

**HOW SENATOR ABDULLAHI ADAMU LOOTED NASARAWA STATE TO THE TUNE OF N71B BETWEEN 1999-2007**

# **NEWS PLATFORM**

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## **MAN OF THE YEAR**



## **FULANI HERDSMEN**

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**Any of these may be next president of Nigeria**



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Our mission include to inform, Educate, Entertain and serve as status conferral to Personalities, issues and events across the globe with special emphasis on development in Nigeria and indeed Africa. Keeping to the ethics of the Media Profession and Social Responsibility Theory of the Press.

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### Managing Editor

John Paul Joseph

### Editor

Francis Odozi

### Reporters

Monday Osadume

Joseph Madu

Elvis Osarenren

Rose Ngagwaonye

### SECRETARY

Etienne Inyang

### Computer Consultant

Sunday Sylvanus Mark

## COMPANY SECRETARY/LEGAL ADVISER

Ngozi Egwunyenge

## NEWSPLATFORM MAGAZINE

is a publication of Newsplatform Media Ltd,  
EPE CLOSE, AREA 1, SECTION 1, GARKI ABUJA.

PORT HARCOURT ADDRESS:

45 Ohia Street, Amadi, Old GRA

**Email:** [newsplatformmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:newsplatformmedia@yahoo.com)

[newsplatform.media@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:newsplatform.media@yahoo.co.uk)

[newsplatformngr.com](http://newsplatformngr.com)

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# GOVERNOR ROCHAS OKOROCHA INAUGURATES TASKFORCE TO MONITOR ROAD PROJECTS IN IMO STATE

**G**overnor Rochas Okorocha has inaugurated a high-profiled task force made up of Engineers to Supervise the 600 Kilometres of roads going on in the 27 Local Governments of the State, adding that he decided to set up the Task force to avoid what his administration went through in the hands of Contractors when he embarked on massive roads Construction in the Local Governments few years ago.

The governor spoke when he inaugurated the task force at the Government House on Wednesday, January 31, 2018, stressing that it is the desire of his administration to open as many roads as possible in the Local Governments to quicken development since he has done many roads in Owerri and other Cities in the State.

He said, the task force is to ensure quick and quality delivery of the roads in the rural areas under the government's Rural Access and Mobility Program that will soon be launched, stating too that aside the task force, he would also enlist the services of some external engineers to ensure that there won't be any unwanted story this time.

According to him "Over 600 kilometers of roads are now ongoing in all the local



**Governor Rochas Okorocha**

governments of Imo State. Because of the ongoing roads at the same time, we want to ensure quality and to ensure that the right thing is done. These engineers here have been proven and mandated to move to all the sites to check all the contractors and the quality of job".

He continued "In this case, these people have been empowered to stop any contractor or to approve any contractor for any form of payment. The Commissioner of Works will be the Chairman of this task force of selected engineers from the Ministry of Works".

His words "I will also bring in private practitioners to ensure that the proper work is done. The Senior Special Adviser Technical, to the Governor is also to monitor. Rain is not our friend in this part of the world. We must ensure that we complete these projects in this dry season and that is why we are awarding all these roads at the same time.

"So, I rely on the power confined on me as the Governor of Imo State to inaugurate the task force. No compromise. You must ensure that the proper thing is done. Congratulation", he stated.

## Oba of Benin receives GOC and AIG, harped on effective security

Officers and men of the Nigerian Army have been commended by His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II, Oba of Benin for their wonderful services of defending the country from external aggression and peace keeping within and outside the country.

The Benin Monarch made the commendation when the General Officer commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of Nigeria Army, Obadan, Major-Gen. Fidelis Azinta paid Omo NOba a courtesy visit in his Palace in Benin City.

Oba Ewuare II told his guest not to relent in the task of maintaining peace in the country, assuring of the Palace support in the successful discharge of his duties.

The Oba of Benin says the visit of Major-Gen. Azinta brings him feelings of nostalgia, as he has had very cordial relationship with former GOC's of the Nigeria Army.

Earlier the General Officer commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of Nigeria Army, Ibadan, Maj. Gen. Fidelis Azinta

said he was in the Palace of the Oba of Benin to introduce himself as the new officer commanding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division of Nigeria Army of which Edo State is part.

He acknowledged the cordial relationship he had with the Palace as officer commanding the 4 Mechanised Brigade in Benin City, hence he decided to come for Royal blessings to enable him succeed in his new assignment.

Maj. Gen. Azinta commended the Oba of Benin for the prevailing peace in the Kingdom, and appealed to His Royal Majesty, to counsel his subjects on the need to partner with Nigeria Army for the security, peace and progress of the Kingdom.

The GOC said any erring soldier should be reported to the appropriate quarter for the necessary action.

Receiving the new Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of Zone 5 Benin City, Mr. Rasheed Olatunde Akitunde in his Palace, the Oba of Benin appealed to the Federal government to improve the welfare of police officers in



Oba Ewuare II

order for them to effectively discharge their duties.

Oba Ewuare II while commending the police for their job of law enforcement, he called on the police AIG to always contact the Palace on issues bothering on village heads, communal disputes and land matters anytime it is brought before the police command.

## RE-POSITIONING OF RIVERS HEALTH SECTOR IS ON COURSE SAYS GOVERNOR WIKE

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike has stated that the process for the re-positioning of all levels of the health sector is effectively on course, with the acquisition of state-of-the-art equipment for Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital.

The governor also declared that the total rehabilitation of structures at the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital will create the right environment for quality tertiary healthcare.

In an interview after an inspection visit to the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital in Port Harcourt on Monday, Governor Wike said that the health sector will continue to recover priority attention from his administration.

The governor who was accompanied on the project inspection by the National Chairman of PDP, Prince Uche Secondus, said that majority of the equipment procured by the State Government for the hospital have arrived.

He said: "Our objective is to improve the standard of the Braithwaite Memorial



Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike

Specialist Hospital as a centre of excellence in tertiary healthcare.

"In terms of equipment, the contractors have done well. Eighty percent of the equipment have arrived the hospital premises and they will be installed as soon as the rehabilitation".

He, however, noted that the progress of work on the structural rehabilitation is

slow, hence the contractors should expedite action.

"We believe the contractors should deploy more workforce for the rehabilitation of the hospital. The State Government is doing what is necessary to enhance the quality of the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital", he said.

The governor also inspected the ongoing reconstruction of the Doctors Quarters at the Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital. He advised the contractors to improve on the pace of work.

He assured that funding of the projects will be sustained early completion.

The governor was briefed during the project inspection by Dr. Paul Kua, Medical Director of Braithwaite Memorial Specialist Hospital, and Mrs. Ajumoke Okpu, Director of Nursing.

The Wike administration has completed the reconstruction and equipping of 13 General Hospitals spread across the three senatorial districts of the state.

# OKOWA CALLS FOR DISARMING OF HERDSMEN, INTRODUCTION OF IMPROVED GRASSES IN THE NORTH

**D**elta State Governor, Senator Okowa, has called for the disarming of herdsmen across the country as a deliberate way of reducing ongoing killings on parts of the country.

He also called for the introduction of Improved Grasses in parts of the north to ensure good grazing for the herdsmen.

Responding to questions in a recent interview in Abuja with selected newsmen, proffered solution for the persistent human carnage and destruction of property by the invading herdsmen against their unprotected non-violent host-communities.

His words, “first, I believe that every herdsman must be totally disarmed because it is the right thing to do; I don't think that they are empowered to carry such riffles except if they are members of security agencies”.

The State Governor's call is for the immediate disarming of the herders of the intimidating and high caliber weapons they freely carry about, committing all types of atrocities against humanity unchallenged, especially against the defend less farmers.

The continuous possession of these illegal dangerous arms, reportedly used to perpetuate series of bloody atrocities speaks volumes on the readiness of the Buhari led administration to swiftly address the shameful act, capable of dragging the nation into civil conflict.



**Delta State Governor, Senator Okowa**

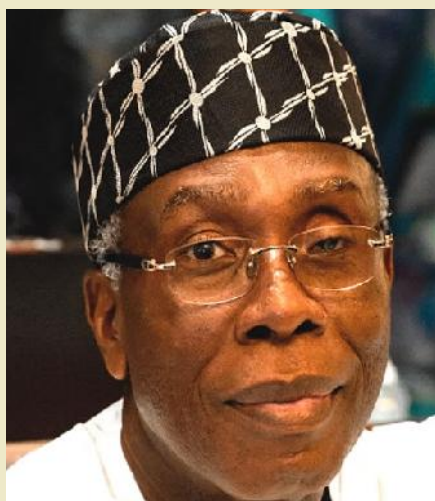
On the establishment of controversial cattle colony, Governor cleverly kicked against it in his state, on the grounds that the state does not have enough to donate to the Federal Government for cattle colonies.

His words: “in the first instance, you know that Delta State is possibly half water, half land. So, obviously we are in dire need of land. We don't have land for

that purpose; that is the truth. It is a growing state and most of these coastal areas are not in the best of shape because lands are destroyed and we don't have enough arable land and the pressure is now coming because we are encouraging our people to go the farm. In the past, it was a rent economy; people were actually looking for the money that comes in from oil and subsidiaries of the crude oil economy”

To address the land-related problem, affecting the establishment of the colonies, Senator Okowa pointed to the presence of vast land existing in the Northern region, urging the Minister of Agriculture to implement the policy of the Federal Government at the onset of President Buhari's administration to import fast growing grass for the establishment of cattle ranching in the vast land in the northern region.

He stressed on the financial implication of the importing grasses, but noted that such sacrifice is better than human carnage and property loss recorded in recent time.



**“  
Senator Okowa then stressed the importance of using irrigation system to realize the goal, especially growing the imported grasses in the huge areas in the north that are currently un-utilized to curb the immigration and persistent bloodily clashes.**

**“**

# FULANI HERDSMEN



**T**he biggest issue in the Nigeria today is the issue of Fulani Herdsmen. You may wish to call them Fulani Herdsmen, Pastoralists or even Cattle Rearers. THEY are mainly nomadic people who move from place to place in search of greener pastures for their cattle or cows. Over the years different governments in the country have one programme or the other on how to deal or accommodate these herdsmen.

Their relationships with their host community has always been very bloody right from the first Republic. These group of herdsmen do not normally want to operate within borders as they move across West African states in search of greener pastures.

During the first Republic in order to avoid clashes with farmers and host communities Routes were

created for these herdsmen from the Northern parts of the country to the South especially the middle belt area of Nigeria. Before Independent of Nigeria from the British Colonialism in 1960, Northern Region of Nigeria was headed by Sir Ahmadu Bello, a Fulani. Cattle routes were created for the pastoralists in the North. Apart from the fact that the Fulani controlled the North Politically and Administered the territory, cattle rearing was also contributing to the economy of the area. Hides and Skin gotten from Cows or cattle was one of the major sources revenue in the Region.

But with the increased population of Nigeria, land became a scarce commodity. People now needed land for other purposes. These include for farming, building of houses, Industries, Schools etc. these led to series of clashes with herdsmen.

Besides lack of Trust between

Farmers and Herdsmen continue to grow. In the middle belt and Southern Nigeria most of the Farmers are Christians while the herdsmen are Muslims. Religious and Ethnic bias begin to come in. in addition the herdsmen begin to create colonies in the areas given to them for pastures. They create their own emirates, build schools, mosques and were even given representations in the state and National Assemblies. As we have in Jos area in Plateau state. This has always led to frictions between what is later to be known as Indigenes and Settlers. Suspicion begin to grow between Christians and Muslims as Christians accuse Muslims of using Herdsmen routes to spread Islam and Islamize the country.

The clash between herdsmen and Farmers gained prominence with the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari as the President

of Nigeria, himself a Fulani herdsman. The most painful aspect of the current anger against the Fulani herdsmen is the inability or the refusal of the government at the Federal level to punish the herdsmen for killings and wanting destruction of properties going on in the country. They are treated as people above the law of Nigeria.

Many people like Religious groups, Politicians, elder statesmen, Traditional rulers etc have spoken and advised the Federal Government on how to deal with the herdsmen terrorism but it had fallen on deaf ears.

Amnesty International on recently said clashes between herdsmen and farmers in Adamawa, Benue, Taraba, Ondo and Kaduna States claimed lives of 168 persons in January, 2018.

The global rights watchdog also claimed that the response of Nigerian Government to communal violence is totally inadequate, too slow and ineffective, and in some cases unlawful.

"The government must totally overturn its response to these deadly

clashes to avoid this crisis getting out of control. They need to investigate and bring suspects to justice," said Osai Ojigho, Director Amnesty International, Nigeria. "Hundreds of people lost their lives last year, and the government is still not doing enough to protect communities from these violent clashes. Worse, the killers are getting away with murder."

"In some cases where the Nigerian security agencies did respond to communal violence, they used excessive or unlawful force resulting in even more deaths and destruction", Osai Ojigho also said in a press statement.

The Organisation also accused the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) of launching air attacks on villages beset by communal violence, killing about 35 persons.

"On 4 December 2017, Nigeria's air force sent fighter jets to fire rockets at villages as a warning" to deter spiralling communal violence, as hundreds of herdsmen attacked at least five villages in Adamawa state to avenge the massacre of up to 51 members of their community, mostly children, the previous month in Kikan", the statement read.

It added that a team from the organization visited the villages in the aftermath of the air raids and gathered witness testimony from residents who described being attacked by a fighter jet and a military helicopter as they attempted to flee.

"Launching air raids is not a legitimate law enforcement method by anyone's standard. Such reckless use of deadly force is unlawful, outrageous and lays bare the Nigerian military's shocking disregard for the lives of those it supposedly exists to protect," said Osai Ojigho.

Amnesty International called on the Nigerian Air Force, which has received intensive training from the UK and US militaries in recent years, to hand over the footage of the incident and all relevant information to the authorities, including the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice for investigation.

