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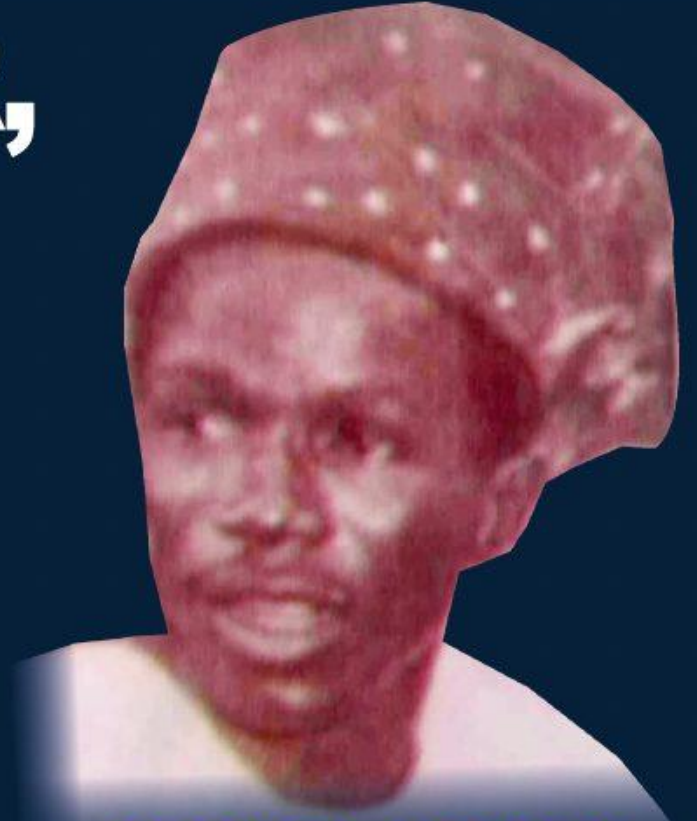
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OkunPeople

The Premier Magazine of Okun Area - Yagba East, Yagba West, Kabba-Bunu, Ijumu and Mopamuro LGAs of Kogi State, Nigeria. A Catalyst for Rural Development

LEGISLATIVE POWER, ROTATION POLITICS AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESSION IN OKUNLAND AHEAD OF 2027 (II)



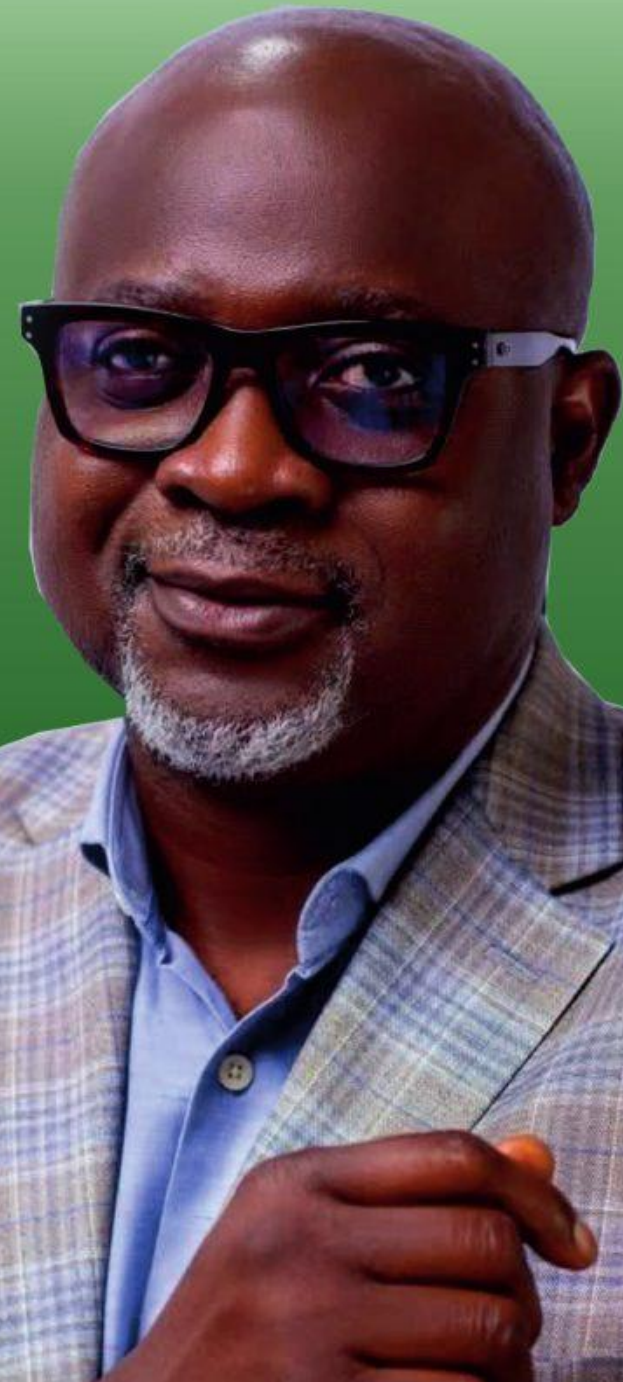
HON. R.T. ALEGE
Father of Legislative Representation in Okunland



ABEJIDE



KARIMI



IDRIS

Legislative Power, Rotation Politics and the Struggle for Succession in Okunland ahead of 2027 (II)

In the intricate political landscape of Kogi West, particularly within the culturally cohesive yet politically complex Okunland, the race toward the 2027 general elections has evolved into a defining moment for legislative politics. What was once a predictable cycle of representation guided by unwritten agreements and elite consensus has now transformed into a high-stakes contest marked by intense rivalry, ideological divergence, and a growing uncertainty over the future of rotational politics.

The rise of ambitious political actors, the growing influence of money and structure in elections, and the consolidation of incumbency advantages have all contributed to a gradual erosion of the consensus that once defined Okun politics. Today, zoning is no longer a settled principle but a contested idea, interpreted differently by various stakeholders depending on their strategic interests.

At the centre of this unfolding political drama is a fundamental question: should power continue to rotate in the interest of equity and balance, or should electoral victory be determined solely by capacity, popularity, and political strength? This question has not only divided political elites but has also filtered down to grassroots communities, creating competing narratives about fairness, justice, and democratic choice.

As aspirants begin to position themselves for the 2027 elections, alliances are being forged and broken with increasing frequency. Old political structures are being tested, new coalitions are emerging, and the boundaries between loyalty and ambition are becoming increasingly blurred. Within major political parties, particularly the All Progressives Congress, internal divisions are deepening, with different factions aligning around competing visions of how power should be distributed.

The result is a political environment charged with anticipation and uncertainty. In both Yagba Federal Constituency and Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency, the battle lines are being drawn not just between individuals but between competing philosophies of representation. Incumbents are defending their records and seeking continuity, while challengers are mobilizing around the argument for rotation and inclusion.

This feature examines the forces shaping this contest, the personalities driving it, and the broader implications for democratic governance in Okunland. As the countdown to 2027 continues, the choices made by political actors and the electorate alike will determine not only who holds office but also the principles that will guide political succession in the years to come.

HISTORY OF ROTATION IN OKUNLAND

To fully understand the intensity of the current political contest in Okunland, it is essential to examine the historical roots and evolution of the rotational arrangement that has long governed legislative representation in the region. Far from being a mere political convenience, zoning emerged as a pragmatic response to the realities of diversity, competition, and the need for balance within a plural society.

At the dawn of the Fourth Republic in 1999, political leaders across Okunland were confronted with a critical challenge: how to manage power in a way that would prevent domination by any single local government area while ensuring that all segments of the population felt adequately represented. The memory of past political marginalisation, coupled with the fear of exclusion in a democratic setting, made it imperative to design a system that would guarantee inclusiveness.

It was within this context that the idea of rotation gained traction. Though not codified in law, it was widely accepted as a moral framework guiding political succession. Leaders from Yagba West, Yagba East, Mopamuro, Kabba-Bunu, and Ijumu local government areas informally agreed to take turns in occupying key legislative positions, particularly seats in the House of Representatives.

This arrangement quickly proved effective. By distributing opportunities across districts, it reduced the likelihood of prolonged grievances and fostered a sense of unity among the various communities. Political actors, aware of the long-term benefits of stability, largely adhered to the principle, even when it meant shelving personal ambitions for the greater good.

