

Enterprises of Nigerian Govt: Atiku opposes Privatization

August 27, 2024

*Please read the interesting **BACKGROUND** on **SECURITY** in **NIGERIA** on pages 2-4.*

August 27, 2024: Abuja, Nigeria: **Atiku Abubakar**, the Presidential candidate of the **Peoples Democratic Party** (PDP) in the 2023 General Election, has issued a statement against of Governmental enterprises. Through a thinly disguised example, he blamed President Tinubu for mis-appropriating the enterprises for his family.

President **Bola Tinubu**'s former spokesman in Denge of the South East, **Dr Josef Onoh** responded by reminding Atiku about the 2002 and 2006 privatization programmes, presided over by **Atiku**. **Dr Onoh** said that companies of **Atiku**'s cronies and associates had robbed the country of her assets, in the name of privatization and had made millions of Nigerians jobless. In his statement, available at <https://thenationonlineng.net/atiku-a-statesman-turned-salesman-onoh/amp/>, cited detailed information about the misappropriation done by **Atiku** and his cronies. This robust response, led to the end of public discussion on the issue and the effort to blame President **Tinubu** for dishonesty in the privatization program did not succeed.



*The Map of **Federal Republic of Nigeria** showing the 36 States and FCT;*

Population: 230 Mn; the most populous country in Africa;

the world's 6th-most populous country;

*Capital of Nigeria: Abuja, located in the **Federal Capital Territory** (FCT);*

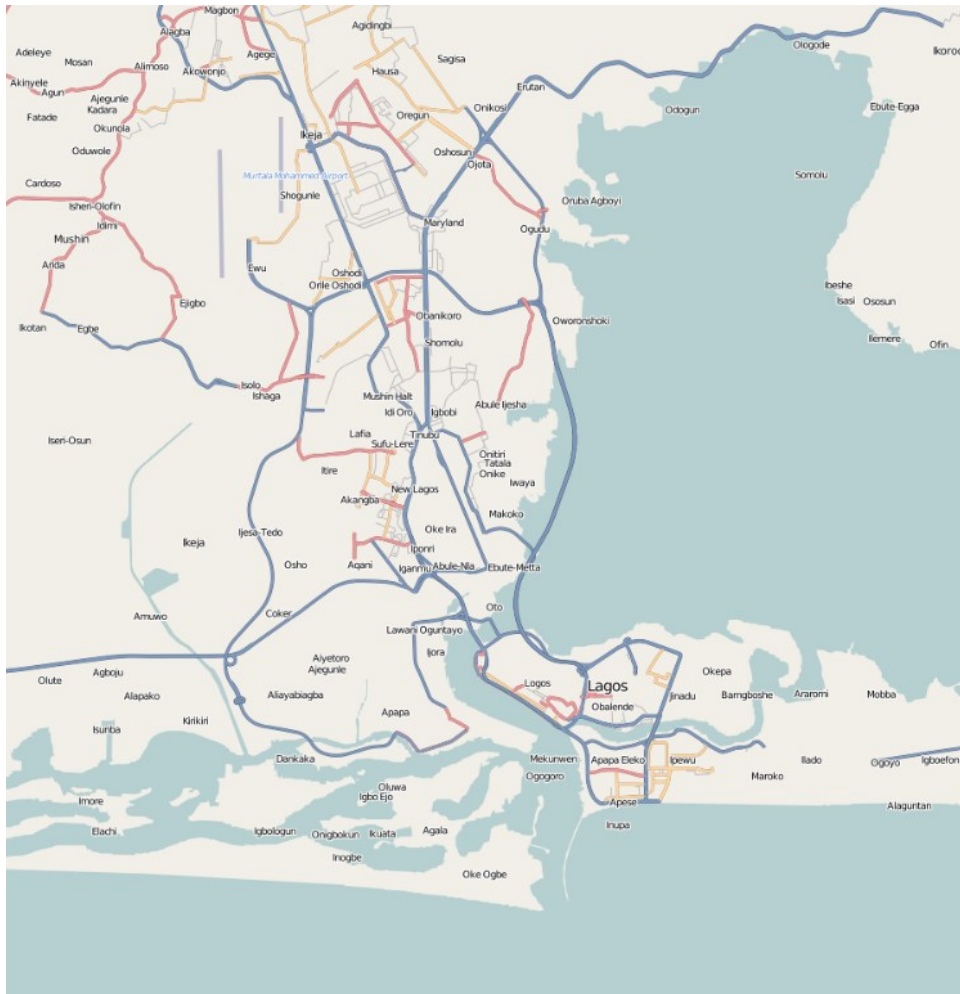
*Population of **Abuja**: 6 Mn, 2nd largest city, after Lagos, of Nigeria;*

***Lagos**, the largest city of Africa: Population (Estimate 2018): Metropolis:16.44 Mn; Metro:21 Mn;*

Area: 923,769 Km²; Density: 249.8/ Km² (42nd);

GDP (2024 Estimate): \$252.74 Bn (53rd); GDP/capita: \$1,110 (167th).

Nigeria, a country in West Africa, is situated between the Sahel to the North and the Gulf of Guinea to the South in the Atlantic Ocean. Nigeria borders **Niger** in the North, **Chad** in the North-East, **Cameroon** in the East, and **Benin** in the West.



