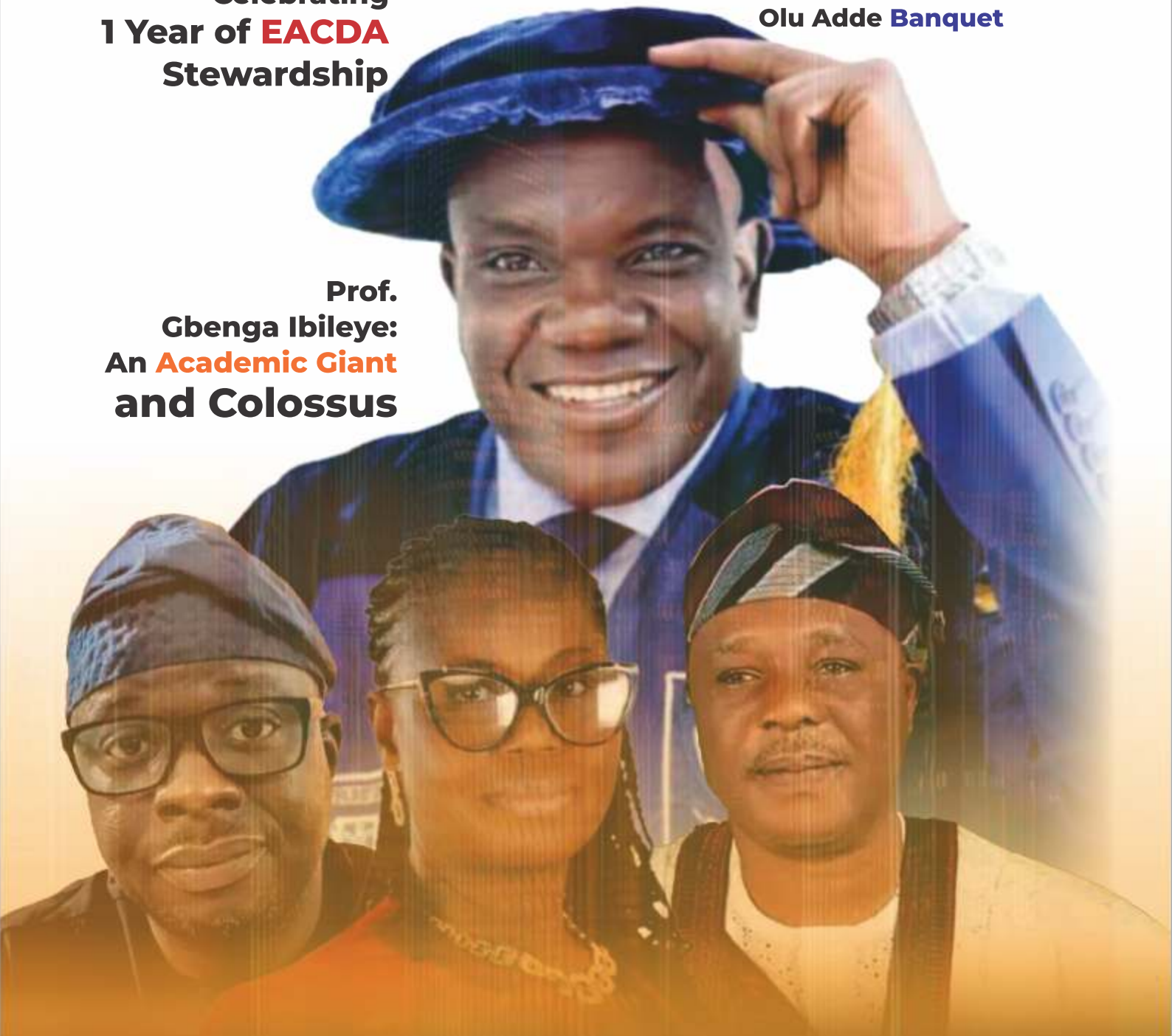


# The Mail

Celebrating  
1 Year of **EACDA**  
Stewardship

The 5th Alede  
Olu Adde **Banquet**

Prof.  
Gbenga Ibileye:  
An **Academic Giant**  
and Colossus



A Life of Purpose and  
**Scholarship;**  
Dr. Obafemi Ayodeji  
Olanrewaju's Success Story

Profile of  
Hon. Dr. Aderibigbe Helen

# FOREWORD

Whenever the call to serve Ekinrin-Adde is made, even when my schedule is tight, it is always difficult not to answer. For someone who had the privilege of serving as President of the Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union, it is a great honour to be called upon to write the foreword for this year's educative annual magazine titled "The Mail", the official information organ of the students and youths of Ekinrin-Adde land.

Looking back today, although there is room for a lot of improvement and adjustment, those who have gone through the tight rope of leading a union that embodies high intellect and sound minds will agree that there has been a positive trajectory over the fifty years plus existence of the Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union. From the days of our elders and wise men who painstakingly gave birth to this great union, to the present caretaker body, one will notice a careful but steady progression of the union.

In times past, great men who administered leadership to EASU conceived what then seemed like an undoable project, the building of a union library. Every administration, including mine in 2005, contributed its quota. Though the project moved at a snail pace, it progressed until we suddenly stopped hearing about it. These are tall ideas and projects that Ekinrin-Adde sons and daughters are known for. Sadly, no one is talking about it again, not even the stakeholders, including yours truly. However, I still believe it is achievable. I hold firmly to the belief that if we can think it, we can achieve it. I therefore call on all stakeholders and eminent sons and daughters of Ekinrin-Adde to rise up once again to this challenge.

That said, although we are fast losing our reading culture over time, a challenge not peculiar to Ekinrin-Adde alone, I implore everyone to grab a copy of this year's "The Mail" magazine and go through its rich content. "The Mail" was once widely sought after for reading and record keeping, but the advent of social media appears to have negatively affected our reading habits and manual documentation. Today, the majority of homes no longer have an in-house library. This is indeed sad.

Journals like this are important for future research and reference, as they embody our rich culture and heritage. I enjoin all Ekinrin-Adde indigenes and non-indigenes alike to obtain more than one copy.

It is also of utmost importance to thank those supportive shoulders who have kept the fabric of EASU firmly on its body, lest the union walks naked. Your philanthropic gestures will forever be remembered, and your names etched in gold on the sands of Ekinrin-Adde. I also congratulate this year's EASU award winners. These plaques, though small in appearance, are profound symbols of appreciation from the leadership of the union.

Let me conclude this foreword by admonishing our youths to shun social vices capable of truncating their destinies and future. Let us embrace God and live in peace and harmony. We all become winners when love leads

God bless Ekinrin-Adde.  
God bless EASU.

**Babajide Obafemi**  
Political Editor, Lagos Indicator



**T**o God be the glory for granting me the grace and strength to once again serve as the Editor-in-Chief of this magazine. As the Public Relations Officer of our beloved Union, the onus rests heavily on me to ensure that we produce a publication that reflects our values and leadership. To this end, I have worked assiduously, and despite academic, social, and financial challenges, we have remained unwavering and committed to responsible leadership.

The Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union is an institution that no longer exists merely as a social Club. Today, the Union has positioned itself as an active participant in community development through a series of its impactful programs. Although, the Union relies largely on external support for funding, we have been able to sustain and build upon the achievements we recorded in the previous year.

This edition of our magazine is a deliberate celebration of our culture, growth, and amity. It tells the story of a community that has experienced steady developmental growth under the reign of His Royal Majesty, Olu Anthony Bamigbaiye Idowu, (CON), and the leadership of Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe.

This publication also celebrates the emergence of Professor Gbenga Solomon Ibileye as the new Vice Chancellor of the Federal University, Lokoja. Additionally, we adorned the cover page with the photograph of Professor Olayemi Akinwumi and Prince Babajide Kolade-Otitoju during their recognition as Distinguished Alumni of the University of Ilorin.

We featured interviews with Pastor Stephen Adedotun Olaitan of Living Faith Church, who expressed his admiration for the impact of the Union, and Dr. Olanrewaju Obafemi, whose interview focused on education and scholarship. We also highlighted the fifth edition of Alede Olu Adde Banquet, celebrated the leadership of EACDA, Ona-Ara Group, and Ogidi-Omo Movement, paid tribute to late Oba Samuel Agboola Faleke, and showcased profiles of distinguished sons and daughters of Ekinrin-Adde.

As you begin to read, this publication is characterized by impressive content carefully curated to inform and delight our readers.

I encourage you to grab a copy for yourself and loved ones.

God bless Ekinrin-Adde

God bless Ekinrin-Adde Students'

**Temibi Samuel**  
Editor-in-Chief



## **A YEAR OF SERVICE, IMPACT, AND GRATITUDE**



**A**ll praises and adoration are due to the Almighty Lord who has been my shield, guide, and protector throughout another one-year tenure as the Caretaker Committee chairman of Ekinrin Adde Students' Union. It has been an incredible privilege to serve humanity and the Ekinrin Adde kingdom again, and I will forever cherish this opportunity.

