

THE PROGRESSIVES

A publication of the All Progressives Congress UK Chapter

MAIDEN AWARD DINNER & END OF YEAR GET TOGETHER

Date:

SATURDAY 21ST
DECEMBER, 2024

Venue:

ROUND HOUSE DAGENHAM
LONDON RM8 2HY



National Anthem



Nigeria, we hail thee, our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all, are proud to serve our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol that truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honoured, and this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children a banner without stain.

O God of all creation, grant this our one request:
Help us to build a nation where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty Nigeria may be blessed.

Pledge

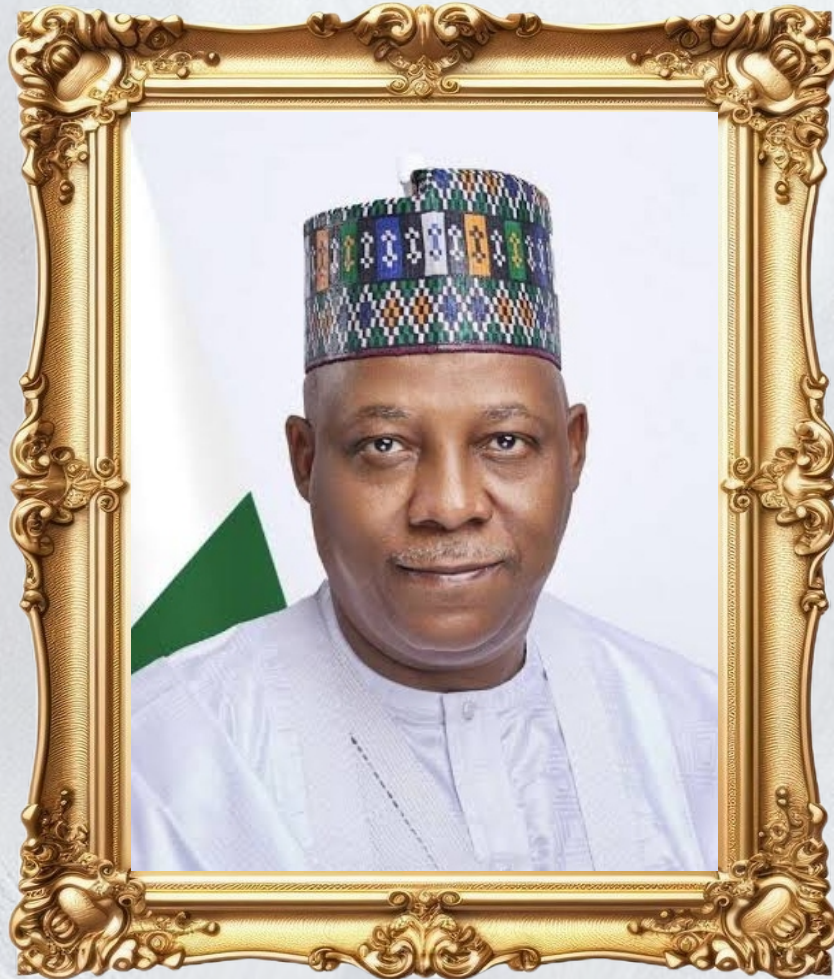
I pledge to Nigeria, my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity and uphold her honour and glory
So help me, God.

Order of Program

1. OPENING PRAYERS
2. NATIONAL ANTHEM
3. RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS
4. WELCOME REMARKS
5. PRESENTATION OF FIRST SET OF AWARDS
6. DINNER / MUSIC INTERLUDE
7. PANEL DISCUSSION
8. SECOND ROUND OF AWARD PRESENTATION
9. CLOSING PRAYERS
10. DANCE, DANCE, DANCE!



His Excellency
Bola Ahmed Tinubu
Executive President of Nigeria



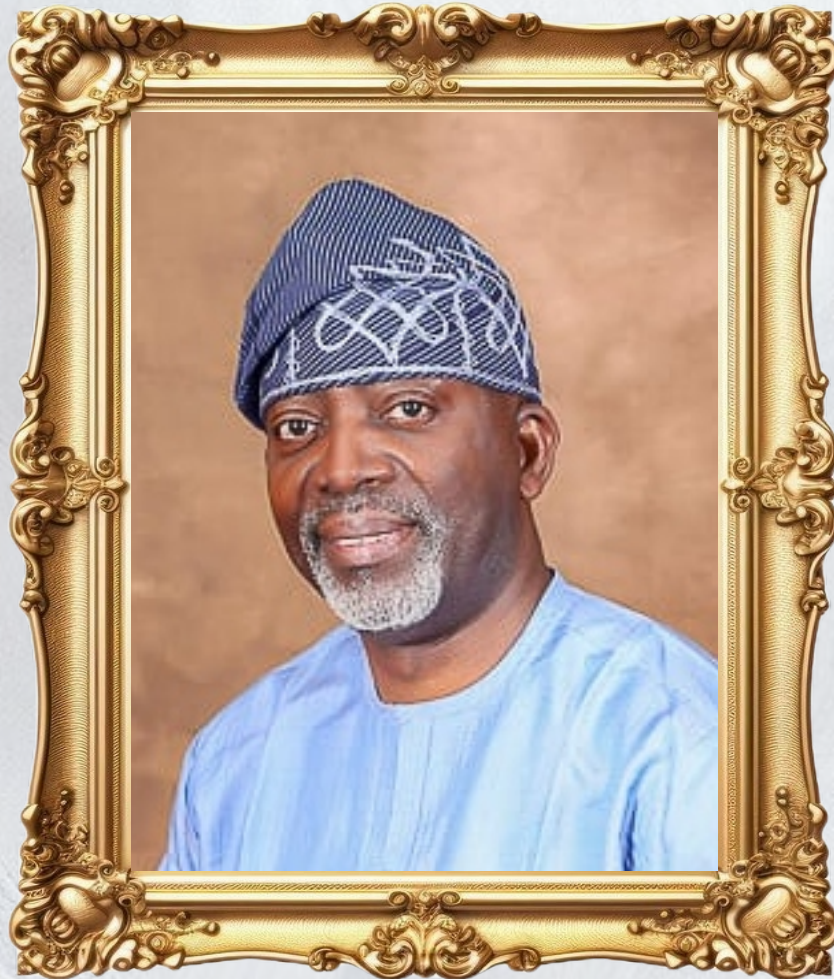
His Excellency
Kashim Shettima
Vice President of Nigeria



His Excellency
Abdullahi Umar Ganduje
National Chairman



Senator Dr.
Ajibola S. Bashiru
General Secretary



Hon. Tunde Doherty
Chairman APC UK Chapter

APC UK CHAPTER EXECUTIVES



Hon. Tunde Doherty
Chairman APC UK CHAPTER



Hon. Olumuyiwa Adesua
Deputy Chairman South



Dr. Bonat Dauda
Deputy Chairman North



Chief Momoh Obaro
General Secretary



Hon. Ayokunle Agunbiade
Deputy Secretary



Hon. Susan Jegunmah
Woman Leader



Hajia Mariam Muazu
Deputy Woman Leader



Dr. Bernard Doro
Financial Secretary



Alhaji Ganiyu Adejumo
Deputy Financial Secretary



Hon. Yemi Kolawole
Treasurer



Hon. Abimbola Fasanu
Deputy Treasurer



Hon. Babatunde Hamzat
Auditor



Dr. Elfreda Onunkwo
Deputy Auditor



Prince Ayorinde Amoko
Leader of People Living
with Disabilities



Hon. Funmi Adesanya
Deputy Leader of People Living
with Disabilities



Hon. Justus Timothy
Ex officio



Dr. Mustapha Bello
Organising Secretary



Dr. Jasper Adeleye
Deputy Organising Secretary



Haji Sekinat Adams
Youth Leader



Hon. Tunmise Ajiboye
Deputy Youth Leader



Dr. Cal Amayo
Welfare Secretary



**Hajia Jamila Zana
Muhammed**
Deputy Welfare Secretary



**Chief Kemi
Kalejaiye**
Ex-Officio



Hon. Charles Orjiakor
Ex-Officio



Cllr Tunde Ajisola
Publicity Secretary



**Hon. Vincent
Akin-Williams**
Deputy Publicity Secretary



**Hon. Adegboyega
Ajiboye**
Legal Adviser



Dr. Jude Ezika
Deputy Legal Adviser

Opening Remarks by **HON. TUNDE DOHERTY,** Chairman APC UK/APC CDC

The Acting High Commissioner, The Governors of Lagos State and the Chairman of the Southwest Governors Forum, ably represented here by the Chief of Staff, Awardees, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening, and a warm welcome to our Maiden End-of-Year Award and Gala Night.