"This is unlawful and excessive force on a catastrophic scale. It is yet another tragic example where Nigeria's armed forces are found applying deadly military tactics to law enforcement situations.

"The Nigerian authorities must investigate these attacks and, where these investigations indicate criminal responsibility, prosecute those responsible and bring them to justice", said Osai Ojigho.

It further stated that the air raids occurred in the villages of Lawaru, Dong, Kodomti, Shafaron and Nzuruwei, where Amnesty International interviewed a total of 15 witnesses.

Locals in each village also provided Amnesty International with lists of the dead, which totalled 86 names.

As the herdsmen shot people and torched homes, and the air raid resulted in fire, it was not possible to establish how much of the death and destruction was a direct result of the air attacks or attributable to the attack by herdsmen.





# FULANI HERDSMEN KILLINGS; MODUS OPERANDI, THOSE INVOLVED, AND THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

**T**he most significant problem that African nations face is lack of leadership. Normally, Leadership should be an intentional conscious effort to attend to the people's needs and aspirations. But in Africa, even though many of those that are thrust into the position of leadership mean well, they lack the capacity to lead and meet the people's hopes and aspirations. Apart from lack of adequate preparation for leadership, one other notable factor that has inhibited good leadership among African leaders is the seemingly non-existent structures for research and information management in the society. Hence, many well-meaning leaders often do not have the requisite information needed for a thorough appraisal and resolution of problems as they arise.

A clear example is the recent terrorist attack in Enugu State of Nigeria and the obvious ignorance of the State Leadership on the modus operandi of the Fulani Herdsmen which led to poor leadership decisions. For a long time, the Nigerian state has been under siege by Fulani herdsmen terrorists operating under a predictable pattern of reconnaissance, attack and withdrawal, leading to many deaths and social dislocations. Since January 2016, there has been documented deaths of approximately 1000 Nigerians from across the middle belt, the South-south, and Southeastern parts of the country from these coordinated Fulani herdsmen attacks. The Fulani herdsmen are credited with destabilizing the city of Jos, a once tourist destination; and their history of mayhem extend beyond the borders of the Nigerian state. They

are also the major actors/catalyst to recent conflicts in the Central African Republic. Armed with adequate information about these murderous group, one would have expected the Governors in the Southeastern states, especially those whose citizens were murdered in cold blood by these terrorists to come out with a strong condemnation of the Fulani herdsmen carnage and unify towards a common cause solution. On the contrary, events in the past weeks only showed confused state executives, who do not even understand the magnitude of the problem at hand.

In fairness to these Governors, some of them mostly followed the normal state security protocol in responding to this abnormality. Hence, the failure to protect the citizens was the liability of the Federal Government of Nigeria and its armed forces. Though we do not

excuse the shabby response of these Governors to the Fulani Herdsmen tragedy, we are inclined to give them a slack because to solve a problem, one needs to first understand the problem. The Governors did not understand the problem. Most Nigerians and international bodies do not understand the Fulani herdsmen problem and we at CACLD did not initially. We therefore dispatched a fact finding team to the Southeastern part of the country to unravel the intricacies and complexities of the Fulani terrorist group; a group rated as the fourth most dangerous by respected international conflict organizations (According to the Global Terrorism Index 2015 report; & Fulani militants & killed 1,229 people in 2014 -- up from 63 in 2013, Making them the & fourth most deadly terrorist group).

Our fact finding team visited "Ama Hausa and Garki" camps in both Enugu and Abia States. They also interviewed neighbors from the local communities living within and around the Hausa communities in both states. Both the Northerners and the local community were very open and volunteered valuable information to our team. There seems to be a willingness and eagerness for the violence to end. Below, we will present our findings in numbered

points.

1. *The Fulani herdsmen terrorists are Fulanis but mostly non-Nigerians: This may come as a surprise to most of us. About ten percent of the terrorists are Nigerians and they live within the Hausa Fulani communities in Ama-Hausa and Garki's in the South East and South-south regions.*

2. *The Fulani Herdsmen terrorists do not own cattle: This is another revelation that may come as a surprise to many. Fulani herdsmen killers' major job description is just to kill. They do not own any cattle. Most of them are employed by the cattle owners as "security men" whose job is strictly to protect the cattle. They do not however follow the cattle around, but move in separate vehicles along a defined route within the states where cattle are being reared.*

3. *The Ama-Hausas and Garkis harbor 80% of the Fulani herdsmen killers: This is a very important revelation. The Garkis are mostly Hausas and other minorities from the north, but within them, they Fulani herdsmen killers reside. The northerners were able to show us these Fulani herdsmen "security personnel" and they were dressed differently from the normal Northern Nigerians within these settlements. They were young, less religious, most of them use drugs, and consume alcohol. A majority of these herdsmen terrorists are migrants*

from Chad, Niger, and other Fulani enclaves outside the Nigerian state. A small percentage of these Fulani youths are Nigerians born in the states where they reside. They are the ones vested with the responsibility of leading these Fulanis on their regular rampage; serving as compasses to the blood-hungry terrorists.

4. *The Fulani herdsmen that accompany cattle from the North to the South per season do not own cattle: This is another surprise coming out from the investigation. The cattle are owned by more prominent Fulani leaders in the country. Most Nigerian Fulanis are no longer migratory herdsmen, but are either Emirs, Sultans, heads of parastatals, oil barons, Imams, Christian Pastors, Governors, Federal Reps, and Senators. However, they still maintain their cultural ownership of cattle. These wealthy Nigerians increase their wealth astronomically through cattle rearing by using their not well off brothers from outside Nigeria to rear these cattle. Instead of investing in ranches and buying of grasses from the South, they chose the cheaper alternative of having their kinsmen, imported from outside the country, take these cattle from the north to south seasonally; using the entire Nigerian space as their "grass kingdom". These cattle, in turn, destroy farms in their path, rendering farmers economically bankrupt to further enrich the wealthy Fulani "remote herders".*

For clarity sake, let us present the breakdown of Fulani people in Nigeria as we deduced from our investigation.

There are about 5 million Fulani people in Nigeria making them one of the smallest ethnic group in the country.

Out of the 5 million Fulani people, only about 3 million of them are Nigerians. The remaining 2 million come from outside the country and are first generation immigrants.

About 60 percent of the Fulanis in Nigeria are governors, Pastors,



IG, Ibrahim Kpotun Idris

Imams, Emirs, Sultan, House of Representatives, Importers, Exporters, Ministers, Oil well owners, lecturers, Vice Chancellors, Ministers, and Senators etc. In a nutshell, the Fulani control all sectors of the northern economy. These rich Fulani's own all the cattle being reared in Nigeria.

The remaining 40 percent of Fulanis come from outside the country. These are the poor and peasant Fulanis. These immigrant Fulani's are mostly in charge of the cattle owned by the Bourgeois Fulani. Because the Fulani's have the highest income per capita in the Nigerian state (Fulani's who are Nigerians), they constantly need to import their poor brothers and sisters from outside the country to increase their population (the Fulani's always either marry into rich families or they would marry only Fulani to maintain their pure race) and to help with menial jobs.

In Garki and Ama-Hausa settlements all over the country, there exist a few Nigerian Fulanis (some are born in these states) who coordinate the cattle business. These Fulanis either help manage family cattle or are just contracted middlemen in charge of the business on behalf of various millionaire cattle owners. They themselves are also millionaires. Under these middlemen are about a group of 20 to 40 Fulani boys within the ages of 20 and 35. These are the unofficial Fulani herdsmen security team whose job is to protect the Fulani herdsmen cattle.

Lastly, there is a group of Fulani herdsmen who rear the cattle from the north to the south. These are at the bottom of the Fulani Herdsmen ladder. Some of them do not even know how to speak English and are so poor that they are paid just a little amount of money for their job. These herdsmen do not carry guns. They only carry arrows and machetes to help them navigate the bushes on their way down to the South.

#### 6. Fulani Herdsmen Attack

We learned from the surrounding communities and from some of the Hausa elders about what constitutes a Fulani herdsmen attack. According to information we received, when there is a disagreement between host communities, or between herdsmen and farmers, the Fulani herdsmen who accompany the cattle will locate the nearest Fulani settlement and if there is none, they will locate the nearest Garki or Ama Hausa. When they arrive, they will narrate their story. The Fulani (Nigerian middlemen) cattle managers will notify their top Fulani Herdsmen which in this case, include governors (like El Rufai) and other top Fulani Bourgeois who own the cattle. A decision will be made about whether there should be an attack or not on the said village or host community. If an attack is sanctioned, then modalities will be mapped out and a date will be chosen for the attack. Most times, Fulani herdsmen in the military and police are notified and everyone sends a representative. Neighboring settlements send out representatives and arms cache are opened and arms are distributed to the participants. The major participants are the 20 to 40 Fulani herdsmen who reside in the Garkis and Ama Hausas. These are the Fulani warriors whose job is to kill.

During an attack, every Fulani person in the area knows there will be an attack and all will contribute to make sure it goes on successfully. Fulanis in the higher levels of the military will ensure all commands under them stand down, and the top Fulani police officers will do the same. The road is then clear for the Fulani herdsmen to carry their attacks.

#### 7. Solution

Many of those who interacted with us suggested solutions that are very interesting. Most of the northern Hausas and the local communities suggested a ban on grazing in the affected states. A total ban would be the only way to solve this problem. Some argued that with the Fulani's

nature of encroaching on other people's land and territories, any attempt to give them land would aggravate the problem and not solve it.

Most villagers from Abia State suggested that these cattle be penned in the north while government releases money for people in the South to cut grasses, process the grass, and send to the north. This is the practice all over the world. They indicated that any attempt to take their lands and give to the Fulani would definitely result to a civil war.

We agree, the solution is very simple; ban grazing, establish ranches for the cattle in the north, pay the southerners to harvest grass and send to the north. With this, everyone would be pleased with the outcome. This solution is expected to generate 1 million jobs in the South and about 500,000 jobs in the North. Also Fulani herdsmen terror will be totally eliminated.

#### Conclusion

Next time when we talk about a herdsmen attack, we must understand that the attack was not carried out by the herdsmen you see escorting cattle on the roads and bushes. These attacks are well coordinated and sometimes involves the approval of senators and influential men in Abuja. Even our president Mohammed Buhari has a herd of cattle and hence is a Fulani herdsman, corroborating the information we received from respondents on ground. Fulani herdsmen attacks involves all Fulani ethnic members in Nigeria. Most times, these attacks happen only because "respectable men" sanction them.

Startling Research findings by Professor Charles Adisa.

Issued by Chinua Achebe Centre for Leadership and Development (CACLAD)

The Result of the Research about Fulani herdsmen.

# 2019 ELECTION IS A REFERENDUM ON RESTRUCTURING- IJAW LEADERS



**A**rising from a meeting of Ijaw Leaders of Thought on Tuesday, prominent Ijaw leaders across the country have vowed to only support candidates and particularly presidential candidates who genuinely believe and support a restructured Nigeria.

The meeting which held in the Country home of the foremost Ijaw Leader and elder statesman, Pa Edwin Clark in Kiagbodo, Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State took far reaching decisions.

The leaders urged President Muhammadu

Buhari to show political will in ensuring that the country is restructured before the 2019 elections.

They said they want a restructured country within the context of a corporate, united and peaceful Nigeria that guarantees equal right for all Nigerians adding that only restructuring can guarantee peace in the country.

Shedding more light on the position of the leaders of Thought, Bayelsa State Governor, Honorable Henry SERIAKE Dickson said the 2019 Election Will Be A Referendum On

Restructuring with its concomitant derivatives of resource control, devolution of power, state police and in deed fiscal federalism! He said: "Restructuring is about our existence as a people, it is not about APC or PDP. We as Ijaws, want a Nigeria that is fair, just and equitable and this is what restructuring represents." A press statement signed by the Special Adviser on Ijaw Affairs to the Governor, Dr Felix Tuodolo said the meeting also set up committee to present a coherent position on the Restructuring from the Ijaw point of view.

[1/30, 17:02] Francis Ottah Agbo: Prominent amongst those at the meeting were: Chief Edwin Clark, Deacon Kingsley Otuario, Alabo Tonye-Graham Douglas, Chief Brodericks Bosimo former ministers, Ambassador God knows Igali, Prof. Dagogo Fubara, Prof Nimi Briggs, Prof Joe Aijenka, Prof C. Dime, Prof Steve Azaiki, Dr Pius Sinebe, Chief Wellington Okrika, Bayelsa State Commissioner for Culture and Ijaw Affairs, Hon Dressy Dressman top government functionaries and a host of other Ijaw leaders.

# A MESSAGE TO BENUE AND ALL NIGERIANS

**Dr Iyorchia Ayu**

**F**ormer Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.  
 “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing” (Edmund Burke)

1. On Thursday, 11th of January, 2018, the people of Benue buried over 70 persons slaughtered by terrorists called “FULANI HERDSMEN”! This is not the first mass killings of people of Benue and other parts of Nigeria. Between 2010 and 2018, our people have faced this sustained aggression. Over 1000 people have been slaughtered without the Nigerian state taking definite steps to end the spate of killings.

2. Year in year out, we are attacked, people are killed, followed by condemnations and appeals to those who are supposed to protect us. Nothing is done. Then we relax until the next round of killings. Now that the most recent victims have been buried, sustained discussions must be accompanied by definite actions.

3. We as a people must do more than issuing statements, posting on the internet, Public demonstrations and writing letters to the President and Heads of Security agencies. Necessary as these actions are, they have not yielded the desired result.

4. First, we must correctly identify the enemy, that is the evil confronting us. They are not simply FULANI HERDSMEN. The attacks are coming from an ORGANIZATION whose members are known and veiled; Nigerians and Non-Nigerians. Its powerful and wealthy members recruit, finance, and arm its poorest but vicious fighters to attack and kill our people.