Over time, zoning became deeply embedded in the political culture of Okunland. It was not uncommon for

aspirants to step down in favour of candidates from designated zones, while party leaders often played mediating roles to ensure compliance. The system also encouraged the emergence of consensus candidates, thereby minimizing the intensity of intra-party conflicts.

However, the success of rotation was not without its limitations. While it promoted fairness in terms of geographical representation, it did not always guarantee the selection of the most competent candidates. In some instances, the emphasis on zoning led to the imposition of candidates who lacked broad appeal, thereby weakening electoral competitiveness. Despite these challenges, the arrangement remained largely intact for over a decade, sustained by a collective commitment to peace and mutual respect. It became a reference point for political negotiations and a benchmark against which claims of injustice were measured.

The turning point began to emerge as Nigeria's political environment became more competitive and resource-driven. Elections grew more expensive, political networks more complex, and the stakes of holding office significantly higher. As a result, the willingness of political actors to adhere strictly to zoning began to wane.

Gradually, the principle that once united Okunland started to show signs of strain. Aspirants with strong financial backing and widespread support began to question why they should step aside based on informal agreements. At the same time, communities that felt shortchanged by previous arrangements became more vocal in demanding their turn.

Today, the legacy of rotation remains both a guiding principle and a source of contention. While many still view it as essential for maintaining balance, others see it as an outdated constraint in a modern democratic setting. This duality lies at the heart of the current political struggle, shaping the strategies, alliances, and narratives that define the race toward 2027.

BREAKDOWN OF THE ZONING CRISIS

The present turbulence in Okunland's political space is best understood as a full-blown crisis of zoning, one that has gradually evolved from quiet disagreements into open confrontation among political actors. What was once a respected gentleman's agreement has now become a subject of intense contestation, with its legitimacy, relevance, and application all being questioned in equal measure.

At the core of the crisis is a growing divergence between principle and practice. While many politicians continue to publicly endorse rotation as a necessary mechanism for fairness, their actions often suggest otherwise. This contradiction has eroded trust within the political class, creating an atmosphere where alliances are fragile and commitments are frequently renegotiated.

One of the major triggers of this breakdown is the increasing value attached to political office. Legislative positions, particularly at the federal level, are no longer seen merely as platforms for representation but also as gateways to influence, resources, and long-term political relevance. As the stakes have risen, so too has the reluctance of incumbents and strong aspirants to rotate power based on informal arrangements.

This shift has given rise to a new category of political actors - those who believe that electoral victory should be determined solely by capacity, performance, and voter acceptance. For this group, zoning is viewed as an artificial limitation that undermines democratic choice. They argue that in a true democracy, the electorate should have the freedom to choose their representatives without being constrained by geographical considerations.

Opposing this view are proponents of rotation, who insist that abandoning zoning would lead to systemic imbalance and political marginalization. They point to historical patterns in which certain districts have enjoyed prolonged access to power while others have remained on the fringes. For them, rotation is not just a political strategy but a moral imperative designed to correct structural inequities.

This ideological divide has manifested in various forms across Okunland. In some cases, it has led to parallel consultations within the same political party, with different factions holding separate meetings to advance their preferred candidates. In others, it has resulted in subtle but persistent campaigns aimed at discrediting opponents based on their stance on zoning.

Compounding the situation is the lack of a clearly defined framework for implementing rotation. Because the arrangement is informal, there is no universally

accepted formula for determining when and how power should shift. Questions such as which axis is due, how long each zone should hold office, and whether performance should override zoning remain largely unresolved.

These ambiguities have created room for manipulation. Political actors often interpret zoning in ways that favour their ambitions, citing selective historical precedents to justify their positions. This has further deepened divisions, as competing narratives emerge about what constitutes fairness.

The crisis is also being driven by generational change. Younger politicians, many of whom are less invested in traditional arrangements, are increasingly challenging the status quo. They bring with them new ideas about governance and representation, but also a willingness to disrupt established norms in pursuit of their goals.

At the grassroots level, the impact of this crisis is becoming more pronounced. Communities are aligning themselves along zoning lines, with local leaders mobilizing support based on claims of entitlement or injustice. This has heightened political awareness but also increased the risk of polarization.

Despite these challenges, the zoning debate has also sparked a broader conversation about the future of democracy in Okunland. It has forced stakeholders to confront difficult questions about the balance between equity and merit, tradition and progress, stability and competition.

As the 2027 elections draw closer, the outcome of this debate will play a decisive role in shaping the political landscape. Whether through consensus, compromise, or confrontation, the resolution of the zoning crisis will determine not only who emerges as candidates but also the level of unity or division that accompanies the electoral process.

In many ways, Okunland stands at a crossroads. The decisions made in this period will either reinforce the principles that have sustained its political system or redefine them entirely. What is clear, however, is that the era of unquestioned adherence to rotation has come to an end, replaced by a more complex and uncertain political reality.

INCUMBENCY VS ROTATION BATTLE

As the zoning crisis deepens across Okunland, it has inevitably crystallised into a direct confrontation between two powerful forces: incumbency and the agitation for rotational equity. This clash has become the defining feature of the political build-up to the 2027 general elections, shaping narratives, alliances, and the strategic calculations of both established officeholders and ambitious challengers.

Incumbency, by its very nature, comes with formidable advantages. Those currently occupying legislative seats have access to established political structures, visibility, and the ability to influence grassroots networks through constituency projects and empowerment initiatives. Over time, these tools have enabled incumbents to build loyal support bases that transcend local divisions and, in some cases, weaken the appeal of zoning arguments.

In the Yagba Federal Constituency, this dynamic is most visible in the political stature of Hon. Leke Abejide. Having entrenched himself as a dominant political force, his tenure has been marked by consistent engagement with constituents, targeted interventions, and a strategic expansion of his influence across the three local government areas. To his supporters, continuity represents stability and sustained development. They argue that his performance justifies another term, regardless of zoning considerations.

However, this position is strongly contested by proponents of rotation, who see any extension of incumbency beyond an agreed cycle as a threat to equity. For them, the issue is not necessarily about the achievements of the incumbent but about the long-term consequences of allowing one axis to retain power at the expense of others. They warn that such a precedent could undermine trust and fuel resentment among underrepresented communities.

A similar contest is unfolding in the Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency, where Hon. Salman Idris faces a growing chorus of opposition from aspirants advocating for a shift in power. While Idris is recognised for his persistence and political experience, his challengers are framing the 2027 election as an opportunity to recalibrate representation in favour of other zones.

What makes this battle particularly complex is that both sides command significant legitimacy. Incumbents can point to tangible achievements and voter support, while advocates of rotation draw strength from the moral

LADY OF THE MONTH



NAME: Osho Boluwatife Princess
HEIGHT: 5ft 7"
EDUCATION: Federal University, Lokoja
QUALIFICATION: Bachelor of Science Degree (Bc.)
 Pure and Applied Chemistry
OCCUPATION: Teacher, Hair Stylist
PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE: Life is a journey that shapes, teaches and evolves us. Discovering and understanding the uniqueness of our individual journey will help us thrive into purpose.
TURN-ON: Honesty
TURN-OFF: Dishonesty
BEST FOOD: Beans
ATTIRE: Modest dressing
PHONE NUMBER: 09032048056
EMAIL: boluwatifeosho@outlook.com
HOBBIES: Dancing, Learning

OKUN MENU



EFO-RIRO

Efo Riro is a Popular Yoruba and Nigerian rich Vegetable Soup with high health benefits.

Ingredients:

- 4 Red bell peppers (Tatashe)
- 1 Medium Onion Bulb
- 3 Scotch Bonnet (Ata Rodo)

Preparation:

Chop all listed Ingredients. Combine in a blender and pulse to a rough coarse consistency. Pour mixture into a strainer and rest to remove excess fluid.

