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Judicial workers protesting against the Chief Judge at the High Court Complex, Oke-Fia, Osogbo, on Monday

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The “Many Sins” Of Justice Oyebola Adepele Ojo

•Findings: 2022 Gov’ship Tribunal, Resentment From Judicial Workers Speak Against Embattled Judge

•Extension Of Year Of Service Triggered Moves Against Her – Sources

Ismael Uthman

THIS is obviously not the best of times for Justice Oyebola Ojo, the Chief Judge of Osun State.

Governor Ademola Adeleke who relied on the recommendation of the state assembly had asked Justice Ojo to step aside on Thursday, November 17. But Adeleke denied suspending the judge three days after.

Justice Ojo who was sworn-in on June 17, 2013 as the first female Chief Judge of the state by former governor Rauf Aregbesola, might end her career in unforeseen circumstances.

Findings by **OSUN DEFENDER** revealed that Justice Ojo is fighting three different battles which have been centralised by the state government.

Judicial sources told this medium that Justice Ojo had run out of favour of the Adeleke administration in January this year, following her alleged involvement in the manipulation of the judgement of the governorship election petition tribunal which sacked Adeleke and pronounced Mr. Gboyega Oyetola as the winner of the 2022 gubernatorial election.

According to the judicial workers, Justice Ojo was accused of allegedly playing a middle-man role between some leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the tribunal panel to get a favourable judgment for Oyetola.

One of the sources who do not want his name in print said: “The Chief Judge crisis started in February this year after the election petition tribunal judgement. The Governor and some big-wigs in his camp claimed that the Chief Judge allegedly helped Oyetola to compromise the tribunal panel to upturn his victory. That is the genesis of the crisis.”

OSUN DEFENDER gathered that the Adeleke administration had decided not to wage war against Justice Ojo and allow her to retire peacefully.

But the decision changed after President Bola Tinubu extended the retirement age of Nigerian judges from 65 years to 70 years.

Originally, the Chief Judge who is 65 years, would have retired in October this year, but for the extension of years of

service as signed by Tinubu in June this year.

A cabinet member of the Adeleke administration told **OSUN DEFENDER** that the government was no longer comfortable with the Chief Judge’s continuous stay in the service.

He said: “The Chief Judge allegedly played a dirty role during the tribunal process and the government decided to allow her to retire peacefully because she had little time in the service. Even after the tribunal, her loyalty was still with Oyetola; she was not loyal to the current government at all.

“But when the president extended the retirement age of the judge to 70 years, it became an issue for some of us. How will you continue to keep a spy under you for five more years?”

“That aside, there are many allegations against her; her colleagues, judicial workers and others have petitioned relevant authorities on her alleged judicial misconduct. She has allegedly committed so many infractions unbecoming of a judge. That is the case with her.”

Besides, **OSUN DEFENDER** gathered that Justice Ojo had been having running battle with some of the High Court Judges and Magistrates for her alleged high-handedness.

Succession battle and career advancement from the judges, according to sources, also contributed to the challenges facing the CJ.

She was accused of not being fair to some Muslim Judges and Magistrates in particular.

According to some judicial workers, the embattled CJ is allegedly responsible for the religious division in the state judiciary.

“Before now, Muslims and Christians would go to the mosque and church together during our judiciary new year programme. But things have changed now because of the division allegedly introduced into the system by the Chief Judge.

“Muslims and Christians went on their separate ways during the last judicial week. People were just enduring her highhandedness because of her retirement which was supposed to be in October this year. But the extension of retirement age of judges sparked the



•Osun State Deputy Governor, Prince Kola Adewusi at the commissioning 19 subsidy palliatives in Abere on Tuesday.

ongoing crisis for her”, said a judicial officer.

Meanwhile, an industrial action has been declared by the Judiciary workers of the state.

The workers who were protesting against Justice Ojo embarked on the strike following the firing of tear gas at them and journalists by policemen stationed at the High Court Complex, Oke-Fia, Osogbo, on Wednesday.

It would be recalled that the workers under the auspices of Judiciary Staff Union in Osun State had on Monday locked the entrance of the court and picketed the office of the Chief Judge.

However, Justice Ojo drove into the court with security personnel and went straight to her office on Wednesday, a situation that caused chaos.

OSUN DEFENDER learnt that on sighting the Chief Judge, the workers got infuriated and insisted on gaining access to the court premises.

According to the Chairman, Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria, JUSUN, Osun Chapter, Gbenga Eludire, the workers decided to withdraw their service from their respective stations since Justice Ojo has declared war against them.