We are truly delighted to have you all here this evening. Your unwavering support and dedication to our Party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), and our President, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, have been remarkable. Together, we are driving the vision of Renewed Hope forward, shaping it into a reality that propels our nation toward a prosperous destination.

The journey has been challenging, but we remain steadfast, giving thanks to God for our progress. Our Party has made history as the first Nigerian Party with a Diaspora structure. This milestone underscores our commitment to fostering collaboration between diaspora chapters and the Party, advancing progressive initiatives, and supporting the well-being of both the APC and our great nation.

As diaspora members, our mission is to:

1. Propagate the progress being made in our nation.

2. Collaborate on global initiatives that support our government.

3. Enhance economic development, creating a new Nigeria aligned with our Party's vision and mission.

Tonight, we are honoured to celebrate a lineup of distinguished awardees whose dedication, insights, and passion have significantly impacted our nation and Party. Their resilience, loyalty, and unwavering leadership inspire us all, and it is with great pride that we recognize their contributions.

Let us also take pride in the structured and organised framework of APC Diaspora Chapters. As indivisible entities, these chapters, including APC UK, operate under the APC Committee of Diaspora Chairmen as the administrator. Each approved chapter adheres to the Party's constitution while tailoring its structure to local needs. The APC UK Chapter, for instance, is built on City Branches and Caucuses, reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and grassroots engagement.

As we revel in tonight's festivities, let us remember that our collective efforts and generous contributions are vital

to ensuring the continued growth and success of APC UK and other Diaspora Chapters. Together, we will embark on projects and programs that positively impact our Party globally and deliver democratic dividends to our members in 2025 and beyond.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your presence and support tonight. Together, we are building a brighter future for our great Party, The All Progressives Congress (APC)—a beacon of Justice, Peace, and Progress.

Thank you, and have a spectacular evening!



Hon. Tunde Doherty
*Chairman, APC UK Chapter/
Committee of Diaspora Chairmen.*

Citation Of

MR. BABAJIDE OLUSOLA SANWO-OLU

EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, LAGOS STATE

Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu was elected the 15th Governor of Lagos State on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He was declared winner of the March 9, 2019, gubernatorial elections by the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) on Sunday, March 10, 2019, after defeating 44 other

contestants representing various political parties in the election.

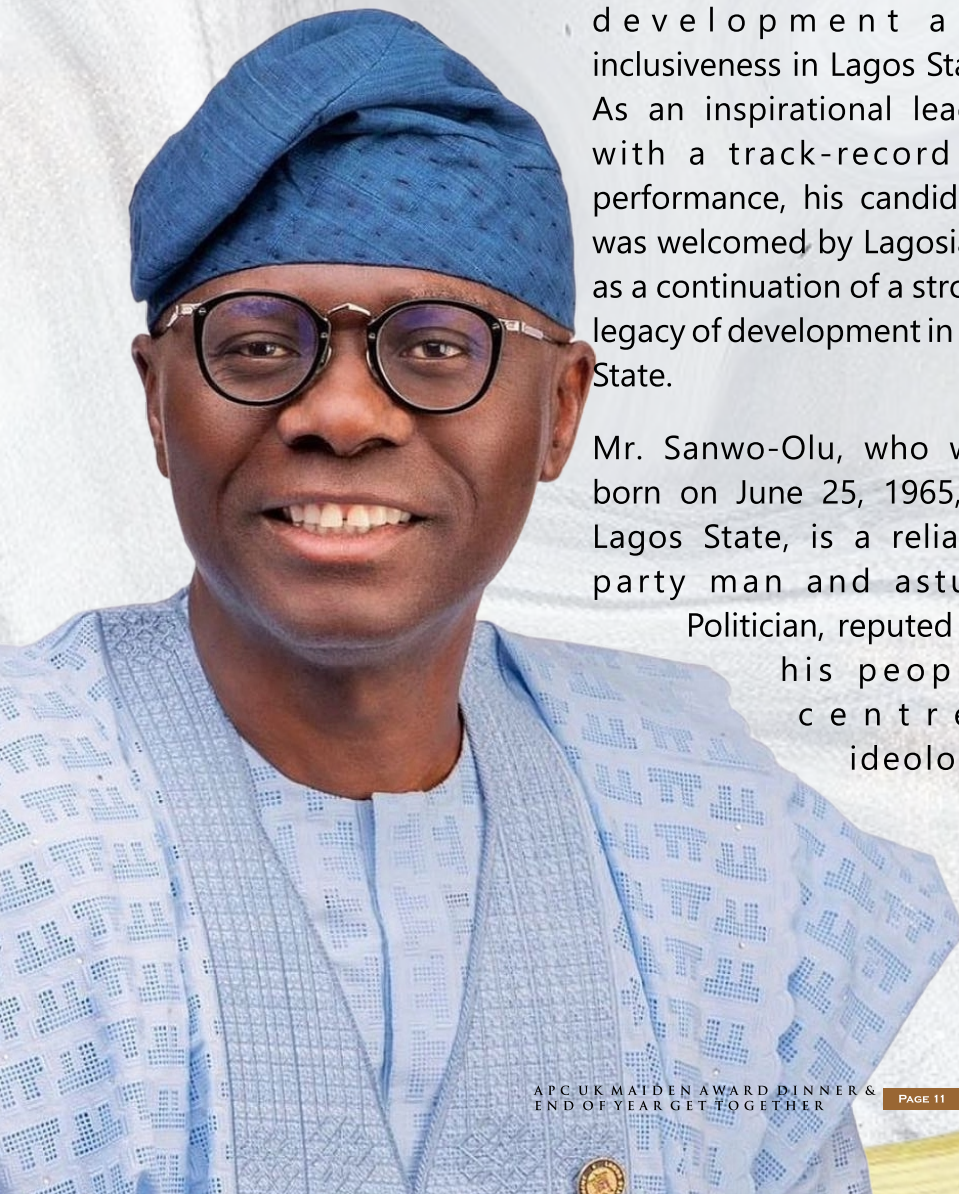
A product of resounding victory, Mr. Sanwo-Olu polled 75.6% of the total valid votes cast in the election. His victory at the election is a solid endorsement of his leadership aptitude and the All Progressives Congress (APC) politics of development and inclusiveness in Lagos State. As an inspirational leader with a track-record of performance, his candidacy was welcomed by Lagosians as a continuation of a strong legacy of development in the State.

Mr. Sanwo-Olu, who was born on June 25, 1965, in Lagos State, is a reliable party man and astute Politician, reputed for his people-centred ideology.

His foray into public service started after decades of accomplishments in the private sector, especially the Nigerian banking sector, where he retired as a General Manager of one of the major commercial banks in Lagos.

This accomplished private sector expert, whose innovative mind quickly established him as an exemplary public sector reformer, started his early education at Government Demonstration School, Surulere and Ijebu-Ife Grammar School, Ogun State.

For his higher education, he proceeded to the University of Lagos for a Bachelor's degree in Surveying & Geo-Informatics, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Management from the same University. Mr. Sanwo-Olu is also an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Kennedy School of Government, London Business School and the Lagos Business School.



He is also a member of the Nigerian Institute of Directors (IOD), Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), and Fellow of Nigeria Institute of Training and Development (NITAD).