I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our Royal Father, His Royal Majesty, Olu Anthony Bamigbaiye Idowu (CON), the Olu of Ekinrin Adde, for his fatherly guidance, support, love, prayers, and invaluable contributions that have helped this administration achieve much more. Your majesty, may your time on the throne be peaceful. I am deeply grateful for everything.

To our patrons and matrons, your support and guidance have been the bedrock of our union's success. You are the pillars upon which we stand. May God richly elevate you.

And to the college of past executives, thank you for always being there for the union.

Your guidance, especially in times of advice, has greatly helped the union achieve significant success.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow executive members. Your commitment, diligence, and teamwork have been exceptional, and this has really helped the union to achieve a greater success. I am grateful for the hard work you have all put into making our vision a reality, even when it is inconvenient and when it is not. Thank you for your support, both morally and financially.

I want to appreciate Ekinrin Adde Students at large from the primary to the highest level of academic, thank you all for your support, love, and cooperation, I love you all. I wish to specially acknowledge and appreciate the following individuals for their timely support and encouragement:

- Chief/ESV. Olugbenga Collins Rotimi
- Dr. Lanre Obafemi PhD
- Mr. Olutekunbi Akintunde Ademola
- Prince Babajide Kolade-Otitoju
- Mr. Adewale Victor Adekanye
- Mr. Sunday Aiyeniko
- H/Chief Engineer Shola Aribido
- Hon. Amb Funsho Henry Ajibulu
- Chief. Mrs Margaret Funke Ojo
- Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe (EACDA President)
- Barr. Dayo Babalola
- Hon. Funsho Ekundayo Olumoko
- Hon. Adewale Victor Omofaiye

To all those whose names time and space will not permit me to mention, I am truly grateful. Thank you for believing, trusting and supporting our administration. May God bless and replenish you abundantly.



## **Achievements:**

Within the short period of one year tenure as the Caretaker Committee Chairman of this Union, my team and I have been able to record significant achievements, including the following:

1. Free JAMB CBT Tutorials: We successfully organized free JAMB CBT (Computer-Based Test) tutorials for the 2024/2025 applicants within our community. The sessions were hosted at the Baptist High School ICT Center.

2. We organized extramural classes for the secondary school students. The project, which lasted for about three and a half months, cut across all three secondary schools in the community, which are BHS, CCC, Lightcome College, and also our students at GSSS Egbeda Egga. Eight (8) teachers were hired and paid per hour.

3. Provision of a Hybrid Phone for Akogba FM: We purchased a hybrid phone for Akogba FM Radio. This initiative ensures smoother and more efficient communication, facilitating the radio station's operations and outreach.

4. Free JAMB Slots: In our continued commitment to educational support, we provided 20 free JAMB slots to our students aiming to further their studies. This effort helped to ease the financial burden on deserving students and gave them the opportunity to pursue their academic goals.

5. Bringing Back Mr. Ekinrin-Adde: We successfully resuscitated Mr. Ekinrin-Adde, a cultural contest that has hitherto taken place in the past 2 decades. This ensures gender balance in the pageant contest.

6. Spelling Bee Competition: We were able to sustain the Spelling Bee competition our administration introduced last year. This

year, winners of the contest were not only rewarded with cash prizes, but were also honored openly with medals during the Awards Night program.

7. Seminar: Through the office of Miss Ekinrin-Adde, we organized a seminar with the theme: Empowering Young Women: Navigating Life's Challenges with Confidence. The public lecture focused on empowering the young generation of women and educating them on how to make informed decisions about their education and prioritize sexual purity. Some Hygiene materials were distributed to them during the program.

8. Securing Secretariat Building: Our administration erected 4 solid iron beacons to mark out the boundaries of the students' Union land during the ongoing construction of the Students' Union building Secretariat. All thanks to Engr. Amupitan Gabriel, Engr. Gbayi Komolafe and Mr. Samuel Ikupeleye for their support.

## **Conclusion**

Once more, I want to express my profound gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this administration. Your support, advice, and prayers have been invaluable, and I will always cherish the memories and achievements we shared. Thank you all

God has helped me to work with this great Union for 13 years, and I have served in nine (9) different offices. I return all glory to God for seeing me through.

Thank you all for your support. May God bless you real good.

Long live EASU!

Long live Ekinrin Adde!