- 1 Cup of Palm Oil
- 1 Medium onion Bulb (thinly sliced)
- 2 Tablespoon Blended Crayfish
- ½ Cup Red Prawns (head removed)
- 2 cups shredded fish (smoked Catfish preferably) Washed and de-boned
- Parboiled meat (Goat meat or beef and/or Ponmon) 6-8 pieces
- 2 Tablespoons whole Locust Beans (Iru)
- Salt- to taste
- 3 Cube Maggi
- 15 Cups Chopped Fresh Spinach (Efo tete)
- 3 bunches
- OR 3 Packs Chopped Frozen Spinach (9oz packs) – Defrosted

Preparation: If using fresh Spinach, place the spinach in a bowl, add ½ teaspoon of Salt, cover with boiling water and place a lid over the bowl. Allow to rest for 20mins. Rinse out the spinach and squeeze out all excess water.

Method:

Place a large pot over medium heat, add in the palm oil. Heat oil until a little smoky. Add in the sliced onions and fry until lightly browned. Add in the end result of part A and the left over ingredients in part B. Cover and leave to simmer for 25 minutes (The palm oil will float to the top when the sauce is ready). Add in the spinach, combine. Taste and adjust for seasoning, leave to simmer for another 5 more minutes.



TIWA N'TIWA
L'EKAN SI
2027



- HON ARC SALMAN IDRIS, FNIA

Member, House of Representatives
Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency

My role doesn't end when I leave the Legislative Chamber. I believe in Community engagement and presence. I'm often in the Market, at Town Halls, and visiting our Schools because I want to hear your concerns directly, I'm also committed to Transparency and Accountability. I'm always ready to explain my decisions, because you deserve to know how I'm representing you.

Continued from page 2

argument of fairness and inclusivity. This dual legitimacy has made compromise difficult, as neither side is willing to concede ground without risking political relevance. The contest is further intensified by the role of political financiers and power brokers, many of whom are aligning themselves based on strategic interests rather than ideological commitments. Their involvement has raised the stakes, transforming what might have been a manageable disagreement into a high-stakes struggle with far-reaching implications.

Another critical dimension of this battle is the perception of entitlement. In districts that have not held legislative power for extended periods, there is a growing sense that their turn is overdue. This sentiment is being actively mobilised by aspirants who position themselves as champions of marginalised communities.

Conversely, incumbents and their allies are countering this narrative by emphasising performance and continuity. They argue that governance should not be reduced to a rotational formula, especially when the current officeholder is delivering results. This argument resonates with voters who prioritise development over political arrangements.

At the grassroots level, these competing narratives are shaping voter attitudes in complex ways. While some communities remain firmly committed to zoning, others are increasingly open to evaluating candidates based on individual merit. This fluidity adds another layer of unpredictability to the electoral landscape.

Ultimately, the battle between incumbency and rotation is not just a contest of individuals but a broader struggle over the principles that should guide political succession in Okunland. As both sides continue to mobilise support, the outcome will likely redefine the balance between continuity and change in the region's democratic process.

YAGBA POLITICAL BATTLEFIELD (KEY ACTORS)

Nowhere is the struggle between rotation and incumbency more pronounced than in the Yagba Federal Constituency, where the 2027 race is shaping up to be a defining political confrontation involving a blend of established power brokers, emerging actors, and ideologically driven aspirants. The constituency, comprising Yagba West, Yagba East, and Mopamuro local government areas, has become the epicentre of the zoning debate, with each bloc advancing its own claims to legitimacy and representation.

At the centre of this contest is Hon. Leke Abejide, the incumbent lawmaker whose political dominance has redefined the landscape over the past electoral cycles. Running on the platform of the African Democratic Congress, Abejide has cultivated a reputation as a grassroots mobiliser with a strong philanthropic footprint. His supporters often describe his following as near cult-like, anchored on consistent constituency engagement, empowerment initiatives, and a visible presence across communities.

For Abejide, the 2027 election represents both an opportunity and a challenge. On one hand, his track record provides a compelling argument for continuity. On the other, the growing agitation for rotation, particularly from Mopamuro axis, presents a formidable obstacle that cannot be easily dismissed. His ability to navigate this tension will be central to his political survival.

Challenging this incumbency is a formidable array of aspirants within the All Progressives Congress, each bringing distinct strengths and strategic approaches to the race. Among them is Hon. Folusho Daniel, a retired Naval Commodore whose political journey spans multiple platforms, including the Peoples Democratic Party, the defunct All Nigeria Peoples Party, and the APC. A seasoned grassroots organiser, Daniel commands a loyal political bloc and has consistently positioned himself as a strong advocate of rotational justice.

His argument is rooted in both experience and principle. Having witnessed the evolution of Okun politics over decades, he frames rotation not merely as a political arrangement but as a necessary instrument for sustaining unity. His organisational strength and ability to mobilise support across different communities make him a significant contender in any scenario.

Equally influential is Dr. Alex Ayoade John, a businessman and convener of the Delex Movement, whose articulation of the zoning argument has resonated widely within the constituency. Dr. John presents one of the most structured cases for rotation, breaking down the constituency into its various axes and highlighting what he describes as historical imbalances in representation.

According to his analysis, while most axes within Yagba Federal Constituency have had opportunities to produce representatives, the Amuro axis in Mopamuro remains largely excluded. For him, the 2027 election offers a critical opportunity to correct this imbalance. However, he also acknowledges the internal challenges within Mopamuro, noting that multiple aspirants from the same area could inadvertently strengthen the position of the incumbent if not properly managed.

This recognition has informed his call for unity among pro-rotation forces, emphasising the need for a consensus candidate capable of consolidating support and presenting a credible alternative to the incumbent. Whether such unity can be achieved remains one of the biggest questions in the unfolding political drama.

Another notable figure in the race is Seun Samuel Ibigbemi, an entrepreneur with a strong background in banking and business development. Representing a younger

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Congratulations on your Birthday!



Distinguished Senator
SUNDAY STEVE KARIMI
Kogi West Senatorial District

Chairman, Committee on Senate Services

We Congratulate you today, **March 10, 2026** on the auspicious occasion of your **Birthday** and your recent appointment as **Member of APC National Convention Committee**.

We also wish to state that your tenure as Senator representing Kogi West Senatorial District of Kogi State has built a legacy that will sustain legislative representation through time.

Wishing you many more fulfilling years to come.

KOGI WEST AND THE BURDEN OF INTERNAL DEMOCRACY, EQUITY BEGINS AT HOME

Pastor Stanley Ajileye

"He who calls for equity must come with clean hands."

This age old saying is neither sentimental nor decorative, it is a moral compass. It speaks directly to our present political reality in Kogi West and challenges us to examine whether our loud calls for justice in Kogi State are matched by fairness within our own house.

In recent months, voices from Kogi West have risen in passionate demand for equity in the power equation of Kogi State. These calls are legitimate, timely, and just. However, it is intellectually dishonest to restrict the idea of equity to the governorship alone. Equity is not selective, and justice does not begin and end at the highest office in the land.

True equity must cascade, from the Presidency to the Senate, from the Senate to the House of Representatives, from there to Local Government Chairmen, Councillors, and even Ward leadership. Anything short of this is hypocrisy disguised as agitation.

One of Nigeria's greatest democratic misconceptions is the belief that democracy is rigid and uniform. No, this is not true. And as a Political Scientist, I can say this loud.

Democracy is not a one-fits all toga.

On the contrary, democracy is the most flexible system of government ever devised by man. Its strength lies in its ability to adapt to culture, history, and social structure. Democracy does not impose identity, it absorbs it. This is why no two nations practise democracy in exactly the same way. The democratic culture of the United States of America differs fundamentally from that of the United Kingdom, not because one is superior, but because each reflects its own peculiarities. It was from this understanding that I once described democracy as a demonstration of Idiosyncrasy. (Democracy)

Democracy allows nations and communities to express their uniqueness in leadership selection. It empowers societies to govern themselves in ways that resonate

with their traditions and lived realities.

In most parts of Africa, and particularly in Nigeria, rotation of leadership is not a political invention, it is a cultural heritage. Traditional rulership across our land is largely rotational, designed to ensure inclusion, fairness, and peace. This system was not adopted for amusement. It was crafted to prevent domination, suppress resentment, and foster harmonious coexistence. When modern democracy ignores this wisdom, it breeds tension and instability. Therefore, whether written or unwritten, coded or uncoded, rotation of political offices should be a natural expectation in our democracy, especially in culturally homogeneous regions like Kogi West.

