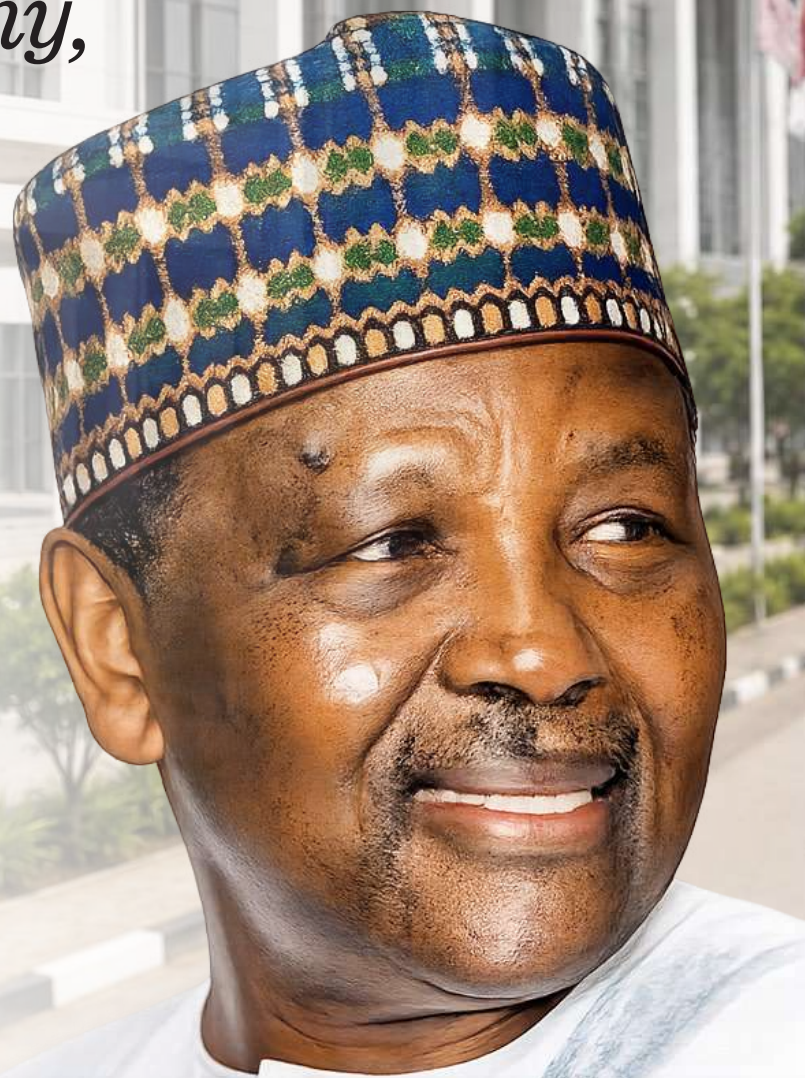


Yakubu GOWON:

*An Autobiography,
Finally...*

**KARU: WHERE ABUJA
WAKES UP BEFORE DAWN**
Page 19

**JAMES ABIODUN FALEKE: THE RISE
& RISE OF A PRESIDENT'S
"MAN - FRIDAY"** Page 27



Street Trading in Abuja, The Law, The Enforcement, and the Struggle to Survive

By Gboko Naomi Sewuese



For years, the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has maintained laws prohibiting trading on roadsides, pedestrian walkways, and major intersections. Officials argue that street trading obstructs traffic, exposes traders to accidents, contributes to environmental pollution, and damages the modern image of the capital city.

Yet despite repeated crackdowns, the traders continue to return

A Daily Battle on Abuja Roads

On a hot afternoon at Berger Junction, traders rushed in different directions after spotting a task force vehicle approaching. Within minutes, the roadside emptied. But barely thirty minutes later, business resumed as though nothing had happened.

At sunrise, the streets of Abuja begin to stir with movement. Along busy roads in Wuse, Area 1, Nyanya, Kubwa, and the ever-crowded Berger axis, traders arrange fruits, belts, bottled drinks, vegetables, shoes, phone accessories, and snacks on trays and makeshift tables. As traffic builds, they move swiftly between vehicles, calling out prices and searching for buyers before enforcement officials appear.

“Street trading has become one of the most visible features of daily life in Nigeria’s capital city. While authorities describe it as illegal and dangerous, many residents see it as a survival strategy in a harsh economy marked by unemployment, inflation, and rising living costs.”

For many traders, the risk is part of the job.

