

NIGERIA @ 65

“We Must Take Leadership Selection Process Serious

I would like to give sincere gratitude to Allah for his mercies and bringing us this far as a country.

I wish to congratulate the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the good people of Nigeria.

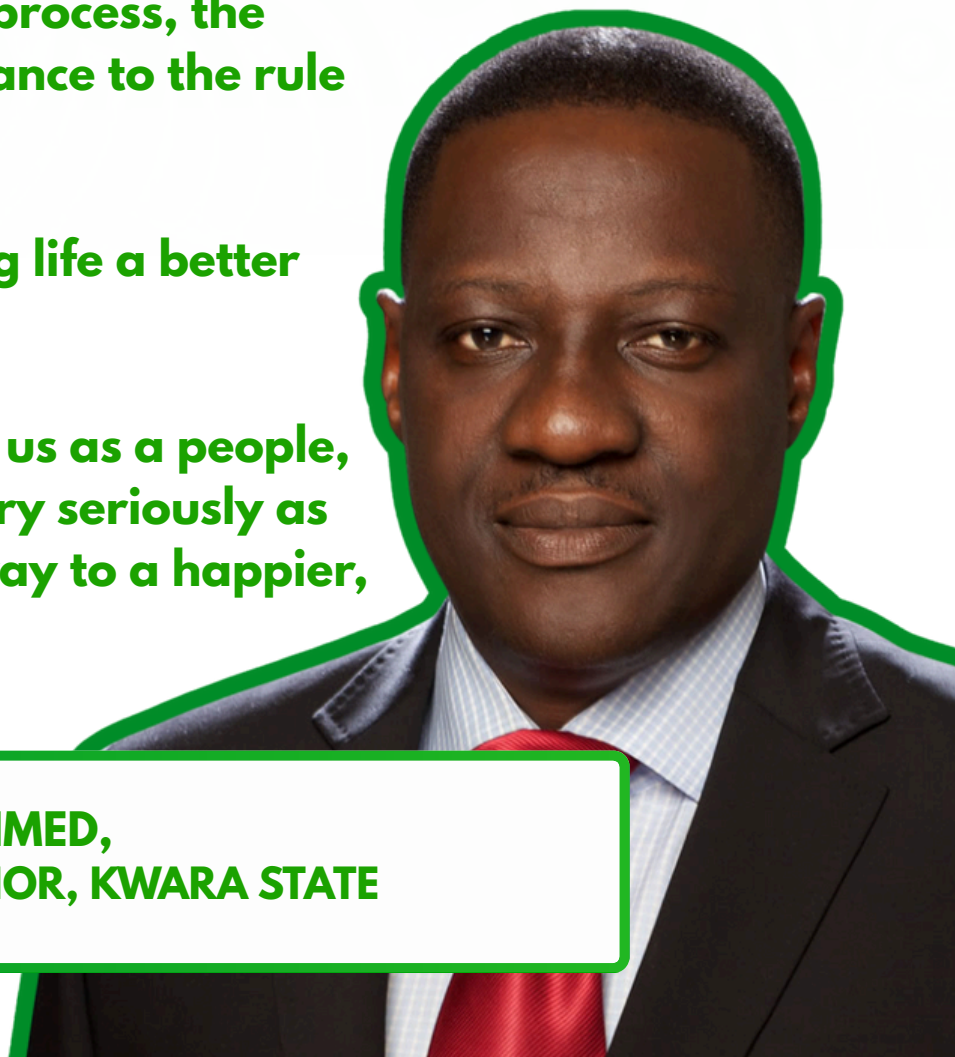
We have gotten this far through sheer resilience and a strong desire to build a wonderful nation.

However, the journey has just begun as we are still faced with the vagaries of weak institutions such as insecurity, impunity and a weak leadership selection process, the bane of which is ingrained in weak compliance to the rule of law.

There's so much that can be done in making life a better place for an average Nigerian.

As we mark another anniversary, I'll urge us as a people, to take the issue of leadership selection very seriously as this will definitely serve as the main gateway to a happier, prosperous Nigeria.”

**ABDULFATAH AHMED,
FORMER GOVERNOR, KWARA STATE**



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“Despite Challenges, We Have Much To Celebrate

Nigeria at 65 stands as a testament to resilience and potential. Over the decades, the nation has navigated significant challenges, including economic fluctuations, political instability, and social strife. Yet, the vibrant spirit of its people and rich cultural heritage remain sources of hope.