In 2003, his eventful career opened to yet another colourful chapter with his appointment, first as Special Adviser to the then Deputy Governor, Mr. Femi Pedro, on Corporate Matters and later as Special Adviser to the then Executive Governor, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, on Corporate Matters, in 2004.

Mr. Sanwo-Olu's entry became a reference point for professionalism and excellence in public service. At 39, he was appointed acting Commissioner for Economic Planning & Budget from 2004 to 2005, and became the substantive Commissioner for Commerce and Industry in 2007 following his exceptional performance.

His managerial imprint became noticeable at the Lagos State Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions in 2007 when he served as the Commissioner. During this period, he authored an executable Civil Service Framework designed around the Human Capital

Performance Index, which puts Lagos State civil servants amongst the highest and most regularly paid in the country.

A public officer with an impressive record of accomplishments, he was instrumental to the setting-up of Lagos State Pension Commission (LASPEC), a contributory pension scheme,



even ahead of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Some of his notable contributions include setting-up and serving as the pioneer Chairman of the Lagos State Security Trust Fund Board, tracking and intelligent analysis of Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) by the various government agencies and parastatals,

including the Board of Internal Revenue (BIR), for executive consideration and policymaking; as well as preparation and publication of the Lagos State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (LASEEDS).

It is also to Sanwo-Olu's credit that the LAGBUS Asset Management Limited (LAGBUS) was established to ease the public transportation woes of Lagosians, by complementing the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in Lagos State. Mr. Sanwo-Olu also established the Control & Command Centre in Alausa, one of the LSSTF initiatives, which significantly improved the capacity of the security agencies to respond to distress calls in a swift and timely manner.

Mr. Sanwo-Olu was appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Lagos State Development and Property Corporation (LSDPC) in 2016, and in just 2 years, the visionary administrator had returned the hitherto struggling organisation to the path of efficiency and profitability. He also re-engineered the organisation

to effectively tackle housing deficit in the State, which again validated his credentials as a resourceful leader and problem solver.

His valuable experience garnered from executive-level roles in the private and public sectors has not only distinguished him, but also made him a valuable resource to some notable organisations on whose boards he has served.

It is not unexpected that Mr. Sanwo-Olu's enterprising career in the private sector, his stellar record in public service, and selfless contributions to the society, would have attracted international recognitions and accolades at home. But as a man steeped in modesty, these awards and laurels serve as no more than an encouragement to keep him on the path of service to God and humanity.

As the 15th Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Sanwo-Olu has spearheaded and re-engineered many socio-economic development programs in the State, under his people-focused development agenda, aptly named project T.H.E.M.E.S, representing Traffic Management and

Transportation; Health and Environment; Education and Technology; Making Lagos a 21st Century state; and Security and Governance.

At the core of his belief is the vision of a Greater Lagos, a Megacity and State in which no one is left behind; in which all residents can aspire to and enjoy a progressively better, more secure and more prosperous existence, regardless of age and gender, and of ethnic, religious or partisan affiliation.

Beyond Lagos State, Mr. Sanwo-Olu currently serves as Co-Chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum (PGF) Media and Communications Steering Committee, a member of the National Economic Council (NEC) Committee on Covid-19, and a member of the Management Board of the Niger Delta Power Holding Company. In 2020 he served as Chairman of the National Campaign Council for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the Ondo State

Governorship Election, spearheading the successful re-election of the incumbent Governor.

A devout Christian and family-focused man whose marriage to Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu is blessed with lovely children, Mr. Sanwo-Olu, in addition to his love for public speaking, is a member of numerous prestigious clubs, which include Ikoyi Club 1938, the Island Club and Yoruba Tennis Club.



Interview Session with **BENJAMIN OLUKAYODE OGUNRO**

Can you introduce yourself and tell us about your background?

My name is Benjamin Olukayode Ogunro. I attended Lagos Govt School for my elementary School and CMS Grammar School in Bariga Lagos with Senior Cambridge. There was No WAEC in our time and fail in English Language was fail in all your subjects in colonia days. I now have Masters in Radiography.

What do you do and what has been your key focus in your work?

I was Supt. Radiographer, the Highest position for a black man in those days. I was a Labour Councillor for Kilburn Ward for many years and up till now, I remain a loyal member of the Labour Party in the UK.

What is your message to members of APC UK and your view of the APC UK Chapter

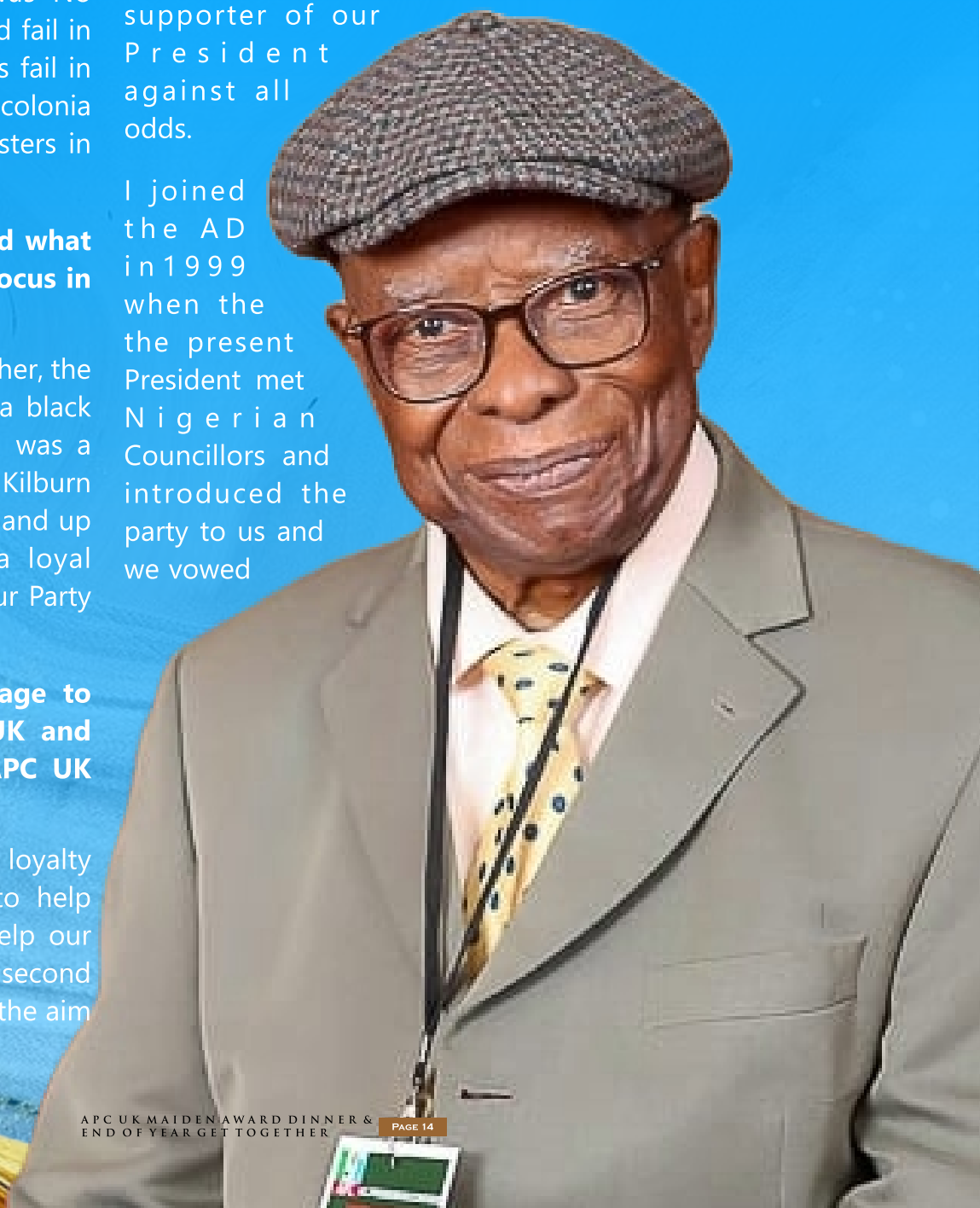
I would like to see loyalty among members, to help each other and to help our President to win his second term. That should be the aim

of every membership. I pray that the Party should grow stronger as the year goes by. The Party is supreme, which means that the Party is stronger than any individual. I would like us to give our President our loyalty against the forces of the opposition. We should be fanatical supporter of our President against all odds.