Let's talk about Senate

Kogi West Senatorial District is made up of three Federal Constituencies, Ijumu, Kabba Bunu Federal Constituency, Lokoja, Koton-Karfe Federal Constituency, and Yagba East, Yagba West, Mopamuro Federal Constituency, commonly known as Yagba Federal Constituency.

A review of senatorial representation since 1999 is revealing. Between 1999 and 2003, the seat was occupied by Senator Jonathan Tunde Ogbeha of PDP from Lokoja.

From 2007 to 2015, Senator Smart Adeyemi from Ijumu served, initially under PDP and later APC. Senator Dino Melaye, also from Ijumu, served from 2015 to 2019 under PDP. Smart Adeyemi returned from 2019 to 2023.

From 2023 to the present, the seat has been occupied by Senator Sunday Steve Karimi from Yagba under APC.

The facts are unambiguous. Ijumu, Kabba Bunu Federal Constituency, particularly Ijumu Local Government, (my LGA) has enjoyed more than its fair share of the senatorial seat. Equity therefore demands restraint. Morally and culturally, Ijumu should sidon look for at least the next three election cycles or even more. Justice requires patience.

For 2027, the senatorial seat should remain in Yagba Federal Constituency. From 2031, rotation should

move to Lokoja, Koton Karfe, allowing Koto-Karfe their turns. Thereafter, rotation should come to Kabba Bunu, with Ijumu respectfully excluded, having already benefitted disproportionately. This is not punishment, it is balance.

Now to the House of Reps.

I will love to restrict myself to Ijumu/ Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency.

If we demand fairness externally, we must practise it internally. Within Ijumu, Kabba Bunu Federal Constituency, the House of Representatives seat has rotated as follows. From 1999 to 2003, Hon. Samuel Abiodun Ojo from Ijumu Oke, served under PDP.

From 2003 to 2007, Hon. Durosimi Meseko from Bunu served.

From 2007 to 2011, Sen. Dino Melaye from Ijumu Gbede served.

From 2011 to 2023, Hon. Tajudeen Ayo Yusuf from Kabba served three consecutive terms.

From 2023 to the present, Hon. Idris Salman from Ijumu Gbede has been in office.

From this pattern, it is clear that Kabba Bunu has just concluded an extended run, while Ijumu is currently in its first term after a long interval. Equity therefore dictates that Ijumu should retain the seat for at least one more term. However, fairness within Ijumu itself must apply. Ijumu Arin, the only district that has not produced occupied the seat representative since 1999, deserves priority consideration. Justice must be both horizontal and vertical.

When we practise equity at home, our voice becomes morally authoritative beyond our borders. But when we ignore fairness internally, our agitation externally loses credibility. Kogi West must rise above sentiment, ambition, and convenience. Our democracy must reflect our culture, our history, and our collective conscience.

Only then can we speak boldly for justice in Kogi State, and be heard.

Equity is not a slogan, it is a lifestyle.

Doing The Needful For Tinubu, Karimi

The return of Steve Sunday Karimi to the Senate is far more than a personal political contest; it is a defining test of the political maturity, collective resolve, and readiness of the people of Kogi West Senatorial District to assert equity and justice within the political structure of Kogi State. Political moments such as this do not come often. When they do, they demand clarity of purpose and unity of action.

Senator Karimi plays politics without pretense. From the outset, he has spoken plainly and consistently on the question of power equity in Kogi State. He did not calculate how many forces might align against him, nor did he temper his convictions to curry favor with entrenched interests. In a political culture where silence is often rewarded and convenience mistaken for wisdom, Karimi chose courage. Over time, he has emerged as the most consistent, most vocal, and most principled advocate of fairness and inclusion in the state's political conversation. Such consistency is rare, and it deserves recognition through renewed mandate.

Importantly, the decision regarding his reelection lies squarely with the people of Kogi West. This fact alone elevates the coming contest beyond routine politics. It presents a rare opportunity to make a clear and unmistakable statement, one that aligns regional justice with national stability. That opportunity coincides directly with the reelection bid of our President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Senator Karimi has distinguished himself as the strongest and most committed proponent of President Tinubu's second-term project in Kogi State. His support has been neither symbolic nor transactional; it has been strategic, visible, and deeply rooted in conviction. His hosting of one of the most impactful town hall engagements for the President in Lokoja demonstrated what sincere grassroots mobilization looks like. Thousands of ward-level mobilizers drawn from across the state gathered not merely to endorse a project, but to be equipped and organized for effective political engagement. That effort gained momentum because it was driven by purpose and authenticity, not compulsion.

Beyond mobilization, Senator Karimi has translated political loyalty into tangible social impact. His empowerment initiatives span communities and demographics across the state. Notably, the on

going distribution of 1,500 bags of rice per ward across all 21 local governments reflects a leadership style that recognizes present realities, hunger, hardship, and the dignity of ordinary people. This is not episodic charity; it is structured intervention rooted in responsibility and empathy.

One particularly beautiful and reassuring aspect of this political season is the changed rule of engagement. Unlike in the past, when party primaries were largely determined by a small circle of delegates and elite bargaining, the new electoral law has fundamentally shifted power to the grassroots. The introduction of direct primaries ensures that every registered party member now participates directly in choosing candidates, beginning from the ward level.

This reform represents a historic opening for Kogi West. For the first time in a long while, the collective will of party members cannot easily be subverted by backroom arrangements or external imposition.

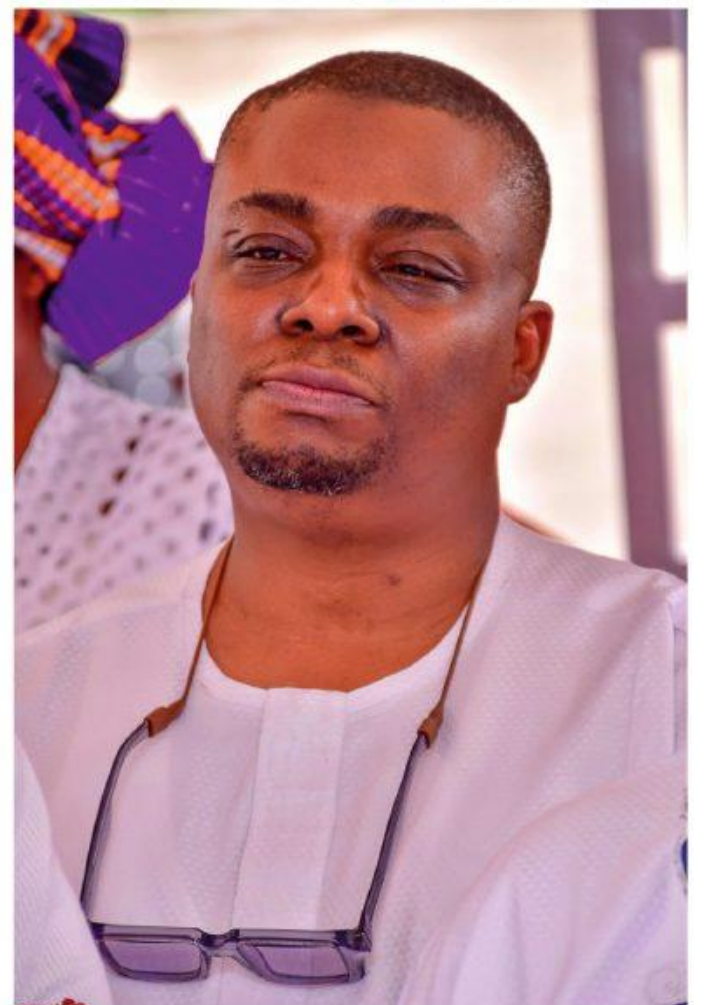
The people now have the freedom to make their choice openly and transparently. This development perfectly aligns with the principles Senator Karimi has consistently defended, equity, openness, and popular participation. Direct primaries reward genuine grassroots connection and proven service, not artificial structures.

For the people of Kogi West, therefore, the political task before us is both clear and strategic. The reelection of President Tinubu and Senator Karimi must be pursued as a joint political project.

Separating the two weakens our voice and diminishes our bargaining power; combining them sends a strong and unmistakable message of loyalty, alignment, and demand for fairness. Supporting President Tinubu secures continuity, reform, and stability at the national level. Supporting Senator Karimi secures justice, representation, and relevance for Kogi West.