**Amb. Comr.**

**Ibiyomi Iyanuoluwa Desmond**

EASU Caretaker Committee Chairman, 2025

# The Royal Fathers



**HRM. OluAdde of EkinrinAdde,  
Olu Anthony Bamigbaiye Idowu (CON)**



**HRM. Oba Johnson Kolade Otitoju  
(Egbon l'ona 1) The Akinrin of Ekinrin**



**HRH. Oba Jimoh Olanrewaju Olutekunbi,  
*The Adebuja of Ona Adde***



**HRH. Oba Kayode Olorunmaiye JP.  
*The Oludotun of Otun Adde***



**HRH. Oba Stephen O. O. Makanjuola (SOOM)  
*The Oloyi of Ohi Adde***

## Executive Members



**Ibiyomi Iyanuoluwa Desmond**  
(Chairman)  
Graduate, Fed. Poly. Ado-Ekiti  
Marketing



**Otolaiye Mopelola Tayo**  
(Vice Chairman)  
Graduate, University of Ibadan  
Health Education



**Ajayi Rotimi AyodiMeji**  
(General Secretary)  
Graduate, Kogi State University  
Ayingba, Political Science



**Ibitayo Iyanu**  
(Financial Secretary)  
Fed. University Lokoja



**Temibi Samuel**  
(Public Relations Officer)  
University of Ilorin  
Political Science



**Ajileye Ayo John**  
(Director of Social)  
Lens Polytechnic, Offa  
Kwara State, HND II  
Business Administration



**Taiwo Timileyin Daniel**  
(Treasurer)  
Graduate, Fed. University Lokoja  
Geography



**Adedoyin Iyiola Favour**  
(Miss Ekinrin Adde)  
Kwara State University  
400L, Mass Communication



Past

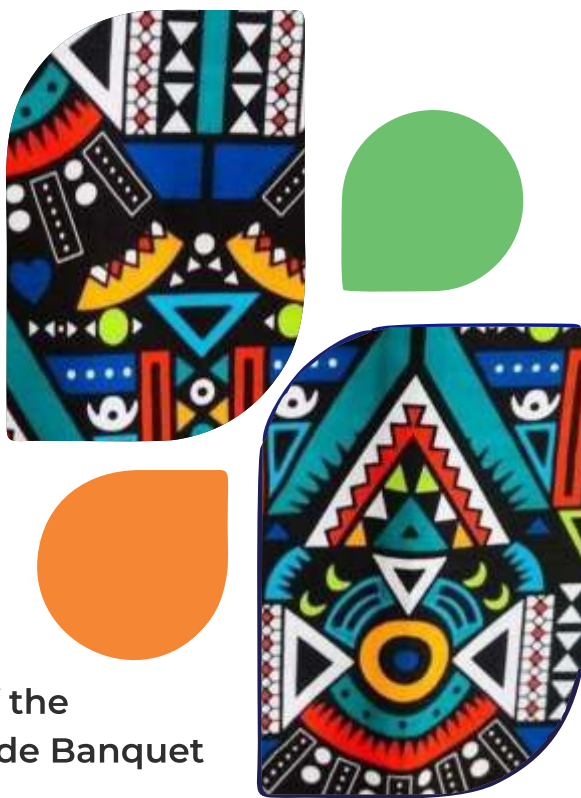
# Presidents

till date



|      |                               |      |                                              |
|------|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1974 | Jacob Ajibuwa                 | 2002 | Eniolorunda Williams                         |
| 1975 | Moses Ademola                 | 2003 | Ekundayo Babalola (Esq)                      |
| 1976 | Sunday Ayodele                | 2004 | Omojola R. Folashade                         |
| 1977 | Wilson Abiodun O              | 2005 | Obafemi Babajide                             |
| 1978 | Iyiola Faleke (Late)          | 2006 | Mebanidu Adeleye Timi                        |
| 1979 | No Exco                       | 2007 | Oshafunmi Gbenga Emma                        |
| 1980 | Shola Ayo (Chairman CTC)      | 2008 | Olutekunbi Tunde Usman                       |
| 1981 | Alaba Ajileye                 | 2009 | Ajibulu O. Olaoluwa                          |
| 1982 | Akin Ibilaye                  | 2010 | Ajibulu Babalola Julius                      |
| 1983 | Ajayi Ajibulu                 | 2011 | St. Ajinihi O. Victor                        |
| 1984 | Shola Adedoyin (Late)         | 2012 | Olutekunbi Juwon Stephen                     |
| 1985 | Toyin Komolafe (Chairman CTC) | 2013 | Otitoju Oluwayomi Tejumola                   |
| 1986 | Davis O. Abiodun              | 2014 | Obafemi Segun Femike                         |
| 1987 | Edward B. Olorunleke (Late)   | 2015 | Gbenga James Amupitan                        |
| 1988 | Tunde Dare Tanimola           | 2016 | Melodi Ayodeji                               |
| 1989 | Bolarin Ajileye               | 2017 | Olowonigba Japhet                            |
| 1990 | Kole Ibitoye Bamisaiye        | 2018 | Oshafunmi Lawrence                           |
| 1991 | Gbenga Ibileye                | 2019 | Omofaiye Samson Olorunjuwon                  |
| 1992 | Stephen Ajewole Ayeni         | 2020 | Akinyele Abiodun Moses                       |
| 1993 | Ayeniko Jide Emma             | 2021 | Jola Samson Olalekan                         |
| 1994 | Bamidele S. Olumoko           | 2022 | Care-taker Committee                         |
| 1995 | Adewumi Helen                 | 2023 | Ajileye James Olanrewaju                     |
| 1996 | Abimbola Buari (late)         | 2024 | Ibiyomi Iyanuoluwa Desmond                   |
| 1997 | Ajibulu Felix Debo            | 2025 | Ibiyomi Iyanuoluwa Desmond<br>(Chairman CTC) |
| 1998 | Omotola J. Shola              |      |                                              |
| 1999 | I. M. B. Aribido              |      |                                              |
| 2000 | Abiona Iyabo                  |      |                                              |
| 2001 | Toyin Ibitoye Bamisaiye       |      |                                              |

# STREET FEST 2020

- 
- 01** 5th edition of the Alede Olu Adde Banquet
- 02** Tribute to Ekinrin Adde
- 05** An Academic Giant and Colossus
- 06** A Champion Of Education & Pillar Of Community Development
- 10** Profile of Hon. Dr. Aderibigbe Helen Adeniyi
- 11** Adan Dance and It's Origin
- 14** Rise, Young Mind; The Power We Already Hold
- 15** Kogi State Under Siege: Why We Must Act Now
- 17** Nigeria, My Country, A Call To Patriotism
- 18** A conversation with Pastor Stephen Adedotun Olaitan
- 21** A Life of Purpose and Scholarship; Dr. Obafemi A. Olanrewaju's Success Story



## Edition of the Alede Olu Adde Banquet

In Honour of His Royal Majesty, Olu Anthony Bamigbaiye Idowu (CON) . This year marks the 5th edition of the Alede Olu Adde Banquet; five years of gathering as one community to reflect on how far we've come under the watch of our Royal Father. Each edition has grown in colour and strength, and this one comes as another reminder that unity remains one of our greatest blessings.

Kabiyesi's reign has encouraged progress, strengthened bonds among our people, and kept the spirit of Ekinrin-Adde alive in ways we continue to appreciate. The banquet is a celebration of that journey of culture, peace, and the sense of belonging we share as sons and daughters of this Ekinrin-Adde Community.

We look forward to another beautiful edition and to many more years of growth under our Royal Majesty. May this celebration continue to shine, and may the Olu Adde's tenure bring even greater peace, wisdom and development to the entire community.

**Signed:**

**EASU Caretaker Committee"2025**



## *Tribute* to **Ekinrin-Adde**

By Temibi Samuel

**E**kinrin-Adde is not just a geographical expression, as the late Chief Obafemi Awolowo once described Nigeria, but a fusion of tradition and shared identity. The name itself reflects a people woven together by history and an unbroken cultural bond. We are Yoruba, and our dialect carries an ancestral wisdom that can only be fully understood through experience.

Growing up there was so interesting. I still remember how my late grandmother, Mrs. Alice Folake Tanimola, would call me early in the morning to help hawk fresh pap around. We would go through almost every nook and crannies of the town. At night, we would sit and listen to the elders tell stories, what we call (Aló) and those tales stuck with me.

I have a lot of memories, honestly. I remember the early morning walks to the farm and helping older ones push their bicycles up the hilly roads. Whenever a Dyna truck or one of those wood carrying Agbegi passed by, we would run after them, begging for a lift. Sometimes we would even run after them and jump over without the driver knowing.

One thing I'll never forget is the sound of the Ajibele masquerades at night. Our house was just opposite their forest and close to the late Chief Elegunja's house. The music, especially the flutes and the singing when they came to pay homage to Baba Elegunja was melodious.

It was through all these everyday things

that I learned the real meaning of community, and where my love for Ekinrin-Adde began. Honestly, I still can't stay away from home during school breaks. I always go back. In Ekinrin-Adde, there's respect for elders, and the younger generation is raised to carry the community spirit forward.

### **Let's talk About Our Education**

Education is one of the pillars of Ekinrin-Adde. The town has produced notable figures across politics, business, tech, and academia, thanks to a strong foundation laid by its schools. The Apostolic Church Primary School, Baptist Primary School (No. 1 & 2), Model Primary School, First Baptist Primary School, Anglican Primary School, Baptist High School (BHS), and the Community Comprehensive College, among others. These schools have shaped generations of achievers. Baptist High School, established in 1970, is the first secondary school in Ijumu LGA (Kogi Report), while Baptist Primary School, founded in 1929, was the first primary school in Ekinrin-Adde (Bamisaieye 2023).

### **Our Culture and Festivals**

Our culture is one of the things I'm most proud of. The Yam Festival remains a powerful symbol of our heritage featuring Omo Agba performing the Adan dance, the Oyoyo Masquerade, and the ritual blessing of the new yam. Every June, the Annual Ekinrin-Adde Day held at the BHS field brings sons and daughters home from across Nigeria and abroad. Cultural groups fill the arena with colourful dances, each under their branch canopies. The Iwolori procession by the Queens of Ekinrin-Adde led by the wife of the highest-ranking traditional title holder opens the event with elegance and solemnity. Children and visitors are always drawn to the Egungun

Inu Oko (Béréké) performance. For us June 20 is a celebration of identity and the strength of a community built on self-help.

### **Our Collective Strength in Community Development**

One thing that sets Ekinrin-Adde apart in Okun and Kogi State is our strong commitment to community development. The Ekinrin-Adde Community Development Association (EACDA), both at home and in the diaspora, has led many transformative initiatives and inspired others to give back. Groups like Ekinrin-Adde Patriots and Diamond Ladies have also made notable contributions. When a project arises, everyone plays a part, elders offer guidance, youths provide strength, and the people support with whatever they have. I have even witnessed funds raised on WhatsApp platforms to purchase a Patrol Hilux and motorcycles to boost community security.

I have seen individuals like ESV. Olugbenga Collins Rotimi provide boreholes and modern laboratory equipment for our schools. Hon. James Abiodun Faleke has also facilitated major projects from the new palace and skill acquisition centre to a modern police station and even a proposed University of Business and Entrepreneurship. Everyone is doing something to uplift the community; this is the spirit we were raised with and the drive that continues to attract development to Ekinrin-Adde.

### **Our People in Diaspora**

Another remarkable strength of Ekinrin Adde is the support from our people in Nigeria and across the world. EACDA branches reach almost every major city such as Abuja, Lagos, Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Ilorin, and Akure, as well as the

United Kingdom, the United States, and North America. The EACDA United Kingdom branch began hosting the Olu Adde, Olu Anthony Bamigbaiye Idowu, at their Yam Festival and Ekinrin Adde Day in 2019 during the chairmanship of late Otunba John Deji Toba. (May his soul rest in peace). These branches remain a major backbone of our community's progress. Despite the distance, the bond stays strong.

### **Agriculture as Our Source of Livelihood**

Farming remains one of the major occupations of Ekinrin Adde people and it is the backbone of the local economy. Our people raise crops and harvest blessings. From yam and cassava to maize and vegetables, farming is part of our identity. Many families still depend on it for food and livelihood. The fertile soil makes farming productive throughout the year. I still remember going to the farm to pluck pepper and clear the bush for planting. Those experiences built the determination and work ethic we carry today.

Farming also strengthens community bonds. During planting and harvest seasons, neighbours work together in clusters, a practice known as Aro, where selected farmers work on one another's farms. My grandmother used to hire labourers for her farm at Igboogun Shortly after Oyi river, and we would prepare plenty of food, like pounded yam and orunla soup, and take it to the farm for the workers.

Palm wine tapping is another cherished activity. The tappers climb with great skill and return with the sweet and refreshing drink that is proudly served to guests. I had my own early experience with palm wine tapping when I followed Baba Oluwoyo of blessed memory with my cousin Ayo Oluwoyo to the farm. This age long craft remains a mark of pride, and as our people

continue to preserve it, it also offers room for commercial development through better processing and packaging.