I joined the AD in 1999 when the the present President met Nigerian Councillors and introduced the party to us and we vowed

our loyal support for the newborn Party let us now support this strong and vibrant Party for the progress of our beloved Nation.

Have a wonderful evening and compliments of the season.



The History of APC in Manchester

The journey of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Manchester is a testament to dedication, unity, and the resolve of committed individuals. As the adage goes, "The journey of a hundred miles begins with a single step." The formation of the new APC Manchester Caucus, led by Hon. David Adeoye, began almost three years ago as a support group dedicated to ensuring the election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Our group comprised passionate supporters from Northeast England, with no fewer than 10 support groups actively campaigning for Bola Ahmed Tinubu. These included the APC Diaspora Support Group, Global Alliance for Tinubu, Asiwaju Campaign Marsha, BAT Network (Bola Ahmed Tinubu Network), and Renewed Hope Ambassador, among others. Together, we worked tirelessly to advance Tinubu's campaign and deliver his message to the masses.

The APC Manchester Caucus sponsored several impactful projects in Nigeria, including

community initiatives, healthcare outreach programs, radio and television jingles across the Southwest, and newspaper publications in leading Nigerian outlets. We also established a situation room to educate our people back home and mobilized all members to travel to Nigeria to vote during the elections. Despite facing challenges, including the sweeping influence of opposition parties, particularly the Labour Party, we remained steadfast and played a pivotal role in turning the tide in favor of Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

After the successful conclusion of the election, driven by curiosity and a sense of duty, we sought to align ourselves with APC UK. In the process, we discovered the existence of various APC factions within the UK. To ensure neutrality and inclusivity, we reached out to all known factions, hosted several listening sessions, and engaged in wide consultations with APC caucuses that had previously operated in Manchester. With their support and through

extensive deliberations, we aligned ourselves with the Doherty winning team.

Our primary goal became clear: to establish a robust APC structure across Greater Manchester. Through determination and hard work, this goal has been realized, and the APC Manchester Caucus now stands as a thriving and effective organization.

Achievements of APC Manchester Caucus

The APC Manchester Caucus has accomplished several remarkable milestones, including:

1. Unifying all previously existing APC factions in Manchester.
2. Mobilizing more individuals to join the party.
3. Securing a permanent secretariat, generously donated by Hon. Dr. Ayoola.
4. Officially registering the party with the UK's Company House.
5. Actively participating in the first diaspora election.

These achievements are a source of pride for our members and highlight the collective strength and determination of the APC Manchester Caucus. We remain committed to furthering our impact, building stronger party structures, and enhancing the presence of APC in Greater Manchester and beyond.

Importantly, we cannot write MANCHESTER APC history without mention the effort of those who have paved a way for us. Most especially the team led by Dr Ayola and Dr Prince Olurebi. They have done wonderful and sacrificed many things to ensure APC remain set fast and on in dividable family in Manchester. We love you and salute your courage. Finally, the journey so far has been one of collaboration, resilience, and a shared vision for progress, and we look forward to continuing this legacy in the years to come

Citation: **APC UK Bedfordshire**

The APC UK Bedfordshire Branch was inaugurated in May 2015 at the University of Bedfordshire, Luton, by the then APC UK executives under the leadership of Dr. Philip Idaewor. Since its establishment, the branch has demonstrated consistent growth and unwavering support for the National arm of the party.

Key achievements of the APC UK Bedfordshire Branch include:

- i. Hosting annual branch seminars that welcome party leaders and foster engagement.
- ii. Contributing to the acquisition of the party's ID production machine.
- iii. Actively participating in the 2024 APC UK Congress by mobilizing

members, leading to the success of the first-ever elected APC Congress outside Nigeria.

iv. Hosting the inaugural General Meeting of the APC UK Chapter after the Congress in August 2024 at the Luton Borough Council Chambers.

v. The branch continues to thrive, attracting professionals and role models who are positively impacting the community. Notably, one of its pioneer members has been elected as a Councillor and currently serves as the Deputy Mayor of Luton.

The APC UK Bedfordshire Branch stands as a beacon of unity, progress, and professionalism, contributing significantly to the advancement of the APC in the UK and beyond.



Engineer Patrick Obuseh
Chairman, APC UK Bedfordshire.

Congratulations **CHAIRMAN HON. TUNDE DOHERTY**



The APC UK Chapter proudly congratulates its dynamic Chairman, Hon. Tunde Doherty, on being honoured with the prestigious Award of Excellence by the African British Business Award (Senior Fellowship) 2024 at the Central Association of Nigerians in UK (CANUK) Christmas Party last weekend

This well-deserved accolade recognizes Hon. Doherty's exceptional contributions to the growth of the organization and his impactful service to humanity. Under his steadfast leadership, the APC UK Chapter has continued to grow in strength and influence, achieving significant milestones that reflect his vision and dedication.

The entire APC UK Chapter celebrates this remarkable achievement and wishes Hon. Doherty continued success in his tireless efforts to drive positive change within the community and beyond.

Congratulations, Chairman! This is yet another testament to your inspiring leadership and unwavering commitment.

APC UK MEDIA
Publicity@apcunitedkingdom.org

Profile Of

HON. TAYO AKINMADE AYINDE

An accomplished Accountant, outstanding Politician, shrewd Administrator, Risk Mitigation and Intelligence Strategist and Financial Analyst, I was born on August 24, 1964, at Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

Academically, his first port of call was St. Peters' Anglican Primary School, Alausa, Ikeja where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate. He proceeded to Ogudu Grammar School, Ojota, Lagos where he sat and obtained his West African School Certificate. He thereafter attended Federal Polytechnics, Anambra State where he was awarded the Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in Banking and later stepped up to get the Higher National Diploma (HND) in Accountancy.

Ayinde eschewed indolence and had zero tolerance for laxity at his prime.

In the year 2006, he founded a Travel Agency called Overland Travels and Tours Limited. Whilst thriving in the Travel business, the tenacious 'Buffalo' got the inspiration to establish a Taxi company in the United Kingdom.

His industry and proactive nature to business soon caught the attention of his clients who continually inquired him to get hospitality business alongside to compliment his thriving Travel business as clients would always need hotel accommodation whilst in transit or at their arrival.

This prompted the birth of a 4 star Hotels and Suites in Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria named Watercress International Hotels and Suites which he single-handedly built.

Since travel agency business goes with taxi and hotels, hence his desire to operate a taxi business in the United Kingdom, precisely in Milton Keynes, where he owns a 4 bedroom detached house without mortgage since 2008. He also owns a 30 rooms hotel in Alimosho Local Government of Lagos, since 2008.

In 2005, he established a Real Estate Company that buys and builds properties all over Nigeria.

The Company is presently doing well. His avowed knowledge in Strategic Thinking, Business Model Innovation and Strategic Financial Analysis has given him an edge over other operators of taxi business in the United Kingdom.

He registered Overland Cars Limited with Registrar of Companies for England and Wales in April 2016.

In avoidance of his Taxi Business Model being emulated, he intends to apply for Patent Right in the United Kingdom.



On Thursday, June 6, 2019, he was appointed the Chief of Staff to the Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu.

Giving his indepth knowledge of the mechanisms of the dignified office of the Governor of Lagos State, Tayo Ayinde hit the ground running forthwith and excelled at the prestigious office as his carriage and charisma added the required value and paraphernalia of the office of the Chief of Staff in Lagos State.

There and then, he contributed significantly to the realisation of the present administration's commitment to the Greater Lagos Agenda.

As the Chief of Staff and a member of the State Executive Council, he took an active part in strategic policies that have improved the performance of Lagos State Internal Revenue Services amongst relevant Agencies.

