



Newsletter

AUTUMN 2025 • THIRD ANNIVERSARY EDITION • EKITI DIASPORA RELATIONS



BAO IS WORKING



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EKITI DIASPORA RELATIONS

EXPLORE OUR ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
SERVING EKITI IN THE DIASPORA
(INTERNAL & EXTERNAL)



- Showcasing & Connecting Investment Opportunities
- Diaspora Resource Centre
- Business Hub
- Food Bank
- Diaspora Village
- Sundry Services

NEED MORE?

Connect with us:
Barr. (Dr) Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa
Director-General
Ekiti Diaspora Relations

Call: +2348072741461
+2347037971402

X: @ekitidiaspora
IG: @ekitikediaspora
#Ekititotheworld

WhatsApp only:
+447833833679



BAO@WORK

Governor Biodun Abayomi Oyeibanji, alongside Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, commissioning the Ikere-Igbara Odo Road and the Renewed Hope Dormitory in Ikere-Ekiti.

The newly reconstructed road will boost connectivity and stimulate economic activities across surrounding communities, while the dormitory provides modern accommodation and support facilities for young farmers and trainees under the "Bring Back the Youth to Agriculture" programme of the Oyeibanji administration.

FOREWORD

FROM THE DESK OF DG



Dr Adeola- Adeleye Fasubaa,
 Director General, Ekiti Diaspora Relations

It is a great delight to present our 2nd Ekiti Diaspora Relations (EKDR) Newsletter. This edition hopes to signpost some of the accomplishments of the Governor Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji's administration over the past year.

We are grateful that our 3-pronged strategic Work-Plan outlined at the inception of our newly created office is panning out well. These are:

- (a) Mobilisation
- (b) Implementation
- (c) Consolidation

It is common knowledge that Ekiti is blessed with abundance of accomplished Diasporans

across the world. Ekitis abroad are also tenacious in their passion for home, irrespective of their abode - relating with Ekiti either at individual levels or through the various established Ekiti groups and associations all over the world. Identifying and mobilising these various groups have therefore been an essential task for our office, in the past year. Additionally, attention has been granted some form of immigration advisory support as well as interventions on welfare-related issues for Ekiti Diasporans in countries such as Kuwait, United Kingdom and United States of America - in concert with relevant

Ministries such as Ministry of Women Affairs as well as the Office of the First Lady. Ekiti State was the only State known to have organised and offered Legal and Welfare support to Diasporans of Ekiti origin who might be affected by the recent far-reaching Immigration policy of the Donald Trump administration in the United States of America.

We are in the process of harmonising all Ekiti community associations across the world under one global umbrella. We are grateful for the cooperation of Ekiti Diasporans and their leadership and our revered traditional rulers, represented by HRH Oba Ayorinde Ilori-Faboro, the Olojudo of Ido-Faboro and erstwhile Chairman, Council of Traditional Rulers of Ekiti, for their enthusiastic support for this effort. The benefits arising from this are immeasurable. Among other things, it will provide a credible structure through which social, economic and cultural engagements can be channeled between the State Government, traditional institutions as well as the various Ekiti projects and the Ekiti Diaspora communities.

Our monthly Diaspora Town-Hall Engagement - a first of its kind in Nigeria - has succeeded in providing a veritable platform for Government-

Diaspora engagement. More particularly, it has succeeded in rebuilding the much-needed trust, especially for Diasporans with previous unpalatable experiences dealing with home and Government.

In taking the lead in this novel Town-Hall Engagement, HE Governor Oyebanji opened up the government space and its entire administration to scrutiny and much desired confidence-boosting involvement of our Diaspora community in State matters. Ekitis abroad not only know what is going on at home, they now actively participate.

Today, encouraging investments from Diasporans are being registered in Housing, Agriculture, Tourism, ICT, Arts & Culture, Education, Healthcare, Renewable Energy, with a number of high value investments in the pipeline. Again, special attention is being given the prospects of harvesting the benefits of diaspora remittances as part of our strategic economic development plans for the State.

Major planks of the Diaspora-loving Governor Oyebanji administration's accomplishments over the past year include:

(a) Building Government-Diaspora relationship and trust as foundation for socio-economic development through foreign direct investments in Ekiti State.
 (b) Monthly Town-Hall Engagements featuring top Government functionaries - Commissioners, Directors-General etc. thereby bringing governance closer to the people and for active cross-

fertilization of ideas.

(c) Collaboration with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government to foster seamless interaction and enhance ease of doing business between government and Diasporans. The EKDR works to help monitor and signpost Diasporan enquiries to relevant government departments and agencies to achieve desired attention and outcomes.

(d) On-going support for existing and new Diaspora-led business ventures in the State.

(e) Enlightenment and empowerment initiatives for youths on responsible migration and skills acquisition to make Ekiti an outsourcing hub for international ICT jobs. We are proud to announce that the Ekiti Diaspora Relations (EKDR) won the prestigious **Diaspora Agency of the Year 2024** from Nigerians in Diaspora Awards (NIDA) by **Friends of Nigeria (FON)**, France.

EKDR's accomplishments were applauded at the recent Nigeria State Diaspora Focal Officers' Summit held in Calabar, Cross-Rivers State of Nigeria which was organised by the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM). The BAO administration-initiated *Strategic Diaspora Model* is now being adopted by numerous States of the federation. These include the appointment of Diasporans as State Focal Point Officers.

