

## INSIDE THIS EDITION ▼

**MEET:** Folashade  
Ambrose-Medebem  
The Lagos State  
Commissioner in  
Charge of Cooperatives



## Governor Adeleke of Osun State Creates

**Full-Fledged Ministry of Cooperatives  
and Empowerment, Receives National Recognition  
And Award as Most Outstanding Governor of the Year**

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS  
SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITIONS 2023

**RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA:**  
SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES, AND THE WAY FORWARD  
A SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENTS



Mission

Vision

Core Values

**CRASoN**  
The Cooperative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria

**WHO WE ARE**  
The Cooperative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria (CRASoN) is a developed rating and award institution with a mandate to monitor, track, evaluate and award the economic performance and achievements of Cooperative Societies with other stakeholders geared to raise their profile to policy makers, researchers, development partners, governments and NGOs among other stakeholders.

**OUR VISION**  
To be recognized as the Cooperative sector's award and rating institution of choice that inspires and solidifies cooperative standard of operations in Nigeria.

**OUR MISSION**  
To be recognized as the Cooperative sector's award and rating institution of choice that inspires and solidifies cooperative standard of operations in Nigeria.

**OUR STATEMENT OF VALUES AND BELIEF**  
Our Statement of Values and Beliefs are our CARCLE of influence to those who have their eyes set on how we love to associate with to shape our organizations and individuals.

C = Cooperative    I = Integrity    R = Respect  
E = Caring for other    L = Learning    E = Equality

What We Do:  
Practices and Initiatives

CoopCOUNT, CoopAWARDS, CoopTREND, CoopSYMPOSIUM, CoopCARE

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**coopSYMPOSIUM**  
...solidifying cooperative standard!

**coopCARE**  
...solidifying cooperative standard!

**coopCOUNT**  
...solidifying cooperative standard!

**coopTREND**  
...solidifying cooperative standard!

**coopAWARDS**  
...solidifying cooperative standard!

**CoopSupport**  
Cooperative Support Services

**COOPERATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES (COOPSUPPORT) LTD**

**Vision Statement**  
To be the best and most preferred cooperative support service provider in Nigeria.

**Mission Statement**  
To make available a wide range of professional support services to cooperative organisations through motivated professionals, innovative and qualitative service delivery while showing concern for the community and caring for others.

**Product & Services**

The Cooperative Business Management and Consultancy Services we offer include:

- Coop Promotion, Organisation and Development
- Coop Management and Administrative Support
- Coop Education, Training and Information
- Coop Management and Accounting Software
- Coop Website Design, Development & Maintenance
- Coop Personnel Development and Management
- Coop Annual Accounts & Statistical Reports
- Coop Audit and Inspection Check
- Coop Student/Staff Character & Background Checks
- Coop Student/Staff Certificate & Guarantee Verification
- Coop Financial and Investments
- Coop Statistical Data, Research & Development Services
- Coop Travels and Study Tours Services
- Coop Agricultural Marketing and Supplies
- Coop Branding, Online Social media marketing, Listing services

Cooperative Support Services (CoopSupport) Ltd.  
CoopSoc Ltd

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# Editorial Section

## ...CELEBRATING COOPERATIVES!

Cooperatives, no doubt, have been making tremendous contribution to the growth of the socio-economic development of the Country but have not been appreciated as a result of the paucity of statistics and relevant information. Both the Regulators and the Operators are guilty of nonchalance; while the Regulators see it as just another job, the Operator was lulled to believe that the movement is a cry-baby of the government.

This is not just a local problem but a global one. The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) having realized this initiated an ambitious project to showcase the resilience of the Cooperative Business Model through its Top 300 Cooperative Businesses in the World which it intends to release in its 2022 World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) later this year. Sometimes in 2018, the Cooperative Rating and Award Society of Nigeria, CRASoN was established to showcase the contributions of Cooperatives to the socio-economic growth of Nigeria and to commend individuals and Cooperative Societies that had made impacts on the lives of the people of the Country.

The 4th edition of this Award held in the Nation's Federal Capital, Abuja, brought together, through the use of Innovations and Technology, Cooperative experts and scholars from all over the World. The main menu of the day commenced with position papers by erudite scholars and practitioners on Technology, Cooperatives, and Management followed by panel discussions where onsite and offsite participation was made possible through the use of technology. This year's edition further underlined the fact that peer assessment is one of the best assessments and that the potential of the cooperative movement is yet to be maximally realized. The National Awards promise to continue to get better each year as we eventually realize that there is no help better than self-help through the Cooperatives.

No doubt, it pays to cooperate!  
-**Muhammed S. Bello**,  
[www.mbello.biz.ly](http://www.mbello.biz.ly)

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## Publisher's Note

To say that I am excited to be writing to you for the first time would be an understatement of monumental proportions. But the inaugural Publisher's notes are always treacherous to write. How do you encompass all the hopes and plans you have for your new publication? And how do you express your sincere desire to uphold the traditions and nuances that make the publication unique? I think I know how to do it, and it only requires a saying:

When life throws you, lemons don't complain, make lemonade out of it and savor the moment!

Life is definitely not easy, but it is also not as difficult as we make it out to be. It is entirely within our power to emot or react to any given situation. We cannot control fate, but we can certainly control how we respond to all of life's curveballs. You can spend a lifetime whining and crying about it, or you can simply accept it! In this maiden edition of our magazine for the Cooperative Sector

in Nigeria, we have included all profiles of our awardees and ensured some of the presentations and basic thoughts of our keynotes and guest speakers with that of the panelists are available as articles for the educative purposes for our participants and their members at large. Thank you for believing in us and supporting us always.

Kindly note that the articles and discussion published do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board of the NaijaCoopNews Magazines and neither does the Editorial Board nor the CRASoN and CoopSupport take responsibility for errors that may be expressed by the writers.

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# 5<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS DINNER & PATRONS INVESTITURE CEREMONY

THE TRAILBLAZERS – LAGOS 2023

19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023

NECA EVENT CENTER, ALAUSA, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE

1. RED CARPET & EXHIBITIONS 3 – 4pm; 2. AWARD SHOW & DINNER 4 – 9pm 3. AFTER DINNER PARTY 9 - 10pm

## PROGRAMME OF EVENT

S/ N	TIMING PM	DETAILED ACTIVITIES OF PROGRAMME	ALLOCATED MINUTES
1	3.00	- GUESTS ARRIVAL - Confirmation of Invitations / Access Code/ Registrations	20m
2	3.20	- RED CARPET – Photo Shhot,360 Booth, Interviews and Interactive session with the Media	20m
3	3.20	- EXHIBITIONS – Products Presentations to Cooperatives by Sponsors, and Exhibitors	30m
4	3.50	- Awardees/Invited Special & Distinguished Guests and Government Dignitaries Seated	10m
5	4.00	- Openings - National Anthem and National Pledge	5m
6	4.05	- Recognition of Government Functionaries, Distinguished and Special Guests present	10m
7	4.15	- Opening Remarks – The CRASoN President & CEO – Mr. Victor Oyegoke	4m
8	4.19	- Welcome Speech – The Federal Director of Cooperatives – Mr. Idris Ali Sani	6m
9	4.25	- Goodwill Messages – Invited Dignitaries, Mother & Father of the Day & Royal Guest of Honor	10m
10	4.35	• <b>INTERLUDE – SHORT DANCE &amp; DRAMA</b> – by Kreative Afrikans Art Academy	10m
11	4.45	- Host Commissioner’s Address – Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem Hon. Commissioner MCCT&I	10m
12	4.55	- Special Guest of Honor’s Address - Sen. Abubakaar Kyari, CON. Hon. Minister for Agric & Food Security	10m
13	5.05	- Distinguished Guest of Honor’s Address – Sen. Ademola Adeleke Executive Governor, Osun State	10m
14	5:15	• <b>INTERLUDE – COMICAL RELIEF</b> – by a Stand -Up Comedian – MC CoyMan assisted by MC Luwy	5m
15	5.20	- <b>LAUNCHING</b> – Naija Cooperative News <a href="http://www.naijanews.coop">www.naijanews.coop</a> (NaijaCoopNews) - An Online TV & Magazine	10m
16	5.50	• <b>INTERLUDE – BRANDS AWARENESS PRESENTATION</b> – (CWG/UCP and Gvest/Gtext Holdings)	10m
17	6.00	- <b>1<sup>st</sup> Award Presentation</b> (Cooperative Sector Based Awards)	30m
18	6.30	• <b>MUSICAL INTERLUDE</b> - Live Band or DJ plays (VVIPs Opening Dance)	10m



## THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Arise, O compatriots, Nigeria's call obey  
To serve our fatherland  
With love and strength and faith  
The labor of our heroes past  
Shall never be in vain  
To serve with heart and might  
One nation bound in freedom,  
peace and unity.

Oh God of creation, direct our noble cause  
Guide our leaders right  
Help our youth and truth to know  
**In love and honesty to grow  
And living just and true  
Great lofty heights attain  
To build a nation where peace  
and justice reign.**

## THE PLEDGE

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



ADDRESS OF THE FEDERAL DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES

## MALLAM SANI IDRIS

AT THE 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS  
ORGANISED BY THE COOPERATIVE RATING AND  
AWARDS SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (CRASON) LTD.

HELD ON SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 2023  
AT NECA EVENT CENTRE, CBD, ALAUSA, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE



THE CHIEF HOST - YOUR EXCELLENCY,  
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR LAGOS STATE  
DISTINGUISHED GUEST OF HONOUR - YOUR  
EXCELLENCY, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, OSUN  
STATE THE SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR, SEN.  
ABUBAKAR KYARI, CON - HON. MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY  
THE GUEST OF HONOUR, SEN . SOLOMON  
ADEOLA YAYI, FCA, CON, THE HOST STATE  
COMMISSIONER & SPECIAL GUEST -  
COMMISSIONER FOR COMMERCE,  
COOPERATIVES, TRADE & INVESTMENTS  
LAGOS STATE.

THE DISTINGUISHED GUEST - COMMISSIONER  
FOR COOPERATIVES & EMPOWERMENT,  
OSUN STATE,  
THE ROYAL GUEST OF HONOUR - HRH.  
ADEBOLA OROLUGBAGBE - OYEGBULU 1,  
ODOLE OWA OF IJESHALAND  
THE DISTINGUISHED FATHER OF THE DAY -  
HIGH CHIEF AWE RUFUS M. THE ONIJEBU OF  
ITOTO, IPE-AKOKO LAND  
THE DISTINGUISHED MOTHER OF THE DAY -  
CHIEF MRS. DAYO IGBETA - THE YEYE MESO  
OF IKOTUN EGBE LAND

THE DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES LAGOS  
STATE THE DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES  
OSUN STATE

ALL OTHER DISTINGUISHED COOPERATIVE  
REGULATORS AND LEADERS,  
DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES & HONOREES,  
GENTLEMEN AND LADIES OF THE PRESS

It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the 5th Award ceremony of CRASON. The name CRASON is what all cooperators should be associated with, and as a regulator, I am happy to be here today to grace the occasion where hard work and dedication to service delivery is being rewarded.

Cooperative is all about service either as a society or as a leader to your members and your immediate environment. Impacting people lives positively is our cardinal watch word.

CRASON as a society has been bringing out best in the last Six years from the people involved in the running of cooperative societies and also people that relate, promoting the objectives of what Cooperative stands for.

I would like to thank the organisers of this award for the vision he had towards Cooperative Movement, his undivided attention, commitments, and dedication in making this dream come alive year after year. It is a dream that God has established forever. Amen  
To all our distinguished guests and panel of judges that grace the occasion year in, year out, the entire cooperative world says a big thank you.

To every member of CRASON that toil day and night to bring this day to pass, may God reward you.

Thank you for listening.  
God bless CRASON  
God bless Cooperative Movement  
God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria

# HOST COMMISSIONER ADDRESS

HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF  
COMMERCE, COOPERATIVES, TRADE AND INVESTMENT,

## MRS FOLASHADE AMBROSE-MEDEBEM,

AT THE 5TH NIGERIA NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS,  
SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITIONS HELD AT NECA EVENT CENTER,  
HAKEEM BALOGUN STREET, CBD, ALAUSA, IKEJA, LAGOS,  
ON SUNDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2023.



### PROTOCOL

It is both a privilege and profound honour to be present as a Special Guest at this 5th National Cooperative Award organised by the Cooperative Rating and Award Society of Nigeria (CRASoN). The theme of this year's event, "Reimagining Cooperative in Nigeria: Our Success Stories, Challenges, and the Way Forward", is not just timely, but also pivotal for the continued growth and advancement of the Cooperative Movement in our great nation.

Nigeria, blessed with vast resources and resilient populace, has witnessed and continue to feel the formidable impact of cooperatives in various sectors, from agriculture to finance and beyond. With cooperative societies creating over Six Hundred Thousand new direct jobs for Nigerians nationwide and contributing over 1.2 trillion naira to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product, GDP, every year, the success stories are countless and have played significant roles in the socio-economic development of many communities across the country. It is commendable to see the dedication, teamwork, and innovation that have emanated from our cooperative societies.

However, as we celebrate these achievements, it is equally essential to confront the challenges faced by cooperatives. It is only by acknowledging these hurdles that we can chart a course towards overcoming them and forging a brighter future for cooperators and the Cooperative Movement. I encourage a proactive approach, one that focuses on capacity building, leverages technology, fosters inclusivity, and champions sustainable practices, to redefine the cooperative landscape in Nigeria.

Distinguished guests, the administration of Mr. Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, operating through the Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade, and Investment, remains committed to creating a conducive environment for cooperatives to thrive. The administration has continued to collaborate, provide essential resources, supervise and create policies that will ensure the growth and development of Cooperative Movement in the State.

Among the steps the State has taken is the institutionalisation of triennial revalidation process and issuing of Certificate of Registration for all Cooperative Societies. This is to ascertain the number of functional Cooperative Societies in the State. Through the 2020 exercise, a total of Two Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-One Cooperative Societies were revalidated. Between 2021 to date, additional One thousand new Cooperative Societies have been registered, bringing the total active Societies in Lagos State to Three Thousand, Four Hundred and Forty One.

To ensure that the Cooperative Societies operate in accordance with extant rules and regulations and safeguard the investment of cooperators, the State, through our Ministry, operates Twenty-Four Cooperative Area Offices. Their responsibilities are to develop, inaugurate, register, monitor, supervise as well as inspect the Annual Accounts of the Societies. They also ensure all completed Annual Statement of Accounts and Returns are comprehensively and professionally scrutinised in accordance with the Cooperative Societies Law of the Laws of Lagos State, 2022. They still go further to verify the accuracy of

entries in the Annual Statement of Accounts Forms of Cooperative Societies submitted for approval.

In proactive response to the many complaints emanating from cooperators against their Executives, we have set up a Mediation Team that carries out resolution of crisis within and between Cooperative Societies. The Team also conducts special investigative audit in case of allegation of fraud and collates all information relating to the annual targets set for each Area Office.

Ladies and gentlemen, a very notable step we have taken to protect cooperators from losing their precious investment was the introduction of Cooperative Insurance Scheme. This was initiated with a consortium of Insurance companies, having LASACO Insurance Plc as the lead underwriter, to insure the investments of cooperative societies and mitigate losses that could occur in the course of their operations. We have also been propagating the need for the societies to key into the Scheme designed with products that cover sudden death and accidents in the workplace, in addition to tailor-made products that can be domesticated to meet the needs of each Cooperative Society.

More so, we have deployed the Cooperatives Portal Software Solution to automate the management of cooperative societies, with on-line data bank application that houses the data of the societies, leading to improved efficiency and eliminating bottlenecks of the previous system. We have also set up the Cooperatives School Club to encourage teenagers and youths to form themselves into groups, based on the Cooperative ideology of self-help empowerment, while deepening cooperative practice in the State. The Club has been established in twelve public schools while we will continue to work to spread the initiative to others to catch them young.