### **Our Notable People; the Pillars of Our Community**

Ekinrin-Adde has been blessed with many distinguished sons and daughters who have done the community proud in different fields. Among them is Professor Olayemi Akinwunmi, the Vice Chancellor of Federal University Lokoja, Hon. Justice Alaba Omolaiye-Ajileye (rtd), a revered judge of Kogi State High Court.

Hon. James Abiodun Faleke, Member House of representatives. Professor Shola Omotola, former Deputy Vice Chancellor of FUOYE. Prince Babajide Kolade Otitoju, the Head of Current Affairs and Communications at TVC, ESV. Olugbenga Collins Rotimi, Chief Akinola Benjamin Fagbemi, the immediate past Deputy Director of the National Population Commission. Hon. Funsho Olumoko, former Caretaker Chairman of Ijumu Local Government. Major General J.O.S Oshanupin (rtd), the Asiwaju of Ekinrin-Adde. Princess Soji-Okunsanya, an Executive Director at Access Bank.

We also have Barrister K.O.S Olutekunbi, a notable legal practitioner. Chief Mrs. Margaret Olufunke Ojo, CEO, Yemote Oil. Ambassador Rufus Aiyenigba, the national Publicity Secretary of the Social Democratic Party among others. The community also thrives under the leadership of Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe, the National President of Ekinrin-Adde Community Development Association (EACDA),

These individuals and many more have brought honour to the community and contributed significantly to its growth.

### **The Students' Union as Partner in Community Development**

The students of Ekinrin-Adde are more than just learners, they are active contributors to the growth and progress of our community. The Students' Union plays an important role in Democracy and Development. They mobilize the youths, foster a spirit of leadership and service. Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union is not in any way different.

Each year, the Union holds its Annual JAMB coaching program which empowers many students with the extra guidance they need to succeed in their exams. The Union also organizes spelling bees that engage younger students, where cash prizes are awarded to winners.

Sports also play a big role in uniting the community. The Union hosted a football match in honor of Olu Adde. This brings together players and supporters from all over the community and in the diaspora. Through these activities, the Students' Union also did their part in fostering unity, inspiring leadership, and promoting community.

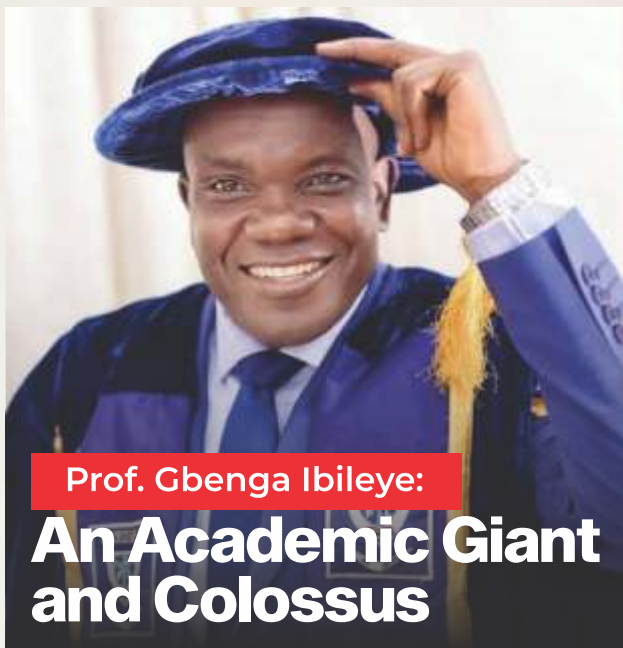
### **Challenges**

Like any other developing community, Ekinrin-Adde faces its own fair share of challenges. We deal with issues like inadequate infrastructure, youth unemployment, food insecurity, low quality of education, poor health facility, leadership challenges, lack of interest in political participation among the youth, and so on. These problems can sometimes feel overwhelming, but what sets Ekinrin-Adde apart is our spirit of resilience and determination.

We don't wait for others to fix things for us. Instead, we come together and find ways to

**Contd. on page 20**





**Prof. Gbenga Ibileye:**

## **An Academic Giant and Colossus**

**P**rofessor Gbenga Solomon Ibileye stands as one of the most distinguished academic figures to emerge from Ekinrin-Adde. His life story is one shaped by discipline and an uncommon devotion to learning and service. Over the years, he has built a reputation not only as a scholar of excellence, but also as a mentor and administrator whose influence continues to shape institutions and individuals alike.

An authority in sociolinguistics and pragmatics, Professor Ibileye's academic journey reflects steady growth and global relevance. From his formative years in Ekinrin-Adde to becoming a full Professor and later a key figure in the establishment and administration of the Federal University Lokoja, his career has been marked by consistency, scholarship, and leadership. His contributions to teaching, research, and university administration have earned him respect within and beyond Nigeria.

Born on 7th June 1966 to the family of Pa and Mrs. Emmanuel Ibileye of Agbalogbo clan, Professor Ibileye began his education

at Baptist Primary School, Ekinrin-Adde, before proceeding to Government High School, Ilorin. He furthered his studies at the then Kwara State College of Technology and later at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he graduated in English Language in 1989. He joined the lecturing cadre in 1992 and rose to the rank of Professor in 2010.

In 2012, he became one of the pioneer lecturers of the Federal University Lokoja, where he served in several strategic roles, including Head of Department, Director of General Studies, Director of Entrepreneurship, and Provost of the College of Postgraduate Studies. He has also served on the University Governing Council and chaired key academic committees. A widely published scholar, Professor Ibileye has attended and presented papers at international conferences and maintains strong academic networks across Africa and beyond. He is a member of several learned societies, including the Nigerian Academy of Letters. In 2023, he was inducted into Omo-Atata Hall of Fame, a prestigious award reserved for sons and daughters of Ekinrin-Adde whose influence in their careers and contributions to community development serve as a source of inspiration.

It is therefore with great pride that we, the Caretaker Committee of Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union, congratulate Professor Gbenga Solomon Ibileye on his new appointment as the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University Lokoja. This elevation is a deserving recognition of a lifetime dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and educational development. We wish him wisdom, strength, and outstanding success as he leads the University into a new chapter of growth and excellence.



**W**e honour the life and legacy of **His Royal Highness, Oba Samuel Agboola Faleke**, the Akinrin of Ekinrin, the Oligbo Ewo 1, a man whose journey was defined by vision, service, and unwavering commitment to education and community development. Born on **September 13, 1937**, into the family of Pa Benjamin Faleke and Madam Olejitan Sarah Faleke, he hailed from Ekinrin Adde and belonged to the noble Otun clan of Ekinrin Community.

### **A Life Rooted in Education and Service**

From his formative years, Oba Faleke demonstrated a deep passion for learning, inspired by his father's strong belief that no child should be denied education. Despite the limitations of his era, he pursued knowledge diligently and was successful. His teaching career began as a probationary teacher, and through merit and dedication, he rose to become a respected headmaster and

later an influential school administrator. His academic pursuit included earning a Diploma in Education Administration from ABU Zaria in 1968.

Throughout his career, Oba Faleke served in various capacities, as a teacher, headmaster, Zonal Educational Officer, and Assistant Secretary of LSMB leaving an indelible mark on the educational landscape. He championed opportunities for many, creating pathways for aspiring teachers and advocating fairness and meritocracy in the profession. His generosity was legendary; he provided scholarships and paid school fees for less privileged students, ensuring that education became a tool for empowerment in his community.

### **A Reign of Peace, Progress, and Development**

Ascending the throne as the **Akinrin of Ekinrin**, Oba Faleke embraced his role with wisdom and humility. His fifteen-year reign was marked by peace, unity, and remarkable development. He worked tirelessly for the recognition and advancement of his people, earning respect from local and state governments. His leadership was visionary, and his achievements speak volumes:

- He brought and established The Apostolic Church (TAC) ILGEA Primary School in Ekinrin Adde, expanding access to quality education.
- On his way to Kabba, he stopped at Origa (between Iyara and Kabba) and noticed many children hawking instead

of being in school. When he asked why, he learned that the nearest school was too far from Origa. The following week, he established a school in Origa, a school that still exists today.

- He brought and established The Apostolic Primary School, Oke Adeye, Kabba.

- He established over 15 Schools across Ijumu, Kabba Bunu, Yagba, Mopa Amuro, Dekina and Okene

- He employed many indigenes of Ekinrin Adde into the teaching Profession. When the government mandated the dismissal of all Grade 2 teachers, requiring Grade 3 certification as the minimum, he found a solution by reassigning all Grade 2 teachers to teach religious studies, thus retaining them. Many of these teachers are still alive today as living witnesses.