He said, “Following the action of the police and the attitude of the Chief Judge, I, Comrade Gbenga Eludire, hereby ordered that workers in the sector should withdraw their service till further notice.”

Also, a civil society organization, Citizens Communication and Advocacy Centre, in a petition written to the Osun State House of Assembly, claimed that the state judiciary was stinking under the leadership of Justice Ojo.

According to the group, there have been incidences of abuse of power and office by the CJ which needed to be addressed.

The group in the petition signed by its Director of External Communication, Comrade Damilola Esekpe, alleged that: “Some staffs of the Osun Judiciary were unilaterally suspended by Justice Mrs Adepele-Ojo in 2019, without carrying the State JSC along, and up till now, running to over four years, the unilateral suspension which she slammed on them to last for two months has not been lifted.

“The said staffs despite “not” being paid their allowances, their monthly pay are being received into an unauthorised special account into which the affected staffs as ordered by the Osun Chief Judge for the remit of the said allowances. This is without authorisation and notification of the state government, the employer of the affected staffs. Despite that the allowances of those staffs are regularly paid by the state government, the concerned staffs do not take home their salaries which were collected

from them on the illegal directive of the Osun Chief Judge;

“The said staffs have been subjected to serious hardship, emotional distress, having faced several panels, including the ICPC which exonerated them. Yet, against known administrative principles, the Osun Chief Judge has left their fate hanging without any hope as if they are living dead.

“Another set of staffs of the Osun State Judiciary were in 2020 accused of stealing. The said staffs were arrested, investigated and prosecuted. At the end of the day, the court discharged and acquitted them. The said staffs since the beginning of their plight have been on suspension by the Osun Chief Judge. Their salaries, despite being regularly paid by the state government, do not go to them but ordered by the Osun Chief Judge to be deposited and diverted into an unauthorised account

“In the year 2022, the Osun State High Court, sitting in Ikirun gave judgment sentencing the accused in the widely reported Ikirun Bank robbery to death. A sum of N7.5m recovered as the proceeds of the robbery from the condemned convicts was ordered by the presiding judge to be forfeited to the account of the State Government. The said money, instead of being paid into the State Government account was diverted by the

Osun Chief Judge.

“It is common knowledge also that the Osun Chief Judge has bred lots of disaffection, ill-will, segregation and all sorts of bad-mannerism among judicial officers and judiciary staff as she picks fight with everyone unjustifiably.”

The group called for the suspension of the CJ pending the conclusion of investigation of the allegations against her.

The Osun State House of Assembly had said it recommended the Chief Judge’s suspension based on the allegations against her, and its resolve to fight corruption in the statement.

According to the Speaker of the assembly, Hon. Adewale Egbedun, the house does not intend to encroach the constitutional duties of the National Judicial Council, adding that, “Instead, the Osun State House of Assembly is fulfilling its constitutional duty of exposing corruption as stipulated in Sections 128 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”

Listing the allegations, Egbedun, in a press statement signed by his Press Secretary, Olamide Tiamiyu, said: “Given that the Osun State House of Assembly received several petitions alleging corruption against the Chief Judge of Osun State, the Osun State House of Assembly would have been negligent and in breach of

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PEOPLE FIRST **OSUN** MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPER
Defender ESTABLISHED 2005
Editorial

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The Discourse

The Challenge Of Development In Nigeria: Beyond The Corruption Narrative

Akin Olutayo

Introduction

PERHAPS the most popular word in literature, generally, is development. It permeates all areas of knowledge and society. It is most desirable and most nations, and people, would like to do anything and everything to develop. This is more so that the meaning of development and how to develop, since the demise of 'Socialist' Russia and the increasing capitulation of 'Communist' China, with the era of globalization, has narrowed the conceptualization of development to capitalism (Olutayo, 2002a). Capitalism is not a catch-phrase. It is a process deliberately set in motion through certain institutions. Such institutions are the 'basics' of society which the social sciences tend to study but, sorry to say, underestimate. They are the family, education, economic, political, religious, the mass media which are now, under the new regime of the real World Capitalist System, being midwived by the International Monetary Fund/World Bank. It is what now characterizes Nigeria with its attendant prospects and challenges.