Equity is never accidental. It is achieved through conscious and deliberate political choices. Reelection of both men is not only fair, it is wise. It affirms Kogi West's commitment to justice within the state and constructive partnership at the center. This election season presents a defining moment. The process is open. The power is with the people. History will remember how we used it.

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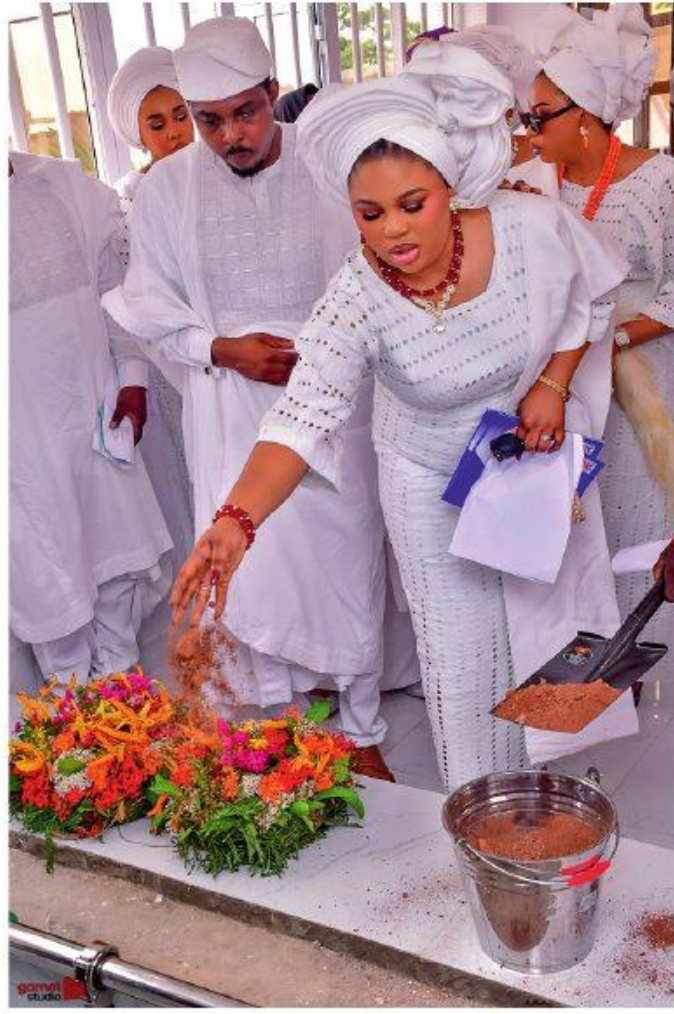


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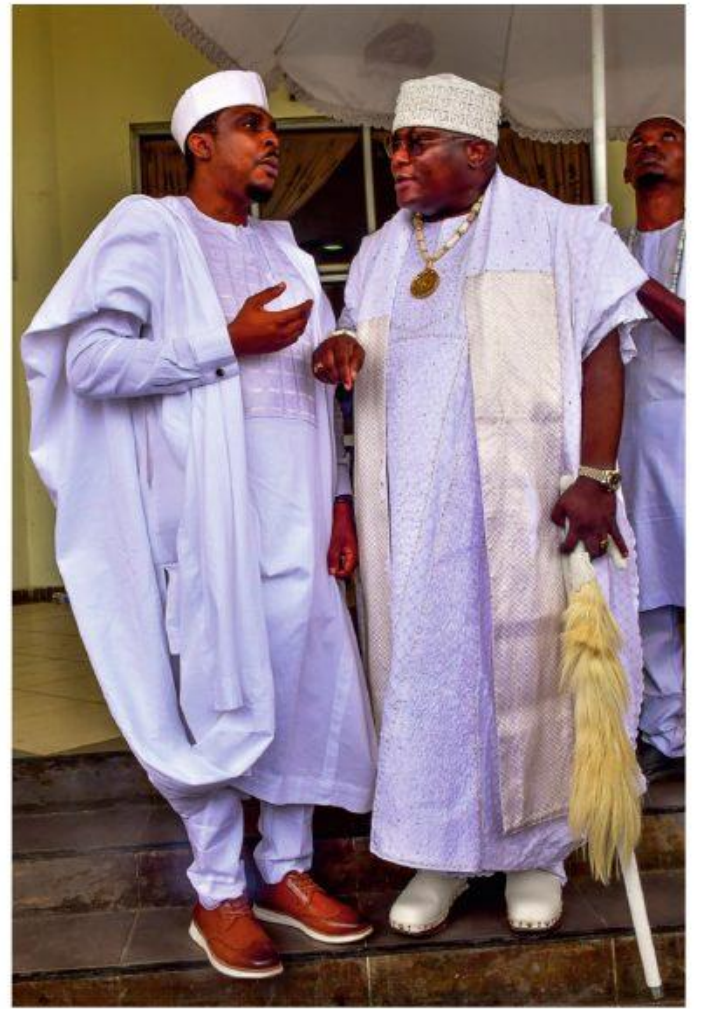
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RE: COMMUNIQUE OF ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC), KABBA/BUNU LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CHAPTER AND THE 15 WARDS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE ON SENATOR SUNDAY STEVE KARIMI

The attention of the Media Team of Distinguished Senator Sunday Steve Karimi has been drawn to the Communique purportedly released by the leaders, stakeholders, executives and Party Faithfuls of the All Progressives Congress in Kabba-Bunnu Local Government, including the 15-Wards of the Local Government, wherein they purportedly expressed a collective position to pass a vote of no confidence on Senator Karimi Sunday Steve.

The Media Team wishes to state categorically at the outset that the promoters of this Communique were paid to distract Distinguished Senator Karimi Sunday Steve, who is a Strong and Respected Member of the All Progressive Congress at the Local, State, and National Levels and who is committed to delivering Mr. President's Renewed Hope Agenda to the grassroots. To this end, Distinguished Senator Karimi has in addition to Sponsoring Bills and Legislative Instruments that have direct impact on the lives of the Constituents, including these **"APC KABBA STAKEHOLDERS"** and their Sponsors, some of which are:

1. Donated handsomely towards the election of all the serving LGA chairmen and councillors in the state during the last LGA election.
2. The Senator also donated generously to the Kabba-Bunu LG chairman's pet project (construction of a local security base) about a year ago as the Senator's synergy with the local government apparatus within the state. A cash donation of N5,000,000 and a solar-powered Motorised borehole with fetching pump which is currently in use.
3. Constructed Three Classroom Blocks each in; St Barnabas College Kabba; Community Secondary School, Odo Ape; A Block of Classroom comprising 3 classes, principal's office, and a separate rest rooms for students in Government Secondary School Iluke-Bunu, Kabba Bunu Local Government.

The above displays the Senator's commitment to even distribution of amenities and projects across the major subdivisions of the Kabba-Bunu Local Government. These Projects were evenly distributed and met the yearnings of the Community because the Senator consulted party stalwarts and Traditional Rulers in the Local Government, before siting the Projects. Interestingly, one of these Projects was handled by an APC party chieftain from the Local Government.

4. In 2024, Distinguished Senator Karimi disbursed N 15,000,000 that is, N100,000.00 each to 150 Students from Kabba-Bunu Local Government. The Bursary that was spread across with a local government sub-committee which included APC Stalwarts in the local government including Hon. Bode Adeyemi who took active part in the local government screening, selection, and recommendation to the central committee. The committee was later disbanded when it was discovered that some Members of that sub-committee, some of whom were fingered in attempting to frustrate the program for selfish end by collections of bribes and kickbacks from beneficiaries. Despite the activities of some of these detractors, the program ended as a huge success.
5. In the year 2025 edition, which was disbursed in early 2026 in order to ensure a more prudent scrutiny, at least 200 Student of Kabba-Bunu have already received N100,000.00 as Bursary from Senator Karimi Foundation working with Mr. President's Renewed Hope (Tinubu Support Organization). These Students are spread across all the 15 wards of Kabba-Bunnu LG, yet the proponents of the ill-fated communique who doubles as apostles of bad governance, alleged that the Senator's representation is devoid of inclusion, just to satisfy their paymasters, even when the truth is obvious.
6. In this same Kabba-Bunu, Distinguished Senator Karimi single handedly self-financed the construction of the Pakuta Bridge. This bridge links Kiri and other Bunnu communities that was hitherto an eyesore, but the Senator after listening to the yearnings of the people, spent over N23,000,000 to construct it, using the skill and labour of the constituents from the beneficiary communities. One would recall that this bridge had long been awarded to SETRACO Limited, but had been long abandoned due to improper and adequate funding.
7. Passionate about accelerated development of Kogi West Senatorial District in general and Kabba-Bunu in particular, Senator Karimi Sunday Steve reintroduced the Bill to establish the Federal University of Agriculture in Kabba. On the day of the consideration

of this all important Bill, major Traditional Rulers and Stakeholders of Kabba-Bunu local government were in attendance at the bequest of the Senator. Today the Bill has progressed all the stages of Legislative Work and now awaits the assent of Mr. President. This Bill when assented, would improve the economic output of Kabba-Bunu LG and bring unimaginable prosperity to all indigenes of the local government including the proponents of this ill-fated and naira motivated vote of no confidence.