Gov Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji has gained nationwide reputation as a Diaspora focused and conscious Governor who is interested in his citizens home and abroad, as part of the Shared Prosperity Agenda.

The EKDR is currently developing a Skills Database for its One-Stop Shop/Resource Centre for the matching of our rich human resources with identified needs and emerging opportunities in Ekiti.

Lastly, we just organised a one-day sensitization conference on "ADDRESSING THE JAPA SYNDROME & EXPLORING RESPONSIBLE MIGRATION". The event, which was a huge success was attended by a cross-section of youth organisations and the public.

We had a cross section of facilitators: from the Diaspora Space - Elder Adesola Dada and Mr Kolawole Fatimehin were at the event physically while Mr Tosin Owonifari and Pastor Ademola Fasubaa joined in virtually.

Mr Akin Obanise - SSA on Disabilities; Mr Maxwell Olu-Ajayi - SA Youth Development; Dr Sikiru Olowoyo - SSA Agricultural Extension Services representing the Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security - Mr Ebenezar Boluwade; As well as Ms Bimpe Fajuyi - SA, who represented Mrs Olamide Famuyiwa - Director-General - Civic Orientation and Citizenship; who gave the Keynote Address.

Also in attendance was Dr Dotun Adetunberu, Director-General, Homeland Intelligence.

We also took the opportunity to empower some People living With Disabilities (PWDs) with POS machines, money and Clippers.

It was a very impactful event.

BAO IS WORKING



Ekiti Ring Road



Iworoko axis of the Ekiti Ring Road



Ikole-Ara-Isinbode Road



Ikole-Ara-Isinbode Road



Ikere-Igbaraodo Road



Newly procured tractors at Oke Ako Farm Settlement



Cheque Presentation to Participants of Bring Back Youth in Agriculture



General Hospital, Ilupeju



Male Ward, General Hospital, Ijan-Ekiti



Mr. Governor on Inspection of the newly equipped Iye-Ekiti General Hospital

COMMISSIONING OF ROADS BY HER EXCELLENCY DR OLAYEMI OYEBANJI



PROJECTS COMMISSIONINGS BY HER EXCELLENCIES DR MRS OLAYEMI OYEBANJI, THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR, CHIEF MRS MONISADE AFUYE AND THE SPEAKER, RT HON. ADEOYE STEPHEN ARIBASOYE



PROJECT COMMISSIONING BY THE SPEAKER, RT HON. ADEOYE STEPHEN ARIBASOYE



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HUMBLE AND HARDWORKING EKITI GLORY CALLED BAO



Some of the Awards won by Gov. Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji in just 3 years in office:

- Vanguard Personality of the Year (Good Governance)
 - Energy Times' Energy Governor of the Year
 - Silverbird Man of the Year
 - New Telegraph Governor of the Year 2024
 - Daily Independent Governor of the Year 2023 (Community Development)
 - Nigerian Human Rights Community Best Governor 2024 (Political Stability & Peace)
 - National AgricBusiness Policy Award
 - Tourism Governor of the Year
- and more...



PICTURES FROM THE STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS



DG with Commissioner of Education Dr Aderiye and Head of Service, Dr Olamojobi



Ekiti State Public Service Award of Excellence and Colloquium



DG with Commissioner of Education Dr Aderiye



EKITI DIASPORA DG CHAMPIONS UNITY, SUPPORT FOR GOVERNOR OYEBANJI AT UK APC MEETING

The Director General of Ekiti State Diaspora Relations, Dr. Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa, delivered a speech at the Autumn General Meeting of the All Progressives Congress (APC) UK Chapter in Manchester, emphasizing unity and unwavering commitment within the diaspora community.

Dr. Adeleye-Fasubaa began her speech by commending the party executives and members for their steadfast dedication. She extended a special note of gratitude to the APC UK Chairman, Hon. Tunde Doherty, and the Ekiti State Caucus for their overwhelming support since her appointment, describing it as a cornerstone that has made her role “a pleasurable one.”

Stressing the importance of collective effort, the Director General reminded attendees that positive cohesion is fundamental to achieving the

shared goals of the party and the broader diaspora community. She urged members to foster an environment of brotherly love and to remain committed to giving their best. “When it is your time, nothing will stop you – keep going,” Dr. Adeleye-Fasubaa assured the gathered members, offering words of encouragement for their continued political endeavours.

Meanwhile, a special highlight of the event was the virtual address by the National Chairman, Professor Nentawe Yilwatda, whose inspiring words eulogised the APC UK Executives for their commitment and thanked every member for their steadfast support to the party – both in the diaspora and in Nigeria.

“We are also grateful to God Almighty for granting everyone journey mercies to and fro, and for making the meeting a

resounding success.

“As we move forward, let us continue to build on this momentum – working in unity, upholding our values, and remaining committed to the progress of our great party and our nation.”

Looking ahead, the Director General formally invited all members and friends of Ekiti in the Diaspora to a major upcoming event: the adoption of Governor Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji (BAO) as the APC candidate at the forthcoming BAO DIASPORA RALLY. She announced that full details of the rally would be made public in the near future.

The event was attended by a wide array of APC members and officials from across the United Kingdom, underscoring the strong and active presence of the Nigerian ruling party in the diaspora.