He had hitherto worked briefly with TELL Magazine as Account Officer in 1993. He distinguished himself at the TELL Magazine as a consummate Accountant.

In that same year, he joined the

State Security Service (SSS) where he deservedly rose through the ranks and distinguished himself as a dedicated, loyal, courageous and trustworthy Officer till he retired meritoriously in 2009.

While in the SSS, Mr. Ayinde was the Head of the Accounts



Department of State Security Service (SSS), Shangisha Office from 1993 - 1999.

His prowess in accounting thrust him to the zenith whilst in the Department of State Security Service (SSS).

He subsequently worked as the Chief Security Detail to the

Governor Emeritus of Lagos State, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu as he was then called. As the Chief Security Detail, Tayo Ayinde committed his entire energy and industry as a high-level executive responsible for managing and maintaining the Governor's physical and digital security architecture.

Whilst working as the Chief Security Detail of His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, now the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, he was responsible for establishing and implementing comprehensive security strategies, policies and procedures to protect His Excellency's day to day schedules.

He also created a robust security framework that addressed various aspects, including cybersecurity, physical security, risk management and incident response.

He acted more with the State's cross-functional teams to identify vulnerabilities, assess risks and develop preventive measures.

Mr. Ayinde holds a Master's Degree (MBA) in Financial Management from Lagos State University.

He also attended University of Toronto, Rotman School of Management, where he underwent a Course of Study in Strategic Thinking Approach.

He later attended the University of Cambridge, Judge Business School for a Course of Study in Business Model Innovation.

Not done still, he went further to study Strategic Financial Analysis for Business Evaluation at Harvard Business School, Boston, USA.

All these are in addition to his professional training on VIP protection and anti-terrorism in the best Institutions in Israel and the UK, he is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management and an Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Taxation.

He is a committed supporter of Universal Human Values and an advocate of Support For the Less Privileged.

To assert that Mr. Tayo Ayinde has touched many lives for the better is an understatement as philanthropy runs through his DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID (DNA).

In a bid to deploy his immense capacity for service to humanity, Tayo Ayinde delved fully into politics in 2009.

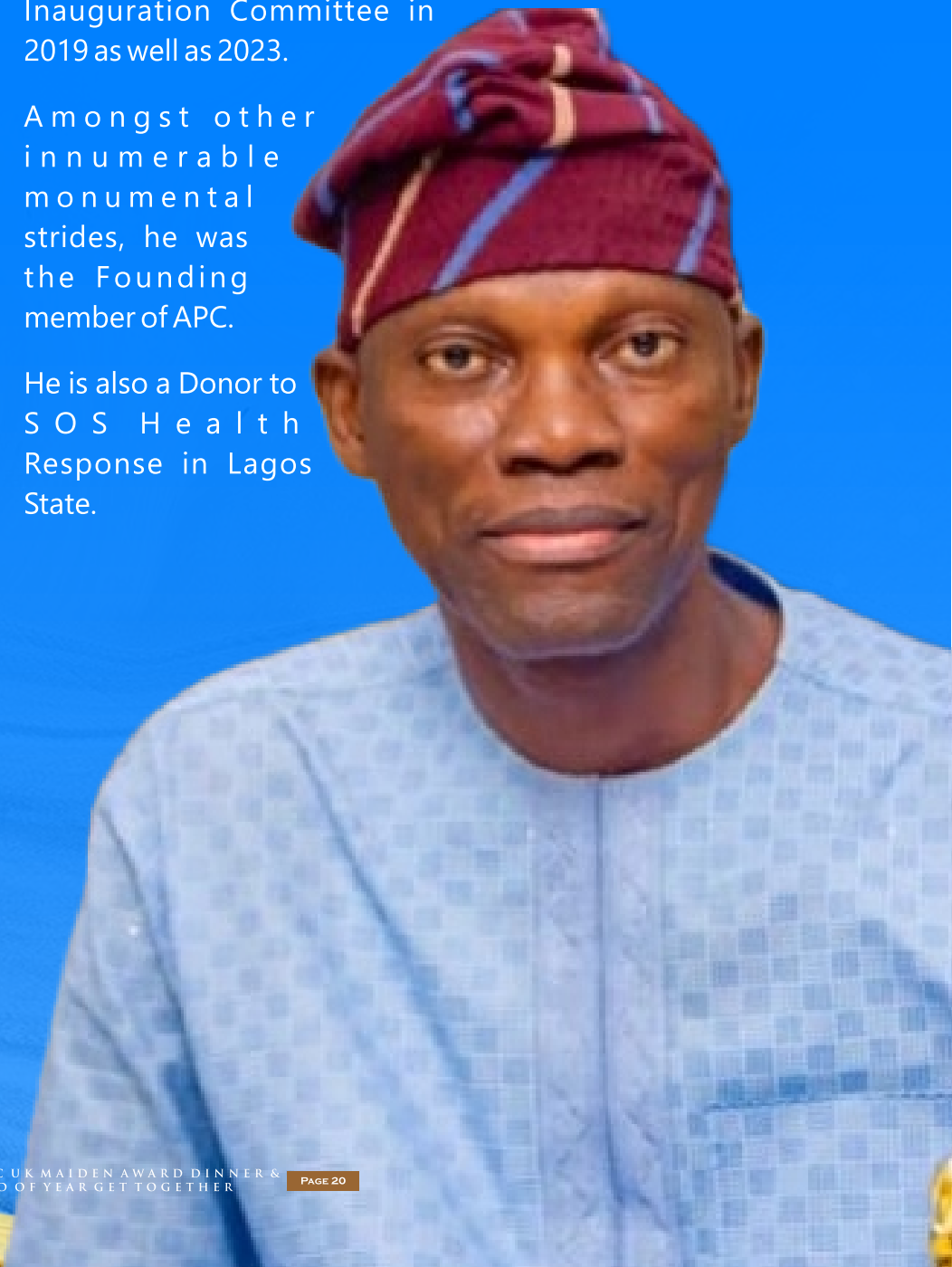
He was a two-term Director General for His Excellency Mr Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu and His Excellency Dr Kadri O b a f e m i H a m z a t ' s Independent Campaign Group in 2019 and 2023, respectively, and later the Chairman of the Inauguration Committee in 2019 as well as 2023.

Amongst other innumerable monumental strides, he was the Founding member of APC.

He is also a Donor to S O S H e a l t h Response in Lagos State.

He is a Patron of School and Community Library Project in Lagos State; Member of Education Support Group, Patron of Aid for Widows and Supporters of Help for the Aged.

He is a revered Facilitator of the Education for Youth Empowerment Project in Lagos State, amongst others.



SN	Awardee Award	Designed Award	
1.	HE Babajide Olusola Sanwo-olu	Outstanding Progressives Governor	
2.	HE Senator Dr Hope Uzodinma	Excellent Progressive Governor	
3.	HE Mai Mala Buni	Renowned Progressive Governor	
4.	Hon Tayo Akinmade Ayinde		
5.	Chief Henry Ajomole	Diaspora Outstanding Stateman	
6.	Dr Philip Idaewor	Outstanding Diaspora Leader	
7.	Engr John Don Bosco Onunkwo	Distinguished Democrat	
8.	Dr David Orimaye APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
9.	Alhaji Dapo Ayoola APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
10.	Chief Julius Adeyeye APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
11.	Hon Emeka Aneke APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
12.	Hon Jerry Adetona APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
13.	Hon Ifeoma Nwankwo APC UK	Outstanding Leader	
14.	London Branch APC UK	Outstanding Branch	
15.	Manchester Branch APC UK	Outstanding Branch	
16.	Bedfordshire Branch APC UK	Outstanding Branch	
17.	Northern Caucus APC UK	Outstanding Caucus	
19.	Ondo State Caucus APC UK	Outstanding Caucus	
20.	Ekiti State Caucus APC UK	Outstanding Caucus	
21.	Hon. Obiajunwa Ama APC UK	Youth of the Year	

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Dr Obiajunwa Ama is a 34-year-old Nigerian from Edda Local Government Area in Ebonyi State. He acquired undergraduate and masters law degrees at the University of Bedfordshire between 2012-2016, and completed a PhD in Law at the Canterbury Christ Church University between 2017-2020.