Our concern in this paper is 'the challenge of development in Nigeria'. Following from above, therefore, the challenge Nigeria has is the challenge of how to engender capitalism! And, as the title shows, it is far more than corruption which, though permeates every fabric of the Nigerian social structure, it is within the universal set for corruption. In other words, capitalism encompasses corruption especially because corruption thrives



better at the marketplace without which the capitalist system cannot survive. And, as some people argue, corruption 'greases' capitalism (Leff, 1963; Huntington, 1968; De Soto, 1990; Egger and Winner, 2005; Levy, 2007)! Except corruption is perceived as disorder of the indigenous social structure, it is wrongly, in my view, defined/conceived. Thus, the challenge is how to, in today's development trajectory, make the nation of Nigeria become capitalist in its corruptive process of the indigenous social structure. As such, what are the fundamentals of capitalism Nigeria needs to satisfy in order to 'develop'? How can the nation attain these? Or, given the existing situation, is it even feasible? These shall be the major concern of this paper. Before delving deeply into them however, the next section, to which we now turn, attempts to examine how corruption crept in to become the buzz word for explaining development or the lack of it.

Corruption And Development
To be sure, it is not a new thing that

a detour would be made from the real issue of the challenge of development, especially for the Third World countries. The idea has been to either 'blame' the lack of development in these nations on the countries themselves or the 'accusing fingers' laid on external factors (Olutayo, 2002b). For corruption, in its neoliberal garb, the whole argument is that the Third World Nations are corrupt, and cannot fight corruption, because they lack the requisite institutions to fight the 'ills' it constitutes (World Bank, 2002; Olutayo, 2009a). So, the argument seems to imply, remove corruption, and all its tendencies, through the creation of necessary insti-

"M"

tutions then, development would result. This is in spite of the realization that corruption is not unique to these so called developing nations (Tanzi, 1998). The recommendation for the developing nations, I believe, came, mainly, as a result of the World Bank, leading other 'development agencies', on which these nations are increasingly dependent for their 'development' needs, conferred on itself, the status of the 'Knowledge Bank' of the world in 1996. Within this ambit, research and policy formulations for the whole world, but, more especially for the developing nations, became the major interest of the World Bank as it yearly presents its World (and Human) Development Reports making recommendations for the direction and future of development. As such, the World Bank is not a mere economic enabling institution but a policy and political institution. That is, it does

OSUN DEFENDER

Publisher	-	Moremi Publishing House Ltd.
Deputy Editor	-	Ismaeel Uthman
Production Editor	-	Petkola Taiwo Ibitowa
Reporter	-	Yusuf Oketola
Reporter	-	Kazeem Badmus
Photo Journalist	-	Shola Aderinto
Computer Graphics	-	Zainab Olalere

OSUN DEFENDER is published by Moremi Publishing House Limited, Promise Point Building, Opposite Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB), Gbogon Road Osogbo, State of Osun

ISSN : 0794-8050
Telephone : 0809-301-9152
Website : www.osundefender.com/index.php
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Kudos, Knock For Adeleke, Oyetola On 'Omoluabi Scholar Bus'

•As Groups Frowns At Personalisation of Buses By Adeleke

Yusuf Oketola

SOME residents of Osun State have berated former governor Adegboyega Oyetola for abandoning the Omoluabi Scholar Buses throughout his four years tenure.

The Omoluabi Scholar Buses was purchased and commissioned by Oyetola's predecessor, Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola on Friday July 18, 2014 at Nelson Mandela Freedom Park, Osogbo.

Its purpose was to convey Osun Public School children to and from their schools.

But Oyetola administration abandoned the buses for four years, leaving them to rot away.

However, Governor Ademola Adeleke has refurbished 19 of the buses and renamed them 'Imole De Bus'.

The buses have also been converted to palliative measure to ease transportation for civil servants in the state by Adeleke.

The development triggered residents of the state to condemn Oyetola's decision on the buses.

They described Oyetola's action as shameful, saying he played politics with all Aregbesola's legacies by making them moribund.

A social analyst, Edefe Oghenebrume, said Adeleke's decision to refurbish the abandoned buses was a welcome idea and coming at a time the residents need it most.

Oghenebrume however condemned Adeleke for renaming the buses with his campaign name.

He chided Oyetola's followers for criticising Adeleke on refurbishing and renaming the buses, saying the former government deliberately abandoned the buses to rot away because of his hatred for Aregbesola.

He said: "It is so disgusting that followers of Ileri-Oluwa APC of Osun State can be fulminating like frustrated juveniles over hundreds of Omoluabi Scholar Buses which former governor Rauf Aregbesola bought and commissioned to convey Osun public school pupils to and from their schools which incumbent Governor converted to Imole De Buses.

"These are shameless conquered political slaves that failed to think and think deeply before ranting about a laudable and commendable educational project which their principal vindictively abandoned throughout his four years in office as governor.