Particularly, she stated that Gov Oyebanji has proven himself as a Diaspora-conscious and Diaspora-friendly Governor whose Ekiti Strategic Diaspora Model has been applauded and adopted by other States and international organisations. Governor Oyebanji has created an approachable route of interaction between Diasporans and Government, ensuring unprecedented executive intervention and prompt resolution of a number of long-standing queries. Governor

Oyebanji is the first of any State Governor to hold Town-Hall engagements with Diasporans from across the world while also ensuring constant interaction between top government officials and Diasporans through the medium.

By working through the various Ekiti-based Community Associations, the official channel now exists for any Ekiti person abroad to interact with relevant government functionaries and have any

issues attended to. It is a win-win for both government and all Ekitis abroad and is already impacting the development of the State through new foreign direct investments as well as private and community ventures. These include new massive agriculture and housing projects, construction of schools and health centres, ICT, tourism and several skills acquisition and empowerment trainings, and the like, all by Ekiti Diasporans.

Congratulations

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa
Chairman/CEO Nigerian in Diaspora
Commission (NiDCOM)

on the

**CONFERMENT OF HONORARY
DOCTORATE DEGREE**

**BY AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY,
ADO EKITI (ABUAD)**



L-R Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman/CEO, Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, the founder Aare Afe Babalola, his wife Yeye Aare Modupe Babalola, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Smaranda Olarinde and the Pro-Chancellor Professor Tunde Adeniran after being conferred with Doctor of Letters by Afe Babalola University (ABUAD).



Ambassador Tosin Owonifari

MY GOAL IS TO EMPOWER THEM TO DEVELOP INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS AND MAKE A GLOBAL IMPACT

About Myself

My name is Ambassador Tosin Owonifari, and I'm from Ise-Orun Local Government in Ekiti State. I've lived in the UK for almost two decades. I'm the CEO of T-21 Services, T-21 Construction, CSO Global, and AU Global. T-21 Services is an IT company I established in the UK, which has expanded to Nigeria, with branches in Lagos and Ekiti State. We have over 300 staff members in Ekiti State, including direct and contract workers. We've been empowering youths through IT training and job creation, enabling them to work remotely and earn in dollars.

Impact in Ekiti

As an African Union Agenda 2063 Ambassador, I'm passionate about positively impacting African youths through technical skills development. I believe that equipping them with skills is crucial for their future. We've been working with the diaspora and government agencies to launch programs that empower youths and provide them with job opportunities. I'm also a consultant to the Ministry of Skills Development and Web

Creation, helping to develop robust curricula for Ekiti youths.

My Journey

I left Ekiti to visit the UK on a working visa, courtesy of my uncle who was in the British Army. I ended up staying and building a life there. I studied, worked in various organizations, and eventually started my own business.

Giving Back

Despite living abroad for almost two decades, my heart remains in Nigeria. I believe that with collective effort, we can make Ekiti State and Nigeria great. I've seen the potential in Ekiti and its people, and I want to contribute to its development. I don't just want to sit back and enjoy the benefits of living abroad; I want to make a positive impact.

Engaging Diaspora

The government can better support diaspora Ekitians by providing more resources to the DG Diaspora office and ensuring transparency and accessibility. If everything is digitalized and secure, I believe

more diaspora Ekitians will be encouraged to invest and contribute to the state's development.

Advice

To fellow Ekiti diasporans who want to make a positive impact but are scared or hesitant, I say: take the leap. There's no place like home. Come and contribute to your Motherland. Visit, see the opportunities, and be part of the development. Don't let fear hold you back.

What's Next

I'm planning to start a leadership program to train 100 leaders in Ekiti State, taking them abroad for leadership training and potentially partnering with the African Union President to give them work experience. I'm also building a 300-capacity hall in Ado Ekiti where youths can share their ideas and connect with investors. My goal is to empower them to develop innovative solutions and make a global impact.

MR TOYIN KAYO-AJAYI

Founder, Canadian Black Farmers

Mr. Toyin Kayo-Ajayi, originally from Nigeria, has emerged as a trailblazer in Canadian agriculture, with a rich entrepreneurial history spanning over two decades. His journey from Ekiti State, Nigeria to becoming a distinguished business owner and agricultural professional (owning his own farm) in British Columbia, Canada, is a testament to his dedication, commitment to work, and expertise. He farmed with his grandparents from 5 years old and learned traditional African farming practices and natural food processing and preservation.

After settling in Canada in 2001, Mr. Kayo-Ajayi went into dairy farming in 2003, gaining a wealth of knowledge about Canadian farming practices and the agricultural business industry in Canada. Since 2005, he has been mentoring Black, African and Caribbean (BAC) farmers to enter into the Canadian agriculture industry, and in other business ventures within Canada. After 10 years of serving his community on the grassroots level, Mr. Kayo-Ajayi founded the Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada. It all started with music and food, hosting African cultural community events with his performance band, Kara-Kata Afrobeat Group. He now has 2 performance bands, composes



his own music, and runs a community music program, and the African Foods Foodbank.

Since 2019, Mr. Kayo-Ajayi has spearheaded a groundbreaking agricultural project, the Kara-Kata Africa Village Project, where he has successfully experimented growing African cultural vegetables and herbs in Canada. He is paving the way for Black, African and

Caribbean farmers and BAC food sovereignty in Canada. As part of this project, he has done extensive research on various farming practices and innovative technology that can benefit the Canadian and African agricultural industries through maximizing productivity, the growing seasons and natural/organic growing processes.