To cap all the achievements, Lagos State has established and currently runs a Cooperative College, a specialised tertiary and a full-fledged diploma awarding institution, providing qualitative Cooperative

educational training and research for Cooperative Movement and the general public. Through the College, the State aims at enhanced capacity for Trustees of cooperative societies leading to improved management of members and assets of the societies.

For us in Lagos, we are very committed to upholding cooperative practices and strongly supporting the further growth of the Cooperative Movement, through the Lagos State Cooperative Federation, LASCOFED. We believe this will continue to impact positively on the economic status of our people and the prosperity of the State.

I commend CRASoN for being at the forefront of promoting excellence and recognising the trailblazers in the Cooperative Movement. As we delve into the discussions and deliberations of today's event, let us be guided by a collective vision - a vision to reimagine, redefine, and reinvent cooperative systems that benefit Lagos State in particular, and Nigeria in general.

To all the awardees, congratulations on your well-deserved recognition. May your achievements serve as a beacon of inspiration for others to emulate.

Once again, thank you for this honour, and here is to a brighter future for cooperatives in Nigeria.

**FOLASHADE AMBROSE-MEDEBEM**  
HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF  
COMMERCE, COOPERATIVES TRADE AND INVESTMENT

THE SECRETARIAT,  
ALAUJA, IKEJA,  
SUNDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2023.



ADDRESS OF THE HONORABLE MINISTER  
OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY,  
**SENATOR ABUBAKAR KYARI, CON**  
AT THE 5TH ANNUAL NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS,  
SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY  
THE COOPERATIVE RATING AND AWARDS SOCIETY  
OF NIGERIA (CRASON) LIMITED,



HELD ON SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER, 2023 AT NECA EVENT CENTER, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, ALAUSA, IKEJA, LAGOS STATE THE CHIEF HOST - YOUR EXCELLENCY, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR LAGOS STATE DISTINGUISHED GUEST OF HONOUR - YOUR EXCELLENCY, EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, OSUN STATE THE GUEST OF HONOUR, SEN. SOLOMON ADEOLA YAYI, FCA, CON, THE HOST STATE COMMISSIONER & SPECIAL GUEST - COMMISSIONER FOR COMMERCE, COOPERATIVES, TRADE & INVESTMENTS LAGOS STATE THE DISTINGUISHED GUEST - COMMISSIONER FOR COOPERATIVES & EMPOWERMENT, OSUN STATE, THE ROYAL GUEST OF HONOUR - HRH. ADEBOLA OROLUGBAGBE - OYEBULU 1, ODOLE OWA OF IJESHALAND THE DISTINGUISHED FATHER OF THE DAY - HIGH CHIEF AWE RUFUS M. THE ONIJEBU OF ITOTO, IPE-AKOKO LAND THE DISTINGUISHED MOTHER OF THE DAY - CHIEF MRS. DAYO IGBETA - THE YEYE MESO OF IKOTUN EGBE LAND THE FEDERAL DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES, THE DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES LAGOS STATE THE DIRECTOR OF COOPERATIVES OSUN STATE ALL OTHER DISTINGUISHED COOPERATIVE REGULATORS AND LEADERS, DISTINGUISHED AWARDEES & HONOREES, GENTLEMEN AND LADIES OF THE PRESS

I am delighted to address this gathering of Cooperators and Cooperative Policy Makers, Regulators, Professionals, Operators, and their Managers alike here present on this auspicious occasion held annually since 2018 as I was briefed. I congratulate the Advisory Board, Panel of Jurors, and Management Committee of the Cooperative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria (CRASoN) Limited and her collaborators who have made this event a reality. Let me also use this opportunity to commend the unrelenting spirit of resilience displayed by the organizers of this laudable programme for the cooperative subsector in Nigeria, for their determination to ensure the regular hosting of this program which is endorsed by my Ministry. I make bold to state that the sustained hosting of this awards ceremony is a unique and welcome development that needs the support of all and sundry within the subsector.

This event will certainly catalyze and motivate many cooperatives for higher performance and recognition within and outside the country. We, therefore, felicitate with CRASON for deeming it fit to pioneer this progressive idea and event in Nigeria. I noted the success recorded last Friday's (17th November 2023) Virtual Symposium as a prelude for today's event. However, I learned it was a very educative and empowering session as the speakers opened new vistas on how cooperative societies and members could positively adapt to the new reality socio-economic conditions we all found ourselves in at a period like this. I also learned the theme "Re-imagining Cooperatives in Nigeria: Our Success Stories, Challenges, and the Way Forward" was adequately treated as

many strategies and solutions were raised on how cooperatives in Nigeria can reinvent themselves to contribute meaningfully to the nation's economic recovery and sustainability plan and that of the global goals for Sustainable Development. I feel duty-bound to specifically commend the ingenuity and creativity always exhibited by "The Cooperative Ratings and Award Society of Nigeria (CRASON)" under the leadership of Mr. Victor Oyegoke. Your passion for the growth and development of the cooperative industry within the last decade is commendable. Please don't relent, keep up the good job, and rest assured that help is on the way to locate you soonest. With the setting and the personalities that I am seeing here today, I do not doubt that this year's Ratings and Awards ceremony will also be very eventful and memorable. Programs, such as this, always bring the best people and organizations together. It also inspires and motivates them to do things better and innovatively. I will therefore not be surprised if, by next year, we receive reports of cooperative societies across the country declaring greater surpluses, creating more value-added services, and generally contributing more to the growth of Nigeria's economy because they have been motivated by today's events.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security will, therefore, continue to deepen good cooperative practices and provide an enabling environment for Nigerian cooperative societies to thrive. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I wish to inform you that as a Ministry, our Mandate is to "Ensure food security in the crop, livestock, and fisheries; stimulate agricultural employment, value-chain development and services, promote agro-industry and facilitate the exportation of value-added products to generate foreign exchange and aid rural socio-economic development. Our Vision is to "Grow Nigeria's agricultural sector, drive income growth, accelerate food and nutrition security, generate employment, and transform Nigeria into a leading global food market with wealth for farmers" while the Federal Department of Cooperatives under my supervision, will continue to promote, register and regulate all national cooperatives.

We also encourage and support cooperative data collection and management and develop cooperative education curricula to bring them in tandem with national aspirations. In due course, we want cooperatives to contribute a minimum of 30% of Nigeria's GDP and ensure that cooperatives are at the forefront of Nigeria's drive to diversify her economy. On this note, permit me to crave your indulgence to salute the great moves made by the Governor of Osun State who has created a full-fledged ministry for Cooperatives in his sttoer to use the Cooperative instrumentality to empower his people. Kudos to our versatile governor of the people and I understand based on this feat he is being recognized today as the Most Outstanding Governor of the Year for cooperative development and providing an enabling environment for cooperatives to thrive better in Osun state.

Congratulations, Mr. Governor and every other distinguished awardee and Honoree here today who have contributed t own quota to the growth and development of Cooperatives in Nigeria. My Chief Host, Distinguished Guest of Honor, Special Guests, and great Co-operators that are here present, it is on this note that I want to congratulate, all awardees and honorees in today's event for distinguishing themselves in various ways to deserve their recognition and celebration today.

I also want to commend the organizers again – The Cooperative Rating and Awards Society of Nigeria (CRASoN) for generating the reason and creating the opportunity for us to assemble here today. Lastly, I thank all who have sacrificed so much to be at this event. I therefore invite you to sit back and enjoy the events tonight. I thank you for your kind attention. Loneg Live Cooperatives in Nigeria! Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY,  
GOVERNOR OF OSUN STATE,  
**SENATOR ADEMOLA  
NURUDEEN JACKSON  
ADELEKE**



ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONFERMENT OF NATIONAL HONOR AND AWARD AS THE MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR, NATIONAL PATRON AND DISTINGUISHED GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE 5TH NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS, SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBITIONS TAGGED "THE TRAIL BLAZER" LAGOS 2023 DELIVERED BY HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER OF COOPERATIVES AND EMPOWERMENT, PRINCE 'BAYO OGUNGBANGBE (fcssm)

PROTOCOLS

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE, MR. BABATUNDE SANWO-OLU, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY, SENATOR ABUBARKAR KYARI, GUEST OF HONOUR, SEN. SOLOMON ADEOLA, ROYAL FATHERS, AWARDEES, OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS.

ALL GLORY BE TO GOD ALMIGHTY FOR THIS 5TH EDITION OF NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS, IT IS AN AUGUST EVENT HOLDING IN NOVEMBER AND A GATHERING OF PEOPLE AND ORGANS THAT HAVE IMMENSELY CONTRIBUTED THEIR QUOTA TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT AND ITS UNDENIABLE IMPACT TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR ECONOMY.

I AM HUMBLY HONOURED TO BE AMONG THE AWARDEES ALONG WITH THE COOPERATIVE REGULATORY AGENCY OF GOVERNMENT IN MY STATE. IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT OUR ADMINISTRATION HAS COME TO GIVE A HUMANE FACE TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN OUR STATE AND WE ARE SETTING

STANDARDS IN BRINGING TO THE FORE-FRONT HUMANITARIAN SERVICES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND EMPOWERMENT, HAVING RECOGNIZING AND ACKNOWLEDGING THAT COOPERATIVES ARE MAJOR ECONOMIC AND NATION BUILDING ORGANS THAT COVER ALL AREAS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOURS, THEY ARE DEMOCRATICALLY ORGANIZED WITHOUT ANY DISCRIMINATION OR GENDER BIAS AND THEIR EMBRACE AND PRACTICE OF SELF-HELP AND COMMUNAL IMPACT IS UNPARALLELED AS EVIDENT IN DEVELOPED NATIONS AND FAST GROWING ECONOMIES LIKE KENYA AND EGYPT IN AFRICA.

GIVEN THE ABOVE ANTECEDENTS OF COOPERATIVE IMPACT, WE DEEM IT FIT TO PARTNER WITH THE SECTOR IN THE DELIVERY OF DIVIDENDS OF DEMOCRACY TO OUR PEOPLE. OUR APPROACH IS CENTERED ON PROPER COORDINATION, CREATION OF ENABLING ENVIRONMENT, COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REGULATIONS AND PROVISION OF ALL ASSISTANCE THAT WILL MAKE THE SECTOR THRIVE AS IT SHOULD.

ON THIS NOTE, I WILL LIKE TO APPRECIATE THE ORGANIZERS OF THIS AWARD FOR CONSIDERING US WORTHY, I AM HONOURED TO IDENTIFY WITH YOU AND I ACCEPT TO BE A PATRON. I WANT TO ALSO CONGRATULATE ALL WORTHY AWARDEES INCLUDING THE LEADERSHIP (POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE) AS WELL AS STAFF OF OSUN STATE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES. YOU ARE TRAIL-BLAZZERS IN DEED AND I AM PROUD OF YOU.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.



**BOLA AHMED  
TINUBU** GCFR

President,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria.



CHIEF HOST  
**MR. BABAJIDE  
SANWO-OLU**

Executive Governor.  
Lagos State, Nigeria.



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ADELEKE**

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KYARI, CON**

Minister of Agric  
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C'ttee on Appropriation.





ROYAL GUEST OF HONOUR  
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Oyegbulu 1,  
Odole Owa of Ijesaland



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**CHIEF (MRS.)  
DAYO IGBETA**

Yeye Meso of Ikotun-Egbe  
Land/Business Tycoon



FATHER OF THE DAY  
**HIGH CHIEF  
AWE RUFUS M.**

Veteran Cooperator/Administrator  
The Onijebu of Itoto, Ipe-Akoko Land



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Trade & Investment, Lagos State.



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Ministry of Cooperative & Empowerment  
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### PICTURED (FROM UPPER LEFT TO LOWER RIGHT BY PAGE)

Victor Olusegun Oyegoke - Executive, President/CEO, Olufunmilayo Elebe - Vice President/Human Capital Development  
Basheer Garba Umar - Vice President – Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Owolabi Oluwasegun - Vice President/special Duties & Strategy)  
Uzodinma Esther (Mrs) - Vice President/mobilization & Member Services, Victoria Akpan - Secretary/Director, Sponsorship,  
Akande Oluwaseyi O. - Treasurer / Director Of Finance, Idowu Oluremi Bolaji - Director Program And Strategy  
Mrs. Louisa Olaniyi - Director Of Media And Public Relations, Mrs. Adewura Adewuyi - Executive Assistant To The President/CEO,  
Ike Oluchukwu Benedict - Director, It & Web Management

# MR AKOREDE OJOMU

Provost, Lagos State Cooperative College



**M**r. Akorede Ojumu was born on the 21st Oct., 1966 at Ijeh Village, Ikoyi, Lagos into the Ojumu and Oniwonlu Dynasty of Lakowe, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos.

He had his elementary and secondary education at St. Mathias Boys Catholic Sch., Lafaji, Lagos and Alaro Community High Sch., Epe, Lagos respectively between 1972 and 1984, obtaining both his FSLC. in 1978

and WASC. in 1984. He obtained his first Degree at the then Ogun State University in 1990. He also holds a M.Sc. in Public Administration from LASU and an Executive Diploma in Cooperative Management from the University of Lagos.

He started his public service career in 1991 after his NYSC as an Agricultural Officer with the Lagos State Agricultural Training Institute, Araga, Epe. He later crossed to the Teaching Service in 1992 and was appointed as a Classroom Teacher teaching Agriculture and Biology. He joined the Lagos State Agricultural Development Project (ADP) as an Agricultural Extension Officer in 1993 and was later re-designated on his deployment to the main stream Civil Service of Lagos State as a Registrar of Cooperatives in the State Min. of Agriculture & Cooperatives.

Mr. Akorede Ojumu was appointed as the pioneer Head of the college in

2012 and also as the first Provost of the institution following the constitution of the first Governing Council of the College in June 2019.

Mr. Ojumu is an Associate Member of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria (ACIIN), an Associate Member of the Nigeria Institute of Management and a Fellow of the (NITAD). He has attended several local and international training programmes in the course of his public service career. He authored "The Fundamentals of Cooperative Management", one of the most widely-read locally written textbook on Cooperatives. He is happily married and is a proud father of four lovely and God-fearing children.



New Lagos State Cooperative College Academic Building Under Construction

# SIKAIYE OLUWASEUN TEMITOPE (MRS.)

RN, RM RPN,,DNAM, Bsc. Msc., BNSC, MSNC ITSN, FWACN (PhD -in-view)



Sikaiye Oluwaseun Temitope is a proud product of Lagos State School of Nursing and Lagos State School of Midwifery. She also attended Post Basic Nursing School of Peri-Operatives and training in Trauma and Disaster Management at Sorasyki University Tel Aviv, Israel

Her belief in personal development, and being a child of educationists, propelled her to further continue with her studies, she went to the University of Lagos for a degree in Health Education. While studying there, Lagos State Government sent her to obtain a Diploma course in Nursing Administration and Management at the

University of Benin; she was then juggling between the University of Lagos and the University of Benin. After completing the courses, she rested for a while and went for her Master's in Public Health from the University of Lagos.

The passion she had for her noble profession made her obtain another Degree in Nursing from Babcock University in 2016 and also acquired an MSc in Nursing from the same Institution afterward.

Mrs. Sikaiye started working with the Lagos State Government as a Staff Nurse/Midwife in 1991 and has grown through the public service ladder to Deputy Director of Nursing, which is her current position as at this production.