He is currently a Senior Lecturer of International Economic Law at the University of Derby, Director of the Masters in Law programme at Derby Law School, Member of the Research Ethics Committee of the College of Business, Law and Social Sciences, Member of the University Professorial Council, and Convenor of the

Derby Law School Annual Conference on Domestic and International Law.

He is also a Trainee Barrister at the BPP University London, and published Researcher in International law, with his most recent book publication titled: International Investment Law Reform: Contemporary Issues and Solutions. Dr Ama has taught at several universities in the UK, supervised students at masters and PhD levels, and been a panellist at many conferences.

He is a Fellow of many universities and professional bodies, and an Investment Dispute

Resolution and sustainable development Consultant. He continues to engage in initiatives on the interaction between the investment policy of countries, climate change, environmental protection, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Dr Obiajunwa Ama
LLB, LLM, PhD

Senior Lecturer in Law
LLM Programme Leader
Member, University Professorial Council
Member, College Research Ethics Committee

College of Business, Law & Social Sciences
Derby Law School, One Friar Gate Square
4-6 Agard Street, Derby. DE1 1DZ



Interview Session with **JAMILA ZANNA MUHAMMAD**

Can you introduce yourself and tell us about your background?

My name is Jamila Zanna Muhammad. I am a multi-talented artist, humanitarian philanthropist, mass communicator, and fashion enthusiast originally from Nigeria but currently based in the UK. My artistic journey started decades ago when I began painting on fabrics. Over time, this evolved into occasional canvas paintings, which I initially created as gifts for friends and family.

During the coronavirus lockdown, I was inspired to pursue acrylic, oil, and mixed medium paintings on canvas full-time. This phase unlocked a new level of passion and creativity in me, and since then, I've been deeply committed to using my art to express humanity's beauty, struggles, and aspirations. I am also a proud member of the Rochester and West Kent Art Society, where I have had the privilege of exhibiting my work alongside other talented artists.

What do you do, and what has been your key focus in your work?

I am an artist whose work revolves around creating abstract metaphysical pieces that explore the complex connections between who we are and who we wish to become. My focus is on humanity—our shared experiences, emotions, and dreams. Through the interplay of colors and textures, I aim to depict the depth of human existence and our intrinsic desire for growth, harmony, and understanding.

What are your aspirations, both personally and professionally?

Personally, I aspire to keep growing as an artist while staying true to my Nigerian roots and heritage. I also hope to continue using my platform and art to promote humanitarian causes and inspire others to reflect on our collective humanity.

Professionally, I aim to further establish myself in the global art scene by showcasing my work in more exhibitions, collaborating with like-minded



creatives, and creating impactful pieces that spark meaningful conversations. I am also open to commissions and collaborations to further explore new creative horizons.

What is your view of the Progressives in the UK, particularly the APC UK Chapter?

As a Nigerian in the diaspora, I appreciate efforts by groups like the APC UK Chapter that aim to promote Nigeria's development and foster unity among Nigerians living abroad. Such

organizations have a significant role in bridging the gap between Nigeria and the diaspora, advocating for progressive policies, and ensuring that the voices of Nigerians in the UK are heard. I believe their success lies in inclusivity, transparency, and a commitment to the welfare of Nigerians both at home and abroad.

What are your hobbies?

Apart from painting, I enjoy exploring fashion, which allows me to experiment with creativity and self-expression in another form. I also love connecting with people, whether through philanthropy or casual interactions, and staying engaged with humanitarian work.

What is your message to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu?

My message to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and a deep commitment to the Nigerian people. As a country with immense potential, Nigeria needs visionary leadership that prioritizes the welfare and development of all citizens. I hope he takes bold steps to address the challenges facing Nigerians, especially in education, healthcare, security, and infrastructure, while fostering unity and global partnerships. Nigeria's diaspora is a valuable resource, and I encourage him to create opportunities for collaboration that allow us to contribute meaningfully to our nation's growth.

EKITI APC UK CAUCUS: A TESTAMENT TO STRENGTH AND UNITY

Within the UK APC state caucuses, Ekiti stands as a beacon of peace, strength, and unity. As the chairman, I proudly inherited a vibrant and inclusive leadership structure. A heartfelt acknowledgment goes to our former Chairman, Dr. David Orimaye, and leaders like Mr. Muyiwa Adesua, who laid a solid foundation. Thanks to their efforts, we remain steadfast—strong as the rock of Gibraltar.

Even with fewer numbers, we continue to make our mark, with records to prove our impact. My deepest appreciation goes to our dedicated officers who work tirelessly to ensure our caucus shines:

Honourable Muyiwa Adesua

Councillor Tunde Ajisola

Honourable Ayo Agunbiade

Your contributions are indelible and will forever hold a place in our political journey. You have represented Ekiti APC UK with distinction, and we are immensely proud of you.

As we move forward, let us remain committed to achieving even greater success. We will continue to collaborate with other state caucuses, rallying behind the central UK APC Caucus under the capable leadership of Honourable Tunde Doherty and his Executive team. Together, we aim to deliver monumental successes.

I extend my best wishes to Honourable Tunde Doherty, his Executive team, the other state caucus chairmen, and all colleagues within the UK APC Caucus. May our collective efforts keep advancing the cause of the APC in the diaspora and beyond.

Hon. A J Idowu
*Chairman APC UK
Ekiti State Caucus*

Citation:

Alhaji (Dr) Suraju Oladapo Ayoola

SURAJU OLADAPO AYOOLA MBA, CMgr. PhD a visionary and entrepreneurial leader with vast array of skills and experience gained in different sectors. I possess excellent communication skills, which are used to forge productive relationships with stakeholders and colleagues at all levels. I deliver projects to targets and deadlines and provide creative leadership and innovative management. I take great pride in performing to high standards and demonstrating efficient work practices.

Managing Director / CEO – 3RS Integrated Services & Investment Ltd

Managing Director/CEO – Sub-Sahara Africa Upstream Oil and Gas Summit & Exhibition

Group Managing Consultant – Zenith Professional Training Ltd, London

Global President, Rotaractors in the Eighties Association 2022 - Date

Chairman, Zonal Executive Council (UK & Ireland) Nasfat, 2015 - current

Secretary, Council of Elders - NASFAT

Manchester (UK), 2007 - 2010

Asst. District Secretary (Training), Rotary International District 9110, 2000 - 2001

Secretary, Elders Committee Alliance for Democracy (Obafemi /Owode Local Government) 2000 - 2001

President Rotary Club of Abeokuta, 1996 - 1997

District Rotaract Representative, District 9110, 1992 - 1993

Chair, West Africa Rotaract Information Centre, 1991 - 1992

President Rotaract Club of Abeokuta, 1986

Political affiliations:

Member and one of the Leaders of All Progressives Congress (APC) Ogun State,

Leader APC UK Manchester Branch/Ogun State Caucus

Chairman Central Working Committee, Next Level -APC UK Campaign Team 2019,

Chairman Presidential Campaign CWC UK 2015 Member.

Member UK Labour Party

Memberships:

Member of Chartered Management Institute, UK

Member of Institute of Commercial Management

Egba United Society, Manchester, UK



ENGR. JOHNBOSCO OBINNA ONUNKWO

ENGR. JOHN BOSCO OBINNA ONUNKWO leverages extensive experience as an oil and gas technocrat, philanthropic leader, and seasoned political stakeholder to drive policy reform and sustainable development through a political appointment. My objective is to serve the public by implementing transformative initiatives that improve infrastructure, boost economic growth, and uplift communities while fostering transparent governance and inclusive decision-making.

Education

Bachelor of Engineering (B. Eng.) – Electrical/Electronics and Computer Engineering, Nnamdi Service, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), 1999.