Beyond his personal achievements, Mr. Kayo-Ajayi has taken a leadership role in advocating for BAC farmers and BAC food sovereignty in Canada through awareness, education, agricultural conferences, and collaboration with other organizations, government bodies, and agricultural investors. In 2022, he founded the Canadian Black Farmers Association, which advocates for and creates opportunities for Black, African and Caribbean farmers in Canada.

He is currently a board member of the Small Scale Food Processors Association of BC, and he does regular speaking engagements at agricultural and food security focused events.

Info@Canadianblackfarmers.ca

https://www.instagram.com/tk.ajayi?igsh=aGg1ejE5dDJ3Y2c2&utm_source=qr

TOPE ADEYOJU

Promoting Health and Tourism in Ekiti State

Tope Adeyoju is a Change Management and Diaspora Engagement Consultant based in Maryland, U.S.A. He is the founder of Bronze Pillars LLC; an agency that specializes in providing market intelligence, business development, technology solutions, media and public relations. He also serves as a commissioner on the Maryland Governor's Commission on African Affairs as well as co-chairs the health committee.

In 2026, Mr. Adeyoju aims to get thousands of Nigerians insured through low cost diaspora healthcare plans purchased by Nigerians in the US and Canada. He has provided dedicated support for the annual health mission of the Yoruba Nurses of North America (YORNNA); an organization of omoluabi who have dutifully given the gift of free health screenings and compassionate care to thousands of Nigerians since their inception in 2023. To

honor Mr. Adeyoju's dedication to YORNNA, the organization's leadership team has pledged for 2026, Ekiti lokan.

In collaboration with YORNNA, Mr. Adeyoju envisions operating a fleet of mobile clinics that will enable more Nigerians to attain goal # 3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) by 2030 - Good Health and Well-being for All at All Ages.

The founder of YORNNA; Prof. Modupe Adebayo nee Aka Bashorun, teaches at a reputable Atlanta University with a Hospital network, and has won her institution's support for nursing students in the United States to partake in future YORNNA medical missions. This platform also lends itself to linkages between her institution and nursing program in Nigeria that are serious about capacity building for the health sector. This is a vital linkage that can help policy makers on both sides of the Atlantic in meeting critical shortages in healthcare personnel.

Apart from his contributions in the health sector, Mr. Adeyoju is promoting tourism in Ekiti state, AfCFTA sensitization for the artisan guilds, entertainment, sports, STEM, and early childhood education.



Commissioner Tope Adeyoju at the Maryland Governor's Office - 2025 African Heritage Month Proclamation

WURAOLA ADESINASI

A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO REVITALIZING HEALTHCARE IN EKITI STATE

I remain committed to supporting Ekiti State's health's sector in anyway I can _Dr (Mrs)Wuraola Adesinasi (nee Ayelaboye)

Can you introduce yourself and share your connection to Ekiti State?

I'm Dr. Wuraola Adesinasi, a healthcare professional based in the United States. I'm a proud daughter of Ekiti, with strong ties to my hometown, Igbara Odo Ekiti.

You've been recognized for your contributions to healthcare in Ekiti. Can you share more about your project and its impact?

We renovated the Odo Ogba Basic Health Center in Igbara Odo Ekiti, providing essential medical equipment and improving the facility's infrastructure. The project has significantly improved patient care, diagnostic accuracy, and overall healthcare delivery in the community.

What inspired your commitment to this cause?

My experiences during medical missions in Nigeria exposed me



to the deplorable state of some healthcare facilities. I felt a personal responsibility to act and was inspired by the late Chief Otunba Ayan Kolawole.

What are your plans for future contributions to Ekiti State?

My immediate goal is to provide solar streetlights for the Comprehensive Health Center in Igbara Odo Ekiti. I also intend to establish long-distance health education and training programs for healthcare workers.

How can the Ekiti State Government better support diaspora-led initiatives?

The government should guarantee security for all citizens, honor its commitments, and prioritize transparency and accountability to attract more diaspora-driven projects.

Any final thoughts?

I remain committed to supporting Ekiti State's health sector in any way I can. My hope is that more Ekiti sons and daughters in the diaspora will join hands to uplift our communities.

PASTOR OLADIPO CORNELIUS AJAYI

WE'RE WORKING ON ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN IYE-EKITI

Can you share a bit about your journey and how you've maintained connections to Ekiti despite being in the diaspora?

I was born in Iye-Ekiti and attended secondary school in Iyin-Ekiti. I furthered my studies in Lagos and Ibadan, earning an MBA in Marketing from Ambrose Alli University. After building a successful career in Nigeria's advertising industry, I moved to the U.S. with my family. Despite being abroad, I've remained connected to Ekiti through my philanthropic work with Gloria Charities International.

How do you currently contribute to Ekiti's development?

Through Gloria Charities International, we focus on education, youth empowerment, and rural transformation. We've launched initiatives like a community library, essay writing competitions, and scholarship awards. We're also working on establishing a technical college in Iye-Ekiti.

What are the most pressing challenges facing Ekiti, and how can diaspora Ekitians



help address them?

One major challenge is underdevelopment, particularly in infrastructure. Diaspora Ekitians can help by investing in scalable solutions, supporting local initiatives, and sharing knowledge and expertise.

What advice would you give to other Ekiti diasporans who want to make a positive impact in the state?

Start small, seek counsel from those ahead of you, and have faith. Reach out, ask questions, and learn from others' journeys.