Professionally, she is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honour Society of Nursing. Member of the International Tobacco Nursing Society and a Fellow of the West African College of Nursing

She has held many Leadership positions in her primary society The Medicals Cooperative Multipurpose Society, Ltd. A.K.A. LASCOMED. She has previously served as; Unit Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, and President, and in all her services in the society, she was a dedicated selfless leader that set the pace for new projects that serve as a model of reference for Cooperatives in Lagos State and Nigeria which earned her many laurels and awards.

Under her leadership, the society witnessed significant growth and development, with loads of achievements recorded to the glory of God.

# MR. OBAKOYA OLUFEMI O. (CPO)

President of LASCOFIS & Emeritus  
President of MOD CMS Ltd.



The man behind the laudable achievement of Ministry of Defence Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited (MOD CMS) is Mr. Olufemi O. Obakoya (aka OBK).

Mr. Obakoya is a Staff Officer in the Ministry of Defence with a deployment in the Nigerian Air Force. He is a CERTIFIED PROTECTION OFFICER (CPO)

He took the mantle of leadership with a wealth of experience having served as the Vice-President in the society. He came with three cardinal objectives namely:

- a. Prompt Service Delivery
- b. Empowerment
- c. Expansion of Income Base

In achieving his mandate built on the above 3 cardinal

objectives, He pioneered major income generating projects for his primary society amongst which are; the Greenhouse Farm project, being the first in over 30 years history of MOD Cooperative. This he is convinced will alleviate the poverty level and broaden the income based of the society which, of course is evident in the over N5million revenue recorded within the shortest time of commencement. Many malls and Chinese restaurants are now very much interested in MOD Green House Farms.

To further broaden the society's income based he also pioneered other investments such as the building of a Bottled Water Factory with NAFDAC Registration which has since commenced operations and the construction of Ministry of Defence Cooperative 52rooms all ensuite Private Hostel for Students of Lagos State Polytechnic (Now University) at Ikorodu Lagos

More so, for the Empowerment Programs and Prompt Service Delivery for all members of the Society, He organized several in-house training and capacity building programs for members and as well, ensure members and management committee attends Cooperative Seminars and Management Retreats to

upskill and upgrade themselves.

The Cooperative Office Automation Project linking all Coop Branch offices across the country to the Lagos Headquarter that has increased the membership drive and spread of the society. This led to Mr. Obakoya pioneering the online service for MOD CMS LTD, hence member across the country can log on to [www.mod.coop](http://www.mod.coop) to get serviced by their society even in the comfort of their homes and offices without physically coming to the Coop Office. They can easily check their balances from their Phone through the MOD Mobile App provided by the UCP platform.

These and many more game changing innovative ideas led to him being recognized at the State Apex level at the Lagos State Cooperative Finance and Investment Society (LASCOFIS) where he was voted and elected as the President to come continue the good work of his predecessor,

He is currently leading the Innovations taking place at LASCOFIS and we hope he will get to the pinnacle.

# HIGH CHIEF AWE RUFUS M.

(THE ONIJBEBU OF ITOTO, IPE-AKOKO)



High Chief Awe Rufus M. (the Onijebu of Itoto, Ipe-Akoko Ondo State was born on 10th November 1958 to the family of Late Pa Shaba Omotoriogunwaye Awe in Itoto Ipe-Akoko.

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

He started his Educational Career at St. Andrew's A/C Primary School Ipe-Akoko, 1965-1971, from there he proceeded to St. Philips Secondary Modern School Ipe-Akoko 1971-1974 and later further to St. John/Mary's Teachers College Owo 1978-1982, For his higher education he went to (Obafemi Awolowo University Ado-Ekiti now Ekiti State University (EKSU) Ado-Ekiti where he obtained B.Sc. (Hons) Political Science in 1989. In his quest for more knowledge, he proceeded to University of

Abuja, Gwagwalada for his Postgraduate Diploma in Education (2003) and also National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN) Aba, Abia State for his Postgraduate Diploma in Nigeria Languages 2006.

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

High Chief Awe first worked as a Bar-man in Otobo Hotel Ikare, 1976-1977, and as a Petrol Attendance in Mobil filling station Ikare 1977-1978. He also served as a Grade II Teacher at St. James RCM Primary School Ipe-Akoko 1981-1985. He joined FCT Secondary Education Board in 1991 and due to his zeal and commitment to his service he rose to the position of Deputy Director of Education and Last assigned duty was Principal of Government Secondary School Kwaku, Abuja. He retired successfully on November 10th 2018, at the age of sixty (60). To God be the glory.

High Chief Awe Rufus is not just an Educationist. but also a skill talented man who make things to happen, who make unknown to be known, who make unprofitable to be profitable and one who break the power of poverty through establishment of Co-operative societies; both in Ipe and beyond to help people in

creating wealth. And through him many people had become self-reliance and successful business men. To his credit, he had four (4) different Co-operative societies in Ipe, two (2) in Kogi State, twenty-two (22) in Abuja FCT and two (2) in Kaduna State respectively, through which he empowers the cooperative members.

## RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

A Christian by birth and was brought up under strict Christian Principles. In recognition of his role and contribution to the work of God and Service to humanity, he has been given award by his Home Church St. Andrew's Anglican Church and St. Luke's Anglican Church both in Ipe. Also, he is a Bishop Nominee of Diocese of Gwagwalada (Anglican Communion) and "Father of Faith" award was given to him by the same Diocese. High Chief Awe has been bestowed with more than twenty (20) awards from different organizations.

He is married to his beautiful cute and virtuous wife, Chief (Mrs.) Caroline Awe the Iya Ijo of St. Andrew's African Church Ipe-Akoko; and they are blessed with God fearing Children.

## MEET:

### Folashade Ambrose-Medebem The Lagos State Commissioner in Charge of Cooperatives

Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, MBA, FPA, IFA a delectable and pragmatic woman of substance with an intimidating technocratic profile is the Honorable Commissioner, Ministry of Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investments (MCCT&I) in Lagos State, Nigeria. We know with her profile the Ministry is about to witness a giant stride in the achievement of the THEMES Plus Agenda of Mr. Governor Folashade is a consummate multi-faceted and proven business leader with an extensive background in finance, strategy, project/change management, business development, thought leadership, sustainable development, and management consulting across a wide industry spectrum in the UK, Nigeria, and Europe.

She is a Lady with exceptionally diverse business management skills, very apt at overcoming challenges, coupled with effective organizational skills, excellent stakeholder relationship management, an entrepreneurial mindset to 'make things happen', marketing know-how, and flair for creativity, innovation, and a passion for people development.

Medebem has almost three decades of senior management experience delivering world-class strategic business transformation solutions with a variety of global FSTE 100 multinationals including LafargeHolcim Plc., Diageo Plc., PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Ford Motor Company, Zurich Financial Services,



Learning & Skills Council UK, Nigeria Ministry of Finance and Department for International Development (DFID) UK.

Throughout her career in the private sector, she has successfully led and executed robust business transformation strategies pivotal in achieving sustainable growth. She has an excellent record of bottom-line achievements in the deployment of large-scale business solutions and in leading cross-functional global teams at the board level.

A proven track record in setting clear direction and priorities, and addressing non-performance challenges/gaps with sensitivity, pace, and a sense of urgency.

Medebem was appointed as Director of Communication, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, at Lafarge Africa Plc. in October 2016. Prior to this role, she worked as an Integration Business Transformation Consultant for LafargeHolcim (LH) (2015) focusing on enabling a speedy integration (following the worldwide merger of LH) in order to deliver the country's business ambition as one holistic organization in Nigeria. She also successfully led the culture transformation phase one focused on delivering a safe and high-performance culture.

In addition to her corporate profile, Folashade serves on the NESG 24 Executive Committee, is a member of the UN SDG Nigeria – Private Sector



Advisory Group (PSAG) – Cluster 8 Co-Lead to the Federal Government of Nigeria and is the leading catalyst driving Women in Manufacturing Africa (WimAfrica) initiative, and the board of the United Nations Global Compact Nigeria. She sat on the board of the EuroChams (European Business Chamber) Nigeria where she served as the Inaugural President, working with the Ambassador of the European Union to Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) advocating the promotion of trade, investments and exchanges between European and Nigerian Businesses, inclusive of best practices and corporate social responsibility.

Folashade graduated with a B. A Hons in Accounting Finance (1995) from the London Guildhall University. She also holds an MBA from the Open University Business School, UK (2011). In addition, Folashade is an alumna of the Lagos Business School (Pan Africa University) where she completed an Advanced Management Leadership Programme (2010). Further postgraduate studies include the Women Transforming Leadership Programme with the Said Business School, Oxford (2018) among a plethora of other professional certifications.

Folashade has notably been recognized as one of the top 50 Inspiring Women in Nigeria by Business Day, Guardian Woman Top Inspiring List of Women, Leading Ladies Africa – Top 100 Women List, and the United Nations Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Climate Action Edition.

Additionally, Folashade was appointed a Senator representing Nigeria at the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), which aims to ease access to finance,

promote gender parity and financial inclusion, and create more jobs and social justice. Under Folashade's leadership, Lafarge Africa was awarded the Gold MEA HoleimGroup CSR Award twice (2019 & 2020) and ranked 4th (from 50) by Forbes Africa Top CSR/Sustainable Brand, 2020.

Having spent the majority of her life and career in the UK, a huge challenge Fola faced was stereotyping however, she quickly learned the best way to respond to criticism is to simply perform and deliver.

Folashade enables every woman to become her best self and "wiin" in her career. WIIN means Women Inspiring Impact Network, a platform Folashade designed to provide insightful guidance and mentorship to young and discerning women to enable them to achieve higher levels of success.

"I am very passionate about helping women succeed in the workplace through discovering and applying their best selves. My primary mission is to drive opportunities for impact by encouraging women to speak up in the workplace and by sharing how to implement career-winning strategies. This is why I have established the Women's Inspiring Impact Network (WiIN) focusing on enabling winning impact for all interactively." She said.

Folashade is married to her husband of many years lyke Ambrose-Medebem and has three beautiful girls. A philanthropist, in addition to giving back to career women, she is also passionate about mentoring and coaching teenagers to be their best. She is a huge classical music fan, who loves to exercise.

# GOVERNOR ADELEKE OF OSUN STATE CREATES

FULL-FLEDGED MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND EMPOWERMENT, RECEIVES NOMINATION AS MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR

BY, OGIDIOLU ADEDEJI



Governor Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke of Osun State has once again taken a pioneering step towards cooperative development in Nigeria. The governor's recent establishment of a full-fledged Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment has garnered recognition and nomination from The Cooperative Rating and Award Society of Nigeria as the Most Outstanding Governor of the Year.

This commendation underscores Governor Adeleke's unwavering commitment to fostering a cooperative-friendly environment and enhancing socio-economic empowerment in Osun State. Recognizing the immense potential of cooperative societies in driving economic growth and poverty eradication, Governor Adeleke has taken bold steps to institutionalize their importance within the state administration.

By creating a dedicated Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment, the governor is signaling his strong belief in the power of cooperatives to transform lives and communities. The

new ministry, operating under the governor's astute leadership, will become the focal point for all cooperative-related issues in Osun State. It will play a crucial role in formulating policies, implementing programs, and facilitating the growth and sustainability of cooperatives across various sectors.

With a specific focus on empowerment, the ministry aims to elevate the socio-economic status of individuals and communities through cooperative initiatives. Governor Adeleke's decision to establish the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment reflects his understanding of the transformative impact that cooperatives can have on grassroots development.

By institutionalizing their presence within the government structure, the governor has shown his commitment to integrating cooperative principles and values into the fabric of governance and decision-making processes in Osun State. In response to the nomination, Governor Adeleke expressed his gratitude and highlighted the importance of cooperatives in his administration's agenda.

## GOVERNOR ADELEKE OF OSUN STATE CREATES

FULL-FLEDGED MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND EMPOWERMENT,  
RECEIVES NOMINATION AS MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR

He said, "I am honored to receive this nomination as the Most Outstanding Governor of the Year. Cooperatives are an essential tool for empowering our people and fostering inclusive socio-economic development.

This recognition further motivates me and my team to continue our efforts in creating an enabling environment for cooperative growth and prosperity in Osun State."The Cooperative Rating and Award Society of Nigeria, in nominating Governor Adeleke for this prestigious accolade, acknowledges his exceptional vision and leadership in advancing the cooperative agenda.

The governor's proactive steps, coupled with his administration's commitment to cooperative development, have resulted in tangible benefits for Osun State's residents.Through the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment, Governor Adeleke is poised to revolutionize the cooperative landscape in Osun State.

By fostering an ecosystem that encourages innovation, collaboration, and capacity-building, the ministry aims to strengthen cooperative societies and empower individuals across diverse sectors such as

agriculture, entrepreneurship, trade, and more.The nomination and recognition of Governor Adeleke by The Cooperative Rating and Award Society of Nigeria serve as commendation for his tireless efforts in prioritizing cooperatives and empowerment.

This accolade also serves as inspiration for other government officials and leaders across Nigeria to recognize and harness the immense potential of cooperatives in achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth.As Nigeria embarks on a journey toward socio-economic transformation, Governor Adeleke's nomination and the establishment of a dedicated ministry reaffirm the critical role that cooperatives play in driving progress.

It is hoped that this recognition will encourage further cooperation, collaboration, and investment in the cooperative sector, ultimately resulting in a prosperous future for all Nigerians.

**COOPERATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES** in collaboration with  
**CRASoN - The Cooperative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria**

*Presents*

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Oral  
Hygiene



Body  
Hygiene



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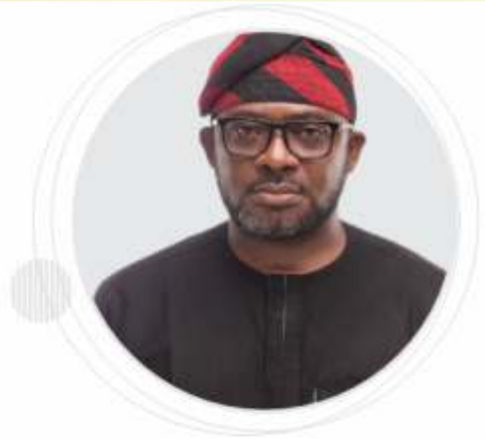
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# RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA: SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES, AND THE WAY FORWARD A SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF COOPERATIVE MOVEMENTS

AbdurRahman Lekki, Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board. Former President, Zero Interest Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd



## 1. Introduction

The symposium theme, "Re-Imagining Cooperatives in Nigeria: Our Success Stories, Challenges, and the Way Forward," signifies a collective effort to critically assess the present state of cooperative movements in Nigeria and envision a more vibrant and resilient future. It serves as a platform to explore the triumphs, obstacles, and strategic pathways that will shape the next chapter of cooperative enterprises in the country.

**Re-Imagining Cooperatives:** The theme suggests a dynamic shift in perspective, encouraging stakeholders to rethink traditional approaches and embrace innovative strategies. It calls for an exploration of new paradigms, technologies, and collaborative models that can enhance the effectiveness and relevance of cooperatives in contemporary Nigeria.

**Success Stories:** Acknowledging and celebrating the successes of cooperative ventures is integral to inspire and guide future endeavors. By highlighting accomplishments, the symposium aims to showcase the positive impact cooperatives have had on members, communities, and the broader economy.

**Challenges:** Addressing challenges head-on is essential for sustainable growth. The symposium provides a forum to candidly discuss the hurdles faced by cooperatives in Nigeria, whether regulatory, financial, or operational. Analyzing challenges offers insights into areas requiring attention and improvement.

**The Way Forward:** The symposium is forward-looking, emphasizing proactive strategies and solutions. It invites participants to contribute

ideas on how to overcome challenges, foster innovation, strengthen cooperative structures, and create an environment conducive to the continued success of cooperatives in Nigeria.

**Collaboration and Learning:** Implicit in the theme is the recognition that the future of cooperatives depends on collaboration and continuous learning. The symposium encourages the exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices among cooperative leaders, members, policymakers, and other stakeholders.

