin, Hon. Ikulala Bode, Hon. Ayeni Olayeye, Chief Akinubi, the SLA to the MHR, Hon. Sesan, Hon. Damilola Oripinye, Hon. Aduwo Sehintemi, Mr Sola Adekugbe (Erica), Elder Iluyemi Robert JP, Mr Ladi Aretolu, Mr Olugbenga Anthony Ogunji (Green Biro), Hon. Gbemi Akingbelure, Hon. Olorounwa Aregbesola, All Ward Executives led by the Ward Chairmen, Chief Shehu Olajide among other party faithful.

NEWS



Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, Admiral Aduwo Reconcile Ode Aye And Igbotako Leaders Over New Council

What could have been a major crises between Aye and Igbotako indigenes was averted last months as elder statesman, Admiral Akin Aduwo (rtd) and Senator Jimoh Ibrahim rallied top leaders of the two ancient towns to a meeting in Ode-Aye to a meeting.

Reliable sources informed *Ikale News* that Dr. Ibrahim cut down his assignments in Abuja and rushed home when he heard that Aye people were protesting not being given a Local Council Development Area (LCDA) headquarter by the Ondo State Government in its recent creation of new LCDAs.

Admiral Aduwo, we were informed, volunteered to rally Aye leaders and offered that the meeting be held in his house at Ode Aye. At the meeting were the traditional rulers of Aye Kingdom, HRM and his Osooro Kingdom counterpart, HRM Oba Gbadebo Bajowa, political and community leaders.

At the meeting, which lasted about two hours, Aye leaders expressed shock that instead of the Ondo State Government appointing Ode-Aye as headquarter of a new Ikale North-West LCDA, it instead put it under the Ikale North LCDA with

headquarters in Igbotako.

“We have no problems dwelling with our people in the new LCDA headquartered in Igbotako. Our anger is that Ode-Aye is big enough, large enough and blessed with resources to become a local government development headquarter on her own.” One of the Aye leaders told *Ikale News* before the meeting.

According to him, Aye has about 60,000 people, one of the largest in Ikale. “It has many villages. It installed the traditional ruler in Agbabu, so it was wrong to carve Agbabu under Ore, instead of being with Aye as Ikale North West LCDA. Agbabu is an Ikale community.” He added

Ikale News exclusively learnt that at the meeting, Senator Jimoh explained to the community leaders that there was no diabolical plan behind the creation of the LCDA and the location of Aye in the Ikale North LCDA.

We learnt that the Senator explained that the two communities have a history of cordial relationship and that if they work together, the new council would be one of the most successful in the entire Ondo State.

“My paternal grandmother is from Aye. I am at home and at peace with Aye. From my University in Igbotako to this place is less than 20 minutes when the link road is constructed. Aye and Igbotako and all the towns and villages in this new LCDAs are blessed and peaceful people. I urge you to sheath your swords and let us work together.” Dr. Ibrahim was quoted to have told the meeting.

The Senator assured the Aye people that developments in the new LCDA would be evenly distributed and advised people on both sides, especially youths, to stop festering rumours of rivalry between Aye and Igbotako and amongst other communities in the new LCDA

The meeting resolved to engage leaders, youths and politicians in the new LCDA on the need to work together and move the new council forward.

However, in a new twist, Aye community leader, Chief Niya Ogunwa, aka Oboli has expressed reservations about the adding of Aye into the Ikale North LCDA. His argument is that Aye belongs to Okitipupa Constituency 2, while Igbotako the LCDA headquarters is in Okitipupa Constituency 1. According to the chartered accountant turned

NEWS**continuation of Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, Admiral Aduwo Reconcile Ode Aye And Igbotako Leaders Over New Council**

politician, it is illegal to split communities in different Federal Constituencies and lump them into an LCDA.