## 5. AGENDA

We believe their agenda is to:

- (i) Destroy our economy and promote their own economic interest;
- (ii) Dominate us politically;
- (iii) Destroy our personality, including how we think; what we believe in; how we relate to one another and to our



Dr Iyorchia Ayu

Creator.

Their aim is TOTAL DOMINATION.

6. The HISTORY of this is important. Between 1800 and 2018 we have been under attack by this organized evil. Only our unity, courage and determined RESISTANCE have preserved us.

7. Today, we are supposedly in a Modern State governed by laws of which the CONSTITUTION is the ground norm. That Constitution gives power to designated authorities to protect us as citizens and punish those that violate its provisions.

We are not protected. Rather it is the violators that are openly shielded and encouraged to undermine the Nigerian Constitution.

Attacking and killing citizens of Nigeria en masse by an armed organization is attacking the Nigerian State.

When those we put in authority shield and protect this armed and murderous organization, they become accomplices not just in crime but in undermining Nigeria.

8. The Unity of Nigeria is today being threatened not only by organized terror but also by those in authority who have the capacity to act but are deliberately doing nothing.

9. Could it be that Power is in the hands of Organized Terror?

## 10. WHAT IS TO BE DONE

We the helpless people of Benue have cried out, and will continue to cry out to the President and others in constituted authority to live up to their responsibility of defending us as Nigerian citizens against external and internal aggression. They lose legitimacy when they fail to carry out this fundamental duty.

11. No right thinking person of Benue origin has any confidence that the government of President Muhammadu Buhari will protect us.

12. As a democracy we as a people must come together and consider the best ways of self-preservation.

13. Once we organize, unite and develop concrete steps to take and survive we must reach out to others who are under similar threats.

14. Other Nigerians must remember Martin Niemöller, a prominent Protestant Pastor during Nazi Germany, who said: “They first came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out – Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me – and there was no one left to speak for me.”

15. Let us present our case to the International Community.

16. Finally, as we approach another general election, let us not blindly hand over our collective power for a pot of porridge to those who will not defend and protect us. We must not be complicit in our destruction.

(Signed)

**Dr Iyorchia Ayu**

**Former Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

**12th January, 2018.**



Prof. Attahiru Jega

## Pastoralist-farmers Conflicts And The Search For Peaceful Resolution

# Memo By Martin Luther Agwai, Ibrahim Gambari, Attahiru Jega, Jibrin Ibrahim, Others

**Memorandum by the Nigerian Working Group on Peace Building and Governance, Abuja, 8th January 2018**

### *Executive Summary*

Pastoralists-farmers' conflicts in Nigeria have grown, spread and intensified over the past decade and today poses a threat to national survival. Thousands of people have been killed, communities have been destroyed and so many farmers and pastoralists have lost their lives and property in an orgy of killings and destruction that is not only destroying livelihoods but also affecting national cohesion. Nigeria has about 19 million cattle much of it in the hands of pastoralists and we need to seek solutions to the

problem of pastoralism while resolving the problem of insecurity that has arisen.

### *The Problem*

Nigeria's population has grown from 33 million in 1950 to about 192.3 million today. This phenomenal increase of the population has put enormous pressure on land and water resources used by farmers and pastoralists. One of the outcomes of this process has been the blockage of transhumance routes and loss of grazing land to agricultural expansion and the increased southward movement of pastoralists has led to increased

conflict with local communities. This is particularly the case in the Middle Belt – notably in Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Nassarawa, Benue, Taraba, and Adamawa States. The conflicts primarily involve Fulani pastoralists and local farming communities. As violence between herdsmen and farmers has grown and developed into criminality and rural banditry, popular narratives in the form of hate speech have exacerbated the crisis.

### *Grazing Reserves As Possible Solution.*

It is clear that Nigeria and indeed Africa have to plan towards the

transformation of pastoralism into settled forms of animal husbandry. The establishment of grazing reserves provides the opportunity for practicing a more limited form of pastoralism and is therefore a pathway towards a more settled form of animal husbandry. Nigeria has a total of 417 grazing reserves out of which only about 113 have been gazetted. Whether we support or oppose pastoralism, it is clear that at least in the short and medium term, many herds must continue to practice seasonal migration between dry and wet season grazing areas. Ultimately, there is the need for permanent settlement of pastoralists.

#### **The Law, Politics and Pastoralism**

One of the greatest difficulties in addressing and resolving issues surrounding pastoralism is the politicisation of legal regimes and the blockages to the enactment of or implementation of laws that can redress the key challenges posed. In 2016 for example, a bill was proposed – "A Bill for an Act to establish Grazing Reserve in each of the states of the Federation Nigeria to improve agriculture yield from livestock farming and curb incessant conflicts between cattle farmers and crop farmers in Nigeria" was thrown out. There is an emerging conflict between the constitutional principle on free movement of persons and goods and laws emerging in some States restricting movement. Some States have enacted laws or are processing bills to prevent open grazing on their territory. There are four initiatives so far in Benue, Ekiti, Taraba and Edo States. Could such laws be effective in prohibiting pastoralism, which is practiced by millions of Nigerians?

#### **Developing a Comprehensive Policy Framework**

A new policy framework on the farmers-pastoralists crisis should be developed that is both comprehensive and mutually beneficial to both groups. An inter-ministerial committee should be constituted with experts and stakeholder membership to draw up

the framework. There must be a consultative process that listens to the concerns of all stakeholders in developing the new framework so that the outcome would have national ownership. Pastoralism is not sustainable in Nigeria over the long term due to high population growth rate, expansion of farming and loss of pasture and cattle routes. At the same time, pastoralism cannot end or be prohibited in the short term, as there are strong cultural and political economy reasons for its existence. The new policy should develop a plan for a transitional period during which new systems would be put in place. The framework should map out the duration, strategy and timelines for the transition plan. Finally, a comprehensive approach to address the growing crisis associated with violence affecting pastoralism and farmers in Nigeria is necessary.

#### **Introduction**

Pastoralists-farmers' conflicts in Nigeria have grown, spread and intensified over the past decade and today poses a threat to national survival. Thousands of people have been killed, communities have been destroyed and so many farmers and pastoralists have lost their lives and property in an orgy of killings and destruction that is not only

destroying livelihoods but also affecting national cohesion. Each day, we witness more reprisal killings that are simply making the possibilities of peaceful resolution more difficult. Rural banditry is becoming the norm in the Nigerian hinterland and has been transformed into a vicious criminal activity. The result is that the scale of loss of both herds and human life has been escalating and the victims are on all sides – subsistence farmers, commercial farmers and pastoralists. Nonetheless, we write this memo to say we cannot give up to hate and destruction, let's pause, reflect and seek a way out of the crisis.

Nigeria has a large pastoral population the logic of whose livelihood is often misunderstood. What is better understood is the culture of farming, which is rooted in a specific location and has activities that take place regularly. The assumption that pastoralism is in itself an irrational production system is far from the truth. Pastoralism is the main livestock production system in much of Africa where pastoralists live in semi arid zones. It is a historically developed strategy to cope with the uncertainties associated with climate change, build up of parasites and other related challenges. It is above all an



efficient way to produce livestock at relatively low prices through the use of non-commercial feeding stock. Historically, pastoralists have been able to meet the meat demand in West Africa with a relatively high level of efficiency without government subsidy for generations.

Different methods through the use of farm residue and open range grazing has allowed this trend to flourish. Nigeria has a landmass of 98.3 million hectares, 82 million hectares of arable land of which about 34 million hectares are currently under cultivation. In crop farming, human beings only directly utilize about a quarter of the total biomass. The other three quarters is in the form of crop residue and low quality crop, which is not directly useful to people. It is this residue that cattle (ruminants) convert into meat and milk. In addition to this, cattle also utilize grasses on fallow lands, non-arable poor quality lands, open ranges and fadama in the same manner. Pastoralists move their animals to these locations to access these opportunities. This system of production is breaking down today as violent conflicts between pastoralists and farmers have arisen and created a major national crisis.

### **The Problem**

Nigeria's population has grown from 33 million in 1950 to about 192.3 million today. The United Nations recently projected more growth in terms of population in the coming years, 364 million in 2030 and 480 million in 2050 respectively. This phenomenal increase of the population has put enormous pressure on land and water resources used by farmers and pastoralists. Specifically, the demographic increase has led to an expansion in cultivated farmland and a reduction in available grazing land for pastoralists that is characterised by competition over dwindling resources. In the far north, the impact of desertification as well as the crisis of energy, which has resulted in deforestation, coupled with climatic uncertainty and lower rainfall have made it more difficult to sustain increasing populations,



pushing many farmers and pastoralists with livestock southwards. This has happened gradually over a period of decades – with an apparent increase over the past decade – and has added to pressure on land and water in central and southern Nigeria.

One of the outcomes of this process has been the blockage of transhumance routes and loss of grazing land to agricultural expansion and the increased southward movement of pastoralists has led to increased conflict with local communities. This is particularly the case in the Middle Belt – notably in Plateau, Kaduna, Niger, Nassarawa, Benue, Taraba, and Adamawa States. The conflicts often have localised dynamics, but primarily involve Fulani pastoralists and local farming communities.

The Nigerian state has a relatively weak rural presence and has neglected the agrarian sector since the 1970s, when oil revenues began to dominate the economy. There have been few improvements in agricultural productivity and livestock production as a result of the dependence on oil revenues, which have not been reinvested in productive economic activities. State response in the context of the lingering conflicts between farmers

and pastoralists has been both ad hoc and reactive, with no concrete and sustainable strategies for conflict management and peace building beyond the deployment of security or establishment of commissions of inquiries. One of the key pathways here is for the state to be more proactive in its responses by putting in place mechanisms that are institutionalised and sustainable both at the local and state levels.

As violence between herdsmen and farmers has grown and developed into criminality and rural banditry, popular narratives creating meaning, context and (mis) understandings have been emerging. The narratives emerging on rural banditry in the media and in popular discourse are becoming part of the drivers for expanding conflicts in the country. The protagonists in this saga are often presented as being nomadic Fulani cattle herders, who are mostly Muslims, and sedentary farmer communities of several other ethnic extractions, who are often, but not always non-Muslims. These two distinct groups are usually depicted as perpetrators and victims, respectively. Perspectives of the social, religious and ethnic characteristics of these rural communities are framed into

expansive essentialist discourses that actively breed and sustain suspicion and distrust. The result is negative stereotyping between “the one” and “the other” that lead further to ethnic and religious bigotry which fuels the hate process, culminating in further chains of attacks and counter or revenge attacks being exchanged between these different groups. Nigeria urgently needs to find pathways to get out of the crisis and one approach may be the development of grazing reserves for pastoralists.

### **Grazing Reserves As Possible Solution**

It is clear that Nigeria and indeed Africa have to plan towards the transformation of pastoralism into settled forms of animal husbandry. The establishment of grazing reserves provides the opportunity for practicing a more limited form of pastoralism and is therefore a pathway towards a more settled form of animal husbandry. Grazing reserves are areas of land demarcated, set aside and reserved for exclusive or semi-exclusive use by pastoralists. Currently, Nigeria has a total of 417 grazing reserves all over the country, out of which only about 113 have been gazetted. There are

many problems facing the implementation of the provisions of the 1965 Grazing Reserve Law and the management of the established grazing reserves. First, most of the grazing reserves were established by the then Northern Regional Government. Since the 1970's subsequent military and civilian governments have in effect abandoned the policy of establishing and developing grazing reserves. Secondly, State governments have not been diligent in sustaining previous policies and have not surveyed and gazetted most of the designated grazing reserves. Indeed, only 113 (about 27%) of the 417 proposed grazing reserves have been gazetted.

Whether we support or oppose pastoralism, it is clear that at least in the short and medium term, many herds must continue to practice seasonal migration between dry and wet season grazing areas, incorporating past harvest grazing farmland in the highly developed and ecologically sound pattern of transhumance evolved by the pastoralist over the centuries. This is an important point to make at this point when many political actors think it is possible to simply and abruptly ban open grazing. There is

indeed, the need for permanent settlement of pastoralists both in the far north and semi humid zone of the middle belt. It is important to focus on the development of grazing reserves as part of the solution.

### **The Law, Politics and Pastoralism**

One of the greatest difficulties in addressing and resolving issues surrounding pastoralism is the politicisation of legal regimes and the blockages to the enactment of or implementation of laws that can redress the key challenges posed. In 2016 for example, a bill was proposed – “A Bill for an Act to establish Grazing Reserve in each of the states of the Federation Nigeria to improve agriculture yield from livestock farming and curb incessant conflicts between cattle farmers and crop farmers in Nigeria.” The National Assembly on the basis that the Bill appeared to be seeking to favour one particular profession carried out by mainly one ethnic group, the Fulani, threw it out. The problem is that if we cannot have grazing reserves and if pastoralists cannot move, how do we expect the 19 million cattle grazing in the country to survive and how do we protect our Constitutional principle of free movement.



### **Free Movement and Restrictions to Transhumance**

There is an emerging conflict between the constitutional principle on free movement of persons and goods and laws emerging in some States restricting movement. In Section 41(1) of the Nigerian Constitution, it is stated that:

"Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereby or exit therefrom."