In essence, the theme encapsulates a journey of reflection, celebration, problem-solving, and envisioning a future where cooperatives play a pivotal role in Nigeria's socio-economic development. The symposium serves as a nexus for diverse voices to converge, fostering a collective vision for re-imagining and revitalizing the cooperative movement in the nation.

## 2. Importance of Cooperatives

**Historical Significance of Cooperatives in Nigeria:**

**Colonial Origins:** The history of cooperatives in Nigeria can be traced back to the colonial era, with the establishment of cooperative credit societies. These early forms of cooperatives were largely inspired by the cooperative movement in Europe and were instrumental in addressing the financial needs of farmers and rural communities.

**Post-Independence Growth:** After gaining independence in 1960, Nigeria witnessed a surge in cooperative activities. The government recognized the potential of cooperatives in fostering economic growth, reducing poverty, and promoting grassroots development. This led to the enactment

of various cooperative laws and policies to support their establishment and operation.

**A Response to Economic Challenges:** Throughout Nigeria's history, periods of economic challenges, including fluctuations in commodity prices and oil-related crises, have prompted the resurgence of interest in cooperatives. During these times, cooperatives have served as a resilient economic model, providing a buffer against external shocks and contributing to local economic stability.

**Role in Economic Development, Poverty Reduction, and Community Empowerment:**

**Economic Development:** Cooperatives in Nigeria have played a pivotal role in economic development by fostering entrepreneurship and creating sustainable businesses. They have been key contributors to job creation, income generation, and the overall economic well-being of their members.

**Poverty Reduction:** Cooperatives have been effective instruments in poverty reduction strategies. By providing access to credit, training, and markets, they empower individuals and communities to lift themselves out of poverty. The cooperative structure ensures that benefits are shared among members, contributing to a more equitable distribution of resources.

**Community Empowerment:** Cooperatives act as agents of community empowerment, fostering a sense of ownership and self-reliance. Through collective action, communities can address common challenges, such as lack of infrastructure, limited access to education, and healthcare. Cooperatives become platforms for social and economic development at the grassroots level.

**Diversity of Sectors Where Cooperatives Have Made an Impact:**

**Agriculture:** Agricultural cooperatives have been at the forefront of transforming Nigeria's agricultural landscape. They facilitate collective farming, joint marketing, and access to agricultural inputs, leading to increased productivity and income for small-scale farmers.

**Finance:** Cooperative banks and credit unions have been crucial in providing financial services to individuals and businesses, particularly those in rural

and underserved areas. These financial cooperatives offer affordable credit, savings facilities, and other financial products, promoting financial inclusion.

**Consumer Goods:** Consumer cooperatives play a significant role in ensuring access to affordable and quality goods for their members. By collectively sourcing products, consumers benefit from bulk purchasing, and the cooperative acts as a bridge between producers and consumers.

**Housing:** Cooperative housing societies have emerged to address the housing needs of members. These cooperatives pool resources for the construction of affordable housing units, making homeownership more accessible.

**Transportation:** Cooperatives in the transportation sector, such as taxi and bus cooperatives, provide an organized and collective approach to transportation services. This model enhances efficiency, reduces costs, and ensures fair returns for members.

In essence, cooperatives in Nigeria have a rich historical legacy, serving as catalysts for economic development, poverty reduction, and community empowerment across a diverse array of sectors. Their adaptive nature and commitment to the cooperative principles continue to make them invaluable contributors to the nation's socio-economic fabric.

### 3. Success Stories Growth and Impact

**Key Success Indicators:**

1. Membership Growth:
2. Revenue Increase:
3. Community Development Projects:

**Specific Success Stories:**

1. Agricultural Productivity Boost:
2. Microfinance Empowerment:
3. Technology Adoption:
4. Market Expansion:

**Job Creation and Economic Stability:**

1. Job Creation:
2. Skills Development:
3. Economic Stability:

**Innovation and Adaptability**

Innovative practices that have contributed to the success of

your cooperative.

How ZIMCS cooperative has adapted to changing economic and social landscapes.

Unique programs or initiatives that have set ZIMCS cooperative apart.

#### 4. Challenges Faced by Cooperatives

- Ineffective Regulation to meet with current realities
- Lack of managerial skills
- Misuse of funds
- Inefficiencies leading to losses
- Lack of secrecy
- Conflicts among members
- Limited scope
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of motivation, Commitment and Responsibilities
- very little link between effort and reward.
- Lack of Cooperation
- Insincerity and Dishonesty
- Overdue Loans
- Low knowledge on Islamic Finance
- No Sharia Advisory Board
- Government regulation – No Desk for Islamic Coop/ Lack of General Capacity to Regulate

#### 5. The Way Forward

- A more effective Regulatory Framework, including adoption of Technology
- There should be strict supervision of loan takers and they should be made to comply as necessary.
- In some cases, guarantors and or collateral should be requested before granting loans.
- Well trained and qualified accountants should be employed to manage the finances of the cooperative.
- There should be training and retraining of leaders through attending of seminars, etc.
- Cooperatives should not be just for middle and low income earners and poor people. The rich should be incorporated to an extent.
- Committees should be created within the cooperatives to monitor their activities.
- The government should provide aids and financial assistance, as well as NGOs and corporate bodies to reduce the problems of inadequate capital and small size loans.
- Regulatory Authorities needs to be upskilled in order to provide adequate regulation.
- Regular meetings should be held to discuss issues

as appropriate. This improves commitment.

No decision should be taken at the top without being passed down to the ordinary members

Regulatory Authorities needs to learn more about Islamic Finance and also set up a Desk for its Regulation

Collaboration among, Partnership with Islamic Finance bodies/institutions to boost the knowledge base

#### 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our cooperative stands as a testament to the transformative power of innovation, adaptability, and community engagement. Through digital transformation, smart agricultural practices, and a commitment to sustainability, we have not only weathered economic challenges but thrived in dynamic landscapes.

Our proactive response to changing times, including the adoption of flexible supply chains and remote work policies, underscores our resilience. We've embraced crisis as an opportunity to strengthen our foundation and diversify revenue streams, ensuring economic stability for our members.

What sets us apart is not just our success indicators—impressive membership growth, revenue increase, and impactful community projects—but the ethos that defines us. Our dedication to member education, fair trade practices, and youth empowerment reflects our commitment to holistic growth.

As we navigate the future, our cooperative will continue to be a beacon of cooperative excellence, driven by the principles of innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability. The success stories we've shared today are not just our own; they are a testament to the enduring power of cooperative endeavors in re-imagining and shaping a prosperous future for Nigeria. Together, we embark on a journey of continued growth, learning, and positive impact. Thank you for being part of this cooperative journey.

#### 7. Q&A

#### 8. Thank You

# To Launch the book

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2. Full name
3. Email address
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[www.cooperativesupport.com.ng](http://www.cooperativesupport.com.ng)    CoopSupport



**MOST OUTSTANDING  
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
OF THE YEAR 2023**

**MOST SUPPORTIVE  
SOCIETY OF THE YEAR 2023**



## **BRIEF ABOUT AIRPORTS FIRE AND SAFETY COOPERATIVE MULTIPURPOSE LTD**

The Society was established in the year 1996 as a Thrift and Credit Society being workers' Cooperative meeting the immediate needs of the personnel of Fire and Safety Department of the FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA, FAAN. Membership was limited to the Fire Department at the inception. This was under the pioneer President Emeritus Alhaji Owuye Oke Owo. He nurtured the society in synergy with his team of Executives and handed over after his tenors to Alhaji Lawal Isiaka Yusuf.

The society over the years recorded a boost in its membership strength as a result of other stakeholders coming on board as members. These include the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, FAAN, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency, NAMA, Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB (formally AAIB), Murtala Muhammed Airport Staff School (MMA), NUATE, ATSSAN and ANAP.

The Society was first registered by the Lagos state Government in the year 2000 as Airport Fire and Safety Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society Ltd. This was during the tenor of Alhaji Owuye O.O.

The Society became a multi-agency membership based as a result of the exponential growth in membership strength and business operations.

In 2005, the Lagos state Government recognized the diversified investment capacities of the society and

approved a new registration certificate for the society. This was during the tenor-ship of President Emeritus Alhaji L.I. Yusuf. This reflects in the society's name till date - Airport Fire and Safety Cooperative Multipurpose society Ltd.

President Emeritus Tella Richard Gbadegesin took over the mantle in 2015 and handed over to Alhaji Sadiq Saheed Anako in 2020 till date.

### **THE AWARD WINNING AFSCMS (FIRECOOP) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1.	Alhaji Sadiq S.A.	PRESIDENT
2.	Osundiji M.A.	VICE PRESIDENT
3.	Ibitola J.K.	GENERAL SECRETARY
4.	Chukwuma C.A.	TREASURER
5.	Dawodu I.A.	FINANCIAL SECRETARY
6.	Temola O.T.	PRO
7.	Alabi O.I.	ASSISTANT PRO
8.	Alonge M.O.	ASSISTANT GENERAL SEC.
9.	Tella G.R.	EX-OFFICIO 1
10.	Aturu M.O.	EX- OFFICIO 2
11.	Herbert N.	SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
12.	Aliu M.	SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE
13.	Njoku I.	SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

NIGERIAN NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS



...celebrating cooperative leadership, good governance & enterprises



# The Trailblazers Lagos 2023



# MAIDEN EDITION

## The Game Changers – Lagos 2018



## SECOND EDITION

### *The Pathfinders – Abuja 2019*



# THIRD EDITION

## The COOP Stalkholders - Lagos 2021



# FORTH EDITION

## The Frontliners - Abuja 2022



# MOST OUTSTANDING GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR

## OFFICIAL PROFILE OF GOVERNOR ADEMOLA JACKSON NURUDEEN ADELEKE OF OSUN STATE

Governor Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke is a Nigerian politician and businessman of the Adeleke family of Ede North Local Government of Osun state. An urbane scion of a major political family in South West Nigeria, Governor Adeleke is an innovative entrepreneur and a grassroots political force in Osun state politics. He had his secondary education at Ede Muslim Grammar School Ede before he relocated to the United States to continue his studies at Jacksonville State University, Alabama in the United States where he majored in criminal justice with a minor in political science.

Following his passion, business interests and entrepreneurship opportunities, Governor Adeleke joined Quicksilver Courier Company in Atlanta, Georgia, US, as a service contractor between 1985–1989. He progressed to Origin International LLC, Atlanta, Georgia, US, a flavours and fragrance manufacturing company where he served as Vice President from 1990 to 1994. A suave businessman and administrator, he served as a Director of Guinness Nigeria Limited between 1992- 1999 where he contributed immensely to the expansion of the multinational company. He was later appointed Group Executive Director of Pacific Holdings Limited from 2001 to 2016.

Governor Adeleke is also an acclaimed creative industry entrepreneur and mentor. As a talented creative figure, he mentored world rated ace musicians while his family members and children are leading stars in the global music industry.

To complete his educational sojourn which he suspended because of business and entrepreneurial preoccupations, Governor Adeleke in 2019 went back to school in the United States where he re-enrolled at Atlanta Metropolitan State College in the United States and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice in 2021.

His passion for politics and serving the people started as early as 1991, while he was elected with a landslide victory as a Senator for Osun West Senatorial District in 2017, after the demise of his late brother. His popularity reached a peak when he won the Osun 2018 governorship election in the first round but was robbed even after a clear win before the controversial rerun election that favoured his main challenger, Gboyega Oyetola.

A great football lover, Governor Adeleke was a member of Ede Muslim Grammar School football team where he played from the wing as No 7. As a team player and great contributor to the development of the school, he was elected President, old boys association of the secondary school. He is well loved by the people and very popular across the state with the nickname



'Imole' (Light). In July 2022, he contested again and won resoundingly. He is currently delivering good governance to the good people of Osun state.

His major stand out qualities are consensus building, resource management, attention to details, compassion for the poor, communal and interpersonal communications, firmness in decision making and a great listener.

As at today in Nigeria, he is the only Governor that established a full fledged ministry for Cooperative affairs in order to use it to drive his empowerment project for his people in Osun, which of course, is a feat worthy of emulation for other governors to follow to aid the growth and development of Cooperatives and to really empower their people.

Dear Cooperators, Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, I have the singular honour and privilege of presenting to you this rare gem, ambassador and quintessence of Godliness, and a motivator, a leader of men, a man of exceptional practical talent and insight, a proactive and visionary leader that operates with the skills and efficiency of the private sector, a tireless, selfless workaholic and man of the people in the distinguished person of Senator, Ademola Nurudeen Jackson Adeleke Executive Governor of Osun State, Nigeria.

Please join us, with standing ovation, in appreciating God for this awardee being the Most Outstanding Governor of the Year, who has successfully reformed and transformed the cooperative sub-sector in Osun State and by extension Nigeria as a whole, through the creation of a full fledged ministry of Cooperatives, providing an enabling environment for Cooperative to thrive better in the State via proper operational guidelines, regulation and policies, as well as, showing selfless and exemplary leadership, demonstrating good governance and clear-cut strategies of promoting cooperatives across board.

Congratulations Your Excellency Sir!



# COOPERATIVE MAN OF THE YEAR

President, Airport Fire and Safety Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited. Born in the year 1968 on the 6th of December in the district of Obehirra in Okene LGA, Kogi State.

Had his primary and secondary educations at INA, the then Igbirra Native Authority and CSS Ogaminana respectively. He had his tertiary education in Kwara Polytechnic and Federal Polytechnic Idah with National Diploma and Higher National Diploma respectively in Metallurgy and Materials Science in 1989 and 1992. He had his National Youth Service Corps mandatory assignment in 1993. He proceeded for his Post Graduate Diploma, PGD in 2016 at OOU and Master in Transport Management, MTM Aviation option in 2019 at LAUTECH.

He was accredited Management Trainer by the Authority of the Nigerian Council for management Development, CMD, 2009 and 2016. Also accredited Professional Management Trainer by the council in 2022.

## WORK HISTORY

His working career started with the then Oregon Cocoa Mills as a Production line Supervisor in 1995. Got employed into the service of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, FAAN, in 2002 as an Aerodrome Rescue and Fire Fighter, ARFF. Trained both locally and internationally as an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Instructor with several classroom and field hours to his credit. He is presently an Assistant General Manager, AGM ARFFS by designation.

## COOPERATIVE BACKGROUND

Joined the cooperative in 2002 as an ordinary financial member. Coopted in 2013 as Financial Secretary. Elected as the Executive General Secretary in 2015. Elected as the Executive President in 2020 till date. Attended several Cooperative Leadership Retreats/Conferences both local and international.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The housing scheme at Phase 1, Iyana Iyesi, with 200 plots of land for both residential and commercial fully subscribed and developed by members.
2. Housing scheme at Phase 2, Riverview Isheri North, with 200 plots of land fully subscribed and developed by members.
3. Housing scheme at Phase 3, Riverview Isheri North, with 200 plots of land fully sold out to members.
4. Housing scheme at Phase 4, Queens Land Estate, Lusada, Agbarra, with 200 plots of land. 85 plots fully subscribed by members and still selling.
5. Hospitality Business - 23 rooms, 2 floors Guesthouse ( Firecoop Aviators' Lodge) at 41, Kaleijaye street, Beesam/Mafoluku, Oshodi, with an expansion project replicating a twin structure 80% completed with an expected date of delivery in November 2023. This is to provide affordable and facility/accommodation for members, non members and the flying public.