Legal experts who spoke to *Ikale News* however said creation of local development councils has

nothing to do with Federal Constituency delineation. "So long as the area is within the state and the assembly did its job as stated in the Consitution, the LCDAs have been validly created." The lawyer stated.

Meanwhile, *Ikale News* also reliably

learnt that Dr. Ibrahim has donated N15million for the take-off of the council. We learnt that he has plans to also give financial support to the new LCDAs headquartered in Ilutitun and Ajagba in personal capacity as an Ikale.



L-R – Admiral Akin Aduwa, HRM Oba Akinlade, Halu of Aye Kingdon and Senator Ibrahim



Senator Ibrahim, Comrade Omo-Omo (on his immediate left) and youth leaders

NEWS

continuation of Senator Jimoh Ibrahim, Admiral Aduwo Reconcile Ode Aye And Igbotako Leaders Over New Council



Aduwo and Ibrahim relish in a group photographs with other leaders. Oba Gbadejo Bajowa is second from the right



L-R Senator Ibrahim, Engineer Oboli, Aduwo and other youth leaders.

ENTERTAINMENT

I DID NOT CASTIGAGE TOPE ALABI – Ikale born Nollywood star, Yemi My Lover

By Musa Adekunle

His name is Yemí Ayébò, aka YEMÍMYLOVER.

The veteran was born in Ikoya, Òkítípupa LGA, in the southern senatorial district of Òndó-State to the family of Pa Joshua Ayébò and Chief (Mrs) Comfort Ade Ayébò of Ìkòyà, one of the ancient kingdoms of Ikaleland. He is the 2nd child of the family.

His journey into acting started around 1983 and he has produced numerous movies like "Bisi My Dear", "Sunmisola", "Yemi My Lover" (Where he got his popular name), "Yemi In The Moon", "Òba Sólómónì" etc.

Yemi was popular for his stunts in movies then. This may be as a result of the Chinese and Indian films he used to watch at the cinema then that informed his passion for acting. All his stunts then were real. They were not film tricks. He fulfilled the doctrine of verisimilitude in Literature.

He is one of the products of Balogun Theatre Group owned Alhaji Rafiu Balogun, the husband of Madam Saje. However, he was initially under the duo of Godogbo and Ajirebi before they parted ways and their students had to look for other bosses to tutor them.

The likes of the popular gospel minister, Tope Alabi passed through Yemi my lover. In fact, Tope Alabi took a lead role in the movie "Yemi In The Moon" in the early 90s and as well helped Yemi My Lover in some of the sound tracks.

Another prominent actor that has a trace to Yemi My Lover is the husband of Mide Martins (Mide F.M. Abiodun), Afeez Abiodun aka Afeez Owo. It was Yemi My Lover that named him 'Owo' the first day he joined his theatre group because of how he used his hand to gesticulate his acting prowess.

Yemi My Lover was one of the first movie producers who did their own soundtracks to their movies then ever before the likes of Odunlade Adekola, Bukunmi Oluwasina etc did same.

He is also known to always sing in his movies. Songs like...

"Má lọ o, ma lọ o, má ì lọ, Mojisola Olólùfémí, má ì lọ sé"

"Omọ abijà fi mí lè..." and the likes.

He got featured in one of Mr Macaroni's skits recently.



Few weeks ago, Yemi My Lover was drawn into a controversy over a statement credited to him about gospel music star, Tope Alabi.

Yemi had granted an interview to an online media organization stating that Tope Alabi learned under him when she was just coming up. Of course, everyone knows that Tope Alabi started her career doing sound tracks for movies. It was during this period that she met Yemi My Lover in the industry and because Yemi's style is musical movies (patterned after Indian movies and Hubert Ogunde), the two quickly struck a rhythm, Yemi giving her tutelage.

Yemi now indicated during the interview he granted that he expected the after being very successful, Tope Alabi should remember the good old days they worked together. He said sometimes when he

reached out to Tope Alabi, her response was lukewarm. And people turned that to Yemi saying Tope Alabi is an ingrate.