"Oyetola of APC abandoned Aregbesola of the same APC's Omoluabi



•The Imole bus

Scholar Bus and Adeleke of PDP refurbished those buses and revived the scheme. Simple as APC!

"Yes, I am fully aware that Governor Adeleke has become too full of himself in some aspect, but on this particular project, I really commend him."

Another resident of the state, Demola Owoade, lauded Adeleke on the buses, saying it is a welcome development.

Owoade said: "Government is continuum; Adeleke has done nothing bad on the buses. If the immediate past administration of Oyetola had made use of the buses, instead of abandoning them and telling Osun people that the buses were nowhere to be found, Adeleke would not be getting this commendation."

A social media expert,

2024 Budget Defence Commences On Monday

Yusuf Oketola

THE Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Hon. Adewale Egbedun, has declared that the appearance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), including the state owned tertiary institutions for their budget defence will commence on Monday, November 27, 2023

In view of this, Governor Ademola Adeleke has directed members of the State Executive Council to be prepared for detailed budget defence at the state assembly and ensure draft executive bills are forwarded to the legislature as quickly as possible.

Speaking on Tuesday at a review session on the 2024 budgetary plans, Adeleke reminded the cabinet members

Babatunde Olusola, said: "We expect APC to wail. Why do people use everything good done to play politics? Oyetola regime abandoned the buses among other good projects that Aregbesola started.

"The changing of name is not important. What is important is the intention and right now, the Governor is about to roll out palliative to cushion the effect of subsidy removal and part of it is the buses.

"These are the same buses the immediate past administration abandoned to rot away without making proper use of them. Nobody came out to talk then or when the last governor was giving out food monthly and tagged it 'Ileri Oluwa food' then. So why complaining now?"

Group Frowns At

that full cooperation is needed with the legislature to speed up the budget processing in line with the assembly timetable.

The Governor charged the MDAs to attend assembly budget sessions with full documentations, warning that any MDA which fails to cooperate with the lawmakers will be sanctioned.

He said: "We have a state to govern. We have a five-point agenda to deliver. There is no room for distractions. All cabinet members must get their heart together by ensuring a successful budget hearing at the assembly.

"Let the relevant house committees have all required information to vet and approve your proposals. I have full confidence that the leg-

Personalisation of Buses By Adeleke

However, Adeleke's decision to rename the 'Omoluabi Scholar Bus' to Imole De Bus with his picture, has generated condemnation from some members of the public.

Speaking with OSUN DEFENDER yesterday, the spokesperson for Transparency and Accountability Group (TAG), Comrade Ayo Oloogun, said public officeholders have to overgrow the idea of accruing to themselves what belongs to the people.

Oloogun said although it was commendable that Adeleke made use of the buses, the governor ought not to have labelled them 'Imole Bus' as if they were procured by his personal money.

The TAG spokesperson

also called for proper accountability on the cost of repairing and repainting the buses.

According to him: "While it is commendable that Governor Adeleke is not allowing the buses procured under the Aregbesola's administration to go to rot, it is condemnable that he is using our common patrimony and what belongs to the state to advance his political idiosyncratic ideas.

"Those buses were procured with the resources of Osun State and they should be so labelled and not some Imole Buses as if they were procured by his own money or resources or goodwill.

"This is one of the aberrations that public office holders have to overgrow, accruing to self that which is our common patrimony.

"It should also be said that accountability must be demanded from the governor as to the cost of repair and repainting of the buses lest we be duped in clear sight."

A resident of Ikirun, headquarters of Ifelodun Local Government, Mr Taofeeq Omoniyi, while speaking with OSUN DEFENDER on Wednesday, frowned at the action of the Governor on renaming the bus.

He said: "It is very sad and unfortunate that we find ourselves in this kind of situation. This is not the first time the Governor will do this. He also changed Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme to Imole Youth.

"It is very wrong and people who do not know

much will believe the programs are personally being funded by the Governor. He is just personalising everything as if it is not the state money he is using".

We Spent N25m To Refurbish 19 Omoluabi Buses - Osun Govt

However, the state government has disclosed that it spent a total N25.2m to refurbish 19 Omoluabi buses which will serve as palliative to cushion the effect of petroleum subsidy for the people of the state.

The state Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Oluomo Kolapo Alimi, made this known in a statement made available to newsmen in Osogbo, on Tuesday.

According to Alimi, the money was spent to ensure the vehicle's roadworthiness to be able to carry out the new services of conveyance of people.

According to Alimi, five of the buses are officially assigned to Osogbo, the state capital for commuting people to the already earmarked routes.