“I know it is not allowed, but this is what feeds my family,” said Ibrahim Musa, a roadside fruit seller near Area 1. “If the government removes us completely without providing alternatives, how do we survive?”

Another trader, Grace Daniel, who sells bottled water and soft drinks in traffic around Wuse Market, said enforcement exercises often lead to the seizure of goods

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Dayo Benjamins-Laniyi: A Champion Steps Up

The appointment of Amb. Dayo Benjamins-Laniyi as the Director-General of the National Women Development Centre (NWDC) is a masterstroke in administrative foresight. A multifaceted powerhouse—celebrated compere, seasoned event strategist, life coach, and environmental advocate—she transitions into this pivotal role fresh off a impactful tenure as the FCT Mandate Secretary for Women Affairs.

Her appointment comes at a critical juncture. As Nigerian women push harder for political inclusivity and the vulnerabilities facing the girl-child demand urgent, systemic solutions, Dayo's transition from grassroots activist to high-level administrator is both reassuring and deeply strategic.

The timing could not be more perfect. It follows on the heels of the landmark Onew Million Women-Vision Project at the Moshowwwod Abiola National Stadium—a monumental empowerment initiative that underscored her capacity for large-scale mobilization.

“While expectations are undeniably high, the consensus is clear: this is a quintessential ‘round peg in a round hole.’ Nigeria has placed a proven champion of women’s advancement exactly where she belongs.”

With her appointment by President Bola Tinubu as the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Maryam Babangida National Centre for Women Development (MBNCWD), Dayo Benjamins-Laniyi certainly has a major task ahead of her.

However, looking at her background, she comes

INSIDE ABUJA MAGAZINE



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APC Primaries: Winners & Losers

AHEAD OF THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen
Secured his return ticket.



Ndudi Elumelu, Tony Elumelu's brother
WON his bid to return to the Green Chamber to represent his people in Delta State



Professor Julius Ihonvbere, House Leader
in the Green Chamber LOST in Edo State



Dr. Ben Kalu, deputy speaker of the
House of Representatives WON in Abia



Senate Leader, Michael Opeyemi
Bamidele (MOB), WON in Ekiti



Godswill Akpabio, Senate President,
WON his primaries in Akwa Ibom



Yahaya Bello, former governor of Kogi
State, WON his senate primary bid



Yusuf Buhari
wins APC Reps ticket in primary election



Senator Philip Aduda
WON his primaries in the FCT

The recent All Progressives Congress (APC) primary elections across Nigeria have shaken up the country's political landscape. Ahead of the 2027 general elections, the primaries—particularly for the House of Representatives—offered a stark reminder that in Nigerian politics, in-



APC Primaries:

Winners & Losers

AHEAD OF THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Hon. Nicholas Mutu
Winner, after 28 years in the Green Chamber



Sittig Governor, Dapo Abiodun
won the duel against Senator Gbenga Daniel in Ogun State



Pascal Okechukwu, aka Cubana Chief-Priest, LOST his House of Representatives bid in Imo State

cumbency alone isn't always a shield against shifting local dynamics or consensus arrangements. While some of the nation's most powerful lawmakers cruised to victory, nearly 50 sitting lawmakers suffered shocking defeats, painting a vivid picture of political survival and sudden displacement nationwide.

The Big Winners: Consolidating Power The establishment figures and top leadership of the National Assembly defended their home turfs successfully, proving their deep-rooted influence within the ruling party. Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen The Speaker of the House of Representatives secured his return ticket in Zaria, Kaduna State, with relative ease. His victory ensures that the party's central

Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu

The Deputy Speaker of the House also emerged victorious in Bende Federal Constituency, Abia State. Kalu's win cements his position as a major political anchor for the APC in the South-East region, where the party is aggressively fighting to expand its footprint.

Other Notable Winners: Yusuf Buhari: The son of former President Muhammadu Buhari won his primary ticket, marking his official debut into mainstream elective politics. Mudashiru Obasa: The veteran Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly also safely clinched his ticket to transition toward federal legislative representation.

The Shocking Losers: The Mighty Fall

The real story of the primaries lies in the massive wave of defeats that swept away entrenched power brokers. Changes in grassroots alignment and intense localized opposition cost several political heavyweights their tickets.

Professor Julius Ihonvbere

In one of the most unexpected outcomes of the weekend, the current Majority Leader of the House of Representatives lost his bid to return. Contesting for the Owan Federal Constituency in Edo State, the high-ranking academic and politician finished a distant third, polling only 1,005 votes against Andrew Ijebgia, who took the ticket with 3,695 votes.