Dr. Oluwayemisi Sosanya,
 Founder of Women In Prison Support Initiative (WIPSI)

BRIDGING BORDERS FOR EKITI'S GROWTH

Dr. Oluwayemisi Sosanya, the Founder of Women In Prison Support Initiative (WIPSI) and Chairperson of the Ekiti Parapo in Diaspora Sub-Committee, speaks about her contributions to Ekiti State's development, her motivation, and her plans to strengthen diaspora engagement for sustainable progress.

What sector of Ekiti's development are you most active in?

My work cuts across humanitarian work, economic development, and cultural promotion. I also engage in access to justice programs and contributed to developing the constitution for the umbrella body of Ekiti people in the Diaspora.

What motivates your passion for contributing to Ekiti's development?

Ekiti is known as the "Fountain of Knowledge," and that identity fills me with pride. I want to bridge the gap between international insights and local realities to uplift Ekiti.



What are your plans for future contributions to the State?

I plan to strengthen the work of the Ekiti Parapo in the Diaspora Sub-Committee, focusing on education, entrepreneurship, and cultural exchange. Through WIPSI, I'll launch targeted programs for women in correctional facilities.

How can the Ekiti State Government better support diaspora contributions?

The government should create a structured diaspora engagement framework, offer incentives, grants, and recognition programs for diaspora-led projects, and prioritize transparency in governance.

Any final thoughts or acknowledgments?

I appreciate Dr. Adeola Adeleye Fasubaa, Director General of Diaspora Relations, and my team for their dedication. Together, we can build a State that thrives locally and commands global respect.

THE STATE DIASPORA FOCAL POINT OFFICERS SUMMIT IN CROSS RIVER STATE 6TH-9TH OF OCTOBER, 2025



Adesola Michael Dada

Making Impact through Grace for Impact

Can you share a bit about your background and how you've maintained connections to Ekiti despite being in the diaspora?

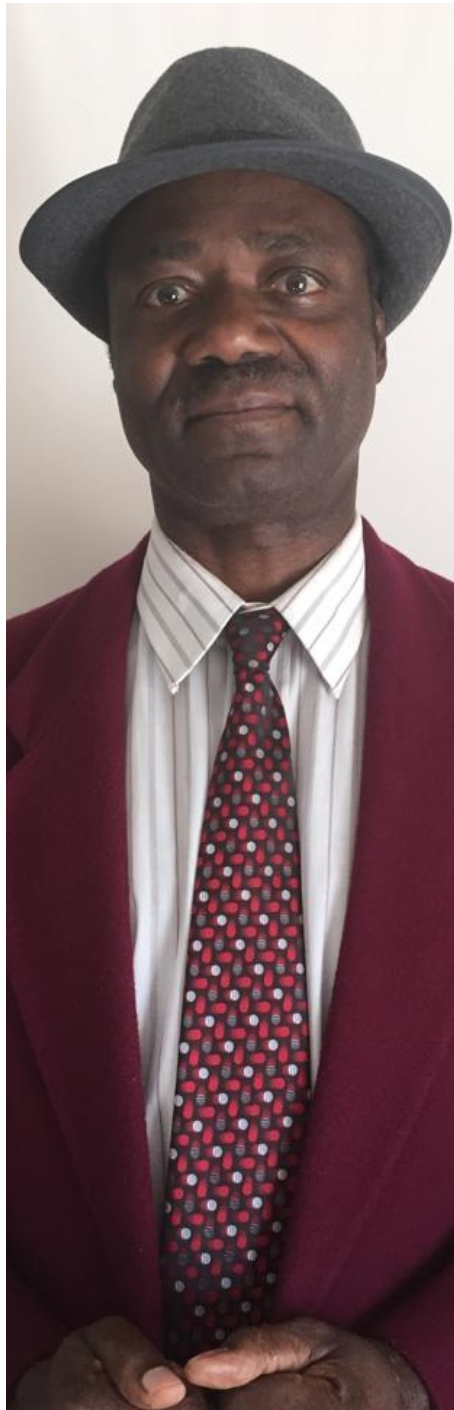
I obtained my Master's Degree in Political Science from the Central University of Oklahoma. I've worked in the U.S. and Europe, gaining over 40 years of international business experience. I own a company in Nigeria and visit often. Through my NGO, Grace for Impact Organization, we provide free medical healthcare to various communities in Nigeria, including Ekiti State.

How do you currently contribute to Ekiti's development?

As a retired professional registered nurse, I focus on healthcare. Through Grace for Impact, we organize medical outreaches that provide free healthcare to several Nigerian communities, including in Ekiti.

What do you think are the most pressing challenges facing Ekiti?

One major challenge is the lack of expertise in many crucial areas. Regular virtual town meetings and end-of-year gatherings would be valuable for discussing common



challenges and proposing practical solutions.

How can the Ekiti State

Government better support diaspora contributions?

The government can organize regular virtual town meetings for open discussions between the government and diaspora Ekitians, creating a platform for partnership and idea-sharing.

What are your future plans for contributing to Ekiti's development?

I'm focusing on the agricultural sector, believing it holds great potential for job creation and economic growth in Ekiti.

What advice would you give to other Ekiti diasporans who want to make a positive impact?

Don't give up. Keep trying to connect with the right people, especially government officials and ministers who can help turn your ideas into action. Persistence is key.

How can technology and innovation be leveraged to drive development in Ekiti?

Technology can improve education, healthcare delivery, and entrepreneurship. Initiatives like the JM Technology Center, which provides digital skills training, can empower youths and foster innovation in Ekiti.

Olori Felicia Omowunmi Agunbiade

We represent more than a business – it's a vision for empowerment, sustainability, and community development.