"Ede, Iwo and Ikirun have two each while the people of Ife/ Modakeke and Ilesha have three each. The remaining two of the buses are kept on standby for other contingencies that may likely come up from time to time" Alimi explained.

He stated further: "The public is to similarly note that the 19 buses, each christened "Imole Bus" are to specifically convey civil servants, students and the poorest of the poor residents of the state to their various destinations at a token amount, which in turn, will be used by the government from time-to-time for the smooth running and maintenance of the buses.

"The government wishes to emphasise that virtually all the buses due to their almost grounded status and off the road conditions cost a total sum of N25,274,288.00 to ensure their roadworthiness so as to be able to carry out the new services of conveyance of people.

"The buses, it must be noted, are to work on two shifts daily as they ply all the officially designated routes, morning and afternoon of Mondays through Fridays.

"According to the arrangements, the morning services will be between 6:45am and 9:00am while the afternoon shuttles will be between 3pm and 5pm daily."



•Adeleke

Special Report

Fresh Communal Clash Brews Between Ifon, Ilobu

•Attacks, Hostility, Threats Continue After Peace Accord

Ismaeel Uthman

A fresh communal clash is imminent between Ifon and Ilobu, except the state government and security agencies swing into action to address the growing tension vis-a-vis mutual threats and harassment.

Findings by **OSUN DEFENDER** revealed that some indigenes of the two communities have not ceased from attacking, harassing and intimidating one another at every available opportunity, weeks after the state government committed their leaders to a peace accord that ended the communal clash.

It was noted that the state government or any of the security agencies have not called the stakeholders in the two communities to another round of peace meeting since October 6, in spite of the reports of light scale violence being received.

According to findings, there are noticeable mutual suspicion between Ifon and Ilobu indigenes, especially at the boundary areas.

There also exists palpable fear among indigenes who want to pass through Ifon or Ilobu either on foot or with their vehicles.

This is just as the indigenes of the two communities have been mindful of the areas to go when it is necessary for them to visit the other town.

A recent case of the mutual threats, attack and harassment of the two communities is an incident involving an indigene of Ifon, Mr. Gbadebo Odelade, who was allegedly attacked at the front of Ilobu Central Mosque by some youths on Friday, November 18, 2023.

According to sources, Odelade was driving a truck loaded with planks when he was forced to stop at Ilobu on his way to Osogbo around 1pm.

The youths, who were obviously Ilobu indigenes, allegedly beat Odelade and offloaded the planks on the ground that the woods were harvested from Ilobu farms, which Ifon indigenes have barred them from entering after the communal clash.

OSUN DEFENDER gathered that Odelade was eventually allowed to go after being attacked for close to one hour by the angry youths.

Findings also revealed that it took the intervention of the Divisional Police Officers of both Ilobu and Ifon police stations before the truck and the planks could be released the following day.



•Odelade, during the attack

However, Ilobu indigenes have also accused Ifon people of attacking commuters and drivers that pass through the community.

A statement by an indigenous group, Ilobu Youth Vanguard, on November 17, alleged that some indigenes of the town who were coming from some villages in Oyo State were attacked in Ifon.

The statement titled: "Another Problem Is Looming Between Ilobu And Ifon, a copy of which was made

available to **OSUN DEFENDER** yesterday reads: "The recent events unfolding between the communities of Ilobu and Ifon have raised serious concerns among the citizens, prompting a call for an urgent intervention from the Osun state government.

"The residents of Ifon have reportedly been attacking commuters and drivers from Ilobu, particularly those arriving from neighbouring villages in Oyo State.

"The Ilobu Youth Van-

guard (IYV) draw attention to the matter, urging the government, led by the esteemed Governor Sen. Nurudeen Ademola Jackson Adeleke (Imole Osun), to address this issue promptly.

"Despite a previous cease-fire order issued by the state government, tensions seem to persist, with the Ilobu residents asserting their commitment to abiding by the law.

"However, the citizens expressed dissatisfaction with the current security situation, highlighting a perceived concentration of security forces in Ilobu, leaving Ifon residents vulnerable to exploit.

"The Ilobu Concerned Citizens stressed the need for balanced security measures and implored the government to extend its intervention to both communities. The situation, if left unaddressed, could escalate, and the citizens hope that the state government will act swiftly to prevent further unrest.

"In their final plea, the concerned citizens emphasise that this report serves as their last attempt to bring the matter to the government's attention before people reinstate counter offensive measures. The citizens reaffirm their commitment to lawful actions but underscore the urgency of the government's response."

There were also allegations that the people of Ifon have persistently denied Ilobu indigenes access to their farms at various villages on Ifon land.