8. Also, Senator Karimi donated transformers to Kabba-Bunu Communities, many of which are currently with the traditional rulers of the beneficiary communities in the local government, awaiting installation. When the transformer was donated by the Senator, it was received by and in the presence of the current chairman of the local government, Barrister Zacchaeus Dare, the State Security Adviser, Commodore Jerry Omodara (rtd), and Commissioner for Education, Hon. Wemi Jones, and other APC party stakeholders in the LG, who unanimously decided the locations for siting the transformers in Kabba-Bunnu LG. One then wonder the level of ignorance and penchant for falsehood by the crooners of the infamous vote of no confidence.

9. Within the first year in office, Senator Karimi Sunday Steve has successfully, sank and installed not less than 15 Solar-powered Motorised Boreholes for the general use of constituents in Kabba-Bunu LG, these boreholes are located in each of the 15 Wards across the Local Government and were sited with inputs from Party Stakeholders and community leaders within the LG. as was the case in all the 7LGs.

10. Senator Karimi Sunday Steve has also installed Solar Street Lights in various communities and wards in the Local Government, all with input of the Local Government Party Structure, stakeholders, and the Executive Chairman.

11. Despite the fact that a Senator is entitled to only Five Statutory Legislative Aides (whereas he represents Seven Local Governments), in his quest for equal opportunity representation, he influenced the appointment of one additional Legislative Aide, Hon. Tunde Akanmidu who hails from Kabba-Bunu LG. into the office of the Deputy Senate President. Today, an indigene of Kabba-Bunnu local government is an Aide to Senator Barau Jibrin, Deputy Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, due to the influence of Distinguished Senator Sunday Steve Karimi and there is no local government in Kogi West without such an appointment, either directly with Sen. Sunday Karimi or with presiding officers of the senate, yet, the ignorant proponents of the paid 'vote of no confidence' alleged falsely in their cooked propaganda that Senator Karimi Sunday Steve has no Legislative Aide from Kabba Bunu LG. In fact, before the decision on who is to be appointed either as an aide to Sen. Sunday Karimi or anyone in the national assembly is taken, there is always a wide consultation and in the case of Kabba-Bunu, the Obaro of Kabba was given the honor to nominate Hon. Tunde Akanmidu.

From the forgoing, the Media Team now ask, what is the iniquity of Sen. Sunday Karimi? We are very much aware that his public pronouncement in Kabba on the Kabba Day 2025, where he only reechoed the voice of the average Kogi West citizens that it is high time the senatorial district occupies the Lugard House, haven been left out in the power sharing in the state for decades. Yet, slaves who loves their chains more than freedom have become disposable instruments in the hands of their paymasters to silence the golden voice of the average Kogi West indigenes echoed on the altar of quality representation.

Despite the Challenges of Public Finance in Nigeria, a Senator who has done the above for a single local government, ultimately deserves a re-election. The senator is unperturbed by the paid Publication and Planed "Vote of No Confidence" of a few disgruntled politicians who are desperate to earn a living at the detriment of the vast majority of the constituents.

Howbeit, we are admonishing the genuine supporters and faithful partymen who are the majority, to remain steadfast and committed to our quest of a more prosperous Senatorial District.

DSSK MEDIA TEAM
13.03.26.

BENEFITS OF ALOE VERA

Aloe Vera is a versatile succulent plant known for its soothing and medicinal properties, commonly used to treat sunburns, speed up wound healing, and alleviate skin conditions like acne and eczema. When consumed, it aids in digestion, reduces dental plaque, and helps regulate blood sugar.

TOPICAL BENEFITS (SKIN AND HAIR)

Sunburn and Wound Healing: Rich in antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds, it treats first and second-degree burns by acting as an anti-inflammatory and increasing collagen production.

Skin Health: Moisturizes, reduces infection, acts as an astringent to minimize pore size, and aids in decreasing skin blemishes.

Hair and Scalp: Reduces dandruff and supports scalp health.

Oral Consumption Benefits (Juice/Gel)

Digestive Aid: Relieves constipation due to its natural laxative (anthraquinones) properties and helps soothe symptoms of GERD (acid reflux).

Blood Sugar Management: May aid in reducing blood sugar and levels in diabetics.



Oral Health: Acts as an effective mouthwash to reduce plaque buildup, comparable to chlorhexidine.

Nutrient-Rich: Contains Vitamins C, E, and antioxidants.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES

Topical: Generally safe, but can cause allergic reactions.

Oral: Long-term consumption of laxative-containing aloe may cause diarrhea or stomach discomfort.

Healing Power of Onions

Red onions possess potent healing properties, primarily due to high levels of quercetin (an antioxidant) and anthocyanins (pigments), which fight inflammation, lower blood pressure, and improve cholesterol. They offer superior anti-cancer, antibacterial, and heart-health benefits, along with aiding immune function, bone density, and gut health through prebiotic fibers.



KEY HEALTH BENEFITS OF RED ONIONS

Heart Health & Blood Pressure: The high quercetin content helps lower blood pressure, reduce inflammation, and improve cholesterol levels, decreasing the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Potent Anti-inflammatory & Antioxidant: Red onions are rich in anthocyanins and quercetin, which protect against oxidative stress, a key factor in cancer and neurological diseases.

Immune System Boost: They are a good source of Vitamin C and phytochemicals, which support the immune system, notes Medical News Today.

Bone Density Support: Studies suggest consuming onions can reduce bone loss and enhance density, potentially reducing the risk of hip fractures by up to 20% in older women.

Blood Sugar Control: Compounds in red onions can aid in managing diabetes by lowering blood sugar and reducing insulin resistance.

Antibacterial Properties: They act against harmful bacteria, including some strains that cause infections.

NUTRITIONAL VALUE & USAGE

Nutrients: They provide Vitamin C (roughly 13-15% of daily intake), vitamin B6, and manganese.

Usage: To maximize benefits, consume them raw in salads or lightly cooked. Onion skins are also rich in antioxidants and can be added to soups or broth to release their beneficial compounds.

Comparison: Red onions contain higher levels of antioxidants compared to white onions.

NOTE: While red onions have health benefits, they should be used as part of a balanced diet rather than a replacement for medical treatments.

Fruits that Boost Immune System

Top fruits that boost the immune system are packed with vitamin C, antioxidants, and beta-carotene, which increase white blood cell production and reduce inflammation. Key choices include citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, grapefruit), berries (blueberries, strawberries), kiwi, papaya, guava, and pomegranate.

TOP IMMUNE-BOOSTING FRUITS

Citrus Fruits (Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, Lemons, Limes): Highly packed with Vitamin C to increase infection-fighting white blood cells.

Kiwi: Exceptionally high in vitamin C and polyphenols that reduce inflammation.

Berries (Blueberries, Strawberries, Raspberries): Rich in antioxidants and flavonoids, which combat inflammation and speed up illness recovery.

Papaya: Contains significant amounts of vitamin C and beta-carotene, which the body converts to vitamin A to improve immune response.

Guava: Loaded with vitamin C, fibre, potassium, and antioxidants to fight cellular inflammation.

Pomegranate: Offers antiviral properties and helps promote healthy gut flora.

Red Grapes & Watermelon: Contain antioxidants like resveratrol, which help strengthen the immune system.

KEY NUTRIENTS IN THESE FRUITS

Vitamin C: Daily consumption is recommended as the body cannot store it, promoting the production of white blood cells.