"I did not say that. I could not have said that. I have been a success in my own little way. And Tope Alabi is also successful as a gospel artiste. There is no place for castigation or jealousy. I merely said that I expected her to remember her beginnings and reconnect people who contributed one way or the other to her success. She is someone I am very proud of any day." Yemi told *Ikale News* in a chat.

Whichever way one looks at it. Yemi My Lover is a success, despite he is not so educated. Big stars like Davido, Olamide sang about him. He has made Ikale proud through his chosen profession

POLITICS

Bemore 2023: Omo'oba Jimi Odimayo Rolls Out Scholarship Funds For Best Female Students Across Irele/okitipupa Federal Constituency.

In his bid to further develop the potential of the younger generation, the Member of the House of Representatives representing the good people of Irele/Okitipupa federal constituency, Hon. (Prince) Okunjimi Odimayo has again selected the best female students in Irele/Okitipupa federal constituency in the ongoing 2023 edition of BEMORE program.

The Lawmaker has equally committed the sum of five million naira (5 million) to further expose female students to rigorous training in the sixth edition of BEMORE currently ongoing.

Hon. Odimayo said the gesture remains imperative to ensure that girl children fully utilized their potential for a sustainable future.

According to the Chairman of the House Committee on National Population Commission, Providing equal training opportunities to female students promotes

gender equality by ensuring that all individuals have the chance to develop their skills and talents regardless of their gender.

He further stated that training female students is crucial for creating a more inclusive, diverse, and equitable society, while also unlocking their potential to contribute significantly to various fields and sectors in Ondo State and Nigeria at large.

The philanthropist commended Ondo State First Lady, Chief Mrs Betty Anyanwu Akeredolu, Ada Owerri 1, for providing a platform for developing girl children and women adding that her humanitarian gesture has the potential to create a brighter future for individuals, families, communities, and the Country as a whole.

Hon. Odimayo assured the First Lady his unwavering support for all the programs anchored by BEMORE.

He reiterates his commitment to contribute significantly to the training of the younger

generations across Irele and Okitipupa local governments, Ondo State and Nigeria at large.



Jimi Odimayo

Tinubu Sacks Akinjo As NDDC Board Nominee, Replaces Him With Otito Atikase



Tinubu



Otito Atikase

President Bola Tinubu has approved the immediate replacement of the NDDC's Ondo State Representative nominee, Mr. Victor Akinjo, with a new Ondo State Representative nominee, Hon. Otito-Atikase.

In a deft move to rid his administration of disloyal elements, the President has also approved the immediate replacement of the NDDC's Cross River State Representative nominee, Mr. Asi Oku Okang, with a new Cross River State Representative, Rt. Hon. Orok Otuk Duke.

Furthermore, the immediate past Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer of the NDDC, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, is reappointed

to a second term and will remain in acting capacity, pending the Senate's confirmation of his reappointment

Ikale News investigations reveal that as soon as Akinjo's name was spotted as a nominee to the board of the Niger Delta Development Commission surfaced in the media, Indigenes of Ondo State led a fierce protest against him.

The protesters who included opinion leaders and politicians from Ondo town where Akinjo hails from to Ikale and Ilaje both within and outside the APC said Akinjo did not deserve the appointment.

Immediately, viral videos of Akinjo saying during his campaign for House of Reps as a People's Democratic Party (PDP) member that Bola Tinubu was a sick old man who might die at time, flooded the Internet.

Tinubu was said to have been irked, even though the President is well-known to have a big stomach for political traitors and dissidents. This particular one was too much for him to stomach. He was said to have queried his kitchen cabinet for nominating such a person.

According to sources, the explanation given was that Akinjo belong to the Wike faction of the PDP and that his nomination was to compensate PDP members who worked for BAT in Ondo State (the Segun Mimiko Group). It was even speculated that Akinjo may have been nominated by Mimiko.