- He was a major stakeholder in facilitating and raising funds for the building of the old Ekinrin Adde Police Station, strengthening security infrastructure.

- He facilitated the construction of the Akinrin Multipurpose Hall and the Akinrin Shops at Merinjon, Ekinrin Adde, promoting commerce and social development.

- He was part of the stakeholders and financiers that initiated the foundation building of the Ekinrin Adde Magistrate Court, advancing justice delivery in the community.

- As a gifted choir master, he composed the Ekinrin Obile Community Anthem, leaving a cultural legacy that

continues to inspire.

- He generously provided scholarships and paid school fees for less privileged students, while also contributing to football games and inter-house sports, demonstrating his deep commitment to education, youth development, and social welfare.

### **A Man of Faith and Cultural Pride**

Beyond his official duties, Oba Faleke was a man of faith, a prolific writer, and a lover of research, music, and agriculture. He never compromised his Christian beliefs, even as he upheld the traditions of his people. His life was a testament to service. He built a library of reference materials at the palace and promoted land reforms.

His prudence and foresight created an atmosphere of harmony and justice. He was a bridge-builder who worked tirelessly to ensure that the Ekinrin-Adde community remained peaceful, united, and progressive.

### **A Legacy Etched in Time**

On October 15, 2021, Oba Samuel Agboola Faleke slept in the Lord, leaving behind a legacy of honour and progress. He was happily married and blessed with children and grandchildren who continue to cherish his memory. His contributions to education, leadership, and community development will forever remain a beacon of inspiration.

**Rest in peace, Oba Samuel Agboola Faleke, the visionary leader, the educator, the peacemaker. Your footprints are etched in the sands of time.**



*Congratulations*

to **ESV. OLUGBENGA  
COLLINS ROTIMI**

ON THE 4TH ONA-ARA CELEBRATION

**T**his year marks the 4th edition of Ona-Ara celebration, and once again, we are glad to identify with the man behind the vision, ESV. Olugbenga Collins Rotimi. Over the years, he has remained consistent in supporting community growth and looking out for the wellbeing of the people including our Union.

The Ona-Ara event has grown into something meaningful; medical check-ups, welfare support, and activities that bring people together. It is one of those programmes that remind us of the value of community, and ESV Rotimi has been at the centre of it every single year as the founder of the group.

We congratulate him on yet another successful edition and pray for strength and capacity for greater impact in the years ahead.

**Signed:**  
**EASU CTC 2025**



*Congratulations*  
to **FUNSHO OLUMOKO**  
ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
OGIDI-OMO MOVEMENT

**T**he Caretaker Committee of Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union rejoices with Hon. Funsho Olumoko on the remarkable 20th anniversary of Ogidi-Omo Movement.

The Ogidi-Omo Movement is a brand that has positively impacted lives across numerous communities in Ijumu Local Government. Two decades of consistent drive and impact are not a small feat, and we acknowledge the dedication that has sustained this movement over the years.

Hon. Olumoko is a name that commands respect, an administrator of excellence, serving today as the Pro-Chancellor of the Federal University, Pankshin, and a patron who has always stood with us. Through the Ogidi-Omo Movement, he has inspired political participation, supported development initiatives and opened doors of opportunity for many.

As we celebrate this milestone with him, we pray that the years ahead bring even greater achievements and influence.





Profile of  
**Hon. Dr. Aderibigbe**  
Helen Adeniyi

**H**on. Dr. Aderibigbe Helen was born on October 16 some years ago. She started her educational journey at St. Barnabas Primary School, Ilorin, where she obtained her First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC) in 1982.

She proceeded to Baptist High School, Ekinrin-Adde, and earned her West African School Certificate (WASC) in 1987/1988. With a keen interest in agricultural sciences, she enrolled at the University of Ilorin, where she obtained her Bachelor of Agriculture (B.Agric) in Crop Production in 1999.

Driven by a desire for deeper academic and professional competence, she pursued a Diploma in Desktop Publishing at KDB Computer Institute, Ibadan, in 2000. She later advanced her studies at the University of Ibadan, where she earned a Master's degree (MSc) in Agronomy in 2003. Her academic excellence culminated in the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Agronomy (Horticulture option) from the University of Ilorin in 2015.

Dr. Aderibigbe began her professional career at the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Ibadan, where she served as a Research Scientist from 2009 to 2024. During her time at NIHORT, she rose through the ranks from Research Officer II to

Assistant Director of Research. She currently serves as the Commissioner for Innovation, Science and Technology in Kogi State, a position she assumed on March 12, 2024.

Dr. Aderibigbe has participated in numerous local and international conferences and workshops. She has also authored and co-authored several academic publications, including journal articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings.

Dr. Aderibigbe is a passionate community advocate. She is the founder and coordinator of Mopinre Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to health outreach, agricultural empowerment, and educational support. Notable initiatives under the foundation include:

A free eye care program in December 2019 in Ekinrin-Adde, offering eye examinations, eyeglasses, blood pressure and blood sugar tests to over 200 residents.

A modern agriculture and nursery management workshop held in September 2017, featuring training on oil palm propagation and free distribution of sprouted palm kernel seedlings to farmers.

Free tutorial classes and writing material distribution for final-year secondary school students in Ekinrin-Adde between January and May 2013.

Dr. Aderibigbe also served as the President, Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union (EASU) in 1995. Secretary, Ekinrin-Adde Community Development Association (EACDA), Ilorin Branch (2007–2009). Ex-Officio Member, EACDA National (2011–2014). Secretary, Good Women Association, CAC Chapel of Rest, Tanke, Ilorin (2005–2008).

She's a recipient of many Awards among which was her induction into the Omo-Atata Hall of Fame in 2025.



## Adan Dance and Its ORIGIN

**A**dan Dance is an integral aspect of Emidin Festival in Ekinrin-Adde. It usually takes place in the evening of Emidin on 20th June annually. Adan Dance is what makes the celebration of Emidin in Ekinrin-Adde unique and different from what obtains in other towns and villages in Ijumu LGA. There are other towns and villages in Ijumu that also celebrate Emidin on 20th June annually as Ekinrin-Adde.

Olu Alaa Odundun with his younger brother, Agbaluju, migrated the Aofin Agbalogbo people from Abudo to the present location of Ekinrin-Adde. He reigned as Olu-Adde of Ekinrin-Adde for fifteen (15) years (1865 - 1880). His brother, Olu Agbaluju (Agbaluju lowo idagba Apotoloro) succeeded him as Olu-Adde (1880 - 1900). The original initiator of Adan Dance was Olu Alaa Odundun.

Olu Alaa Odundun (ahodedero) was a renowned warrior and it is believed that it was during one of his numerous war expeditions that he discovered the warlike Adan Dance at Ayede Ekiti. He admired it and therefore brought it home and introduced it to his people to add colours to the annual Emidin celebration.

Aofin Agbalogbo Abudo people are undisputably the exclusive custodians of Adan just like Omigbo pond. They are emotionally attached to the two phenomenal legacies passed down to them by their forebears.

The original home of Adan in Ekinrin-Adde is Akodi with Aledegbara also known as "Adde kekun" as the meeting place for performing traditional rites to round off Adan Dance. This venue was used throughout the reigns of Olu Alaa Odundun (1864 - 1880) Olu Agbaluju (1880 - 1900) and Olu Arotile (1900 - 1912). The three Olu-Adde of Ekinrin-Adde used Akodi as their palace during their reigns.

But when Olu Ajibulu became Olu-Adde of Ekinrin-Adde (1926 - 1948), he moved the venue for the performance of traditional rites during Adan from Aledegbara to the front of his palace and this is the venue majority of us in Ekinrin-Adde today grew up to know.

Notwithstanding the subsequent change of venue from Aledegbara, till date, Adan Dance traditionally starts at Akodi and the drummers never forget to beat their drums at Aledegbara before going to fetch Chief Elegunja from his house to initiate Adan Dance. Elegunja will then sing "Ologun gbogun dide, agha logun gha gbe". This translates to the owner of Ogun has brought Ogun out, it is us that Ogun will favour. Unfortunately what is often chorused by the crowd is "Alobagbe" which is incorrect.

It is important to note that the Olu Arotile Royal Family has produced holders of Elegunja's traditional chieftaincy title consecutively for five times. The annual initiator of Adan Dance is the Elegunja.

My father, Elegunja Faleke Arotile, used to initiate Adan Dance throughout his

life time. His successors, Elegunja Olorunjuwon Osasona and Elegunja Ojo Olorunfemi Osasona also played the same role just as the present Elegunja Olajide Otitolaye Arotile is doing now.

On every Adan day, with drumming and dancing, Elegunja proceeds from his house to fetch high ranking Igharefa title holders who are members of the family one after the other to join Adan Dance. The head of the family is usually the last person to join the dance. It is his responsibility to provide all items needed to perform traditional rites. The head of the family having joined, Adan Dance will proceed to Agba House, the venue where Adan traditional rites will be performed.