Beta-carotene/Vitamin A: Acts as an anti-inflammatory to help antibody responses.

Antioxidants/Flavonoids: Protect cells from damage and combat inflammation.

Adding a variety of these fruits to a daily diet helps maintain a strong defense against illnesses.





BEAUTIFUL NUBIA

Segun Akinlolu, popularly known as Beautiful Nubia, is a Nigerian singer, songwriter, composer, and band leader. Inspired by Nigeria's traditional culture, he founded EniObanke in 1997 and released his debut album. EniObanke Music Festival, Nigeria's first folk and roots music festival, was initiated by his company. In 1998, Beautiful Nubia formed The Roots Renaissance Band, gaining fame with their third album, "Jangbalajugbu," featuring the hit track "Owuro L'Ojo." Despite piracy, the album sold over a million copies. With 14 more studio albums, Beautiful Nubia's music is didactic, philosophical, and moving, advocating for personal development and social justice. His unique style has received acclaim and reached international charts. Segun Akinlolu continues to captivate audiences with his passion and cultural wisdom.



A good representation at the Green Chamber:
Hon. Engr. OLATUNJI EDWARD MESEKO
for Yagba Federal Constituency House of Representatives

Cast your vote rightly.



27 YEARS REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LATE MOTHER



MADAM JANET ISELOWO

DIED: FEBRUARY 25, 1999

AGED: 75 YEARS

February 25, 2026, marks the 27th years since our beloved mother, **Late Madam Janet Iyaoto Iselowo**, departed this world at the General Hospital in Ileteju Mopa, Mopamuro Local Government, Kogi State, Nigeria. Though you're no longer with us physically, your loving memory lives on in our hearts. We remember your caring, loving, kind-hearted, Godly, devoted, prayerful, supportive, hospitable, adorable, sacrificial, generous, excellent, unique, unforgettable, ever-smiling, and wonderful spirit.

You were a pleasant and peaceful mother during your earthly journey. Your legacy continues to inspire us, and we're grateful for the prayers you offered for us, which still impacts our lives today, including those of your grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We cherish the memory of visiting you with my wife, Joy and other of your children and their families having cherished contact with you as well before your passing.

Your legacy continues to inspire us, and we're grateful for the prayers you offered for us, which still impact our lives today, including those of your grand-children and great-grandchildren.

I cherish the memory of visiting you with my wife, Joy, before your passing and again led you in sinner's prayer so that if the Lord calls you home that you will be able to resurrect with Him. Your prayers for us that God will give us our children came to pass even though you are no longer alive to carry them physically. Your commitment to serving God and humanity left an indelible mark on our lives.

As I reflect on your life, I'm reminded of John 11:25-26 (NKJV): "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.

Do you believe this?

Thank you, Mother, for being an exemplary Christian and a devoted mother. Your influence will forever be etched in my heart. Rest in Peace, dear Mother.

Mama is survived by:

Major (Rtd.) Hon. Theophilus Segun/Funmilayo 'Selowo
 Dr. Mrs. Olayemi Eunice/Prof. Obadiah Funso Komolafe.
 Late Roseline Ranti Remilekun Akinwale Nee 'Selowo (Deceased).
 Mrs. Aina Grace/Engr. Sunday Babatunde.
 Rev'd Dr. Francis Kofoworola Folaranmi/Mama Joy Bulomile Iselowo.
 Many grand children and great grandchildren.

@FrancisKofoworolaFolaranmilselowo BCC, JP.
 For the Family

Contd. from Page 4

generation of political actors, Ibigbemi brings a technocratic approach to governance, emphasising transparency, accountability, and stakeholder engagement. His appeal lies particularly among professionals and younger voters who are eager for a shift from traditional political practices.

Pastor Babagbemi Joseph Adejola adds another dimension to the contest, combining religious influence with an extensive professional background in accounting, taxation, and financial management. With a track record spanning both the private and public sectors, he positions himself as a candidate capable of bridging moral leadership with technical expertise. His philanthropic initiatives, particularly through his NGO, further strengthen his grassroots appeal.

Brigadier General Benjamin Segun Ipinyomi (Rtd.) enters the race with a wealth of military and administrative experience. His career in the Nigerian Army, which includes leadership roles in training institutions and strategic departments, provides him with a disciplined approach to governance. His campaign is largely focused on human capital development, reflecting a long-term vision for societal growth.

Engr. Edward Olatunji Meseko is widely regarded within political circles as a strategic operator with a strong network of contacts. As a businessman and technocrat, he brings both financial capacity and political acumen to the race. Analysts often describe him as a resilient contender who thrives under pressure, capable of adapting his strategies to changing political realities.

Engr. Folorunsho Olafemi, who previously contested the seat, offers a different kind of appeal rooted in his international experience in energy, technology, and consultancy. With a career spanning major global institutions, he represents a technocratic vision of governance that emphasises efficiency, innovation, and alignment with global best practices.

The presence of multiple strong aspirants, particularly from Mopamuro axis, underscores both the strength and the challenge of the pro-rotation movement. While it demonstrates a deep reservoir of political talent, it also raises the risk of fragmentation, which could ultimately benefit the incumbent.

As the political battle intensifies, the Yagba Federal Constituency stands as a microcosm of the broader struggle in Okunland. It is a contest defined not just by personalities but by competing visions of justice, representation, and the future of democratic governance. The outcome will not only determine who represents the constituency in the National Assembly but will also set a precedent for how political succession is negotiated in the years to come.

KABBA-BUNU/IJUMU DYNAMICS

While Yagba Federal Constituency captures much of the public attention, the Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu Federal Constituency presents its own unique political dynamics that are crucial to understanding the larger Okunland electoral landscape. This constituency, composed of Kabba-Bunu and Ijumu local government areas, is characterised by a mix of entrenched political elites, emerging aspirants, and communities intensely invested in the principle of rotation.

At the forefront of the contest is Hon. Salman Idris, the incumbent federal representative whose experience and political resilience make him a formidable figure. Having contested multiple elections prior to his eventual victory in 2023, Idris brings both persistence and strategic expertise to the campaign. His supporters emphasise his understanding of legislative processes, his constituency outreach programs, and his ability to negotiate federal resources effectively.

However, Idris faces increasing pressure from a growing pool of challengers who are positioning themselves as advocates of rotational fairness and community inclusion. Among them is Idris Olorunfemi, a successful businessman from Bunu, Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area, who previously aspired under the African Democratic Congress (ADC) in 2023 and is seeking the seat again in 2027 under the same party. Olorunfemi's campaign focuses on economic development, entrepreneurship, and creating opportunities for the historically underrepresented sectors of the constituency. His business background allows him to connect with both local entrepreneurs and youth voters eager for economic empowerment.

Another significant figure is Hon. Segun Olobatoko Samuel, former Senior Special Assistant on Sports to the governor of Kogi State. Born in Kabba, Olobatoko combines political acumen with a strong entrepreneurial and grassroots network. Analysts describe him as articulate, innovative, and capable of mobilising significant support both locally and internationally. Olobatoko's campaign messaging emphasises generational change, transparency, and breaking the cycle of entrenched incumbency. This positioning makes him particularly appealing to younger voters and first-time electorate participants who desire more accountable representation.

The Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu race is further complicated by the interplay of party dynamics, local alliances, and the influence of traditional rulers and opinion leaders. Community elders often wield significant sway in determining support for candidates, and their preferences can tip the balance in tightly contested wards. Additionally, party endorsements and internal primaries have become battlegrounds for influence, reflecting the increasingly professionalised and competitive nature of politics in the region.

Unlike Yagba, where the rotation debate is highly centralised around the Amuro axis, Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu's discussions are shaped by both historical representation and emerging aspirations. While the principle of rotation still resonates

strongly, it faces challenges from the incumbency advantage, voter expectations, and the growing influence of new political entrants who emphasise merit and performance over geographical entitlement.

Grassroots mobilisation in Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu is particularly intense. Aspirants deploy multi-pronged strategies including town hall meetings, community outreach, social media campaigns, and stakeholder engagement. The battle for attention is heightened by a relatively politically informed electorate, which closely monitors candidates' past achievements, promises, and alignment with communal interests.