Given the fact that Mimiko turned his back on Tinubu after helping him to sack Dr. Olusegun Agagu as governor of Ondo State many years back, Tinubu was said to have asked for a replacement to Akinjo and the Ilaje born APC chieftain and former lawmaker, Otito Atikase became the new nominee.

Political watchers blamed Akinjo for lobbying for nomination under someone he had described on the campaign podium as "very sick and about to die".

"Most of our politicians have no integrity. Must you get on board any administration? You described this man openly as sick and about to die. And when he won you now took appointment with him. You are celebrating all over the place. What kind of person are you. Our politicians need to show a modicum of basic human principles," a retired principal, turned politician in Okitipupa told our correspondent.

NEWS



Dr Jimoh Ibrahim, the senator representing Ondo South at the Red Chamber, on has donated N20million for the take-off of the take of newly created Ikale West Local Council Development Area (LCDA) and Ikale North LCDA in the state.

Headquarters of the LCDAs are located in Ilutitun and Igbitako respectively.

The Ikale Businessman turned politician met with leaders and stakeholders of the community at the palace of the Majuwa of Ilutitun Morubodo Kingdom, Ilutitun, Oba E. A. Idepefo where he presented the bank draft of N10million to Ikale West LCDA, after making a similar move at Igbotako where he also presented draft of N10 million through the Rebuja ofvOsooro, Oba Gbadebo Bajowa

During the cheque presentation Sen Ibrahim hailed the Akeredolu led administration on

the creation of new LCDAs, stating that it would allow rapid development at the grassroot level

Senator Ibrahim pledged to keep contributing his quota towards development of the new LCDAs under his senatorial district, according to him "I went to the bank to go and buy 10 million naira bank draft, managers cheque, to help the development of the new LCDAs that's Akeredolu our able Governor created"

He further explained that the donations are seed capitals and that other members of the communities can donate mire funds to

accelerate the smooth take off of the councils.

Ibrahim called for peace amongst the two ancient towns, urging them to do away with unhealthy rivalry while embracing other villages and towns within their councils.

"Ikale North LCDA has received their own as you receive yours today. And I think they have started civil works in earnest," he said in the native Ikale dialect. The traditional rulers and stakeholders commended the Senate chair on gas resources for his role in the creation of the councils.