ALHAJI SADIQ  
SAHEED ANAKO

President, Airport Fire  
and Safety Cooperative  
Multipurpose Society  
Limited

6. Aviation schools held in conjunction with our sister society FMTA. Modalities for effective take off being explored.
7. Procurement of fleet of buses for Airport school shuttle services in line with Corporate Social Responsibilities.
8. 2 Blocks of 6 flats each at Goodluck Jonathan Estate Idimu/Egbeda.
9. Annual pre-retirement entrepreneurship empowerment for members to prepare for life after service. Having achieved so much in the South-West, attention has shifted to other regions through the regional approach to the human capacity building of the members in the North-Central, Abuja, executed from the 12th- 14th of October, 2023. The other regions will follow suit. Conferences, workshops and retreats amongst others were scheduled for members.
10. Cooperative secretariat with retail spaces for the benefit of members. Partnership with Alpha Pharmacy for the benefit of the members and the community.
11. A new Housing Scheme has been launched in Kuje, Abuja in collaboration with MUBDHAB HOMES and WOODHILL ESTATE for the benefit of members using the cooperative as a platform to present the off-takers with the applications of NHF, FEDERAL LOANS BOARD and PENCOM.
12. EMPLOYMENT- Over 50 staff in the employ of the society.
13. Associate Membership platform - members exiting the service due statutory retirement are migrated to this platform through the SHARES SUBSCRIPTION window as they remain connected to the society and its investment.
14. Shares were sold to members with a view to investing it on the Guesthouse expansion project which is a work in progress.

## COOPERATIVE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



AMB. DR.  
AKINOLA LATEEF  
ADEMOLA,  
Ficp MCArb, FICRPC

AKINOLA LATEEF ADEMOLA is an indigene of Oyo West Areas of Oyo State is a seasoned grassroots mobiliser, administrator and distinguished arbitrator with specialization in Cooperatives and Mediation. It is in furtherance of this interest that he eventually enrolled for the Arbitration course of the Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators. He had also written a book on Effective Cooperative Supervision in Nigeria. (Dilemma of A Movement). Dr. Akinola is a Fellow of Institute for Crisis Resolution, Peace building and Conciliation. He was educated variously at the Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo; Federal Cooperative College (Eleyele) Ibadan; the University of Ilorin and the Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators where he was inducted as an Associate member in 2017.

He had participated in both customary and statutory mediation of over 200 matters in his chosen career-the cooperative sector. He has helped and facilitated more than 600 Primary Cooperative Societies and Secondary Unions with above 100,000 individual memberships scattered across Nigeria and in Diaspora that are affiliated to the Oyosowapo Group of Cooperatives.

Dr. Akinola belongs to a number of professional associations like; Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators of Nigeria, Lagos Court of Arbitration, Institute for Crisis Resolution Peacebuilding and Conciliation (ICRPC). The Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (ICOPRON) and is a licentiate member of the Lagos State Association of Cooperative Accounts Managers (LASCAM).

In addition to this Akinola is a former Volunteer Mediator at Lagos State Ministry of Justice (Citizen Mediation Centre). Dr. Akinola Ademola was awarded Doctor of Philosophy, Degree in Peace and Conflict Resolution (Honoris Causa) from African America University. Also awarded with peace Ambassador from Institute for Crisis Resolution Peace-building and Conciliation. Akinola Ademola is a Senior Police Officer of Nigeria Police Force, (Supernumerary) Chief Superintended of Police (CSP)

He is currently the Managing Partner of Delak-Davan Cooperative Consult and doubles as the Director General, Oyosowapo Group of Cooperatives in Nigeria and Diaspora. He enjoys mediation, meeting people, reading, creative writing and travelling. He is happily married and has children.

# COOPERATIVE PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR



**DR. AGBASI  
OBIANUJU  
EMMANUELA (PP),  
ANIM, Ficap, FIPESA**

Head of Department,  
Cooperative Economics  
& Management,  
Nnamdi Azikiwe University,  
Awka, Anambra State

Dr. Agbasi Obianuju Emmanuela is the current Head of the Department, of Cooperative Economics and Management, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

Dr. Agbasi had previously taught at the Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe and served as a part-time lecturer at Federal College, Oji River, and Enugu State Nigeria. Besides, her teaching chores, she also holds the following administrative positions in the Administration of the University, Deputy Director Chike Okoli Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Member of the Board of Directors of Microfinance Bank Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka.

Dr. Agbasi holds a Ph.D. in Cooperative Economics and Management, MBA (Cooperative Economics and Management), MBA (Business Administration) and BSc (Cooperative Economics and Management) all from Nnamdi Azikiwe University.

She trained with the Teachers Institute Kaduna, earning a Post Graduate Diploma in Education, thus sharpening her pedagogical skills and making her a professional teacher. Her Journal publications are highly visible in Google Scholar, Academia and Research Gate respectively.

She has attended both National and International Conferences. She is a member of the following professional bodies, Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM), a Fellow of the Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (ICOPRON), a fellow with the

Institute of Professionals Entrepreneurs and Strategic Administrator of Nigeria (IPESA) and she is happily married with four children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Agbasi organized the Maiden CEM Alumni Homecoming/ International Day of Cooperative Symposium at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria this year, 2023.

She is the first woman president of her community women's league who instituted a 15KVA Generator during her tenure between 2014-2018, As an administrator, a goal-getter, a humanitarian with a heart of gold, she is able to raised huge amount of funds to buy 80-bags of rice and hundred and eighty pieces of clothes to share with 180 widows in her community, plus an additional sum of N10, 000 each, given to them as soft loan (without interest) to add to their businesses and finally establish a cooperative society for them.

More so, not only is she a teacher of the cooperative business model, she has been advocating and encouraging the forming of such in all communities and even as religious places of worship like she did in her church setting up Cooperative for women.

# COOPERATIVE WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Yemisi Folasade Aiyejina was born into the family of Late Mr. & Mrs. Ademola Adeleke on the 10th of October, 1971 in Lagos State. She is from Ede in Osun State. A Christian by faith. I got married to Olufemi Sunday and was blessed with children. She came back to Lagos State after she finished her education in Ede, Osun State.

Current President of Owutu Ire-Akari CMS, Secretary of Ikorodu South Multipurpose Cooperative Union (IMCU), Secretary Ikorodu Business Cooperative Committee Union.

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

- She has Primary, Secondary and Tertiary School, all in Osun State.

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

After gathering so much experience working with 6 different organizations in Lagos State, Mrs. Yemisi Aiyejina established her own company in the year 2007 and later join cooperative industry in the year 2009

She joined Owutu Ire-Akari Cooperative Society in July 2009. I was elected as the Society Secretary in June 2011 to 2013, and later elected as the President of the (Owutu Ire-Akari CMS) society in July 2017 till date. I took over the leadership of the society when it was then Cooperative Thrift & Credit Society (CTCS) and without any property but to God be the glory, the society rose to Cooperative Multipurpose Society (CMS) with many properties.

## FEW ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF MRS. YEMISI ADEMOLA-AIYEJINA

Better and Transparent Accountability

Acquisition of Landed Property without stopping loan

Improved Relationship with other Cooperatives

Introduction of Cashless Policy

More recognition of our Cooperative Society by Lagos State Government

An improved profit margin for each year which is better than the previous years

Moving from Cooperative Thrift & Credit Society (CTCS) to Cooperative Multipurpose Society (CMS)

Purchase of Land and Build a Permanent Secretariat Office for Owutu Ire-Akari Cooperative Society



MRS. YEMISI FOLASADE AIYEJINA

President, Owutu Ire-Akari Cooperative Multipurpose Society Ltd.

Construction / Building of three (3) Standard Modern Flats in 2019

Construction of Cooperative Hall for Rentage in 2020

Purchase of Landed Property and build 3 bedroom flats and 2 standard shops.

## AWARDS

LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT  
2019

Award 2nd Position As The Most Outstanding Cooperative Female Leader In Lagos State

Award of Excellence  
2020  
Owutu Ire-Akari CMS

LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT  
2022

Award 2nd Position As The Most Outstanding Cooperative Female Leader In Lagos State

## IKORODU SOUTH COOPERATIVE AREA OFFICE

APRIL, 2022

THE MOST OUTSTANDING FEMALE COOPERATIVE LEADER AWARD

IKORODU MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE UNION (IMCU)  
SEP. 2022

## MERITORIOUS AWARD

CRASON- The Cooperative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria  
2022

Exemplary Leadership Award of Excellence for Cooperative Management and Development

## Award of Excellence

2023 Owutu Ire-Akari CMS

# COOPERATIVE PERSONALITY OF THE DECADE

## HRH Adebola O. Orolugbagbe (President/Chairman, Board of Directors, CFAN/NCSX)

His Royal Highness Orolugbagbe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History/Political Science from the University of Ibadan (1985) and studied for a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Abuja (2001). He obtained a professional qualification in Real Estate Mortgage, Finance and Lending from Lumbleau Institute, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the United States of America which qualified him to work with mortgage financial institutions as a professional real estate practitioner and lender.

He worked with several real state organizations such as Mike Glickman Realty, Muselli Real Estate Co., Amric Realty Inc. and the now defunct Mid-Wilshire Mortgage Bank Corp., all in Los Angeles, California. As a team leader/supervisor of the Mid-Wilshire Mortgage Bank Corp., Business Improvement team, he managed a number of transformation Projects that created, automated and improved business processes. In 1993, he returned to Nigeria briefly to set up Island Ventures Ltd., Horrolls Properties Ltd., and Geneva Holdings Ltd., which were engaged in importation of automobiles, properties development and sales and consumer food items respectively. He returned to United States for a course in Information Technology and returned finally in 1999 to establish DTK Solutions Ltd. and Experian Data Information Co. Ltd., both Information and Telecommunications Companies. While DTK Solutions engaged in the retail of computer hardware and software, Experian Data was engaged in the deployment of voice and data network.

As a result of the ever-increasing demand in the financial services sector of the economy and the void that exists therein, it became necessary to seek to fill such void. This led to the establishment of a Financial Services Company by the name, The Fundgrow Company Ltd. in July 2008, where he became the pioneer Chief Executive Officer. In September 2008, Ib. (Oluyole) Fundgrow Co-operative Investment & Credit Society was established where he was a member.

In 2010, he joined hands with others to establish the CoopXchange Multipurpose Co-operative Investment &

Credit Society which teamed up Fundgrow CICS and other SACCOs of like minds to establish CoopXchange Investment Trust & Credit Union Ltd., a secondary savings and credit investment co-operative society. The Credit Union became licensed in June 2011 when it officially commenced operations to offer Front Office Service Activities (Co-operative Banking) to its members in its present location in Ibadan. A consummate co-operator, on September 13, 2012, he was elected as the President/Chairman Board of Directors of the National Association of Co-operative Credit Unions of Nigeria (NACCUN) Ltd., which was rebranded and later metamorphosed into the National Co-operative Financing Agency of Nigeria (CFAN) in April 2015 as the national apex body for all financial co-operatives in Nigeria. In August 2015, he emerged as the pioneer President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of CFAN, where he has held sway and have been working assiduously hard with other members of the board to re-awaken the apex body and reposition it in its appropriate place, both within Nigeria and its affiliate international bodies. In September 2019, he was re-elected for a second and final term of four (4) years, a position he has held till date.

In 2023, he invented and joined hands with other like-minded people to establish the Nigeria Co-operative Shares Exchange Society (NCSX), a dedicated co-operative stock exchange due for launch by the end of December 2023 and the 1st of its kind anywhere in the world. Likewise, one of the societies he founded, Bancoop Trust Co-operative Society Ltd. got involved in mining and was recently awarded an Exploration Mining License by the Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office. He has remained a pioneer of the co-operative enterprise in Nigeria and beyond.

HRH Adebola Orolugbagbe is currently the 31st Odole Owa Adimula, the traditional Prime Minister of Ijesaland. He is happily married with children.



RHC,  
ADEBOLA  
OROLUGBAGBE

Oyegbulu 1,  
The Odole Owa  
of Ijesha land

# HUMANITARIAN PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

PROFILE OF AMB. (Dr) Jonathan Ojadah fciml, faietAmb. Dr. Jonathan Ojadah hails from Aviarha, Isoko North LGA, Delta State, Nigeria. He is an International Trade & Investment Diplomat with vast knowledge in Bilateral & Multilateral commerce experience. He possesses a high level of Integrated Marketing Communication with over 20 years of professional experience which spans across Project Management, Corporate Communications and Multimedia Authoring. His Tertiary Education spanned from The Polytechnic, Ibadan where he obtained Ordinary National diploma (OND) in Business Administration, Bsc in Tourism & Hospitality Management from International British Institute (IBI) Cairo, Egypt, Post Graduate Diploma (PgD) in Education Management from American Institute Of Education & Training, USA. ... Masters (MBA) in Leadership & Business Management.. IIC University Of Technology, Cambodia. His quest for vast experience in various field of endeavors led him to acquire more knowledge with a Diploma in Diplomacy & International Relations, ESTAM University, Benin Republic ... Advanced Diploma in Health, Safety Environmental (HSE) Management , CIML Business School, USA. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS ... FELLOW of Chartered Institute of Management & Leadership (CIML), Delaware, USA. ... FELLOW of American Institute Of Education & Training (AEIT), USA. ... Chartered Professional Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) Manager from Chartered Institute Of Management and Leadership, USA. ... Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Economist of Nigeria (ICEN), ... Associate Member of The Society of Educational Administrators in Nigeria (SEAN),.. Dr. Jonathan Ojadah is the Managing Director of Jodela Integrated Services Ltd, A consulting firm engaged as Consultant to The Nigerian Unity Museum & Tourism Village - NUMATVILLE - A Public Private Project in partnership with The Federal Ministry of Works, land & housing, Abuja, Nigeria. WORK EXPERIENCE & ENGAGEMENTS. ... Director, Centre for Leadership and Enterprise studies, Abuja ... Vice Chairman of the Academic Governing Council of Crownpoint College of Health Science & Technology, Ogun State ... Business Development Consultant at the African School of Diplomacy & International Relations, affiliated with the African Union (AU ECOSSOC Nigeria). ... Executive Board Member, US Africa Trade Council Atlanta, Georgia, USA, He is a Philanthropist and his passion for humanity led to the establishment of Arise O Nigeria



**H.E. AMB. (DR.) JONATHAN OJADAH,**  
COP, fciml, faeit

Global President,  
UNIPGC Africa & IPGC,  
USA & Chairman,  
Jodela Integrated  
Services Ltd

Empowerment Initiative, An NGO endorsed and inaugurated in 2016 by The UN Women for empowerment and advocacy of vulnerable youths & women, promoting peace & good Governance toward achieving sustainable development goals in Nigeria. Amb. Jonathan was certified Event Ambassador of Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC) as a result of his incredible participation with the organizing committee staging the 2017 Olympic day Celebration. He has worked with notable Nigerian Personalities like ... Former British footballer, Amb. John Fashanu (UNICEF Ambassador), ... Dr Akin Olowookere (2 times Ondo State Governorship Candidate & Chairman, Nigerian Unity Museum & Tourism Village- Numatville), ... He is the Publisher & Editor in Chief, SDG Humanitarian Magazine. INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENTS ... Deputy Country Chief, International Peace Commission (IPC), An inter Governmental organization in consultative status and organ of the United Nations ... Country Representative (Nigeria) - International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) ... Project Management Consultant, Africa Smart City- National Sugar Corporation, Zambia. ... Foreign Election Observer - Zambia 2021 Presidential Election- Zambia Electoral Commission. He has organized several local, international Leadership & Investment Summits and also featured in other international conferences with high level delegations where he functioned as a MODERATOR in the Ministerial Roundtable Forum of the AFRICA-UAE Trade investment Summit by Foreign Investment Network (FIN) in collaboration with FORBES Magazine under the patronage of the Royal Office of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Khalifa Al Nahyan which took place at the Burj Al Arab Jumeirah, Dubai, UAE. Amb. Dr. Jonathan Daniel has baged over 15 leadership, Merit & Achievers awards including ... Honorary Doctorate Causa- ISMT University, Benin Republic ... ICON OF SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT by The Yoruba Youth Assembly, South West, Nigeria

## MOST OUTSTANDING PROVOST OF THE YEAR



HAJIA (DR.)  
AISHA ISMAIL  
ISHAQ

Provost,  
Federal Cooperative College,  
Kaduna, Kaduna State

### CITATION OF HAJIA, DR. AISHA ISHAQ

Hajia Dr. Aisha Isahq was born in Zaria, Kaduna State of Nigeria on the 6th of September, 1962. She has gone to have a career as renown sociologist.