An indigene of Ilobu said: "Ifon people have not been allowing our people to go to their various farms at villages belonging to Ifon. Some of our people were attacked for attempting to go to their various farms.

"There are reports that some people from Ifon have also formed the habit of stealing the farm produce of Ilobu indigenes that have not returned to their farmlands on the pretext that the two communities are still at war. The government should see to this. We need genuine settlement and peace accord."

In an audio obtained by **OSUN DEFENDER**, a breed dealer in Ilobu, Mr. Wasiu Abass, who is an Ifon indigene, al-

leged that he was chased away on the directives of Olobu of Ilobu, Oba Ashiru Olatoye Olaniyan.

He stated: "I have been evicted from where I am selling bread in Ilobu, they didn't take it lightly with us. People were coming from the (Olobu) palace consistently to ask us to leave as directed by Kabiesi.

"When I wanted to deliver bread to my agent who is an indigene of Ilobu on Friday, one man who identified himself as Alhaji Gbadegesin approached me and started spewing rubbish. He said we (Ifon) people are daring them (Ilobu people); he charged at me three times.

"Later, he told me that I was selling Ifon bread in Ilobu, that they do not want to see the bread again. I showed him the label of the breads; I told him the breads taken to Ifon were being produced in Osogbo branch of the maker but he didn't listen. He later called on some people at the other side; he told them the bread isn't that of Ifon.

"The following day, the owner of the land on which my container was placed, called and told me that I should suspend activities at the shop. I explained what transpired to him and he said there was no problem again.

"Yesterday, my agent at the shop called to inform me that four people from the palace came to meet her with the Olobu's staff. She said they told her that she should leave the place with the container that day or the container would be taken to the palace.

"I called the owner of the land to inform him that we were coming to carry the container away; he warned us not to come with any vehicle with Ifon plate number.

"I went to the police to report and I was given a patrol vehicle and four policemen from Ilobu Police Station. From what I observed; we would have been attacked if policemen didn't follow us."

However, some farmers who are Ilobu indigenes farming on Ifon land have also allegedly that they were being chased away with guns by some Ifon indigenes from their various farms.

The farmers who were

about 20 in number said they could no longer go to their farms because of the restrictions and violent threats from Ifon people.

Speaking on behalf of the farmers, Mr Bashiru Adegbenro, said: "Ifon people have been chasing us away with guns at our villages like Abebi, Opara, and others owned by Ifon. They are stealing our yams, cassava, etc. They are cutting down our cash crop trees to make planks. Our houses and farms have been destroyed.

"We are hungry; we have no means of livelihood except farming. We are now begging people to feed us. We have reported to the palace but it seems we are all helpless in this situation. The stakeholders should assist us. The government should please wade in and reclaim our farms for us."

However, Prince Tunde Oyelade, the Secretary General of Olufon Royal Family, told **OSUN DEFENDER** yesterday that Ifon indigenes were allegedly being maimed by Ilobu people, calling on the state government and security agencies to intervene.

According to Oyelade, Ifon people have been facing serious threats from Ilobu people, stating that several petitions have been forwarded to security agen-

cies to alert them on the security situation. He said: "Recent happenings have revealed that there is fire on the mountain. Ilobu people have been attacking our people, but we have remained calm in the face of provocation.

"An Ilobu indigene simple known as Emir who lives in Ifon was attacked by his kinsmen for his refusal to join the Ilobu in their onslaught against Ifon.

"A man escaped death last week because he is not an indigene of Ifon. The man who came for a ceremony in Ifon took a bike to visit his friend in Ilobu. Unknown to him, the okada rider is one of the assailants that have been obviously abducting our people to go and kill.

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•The bus conveying Ilobu indigenes who were allegedly attacked by Ifon people



•Adegbenro

Osun Fmr. Commissioner, Badmus Inaugurated As 5th LAUTECH Alumni Global President

Kazeem Badmus

A former Commissioner for Special Duties and Regional Integration in Osun State, Mr. Lekan Badmus, was on Monday inaugurated as the 5th Global President of Ladoko Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH) Alumni Association.

Speaking after his inauguration, Badmus pledged that the association would continue to foster unity, innovation and progress within the global network.

Badmus announced that the alumni would sponsor education expenses of deserving students of the institution for this session.

The new president appealed to the management of the university to consider re-opening the fee payment portal for undergraduates, dwelling on the grim economic situation of the country.

He said: "At this point, I would humbly like to make a very important appeal to this hallowed gathering,

especially the management of the school to consider re-opening the fee payment portal for undergraduate students.