PHOTO NEWS

Faces at the Service of Songs for the late Community Leader, Elder Funmi

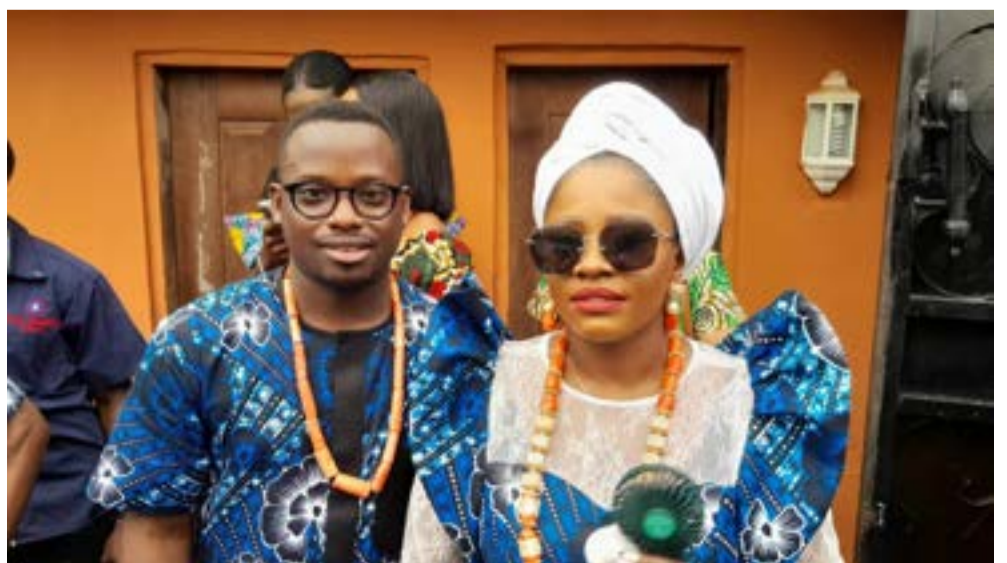


PHOTO NEWS



CALL TO GLORY

GOOD NIGHT THE IRREPLACEABLE
 Father, Husband, Brother, In-Law,
 Friend, Neighbour, Uncle,
 Manuwarian & Mentor

ALAKA OLORUNFUNMI
 1954 - 2023

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT

SERVICE OF SONGS - 18th July, 2023
 Awosoh Zone Secretariat,
 Magodo GRA Phase 1, Ibeju, Lagos
 Time: 3:00pm

WAKE KEEP - 20th July, 2023
 Ibeju, Manuwa/Elero,
 Ogun Water Side LGA,
 Ogun State
 Time: 5:00pm

COMMENDATION SERVICE - 20th July, 2023
 The Redeemed Christian Church of God
 (Holiness Cathedral) 10, Ade Adeyemi Street,
 Opposite Stella Mares College, Okitipupa, Ondo State
 Time: 11:00am - 12:00pm

CHURCH SERVICE, INTERMENT, RECEPTION - 21st July, 2023
 St. Mark's Anglican Church,
 Ibeju Manuwa/Elero,
 Ogun Water Side LGA, Ogun State.
 Time: 9:00am

LYING IN STATE - 20th July, 2023
 40, Kalejaya Street, Ogunduluja High School Road,
 Okitipupa, Ondo State
 Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm

MAY HIS GENTLE SOUL REST IN PERFECT PEACE



IKALE KIDS

Moonlight Games

How are you children, hope you are all enjoying your holiday, were you able to make yourselves relevant at home this holiday by helping your mummies and daddies. The holiday is gradually going to an end and you will soon resume school. Be ready to do better this session.

It is unfortunate that many kids do not engage in these plays these days. Though I am not Ikale (I am Egba), my husband (who is Ikale) often recalls his experiences doing Moonlight Plays in Ikale. I found them not different from our own. It used to be a veritable avenue to learn. I encourage all Ikale parents to revive Moonlight Plays with their kids, wherever they may be – whether at home in Ikale, in the cities of Nigeria, or even abroad!

We shall continue our discussion on moonlight games and your benefits. We shall talk on two or three more types of games children can play at moonlight after the day's activities.

EKUN ME'LAN : Children will gather themselves and form a big circle, they will tighten their hands while holding themselves. One of them will be in the circle while the other will be outside, the one inside the circle represent the ram, while the one outside will represent the tiger. The one inside will want to come outside but will be careful not to be caught by the one outside. The Ram will do its possible best not to be caught by the tiger. Paraventure it is caught, the Ram will be outside and another set of people will do. As they are trying, to come out and the other trying to catch yhe one inside, the others will be singing. One person will lead while others will be responding

Lead : Ekun meran
Chorus: mee
Lead : o tori bo'gbo
Chorus: mee
Lead : o tori bo'gba
Chorus: mee
Lead : o fe mu o
Chorus : mee
Lead : ko ma le mu o
Chorus: mee
Lead : oju Ekun n pon
Chorus : Iru Ekun , n le.

Meaning of the song : The lead is saying The tiger want to catch the Ram, and the response from the others is like the cry of the Ram : mee. The tiger is searching through the forest and the garden, and can not catch it, the tiger is furious and roaring as he could not catch the Ram, its tail too is rising up. The tiger will want to enter into the garden but the others will tighten their hands and be blocking him to prevent him from entering. But if the Ram was careless or relax the tiger may be able to catch it. And another set will take over.