She is a mover, a shaker, an administrator per excellence, a philanthropist and partnership builder who is always focused on how she can provide opportunity to more children, young persons and girls.

She started her post secondary school at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria, where she obtained her B.Sc (Hons) in sociology in 1985 and also further her studies with Diploma in Coperative Studies, Post Graduate Diploma in Education, Masters in Criminal Justice, Fellow of Coperatives and Ph.D in sociology between 2001 and 2022.

Her various field of work which includes Examination Officer, Vice Principal Academics, Vice Principal Admin, Senior Registrar of Cooperative Field Officer, Lecturer at the Federal Cooperative College, Kaduna prepared her to be promoted to the post of Deputy Provost of the Federal Cooperative College Kaduna between 2014 to 2018. Upon her dedicated and meritorious performance, she was promoted to the substantive position of Provost of Federal Cooperative College Kaduna, a position she hold till date.

In appreciation of her diligence, she has serve in various committee of the Federal Cooperative College which include but not limited to HOD of various departments, member of Federal Cooperative College Academic and Management Board, Chairperson Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monetary Units.

In a pursuit to attain a greater height, she has attended workshops and seminars which includes but not limited to; The society of Education Administrators of Nigeria on

Teachers as role models for Academic and Moral excellence workshop, Continuous Assessment Training Project Workshop, Train the trainers facilitator's workshop on people participatory approach to agriculture, sensitization workshop to women in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Kebbi State on cooperative development, National Workshop on cooperative matters and workshop on corruption risk assessment between 1999 to 2016.

For her contribution and leadership in meeting the yearning of her immediate community, she has bagged various award of recognition and excellence in and outside Kaduna State for her pioneering contributions to the Kaduna communities in particular and Nigeria in general.

Hajiya Dr. Aisha Isahq has made a remarkable impact on the cultural, academic and social wellbeing of the students and Staff of Federal Cooperative College, Kaduna. She has successfully raised the profile of the Institution and has worked hard to put systems in place to make things function more efficiently. She has prove herself has an effective administrator, inspiring motivator and intelligent leader. She gets a job done unobtrusively and efficiently, she communicates well and has creative ideas which she is able to see through to completion.

She certainly has set a fine example of reliability, dependability and commitment hence, she is being recognized, honored and awarded for her many contributions and roles as an educator, administrator, advisor, philanthropist and advocate for less privilege (girl child education).

# BEST PERFORMING PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

Mrs Olabisi Mosidat Bakare, FWACN, MPA, BNSC, PHN, RN, RM, (PhD in View)

President The Medicals Cooperative Multipurpose Society (LASCOMED) Ltd.

Mrs Olabisi Mosidat Bakare is a nurse by profession, she started primary school education at St. Michael Anglican School, Epe Lagos State. She later on attended Epe Girls High School Epe Lagos State. She did her midwifery programme at Oba Ademola II School of Midwifery Abeokuta Ogun State.

Olabisi proceeded to Obafemi Awolowo University where she obtained B.sc Nursing. Subsequently she gained admission into Lagos State University, Lagos where she earned Masters of Science in public administration. She has a Master's degree in Community Nursing and Public Health from Babcock University Ilesan-Remo Ogun state.

She is also fellow at West Africa College of Nursing. Member Nursing Council of Nigeria, Member Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (ICOPRON) Fellow West Africa Association of Nurses 2021 Member Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Program (MCPDP) Member Education Committee in LASCOFED

Mrs Olabisi Mosidat Bakare joined the cooperative in the year 2002 when she was working at Onikan Health Center. She became a Unit representative of LASEMS in that same year due to her commitment and dedication to the services of the promoting cooperatives amongst colleague.

She served diligently and rose to the position available in the executives in the year 2013 and by 2016 she became the financial secretary of the society. After another four



ALHAJA (MRS.)  
MOSIDAT OLABISI  
OSHODI-BAKARE

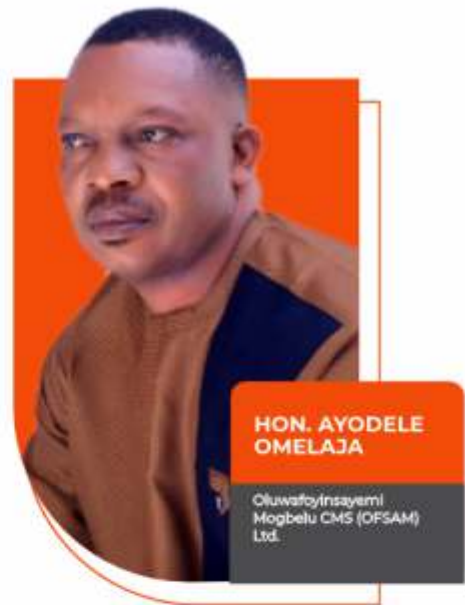
President,  
The Medicals  
Cooperative Multipurpose  
Society Ltd. (LASCOMED)  
Lagos

years of meritorious service to the cooperative she was elected unopposed to become the 7th President of LASCOMED in the year 2019.

Alhaja Mosidat Bakare since coming on board as President has contributed to the growth and development of LASCOMED asset base and by extension to the entire members and staff of the society affecting their lives positively socio-economically. Few among her achievements that led to her winning the Best Performing President of the Year is that in spite of the financial challenges the society faced based on non-remittance of cooperative fund deduction by their employers to them; She has led her team to achieve several landmark projects and programmes designed to increase the capital base of the society and diversify into other ventures that is yielding greater results for the society and members are getting increased dividends. Viz-a-viz; Ferry Boat for Commercial Purposes, Commencement of Bread Making Factory, Completion of Campbell new Secretariat Building, more befitting for the society, more constructions of Housing estate at Layode, Ikorodu and ensure that their land in Badagry are no more encroached upon by the omo oniles etc.



## BEST PERFORMING PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR (COMMUNITY BASED)



### CITATION OF MR. AYODELE OMELAJA

Mr. Ayodele Omelaja was born to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Modiu Omelaja in the city of Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State. He attended St. Loui's Anglican Primary School and Olufi High School, Gbongan, Osun State respectively. He then proceeded to Government Science and Technical College at Ijebu Ode.

Mr. Omelaja started his career as the Chairman of heavy way truck Ijebu North East Local Government Area of Ogun State for 8years. He is a skill talented man who make things to happen, who make unknown to be known, who make unprofitable to be profitable and one who break the power of poverty through establishment of Cooperative Societies, both in Ijebu Ode and beyond to help people in creating wealth. And through him many people had become self-reliance and successful business men and women. To his credit, he was elected to work as the PRO for his Cooperative Union (Toluwani Igbeba (Ijebu) CMU Limited) where he recovered over N10Million overdue loan and resuscitated several moribund Co-operative Societies. He has contributed to the growth and development of his Union, Ijebu Central Branch of OGSCOFED Limited, Ogun State Cooperative Federation Limited and the Co-operative Movement of Ogun State and by extension Nigeria as a whole.

Mr. Ayodele Omelaja with his leadership prowess, innovation and creativity brought into play has helped the society increase the fortune of the Society to become an enviable reference point for excellent in Cooperative Management among Co-operative Societies in Nigeria and Ogun State in particular.

Mr. Omelaja has been propagating the activities of Cooperative Societies to the world as part of his efforts as the President of Oluwafoyinsayemi Mobegelu Cooperative Multipurpose Society Limited- OFSAM proclaimed the gospel of Cooperative and cooperation, and to put end to poverty, organized a Cooperative Day Visitation to her members across Ijebu Ode, Ogun State. The event was tagged #CoopPropagation.

He is happily married with children.

# MOST OUTSTANDING PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR



## PRESIDENT OF NNPC KRPC STAFF MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE SOCIETY KADUNA

### PROFILE/ CITATION

#### NAME: ENGR. BENJAMIN OGWUCHE

He hails from Benue state. Had his Master degree in chemical Engineering in Federal University of Technology Minna Niger state.

He was employed into NNPC Ltd in the year 1992 and at present working in one of its SBU Napims in Lagos.

#### COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Having served in various committee capacity, he was elected as General Secretary in July 2013 and re-elected in 2016. He spent 6years in this position. There were many transformations in the Society during this period.

In September 2019 he was elected as president of the Society having completed his first tenure, he was re-elected as the president in October 2022 till date.

**During his tenure the following are some of his achievements.**

1. Internet programme facility – Members can access their financial records with ease from any part of the world
2. Construction of Mega Filling Station with modern facilities fully operational
3. Construction of LPG skid 5000kg (2 skid of 2500kg each) fully operational, it has been expanded to

digital LPG plant of 60 tons capacity with modern facility

4. Construction of housing project for members
  - a. Lube river park Abuja:
    - I. Phase 1- 55 housing units
    - II. Phase 2- 21 housing units
  - b. Dream city Kuje Abuja- 35 housing units  
These housing units have been commission and handed over to their respective owners who keyed in to the project (off takers)
  - c. New millennium housing project Kaduna - 67 housing units Construction on going to be handed over to the respective off taker any moment from now.
5. Landed properties
  - a. Land purchased in Barnawa in Kaduna
  - b. Land purchased at eastern by pass Maraba Rido Kaduna
  - c. Land purchased at Refinery access road Kaduna
  - d. Land purchased near fair Kaduna
  - e. Land purchased at Auta Balefi Nassarawa state
6. Financial institution  
Barnawa micro finance bank in Kaduna fully operational with 100% equity was re capitalized.
7. Members needs  
Priorities are given to members request and are treated with utmost dispatch without delay.

# MOST OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

## Professional Profile

### Dr. Michael Kasarachi Enyinna

Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Fundvine Group

Fundvine Suite, Okoi Arikpo House,  
5 Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.  
M: 234-8023818964,  
E: michael.enyinna@fundvinesecurities.com

I am a Finance and Capital market professional with over 17 (seventeen years) involvement in the Nigerian Capital Market activities. I have extensive professional experience and significant executive leadership accomplishments in corporate business and philanthropy. I also have strong diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals. I apply qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for progress to strategic governance efforts. I am also an Entrepreneur and vast in various industries that make up the Fundvine Group of which I currently head as the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer.

Fundvine Group is a consortium of company that was registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 2008 and has Fundvine Capital and Securities Limited; Fundvine Berkshire Asset Management Ltd; Fundvine Foods; Fundvine Properties Limited, Onetop Financial Services Ltd as its subsidiaries.

- The Group has over 120 (one hundred and twenty) direct employees in its workforce with more than double of the figure indirectly working with the Group.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Acted as Financial Advisers to raise N3b (three billion naira) for Fidson Pharmaceutical Plc through the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (Nexim Bank) in 2020/21.



**DR. MICHAEL  
KASARACHI  
ENYINNA**

Group Managing Director/  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Fundvine Group

- Acted as Financial Advisers to raise USD25m (twenty-five million U.S. Dollars) for Protea Hotel, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria through the Africa Export-Import Bank (Afrexim Bank) in 2014.
- Debt Recovery of over N30b (thirty billion naira) for the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) since 2015 till date.
- Grown the Asset Under Management of the Fundvine Group from a modest N250m to the current level of over N4b (four billion naira).
- Facilitated the divestment of a client's investment valued at over N350m (three hundred and fifty million naira) from a moribund company – Niger Insurance Co. Plc in 2016.

## WORKING EXPERIENCE:

March 2008 Till Date: FUNDVINE GROUP  
5, IDOWU TAYLOR STREET, VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS.

Position: Group Managing Director  
/Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

## BEST PERFORMING MANAGER OF THE YEAR



**MS. FOLASHADE  
AKINKUGBE**

Manager,  
Airtel Staff Cooperative  
Multipurpose Society Ltd,  
Lagos.

Folashade is currently the Manager of Airtel Staff Cooperative Limited. She has more than 16 year's cognate experience in Accounts and Customer Service.

She's self-motivated and resourceful with a proven ability to provide key financial result, customer service satisfaction, compliance, control and reporting to assist in key business decisions. Prior to joining Airtel Staff Cooperative Society Limited, Folashade has gathered accounting experience with Toro Logistics and Ajoke Stores Limited, Customer Service experience with Omni Microfinance Bank.

She holds a B.Sc. in Accounting, and Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Lagos, Akoka.

Folashade is a dedicated, organized and methodical individual. She has great communication and interpersonal skills, an excellent team player. She's keen and very willing to learn and develop new skills. She likes to treat people with respect and loves hanging out with loved ones.

## MOST OUTSTANDING MANAGER OF THE YEAR



**MR OYEDIRAN  
AKINLAYO  
FOLASOYE**

Manager, Wema Bank  
Staff Cooperative,  
Lagos.

Akinlayo F Oyediran is the Manager of Wema Bank Staff Cooperative Multipurpose Society, Lagos. He oversees the day to day administrative responsibility of the Society. With background in Accounting (HND) Oscotech and Diploma in Cooperative Studies, Fed. Coop. Ibadan.

An associate member of Institute of Cooperative Professionals of Nigeria (Icopon). Member of Lagos State Association of Cooperative Account Managers - (Lascam). He has 27 years of experience in Cooperative Administration and Management with Wema Cooperative Multipurpose Society, Lagos.

Akinlayo Folasoye Oyediran is happily married with children.

# EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**CHIDIEBERE  
N. OLEDIBE**

Chidiebere N. Oledibe, hails from Oji River Local Government Area of Enugu State. He had his primary education at Idaw River Primary School/Agbani Road Primary School, Enugu and his Secondary education at Union Secondary School, Awkunanaw and Community Secondary School, Udi, all in Enugu State. He proceeded to Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu State, where he obtained Ordinary National Diploma and Higher National Diploma in Computer Science and University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus (UNEC), where he obtained a PGD and MBA in Marketing.

Mr. Oledibe joined the National Examinations Council (NECO) in 1999 as a System Analyst/Programmer II in the ICT Department then Office of the Registrar. He joined the NECO Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited in 1999 and got an award from the Society as a good Cooperator. In 2017, Mr. Oledibe contested for the first time and won the position of the Vice President, NECO Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society through a bye election and completed the tenor as an Acting President. He contested for the same position of the President in 2019 and won. In 2023, the same position was unopposed as a mark of honesty and dedication for the welfare of members at large and retained the position of the President, NECO Staff Multipurpose Society till date.

Mr. Oledibe has attended various Cooperative Conferences and trainings, and this has translated in his administrative prowess in NECO Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society. Mr. Oledibe is a friend to all and has constantly maintained that Cooperative is all about welfare, equity and equality. He is a good administrator and has navigated to raise the profile of NECO Staff Multipurpose Society as the largest Cooperative Society in Niger State both in monthly remittance and service delivery. He brought in good policies and innovation that have moved the Cooperative forward and members are enjoying it. All these yielded a positive result during the covid-19 epidemic till date. Accountability and transparency are his watch words. He believed and worked with the principles of cooperative. Mr Oledibe is happily married and with beautiful children.