Can you share a bit about your connection to Ekiti State?

I identify as a spouse of an Ekiti indigene. My husband's life and foundation are deeply rooted in this State, which makes Ekiti our home and source of inspiration.

What sector do you operate in within Ekiti State?

Our primary focus is agriculture and agro-food processing. We also have a keen interest in humanitarian work, supporting youth training programs and entrepreneurship development.

What would you describe as your most significant contribution to Ekiti State's development?

Our factory will generate employment opportunities, ensure food security, improve nutrition, and enhance the shelf life of local produce. It will also serve as a hub for skill acquisition and entrepreneurship, empowering locals to participate in value addition within the agricultural sector.

What motivates you to contribute to Ekiti State's development?

Our motivation stems from a sense of belonging and gratitude. This State represents our town, our heritage, and our source. We feel a strong obligation to give back to the land that nurtured my husband.



Have you encountered any challenges in contributing to Ekiti's development?

Yes, we've faced challenges, including a boundary dispute and poor road conditions. These have slowed down progress significantly.

How can the Ekiti State government better support diaspora or local investors like you?

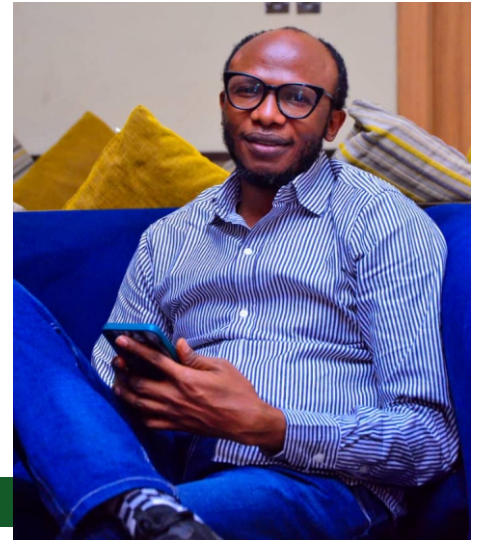
Government can help by ensuring the provision of adequate

infrastructure and maintaining timely communication with relevant agencies. Quick and responsive government actions can make a huge difference in attracting and sustaining investments.

Any additional reflections?

Felimag Foods Ltd represents more than a business – it's a vision for empowerment, sustainability, and community development. We believe that with the right support and partnerships, agriculture can become a major driver of Ekiti State's economic transformation

Ogbéni Folorunso Owoseni Inspiring Youth Empowerment and Civic Reorientation in Ekiti State



Ogbéni Folorunso Owoseni, the Convener of Omo Ekiti Ni Mi Foundation, speaks about his journey, passion, and commitment to youth empowerment, economic development, and social reorientation in Ekiti State. From mobilizing thousands of young people to driving inclusive growth through skills training and employment facilitation, Owoseni shares how his foundation has become a beacon of hope for many.

What sectors of Ekiti State do you operate in through your foundation?

Our foundation operates across multiple sectors – humanitarian work, education, economic development, and cultural promotion. We focus on empowering Ekiti youths through training, reorientation, and job facilitation to foster self-reliance and productivity.

What would you describe as your most significant contributions to Ekiti's development?

As the Convener of Omo Ekiti Ni Mi Foundation, my greatest impact has been mobilizing and empowering Ekiti youths towards entrepreneurship, self-reliance,

and civic responsibility. The name of our foundation, “Omo Ekiti Ni Mi”, translates to “I am a true Ekiti child – I am not lazy, I am hardworking, and I respect my elders.”

Through our programs, we have: Trained NYSC members serving in Ekiti State on how to become marketable before entering the labour market.

Organized the World International Skills Day, empowering over 600 youths with artisanal skills.

Hosted “Omo Ekiti Ni Mi Half Hour”, a radio program that promotes hard work and self-development among youths. Conducted employment readiness training for about 450 unemployed youths.

Facilitated FADAMA project benefits for over 1,650 members. Paid WAEC fees for more than 100 students and distributed 250 free JAMB forms, in partnership with the Tunji Amondi Foundation.

Assisted 2,880 members to benefit from the Federal Government's NANO Grant of ₦50,000 each for their small businesses.

Facilitated employment for over 367 youths in various private establishments within and outside the state.

Partnered with the Enterprise

Development Centre (EDC) to train 100 young women living with disabilities in business management.

Today, our foundation boasts a membership strength of nearly 11,000 youths who benefit from daily information about jobs, grants, and empowerment opportunities.

In essence, our work focuses on three main areas:

- Youth empowerment and skills development
- Advocacy for inclusive development
- Civic awareness and social reorientation

These initiatives have helped reduce unemployment, enhance civic participation, and build a new generation of responsible, productive Ekiti youths.

In conclusion, through the inspiring leadership of Ogbéni Folorunso Owoseni, the Omo Ekiti Ni Mi Foundation continues to redefine youth empowerment and civic engagement in Ekiti State. His unwavering commitment to building a self-reliant, informed, and productive generation reflects the true spirit of Ekiti, resilience, hard work, and integrity.

Dr Emmanuel Ibituase Akinwumi

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DO EVERYTHING ALONE

Dr. Emmanuel Ibituase Akinwumi, a proud son of Ado-Ekiti, is one of the leading lights of the Ekiti diaspora community contributing immensely to the state's socio-economic transformation. In this exclusive interview, the Nigerian-Canadian development expert and entrepreneur speaks about his projects, passion for Ekiti, and vision for sustainable growth.