Advantages:

- 1)The game promote unity and love among the children
- 2) its a form of exercise and it keeps the children fit and healthy
- 3) it makes the children smart and courageous
- 4) it keeps them busy instead of engaging in activities that are not good,
- 5) it makes their day interesting and not boring.
- 6) its less dangerous..

Disadvantages

- 1)It might be tiring sometimes ,if the tiger could not get the ram and they keep singing and singing.
- 2) if the person representing the tiger is not a bold and courageous child he may be easily tired and may be crying if he is a small child.

MONINI MONINI

The children will all sit on the floor with their legs stretched out.one of them will bend down and be touching the legs of the children sitting down and be singing.

Song: *monini,
monini monini
Monini monin
Mo barugbo kan lodo
Moni o bun mi lomi mu
O loun o bun mi lomi mu
Mo ni o sapa kelenge
Moni o sese kelelenge
Bi ikako abiyamo
Mini mini ka yi ko.*

The summary of the song is a child that met an old woman at the stream and ask the old woman to give him water but the old woman refused, so he's now describing the way the old woman looks, that the old woman arms and the legs are bent

The legs his hand touches last the person will bend it. This is how he will continue till all legs are bent and they will finish that section. They may continue by doing another round the first person will sit down another person will do it.

ADVANTAGES

- 1)It promotes love and unity amongs children
- 2) Its a form of exercise that keeps then fit
- 3)it makes them healthy
- 4)Its a fast game
- 5) it makes them think, they should not be abusive so their legs too will not bend like old woman's leg

DISADVANTAGES

- 1) The songs looks abusive
- 2) If they bend their legs for longbit may be painful to them.

TALO'WA'NU OGBANAA.:

This is the like the yoruba version of 'Who is in the garden'. Children will gather themselves and form a big circle,they will put a small child in the middle, one of them will be outside the circle and will be



Deaconess Omotayo Folayan

singing and running at the same time, the others will be answering her.

Lead : Ta lo wa nu ogba naa
Others: omo kekere kan ni
Lead : se n wa wo
Others: ma wa wo
Lead : iwo lo pa
Others ;: iwo lo mo

Lead : iwo lo gba iyawo soja to gbe weluwelu woja, omo bamku ti n wojuri, tele mi ka lo.

While singing and running, he will be touching each of them the last person he touches when he said 'tele mi kalo', will follow him, while the others will hold their hands back.. he will continue till their is no one and the little child in the middle is seen clearly and he too will follow thegardlike

ADVANTAGES

- 1) It promote, love and unity among the children.
- 2) it keeps them fit and active..
- 3) Its healthy for the children

DISADVANTAGES

it makes the children tired as they are running around
it can make them to be hungry after the game as its energy sapping.

We have come to the end of moonlight game for now, till when next month. Keep being good children and face your studies as upu resume back to school.

Bye for now.



NEWS**Who will cry when our leaders die? continuation**

funeral? Who will speak? Who will cry? And who will still be loving you? Asking ourselves questions like these can bring peace and calm to our daily life. These questions help remind us that we are human. We are not robots, and our days do not have to be repetitive.

Similarly, the Sharma's manual urges us to schedule our daily life tasks. This is what will make our leaders to think more about accountability and servant leadership. We should pay attention to this schedule and identify when we are not spending enough time being human. We must allocate time for our loved ones, family, friends, and nature. We must also allocate time to being alone. Being alone allows us to think about life and the communities we serve. We should do what we love to do.

Scheduling, passion, and self-discipline are ideas that consistently arise throughout the self-development manual. Scheduling is an important art that everyone needs to master to become highly effective and successful. Our leaders who daily make mistakes even on simple governance issues need to take the basic lessons seriously. We should make a

to-do list to be significant in office and power every day. The real secret to getting things done is to know what things need to be left undone. Our leaders appear disorganised and disoriented every day.

