

Nigerian Elections: IRRESPONSIBLE Talk and Lawlessness

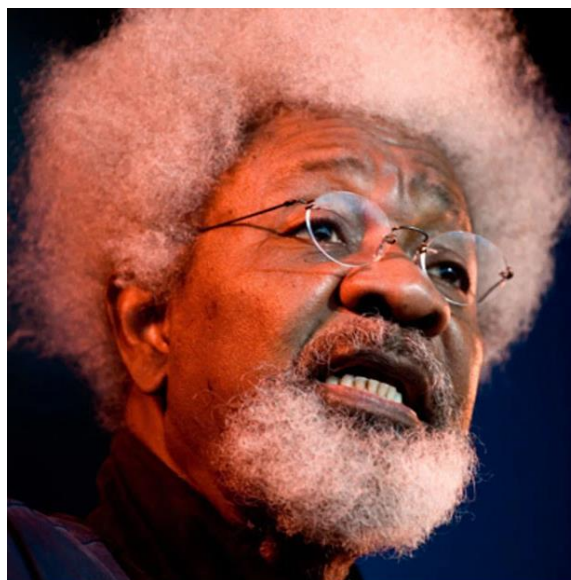
April 11, 2023

April 11, 2023: Chief David Obadofin, the traditional ruler of Oghara, an agrarian community in Kabba Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, has been abducted. Gunmen invaded his palace in the early hours of Tuesday. A female domestic worker identified as Toyin Onare was shot dead during the attack. The ruler is a major cashew nut farmer.

On Monday, April 10, it was reported that Onje Gye-Wado, a former Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, was released at 9 AM on Sunday morning due to sustained pressure mounted on the kidnappers by a combined team of security agencies. He had been kidnapped on 7th April 2023.

www.DiGiNews360.com considers this lawlessness as a major challenge to the Nigerian State. Till this business of kidnapping and ransoms is stopped, the nation cannot develop. (The methods of taming and eliminating the gangsters and mafia groups, while working within the limitations of a democratic State, can be learnt from Yogi Aditya Nath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, India.)

April 4-7, 2023: In his damning verdict on the Presidential elections of 25th February, Nobel Laureate Professor Akinwande Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka, 88, stated on 7th April that a climate of fear is being generated by political actors who have refused to entertain corrective criticism. The title of his verdict was “Fascism On Course”.



Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka

The acclaimed dramatist had said, on Monday's edition of Channels TV's Roadmap to 2023, that he did not endorse a candidate before the February 25 presidential election in Nigeria because none of the candidates for Presidential elections of 2023 addressed things, that were close to his heart, like reconstructing the nation.

The Professor added that Elections should be keenly contested. He quoted **former Governor Babatunde Fashola**, now Minister of Works and Housing, as once saying elections should be like festivals. "They should be yet another aspect of the festive spirit of humanity – and this (2023 election) was anything but festive," said Soyinka, who has been appointed as the Arts Professor of Theater at NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), effective September 1, 2022.

www.DiGiNews360.com respects senior thinkers like Professor Soyinka. He is an idealist.

However, a democracy is defined as a "Government of the people, by the people and for the people". Nothing created by human beings is perfect. Hence a democracy can always be improved. If an idealist finds that none of the candidates is a perfectly suited for an elected office, www.DiGiNews360.com understands. In a democratic election, voters have to differentiate between shades of grey. Over a series of well-organized elections, the candidates will become better and the voters will then be able to elect a whiter shade.

April 5-6, 2023: Soyinka described Baba-Ahmed's remarks as a "kind of do-or-die attitude and provocation" that goes contrary to democratic disposition.

In Channels Television's "Politics Today, the Labour Party (LP) vice presidential candidate in the elections of 25th Feb 2023, Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed called on President Muhammadu Buhari and the Chief Justice of Nigeria not to swear in Bola Tinubu on 29th May 2023. He added," If you do that, you have done something unlawful, something unconstitutional. " This program was for a telecast on Wednesday, 22 March and it was anchored by Seun Okinbaloye.

The National Broadcasting Code (NBC) fined Channels Television N5 million for allegedly violating the NBC code in the program.

In response, members of the Obidient Movement loyal to the LP presidential candidate, Peter Obi, expressed displeasure against Soyinka's stand and criticism of Baba-Ahmed.

To the Nobel Laureate's defense came Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu, a former deputy governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and a Professor of Practice in International Business and Public Policy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy from 2015 to 2017 at Tufts University. Moghalu was also a Presidential candidate of the Young Progressives Party in 2019.

April 6, 2023: Peter Obi, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party in 2023, distanced himself from a purportedly leaked phone call between himself and the Bishop David Oyedepo, founder of Living Faith Church Worldwide. He drew attention to his earlier statement that no one should vote for him based on Tribe or Religion, but rather on the assessment of Character, Competence, Capacity, Credibility, and Compassion that can be trusted to create a New Nigeria!

April 1, 2023: Abuja: **"Arrest interim government plotters, stop heating up polity,"** say Governors to DSS. **Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF)** has asked the **Department of State Services (DSS)** to arrest, without any delay, those, who are plotting to install an unconstitutional government.

The governors vowed to resist any such move and reiterated their commitment to Nigeria's democracy as elected leaders.



Rt Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, Governor of Sokoto State

In a Statement, released on Friday, 31st March 2023 by **Aminu Tambuwal**, Governor of Sokoto State and Chairman, NGF, after the 4th meeting of the governors,

Governors acknowledging that “the last election was not perfect”. However, NGF said that Nigeria will take advantage of the learning points to strengthen its electoral processes.

The Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) on Friday, added its voice to the call of NGF on DSS not to talk about the conspiracy but to arrest the culprits.

IPAC National Chairman, Engr **Yabagi Sani**, after an emergency General Assembly meeting of the Council held at its national secretariat in Abuja, spoke to the journalists on the issue of the conspiracy to create a political anarchy. Engr Sani recalled that after the June 12, 1993 presidential election, political confusion was created, which led to General Ibrahim Babangida assuming the reins of the Government. Thereafter Chief Ernest Shonekan formed the interim government in August 1993. The court declared it illegal and the interim national government was overthrown by General Sani Abacha in November 1993. Thereafter Nigeria could get back democracy only after about 16 years.

IPAC urged all aggrieved political parties to seek redress in courts for perceived infractions and irregularities in the conduct of the 2023 general election. The Council expected the Judiciary to dispense justice without fear or favour so that the sanctity of the ballot box is maintained in the public mind.

The Council applauded Professor Nnenna Nwannaya-Oti, the INEC’s Returning Officer in the just concluded Governorship and House of Assembly elections held on 18th March 2023, in Abia State for doing her job, as the Returning Officer, very well. *(Nnenna Nnannaya-Oti (born 15 November 1958) is a Nigerian professor and the first female substantive Vice-Chancellor of Federal University of Technology Owerri, the oldest university of the three technology universities, established in 1980, by Nigeria's first democratically elected Executive President, Shehu Shagari (1 October 1979 – 31 December 1983), at the beginning of the Second Nigerian Republic.)*

Earlier the DSS had on Wednesday, 29th March 2023, confirmed rumours that a section of the political class was planning for an interim government.

A spokesman for the Department of State Services (DSS), **Dr Peter Afunanya** in a statement said that the agency had identified some key players in the plot for an Interim Government in Nigeria but did not give the names of the masterminds. The agency had said that the conspirators for setting up the interim government had plotted to sponsor endless mass protests across Nigerian cities, securing a warrant to declare a state of emergency or a court injunction to stop the inauguration of the executive and the legislatures at the federal and state levels.