Can we meet you?

I am Dr. Emmanuel Ibituase Akinwumi, born and raised in Ado-Ekiti to Ado-Ekiti parents. My father, Pa Gabriel Akinwumi, hails from Orere-Owu, and my mother, Princess (Oja) Adeparusi, is from Ojumose. I currently reside in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where I run several initiatives including Ekiti Kete Canada and Oja Adeparusi Estate & Suites Ltd. in Ado-Ekiti.

You have been involved in several development projects in Ekiti. What would you say is your most significant contribution so far?

One of my most ambitious ongoing projects is the ₦2 billion Oja Adeparusi Estate & Suites Ltd, located off Jimoh Aliu Street, Adebayo Estate, Ado-Ekiti. It's a 20-unit tourism and hospitality development comprising duplexes, apartments, suites, a restaurant and bar, mini-market, pharmacy, bakery, gym and spa, water treatment plant, and solar-powered infrastructure.

The estate also features a relaxation and recreation spot,

24/7 security, and an elevator-fitted structure. Beyond aesthetics, the project will create over 50 direct and indirect jobs, boost government revenue, and open up the area to more development – especially in synergy with the new Ekiti Airport. We also plan to provide free airport shuttle services and car rentals for our guests, further promoting tourism and investment linkages.

Beyond this, you've been active in diaspora and professional networks. Can you share more?

Yes, I've always believed in collective impact. I served as Treasurer and General Secretary of Ekiti Kete Canada, and Treasurer of Ekiti Association in North America. I also helped promote the Omoluwabi ethos among Nigerians in Canada, serving as Treasurer and a founding Board member of the Nigeria Canada Chamber of Commerce in Ottawa. I am equally a member of the Canadian Council on Africa.

In my professional capacity, as Head of Private Sector and Portfolio Management at the African Development Bank (AfDB), I supported several key initiatives for Ekiti State. These include persuading the Bank of Industry to establish a branch in Ado-Ekiti, facilitating AfDB's support for the Ekiti Knowledge Zone and Special Agricultural Processing Zone, and assisting Afe Babalola University (ABUAD) in securing AfDB's loan and technical grant. I also supported the recognition of ABUAD Multisystem Hospital as one of

AfDB's retainer hospitals in Africa. Presently, I serve pro bono as a Board Member of the Ekiti Development and Investment Promotion Agency (EKDIPA).

What drives your passion for giving back to Ekiti State?

The government cannot do everything alone. I'm driven by a sense of duty to give back to my roots – improving the quality of life of our people, promoting socio-economic development, and ensuring sustainability for future generations.



DR. OLAKUNLE IBITOYE

BRINGING EKITI'S DREAMS TO LIFE

Dr. Olakunle Ibitoye, a Nigerian-Canadian real estate developer and Artificial Intelligence (AI) expert, shares his inspiring journey from Odo-Owa Ekiti to leading transformative projects across Canada and Nigeria. With a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from Carleton University, Ottawa; a Master's in Liberal Arts from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; and a strong commitment to his Ekiti roots, Dr. Ibitoye is championing innovation and development through Beevar Homes Inc., Ottawa, and groundbreaking housing projects in Nigeria.

Can you share a bit about your background and how you've maintained connections to Ekiti despite being in the diaspora?

I'm from Odo-owa Ekiti in Ijero Local Government, but I grew up mostly in Akure and Lagos. I attended St. Peter's College in Akure, Ondo State, but often returned home to Ekiti. Those early years shaped me – Ekiti's values of hard work and community still guide everything I do.

I began with a diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering from Yaba College of Technology and worked with Chevron in

Nigeria's oil and gas sector. Later, I earned a Master's in Strategy and Business from the University of Portsmouth, UK; a Master's in Liberal Arts from Harvard University, USA; and a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from Carleton University, Canada.

Today, as CEO of Beevar Homes in Canada, I'm building communities such as Korede Estate, Kajola Creek, Horizon Estates, and Evergreen Estates in Ottawa. In Nigeria, I remain connected through projects like Shoreline Estate in Ado-Ekiti, developed in partnership with Brook Assets and Resources Ltd. I'm also active in the Nigerian Canadian Business Network, which helps me stay deeply connected to home.

Making Impact in Ekiti

How do you currently contribute to Ekiti's development, and what areas do you focus on?

My focus is on housing and entrepreneurship. Through Beevar Homes and our partnership with Brook Assets and Resources Ltd, we're developing Shoreline Estate in Ado-Ekiti – nearly 1,000 affordable and high-quality homes built with Canadian expertise and local collaboration.

I also mentor young people,



especially Black youth and immigrants, helping them start businesses and build wealth. By bringing in foreign investment at low interest rates, I aim to boost Ekiti's infrastructure. My work with the Nigerian Canadian Business Network also helps showcase Ekiti's potential on the global stage.

What do you think are the most pressing challenges facing Ekiti, and how can diaspora Ekitians help address them?

Ekiti's main challenge is turning education into wealth. We have brilliant minds, but we need systems that convert that intelligence into enterprise. Diaspora Ekitians can play a key role by investing in large-scale projects – factories, tech hubs, or agricultural industries – that create jobs and sustainable growth.

Instead of sending money for small things, let's build businesses that employ people. My work with Shoreline Estate shows how diaspora-led investments can transform communities.

For more information about Dr. Ibitoye's work, visit www.beevarhomes.com.