In the past, various weapons of war such as guns, spears, bow and arrows, cutlasses etc, were used during Adan Dance. Nowadays, however, wooden material shaped like swords and other less dangerous materials are used during the dance.

Adan Dance is rounded off with the usual offer of prayers, thanksgiving and sacrifice to Ogun for providing bumper harvest of emidin yams. Thereafter, the head of Aofin Agbalogbo Abudo family will be accompanied home with Adan drumming and dancing. But Adan Dance formally ends when Elegunja is taken back to his house from where he initiated the Adan Dance.

There are other aspects of Emidin and Adan Dance. One of them is "Egbe Asani" headed by "Abure". It is a group of young men whose sole aim is to expose and

shame identified thieves and undesirable elements in the community. The group operates for 7 or 14 days after Emidin going round the community to abuse and curse all thieves identified within the year before Emidin and Adan Dance. The activity of this group is no longer visible these days.

The beating of Ogigidigbo during Emidin is another aspect. Ogigidigbo is a hollow wooden musical instrument which is domiciled in Olu Ajibulu's Palace. Till date, Ogigidigbo is beaten annually during Emidin.

Emereko is the grand finale of Emidin and Adan festival. It is a feasting occasion that takes place two or three days after Emidin festival. Emereko is an elaborate feast an influential farmer or father gives to appreciate all the able-bodied men who have worked for him during the farming season. In the past, it used to involve the entire Ekinrin-Adde community. These days, it appears that only Aofin Agbalogbo Abudo family still celebrates Emereko after Adan Festival.

Some unique features of Emidin and Adan festival are gradually fading away. Ifa Emidin has become a thing of the past and so also is Egbe Asani. But there is no doubt that Adan Dance is popular and embraced by all and sundry. It remains the enduring cultural legacy for Aofin Agbalogbo Abudo and indeed the entire people of Ekinrin-Adde and the environs.

**Chief Olumeto S O Faleke-Arotile**  
June 2025



*Congratulations*  
to **ELDER DEINDE T.  
KOMOLAFE**

ON HIS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY  
AS EACDA PRESIDENT

The Caretaker Committee of Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union joins the community in celebrating Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe and the leadership of the Ekinrin-Adde Community Development Association as they mark one year in office. It has been a year of steady work, one that strengthened education, opened opportunities for young people and women, and improved the general look and feel of our community through visible projects and renewed engagement.

In just twelve months, we have seen how leadership backed by experience can move a community forward. This administration has encouraged participation, kept the spirit of unity alive and continued to build on the values that hold Ekinrin-Adde together. As we celebrate this first milestone, we wish Elder Komolafe and his team even greater success in the years ahead.

Congratulations once again to Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe and the entire EACDA Executive.



## Rise, Young Mind; The Power We Already Hold

By Marvellous Oluwasola Olorungbemi



Every generation has its voice, and ours is louder than ever. We are the youth the heartbeat of change, the restless dreamers, the digital builders, the ones who see possibilities where others see problems. But sometimes, it feels like the world is too heavy, too unfair, or too unsure for our dreams to grow. That's why we must remind ourselves: empowerment doesn't always begin when someone gives you a chance; sometimes it starts when you take one.

Youth empowerment is not just about being given a seat at the table, it's about realizing you can build your own. It's the courage to turn a simple idea into something real, to believe your small effort can shake the ground of impossibility. Whether you're a student in Ekinrin-Adde trying to balance school with creativity, or a young Nigerian trying to find direction in a world that moves too fast, empowerment starts from within

Look around our community. So many young people are already breaking limits starting small businesses, writing, designing, coding, teaching, and giving back. They're proof that

empowerment is not a gift; it's a mindset. You don't wait to "become" before you start, and through that, you become.

But let's be real empowerment isn't always easy. Some days, it feels like we're moving in circles. We face doubt, comparison, and fear. Sometimes, the people we expect to encourage us don't understand our journey. Yet, those struggles are part of the story. The moments you almost gave up but still tried again that's empowerment in its rawest form.

Ekinrin-Adde is blessed with bright minds, but what will make our generation stand out is how we use our brilliance. Will we just talk about what needs to change, or will we be the ones to make it happen? Imagine if every student took their talent seriously from writing poems and articles like this, to starting community projects, to mentoring younger ones. That's how empowerment spreads one act, one story, one example at a time.

Being empowered also means lifting others. When you encourage a friend to keep pushing, when you share

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## **KOGI STATE UNDER SIEGE: WHY WE MUST ACT NOW**

By Olawuyi Martin Faleke

**K**ogi State is bleeding. A state that was once a peaceful gateway between Nigeria's North and South has become a battleground of fear; Fear now walk freely in a land that once knew peace. Kidnappers now roam freely, herdsman attack the helpless and innocent, and families mourn loved ones lost to senseless violence. From Jege to Ayetoro-Kiri, the stories are worrisome, worshippers abducted during worship service, farmers slaughtered on their land, victims burned alive. This resulted to why some women marched half-naked in protest in Oke Eri, what a desperate cry for help.

This is not just Kogi's problem. It is Nigeria's problem. Every unchecked attack chips away at our national security, our economy, and our humanity. If we fail to act decisively, the ripple effect will engulf neighbouring

states and destabilize the entire region. Don't forget that Kogi shares boarder with ten states and the FCT, therefore, a threat to Kogi's security is a threat to the nation.

### **Why the Current Approach Isn't Enough**

Yes, security forces have rescued hostages and arrested suspects. Yes, a Forward Operating Base has been set up in Iluke-Bunu and Egbe. But let's be honest: these are reactive measures. Criminal networks are organized, mobile, and emboldened. Piecemeal responses will not stop them.

### **The Way Forward: Bold, Immediate, and Inclusive**

**1. Deploy Intelligence and Technology**  
Drones, surveillance systems, and data-driven policing Should be adopted by the state Government. Criminal hideouts should be tracked and neutralized to prevent further attack.

**2. Empower Communities**  
The State Government has commendably absorbed over 1,000 vigilantes and made them pensionable. It should now prioritize providing them with formal training into the state security architecture and sophisticated tools to function optimally under strict oversight.

**3. Resolve Herdsmen/Farmer Conflicts**  
Dialogue is essential. Structured community mediation can help

prevent tensions from escalating into violence. All resident Fulani herdsmen in Kogi communities should be invited to a formal meeting. During this engagement, they should report any herdsmen residing along or within community borderlines who are unknown to them, cannot be trusted or vouched for, as well as individuals suspected of harbouring malicious intent among resident Fulani groups across various Gaa Fulani settlements in towns and farmlands. Such persons should be referred to the appropriate community authorities for lawful action, including possible prosecution for trespassing, in accordance with established laws and regulations.

#### **4. Expand Military Presence**

More Forward Operating Bases, more boots on the ground, and rapid response units in every hotspot of Kogi State.

#### **5. Enforce the Law Swiftly**

Kidnappers must face justice without delay. Anti-ransom laws should bite hard, and prosecutions must be public to deter copycats.

#### **6. Pray for Kogi State**

"If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14)

The healing that Kogi needs is possible

with God. Pray for Kogi State.

#### **A Call to Leadership**

The crisis before us is not just a challenge, it is a test of our resolve, our courage, and our unity. Shall we allow fear to dictate our future, or shall we rise together to protect our people and our land?

Security is not only about guns and checkpoints. It is about governance that works, justice that is fair, and hope that endures. It is about communities standing together, refusing to be divided by fear or violence. This is not the time for communities to start fighting over lands and boundaries but a time for handshakes and strong cooperations.

The time for empty press statements is over. The time for decisive, bold action is now. Every voice matters. Every eye matters. If you see something, say something. Silence is not an option because silence is complicity.

Let us remember this truth: **If we fail Kogi, we fail Nigeria.** But we will not fail. We will stand. We will act. We will protect our people, our homes, and our future. Together, we will turn this moment of crisis into a story of courage and victory.

**The time for action is now. Let us rise!  
Eje a kale!!**



## NIGERIA, MY COUNTRY. A CALL TO PATRIOTISM

**N**igeria oh, Nigeria A land flowing with milk and honey.

A nation richly blessed with natural and mineral resources, with beauty spread across its landscapes and greatness rooted in the hearts of its people. It is indeed a privilege to be born in Nigeria, and an even greater privilege to be part and parcel of this wonderful country. If I were given the opportunity to come into this world again and again, I would still choose to be a good patriotic citizen of Nigeria.

However, patriotism is more than a feeling, it is an action. As citizens, we play an essential role in building the nation we dream of. We often blame the government for not doing the right thing or not implementing policies that foster development, but we sometimes forget that we, the people, are instruments of change.