Trained in Organizational Politics, Team Development, Capital Project Evaluation and Decision

Making in the Oil Industry at Paradigm Services, Manchester, England, 2008.

Work Experience

Assistant Global Maintenance Engineer, Nigeria AGIP Oil Company, 2004–2007

Production Officer, Nigeria AGIP Oil Company, 2007 – 2008

Global Maintenance & Rotating Equipment Engineer, Nigeria AGIP Oil Company, 2008

Maintenance Engineer, Nigeria AGIP Oil Company, 2011–2019

Global Maintenance Engineer in Production Operations Dept., 2020 till date.

Humanitarian/Philanthropic Activities

Distributed learning materials and offered scholarships to indigent pupils and students in Anambra

Carried out free medical



outreach in Anambra State with his NGO, Johnbosco Onunkwo Foundation

Donated COVID-19 kits, foodstuff and relief funds to 5000 poorest families in Anambra during covid-19 lockdown
Empowered Anambra Youths from 21 LGAs during the launch of the New Conversation I & II

Built and donated a skill acquisition centre to people living with sickle cell disorder in Agulu, Anambra State

Sponsored a public dialogue on Albinism during International Albinism Day

Built a hospital for the rural populace in Umuchu, Aguata LGA

Built a fully equipped music edifice at the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, Onitsha

Built a bus station at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

Developed an agricultural farm project at Orumba North and South LGAs.

Built a premier lawn tennis court at Amawbia, Awka South LGA.

Distributed yam seedlings and fertilisers to farmers in Anambra State

Leadership Roles

- Founding member of ACN
- Grand Patron, Ohaneze Ndigbo Youth Wing (World wide)
- Grand Commander of Anambra Youths by Forum of Anambra Youth Organization
- Two-time Chairman of Installation Planning Committee of Rotary Club of Port Harcourt Central
- Chairman of the Rotary Club Foundation
- Political Roles in APC
- Guber Aspirant, Anambra State Governorship Election, 2017
- House of Representatives Aspirant for Aguata Federal Constituency, 2019
- Guber Aspirant, Anambra Governorship Election, 2021
- House of Representatives Candidate for Aguata

Federal Constituency, 2023

Professional Memberships

- Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration of Nigeria
- Member of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN)
- Member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers
- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria
- Member, Certified Institute of Purchasing and Supply Administrators of Nigeria
- Member of the Institute of Professional Entrepreneurs & Strategic Administrators of Nigeria
- Member of the Nigerian Institute of Management

Awards

- Political Mobiliser of the Year by Top Ten Magazine
- Most Outstanding Oil & Gas Personality of the Year by Champion Newspaper
- Outstanding Humanitarian of the Year 2018 by New Telegraph





HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR HOPE UZODINMA

**EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR
IMO STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF
PROGRESSIVES GOVERNORS FORUM**

with vast business interests. He had the ceremonial title of Onwa-Netiri Oha of Omuma in Oru local government of Imo State.

the April 2003 elections he decamped to the Alliance for Democracy (AD), becoming the party's candidate for the Imo State gubernatorial election. After losing the election to Udenwa, he returned to the PDP in February 2004. He later contested the PDP governorship primaries in December 2006, coming in second to Senator Ifeanyi Araraume. In 2011, after the incumbent Governor Ikedi Ohakim joined the PDP, Uzodinma endorsed him to run for a second-term as Governor of Imo State, favoring him over Rochas Okorocha who he later won.

Hope Uzodinma was born on 12 December 1958 in Omuma; his father Chief Michael Uzodinma held the chieftaincy title of Igwe of Ozuh Omuma and his mother was Ezinne Rose Uzodinma (née Nneoha). He is a kinsman of the Okoro family of Etiti-Omuma. Uzodinma is a devout Catholic, and is married to Chioma Uzodinma with seven children.

Background

He holds a Diploma in Maritime Management Technology, and Higher Diploma in the same field, from the Federal University of Technology Owerri. He also has a bachelor's degree in International Studies and Diplomacy from Washington University in St. Louis. Prior to his entry into politics, Uzodinma was a businessman

Early political career

Hope Uzodinma began his political career during the Second Nigerian Republic, joining the ruling National Party of Nigeria (NPN), where in 1983, he became the Imo State youth leader. In the 1990s, with the aborted transition to the Third Nigerian Republic, Uzodinma featured prominently as a member of the United Nigeria Congress Party.

Politics

In 1999, after the return to democracy, Uzodinma joined the People's Democratic Party (PDP), where he served as a member of the party's National Caucus, National Executive Committee and on the Board of Trustees, at various times between 1999 to 2017. As a party boss in Imo State, Uzodinma was a close associate of the Governor Achike Udenwa until late 2002, when ahead of

In January 2011, Uzodinma won the PDP senatorial primary for the Imo West, gaining 2,147 votes, while the incumbent Senator Osita Izunaso came second with 891 votes. Uzodinma was later disqualified by a federal high court judgment as he had not been cleared by the PDP electoral panel led by Nwafor-Orizu. In March 2011,

a court of appeal issued a stay of execution while the case was being decided, leaving Uzodinma free to campaign. On 5 April 2011 the Court of Appeal upheld the federal high court judgement, Uzodinma later appealed this decision at the Supreme Court. In the April 2011 elections, Uzodinma received 85,042 votes, ahead of former Governor Achike Udenwa of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) with 64,228 votes and Rajis Okpala of the All Progressives Grand Alliance with 57,110 votes. In May 2011, the Supreme Court overturned the earlier decisions and declared that Uzodinma was the valid candidate and therefore had been elected.

Senator

On 29 May 2011, Uzodinma was sworn-in as a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, representing Imo State (West Senatorial District). He was re-elected for a second term in the Senate during the 2015 election. In 2018, he left the Peoples Democratic Party and joined the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC) in order to contest for Governor of Imo State in the 2019 general elections.

Governor of Imo State In March

2019, the Independent National Electoral Commission sitting in Imo announced the governorship election results of Imo State: Emeka Ihedioha of the PDP who won with 273,404 votes, Uche Nwosu of Action Alliance with 190,364 votes, Ifeanyi Ararume of the All Progressives Grand Alliance with 114,676 votes; and Uzodinma in fourth place with 96,458 votes. Uzodinma later challenged the victory of Ihedioha up to the Supreme Court. On 14 January 2020, the Supreme Court declared Uzodinma, the duly elected Governor of Imo State. The court held that results from 388 polling units were wrongly excluded from votes ascribed to Uzodinma and the APC in Imo adding that the first appellant Uzodinma holds the majority of lawful votes cast.

On 15 January 2020, he and Placid Njoku were sworn-in as the Governor of Imo State and Deputy Governor of Imo State respectively. In his inaugural address, he ordered the state accountant general to provide a comprehensive financial status for the state from May 2010 to January 2020, he also ordered the permanent secretaries of all ministries in the state to forward the status of all contracts

awarded, whilst halting the paying for all ongoing contracts.

On 31 May 2023, Uzodinma emerged as chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum, the umbrella body of governors of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), replacing Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, the former governor of Kebbi State with the governor of Kaduna State, Uba Sani as the vice chairman.[18]

In the buildup to his re-election, Uzodinma on 13 August 2023, picked a new running mate, Chinyere Ihuoma Ekomaru for the 2023 Imo State governorship election.

He was sworn in for a 2nd term in office on the 15th of January 2024.



Citation of **Governor Mai Mala Buni** **Executive Governor, Yobe State**

His Excellency, Hon. Mai Mala Buni Chiroman Gujba CON was born on 19th November 1967 in Gujba Local Government area of the state.

He received his early education at Buni-Gari Central Primary School and Government Secondary School, Goniri between 1973 and 1985. Over the course of the next several years, Governor Buni received part-time Islamic education. In 2010, he enrolled into Espan Formation University, Benin and bagged a BSc degree in International Relations in 2014.

The governor also holds a Master of Arts Degree in International Relations from Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Before he became governor of Yobe State in May 2019, Hon. Mai Mala Buni has had a stellar political career both at the state and national levels.