APC Primaries: Winners & Losers

AHEAD OF THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Abdulmumini jibrin, Kano,
will not be coming back to the House of
Representatives next year



**Speaker, Rivers State House of Assem-
bly, Amaewhule LOST**



**Hon Timehin Adelegbe, from Owo/Ose
Federal Constituency, denied his third term
bid to the House of Representatives**

Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi

Representing the Pankshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency in Plateau State, Gagdi's bid for a third term came to a grinding halt. The influential lawmaker, who previously made headlines during leadership races in the House, was soundly defeated by Dr. John Tongshinen, who pulled in a massive 29,968 votes compared to Gagdi's sub-6,000 finish.

Other High-Profile Casualties

Hon. Nicholas Mutu: Representing Bomadi/Patani in Delta State, Mutu is one of the longest-serving lawmakers in the House, having held office since the return to democracy in 1999. His historic run finally hit a roadblock during these primaries.

The Ogun & Ondo Delegations

The Southwest saw significant internal friction. Five serving lawmakers lost their tickets in Ogun State, while six fell in Ondo State following localized disputes over consensus arrangements and alignments with state executives.

The Nationwide Takeaway

The 2026 APC primaries highlighted a party testing its internal boundaries. In states like Rivers, allies of Nyesom Wike successfully outmaneuvered rival factions to secure tickets, while in other regions, local delegates revolted against sit-in representatives.

The Reality of 2026: With over 40 incumbent House members losing their return tickets over a single weekend, the message from the party's grassroots was clear: no seat is safe, and past federal influence does not guarantee local survival.



APC Primaries: Winners & Losers

AHEAD OF THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State,
Senator Ipalibo Banibo-Harry **LOST**



Former Minister, former Governor
Ibrahim Shekarau **LOST**



Imo state Governor, Hope Uzodimma has **stopped**
his predecessor, Owelle Rochas Okorocha from
being an active Senator again



Neda Imasuen, a Senator from Edo, **lost**



Senator Ayo Arise **LOST** to Senator
Cyril Fasuyi in Ekiti



Former Guber hopeful, Osagie Ize-Iyamu
lost in Edo State



Hon. Princess Omowunmi (Wumi)
Olatunji-Ohwovoriole in Ondo State for
House of Representatives



Senator Ahmed Lawan, former Senate
President **stopped** in Yobe from returning
to the Red Chamber



Tein Jack Rich, oil and gas mogul and
philanthropist, **LOST** in Rivers



APC Primaries: Winners & Losers

AHEAD OF THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS



Fomer Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo- Agege **LOST** in Delta



Honourable Yusuf Adamu Gadgi **is not coming back** to the **Green Chamber**



Ex Customs boss, Senator Francis Fadahunsi- Osun State: **LOST**



Senator Oyelola Ashiru, Deputy Senate Leader **LOST** in Kwara



Senator Ned Nwoko **LOST** in Delta



Governor Hope Uzodinma **WON** Race to Senate in Imo



Nkiruka Onyejeocha, former Minister returns for the **Green Chamber** in Abia



“Breaking News”

Rivers Governor, Siminalayi Fubara Withdraws from APC Governorship Primaries



APC PRIMARIES: WHY I STEPPED DOWN - BITRUS GARKI

Hon. Bitrus Lawrence Garki stepped down from the AMAC/Bwari Federal Constituency House of Representatives race to foster political alignment and support the broader agenda of the FCT administration under Minister Nyesom Wike.

Upon withdrawing his candidacy, Garki explicitly endorsed Senator Philip Aduda and other candidates aligned with the FCT Minister's political camp.

His decision was heavily driven by the following key factors:

Party Loyalty and Administration Alignment:

As the Mandate Secretary of the Area Council Services Secretariat (ACSS) under the FCT Administration, Garki chose to prioritize teamwork and alignment with his principal, Nyesom Wike, to maintain a unified political front in Abuja.

Consolidation of Power:

Rather than fracturing votes within the same political network, his withdrawal was structured to consolidate support behind strategic candidates capable of securing victory for the camp.

Focus on Appointed Executive Mandate:

Stepping down allowed him to sustain his undivided focus on his current executive role—where he functions as one of the youngest cabinet members working on grassroots transformation, market revitalization, and digital governance across the FCT's area councils.

PFT2027: WE ARE INTENTIONAL AND STRATEGIC TO GET TINUBU TO CONSOL- IDATE SUSTAINABLY - OCHEPA

Among the numerous support groups working for the ambition of the President in 2027, the Professionals for Tinubu 2027 (PFT2027) stands out. In this interview with Honourable Bernard OCHEPA, the National Coordinator of the Group, he outlined the vision and the strategies synthesised to ensure continuity, consolidation and sustainable development come 2027.