*The MAP: showing the location of **Lagos** on an island*

---- A BACKGROUNDER on SECURITY in NIGERIA ----

www.DiGiNews360.com notes that, last year, President **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** came to power promising to address insecurity – perpetrated by

- **jihadists in the north-east,**
- **criminal militias in the north-west,**
- **growing intercommunal violence in the centre of the country** and others.

However, the Government data is that 1,800 people had been abducted since the President took office on 29 May 2023. But the true number of abductions during

that time could be more than double that figure, at almost 4,000 people, says Nigerian risk consultancy SBM Intelligence.

www.DiGiNews360.com has been continuously asking the States and the Federal Government to take the Law-and-Order situation in Nigeria seriously and to ensure that illegal activities do not go on merrily without any care for the Law of the Land.

Note. 1.: Please read “Nigeria: Kidnappings, President Tinubu pledges ACTION” dated February 5, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-kidnappings-president-tinubu-pledges-action/>. www.DiGiNews360.com brings to its Readers info about EKITI STATE: KILLING of TWO TRADITIONAL RULERS - **Oba Babatunde Ogunsakin**, the **Elesun of Esun** Ekiti and **Oba Samuel Olatunji**, the **Onimojo of Imojo** Ekiti - on **Monday, January 29, 2024**.

Note. 2.: Please read “Nigeria: Kidnappings, President Tinubu pledges ACTION” dated February 5, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-kidnappings-president-tinubu-pledges-action/>.

Note. 3.: For examples of the Calls by www.DiGiNews360.com to take the issue of security and Law-and-Order as a first priority, please see:

- Page 4 of <https://diginews360.com/cbn-chair-in-custody-traditional-rulers-for-security-june-10/> dated June 10, 2023
- Pages 2 and 3 of <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-is-it-beginning-of-a-crackdown-on-bandits/> dated June 20, 2023
- page 2 of <https://diginews360.com/nigeria-a-blast-in-an-illegal-oil-refinery-kills> dated October 5, 2023

A NOTE on the AMOTEKUN CORPS: The **Amotekun corps** is a regional security organization of the six States of the South Western, Nigeria, founded on January 9, 2020, in **Ibadan, Oyo State**. The official name of the **corps** is **Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN)**. ‘*WNSN*’ and the ‘*Amotekun corps*’ are used inter-changeably.

The word “Amotekun” originates from the Yoruba language and it translates to “*One that looks like a leopard.*” (The term “**amotekun**” specifically refers to a *cheetah*, although it is sometimes mistakenly associated with a *leopard*.)

The name reflects the *agility and vigilance of the cheetah*, symbolizing the organization’s commitment to safeguarding the community.

The decision to set up WNSN was taken, by all the six State Governors, at the Regional Security Summit, held in Ibadan, Oyo State in **June 2019**. The Governors had come

together for participating in a meeting of the Commission for **Development Agenda for Western Nigeria** (DAWN).

The members of WNSN were drawn from local hunters, the **Oodua Peoples Congress** (OPC), **Agbekoya Society**, **Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps** (NSCDC), and vigilante groups.

OPC is a Yoruba nationalist, regionalist, and socio-cultural organization, for reviving Yoruba heritage and culture. The organization is based in South-Western Nigeria. The OPC has also been involved in the fight against crime and insecurity in the region.

The **Agbekoya** (means "*the farmers who reject suffering*" in Yoruba language) Society of Nigeria is a Yoruba farmers and hunters association. '**Dr. Adegbenro Ogunlana** is the *Secretary General of Agbekoya Society worldwide*'.

The **Amotekun corps** assists police, other security agencies, and traditional rulers in combating terrorism, banditry, armed robbery and kidnapping. The **corps** also helps in settling herdsmen and farmers contentions in the region.

WNSN recruited 1,320 local hunters, who carried '**Dane guns**'. They operated in about 52 deadly blackspots all over the South-West region. The operatives were provided with 133 vehicles and 600 motorcycles.

Probably during the 18th century, Europeans living along the West African coast used to import long-barreled flintlock musket from Dano-Norwegian traders. Today the term "**Dane gun**" is used to generally describe any indigenously made firearm for hunting. Dane guns are produced in large numbers by local blacksmiths, and are used mostly for hunting game, replacing traditional weapons such as the bow and spear.

WNSN has been a subject of controversy since its inception. Whether, or not, such organizations are **backed by the Nigerian constitution** has been the issue. However, on **23 January 2020**, the Vice President of Nigeria, **Yemi Osinbajo**, met with the six **State Governors** of the South-Western Nigeria and they all agreed to work together towards the progress of **Operation Amotekun**.

Oba Olatunde David Olushola, the secretary of **Majority Obas of Ekiti Land** (MOBEL) and **Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti**, stands for **localizing security systems** in order to address the growing insecurity in the land.

The word "Onikun" is a title given to a traditional ruler in Yoruba land, Nigeria. It is a combination of two words: "**Oni**" which means "owner" and "**Kun**" which means "land". The title is used to refer to the ruler of Ikun-Ekiti, a town located in Ekiti State.

Olatunde David Olushola has asked the government to localize security systems to address the sense of insecurity among the people.

The **Ekiti Parapo** (**Parapo** means "*blend*"), a group of indigenes from Ekiti state has been demanding the signing of the **Hunters Bill**. The bill is aimed at empowering local hunters to assist in providing security in the state. The group believes that the bill will help to curb the rising insecurity in the state.