Prophet/Evangelist Folayan and Mrs. Temitope Osekita

EDUCATION IS THE SOCIAL CAPITAL OUR COMMUNITIES NEED

Prophet and Evangelist Folayan Osekita and his wife, Mrs. Temitope Osekita, share their inspiring journey from Ekiti to the diaspora and back. They discuss their passion for education, the establishment of Osekita Academy, their challenges as diasporans investing in Nigeria, and their unwavering vision for educational transformation in Ekiti State.

Can you introduce yourselves?

I'm Prophet and Evangelist Folayan Osekita, Chairman of Osekita Education Foundation and Executive Director of Osekita Learning Zone Ltd. *Mrs. Temitope Osekita:* I'm Mrs. Temitope Osekita, Director of Osekita Education Foundation and Executive Principal of Osekita Academy.

What inspired your return to contribute to education development in Ekiti?

We observed the steady decline in educational standards in Ekiti and realized that high-quality education was out of reach for many. We decided to act and provide a solution.

How did the vision for Osekita Academy emerge?

We wanted to provide high-quality, well-resourced schools in rural areas, where children can learn effectively and teachers can access continuous professional

development.

What is Osekita Academy all about, and what makes it unique?

Osekita Academy is a STEM school that provides a transformative, student-centered learning environment. We've grown from three pupils to over 160 learners, with 45 learning spaces and various facilities.

What special initiatives have you implemented for students and teachers?

We offer 75% bursary support, free breakfast clubs, and continuous professional development programs for teachers.

What major challenges have you faced as diasporans investing in Ekiti?

Prophet Folayan Osekita: We've faced financial losses, bureaucratic hurdles, and lack of structured

government support. We urge the state government to establish a support system for diasporans.

How has the Ekiti State Government supported your efforts?

We're grateful for Governor Biodun Oyebanji's intervention in resolving our school's energy challenges. We hope for further support in the form of grants and partnerships.

What message do you have for fellow diasporans and stakeholders?

Don't be discouraged. Nigeria needs your expertise, innovation, and integrity. With persistence, collaboration, and faith, impact is possible.

We welcome partnerships, visits, and sponsorships to build a legacy of excellence through education in Ekiti.



Dr. Badewa T. Adejugbe-Williams

A TRAILBLAZER IN EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Dr. Badewa T. Adejugbe-Williams, Ed. D is an Educational Therapist/Professional (ET/P) and a Multicultural Educational Specialist with 30 years of experience in educating individuals (children and adults) with and without neurodevelopmental disorders. Her teaching career has spanned across Los Angeles and Temecula in California, Atlanta in Georgia and Abuja, Nigeria.

She currently serves as the Chief Executive of Ladama Consultancy LLC in the USA and Nigeria, and she is the visionary behind the Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation in Nigeria. Dr. Badewa is highly regarded for her work as an Educational Specialist at the Los Angeles Unified School District, where she has earned accolades as "the answer to our prayers." Additionally, she practices as an Educational Therapist in private settings.

Beyond her educational endeavors, Dr. Badewa has made significant contributions to the Entertainment Industry in the United States. She has directed, produced, and managed stage productions in Hollywood, including notable plays like "BEAUTY SHOP," "DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN," "GREASE THE

MUSICAL," and "A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR." Her expertise as a Stage Manager and Director/Producer has been showcased at esteemed venues such as the Wilshire Ebell Theater, Beverly Hills Theater 40, Theater of Arts, and the Old Globe Shakespearean Theater. Building on her successful productions, she established La Da Ma Pictures Incorporated, a film production company that sought funding for various movie projects. Furthermore, at the Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation in Nigeria, she served as the Executive Producer for the docudrama "Yes, We Can" and the film "Not a Burden". She was the General Manager of the Abuja Film Village International (AFVI) Ltd from 2008 – 2021.

Throughout her career, Dr. Adejugbe-Williams has actively engaged in numerous technical committees in both Nigeria and the United States. As a passionate advocate, she has conducted free workshops to empower service providers and educate parents of individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, emphasizing inclusive education and promoting societal inclusion for individuals with disabilities. She has also well led capacity-building programs for youth in the Entertainment Industry.

Dr. Badewa remains deeply committed to volunteerism and



national development. She has chaired and participated in various committees, focusing on diaspora-related issues through her involvement with the Nigeria Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN). She holds key positions as the Chair of the Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative and the Chair/Coordinator of the Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS). NDIS is a collaborative project with the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM). Additionally, she is a co-founder of the Association of Female Agripreneurs based in Nigeria.



EKITI DIASPORA RELATIONS
 Invites you to
A ONE-DAY SENSITIZATION CONFERENCE
TOPIC:
ADDRESSING THE JAPA SYNDROME & EXPLORING RESPONSIBLE MIGRATION
Date: Tuesday, 28th October 2025 **Time:** 10:00am (Ekiti Time)
Venue: Lady Jibowu Hall, Government House, Ado-Ekiti.

Participants:
 Government Officials
 Civil Societies
 Youth Organizations
 Diasporans
 PWDs

Meeting ID: 851 2652 4090
Passcode: Japa

Dr. Adeola Adeleye-Fasubaa
 Director-General
 Ekiti Diaspora Relations



DIASPORANS, ELDER ADESOLA DADA AND MR KOLA FATIMEHIN WITH DG

VISITATION TO EKITI AGRO - ALLIED AIRPORT, ADO-EKITI