Under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, bold steps and decisions have been taken for the betterment of the people. His government has embarked on silent restructuring, earning admiration and acceptance from many, often without the usual opposition. This proactive approach reflects a commitment to progress.

In Ondo State, the great work of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa is also noteworthy. His leadership has focused on development initiatives that uplift communities and enhance the quality of life for residents, showcasing the positive impact of effective governance with EASE at the State level.

Despite the challenges Nigeria has faced, there is much to celebrate: the country remains united, indissoluble, and a proud independent Federal Republic.

As Nigeria moves forward, my wish is for unity, sustainable development, and effective governance. I believe that with collective effort, the nation can harness its vast resources and youthful population to foster innovation and prosperity.

My optimism lies in the possibility of a brighter future where every Nigerian can thrive, contributing to a nation that truly reflects its diversity and strength.”

KAYODE AJULO, SAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE,
ONDO STATE.



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“In my personal opinion, Nigeria at 65 is a story of endurance, creativity and greater potential. In six and a half decades we have survived civil war, military rule, economic shocks and insecurity, yet our democracy stands, our people remain dynamic, and our unity endures.

My wish is for Nigeria to convert its vast human and natural resources into inclusive growth, stronger institutions and a fairer society. With its youthful population, entrepreneurial energy and strategic position in Africa, Nigeria can lead the continent into a new era of innovation and prosperity.

I remain optimistic about Nigeria’s future, because history shows our capacity to rebound and reinvent ourselves.

Happy 65th anniversary to a resilient, hopeful and endlessly resourceful Nigeria.”

DR. SAMINU UMAR,

SENIOR LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & MEDIA STUDIES,
FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO



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Nigeria is a land of missed opportunities and dashed hopes. We are too blessed to be this poor and miserable.

As a country, we need to recalibrate our developmental trajectory and refocus the vision and mission of the country.

Unfortunately, the mindset now is on the self rather than on the collective. We need a new approach to nation building.

OLUTAYO CHARLES ADESINA,

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN AND CURRENTLY
BRITISH ACADEMY'S GLOBAL PROFESSORSHIP AWARD FELLOW IN UK



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“The primary hope for Nigeria at 65 is that we would have gone far on the road towards national integration. To the contrary, what we have today is a regression towards hopelessness.

The refrain today is that Nigeria is more divided today than at any time of its short history save the civil war episode. This lapse is an epiphenomenon of failures across multiple indices of socioeconomic development.

Be it national security, standard of living, economic immiserisation, corruption, resource curse syndrome and nauseum. What we now have is an intensification of the systemic crisis and potential national collapse.

I see no escape from this national quagmire other than the prescription of urgent constitutional reform towards the restoration of federalism, the devolution and decentralisation of power.”

AKIN OSHUNTOKUN,

COLUMNIST, FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL CAMPAIGNS OF THE LABOUR PARTY



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“It’s Been a Journey of Grit and Grace

For some of us who are almost same age with Nigeria except we are a bit older, there is an inevitable feeling that we have shared the same fate with this country.

Very shaky starts, but amidst so much expectations and promises; navigating through very scary times some of which would look like the end of the world had come.

But happily, we still have good stories to tell. So, at 65, it is evident Nigeria has good stories to tell even amidst its very daunting challenges.”



**DR. ISMAIL ADEBAYO ADEWUSI,
FORMER POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION**



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Nigeria at 65: A Reflection

Nigeria, on the occasion of its 65th anniversary, exemplifies the resilience and enduring spirit of its people. Over the course of more than six decades, the nation has faced numerous challenges, including military rule, political unrest, economic struggles, insecurity, ethnic conflicts, civil war, and governance issues.

Although these hardships tested our unity and slowed progress, they never shattered our collective will. Despite difficulties, Nigeria has made notable strides in education, science and technology, culture, arts, and youth entrepreneurship.

The country continues to earn international recognition, not just for its size and potential but also for its talented, creative, and determined citizens. As we celebrate this milestone, we must recognise both our weaknesses and strengths.

The Nigeria we aspire to is still emerging. I hope for a future where justice, fairness, unity, peace, and sustainable growth are fundamental. I also envision leadership founded on integrity and accountability, equal opportunities for all, and a society where everyone can succeed regardless of background.

I remain hopeful that, with visionary leadership, responsible governance, and collective effort, Nigeria can realise its potential - not only as Africa's giant but also as a global symbol of hope and progress.

ANTHONY KOLA-OLUSANYA,

PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & FORMER DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR,
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND PARTNERSHIPS, OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY.