That is why we are not making progress. An ancient word of life teaches us that we should let things be done properly and in order. I learned from a Middle-East ancient journal that being organised and orderly, is a national culture that is driving development in the United Arabs Emirates (UAE) and indeed most parts of the oil –producing and prosperous Middle East.

Studying 'Who Will Cry When You Die?' can help leaders live life to the fullest. People dying is a tragedy but often people's lives are a greater tragedy. This is because they are wasting their time on frivolities on earth. We all want to leave a legacy when we die. We all want people to remember us forever. Let our leaders talk of life's concept remarkably without losing its very essence.

Our leaders should work to show themselves approved by the people they govern. Let's look at some of our past leaders we cried for when they died. Most southwest political leaders like to don the famous Awolowo cap.

But how many of them can be cried for as we continue to do for the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo who died since 1987 at the age of 78? The iconic Awolowo, an uncommon strategic thinker and planner who was once referred to as "the best president Nigeria never had" introduced a free and compulsory basic education policy as fundamental objective and directive principle of state policy in Western Nigeria.

He established a world-class regional university as a 'glocal' centre of research for tropical agriculture and medicine. Another leader, Sir Ahmadu Bello in the North also established another world-class university, Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria.

In the same competitive federalism spirit, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe established another remarkable University in Nsukka, Enugu state. Inexplicably, a federal military government seized all the three centres of excellence in 1975 without paying compensation to the regions. But then, before we debate their return to the owners someday, let our leaders of today note that when the three leaders, (Awo, Bello and Azikiwe) died, we all cried for them. And so our leaders should ask themselves today: who will cry when they die?

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PHOTO NEWS

Faces At The Wedding Of Goke Adeteye's Daughter In Akure



NEWS

Invest In The Girl Child; They Are Solid Pillar For National Development – Odu Tells Parents

Samuel Olaniyan

The Secretary to Ondo State Government, Princess Oladunni Odu, have admonished parents to invest in their girl child as they are pivot pillar for national development.

She stated this while receiving a student Folakemi Omoyeni who made the state and womenfolk exceedingly proud through her feats in the last Senior School Certificate Examination, (SSCE), University Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Folakemi, a student of Telnet International School, Akure who got distinction in 9 subjects in SSCE also scored 338 in UTME and 1,400 (87.5%) in SAT.

In an exclusive interview after Miss Omoyeni who visited the Government of Ondo state, the SSG said the student had by the feat, once again, proven her right that what men can do, women can do as well.

“You will remember that I always make the point that what men can do women can do, too, if given the right opportunities because things like success, victory, good conduct, innovations etc are not determined by gender, rather, they respond to focus, commitment, sincerity, diligence and discipline.”

Odu appreciated Folakemi's parents for supporting her to become the cynosure of all eyes and emphasized that the time has come for parents to invest more in the girl child because of their enormous capacity to do exploits and make the world a better place.

She challenged more females to develop the 'can-do' spirit and give any endeavour they are involved in everything legitimately and morally required to succeed.



“Girls, know that you are not inferior to the boy child, so step forward, reach for the top, make yourself unstoppable and you will get there.”

She saluted the courage and resilience of Omoyeni, noting that those qualities are essential for the outstanding multiple success she achieved, and promised to always support her. Odu equally challenged women to keep supporting women like men do for men, stressing that the best of every gender needs to be supported to lead.