In addition to individual actors, political analysts note the role of alliances between Yagba and Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu players. While contests are locally focused, regional cohesion and cross-constituency support have become important for aspirants seeking to secure broader influence within Kogi West. Such alliances can determine access to resources, logistical support, and voter mobilisation effectiveness.

The Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu constituency illustrates the complex interplay between tradition, ambition, and evolving democratic norms. Its political environment reflects the broader tension in Okunland between the preservation of rotation as a stabilising mechanism and the rise of performance-based electoral evaluation. The 2027 elections are set to test the ability of local stakeholders to reconcile these competing pressures, with outcomes likely influencing both governance and political culture for years to come.

SENATORIAL POWER INFLUENCE

In Okunland, the dynamics of legislative contests cannot be fully understood without considering the influence of senatorial figures whose reach extends across multiple constituencies. Senators from Kogi West, in particular, wield significant political leverage, shaping candidate selection, alliances, and campaign strategies ahead of the 2027 elections.

Senator Sunday Steve Karimi, a distinguished member of the All Progressives Congress and a former federal representative for Yagba Federal Constituency, exemplifies this influence. His extensive career spans engineering, entrepreneurship, and federal legislative service. Karimi's track record of constituency projects, legislative oversight, and advocacy for education, security, and rural development has earned him deep respect across Okunland. His endorsement, guidance, or subtle support can be a decisive factor for aspirants seeking legitimacy and grassroots mobilisation.

Similarly, Senator Smart Adeyemi, a veteran journalist and former National President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, wields considerable political weight. Adeyemi's career in the Senate, including chairmanships of key committees and policy influence on issues such as federal character, appropriations, and governance reforms, positions him as a key arbiter in candidate negotiations. His political endorsements and strategic counsel are often sought by aspirants in both Yagba and Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu constituencies.

The involvement of these senators goes beyond formal endorsements. They serve as connectors between national party structures and local political actors, leveraging relationships to influence primaries, party nominations, and resource allocations. Their capacity to mediate disputes, shape alliances, and direct campaign logistics makes them indispensable players in the broader electoral calculus.

Moreover, the senators' engagement underscores the strategic nature of political succession in Okunland. Aspirants are acutely aware that cultivating relationships with these influential figures can provide not only political visibility but also operational advantages, including access to party machinery and funding support. Conversely, misalignment with senatorial power brokers can limit opportunities, particularly in competitive intra-party primaries.

The dual presence of Karimi and Adeyemi exemplifies the intersection of legislative performance and political mentorship in Okunland. Their influence ensures that the 2027 elections will be as much about negotiation, consensus-building, and alliance management as about campaigning on policies and platforms. For aspirants, understanding and navigating this senatorial landscape is not optional; it is central to any strategy for success.

In essence, the senators' involvement reinforces the multi-layered nature of political competition in Okunland. Beyond constituencies, beyond rotation debates, and beyond incumbency advantages, the interplay of senatorial influence, grassroots mobilisation, and party politics creates a sophisticated, high-stakes environment where strategy, persuasion, and negotiation often determine the ultimate outcome of the electoral process.

PARTY FRAGMENTATION & APC CRISIS

The 2027 electoral landscape in Okunland is not only shaped by rotation and incumbency battles but also by the internal fragmentation within political parties, particularly the All Progressives Congress (APC). While the party remains the primary platform for many aspirants, internal divisions, competing ambitions, and ideological disagreements have created a volatile environment that could significantly influence electoral outcomes.

At the heart of the APC's challenges is the difficulty of consensus-building in a constituency marked by strong personalities. Aspirants such as Seun Samuel Ibigbemi, Pastor Babagbemi Adejola, Brigadier Benjamin Ipinyomi, Engr. Edward Meseko, and Engr. Folorunsho Olafemi all command considerable support. Each candidate has

cultivated networks of influence and loyalty, making it difficult for the party to enforce a single, unified line on zoning, rotation, or endorsements.

Factionalism is further exacerbated by competing interpretations of rotation and the party's internal nomination processes. While some factions advocate strict adherence to rotational principles, others prioritise performance, incumbency, or strategic advantage. This divergence has occasionally resulted in parallel party activities, shadow consultations, and conflicting endorsements at the local government level.

The APC's fragmentation also reflects the broader challenge of balancing regional aspirations with national party imperatives. National leadership often seeks to mediate disputes, maintain cohesion, and maximise electoral viability, but localised rivalries can undercut these efforts. This tension between top-down party control and bottom-up political agency is a defining feature of Okunland politics in 2027.

Moreover, the APC crisis is closely linked to the strategic interventions of influential political brokers and former officeholders. Figures like Senator Sunday Steve Karimi, Senator Smart Adeyemi, and former federal legislators such as Hon. Aro Samuel Bamidele play active roles in shaping allegiances, directing resources, and influencing the positioning of aspirants. Their involvement, while stabilising in some respects, also introduces an additional layer of competition as aspirants align with or against these power centers.

The result of these dynamics is a highly competitive internal environment in which party cohesion is constantly tested. Intra-party disputes have the potential to spill over into the general electorate, affecting voter perception, loyalty, and engagement. In extreme cases, unresolved fragmentation could create openings for rival parties, including the African Democratic Congress, to capitalise on divisions within the APC.

Ultimately, the APC crisis underscores the complexity of political succession in Okunland. Success in 2027 will not only depend on individual candidate appeal but also on the party's ability to manage internal disputes, foster collaboration, and present a credible, united front to voters. How effectively these challenges are addressed will likely influence both the immediate electoral outcomes and the long-term political stability of the region.

2027 SCENARIOS & POLITICAL FORECAST

As the 2027 general elections in Okunland approach, political analysts, stakeholders, and constituents are closely evaluating the range of possible scenarios that could emerge from the intense interplay of incumbency, rotation, party fragmentation, and grassroots mobilisation. The landscape is defined by a series of intertwined factors—each capable of influencing both the immediate electoral outcome and the longer-term evolution of political culture in the region.

One possible scenario is the consolidation of pro-rotation forces behind a consensus candidate in both Yagba and Kabba-Bunu/Ijumu constituencies. Should aspirants from Mopamuro axis unite effectively, leveraging the moral legitimacy of equitable power distribution, the incumbent advantage could be significantly diluted. Such a coalition would demonstrate the enduring relevance of rotation and potentially set a precedent for structured succession planning in Okunland.

Conversely, if internal rivalries persist among aspirants, the fragmentation could allow incumbents to exploit divided opposition, retaining seats even in constituencies where rotation advocates have strong moral claims. This outcome would reinforce the power of entrenched political actors and signal that performance, visibility, and established networks can outweigh rotational considerations in highly competitive contexts.

Another factor shaping potential outcomes is the influence of senatorial endorsements. Senators like Sunday Steve Karimi and Smart Adeyemi will likely play pivotal roles in shaping alliances, providing strategic counsel, and mobilising resources. Their support could tip the balance in tightly contested primaries, making senatorial alignment a critical determinant in predicting electoral success.

The role of party cohesion cannot be understated. For the APC, resolving internal divisions and presenting a unified front could amplify the chances of pro-rotation or performance-based candidates depending on which faction emerges dominant. Conversely, continued fragmentation risks weakening the party's overall electoral competitiveness, opening pathways for opposition parties, including the ADC, to capitalize on disunity.

Grassroots mobilisation and community engagement will also shape outcomes. Aspirants with strong local networks, visible philanthropic activities, and consistent community presence may sway undecided voters, particularly in areas sensitive to rotational equity. This underscores the multifaceted nature of political contests in Okunland, where strategy, morality, and practical achievements intersect.

In summary, the 2027 elections in Okunland are poised to be a defining moment for the region's political evolution. Whether through the triumph of rotational fairness, the reinforcement of incumbency advantage, or the emergence of new political alliances, the outcomes will have lasting implications for governance, representation, and democratic practice. The stakes are high, the actors determined, and the electorate observant-making the forthcoming elections not merely a contest of personalities but a pivotal test of Okunland's democratic resilience.

**“Never Change
A Winning Horse”**
PBAT-DSSK
2027



**PRESIDENT BOLA
AHMED TINUBU**

**DISTINGUISHED SENATOR
SUNDAY KARIMI**

The Change we can see,
The Impact we can feel.
...A FUTURE TO BELIEVE IN!