Every day, through our actions, decisions, and how we relate with one another, we contribute to the progress or setbacks of our beloved nation. Our behaviour, our respect for the rights and dignity of others, and our dedication to our duties as citizens all shape the future of Nigeria.

It is my responsibility and yours to make Nigeria a better nation.

A nation worthy of emulation.

A nation that stands as a center of hope and excellence.

Let us choose unity over division.

Let us embrace the strength of our diversity.

Let us work hand in hand to build a Nigeria that reflects our dreams and aspirations.

Together, we can make Nigeria a better place.

**By Ajayi Rotimi Ayodimeji**





## A conversation with **Pastor Stephen Adedotun Olaitan**

*In this interview with TheMail, Pastor Stephen Adedotun Olaitan reflects on his Ekinrin-Adde roots, his experiences with the Students' Union, and his journey into the ministry. He also shares his thoughts on how education, discipline, hard work, and responsibility can positively shape the future of the youth.*

**TheMail:** Can you briefly tell us about yourself, sir?

**Pst. Adedotun:** I'm Pst Stephen Adedotun Olaitan, a full-time Pastor with the Living Faith Church aka Winners' Chapel International. I currently serve as Zonal Pastor/Resident Pastor of Otefe-Oghara Branch in Delta State.

I was born and bred in Ekinrin-Adde, Ijumu LGA Kogi State to the family of Late Pa. Festus Oloruntoba Olaitan (Alias Baba My Dear) of Odo-Adde Community and my mother's name is Olori Racheal Aina Olaitan from Otun-Adde, also of blessed memory.

I attended Baptist Primary School No. 1 Ekinrin-Adde and Baptist High School Ekinrin-Adde. I obtained a B Sc. Business Administration from the Ahmadu Bello

University (ABU) Zaria in 2003. I went further to obtain M. Sc. Industrial Relations and Personnel Management from the University of Lagos.

I'm happily married to my beloved wife-Dcns Titilayo Oluwafunmilola Olaitan and we are blessed with children.

**TheMail:** Did you have any encounter with Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union that you would like to share with us?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Yes. Great encounters! Ekinrin-Adde Student Union is a great organization whose impact on an average Ekinrin-Adde student has been huge. From the free tutorial/summer lessons organized for us between 1991-1996, to Bob-a-Job community engagements towards community development, to our very interesting congresses/meetings/elections that holds in Baptist Primary School just in front of our house in Oke-Panu, and the Miss and Master Ekinrin-Adde Beauty Pageants in 1994. I can say that EASU is a great platform for leadership development, exposure, and greatness. It's not a surprise to hear today that Prof. Gbenga Ibileye has just been confirmed as the new Vice Chancellor of the Federal University Lokoja. These are the people we used to go and watch speak in those congresses. Thank God for keeping EASU alive and running and kudos to the unrelenting EXCOs - past and present.

**TheMail:** Did you at any time serve Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union either at the National or Chapter level?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Yes. I served as General Secretary of the ABU Zaria Chapter for about 3 years between 1998-2002, and I also served as part of the Audit team at National level for 2 years.

**TheMail:** What's your level of involvement in community activities via EACDA?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Because of the nature of my assignment, with sundry transfers, I'm not able to participate at the branch level. The last time I had the opportunity of being a part of the branch operation was when I served in Lokoja 2013-2014. However, with the EACDA grouping system for financial contributions towards Ekinrin-Adde day, I'm able to make my financial contributions regularly. I also look forward to greater opportunities for involvement in EACDA matters. When I was in Ghana on a foreign mission in my ministry, I made efforts to connect with some of our people to establish a branch there, but I couldn't connect with our people much before I was transferred back to Nigeria.

**TheMail:** Do we have EACDA branch in Delta state where you currently reside?

**Pst. Adedotun:** I'm not aware of any. If any, it may be at the State capital Asaba or Warri. I've spent a year plus here now and I've not seen our people in Oghara here where I am.

**TheMail:** You said you studied Business administration and also obtained a Master's degree in industrial Relations and Personnel Management. Something must have inspired you to take up the course and also go as far as having a Master's Degree, but now, you're a Pastor, is there anything you would like to share with us about this diversification?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Thank you so much! I learnt management at the Business School, ABU Zaria. That knowledge equipped me for effective and efficient management of resources towards the realization of organizational goals. In ABU, I actually

specialized or majored in Finance, that is, the management of financial resources. But during my NYSC at Potiskum Yobe State, I encountered Jesus at LFC Potiskum and became genuinely saved. After my salvation, I began to perceive the call of God on my life and so when it was time to go for my Masters, I was inspired to focus on People Management because that's the job of a Pastor. That's why I got that Master's in Human Resource Management. But the good thing now is that all the knowledge God has given me the opportunity to acquire is helping me well on my assignment. My knowledge of general management, financial management, and people management is a tremendous asset to me today in the ministry. At a time on my assignment, I was deployed to LFC Lokoja to manage the church finance for the state with the whole of Ekiti and part of Ondo State under our financial operations. God is a master planner and strategist. He knows the end from the beginning.

**TheMail:** How many years have you been in the ministry?

**Pst. Adedotun:** This December makes it 16 years that I received my appointment letter as a Pastor.

**TheMail:** Spiritually, is there anything God has revealed to you about Ekinrin-Adde that will manifest in the coming years?

**Pst. Adedotun:** I thank God for our Jerusalem, Ekinrin-Adde. I saw a vision some years back about tremendous developments in Ekinrin-Adde and I shared it with some of my friends.

I'm glad to see them come to pass. The future is great for us as a community but we must ensure we remain united under God.



**TheMail:** What is your Bible Verse that conveys a strong message for Ekinrin-Adde and its people?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people are one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

**TheMail:** Do you have any message for the youth of Ekinrin-Adde?

**Pst. Adedotun:** Yes. I want our youth to be focused. They should connect to the living God, and build capacity for a lifestyle of productivity through good education and skills acquisition. The future is great, but they must shun youthful vices and lusts according to: 2 Timothy 2:22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

I remember what my Spiritual father Bishop David Oyedepo told us as youths many years back. He said the playboys he used to know in those growing years of his are still playing men today. Life can never give you beyond what you invest in it. Imagine if Prof. Gbenga Ibileye hadn't

Contd. from page 04

improve. Thank God we now have good roads across the town, improved water supply, sophisticated security network, modern Hospital, radio station to amplify our voice, bank, and ongoing construction of Skill acquisition center. These efforts are geared towards tackling our problems and ensuring we are better off not worse off. But in Agriculture, we need to improve. Agriculture remains a vital part of our economy, so encouraging modern farming techniques and cash crop cultivation can boost income for many families. We also need to divert attention to our educational sector. Our schools are in need of competent teachers. When we work hand in hand, there's no challenge too big for us to overcome.

## Conclusion

Ekinrin-Adde is more than just a place on the map, it is my Jerusalem. A place I'm proud to call my home. I have been to Sokoto, I have traveled to Port Harcourt, I have visited Lagos, I have lived in Abuja and Ondo state, I currently live in Ilorin, Kwara state, but I can't stay a year without visiting Ekinrin-Adde because it is my home, it is my Jerusalem, it is my everything, it is my resting place.

Our shared history, the resilience in the face of challenges and the collective spirit of giving back define who we are. From our notable sons and daughters making waves in their careers to the everyday efforts of our youths, students, and elders, everyone plays a part in shaping the future of this great community. As we continue to face challenges, it is our Unity, our tolerance, and our faith that will guide us. With every step forward, we honor our past and build a legacy for generations to come.

This is my Ekinrin-Adde; Ekinrin-Adde my home, my pride, my hope, my resting place.



## A Life of Purpose and Scholarship;

Dr. Obafemi Ayodeji  
Olanrewaju's Success Story

*Rooted in Ekinrin-Adde and shaped by years of service to students' unionism and community development, Dr. Obafemi Ayodeji Olanrewaju, in an exclusive interview with TheMail, shared his experiences and journey through education and community service.*

**TheMail:** Briefly tell us about yourself

**Dr. Obafemi:** My name is Obafemi Ayodeji Olanrewaju, born to the family of late James Sunday Obafemi and Mrs Esther Ige Obafemi nee Olowonigba. I am from Aofin Ona clan of Ekinrin-Adde. I was born in Kwara State in the late 1970s and partly raised in Kwara and Kogi States. I was born into a family of eight children and I am the fourth child in the row. The better part of my childhood was in Omu Aran and Ilorin. My growing up was challenged after the sudden demise of my dad at a tender age.

**TheMail:** What is your encounter with Ekinrin-Adde Students' Union?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Some of the first people who inspired my student union participation were Mr. Sunday Olowonigba, my uncle at UI at the time, Mr. Stanley Ajileye, Mr. Timothy Aribido (Late Pa Thimo), Prof. Omotola (Unbeatable), and Late Shola Adedoyin, among many others.