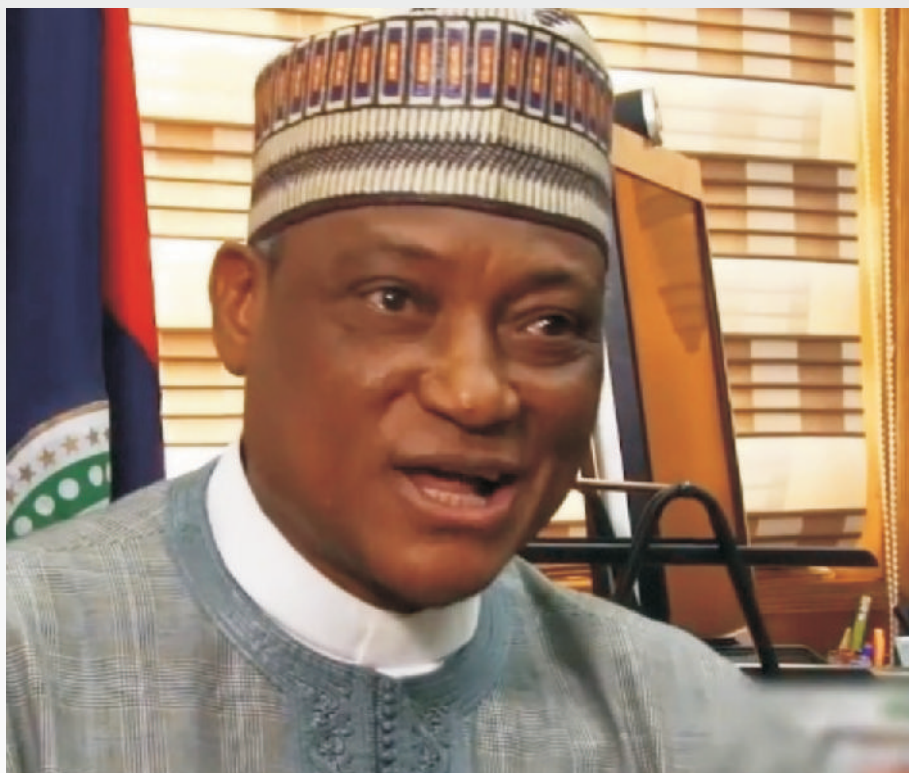
Some States have enacted laws or are processing bills to prevent open grazing on their territory. There are four initiatives so far:

#### **Ekiti state: Prohibition of Cattle and Other Ruminants Grazing in Ekiti, 2016.**

Taraba state: Anti-Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Bill 2017. 'A bill for a law to prohibit open rearing and grazing of livestock and provide for the establishment of ranches and the Taraba State livestock and ranches administration and control committee and for others connected thereto 2017'.

Edo State Bill: A Bill for A Law to Establish the Edo State Control of Nomadic Cattle Rearing/Grazing Law and for Other Purposes. Benue State Law: A Law to Prohibit Open Rearing and Grazing of Livestock and Provide for the Establishment of Ranches and Livestock Administration, Regulation and Control and for Other Matters Connected Therewith, 2017.

It is worthwhile posing the question whether laws can be effective in prohibiting pastoralism, which is practiced by millions of Nigerians. As some of the laws have already been passed, they would have to be tested in court. It is important to stress however that the Constitution guarantees free movement of persons and goods across Nigeria and no State government can withdraw constitutionally entrenched rights. Secondly, following a legislation by the Ogun State Government and the



Supreme Court Judgment on the matter cited as "A.G. OGUN STATE V. ALHAJA AYINKE ABERUAGBA (1985) 1 NWLR PG. 395" States were barred from interfering with inter-state commerce and the free movement of goods and services. At that time, Ogun State had tried to control and tax goods entering from other States and the Supreme Court ruled that it would be chaotic if States enacted any laws they

please restricting movement of goods and services in the Federation. It was this judgment that led to the introduction of value added tax (VAT) as a State tax that is determined at the national level and collected by the Federal Government, which takes an administrative fee and redistributes the proceeds back to the States. The key issue however is that pastoralism has developed into a national crisis that is leading to increased violence



so a legal approach alone cannot resolve the issue. It is therefore important to negotiate a national policy framework that would protect the interests of both farmers and herders. The Federal Government should take the initiative of negotiating a consensual policy framework that would address the issues.

### **Developing a Comprehensive Policy Framework**

Livestock production in Nigeria is in existential crisis and the country lacks a cohesive and comprehensive policy framework for livestock development and regulation in Nigeria. The defunct Northern Grazing Reserve Law has not been updated, the Land Use Act of 1978 is dysfunctional, emerging state grazing reserve laws, the ECOWAS Transhumance Protocol and other related international instruments have to be updated and streamlined.

### **Recommendation**

Piecemeal of sectorial approach to livestock development will not suffice. A new policy framework should be developed that is both comprehensive and must be mutually beneficial to pastoralists and farmers. Any policy that does not take into consideration the welfare of both sides will most likely fail or meet resistance by either side. An inter-ministerial committee should be constituted with experts and stakeholder membership to draw up the framework. There must be a consultative process that listens to the concerns of all stakeholders in developing the new framework so that the outcome would have national ownership.

### **The Future of Pastoralism and Animal Husbandry**

Pastoralism is not sustainable in Nigeria over the long term due to high population growth rate, expansion of farming and loss of pasture and cattle routes. At the same time, pastoralism cannot end of be prohibited in the short term as there are strong cultural and political economy reasons for its existence. It is important therefore to develop a plan for a transitional period during which new systems



would be put in place.

### **Recommendations**

Experts should be assembled to map out the duration, strategy and timelines for the transition plan. As there is no miracle model for solving the problems, the plan should simultaneously pursue a number of models including:

Ranching can be pursued as one of the possible models in areas with lower population densities in the North East (Sambisa Game Reserve in Borno State) and North West (Gidan Jaja Grazing Reserve in Zamfara State);

Semi-intensive systems of animal husbandry should be pursued accompanied with requisite investment in infrastructure, training, extension, marketing and animal

health service delivery in conjuncture with the private sector;

The traditional form of pastoralism should continue for a period to be agreed upon with some improvements (in the form of coordinated mobility between wet and dry season grazing areas and effective management of farmers and pastoralists relations); Use of and development of grazing reserves to target pastoralists with large stocks where skills for pasture production, large milk production, etc can be promoted.

Development of integrated crop-livestock systems with farmers and pastoralists being encouraged to keep some animals in their farms. In order to meet the feeding needs of herds, alternative low water and



drought resistant grasses should be produced, in response to the impact of desertification on fodder production.

### **Modernization of Livestock**

Nigeria has one of the lowest productivity levels of livestock in the world. It is for this reason that Nigeria imports very large quantities of milk, fish and chicken. The Nigerian herd requires sustained efforts at quality development based on a modernisation strategy that would transform the industry and move the country towards the objective of self-reliance.

### **Recommendations**

The programme for the country's transition to modern forms of animal husbandry must be accelerated and funded. The national stock would require rapid improvement and modernisation to meet market demands for meat, milk, hides and other products from the industry:

Commercial ranches should be established in some of the sparsely populated zones in the North East and North West;

The business community should be encouraged through policy measures to invest in the establishment of modern dairy farms;

Sensitisation programmes should be undertaken on the values of livestock improvement and breeding centres for the production of quality heifers to improve pastoral stock should be developed all over the country.



Efforts should be made towards modelling best practices of pastoral-farmer relations as evident in countries such as Chad, Ethiopia and Niger, where the existence of institutionalised and functional mechanisms for pre-empting and resolving conflicts between farmers and pastoralists enable them to live in peace.

### **Growing Conflicts and Imperative of Peace Building**

Over the past decade, there has been a dramatic explosion of violent conflicts associated with the deteriorating relationship between farmers and herders, cattle rustling and rural banditry in Nigeria. There is also limited knowledge about who the perpetrators are and their motives.

### **Recommendations**

A comprehensive approach to necessary to address the growing crisis associated with violence

affecting pastoralism and farmers in Nigeria. The Federal Government should commission a large-scale research endeavour to carry out in-depth study to understand the reasons for the escalation of violence, key actors, motivations and agency fuelling the crisis.

The Boko Haram Insurgency Specific measures are required to address the Boko Haram insurgency North Eastern States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe, which have close to 40% of the total cattle, sheep and goats of the National herd. These States also have the highest number of grazing reserves 255 or 61% of the 415 nationally identified grazing reserves. There are also many kilometres of stock routes interconnecting these reserves. The highest number of transhumance and trade cattle, sheep and goats from ECOWAS countries, Chad, Cameroun, Central African Republic and other countries, come into Nigeria on North Eastern International Transhumance Route.

### **Recommendations**

In addition to the search for improving security in the zone through the use of security forces and mobilizing the civil population, some policy decisions are required. The military should be encouraged to pursue the path of ranching as it has already decided to. The Sambisa Grazing Reserve (4800 ha) is an ideal and symbolic place to take-off by establishing a ranch run by the military. It would significantly





improve the security situation in the zone and encourage cooperation between pastoralists and the military. In the North West, the military should also be encouraged to create ranches in the Gidan Jaja Grazing Reserve (565,000 ha) for the same purpose of improving security and cooperation with pastoralists.

#### **Growth of Hate and Dangerous Speech**

Hate speech has now become a generator and accelerator of violent conflicts and the phenomenon of fake news is worsening its negative impact.

#### **Recommendations**

There is need for the development of a media code to be used in sensitizing the media on the relevant international standards on reporting issues of conflict and banditry. This process should involve conflict sensitivity and safety training and it should be based on very strict journalistic standards. Appropriate laws and regulations should be developed at both the federal and state levels towards ensuring that the margin of what is seen, as “free

speech” in the media will be effectively regulated.

#### **Breakdown of Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms**

One of the most important dimensions of the growing conflicts between pastoralists and farmers has been the breakdown of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. In the past, when conflicts arise, they were settled by village heads and ardos, Fulani community leaders and if the need for payment of compensation arises, there were traditional systems and knowledge of how to assess damage done and the amount necessary to compensate for the damage and not profiteering. What we see today as a breakdown of traditional authority in the context of conflict management is a consequence of the take over of their powers by the state at the federal, state and local government levels, through the ad hoc measures that are often time wasting and whose recommendations are not implemented.

#### **Recommendations**

Cattle routes should be restored and significant investment made in restoring traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. As massive corruption has accompanied the increased presence of the police and courts in matters affecting farmers and herders, there should be advocacy and administrative guidance to return to traditional methods of conflict resolution. There should be capacity development of farmers and herders associations so that they play a more positive role in the process.

#### **The Environmental and Climate Smart Pastoralism**

Livestock produce some greenhouse emissions and pollutants. These can however be mitigated and even reversed by the sustainability of the methods that are used. On the whole, pastoralism is the only renewable non-extractive use of Ryland resources and it plays an essential role in maintaining soil and water quality. In addition, it slows down the loss of biodiversity.

#### **Recommendations**

Intensive capacity building is required in promoting and

advocating for climate smart approaches to animal husbandry including the prevention of overgrazing, promoting integration of grazing and manure provision for farms and coordinated movement between ecological zones in the dry and wet seasons.

#### **Legislative Solutions**

There are discordant laws and regulations that legislate livestock production and pastoralism at the regional, national and state levels. Some of the newly emerging laws such as the “anti-grazing” state laws appear to contradict the free movement principle enshrined in the Constitution.

#### **Recommendations**

A harmonization of relevant laws and policies that governs grazing reserves. Specifically, the 1965 Grazing Reserve Law can be revived based on section 315 of the 1999 constitution in the 19 northern states.

This should be complemented with a national review and protection of traditional stock routes; Regional instruments governing pastoralism should be protected and above all domesticated; In addition to the laws, consultative

process between farming and pastoral communities are required to review the effect of statutes and regulations on routine practices of animal husbandry.

#### **Expanding Grazing Reserves**

The Nigerian livestock industry is largely dependent on natural vegetation. Although there is a vast hectrage of natural vegetation in the country they are not maximally utilized due to poor planning and conflicting government policies. It was estimated that there are over 40 million hectares of grazing land in Nigeria, out of which only 3 million hectares are specifically tagged as grazing reserves.

#### **Recommendations**

The idea to encourage nomads to settle was first made in 1942 but never implemented. A clear policy of land grant to pastoralists should be developed and implemented by state governments.

#### **Digital Tracking of Cattle**

The Katsina State Government has just launched a digital tracking system for cattle in the State. It involves inserting microchips in the animals skin and tracking them with mobile phones. The use of such technologies could help address the

problem of cattle rustling and violence that have become so rampant. Such initiatives should be supported.

#### **The Construction of Positive Narratives**

The atmosphere between farming and pastoral communities is extremely bitter and negative. Support should be provided for creative writers in Nollywood, Kannywood, radio and television to create new narratives showing how the interaction between the two groups could be peaceful and mutually beneficial. Above all, the National Orientation Agency (NOA), as an institution with presence across the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the country, should provide these critical services.

#### **Signed by**

Professor Ibrahim Gambari  
General Martin Luther Agwai (Rtd)  
Professor Jibrin Ibrahim  
Professor Attahiru Jega  
Dr. Chris Kwaja  
Ambassador Fatima Balla  
Dr. Nguyan Fesse  
Mrs. Aisha Muhammed – Oyeboode  
Mallam Y. Z. Ya'u



# PORT HARCOURT POLO TOURNAMENT

*The Biggest And The Best*

*By Vincent Egunyanga*



## Winners Of TY Danjuma Cup, Abuja Rubicon

**T**he much talked about Port Harcourt International Polo Tournament has ended in Port Harcourt the Rivers State capital with lots of memories that will linger for a long time.

The Tournament itself was rated the biggest and the best POLO Tournament in the country in recent times and some of the players attested to this.

MusadiqBala who played for Kano Bompai said that was the first time he will come to Port Harcourt but will certainly not be his last.

Different trophies were won with the biggest cup of the Tournament, TY Danjumacup won by ABUJA RUBICON.

Other winners include GOV'S CUP

won by ALMAT of Abuja, SENATOR EWT DIFFA CUP won by BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL.

DIETTE SPIFF CUP won by KADUNA TILA FARMS while OB LULU BRIGGS CUP was won by KADUNA TRAPCO. SWISS HOTEL defeated OLD MUTUAL to win the ACCESS BANK CUP.

The teams that participated in the tournament were.