"The grim economic situation in our country has cast a harsh light on the plight of many of our students, as they endure financial hardship with their families.

"It is with a heavy heart that I acknowledge the impact that this has had on some of our students, who were unable to meet the financial obligations required for their education, and as a result, missed crucial exams last month. The repercussions of this have undoubtedly impacted their academic progress in a negative way.

"In recognition of the profound importance of education as a transformative force, I am proud to declare that the alumni community has come together to provide immediate relief and support to those in need.

"With great opti-

mism, I am announcing that the alumni will generously sponsor the

education expenses of some indigent students for this session,

ensuring that they are given the opportunity to continue their aca-

demical journey without the burden of financial stress."



•Badmus and the other executives of LAUTECH Alumni Association

Fresh Communal Clash Brews Between...

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"He was taken to the den of the assailants in Ilobu and upon getting there the okada rider reportedly said: "guys, I have brought another Ifon indigene". The assailants came out and as they wanted to descend on the man; he told them he is an indigene of Osogbo and not Ifon. He explained that he came for a programme in Ifon and decided to see a friend in Ilobu. He was asked to call his Ilobu friend and the person confirmed that he is an indigene of Osogbo. He was asked to go afterwards.

"Imagine if he was an indigene of Ifon, that was how he would be killed. The Olobu should be called to order. He has not been playing a good role on this matter. We have reported many cases of threat to the government and security agencies but nothing has been done. We want them to act fast before the tension escalates again."

Reacting to the allegations, the Otun Jagun of Ilobu, Chief Rauf Ogunsola, accused Ifon of being the aggressor and unwilling to end the crisis permanently.

According to Ogunsola, Ifon has not ceased from preventing the farmers who are Ilobu indigenes from their various farms and even from destroying their farms.

He said: "Some of the Ilobu indigenes who are farming on Iresa Adu's land of Oyo state are being prevented from getting to their various farms by the people of Ifon. Since the 4th of Oc-

tober, 2023, they have not been allowed to their farms and villages, among which are Ologele, Bada, wale, Idiroko, Abebi, Bara Odunayo, Bara Oloso and Ojeyemi. On daily basis, they (Ifon indigenes) cut down their economic trees and make them into planks; they destroy their farms.

"Apart from those ones, there are other farmers at Toluwade village who are indigenes of Ilobu that are not allowed to go to their farms. There are other villages which they don't al-

low our people to enter too like Ekor, Ikimo and others. Some of our people who went to the farm met Ifon indigenes stealing their cassava and they were arrested. Eesa of Ifon Osun came to bail them.

"There are other villages like Bere Odofin, Ogun-tunde, opapa that Ifon indigenes go there with arms and ammunition everyday to patrol.

"Some of our people who live at Ikoosin in Oyo state that need to pass through Ifon before get-

ting to Ilobu were attacked. About four or five of them were attacked separately by the people of Ifon. One was attacked on Monday, three people had been attacked previously. They were shot; their vehicle was destroyed. These things were reported to the police.

"They (Ifon people) attack our people on daily basis; I am afraid that when they exhaust their patience, they may react. Unless the government calls the Eesa of Ifon to order, I don't think this attack will stop."

The "Many Sins" Of Justice...

•Continued from page 2

its constitutional responsibilities if it had ignored the petitions.

"For the benefit of the public, some of the allegations against the Chief Judge are: Diversion of the funds for the State Judiciary Library; Diversion of the robe allowance of a brother judge of the Osun State High Court which is about N5, 000,000: 00 (Five Million Naira); Indiscriminate suspension of Judicial staff without going through the Judicial Commission and diversion of their salaries.

"Diversion of revenue due to the government from filing electronic affidavits through the sole appointment of a consultant by the Chief Judge. In this case, the consultant makes N1000

on an affidavit as against just N250 that is being remitted to the state coffers; Disobedience of a Court judgement that discharged and acquitted a judicial staff of the allegation of embezzling N30, 000 typing sheet funds; Diversion of the proceeds that was recovered from the convicted armed robbers of the Ikirun robbery."

Responding to the claim of the assembly, counsel to the Chief Judge, Mr Oladipo Olasope, SAN, described the corruption allegations as a figment of the assembly's imagination.

Olasope, in a telephone interview with journalists on Wednesday, absolved Justice Adepele-Ojo of all the allegations, saying, "Who are they to be

querying the CJ? Disciplining the CJ does not lie with the Osun State House of Assembly.

"Section 292 of the Constitution is very clear. It is the NJC who can discipline a CJ, not the House of Assembly. So, all those allegations are figments of their own imagination. They have to say something to justify their position and that is what they choose to say.