Permit me to reflect on one of the hottest elections held between Unbeatable Prof. Omotola and Sir K,

Mr Kayode Makanjuola for the position of Director of Socials DoS. It took two days to conclude the election. I remember getting to the Congress around 6:30 am on the second day of the election. Unbeatable was later declared the winner after Sir K stepped down during the second day run-off. EASU became a colossus in Ijumu and Okun students' union engagements. I was a delegate at ISU congresses, Auditor, Caretaker Committee member, and ELCOM Chairman.

**TheMail:** What is your involvement in community activities?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Great question. Permit me to reflect again on my growing up as a way to better understand the source of my passion for our great Jerusalem resulting in my deliberate quest to continually add value to my noble home.

My journey into communal engagement began in 1994. I attended the EASU Congress in 1994, not long after the creation of Kogi State. That marked my first engagement in communal activity. I watched quality engagement from the older folks as EASU at that time represented a collective platform for youth emancipation and intellectual exchange. Having heard so many stories from my parents and my uncles and aunties who grew up under my parents tutelage, the inherent passion for Ekinrin-Adde was birthed in me.

My passion for value addition has seen me continually and selflessly contributing in various capacities in EACDA both at national and local level. For about five years now I have been part of the leadership of EACDA in Port Harcourt.

While in Lagos my involvement in EACDA activity was minimal as I was mostly on the sea. My transfer to Port Harcourt provided needed time to participate in EACDA activities. I was Vice Chairman 2 under the chairmanship of Chief Sunday Adeleye. Treasurer under Mr. Amos Obadunmi, a position I hold to this moment. I was at various times the group mobilization Chairman for Ekinrin-Adde Day. Permit me to assert that it is always a great pleasure to be able to contribute positively to the growth of our Jerusalem.

**TheMail:** While growing as a kid were there any particular cultural activities you were involved in or loved?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Oh, yes, Adan and Okelekele readily come to mind. I was also a great Bereke dancer. My closeness to my maternal grandfather Baba Onifa actually endowed me with these cultural activities. I had a bit of restriction from my parents because of their beliefs, but found freedom in my grandfather, who was largely a traditionalist. Egungun processions were my watch outs then too.

**TheMail:** You recently bagged your Doctorate degree despite not being in academia. What inspired you?

**Dr. Obafemi:** I am one person who sees no end until I reach the pinnacle of any undertaking I choose. I do not also see lasting hurdles in my path to success.

Shortly after my secondary school I moved back to Ilorin where I became close to one of my favourite uncles, Uncle Francis Olowonigba. He was very outgoing and would most times prefer I move around with him mostly nocturnal. He would give me special tasks and I would deliver with dexterity. After the success of a particular task he crowned me a Doctor.

The nickname was accentuated by my friends Pastor Dotun Olaitan (Dotside) Kehinde Babalola (Rocksy) and my twin brother Jide Obafemi (Jaido) The



nickname was further extended to become a Marine Doctor as I had already picked up a job in the marine industry at the time.

As I grew with the name I found it difficult to defend as a lot of people began to assume that I was really a PhD holder. The reality of pursuing my PhD became strong after I facilitated a couple of training programmes and got high ratings.

Having resolved to pursue the degree I found the need to understudy individuals who had succeeded through resilience in the quest for PhD. Prof. Unbeatable and Prof. Adewara of UNILAG readily became my anthropology specimens. The resilience behind their success gave me the needed push.

The need to enhance my critical thinking capacity and problem-solving prowess was part of the inspiration. My quest to also increase my resourcefulness in both personal and corporate engagement also gave the needed push. In all my greatest source of inspiration came from my Jerusalem. The reason my friends and close associates now call me Double Dr.

**TheMail:** How do you feel using a PhD appellation among those in the academics?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Ironically I forget most times the appellation until I am asked if I have a PhD after making a contribution considered of high quality. It gives me

great pleasure as it has helped amplify my hitherto hidden attributes. It also gives me a great sense of fulfilment as my health almost caved in during the pursuit. Being able to reach the academic pinnacle of study is a great fulfilment. I have sustained a link with my contemporaries in academia through cross idea generation and utilisation. Great to use the PhD appellation.

**TheMail:** Do you plan on becoming a Professor like Prof. Shola Omotola, Unbeatable?

**Dr. Obafemi:** It is really not out of place in my desires. I have continued in my research work and stepped up my publications. I am close to finalising work on two books on Marine Logistics and Green Marketing. From the foregoing I have refused to allow my industry practice to affect my research works and academic engagement. Dora Akunyili became a professor outside academia. It would be a great honour if I'm able to earn it.

**TheMail:** Now that you are a mentor to Ekinrin-Adde youth, what are your plans for them?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Part of what inspired me for my PhD is the quest to motivate younger generations by setting a good standard. I have deliberately sustained continual engagement with youth through speaking to their conscience and contributing to schemes that seek to benefit youth. I have spoken at many

Ekinrin-Adde for a on youth consciousness and excellent orientations. I have remained increasingly open to youth positive value addition in all means. I am passionate about greater generational shifts and succession.

**TheMail:** If invited to deliver a lecture at the Miss Ekinrin-Adde Pageant and Awards Night, will you honour it?

**Dr. Obafemi:** It would be my pleasure provided it falls within my retinue.

**TheMail:** You were inducted into the Ekinrin-Adde Omo Atata Hall of Fame. How did you feel?

**Dr. Obafemi:** When I received the nomination I honestly felt such award was undeserving of me because I felt I had not contributed enough. On a second thought I accepted the honour as a call to duty and greater contribution to the development of our Jerusalem. It has indeed spurred me to greater performance.

**TheMail:** Are there impactful activities you grew up knowing that are no longer in existence?

**Dr. Obafemi:** Basically some of the activities I have found eroded are peer grouping, collective farming, good mentorship and menteeship, unity of purpose, intellectual engagements amongst many others.

**TheMail:** What is your message for Ekinrin-Adde youths

**Dr. Obafemi:** It is my wish that Ekinrin-Adde youth begin a self discovery

journey devoid of vices and assume their rightful place in our evolving history. With the enormous human resources Ekinrin-Adde is blessed with the youth need to look inward for quality inspirations. We are naturally endowed for greatness provided we take the right steps and directions. Ekinrin-Adde youth our greatest asset.

**Contd. from page 14**

opportunities, or when you celebrate someone's win instead of competing, you're empowering them too. We rise faster when we rise together.

The truth is, the world is watching this generation. We are more connected, more creative, and more courageous than any before us. The question now is: what will we do with that power? Will we scroll it away or shape it into something that matters?

Empowerment is not a campaign it's a movement that starts with you. Every step you take toward your dream is proof that your voice matters. So keep writing, building, learning, and leading. Let your story inspire the next person who thinks they can't.

And as we, the students of Ekinrin-Adde, continue to grow, let's carry our community's pride in everything we do, reminding the world that greatness can rise from anywhere, especially from home. Because youth empowerment isn't just a word it's a revolution already happening inside us.

## *Distinguished* Awardees



**Prince Babajide Kolade-Otitoju**  
Out-Standing Supporter of the Year



**Mr. Akintunde Ademola Olutekunbi**  
**EASU** Developer of the Year



**Elder Deinde Toyin Komolafe**  
Students Advocate of the Year



**MR. Adewale Victor Adekanye**  
Leadership Excellence Award



**Dr. Lanre Felix Komolafe**  
**EASU**. Role Model of the Year



**H/Chief (Engr) Shola Samuel Aribido**  
Patron of the Year



**ESV. Olugbenga Collins Rotimi,**  
**FNIVS. FCIA RVS**



**Mr. Ayokanmi Medaiyese**  
Out-Standing Volunteer of the Year



**Barr. Ekundayo Babalola**  
Distinguished Stakeholder of the Year



## *Distinguished* Awardees



Amb. Dare Timilehin  
EASU. Friend of the Year



Amb.Comr. Ibiyomi Iyanuoluwa Desmond  
Exceptional Service Recognition

Pictures taken at the **Seminar**



Spelling Bee **Competition**





## EASU Tutorials





## Some **Notable Infrastructures** In Our Community



Modern Police Station



ACCESS Bank (under construction )



Asphalt laying of the road leading to the House of Olu Adde of Ekinrin-Adde



Asphalt laying of Oyi farm road

Presentation of Hybrid Phone to Akogba Radio by EASU Executives





## Our Masquerades







32nd Edition Dec. 2025



Honoured as distinguished Alumni at UNILORIN's 50th Anniversary,  
**Professor Olayemi Akinwumi and Prince Babajide Kolade-Otitoju**  
reaffirm a simple truth about our community;  
Ekinrin-Adde raises men whose footprints speak loudly across Nigeria.



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