PENGUIN INN (BEGINNERS1), BEST WESTERN (BEGINNERS2), PH STRATA BASE, PH CASSECTRIC, PH PLAY HOUSE, PH VANDFINA, PH BOB MANUEL INDUSTRIES, PH ELSHCON,

KD TILLA FARMS, PH OIL FLOW, KD IYATU FARM, KN BOMPAI, KD TRAPCO, IBADAN JERICO. BOB MANUEL CONSTRUCTION, LG AGAD, LG A PLUS, ABUJA RUBICON, PH WILTEN AVAITION, PH RISAA, PH DAEWOO, ABUJA ALMAT, LAGOS IKOYI, KF PONIES, DE EDGE BEVERLY HILLS, GOLDEN TULIP, ACQUA SHIELD, OLD MUTUAL INSURANCE, SWISS HOTEL among others.

The first Military Governor of old Rivers State and member, Board of Trustees of Port Harcourt Polo Club, His Royal Majesty King DietteSpiff lauded

the state government for its long term support for the game of kings.

He stated that there was much cherished determination and willingness by Governor Nyesom Wike and the State Government to invest more in Polo game to encourage youth's participation in the noble game of polo and sports generally.

He urged the state government to continue giving priority toward promoting grassroots sports and empowerment of youths to turn them away from violence and other negative vices.

The royal father was impressed by turnout of polo buffs and youths that witnessed the event, insisting that the turnout showed that the youth were embracing peace and sports.

The Royal father who was delighted by the horsemanship and the skills of the upcoming Beginners in the Captain's Cup, congratulated the winners and all participating players for making the

Port Harcourt Polo festival such an exciting week of top class polo.

President of Port Harcourt Polo Club, Captain Iyene thanked the invited guests, Players and the surging crowd for being part of the fiesta, stated that the high profile event has impacted positively on the tourism drive of the Garden City and Rivers State generally

"I want to thank all our patrons and sponsors for making this event a huge success. I also want to specially thank our sports loving Governor Wike, Rivers State Government for their immense supports and members of the organizing committee who sacrificed their time and efforts for this grand even".

Tournament Manager and acting polo Captain, Victor Fingesi, who described the tournament as a huge success thanked all the players, the invited guests and the teeming polo buffs who arrived The Garden City in

their droves for the festival, for their supports in making the fiesta a memorable one.

"On behalf of the Tournament Committee and the club management, let me assure all who made this event the highlight of the king of games in Niger delta, that next year would be much bigger and more exciting." he enthused.

"We are also happy to say that we have used this polo tournament to let polo enthusiasts, Port Harcourt residents, the business communities and the entire citizens of the state, to know that we can host an international tournament of this nature," declared the former President of Port Harcourt Polo Club, Ibifiri Bobmanuel.

"Indeed we are impressed by the huge crowds that witness the tournament on a daily basis for the past seven days," he pointed out in his closing remarks.







*International guests at the tournament*



**GOLDEN TULIP TEAM** and **ACQUA SHIELD Team**



# RESTRUCTURING

**CHIEF OLU FALAE SPOKE THE MINDS OF HONEST AND PROGRESSIVE NIGERIANS - THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT RESTRUCTURING NIGERIA IS ALL ABOUT !**



*Chief Olu Falae*

**T**his beautiful piece by Chief Olu Falae is for those who pretend that they do not understand what restructuring is all about.

FOR THOSE STILL GREEKED BY THE TERM, THIS IS THE MEANING OF RESTRUCTURING AS CANVASSED BY SOUTHERN NIGERIA BY~Chief Olu Falae

You know I am a leader in the South West and at the National convention, I was elected as the leader of the Yoruba delegation. So, I am central to the Yoruba position. The Yoruba position is my position and it is the same position I canvassed in my book, 'The way forward for Nigeria' which I launched since 2005 in Lagos. What we mean by restructuring is going back to the Independence Constitution which our leaders negotiated with the British between 1957 and 1959. It was on that basis that the three regions agreed to go to Independence as one united country. So, it was a negotiated constitution. This is because, if the three regions were not able to agree, there would not have been one united independent Nigeria. But because the three regions at that time negotiated and agreed to package a constitution, that is why they agreed to go to Independence together. When the military came in 1966 and threw away the constitution, they threw away the negotiated agreement among the three regions, which was the foundation of a united Nigeria.

So, the military did not only throw away the constitution but a political consensus negotiated and agreed by our leaders of the three regions in those days. When we say restructuring now, we are saying let us go back substantially to that constitution which gave considerable autonomy to the regions. For example, each region at that time collected its revenue and contributed the agreed proportion to the centre. But when the military came, they turned it round and took everything to the centre. That could not have been accepted by Ahmadu Bello, Nnamdi Azikiwe or Obafemi Awolowo.

This constitution we are using was made by late Gen Sani Abacha and the

military; and Abacha came from only one part of Nigeria, so he wrote a constitution that favoured his own part of Nigeria. That is why I am saying, let us restructure and go back to what all of us agreed before. That is the meaning of restructuring. The regions used to be federating units, but in today's Nigeria, they would now be called federal regions because states have been created in the regions. So in the West, you now have federation of Yoruba states which would belong to the Nigerian union at the centre. So, it is not like the region of old with all the powers. No. It is now going to be a coordinator of the states in the zone. That is what we mean by restructuring. And the regions would have a considerable autonomy as they used to have. For example, for the younger people, they may not know that every region then had its own constitution.

There were four constitutions at independence –the Federal constitution, Western constitution, Eastern constitution and Northern constitution. That was how independent they were and every region had an ambassador in London. The ambassadors for the regions were called Agent General so that you do not confuse them with that of Nigeria then called High Commissioner. So, Nigeria had four ambassadors in London. The ambassador for Nigeria then called a High Commissioner was M.T Mbu. The ambassador for Eastern Nigeria then was Mr Jonah Chinyere Achara, Western Nigeria was Mr Omolodun and for Northern Nigeria, it was Alhaji Abdulmalik. There were four of them. That was the kind of arrangement we agreed to, but the military threw it away and gave us this over-centralised unitary constitution. So, we said this is not acceptable any more; we must go back to the negotiated constitution which gave considerable autonomy to the regions, so that they can compete in a healthy manner. For example, Chief Obafemi Awolowo wanted to introduce free education in the West and other regions said they could not afford it, but he went ahead to introduce it in the Western region. He said he wanted to pay a minimum of five shillings a day, while others were paying two and three shillings. He went ahead and passed the law, making five shillings the minimum wage in Western Nigeria.

There was no problem with that. In Western Nigeria, the constitution provided for a House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs. In Eastern Nigeria, there was no House of Chiefs because they did not think they needed one. There was no problem with that and that is the kind of Nigeria we negotiated in London, but that is different from what we have today. So, we are saying let us go back to that arrangement which all of us agreed at independence and not what Abacha imposed on us, which is very partial, unfair and one-sided. That is the meaning of restructuring; it is to restructure unfairness and give semi-autonomy to the federating units.

Chief Olu Falae is a leading Yoruba leader and was Head of the Southwest Delegation to the Jonathan National Constitutional Conference.

NB: PLEASE HELP TO SHARE THIS PIECE WIDELY. EVEN THE DEVILS MUST BE FORCED TO READ THIS PIECE. THIS IS THE ONLY REDEMPTIVE WAY OUT FOR NIGERIA.

# STATE OF THE NIGERIAN NATION: BISHOP KUKAH BLOWS HOT AGAIN



**Bishop Kukah**

Anyone who thinks the Biafra agitation is a nuisance and irritating should know that it is not the collective aspiration of all Igbos but especially that no one has the monopoly of nuisance. Nuisance begets nuisance. When you stay with potash loaders you too will share in their dusty hair. It is in this country that the same standards are not held against all. Some can get away with anything but others cannot get away with something. I shudder at those who blame the agitators for agitating. Everyone knows what is good for them. If you don't know what is good for you then shut up and don't obstruct those who know what is good for them.

If I have my way I will cease to be a Nigerian because there is no sense of nationhood. Those who have leverage over others use it to oppress them. Otherwise how can you explain the audacious impunity of a certain section of this country. They can intimidate everybody even a sitting president and get away with it. When GEJ was president he was literally harassed by this same people until they sent him packing and we thought they will be appeased. But alas we were mistaken!

Now how do I love a country where a murderous terrorist group like the herdsmen acclaimed even internationally as deadly is

being openly defended by a govt. that wants my loyalty. Do you know as I make this comment, a first class Chief of Bokkos LGA in plateau state was murdered by a certain group of Fulanis almost a year now and no one has been arrested not to talk of prosecution; there are many villagers in my parish who cannot go to farm again except to farm their backyard because their farms have been forcefully annexed by their Fulani murderers; that in Bokkos a wife and a daughter can be taken away right before her husband or father and be repeatedly raped then released at the convenience of the barbaric Fulani tribesmen and no one dares talk; police will advise you to go and settle the matter through dialogue? I want independence from a country where terrorists are embraced and agitators are terrorized.

At the slightest excitement Hausa or Fulani man can kill you and get away with it; it has happened and continues to happen but when you gear up to defend yourself because security will not, then you are caught by the same security who will lecture you on how to be peaceful and law abiding. This country will end unless there is justice for all. Rubbish! I hate the lie that Nigeria is. Let's say the truth and die but it is what will set us free. Nigeria is negotiable to me the oppressed even if it's not to the oppressor and that is normal. "The only right Nigerians concede to you is the right to agree with them" - Bishop Kukah

# Is 2019 The Year That Ends Nigeria's Amalgamation ?

***By Odilim Enwegbara***

**T**he political house of our renowned politician, Senator Ahmed Tinubu is now divided with powerful members such as Falana and Soyinka fiercely opposed to Buhari. The fact that Obasanjo is fiercely against Buhari has further compounded the situation.

Afenifere is also spitting fire, insisting that unless Nigeria is immediately restructured and done so before the 2019 election, South West will never participate in the 2019 elections, particularly the presidential election.

They argue that South West is "irrevocably committed to a fundamental restructuring or else their option to exercise self-determination as guaranteed by the UN Charter as it insists on the respect for the inalienable right to peoples of the world should be rigorously pursued.

That's why the call for restructuring should be taken very seriously by the North. Unless, and only unless, our Northern brothers and sisters want to see Nigeria precipitate into pieces of nations.

That's serious because should South West refuse to participate in the next presidential election, it will easy lead to South East, South South, and possibly many Middle Belt states such as Benue, Plateau, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, Taraba, Southern Kaduna, and Nassarawa, joining their Southern brothers and sisters in saying no restructuring no presidential election and no

more union. What this triggers is doom for this physically and mentally challenged giant of Africa.

Remember how it all started in the early 1960s when Western Region refused the imposition of Akintola as the Premier of Western Region by the Tafawa Balewa-led Federal Government.

As that refusal triggered confusion with Federal intervention in the region worsened the legitimacy of the federal and regional governments, military takeover became inevitable.

While this cannot happen in 2019, no doubt the refusal of more than half of the 36 states will render the presidential election illegitimate with whoever is declared winner illegitimately ruling less than half of the country.

Let us now paint the possible picture here. What if the South West appoints Ahmed Tinubu the South Western President? What if in reaction, South East appoints Nnia Nwodo its own President, South South installs former President Jonathan their own legitimate President, while whole of Middle Belt choosing among Professor Jerry Gana, Senator David Mark and Saraki as the recognized president.

Should Buhari and his North Western and partly North Eastern backers go to war to stop these regional governments from being formed?

That is truly where the real problem that would lead to Nigeria's dismemberment begins. Once each installs their presidents it becomes presidents talking to presidents. And we all know that no one installed a president would like to just give it up.

Should that lead to military intervention? The reason such intervention might worsen the situation is if the head of that military come from the same Northern part of the country President Buhari is from.

It's possible that in reaction, each of these new regions may have their own high ranking military officer too to take them over. From civilian to civilian confrontation, come military to military confrontations.

But is 2019 Nigerian scenario not different from what we had 1966? That is why such a military adventure will be repelled by these regional presidents who would ask the UN to intervene or else they will defend themselves.

Should the use of force ever happen and possibly trigger an unprecedented reactions and counter-reactions, transforming these regional governments into sovereign nation-states.

If this happens without any war, then it becomes the final end of the 1914 amalgamation. Because South West remains the most prosperous new nation state out of Nigeria, they will not allow their return to the Nigeria of the 1914.

# GOVERNOR ROCHAS OKOROCHA SAYS IT HAS BEEN A BATTLE BETWEEN HIM & THOSE WHO KEPT THE STATE IN BONDAGE



Governor Rochas Okorocha with the wife, Nneoma Nkechi Okorocha (1<sup>st</sup> right), Secretary to the State Government, Sir George Eche (1<sup>st</sup> left), former Nigeria Ambassador to Singapore, Mrs. Nonye Ragis (2<sup>nd</sup> left), former Secretary to the State Government, Sir Jude Ejiogu (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Chief Chidi Idiga (4<sup>th</sup> left) and others at the Special Church Service to mark the celebration of Imo at 42 held at the Victory Chapel Government House Owerri on Sunday, February 4, 2018.

**G**overnor Rochas Okorocha says it has been a battle between him and those who had held the State and her people in bondage before his emergence as the governor of the State in 2011, adding that his determination to free the State and the Citizenry from the bondage attracted enmity for him from those who had held the State down.

Governor Okorocha spoke at a Special Church Service to mark Imo at 42, held at the Victory Chapel Government House Owerri on Sunday, February 4, 2018, Stating that his coming as governor was to rescue the State and the people including their mindset.

He said "Today, I'm happy as I stand before you as governor of Imo State. This is an honour I can never take for granted. Before my advent, I have always nursed it in my mind that I would one day become the governor of this State. After my first attempt in 1999, I decided that the place is not meant for me. But on the other hand, I discovered that Imo State was in bondage

and in the hands of very few. That was the reason I decided to condescend from my presidential ambition to come and rescue this State".