**MRS. OLUBUNMI  
ABEJIRIN**

President,  
Airtel Staff Cooperative  
Multipurpose Society Ltd

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**UMAR  
BUHARI ALI**

President,  
INEC Staff Multipurpose  
Cooperative Society Ltd.  
Kaduna State

During my tenure as the President of the INEC Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society, I led several projects and initiatives aimed at advancing both our organization and the welfare of our members:

- 1. Cooperative Expansion and Digitization:**
  - I led the effort to expand our cooperative's membership base and embrace digital technology. This expansion enabled us to reach more INEC staff members and provide online services, making it more convenient for our members to access cooperative resources.
- 2. Members' Welfare Programs:**
  - We sustained members' welfare programs, including loans and credit facilities, educational grants, and emergency financial support. These initiatives helped improve the overall well-being and financial security of our members.

- 3. Capacity Building and Training:**
  - To enhance members' entrepreneurial and vocational skills, we organized training and capacity-building programs. These programs equipped our members with valuable skills, making them more competitive in the job market or as entrepreneurs.
- 4. Construction of Secretariat/Store and Canteen**
  - For effective and efficient management of day to day activities of the society and maintenance of files and other cooperative documents, we built a secretariat, with a store which serves as storage location where we purchase commodities and sell to our members at competitive price and convenient payment plan.
    - A canteen was also provided in the building which solved the problem of staff of the Commission having access to quality and affordable food within the office premises. these initiatives not only strengthened the financial well-being of our members but also reinforced our cooperative's commitment to social responsibility. As the President of the INEC Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society, my leadership focused on creating an inclusive and empowering environment for our members, advancing their economic prospects, and contributing positively to the community at large. Our projects and initiatives served as a testament to our dedication to both the organization and humanity.

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**MR. WASIU  
OYESOLA RUFAI**

Vice President,  
Lagos State Cooperative  
Finance & Investment Society Ltd.

### BRIEF PROFILE

#### MR RUFAI WASIU OYESOLA (aka MUKADAM)

I started my journey into Cooperative Management at Lagos Airport Hotel (Staff) CMS in year 2003 when I was elected as the Vice President of the Society. I became President in year 2005 through 2009. It was during my tenure that the Society upgraded to CMS. Also the first set of land allottees at the Society's estate were assisted to move to their houses. I was elected the General Secretary of Ikeja

Multipurpose Cooperative Union in year 2008 and represented the Union as a board member at LASCOFED between 2008 and 2012. I then became the Vice President of the Union till 2019 when I became President as a result of the death of then President Pastor Akinola Abiola as I completed the tenure in year 2020 and decided not to contest for any elective



**MR. KAYODE  
OSUMAH**

President,  
Wema Bank staff  
Multipurpose Cooperative  
Society Ltd. Lagos

Mr. Kayode Osumah Bsc, ACS, M.Sc. Finance  
Kayode Osumah is an Assistant General Manager (AGM) at Wema Bank Plc. A consummate banker with over a decade of cognate banking and finance experience across major banking divisions. Retail, Commercial Banking, Investment Banking, Risk Management, Relationship Management and Business Development. An associate member of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (CIS) and a Fellow of the Association of Enterprise Risk Management Professionals of Nigeria, Kayode obtained his first degree in Business Administration from University of Benin and M.Sc. Finance from the University of Lagos. He is a versatile reader and very passionate with his career. He has attended both local and international trainings. He delivers trainings at workshops on part-time basis. Kayode is happily married with children.

Fellow, Association of Enterprise Risk Management Professionals, 2016  
Certificate in Sales Management, Regenesys Business School, 2016  
M.Sc. Finance University of Lagos, 2015  
B.Sc. Business Admin (Second Class Upper) University of Benin, 2004  
Member, Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (CIS), 2015  
Train the Trainer program, FITC, 2015  
Expert Certificate in Balanced Scorecard, Washington University / BSC Institute, 2013  
Certificate in Mobilization of Domestic Savings, National Savings Institute, India-

# EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**NNAEMEKA  
UWAKWE ITIRI Ph.D.**

Nnaemeka Uwakwe Itiri, PhD hails from Amasiri in Afikpo North Local Government, Ebonyi State. He had his primary education at Amasiri Central School, Amasiri and his secondary education at Amasiri Secondary School, Amasiri. He proceeded to Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki where he obtained a Second Class Honours (Upper Division) Degree in History and International Relations (2005). He also obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (2011); a Master of Arts Degree in International Studies (2015); and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Military History (2019) from Africa's top military university, the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna. Thereafter, Dr. Uwakwe proceeded to the National Open University of Nigeria where he obtained a Master of Education Degree in Educational Administration and Planning (2022).

Dr. Uwakwe joined the National Examinations Council in 2010 as an Examination Officer II in the Examination Development Department and immediately joined the NECO Staff Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd. Through utter determination and unabashed passion for his job and the Cooperative, he contested for the position of Secretary, Loans Committee in 2016 and won. He contested again for the same position in 2019 and won. In 2023, in a highly contested election, he won the position of the Welfare Secretary of NECO Staff Multipurpose Society Ltd and has been doing well in the affairs of the Cooperative Society that his name has become a 'household name' among members of NECO Staff MCS.

Dr. Uwakwe has attended different Cooperative Conferences and trainings, which the tremendous impact can be seen in his progression in Cooperative Leadership. He is a jolly good fellow, maintains reputable human relations among his fellow executive members, colleagues and Cooperators. He has proved himself as an effective supporter, inspiring motivator and intelligent co-ordinator whose activities with NECO MCS Leadership have successfully raised the profile of the NECO Staff Cooperative Society within Niger State, in particular, and Nigeria at large by introducing initiatives that make things function effectively.

Apart from his schedules in NECO Staff MCS, Dr. Uwakwe is engaged in Community Development Services as an Expert Test Item Evaluator for UNICEF, the Universal Basic Education Commission and their likes. He is a member of the famous Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN), Examination Ethics Marshal International (EEMI) and Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN). He has contributed chapters in edited books and has published in local and international journals. Dr. Uwakwe is happily married and blessed with beautiful children.



# MOST INNOVATIVE COMPANY OF THE YEAR



## **CWG PLC PRODUCT – UCP (Unified Cooperative Platform)**

Brief Profile of organization (250 Words): CWG is a Pan-African systems solutions company which specializes in a wide array of IT services including : communications, and integration services, infrastructure services, managed and support services, cloud services, and software. As a leading provider of IT services across Africa, CWG operates a firmly established partnership network which connects businesses, enterprises, governments, customers, and consumers, utilizing value-added services to help them efficiently drive processes, and improve across their respective activities.

With over two decades of immense contribution to the Information Communication and Technology Sector, CWG has continuously remained a benchmark for excellence in Africa. We believe in and pursue an excellent service culture and deliver our operations through global best practices using its ISO9001 certification process across the entire group. Over time, we have received several accolades from our partners, clients, customers, media and professional bodies as a result of our service excellence and increased performance. Most recently, The World Economic Forum (WEF) recognized CWG as a Global Growth Company.



**HIGH CHIEF  
AWE RUFUS M.**

“Truly, the height reached by great men  
is not a result of a sudden flight.”

Congratulations

**High Chief Awe Rufus M.**

On your well-deserved honour as Father of the Day  
and Investiture as CRASoN National Patron Courtesy:

BIU Progressive Cooperative Union Ltd. Abaji- Abuja.

Elder. Tunji Oyewole  
For Management

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**AJAYI ADEYEMI  
SAMUEL**

President, NSCDC Cooperative  
Multipurpose Society Ltd. Lagos

Samuel Adeyemi Ajayi, work with Nigeria Security and civil Defence corps. He had served in different capacity in the corps as a special duty officer, divisional officer from December 2011 to May 2019.

He has attended various courses in capacity building, Intelligence and interrogation courses with the DSS, courses in Jaji with the military to and attended all LASCOFED retreat in the last four years to mention but few.

He rose to the rank of Assistant Commandant of Corps (ACC). Presently he is the president of NSCDC multipurpose cooperative society ikeja.

A graduate of Bsc in political science and Masters in Public Administration.

He is married with four children. A fan of Arsenal and plays table tennis



**OKOLIE EMMANUEL  
AZUKA PHD**

### AWARD OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Okolie Emmanuel Azuka PhD was born into the family of Prof & Mrs. Patrick Ikechukwu Okolie in 80s in Ibadan South West Nigeria. He hail from Ogwashi-uku in Aniocha-south L.G.A of Delta State Nigeria. Emmanuel Azuka is married with beautiful daughter and sons. He attended Ibadan Municipal Grammar School, IMG Oke-Bola, sharp-corner Ibadan, where he obtained a primary school learning certificate (pry 6). After primay level in 1993, he proceeded to have a secondary school certificate in Baptist secondary School, liberty road, Oke-Ado, Ibadan and later concluded his secondary school at Akodo Community High School, Ibeju, Lekki, Epè, Lagos State Nigeria. In 1999 he gain admission into Delta State University to study Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and graduated 2004/2005 session, his PGDE was in 2006/2007 at Usman Danfo-Dio University. Dr Emmanuel Azuka Okolie under faculty of Management and social sciences bagged numerous master degree such as M.Sc. management, M.Sc. Marketing, M.Sc. Business Administration and MSc Social work and later got his PhD in Business Administration with a specialization in Marketing.

Dr Emmanuel Azuka Okolie is a Rotarian from the secretary, he rouse to the position of becoming the Rotary president of Ogwashi-uku District 9140 2009 to 2010 rotary year. He is an executive member of Ogo oluwa cooperative society till date, where he counsel people who wants loan and how to utilize the loan, just as Yoruba people says we buy and sell money in cooperative society, in his career he has managed so many schools in the Eastern part, Western part, and the Northern part of Nigeria, He was a coordinator of programmes such as IUMB. He has published and supervised many students from ND, HND, B.Sc., and Masters to PhD level. Dr Emmanuel Azuka Okolie has written and published so many books in Marketing and its related field of study. He rendered community services where he became the secretary for eight good years at Blue Gate Estate Oluyole Ibadan. He is a member of full gospel business mens fellowship and fellow of so many professional bodies. He has won so many local and international awards.

Finally, Dr Emmanuel Azuka okolie is the present Head of Department of Marketing(HOD) at Federal cooperative college Eleyele Ibadan. Thanks

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**MR. BABATUNDE  
O. SOTIN**

Emeritus President,  
FMT & A Cooperative  
Society Ltd

### CITATION OF MR. SOTIN, BABATUNDE OLUMIDE

Mr. Sotin Babatunde Olumide, an indigene of Badagry Local Government, Lagos State was born on the 17th November, 1964.

He started his educational career at Local Authority Primary School, Badagry, in 1971 and graduated with a First School Leaving Certificate in 1977.

Between 1977 and 1979, he started his secondary education at Progress College, Oko Oba, Agege, Lagos, from where he moved to Awori Anglican Comprehensive High School, Ipaja in 1979. He completed his secondary education in 1982, bagging his Ordinary Level Certificate.

Due to his brilliance and exceptional quest for knowledge, Babatunde proceeded to the Lagos State College of Science and Technology, Isolo, between 1983 and 1985, obtaining his Advanced Level Certificate in 1985.

He gained admission into the prestigious Ogun State University, now Olabisi Onabanjo University, in 1987, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Education in 1990.

He proceeded for his mandatory National Youth Service Corp program same year at the famous Oriwu College, Ikorodu. His commitment, dedication, and exemplary conduct paved way for his retention at the College, as he was granted automatic employment. He taught at Oriwu College Ikorodu between 1991 and 1994.

He has a Masters degree in public administration from the University of Ilorin

He started his professional career at the Federal Civil Aviation Authority (FCAA), Local Airport, Ikeja as Personnel Officer II in 1994, from where he was redeployed to the Nigerian Airspace Management Authority in the year 1999. He has consistently and progressively risen to the position of Deputy General Manager, Human Resources, at the Nigerian Airspace Management Authority (NAMA). A position he holds to date. Within his service years, he served as Special Assistant to the MD/CE of NAMA at three different times, and he has served in various Management committees at different capacities.

An astute administrator and manager of resources, Mr. Babatunde Sotin was elected as the 1st Vice President of FMT&A Cooperative Society in the year 2014, and later President in the year 2017.

During his time as the President of the Society, he introduced lots of innovations, and upscale the operations of the Society to an unprecedented level.

His legacy project as the President was the conception and building of 2 Blocks of 2 Storey Buildings containing 18 numbers of 2 Bedroom flats, and 34 Units of Exquisite Bungalows at a serene estate in Agbara. The project was commissioned in January this year. He also led the team that increased the total assets of FMT&A Cooperative Society from N1.5b to over N3b, amongst numerous other laudable achievements.

A member of the Nigeria Institute of Management and Chartered Institute of Personnel Management, Mr. Sotin has attended several trainings both within and outside Nigeria.

He is happily married with wonderful children.

## EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**MR. ABDUR-RAHMAN  
LEKKI**

Executive Secretary,  
Lagos State Scholarship Board

AbdurRahman Lekki is a Management Services Consultant and Facilitator with Specialization in Business Process Design & Improvement, Structure reengineering, Mandate realignment, Human Resource Management, Leadership, Change Management, Emotional Intelligence and Financial Intelligence. He has an uncompromising belief that people are key to success in any organization.

He has over 10,000 man hours as a facilitator and consultant at several local and international conferences and seminars and has consulted for several private and public sector organisations across the country.

He is the Co-Founder of Paysmosmo.com and CubeVest.com. AbdurRahman was also the President of Zero Interest Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd, the Largest Web Based, Non Interest Cooperative and Second Largest Multipurpose Cooperative in Nigeria. He is the Convener and Lead Faculty of the Total Freedom Project, a non for profit, Leadership Training Academy committed to breeding future leaders. He has a Higher National Diploma in Marketing, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics as well as a Masters in Business Administration. He is

an alumni of the Prestigious Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, UK.

He is a member of the Nigeria Institute of Management (Chartered) and The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants. AbdurRahman Lekki currently serves as the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board.

He was the immediate past Head of Consultancy Services Unit in Office of Transformation Creativity and Innovation after having served variously as Heads of Learning and Development as well as Workforce Planning Unit of Administration and Human Resource Department in Ministry of Information and Strategy, Lagos State

He was the Supervisor for Budget, Planning and Statistics in Lekki Local Council Development Area.

Lekki is a multiple awards winner, amongst which is the Y2020 Lagos State Productivity Order of Merit Award (Senior Staff Category) and Year 2018 Lagos State Outstanding Officer of the Year Award (Senior Staff Category).

AbdurRahman Lekki who also has several years' experience as a TV and Radio Presenter is a Grassroots Mobilizer and Youth Motivator per excellence.

# EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



**YEKINNI ADEBAYO  
JIMOH**

Yekinni Adebayo Jimoh born 57 years ago in the ancient city of Ilorin.

He had his, primary education in Budum pry school in Maiduguri.

He had his Masters degree in the prestigious Enugu State University Business school ( ESUT Business school) after bagging his first degree from the University of Ilorin and a post graduate degree

## AWARD OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



**DR. OYELEYE SUNDAY  
STEPHEN Ph.D.**

Biography of Dr. Oyeleye Sunday Stephen Ph.D.

### **Award of Academic Excellence and Good Governance.**

Oyeleye Sunday Stephen Ph.D. was born on 17th June, 1963 into the family of Mr. & Mrs. Oyeleye Josiah in a born called Arigidi Akoko, Akoko North West L.G.A. Ondo State, Nigeria. Oyeleye Sunday Stephen is married with beautiful and handsome children. He attended Christ Central Primary School Ilupenju Lagos in 1974 after that he proceeded in Methodist Boy's High School Lagos State where he graduated in 1979 also in Lagos Nigeria. After his secondary school education he proceed for his higher school education at Obafemi Awolowo University (Great Ife) in 1986 where he Bagged Bachelor of Agricultural Economics B.A.Agric.Economics, because of his interest for education, he also Bagged Bachelor of Science Degree in Cooperative and Business Management (CBM) at Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) Ago-Iwoye at ijebu land Ogun State. He immediately proceeded to have his Master Degree in Cooperative and Business Management at the same University (OOU) Ago-Iwoye Ogun State, as if that was not enough. He decided to proceed for his Ph.D. programme in Cooperative Economics & Management at Nnamdi Asikiwe University Akwa Nigeria in 2018 and graduated in April 27th, 2023. Dr. Sunday Stephen Oyeleye has served in many capacities both in ministry and Academy Environment. He has attended so many workshops and Conferences in Cooperative Development and Management. He has taught in many institution. In 2020, Dr. Oyeleye Sunday Stephen was appointed the Provost of Federal Cooperative College Eleyele Ibadan and he is still holding unto the post till date

Thanks.