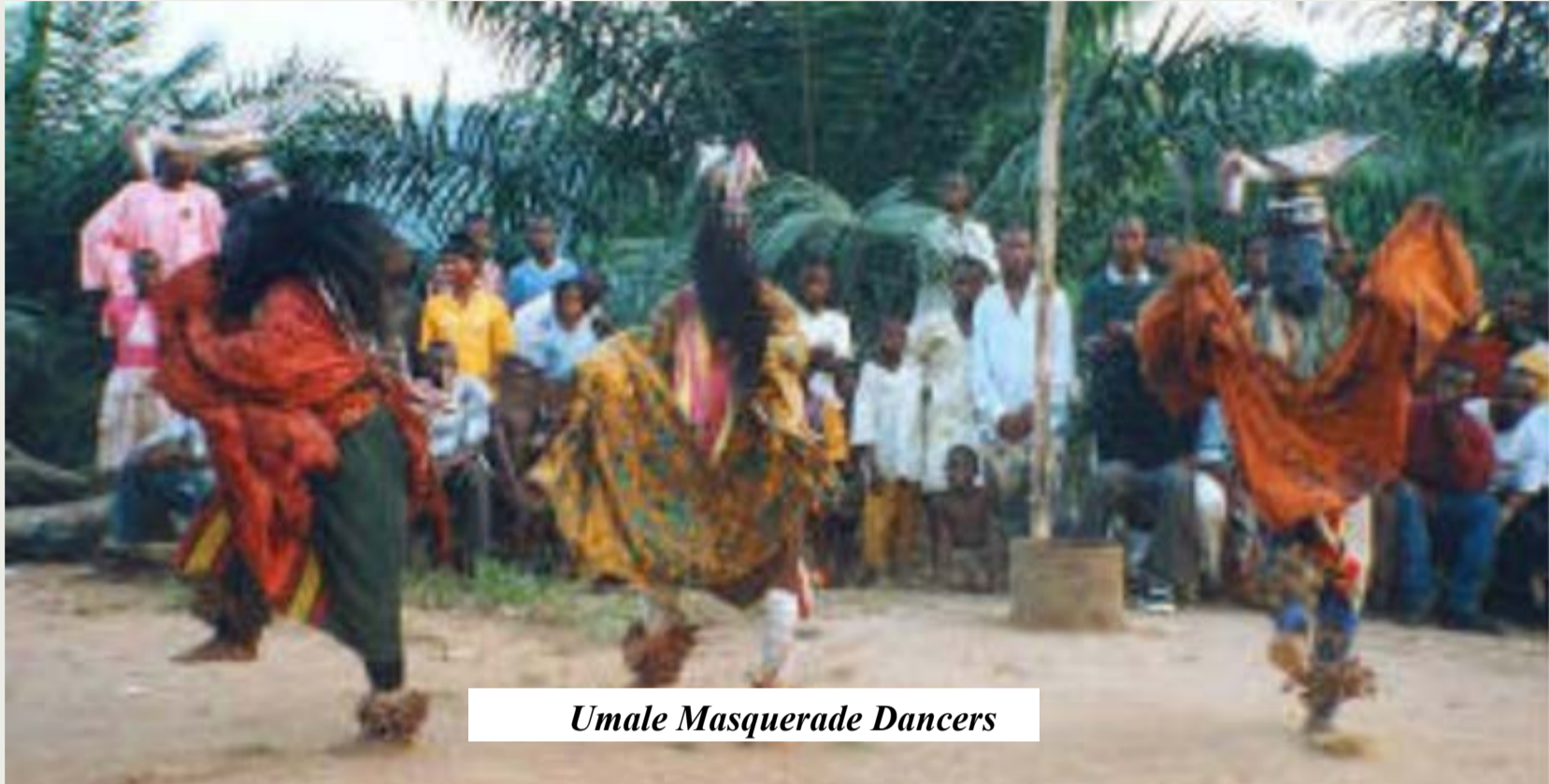
The SSG commended women in Ondo state for always standing by one

another, noting that women in the state are simply the most united and most formidable in the country, and prayed that they will continue to achieve unusual feats, socially, politically and in every other area of life.

She commended Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON, for demonstrating to women that he is a parent who does not discriminate, adding that all women need to do is demonstrate that they are capable of performing any duty properly, and the governor will not hesitate to offer them the opportunity to thrive.

ARCHIVE

About Osooro Kingdom



Umale Masquerade Dancers

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

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

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

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



Akoko women singers

FESTIVALS

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

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

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

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