He added "But my coming to rescue Imo was not just the people alone and the state of affairs, but the most important rescue was the mindset of the people. Hence, the team, Rescue Mission. It has been a battle not between me and the citizens of the state, but a battle between me and those who kept the state in bondage".

His words "The beginning of changing the mindset of the people was the composition of the state anthem, Imo my state, great state my state. For the first time, a people owned their state. A sense of direction was established and I most cherish this anthem when Primary School pupils recite it".

The governor stated "Today, I have set standard for the world to see. Henceforth, any governor that will not meet the standard set by the Rescue Mission Administration or aim to exceed our successes is bound to be unpopular and a

failed government".

He continued "Before, people used to see the governor as the owner of the state until the Rescue Mission Administration came and made the people to know that the state belongs to them Governor as a nomenclature is just an ordinary office by which the state is run. Please, like the preacher said, according to Psalm 77:11 where he drew his message, let us learn to remember and appreciate our state,

"I urge you to look at the successes and developmental strides and the new look of the state and glorify God, it is not me. Subtract Rochas from the State and reflect on the Imo State of today and that of the administrations before me, we have reasons to celebrate after so many verifiable infrastructures spotting every 5km around the state,

"I urge you to love your state and be proud of it. Carry your state to lofty heights wherever you go so that God will be glorified for the things he has done. Imo has been rescued" he stated.



## ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS YOUTH VIGILANTE

JANUARY 24, 2018

The National Chairman  
All Progressives Congress (APC)  
Abuja, Nigeria

His Excellency, Chief John Odigie-Oyegun,

### PETITION AGAINST THE ARBITRARY AND UNDEMOCRATIC ACTIONS OF THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC) IN EDO STATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MR. ADAMS ALIYU OSHIOMHOLE

On behalf of concerned leaders and members of our party in Edo State, we are using this medium to bring to your notice the arrest, detention and suffocation of our party by the immediate past governor, Mr. Adams Oshiomhole to the consternation of every well-meaning party loyalist.

We have watched helplessly as Mr. Oshiomhole and his handpicked loyalists in the state executive have continued to violate the constitution of the All Progressives Party with reckless impunity and without restraint. The ex-governor has constituted himself into the 'Provisional Ruling Council' of our great party. This dictatorial attitude has placed party members on the edge and in a state of uneasiness.

Acting against the acceptable democratic norms of the All Progressives Congress, Mr. Oshiomhole stampeded the State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki to install him illegally as leader of the caucus in the state. This state of affair has resulted to the slippery situation that has created an air of uncertainty across the state. We reject the situation where Mr. Oshiomhole handpick the leaders that should attend stakeholders meetings that regrettably hold in his home in Benin City or Iyamho – his country home.

Perhaps most worrisome is the undemocratic habit that has pervaded the party elective process since the primary election for the 2016 governorship ticket in Edo State. Sadly, the division created by that primary has widened more with the divisive attitude of Mr. Oshiomhole, a situation that has led to the illegal suspension, expulsion, replacement of duly elected party executives without recourse to the APC Constitution or seeks the ratification of NEC.

His Excellency, permit us to urgently bring to your notice, the unholy and unacceptable handpicking of APC candidates for the March 3, 2018 Local Government Council Election in the state. Several promising and loyal party members – some of whom parades sterling technical and academic qualities were stampeded out of the race with threats of suspension of anyone that demanded for open primaries and refused to accept Mr. Oshiomhole's consensus candidates.

The recent 'closed primaries' for the local government election, has created disaffection amongst party members and if steps are not taken to urgently call Mr. Oshiomhole to order, the outcome and tension created by his self-imposition as 'Caucus Leader' may cause President Mohammed Buhari's victory in Edo State. As dedicated leaders and members of our party, let us remind His Excellency and other NEC

members that the prevailing aching and mute environment preceded the last presidential election in the state and this led to the

defeat of APC by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)

in Edo State by a ratio of 52% to 48%. As it were then, many of our leaders and members worked for the victory of Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. We fear to say that unless His Excellency and the NEC calls Mr. Oshiomhole to order, he may be knowingly working for the victory of the opposition as demonstrated in the last presidential election.

More importantly His Excellency, we wish to bring to the attention of Mr. President that part of the reason for the dissenting voices against his re-election by Edo people is because of the role he played in the commissioning of the phantom Central Hospital in Benin City, which has remained shut for over one year. Edo people are also angry that Mr. President has prevented the EFCC from investigating the corruption petition sent by Comrade Maxist Kola Edokpayi and Bishop (Dr.) Osadolor Ochei, since October 28, 2016.

Arising from the above anti-democratic practices of Mr. Adams Oshiomhole and the negative impact on the unity of our party in the state, we demand the following action to be taken by the APC NEC immediately. Let us state unequivocally that our group, along with other progressive movement within the party in Edo State will deploy every legal means – including legal and mass protest to achieve sanctity, sanity and democratic practices in Edo State APC.

For the avoidance of doubt, these are our demands:

1. Immediate commencement of investigation by EFCC on the corruption petition sent by Comrade Kola and Bishop Osadolor
2. Rejection/denouncement of Mr. Oshiomhole as the APC Caucus Leader in Edo State
3. Cancellation of the January 24, 2018 coerced and masterminded affirmative primaries, which was a product of imposition of candidates by Mr. Oshiomhole
4. Withdrawal/compilation of new names for the Federal Boards that were initially announced by the Presidency
5. Suspension of the planned Congresses in Edo State until a proper investigation is carried out on the allegation of mutilation of membership registers by agents loyal to Mr. Oshiomhole
6. Re-instatement of elected executive members from ward to state level that were illegally removed from their offices on trump up charges on the order of Mr. Oshiomhole
7. A valid promise by President Mohammed Buhari that Oshiomhole will not be considered for any position in his cabinet or in his campaign offices.

In conclusion, we employ His Excellency to advise PMB on the urgent need to investigate an allegation that Mr. Oshiomhole may have negotiated to work with opposing forces in the next presidential election.

This petition serves as our 14 DAYS Notice to the NEC on our aforementioned planned Mass Action. We shall avail ourselves the window of self-help if no help comes the way of APC members in Edo State at the expiration of this notice.

Long Live Edo State  
Long Live All Progressive Congress, APC  
Long Live Nigeria

**DESTINY OVIASU, JP**  
**MONDAY**

*Leader, Edo South*

**ABU UMORU**

*Leader, Edo North*

**ODIANOSEN**

*Leader, Edo Central*

# Okowa Re-award Asaba Int'l Airport To Setraco, Says Project To Be Ready In Four Months

**D**elta State Governor, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa has disclosed that the controversial Asaba International Airport project has been re-awarded to Setraco Nigeria Limited and the project will be completed in the next four months.

The governor disclosed this at Kwale during a meeting of members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Delta North Senatorial District.

According to the Governor, his administration is committed to delivering dividends of democracy to Deltans, noting that the Asaba International Airport is very important to the socio-economic development of Delta State and neighboring states.

"I want to tell you that the contract for the construction of the Asaba Airport project has been awarded to Setraco; Setraco is a reputable

company and in the last one week a lot of construction work has been witnessed in the airport," he said.

"The company have a mandate of four months to deliver the project; the amount that Setraco quoted for them to deliver the job was lesser than the amount the contract was awarded the former contractor."

The Governor who scored his administration high in project delivery, disclosed that his administration has mapped out a holistic programme to tackle flood in Asaba and Okpanam.

He stated that while work has commenced in the construction of storm drains to check flood at the Direct Labour, Jesus Saves Roads, contract has also, been awarded for the construction of drains to check flooding of the Delta broadcasting Service, Mariam Babangida Way and Junior Staff quarters areas of the state capital while the contract to check flood water

on Okpanam road will soon be awarded.

While noting that the construction of a multi-billion naira secretariat complex will check accommodation problems of Ministries, Department and Agencies, Governor Okowa thanked Deltans for their continual support.



## FG out soon with blue Economy Policy

### — NIMASA DG

**T**he Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Dakuku Peterside has said that the Federal Ministry of Transportation will soon unveil a policy that will make it possible for Nigerians to avail themselves of the potentials of the Blue Economy as well as develop the sector for the benefit of the larger economy.

He made this revelation at a parley NIMASA organized for journalists saying that the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi is passionate about the development of the Blue economy and was working assiduously on having a policy for the sector.

According to him, the Federal Government's inability to enunciate a policy for the sector all the while, the lack of knowledge about the potentials of the blue economy and the dearth of investments in it by the private sector have all combined to affect its development.

Peterside said the fact that the relevant bodies which would have assisted at ensuring that the potentials of the Blue economy are exploited to the benefit of the maritime sector and the economy are under

different ministries other than the Transportation sector have also affected its development.

The NIMASA DG pointed out that for instance the Department of Fisheries which should have fared better in government efforts at developing the Blue Economy if it were to be under the Ministry of Transportation is rather under the Ministry of Agriculture.

He however urged the media to endeavour to focus its attention on the reportage of the Blue Economy with a view to educating the public on the potentials of that sector so that those benefits would be annexed for the interest of the larger economy.

Peterside corroborated Mr Sam Omatseye's view in a paper the latter delivered earlier titled 'the role of journalists in a Blue Economy' to the effect that the press needs education on the Blue Economy to have capacity to adequately report and educate the public on the sector.

The NIMASA Director General also said that while The Managing Director of This day Newspapers, Mr Eniola Bello who was a discussant at the parley was also right in his

view to the effect that the media needs support from government agencies in terms of advert among others to have adequate resources to report the blue economy, he however said that funding limitations has always been a problem on the part of the agencies.

Peterside disclosed that in as much as NIMASA was ready to support the media to grow, it could only do this legally and within the civil service rules and regulations without of course engaging in matters that are illegal or unlawful.

He however said that NIMASA will continue to explore ways and manners that conform with rules of the public service to equip the media practitioners in terms of capacity to properly cover the activities of the Blue Economy and educate the public on them for the growth and development of the economy.

The World Bank had defined the Blue Economy as the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihood and jobs and ocean ecosystem health. It said the Blue economy encompasses renewable energy, maritime transport, fisheries, waste management, tourism and climate change among others.

# CLASH OF THE TITANS IN IMO

**Gov Okorocha is reckless – Prof Maurice Iwu**

**You have lost the respect I have for you – Gov Okorocha replies**



Governor Owelle Rochas Okorocha



Professor Maurice Iwu, former INEC Chairman

**T**he former Chairman of The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu has described Imo state Governor Owelle Rochas Okorocha as a reckless governor.

The former INEC boss disclosed this to NEWSPLATFORM in an interview to respond to the recent face off between his group IMO Economic Development Initiative (IEDI). and the state Government.

THE Imo Economic Development Initiative during a courtesy visit to governor Rochas Okorocha of Imo state called for a rapid Economic Development of the state.

The IEDI is a private initiative set up to boost human capacity development, Wealth creation and poverty alleviation in the state.

Speaking at the event Chairman of the group Prof Maurice Iwu said the driving force behind the establishment

of IEDI is to stir aright the socio/economic development of the state in order to compliment the efforts of the past, present and future governments of the state.

BUT responding Gov Okorocha said Professor IWU and members of his team have abused the Exceptional respect 'we accorded them'. Because according to the Chief Press Secretary to the governor Sam Onwuemeodo....

(1) Operating under the aegis of IMO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, Professor Maurice Iwu, former INEC Chairman and members of his group had sought to have a private audience with the Governor Owelle Rochas Okorocha and some key Government functionaries

(2) Considering who Professor Iwu is, the governor didn't hesitate to grant their request.

(3) So, on Friday, January 5, 2018, the meeting held at the Government House Owerri. The meeting began at about 4.30pm and ended at about 9.45pm.

(4) On the part of the team, Prof. Iwu came with a governorship aspirant on the platform of APGA, Chief Frank Nneji, former governorship candidate of the PDP in 2007 before the Supreme Court dropped him, Engineer Charles Ugwu, another governorship aspirant, Chief Jerry Chukwueke and a PDP Chieftain from Aboh Mbaize and former Chairman of that Local Government, Chief Charles Onwunali, Chief CY Amako, a PDP Chieftain from Owerri West and few others.

(5) On the part of the government, were the governor, Owelle Rochas Okorocha, Deputy Governor, Prince Eze Madumere, Secretary to the government of Imo

State, Sir George Eche, Chief of Staff, Ugwumba Uche Nwosu, the Principal Secretary, Dr. Pascal Obi, the Head of Service, Sir Callistus Ekenze and few other Principal Officers of the government. It was a serious meeting in all considerations.

(6) The governor welcomed them. And in the course of doing that jokingly raised the issue of the team being populated by politicians and governorship aspirants from the opposition parties; and said however, such scenario didn't matter much since it was believed they had come for good.

(7) At that point, Professor Iwu took the floor and read a prepared text in which they raised the issues of the debt status of the State which stood at N93 billion, Economy of the State, donor agencies, the ban of Keke operations in the State Capital, IGR of the State and poverty level of the State.

(8) The Prof. Iwu led group also commended the governor for the free education programme, the high level of security, infrastructural development and so on.

(9) However, before the meeting proper, the governor had directed that all those coming for the meeting from the government's side should drop their phones with the protocol personnel at the entrance of the venue of the meeting. The essence was to ensure that whatever that was discussed at the meeting didn't go out for public consumption since the Prof. Iwu group had described the meeting as private. And the governor too, didn't want any development that could jeopardize the Progress of

the meeting.

(10) The governor also made sure that the document which Prof. Iwu read didn't enter into the hand of any of the government representatives.

(11) In responding to the issues raised by Prof. Iwu, the governor regretted that the team didn't come in 2011 when he became governor or 2015 when he was re-elected but waited till few months to his exit as governor of the State before coming with their positions. That innocent observation by the governor and the earlier one made on the political status of the members of the team only raised credibility question on the team.