**HIGH CHIEF  
AWE RUFUS M.**

## Goodwill Message

On Behalf of Entire Board of Director  
and Management Committee

UGV Progressive Union Ltd.  
Gwagwalada

We extend our heartfelt congratulations  
to you on your well-deserved honour as  
father of the day and Investiture as

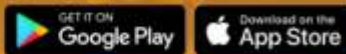
**CRASoN National President**

Your inclusiveness in leadership  
has been exemplary.

We wish you Many More Great  
Achievements!

**COOP**  
UGV PROGRESSIVE UNION

# Stronger Together with UCP



The Unified Cooperative Platform (UCP) is a collaborative effort between the National Cooperative Financing Agency Limited (CFAN) and CWG PLC to provide a standardised cooperative technologically driven platform that would meet the operational needs of cooperative societies in Nigeria.

## • Features:

- Member Management
- Account Management
- Credit Risk Management
- Offline Statement Rendition
- Information Management System
- Automation of Monthly Depreciation
- Interest and Loan Record Management
- Standard Cooperative operations Additional Security feature

## Benefits:

- Better member experience
- Increased productivity and profitability
- Access to a centralised solution remotely Access to the Financial Services Ecosystem
- Improved Operational Efficient and Accountability Effective and Efficient Oversight, Control and Reporting
- Total Cost of Ownership of IT Hardware and Software

## ***How to register:***

- Register your cooperative on [www.coopplatform.com.ng](http://www.coopplatform.com.ng)
- Receive provisioning Link from CWG and make subscription payment
- Input Cooperative Data (Member list and balances) on an excel template
- Upload your Cooperative Data through the link
- Setup your cooperative
- Start Using the Solution





ALH. SADIQ SAHEED ANAKO

CONGRATULATIONS

On Behalf Of The Entire Team at  
Strategic Shelter Development Co.LTD



We extend our heartfelt congratulations  
to you on your well-deserved  
“Cooperative Man of the year Award”  
Your Inclusiveness in leadership has been  
exemplary.

We wish You Many More Great  
Achievements!

Partner with us with  
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a partner you can trust

**AGMB**  
**ASSET-BIN**  
AGMB ASSET-BACKED INVESTMENT NOTE

**FEATURES**

- Great interest rate for short or medium term investors
- Five years tenor renewable annual
- Asset backed investment ( Investors interest is noted on the asset).
- Quarterly payment of interest with option to re-invest same.
- Issuance of investment note certificate.

**BENEFITS**

- Secular investment
- Attractive return on investment
- Priority return on investment
- Stable income stream
- Flexibility of investment and redemption
- Opportunity for growth in investment and wealth creation
- Opportunity for savings and accumulation of funds towards acquisition of properties



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# CoopSupport & CRASoN

kick start their Health-Focused CSR project  
- The Cooperative National Hygiene Initiative



## FIRST & SECOND CSR OUTREACH

Held in Lagos at Ebute Elefun Senior High School & Dolphin Junior High School, Lagos Island



Dear Cooperators,

You will recall that earlier this year, we launched, on behalf of the Cooperative Sector a private-led CSR Project tagged **COOPERATIVE NATIONAL HYGIENE INITIATIVE**.

I am glad to inform you that we have kick-started the ambitious goal of reaching out to 10 million Students across the Country with the pilot scheme taking off from some schools in Lagos and Abuja simultaneously in July 2022.

We would love to appreciate the few individuals and Cooperative Societies who inspite of this being a fresh idea believed in our vision and supported us financially and otherwise to make this happen.

However, like Oliver Twist, we would always come knocking on your door seeking more aid to be able to achieve the goal of the health-focused CSR Initiative anchored on oral, body, and menstrual hygiene. We would be having a second outreach later in the year in line with our decision based on your valued feedback, to have the outreaches twice every year.



Kindly donate to this noble cause to enable us to reach out to more students and other vulnerable groups in our society, noting that no amount is too small.

The account details to facilitate your financial support as contained in the e-flier remain as follows:

**Acct No: 5600778873**  
**Banker: Fidelity Bank**  
**Acct Name: Coop National Hygiene Initiative**

We wish to reiterate for the avoidance of doubt that participation is voluntary and Cooperative Societies donating to this cause may refer to such donations as part of the societies' CSR involvements in their respective Annual Reports & Accounts, even as individual donations from members of the public are equally welcome.

Thank you once again and God bless you as you support this noble cause of humanity.

Regards Yours Cooperatively,  
Project Coordinator 08024472797.

#CoopHygiene #WeAreCoops  
#CooperativeBuildsABetterWorld



CoopSupport & CRASoN

**THIRD CSR OUTREACH**

We need your support to do  
More outreaches. Kindly Donate to:

Acct Name: Coop National Hygiene Initiative  
Account No: 5600778873  
Banker: Fidelity Bank Plc

**Government Secondary School.  
Tudun Wada, Wuse, Zone 4, Abuja. FCT**



We need your support to  
do more outreaches  
Kindly donate to

Acct Name: 5600778873  
Banker: Fidelity Bank Plc



# CoopSupport & CRASoN

5TH CSR OUTREACH  
HELD AT KINGS AND QUEENS ACADEMY,  
OSOGBO, OSUN STATE.



# CoopSupport & CRASoN

5TH CSR OUTREACH  
HELD AT KINGS AND QUEENS ACADEMY,  
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Regards Yours Cooperatively,  
**Project Coordinator 08024472797.**  
**#CoopHygiene #WeAreCoops**  
**#CooperativeBuildsABetterWorld**

► Theme

# “REIMAGINING COOPERATIVE IN NIGERIA: OUR SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD”

## SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

TOPIC: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES WITH EFFECTIVE REGULATORY SYSTEM



**ALHAJA (MRS.) ZULIKAH O. IBRAHEEM**  
Director, Directorate of Co-operatives, Savings Society of Co-operatives, Consumer, Trade & Investment Lagos State

TOPIC: STUCK IN THE DIG ECONOMY? TRY PLATFORM CO-OPS INSTEAD



**PROF. R. TREBOR SCHOLZ**  
Chairman, Institute for New Collaborative Business Models, University of Applied Sciences, Germany; Director, Center for Cooperative Studies, The Ohio State University, USA

THEME: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA: OUR SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD



**MRS. SIKAIYE O. TEMITOPE**  
President, Lagos Island Micro-Enterprise Co-operative Union, USA

THEME: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA: OUR SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD



**ABDUR-RAHMAN LEKKI**  
Executive Secretary, LAGOS STATE REGULATORY BOARD

TOPIC: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES WITH EFFECTIVE REGULATORY SYSTEM.



**MR. LAJA SORUNKE**  
President, Lagos State Co-operative Union

THEME: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA: OUR SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD



**MR. DAVID O. DADA**  
President, Lagos State Co-operative Union

TOPIC: PRESERVING OUR COOPERATIVE IDENTITY: THE DOTCOOP BRAND



**MR. TOM IVEY**  
Cooperative Development Manager, dotcooperative UK, dotcooperative

TOPIC: RE-INVENTING COOPERATIVE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**MR. OLUFEMI OBAKOYA**  
Executive Director, Lagos State Co-operative Union, Lagos State Co-operative Union, Lagos State

TOPIC: REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS: OPTIONS FOR COOPERATIVES & COOPERATORS



**MS. MARTHA ONSACHI**  
Chief Executive Officer, Coast Capital - a subsidiary of Coast Holdings

TOPIC: COOPERATIVE LOAN PORTFOLIO-AT-RISK: THE CREDIT BUREAU'S ADVANTAGE



**MS. ONOME AKO**  
Executive Secretary, Credit Bureau Association of Nigeria (CBAN)

TOPIC: THE REGULATION, THE REGULATOR OR THE OPERATOR: WHICH IS BARRIER TO COOPERATIVE INNOVATIONS?



**MUHAMMED S. BELLO, FICP**  
Executive Director, Co-operatives & Labour Education Research Centre (CLEERC)

TOPIC: PLATFORM COOPERATIVES: EMBRACING THE FUTURE NOW!



**LUDOVICA ROGERS**  
Head of Social Entrepreneurship, Co-operatives UK

THEME: RE-IMAGINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA: OUR SUCCESS STORIES, CHALLENGES & THE WAY FORWARD



**MS. LOUISA OLANIYI (MC LUVVY)**  
Co-Op Personality & Branding Specialist





# THE NEED TO SUPPORT CRASoN'S INITIATIVE OF REDEFINING COOPERATIVES IN NIGERIA

**HAFIZ BAKARE (FCIB, FNIM, FIMC, MIoD)**  
FORMER MD/CEO, KEYSTONE BANK LIMITED

GUEST SPEAKER AT THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL COOPERATIVE AWARDS,  
SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITIONS 2021

## Outline

- 1 Ideal Principles For Operation of Co-operatives, Advantages of The Cooperative Organization & Benefits to the Larger Society
- 2 Challenges & Limitations of Cooperatives
- 3 Redefining Cooperative Standards
- 4 CRASoN's Objectives and How Independent Stakeholder Role Redefines and Enhances the Cooperative Sector
- 5 Conclusion and Need to Support The CRASoN Initiative

## Ideal Principles For Operation of Co-operatives, Advantages of the Cooperative Organization & Benefits to the Larger Society

### Principles For Operation of Cooperatives

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training, and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern For Community

## Ideal Principles For Operation of Co-operatives, Advantages of the Cooperative Organization & Benefits To The Larger Society

### Advantages of the Cooperative Organization

- Easy to Form
- Open Membership
- Democratic Management
- Limited Liability
- Stability
- Economical Operations/Low Management Cost
- Government Patronage
- Mutual Cooperation
- No Speculation
- Other Privileges

## Ideal Principles For Operation of Co-operatives, Advantages of the Cooperative Organization & Benefits To The Larger Society

### Benefits of Cooperatives to the Larger Society

- Contribution to GDP (estimated at over N1trillion in Nigeria for example).
- Tackling Poverty and Creating Food Security
- Providing Affordable Finance
- Building Local Expertise And Profits
- International Cooperation
- Creating Decent Jobs
- Empowering Women

## Challenges & Limitations of Cooperatives

- Limited Capital/Resources
- Inefficient Management
- Low Motivation
- Limited Consideration
- Differences and Factionalism Among Members
- Rigid Rules and Regulations
- Lack of Competition
- Weightage to Personal Gains
- Corruption
- High Interest Rate
- Inadequate Maintenance of Financial Statements /Books of Accounts
- Inadequate Education and Training of Members
- Striking A Balance Between Being A Business Organization & A Social Movement

## Redefining Cooperative Standards: Historical Transition From Government Control to Liberalization

- After independence, cooperative policies and legal frameworks gave African governments powers to direct and manage the affairs of cooperatives.
- By the close of the 1980s, it was apparent that the movement had lost its voluntary and bottom-up character.
- The focus of the second era of cooperative development was liberalization, which sought to free the cooperative movement from government control.
- The immediate impact of liberalization on the cooperative movement was the collapse of many cooperatives
- However, liberalization also triggered the rejuvenation of the cooperative movement by regenerating the solidarity of people from the grassroots
- Led some observers to argue that it was the pseudo-cooperatives that collapsed when the government relaxed its support
- There was creation of new cooperative unions and federations altogether, resulting in the structural reorganization of the cooperative movement.

## Redefining Cooperative Standards: Co-ordination Framework and Stakeholder Groups in a Liberalized Environment



## Redefining Cooperative Standards: The Way Forward - Enhanced Government Control Vs Modified Liberalization

- Lesson from the historical transition scenario is that overt government control over the cooperative movement is counter-productive
- But there is still need for some regulation to ensure that unscrupulous leaders do not exploit other members
- Challenge is to strike a balance
- Simply strengthen the current liberalized arrangement and co-ordination framework
- Review enabling legislation to be more robust and contemporary.
- Strongly support with an independent stakeholder
- Co-operative Rating & Award Society of Nigeria (CRASoN) comes in as a “value-based Rating and Award Institution” to play the independent stakeholder role
- Detached regular assessment of the movement, creating healthy competition
- Rallying point for every other stakeholder group,
- Likened to the emergence of Augusto & Co. for the banking industry many years ago
- Strong Augusto rating – “Badge of Honour”

## CRASoN's Objectives & How Independent Stakeholder Role Redefines and Enhances the Cooperative Sector

### CRASoN's Objectives & Expected Outcomes

- Create national recognition through rating and awards to sustainable co-operative enterprises.
- Help generate data and statistics for better analysis of economic performances and social impact.
- Foster the sharing of best practices and good governance model.
- Further train and inform Co-operative Leaders on how to engage and involve the Government and other development partners.
- Facilitate access to capital: credit facility of N1billion with sponsor bankers.
- Healthy competition and cooperation ultimately leading to increased contribution to GDP.
- Enhanced awareness, socio-economic relevance, good governance and sustainable business model.
- Revitalized and refocused contribution to MSME growth and economic diversification.
- Redefined standards of co-operative operations.

### Conclusion and Need to Support The CRASoN Initiative

- Compelling need for the current Cooperative stakeholders to support CRASoN as an independent stakeholder that would serve as a moral force.
- Continued liberalization
- Consider a review of enabling legislation as opposed to enhancing direct government control
- CRASoN to become a Rallying Point for the cooperative enterprise in Nigeria.
- Extensive collaborations and partnerships
- Continue to raise its own standards and strengthen its capabilities
- CRASoN high rating to become the cooperative sector's **“Badge of Honour”**.
- Confers credibility and opens doors of opportunities
- Ultimately helps to redefine standards for the good of all



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MULTIPURPOSE  
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**MR IKENNA  
MBA**

Gvest Cooperative  
President



**DR. STEPHEN  
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Chairman  
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OLALERE**

Gvest Cooperative  
Vice President

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Gvest Cooperative is a real estate investment that allows diverse investors to key into our real estate properties without owning a property but still get a steady return on investments that guarantees appreciable annual returns on investment.

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**#TheTrailblazers #Lagos2023 #CoopAWARDS  
#CoopSYMPOSIUM #CoopCARE #CoopCOUNT**



Dearest Cooperator,

On behalf of the CRASoN Advisory Board, Jurors, Management Team, and Employees, we say thank you for all the love and support given to us on our just concluded event.

Thank you from the bottom of our heart. It is wonderful to know that we are surrounded by amazing people. In spite of all our shortcomings, technical issue and the hotel management drama, you still choose to stay and made the event what it is - A success!

Thank you for still making us the biggest and most glamorous of cooperative event in Africa.

#APOLOGY - We apologise for all the inconveniences witnessed at the venue. We shall amend and ensure next year things gets better from the feedbacks.

We appreciate all your support and encouragement always. Thank you

TO VIEW ALL THE PICTURES FROM THE EVENTS - The Symposium & Masterclass and that of the Award Show & Dinner...

PLEASE COPY THIS LINK INTO YOUR BROWSER TO VIEW ALL PICTURES OF THE EVENT

<https://crason.coop/crason-award-lagos-2023/>

Cooperatively Yours,

Victor Oyegoke  
President/CEO  
CRASoN.coop  
08033949706  
[victor@crason.coop](mailto:victor@crason.coop)





# FAMSA

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