"They are putting the cart before the horse. After you asked the woman to step aside, you are now bringing up charges and allegations. Why not bring the allegations first, try her, if you find her guilty, and then send it to the NJC and the NJC will now decide."

Osun United Players Evicted From FG's SDG Centre

Yusuf Oketola

PLAYERS of Osun United were on Monday ejected from the Federal Government's Sustainable Development Centre (SGDs) in Iragbiji where the Osun State government had relocated the team for camping.

OSUN DEFENDER gathered that the Iragbiji community had issued a 21-day ultimatum to the state government to evacuate the footballers, stating that the centre should be used for the purposes it was created for.

Similarly, a former governor of the state, Mr Adegboyega Oyetola, has over the weekend kicked against the conversion of the SDG skill acquisition centre to footballers' camp, describing the step as unacceptable and anti-youths.

OSUN DEFENDER reliably gathered that the footballers who were forced to leave the SDG centre are now back to their respective homes.

One of the footballers who pleaded anonymity said: "We left the SDG facility centre in Iragbiji which we were using for

camping around 8am on Monday.

"A senior police officer came to meet us

at the facility around 6:30pm on Sunday, admonishing us to leave the place.

"Ever since we got to the facility, we realised that the community is against conversion of

the FG's skill acquisition centre to the camp for us. We never had a rest of mind ever since

we got to the place because our security was not guaranteed. We had to leave the place this morning."

Another Osun United footballer lamented: "We are stranded now, we don't know where to sleep or use for camping again. You see many of our people sleeping on the floor while others are loitering around. We learnt that the state government might move us to Machine Tools in Osogbo.

Reacting, Mr. Goke Awoyemi, the Chief Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor who is supervisor of Ministry of Sports, said he was just hearing about the development, promising that he would get back for more information.



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Yusuf Oketola

News

Nigeria Has No Developmental Goal, Paradigm In Place - Stakeholders

Kazeem Badmus

STAKEHOLDERS has identified corruption and loss of value as major challenges threatening Nigeria's growth.

The stakeholders agreed that Nigeria has not decided to develop because it has no developmental goal and paradigm in place.

They spoke at a conference organised by Fountain University, Osogbo, on Wednesday.

The theme of the conference was tagged: 'The Challenge of Development in Nigeria: Beyond the Corruption Narrative'

Some of the lecturers and panelists who spoke at the programme disagreed that corruption is not the major factor hindering the country's growth, while some of them identified it as a major threat.

In his address, the Chief Executive Officer of **OSUN DEFENDER** Newspaper, Prince Kanmi Ademiluyi, said corruption is not a big deal to hinder development

in Nigeria, sighting the example of Brazil and India.

Ademiluyi noted that corrupt in those countries are not seen as normal issues, saying money stolen by public office holders are used to invest and build industries within the country.

He said this provide employment opportunities for youths in the countries as against what corruption is in Nigeria where individuals stole money and take it outside the country.

Ademiluyi, however, argued that Nigeria as a country has not yet decided to develop as it failed to bring up a development goal and paradigm.

He said: "Corruption is not actually Nigeria problem because corruption is not seen as a moral issue in Brazil and India. When monies are embezzled in these countries, they invest it by building industries within the country which provide employment for the graduates.

"Corruption is not our problem in Nigeria, just that we are not interested in development."

"Instead of building productive capacity, we are buying cars for our lawmakers from Japan. What happened to our own local manufacturers? The money used in purchasing the cars

would have remained within our economy. Nigeria has not decided to be a Develop country."

One of the panelists, Comrade Ayo Ologun, opined that Nigeria has developed because the country is not where it was before years back, though the nation is not where it supposed to be.

According to Ologun, the bane of Nigeria's growth is not corruption but loss of value, noting that the country can only succeed when it attached value to the system.

He said: "Nigeria has developed as we are not where we used to be but we have not developed to where we

supposed to be.

"What have limited us in term of development is not about corruption. We cannot develop when the issue of value is not put into place. An idiot can lead Nigeria when he/she bring value to the system."

"A system that is put in place is what we bring about development and will bring about value. It is when value is attached to the office he or she is that will bring growth.

"Office holders embezzle money because of value they attached to material things. We have lost development because of value we attached to people because of material things.

"You cannot bring sanity to a system unless you are ready to bring value to it and It is about value you have developed as you are growing up that will assist. Our limitation to development in Nigeria is because we have lost value, not corruption."



•Prince Kanmi in white speaking at the event

OBSERVATION

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STRIKER ■ Striker is not the opinion of the Columnist featured above

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