(12) However, on the debt issue the governor said his administration does not owe any bank anywhere in the Country or outside. That, the N93 billion was an accumulated debts right from the creation of the State in 1976. And remarked that he has managed the debt profile of the State as governor and that is the reason some States with high IGR and allocations owe N241 billion, N155 billion, N140 billion, N311 billion, N157 billion, N142, billion respectively as shown in the record of Debt Management office as at December 2016, but regretted that the Prof. Iwu group only picked Anambra State in comparism with Imo, leaving many other States owing from N100 billion to N241 billion.

(13) On the poverty

level of the State, the governor brought out United Nation's Poverty index of the States to show that the poverty rate in Imo was 57% in 2011 but has come down to 19% with only Lagos, Osun, Anambra and Ekiti being better than Imo in the index. While Imo and Edo having 19% each are better than the rest of the States with poverty rates of 21% to 91%.

(14) The governor attributed the low level of Poverty in the State to the free education programme in the State, creation of enabling environment for economic activities which includes security, and provision of infrastructure, empowerment programmes of the government and attraction of investors, etal.

(15) The governor told them that there is an explosion in School enrolment in the State from 281,000 School enrolment in 2011 to 998,000 in 2017, which has led to Imo State dominating in JAMB applications since 2012 till date. Ditto WAEC and other public exams. For instance, in the National Common Entrance Examination Board's 2017/18 Entrance Examination cut-off marks for the 36 States of the federation and FCT, Imo State and Anambra States have the highest cut-off mark of 66 each followed by Ogun, Lagos, Enugu, Delta, and Abia, which have 65 respectively. The records are there. An indication that Imo is not only working but working well.

(16) On the economy of the State, the governor said he has opened roads, provided security, infrastructure and enabling environment to attract investments and promote economic activities and that the result has been wonderful.

(17) The governor Challenged Prof. Iwu to tell those at the meeting whether Owerri the State Capital and the Government House were as they are now when the government of Chief Ikedi Ohakim, which he was the architect was in Power. He said he didn't come to compare the current administration with the previous ones.

(18) The governor concluded by Challenging the team to compile all his achievements and the achievements of all those before him to see whether his repeated claim that the achievements of his administration have exceeded the achievements of all those before him since the creation of the State in 1976 both Military and Civilian put together.

(19) The governor also Challenged the team to find out whether his claim that his administration has to its Credit more than One thousand verifiable projects located in various parts of the State is true or false.

(20) The governor added that the ban of Keke Operations in the State Capital was one of the reasons there was no report of any crime in the State throughout the Christmas and New Year celebrations. And then urged them to support his administration because it meant well for the State and her people.

(21) On all that was discussed at the meeting, the government believed that they were not for public consumption or for the media since it was agreed that such meeting should be held from time to time.



# IMO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (IEDI)

January 5, 2018

**His Excellency**

Owelle Rochas Anayo Okorocho  
Executive Governor of Imo State  
Government House, Owerri  
Imo State

Your Excellency,

## OUR ECONOMY, OUR CONCERN

This is a follow-up to the brief meeting you had with the Chairman Imo Economic Development Initiative, IEDI, Professor Maurice Iwu on January 1, 2018. At the said meeting, Your Excellency requested to be briefed further on the activities of our association.

We thank Your Excellency for this opportunity and the keen interest you have shown in the activities of the Imo Economic Development Initiative. This Initiative started from informal discussions among Imolites resident in Lagos. They later extended that discussion to include those of us living in Abuja and Owerri. Our first formal meeting was held on April 1, 2017. Our objective is to bring Imo elites together to address development challenges of Imo State and by extension the South East zone and our country Nigeria. The Imo Group is registered with the C.A.C as "Imo Economic Development Initiative"

We seek primarily to contribute to the development of Imo State through private Sector funding and leveraging on available Federal and State governments resources. Our membership is made up of Key stakeholders in Imo state, including Captains of Industry, members of the Academia, Technocrats, retired senior military and security personnel, as well as other professionals of Imo State origin.

At our meetings, we have reviewed commissioned papers on various aspects of the Socio-economic development of our State and suggestions have been made on possible ventures that would empower our people, create wealth, reduce poverty – while at the same time yield benefits to promoters. We are greatly encouraged by the progress members of IEDI

have made in areas such as agriculture infrastructure, projects on skills acquisition and exploring Federal resources in energy, industries reactivation and health care development. Projects in information technology are being articulated by some of our members to prepare our state to participate meaningfully in the IT-driven knowledge economy.

However, we are concerned about the current state of the economy of Imo state, as underlined by certain facts and figures available to us and from our observations.

## 1. SUSTAINABILITY INDEX

A review of the States' sustainability index, a report which profiles the viability and sustainability of states shows that Imo state ranked number 22 in the whole country, a marked decline from the 17<sup>th</sup> position it occupied on the same index three years ago (2015).

**2. DOMESTIC DEBT**

We are concerned about the rising domestic debt. As at 31 December 2016, according to the Debt Management Office, Imo state was owing 93.27 Billion Naira, up from 26 Billion in 2011.

**3. EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**

We are concerned about our poor position in the ease of doing business ranking in the country. We are currently ranked 34<sup>th</sup> out of 36 states. With such a dismal rank, Imo has little or no hope of attracting new businesses to alleviate the unemployment and generally boost the economy of the state.

**4. LEGACY INDUSTRIES**

We are concerned about the poor contribution of our legacy industries to job creation efforts, despite considerable government investment in these industries.

These legacy industries include ADAPALM, Standard shoe, Cardboard and Packaging, and Resin and Paint industry.

**5. EXTERNAL FUNDS**

We are concerned about the obvious low activity level of international multilateral funding and donor agencies assisted projects in the state. In the past, funds from these organizations and gone a long way in assisting the delivery of government projects.

**6. INTERVENTION FUNDS**

We are concerned by the low level of participation by the state in Federal government intervention funding mechanisms. Especially in Agriculture, health and SMEs activities.

**7. MASS TRANSIT**

We are concerned about the transportation challenges especially in Owerri municipality. These challenges have been heightened by the stopping of Tricycles from plying the roads without the provision of an adequate alternative means of mass transit.

**8. GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

We are concerned about the economic stagnation in the state. We believe this is as a result of poor money circulation within the lower strata of the society. We suggest that government should ensure that salaries are paid as and when due to minimize the hardship in the State.

In conclusion, we are of the view that if effort is made, and measures introduced, to improve our rankings in various crucial indices; pay workers, pensioners and contractors as and at when due, key into external and alternative funding sources as well as find a lasting solution to urban mass transit issues; the economy of the state will improve considerably.

We have highlighted some of issues which are of great concern to us. We hope His Excellency will accept them in good faith.

We wish you a happy 2018.

Sincerely,

Prof. Maurice M. Iwu  
Chairman, Imo Economic Development Initiative (IEDI)

# HOW SENATOR ABDULLAHI ADAMU LOOTED NASARAWA STATE TO THE TUNE OF N71 B, BETWEEN 1999-2007



**T**he Economic and financial crime commission (EFCC) made truth to his promise that there will be no sacred cow in the probe and investigation of corrupt Public Officers.

This time the search light of the commission is focused on one of the big boys and closed friends of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo. He is Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu former Governor of Nassarawa state who is presently the secretary of the ruling peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustee (BOT).

This revolution was made known by a former commissioner of Tourism and culture Mrs. Lantana Ahmed who served under the Aare Obateru of the source Ile-Ife.

Lantana Ahmed was asked by our reporter to comment on allegations of fraud, embezzlement of public fund and outright stealing of the state treasury leveled against her former boss. She said "EFCC are on top of the situation, They are investigating, They have been coming to Nasarawa to cross check, They are now doing preminaries; they are still doing research".

Some indigenes of Nasarawa State had written a petition to the EFCC to investigate alleged financial Malpractices of the former Governor of the state.

Newsplatform was privileged to have a copy of a petition

signed by the former National President of Lafia youth progressive forum Muhammed Sarki Suleiman addressed to the then EFCC chairman Nuhu Ribadu.

We also gave a copy of a letter addressed to the speaker Nasarawa State House of Assembly on the alleged looting of the state by Abduilahi Adamu and the need to reverse some decisions taken by the former Governor.

The petition written in 2007 is reproduced unedited.

## THE LOOTING OF NASARAWA STATE BY ALHAJI ABDULLAHI ADAMU. FORMER GOVERNOR AND HOW HE UNDERDEVELOPED THE STATE:- THE NEED TO REVERSE SOME DECISIONS TAKEN.

We have decided to write Mr. Speaker In your capacity as the chief legislator of our great but poor state, and also to put some complaints regarding financial improprieties of the former Governor with the connivance of the immediate past Legislative House. We have been following some of your recent actions and pronouncements on the need to have an honest and transparent tenure and your refusal to respect any sacred cows in the war against empty treasures in Nasarawa state.

Mr. Speaker, it will interest you to know that some

unhealthy and disturbing transactions between the former House and Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu caused the under development of our state. Infact, had the former House lived up to its constitutional oversight responsibilities, our State could have not been poor as it is today. But most of the former House Members conspired in one way or other, with Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu to destroy the economic resources of our State. And today they are covered with shame all over their faces. I crave your indulgence to list at few:-

1. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2001, the former Government of Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu was granted a loan of N1.2 Billion with an annual interest rate of 27% at Fortune bank Plc. Nobody could say what was done with the money.

2. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2000, the same Fortune Bank Plc granted the State Government a loan of N105 Million to purchase 87.5 Million Ordinary Shares at NAL Merchant Bank Plc. According to loan agreement, the State Government would pay N45 Million as interest and other Bank charges. Now where are the money

3. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2000, this same Bank granted the former Governor N50 Million to host the one day State visit of former President Obasanjo to Nassarawa state. The visit was postponed, yet Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu pocketed all the money.

4. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2001, Fortune Bank Plc, Granted N550 Million loan purportedly to compliment the N1.2 Billion granted to finance infrastructural development projects in rural areas. The question is where are these projects?

5. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 2001 the Bank of the North Ltd. (now Unity Bank Plc) granted Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu N300 Million as short term facility to enable him meet some outstanding obligations. The House was not aware?.

6. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2001 the same Bank granted him N550 Million short term loan in addition to and earlier grants of N200 Million totaling N750 Million which is still been serviced through direct deduction from the Federal allocation to the state. The House was not aware of this transaction?

7. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2000, Bank of the North Ltd. Granted him N500 Million as short term facility to meet some obligations. Yet, the House was not aware?

8. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2002, the same Bank of the North granted him a temporary overdraft facility of N140 Million. This too the House was not aware?

9. On the 31<sup>th</sup> of March, 2002, again the same Bank of the North Plc granted him a temporary overdraft facility of N280 Million. Yet the House was not aware?.

10. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2001 Inland bank of Nigeria Plc granted him N150 Million which was guaranteed by the Bank of the North Ltd. And that interest is still been serviced to the detriment of the State. The House was not aware of ?

11. Lion Bank of Nigerian (now Diamond Bank Plc) granted him a loan of N373,795,999,00 to enable one Henry Nick company Limited establish a soap factory in the State. The loan was disbursed through Account No 014001089 at the Akwanga branch of Lion Bank. Also bank of the North guaranteed this facility.

12. In the year 2000, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu signed and collected 25 Luxurious Buses each at N23 Million cost totaling N575 Million on behalf of Nasarawa State. Yet, the House was silent?

13. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of October, 2006 a memo was raised in respect of 15 indigenes of the state to go for Aeronautic Engineering and Commercial Fixed Wing Pilot Training at Kiev, Ukraine, to the former Governor from the Executive Secretary, State Scholarship Board. That the sum of N136.3 Million was released through Ministry of Finance yet all the Students Awarded Scholarship are still within Nasarawa State. And the House was not aware?

14. Some times in May 2007 before he left office, he mischievously collected N145 Million from funds set aside for the conduct of 2007 Local Government elections from State Independent electoral Commission. Yet the House was silent?



**Nuhu Ribadu**  
**Former EFCC Chairman**

15. Again before he left office in May 2007 he collected N120 Million from account of Fertilizer at the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Yet the House was not aware?

16. In November 2004, a committee set up by the House of Assembly to investigate the looting of Local Government joint account of the state. He was fingered in the theft of N2.896 billion according to the report. Yet the House was silent?

17. On the ecological fund received from the Federal Government, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu could not account for well over N3 Billion. Yet the House was silent?

18. That Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu has diverted public funds to the tune of N11.5 Billion on his pet project, the Farin Ruwa Hydro-Electric project: and work done can not be appreciated to 20% rating. The said project is a conduit pipe. Yet the House was not aware?

19. That between 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007, renovation work were done to tune of N869 Million in the general hospitals at Akwanga, Wamba, Keana, Awe, Doma Nasarawa Obi and Nasarawa Eggon, whereas the conditions of the said hospitals were even better than when "renovated" yet the House was not aware?

20. Commissioning of General Hospital Lafia on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007, fortunately, there is just nothing on ground that was said to be commission amounting to N428 Million. The at the time of writing the compliant. Yet the House was not aware?

21. Between December, 2005-May 2007 another N3.8 Billion was stolen in the State Local Government Joint Account. Yet the House was not aware?

22. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 about N40 Million meant for the renovation of NBS Lafia was diverted by the former Governor.

23. That the former Governor used public funds to develop his farm



**Labaran Marku**  
Former Deputy Gov. Nasarawa State

"Nagari Farms Limited, which he sold to the state Government at the cost of N3 Billion, and later confiscated same farm to himself. Yet the House was not aware?

24. That the former Governor used his position and awarded to himself hundreds of plots of land at KAPDA (KARU) without regards to public policy and transparency which negated his oath of office. Yet, the House was not aware?

25. Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu squandered N600 Million just to draw a master plan for Greater Karu. Has anyone seen the "master-plan" yet the House was not aware?

26. Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu mismanaged N2.51 Billion on the construction of a new state Liaison office in Abuja. Yet the House was not aware of this?

27. What of the N299 Million extension work at the Lafia Township Stadium?

28. Construction of hospitals at Panda, Agbashi and Mararaban Usege under the World Bank Aid. Yet Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu said the State paid N1.5 Billion?

29. Convocation square at state

University cost N299 Million?

30. Farm Ruwa chalets (15 in Nos.) also cost N100 Million?

31. How about the mismanagement of N139 Million for the construction of Admin and Engineering blocks at the state polytechnic? Yet the House was not aware? And N35 Million for fencing the state polytechnic. Also, the House was not aware?

32. How about the N78Million Library in Lafia?

33. The N2.5 Billion mansion lying the situate behind project workers village, Lafia. How did the state purchased it, and later dashed to Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu through special resolution of the Honorable House as parting gift?



**Lantana Ahmed**  
Former Commissioner

34. How about the management of the matching grant allocation from the UBE intervention fund by the UBEC? This grant is for the development of public schools books and instructional materials and teacher professional development. What happened to the billions of Naira given to Nasarawa State Universal Basic Education Board? Was the House not aware?

35. Where is the N300 Million purported information Technology Project? ABG communications company was said to be the contractors handling the project. Yet, the House was not aware that it is a conduit pipe?

36. How about Lafia Hotel and New Keffi Hotel? Yet, the House did not know the owner and how these state properties were dubious sold out?

37. And may be Honorable House did not know how billions of Naira from the State coffers were used to purchase traditional titles for Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu from (Ile Ife, Abeokuta, Awka and Maiduguri) when he was presidential aspirant?

38. Could Honorable members claim ignorance of financial scandal in the school Feeding Programmes, where our poor State lost over N4 Billion?

39. How about the Karu International market? Mr. Speaker, this is just one out of hundred of criminal atrocities committed by Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu when he held away as governor of our poor state between 29<sup>th</sup> May 2007. It is also common knowledge that he alone could not have stolen our funds unless with clear collaboration of some member of the Honourable House of Assembly and other Members of his Executive Council.

### OUR CONCERN

Mr. Speaker, we have every reason to be worried because our state is totally strangled by one individual for his personal satisfaction; and we have no other state to run to than ours and small remain here to salvage it.

It is not possible to resist the conclusion that the former governor by behaving in the manner he had behaved in the handling of the state finances entrusted to him, was doing so to divert state funds to his personal use in contravention of his oath of office.

He should be charged for fraud, conspiracy, concealment and what money laundering totaling about N71,200,068,869.00 Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu pocketed the House and did what he wanted, but you can make the difference if you can have the will and courage to act on our collective request.

### ACTION REQUEST

Revocation of resolution of the House warranting the former governor Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu a 100% annual pension salary for life, because he did not merit any benefitting parting gift.

Revoke the sale of his "so-called house" and be made to

refund the money to the state.

Revoke both gifts of the said farm and house to him Identify all conspirators to these transactions in the House and elsewhere, and hand over them to the EFCC for immediate prosecution and refund of illegal funds they received from the said transactions to the state Government because they are disgraced to our state. Revoke the sale of Lafia Hotel and new Keffi Hotel to himself, because he abused his office and sold came to himself while in office.

Revoke the leasing agreement of Keffi Abattoir to himself, because he abused his office and sold same to himself while in office.

Revoke the leasing agreement of Keffi Abattoir to himself Determine the debt portfolio of the state as at 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007. Mr. Speaker, we appeal to you to bail this state from the mortgage position created by Abdullahi Adamu for the sake of ourselves and the future generations And finally, Abdullahi Adamu should be arrested and prosecuted immediately on the account of breaking his oath of office and milking us dry. Yours faithfully.

MUHAMMAD SARKI SULEIMAN  
Former National President,  
Lafia Youth Progressive Forum.

### HOW ABDULLAHI ADAMU UNDER DEVELOPMENT NASARAWA STATE MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 1999-MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 2007

In this period under review, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu has ruined the state beyond recognition. There is nothing to write home about his rule, because it was devastating, chaotic, worrisome and economically nonsensical.

### JUST LOOK AT THE FIGURES AND YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT

Fraudulent journeys and duty tour allowance

May 1999 – December 2002	-N1,413,087,550.00
Jan. 2003 - December 2003	-N2,370,289,460.00
Jan. 2004 – December 2004	-N1,934,753,200.00
Jan. 2005 – December 2005	-N3,074,816,470.00
Jan. 2006 – December 2006	-N3,428,506,900.00
Jan. 2007 – 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2007	-N1,096,438,180.00
	<u>-N13,317,891,760.00</u>
2 Dubious bank loans	N10,402,795,99.00
3 Fraudulent Contract Awards	N47,479,318,110.00
Grand Total	<u>-N71,200,068,869.00</u>

Any lesson to be learnt from Adamu's case by those aspiring for leadership? But we reminded him to always seek to leave a greater historical legacy than simply attaining the highest and loudest encomiums and suddenly go into oblivion. Who will save him from criminal prosecution? Indeed, his Day of Judgement has come and surely his is prison bound.

Haba! Aare Obateru of the Source Ile-Ife

# ANY OF THESE MAY BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA



**A**lthough President Muhammadu Buhari has not declared his interest in seeking a second term, the possibility that he will do so cannot be ruled out as his loyalists and political associates have continued to fly that kite, some quite enthusiastically. Just this January, the chairman of the Progressive Governor forum, Rochas Okorocha of Imo State, asked his fellows in the South-East not to talk about an igbo presidency until after Buhari's tenure, saying the president has a tenure to work for four or eight years according to the zoning arrangement of the ruling APC, a claim yet to be debunked by the party.

Buhari's handlers in the Presidency also seem to believe that the earlier they begin to woo Nigerians for Buhari's re-election, the better. Last month while addressing a pro-Buhari crowd, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir David Lawal hinted at the possibility of President Buhari running in 2019.

One of the presidential spokesmen, Malam Garba Shehu, had also last year expressed confidence that the electorate would not abandon Buhari in 2019, claiming that the president's "enormous" goodwill remained strong because the people were convinced that he was acting in their best interest despite "temporary, unintended consequences of reforms." The president, as usual, will have the final word on the subject.

Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu

The former Governor of Lagos State is one politician whose likely declaration for 2019 presidency may not take people by surprise, because of what pundits see as his past attempts to become a vice presidential candidate to President Muhammadu Buhari under the APC, a move he dropped due to the sensitivity of a Muslim ticket in a complex country like Nigeria.

Tinubu's recent reaction to a question that sought to know his future political ambition caused a stir in political circles, as it was interpreted to mean that he had already begun preparation to contest in 2019. "There is nothing wrong with such ambition. It depends on the timing and the environment and what political leadership dictates. I will not brush aside such an aspiration," Tinubu was quoted as having said during an event in Ondo State.

Tinubu had however, in a tweet on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 dismissed this position, saying that he would not contest against President Buhari. "As long as that patriotic and committed President Buhari holds and seeks to hold the mantle as President, I stand behind him unwavering support," he said via his Twitter handle @AsiwajuTinubu. Analysis see his stance as conditional.

Tinubu's possible presidential ambition may enjoy widespread support in the South-West geo political zone, considering the political sagacity and large followership, he



also has a sizeable financial war chest, as he invested heavily in the actualization of the Buhari presidency in 2015. But the odds against such ambition include the fact that Osinbajo came from him camp, and the South-West had earlier spent two terms of eight years under Chief Olusegun Obasanjo led PDP administration between 1999 and 2007.

#### Atiku Abubakar

The one time vice president has never kept hidden his presidential ambition. Atiku had contested the 2007 presidential election on the platform the defunct Action Congress (AC) after realizing that he could not get the PDP ticket because of his frosty relationship with former President Obasanjo. Also, the APC chieftain had contested the presidential ticket with former president Goodluck Jonathan in 2011 and with then candidate Buhari in 2014 on different platforms.

The action, body language and utterances of the Turakin Adamawa are enough to show seriousness. He has already won the admiration of some in the South-South and South-East with a consistent advocacy for true federalism, calls considered to be subtle campaigns ahead of 2019, especially if President Buhari decides not to run.

Atiku maintains a vibrant media office with many staff who ensure he is a constant participant in national discourse. The Turaki is also noted to be "big spender" when it comes to pursuing his interests, giving the PDP and ex-president Obasanjo a tough time by dragging them to court several times when they attempted to tame him the past.

In the event APC becomes a no-go

channel for him, insiders say he may likely seek an alternative platform, either in the purported mega-party, the PDP, or any other one as the political equation suggests.

More sources said Atiku would surely get the support of political bigwigs across the country should he declare to run again. But the odds against Atiku's ambition include, notably, the ceaseless opposition of Obasanjo to his candidacy

#### Bukola Saraki

Saraki is one of the politicians that are likely to contest for the presidency come 2019. In 2015, he was one of the presidential aspirants of the APC but dropped the ambition two months before the party's primaries in 2014.

Saraki, a two-time governor of Kwara State is in a better position to vie for the presidency in view of his position as number three citizen of the country. With the senate at his back and call, he may go for the big seat. At present, he has the firm control of lawmakers, and his youthfulness and mien are added advantages, and also for the fact that he is from the North-Central tells a lot when it comes to political balancing.

But Saraki's squabbling with his party, the APC, may negate his chances to clinch the ticket if he runs. He defeated his party in 2015 as a result of his romance with the PDP to emerge as the Senate President. That would be yet to heal despite the recent consideration of Senator Ahman Lawan as the Senate Leader, Lawan was the preferred candidate of the APC for the Senate presidency.

#### Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso

Kwankwaso is a serving senator



representing Kano Central at the Upper Chamber of the National Assembly and was a presidential aspirant in the last general election. A former governor of Kano State who served the state from 1999-2003 and 2011-2015 respectively, he is said to have turned around Kano through laudable physical infrastructure development, especially during his second tenure.

Although Kwankwo has been quiet for a while, his political network is not only intact but vibrant across the country. His political trademark, the Kwankwasiyya, which he established before the 2011 general elections is even expanding to other states. In the event he goes for the presidency, his large followership in Kano, Kaduna and other states in the North would give him added advantage especially if he picks a running mate from the South.

What will work against him is if he decides to remain in APC, and President Buhari decides to go for a second term.

#### Sule Lamido

The dwindling fortunes of the PDP, occasioned by counter court cases and mass defection do not deter the former Jigawa governor from nursing his ambition of vying for the presidential position of this country under its platform.

Lamido, who is passionate about the PDP, believes that it will soon overcome its travails and bounce back. While the party is suffering in other climes, it is thriving in Jigawa to the extent that some members of the ruling APC are defecting to it.

The declaration for his presidential ambition sometime last year did not come to many as a surprise. Lamido, who is among the founding fathers of the PDP



said if offered a ticket come 2019, he would be glad to offer himself. What is not clear is whether he will overcome the ambition of many other members of the PDP for the same ticket.

#### **Aminu Waziri Tambuwal**

Tambuwal, immediate-past Speaker of the House of Reps, was to contest for president during the 2015 when some of his friends reportedly obtained the APC presidential form for him to participate in the primary. He later shelved the idea and went ahead to contest for the Sokoto State Governorship seat, and won.

As part of future plans to realize his presidential ambition, the 51-year-old lawyer succeeded in installing his successor in the House of Reps, Yakubu Dogara. He also succeeded in expanding his political base among federal lawmakers from all parts of the country. Described a astute and shrewd politician by many, he leaves no-one in doubt that he would certainly go for the job in the country in the future, which could be 2019.

In the event Buhari seeks a second term, he may likely shelve the ambition until 2023, considering the fact that age is on his side. But a major hurdle to cross for Tambuwal would be getting the support of the South-West, who see him someone who 'abandoned' their own, Femi Gbajabiamila, for the position of Speaker, even though he earlier played a crucial role in his emergence as Speaker in 2011, against all odds.

At some point, the national leader of the APC, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, who did

not only support Tambuwal in 2011 but also ensure that all opposition lawmakers voted for him as Speaker, was said to be "very angry with Tambuwal" for that perceived slight.

#### **Ahmed Makarfi**

Senator Ahmed Makarfi was governor of Kaduna State from 1999 to 2007. Within the eight years he was in office, he was able to mitigate religious and ethnic violence in the state and has through that feat projected himself as an objective and fair-minded leader. His outstanding performance in the state shot him into national limelight, seeing him clinch a seat at the Senate in 2007, even though he lost the bid to return a third time in 2015. But by then, his profile in the PDP had risen and party at a convention which held in Port-Harcourt last year.

Since then he has been battling for



the position with former governor of Bornu State. Ali Modu Sheriff. As the PDP has made it clear that its presidential candidate in the 2019 elections would be from the North, there is the possibility that given the trust key members of the party - especially serving governors—have in him, and given his image an objective leader and acceptability across geopolitical divides, he might be convinced to run for the party's presidential ticket in 2019. He recently said in an interview in Lagos that he may likely go for the No.1 office. However, his handicap may likely be the platform, because it is not yet clear if the PDP will ever be the same again.

#### **Nasir El-Rufai**

Currently the governor of Kaduna State, El-Rufai has been in the news for long as one of those likely to run for the presidency in 2019. But it is not likely he will show any interest if President Muhammadu Buhari is contesting, as he would not stand the risk of losing his political investments, given Buhari's acceptability in the region.

The current twist in events, where Buhari has been on vacation for a while, has however raised the hope that he might contest as he is said to be one of the top three northerners being considered for the Vice Presidential slot if Buhari decides on more rest. If that happens, many say it is likely that el-Rufai may latch in on the issue of zoning to contest in 2019, given that the sympathy may be for a northern candidate.

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