He was Senior Special Assistant to Yobe State governor on Inter-Party Affairs between 2009 and 2011. Following the

2011 general elections, Hon. Mai Mala Buni was appointed Special Adviser to the governor on Political Affairs, a position he held until 2013 when he became Protem Secretary of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) in Yobe State.

In 2014, Hon. Mai Mala Buni became the State Chairman of the APC. A few months later, he became the party's National Secretary. As national secretary, Hon. Buni played an active and commendable role in wresting power away from the then ruling PDP and installing President Muhammadu Buhari of the APC as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Hon. Mai Mala Buni won a second term as national secretary of the APC in 2018 and in early 2019, he became

the governorship candidate of the party in Yobe State and went ahead to win the election in April 2019.

Governor Mai Mala Buni's political profile also included being the Speaker of Gujba Local Government Legislative Council in 1991. He was Chairman of Advanced Congress of Democrats (ACD), a political party in 2006 and between 2006 and 2010, he was the Yobe State Chairman of the Action Congress (AC).

Governor Buni attended many conferences and conventions and was chair and member of different ad hoc committees.

He has won many awards, including an Award of Excellence by the Coalition of Women in Politics in Yobe State in 2018. In the same year, Hon. Mai Mala Buni was also appointed chairman of the Nigeria Shippers' Council.

Governor Buni's political career went hand-in-hand with a successful career in business which saw him lead more than ten different companies and start-ups.

Since becoming governor in May 2019, Governor Buni has pushed the pendulum further with a renewed sense of urgency to develop the state.



Opinion By

CLLR BABATUNDE AJISOLA

Publicity Secretary APC UK Chapter/

Deputy Mayor Luton

Enhancing Legislative Accountability in Nigeria: A Call for Transparent Voting Practices

In any thriving democracy all over the world, legislative processes should reflect transparency, accountability and public trust.

One crucial aspect of this is how votes on laws are conducted and recorded.

A recent comparison of voting practices in the UK and Nigeria highlights a stark contrast, underlining the need for Nigeria to adopt more transparent mechanisms.

For instance, the UK's Model of Legislative Transparency is something of note.

In the UK Parliament, critical bills undergo recorded votes, a process that ensures full accountability.

For instance, the Terminally- Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which proposes allowing terminally ill adults with less than six months to live the choice of assisted dying, passed to the next stage by a majority

of 55 votes.

The voting record is publicly available, allowing citizens to see how their Members of Parliament (MPs) voted.

This approach fosters a system where lawmakers are directly accountable to their constituents, and public trust is bolstered through transparency.

Nigeria's Predominantly Voice-Based Voting. Nigeria's Senate recently passed the Tax Reform Bill 2024 to the next stage as well, a landmark piece of legislation aimed at modernizing the tax system.

However, the vote was conducted through a voice vote, where senators shouted "Aye" or "Nay," and the presiding officer determined the outcome based on the loudest group.

While this method is expedient, it lacks the transparency that recorded

votes offer. This absence of individual accountability in the voting process diminishes citizens' ability to evaluate their representatives' performance and undermines trust in the legislative process.

A good example of this is when there is a Point of Order and the Case for Recorded Votes. Nigeria's Senate Standing Orders provide lawmakers with tools to address this issue. Legislators can invoke a Point of Order to





reforms that make recorded voting a norm, especially on bills with significant socio-economic or ethical implications.

Nigeria's democratic growth requires a commitment to transparency and accountability in legislative practices.

request a recorded vote, particularly, on contentious or impactful bills.

This ensures that every vote is documented, offering the electorate a clear view of where their representatives stand on key issues. However, such requests often require the presiding officer's approval or the backing of a significant number of senators.

As far as democracy is concerned, there are Benefits of Recorded Votes for Nigeria. These include:

Adopting recorded votes as a standard practice would bring multiple advantages, enhanced Accountability. Lawmakers would be answerable to their constituents for their decisions. It strengthens Public Trust and transparency in legislative decisions and fosters greater confidence in

governance.

It also reflects positive alignment with Global Standards.

Many democracies, including the UK, prioritize recorded votes, setting an example Nigeria could follow.

It also increases Civic Engagement. When citizens can track their representatives' positions, they are more likely to engage in the political process.

In view of the benefits, there are Challenges and the Path Forward.

The primary challenge in implementing recorded votes lies in resistance from lawmakers who may prefer the ambiguity of voice votes. However, civil society, media, and citizens can advocate for

Recorded votes are not just a procedural improvement but a fundamental step toward strengthening democracy. Lawmakers, civil society, and citizens alike should champion this cause, ensuring that Nigeria's legislative processes reflect the highest standards of integrity and public trust.

By institutionalizing recorded votes, Nigeria can bridge the gap between its legislative practices and those of global democracies, fostering a political culture rooted in openness and accountability.

Cllr Ajisola is the Deputy Mayor Luton Borough Council U K , w r i t e s from United Kingdom.

HISTORY OF APC UK ONDO STATE CAUCUS

APC UK Ondo State caucus started as AD Ondo state caucus in 1999 under the chairmanship of chief Akinmolayan and Late Chief Adefarati was the governor of Ondo state from 1999 to 2003. The caucus enjoyed enormous support of late chief Adefarati till 2003 when AD lost the election to PDP. The caucus has remained steadfast and committed to the progress of Ondo state, southwest and Nigeria as a whole. The Party changed name to AC and AC to ACN. In 2014 the party went into merger with other political parties to form APC. APC UK Ondo state caucus supported and participated in the election of Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) to become the Ondo state governor in 2016 under the chairmanship of Hon. Tunde Doherty. The caucus also participated and supported Governor Luck Orimisan Ayedatiwa in the last governorship election in Ondo State under the chairmanship of Chief Dare Adeyeye.

CITATION OF DR DAVID ORIMAYE

Dr David Orimaye was born in Ise-Ekiti over 60 years ago.

He attended St Paul's Anglican Primary School, Ise Ekiti, and went to Akure Secondary Commercial School, Akure, where he finished his Secondary Education.

He had his Medical Studies at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) Ile-Ife where he graduated with BCHD.

He obtained his Bachelor of Law (LLB) and Master of Law (LLM) at the University of East London.

He later went to London Metropolitan University, where he studied his Law Practice Course (LPC).

He had held different positions of leadership and responsibilities both in Nigeria and UK.

He was the Vice President of African and Asian Law Students' Association at

University of East London (UEL).

He joined the Progressive Party during the time of AD which metamorphosed to ACN and later APC.

He was a former Chairman of APC Ekiti State, UK Chapter. He had a taste of Ekiti State Governorship Primary in 2018. He was a former President of Ekiti Parapo UK Chapter and is currently one of the Patrons of the same Organisation.

Dr Orimaye is happily married to Mrs Dorcas Orimaye and they are blessed with 3 children.





APC UK CHAPTER *Congratulates* **CHAIRMAN HON. TUNDE DOHERTY**

The APC UK Chapter proudly congratulates its dynamic Chairman, Hon. Tunde Doherty, on being honoured with the prestigious Award of Excellence by the African British Business Award (Senior Fellowship) 2024 at the Central Association of Nigerians in UK (CANUK) Christmas Party last weekend

This well-deserved accolade recognizes Hon. Doherty's

exceptional contributions to the growth of the organization and his impactful service to humanity. Under his steadfast leadership, the APC UK Chapter has continued to grow in strength and influence, achieving significant milestones that reflect his vision and dedication.

The entire APC UK Chapter celebrates this remarkable achievement and wishes Hon.

Doherty continued success in his tireless efforts to drive positive change within the community and beyond.

Congratulations, Chairman! This is yet another testament to your inspiring leadership and unwavering commitment.

APC UK MEDIA
Publicity@apcunitedkingdom.org



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📍 37B Ladoke Akintola Road Ikeja GRA Lagos
☎ +2348109271666, +2349162800084

📍 London, UK - 2 Meadowcroft Close,
Horley, Surrey RH6 9EL United Kingdom
☎ +447456382002



info@custodianconsult.com

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