Introduction

My name is Honourable Bernard Ochepe, Prior to my current political engagement, I had been involved in mining and tourism activities on the plateau. I studied Estate Management. After the lift of ban on political activities in the third republic, I won the House of Representatives election under the Social Democratic Party (SDP). Ever since, I have remained politically active and running my private business in the area of mining, tourism and real estate. Beyond my private practice and political offices held, and with the understanding that building partnership with like minds actually promotes healthy governance culture. I have the privilege of getting involved in many Independent social, economic & political groups and presently I am the National Coordinator of the Professionals for Tinubu 2027.



Hon. Bernard OCHEPA

“And of course, as a proven, sound professional accountant and auditor, who is at home with numbers and figures, Bola Tinubu knows and understands that modern governance requires leveraging on professional competence, expertise and experience”

I am part of the growing, nationwide coalition of architects, doctors, nurses, planners, builders, surveyors engineers, lawyers, tech pioneers, information experts, accountants, auditors and industry captains to mention but a few, who believe that Nigeria's path to sustainable growth requires a deliberate bridge between political leadership and professional expertise.

Group vision and mission:

Our mission is anchored on a simple truth: the complexity of modern governance re-



“When professionals lead, the charge & governance become transformative”

quires intellectual capital. We are not just a political campaign group; we are a data-driven, result-oriented support base & structured organization with formation across the grassroots of our country- Nigeria.

Our slogan is, “When professionals lead, the charge & governance become transformative.”

Is PFT strictly an APC affair?

No, it is not. While we are unashamedly supporting the leader of the APC, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for 2027, our membership is technocratic, not partisan.

Development does not care about political parties; a bad road affects an APC member the same way inflation affects a PDP or Labour Party member”data-driven, result-oriented support base & structured organization with formation across the grassroots of our country- Nigeria. Our slogan is, ‘When professionals lead, the charge & governance become transformative.’

Historically, the professional elite in Nigeria has stayed on the sidelines, complaining about governance. We are changing that narrative. Our mission is to mobilize the country’s brightest minds to defend, analyze, and promote the administration’s policies, ensuring the continuity of the Renewed Hope Agenda for a second term because structural reforms require time to yield their full harvest.

Group Spread and Structure:

Our spread is both sector-based and geographical. Geographically, we are establishing structures across all 36 states and the

FCT, as well as reaching out to the Nigerians in the diaspora. Sectorally, we are organized into specialized directorates ranging from, Healthcare, Infrastructure & Engineering, Real Estate & Construction, Digital Economy, Legal & Governance, and Media.

Our strategy relies on three main pillars:

- **Policy Advocacy:** Breaking down complex government policies into digestible, data-backed information for the public to counter misinformation.
- **Town Halls & Symposia:** Hosting sector-specific engagements where professionals can critique, refine, and offer solutions to national challenges.
- **Intellectual Mobilization:** Using peer-to-peer professional networks to mobilize millions of middle-class and

“President Tinubu’s structural reforms, like local government autonomy and macroeconomic adjustments are bold steps that require professional synergy to succeed”

working-class professionals who typically do not vote, converting them into active participants in the 2027 electoral process.

Funding

Funding is the fuel of any serious movement. However, because we are an organization of comfortable, gainfully employed professionals, our primary funding model is crowdsourced self-reliance.

We are funded through membership dues, voluntary contributions from our stakeholders, and fundraising dinners within the professional community. We are intentionally avoiding reliance on government handouts or political godfathers. This independence ensures that our support for the President remains objective, credible, and driven by conviction rather than financial gain.

Is PFT strictly an APC affair?

No, it is not. While we are unashamedly supporting the leader of the APC, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for 2027, our membership is technocratic, not partisan.

Development does not care about political parties; a bad road affects an APC member the same way inflation affects a PDP or Labour Party member. We have members who are politically neutral, and some who have never voted before, but are joining us now because they recognize that President Tinubu's structural reforms, like local government autonomy and macroeconomic adjustments are bold steps that require professional synergy to succeed. We welcome any professional who believes in progress, regardless of their political background.

Why Tinubu Administration?

If we look at the administration's trajectory over the last three years, what we see is a leadership willing to make tough, data-backed, and highly professional decisions that past governments avoided out of fear of political backlash. Removing the fuel subsidy bleeding our economy and unifying the foreign exchange windows were technically sound, nec-

essary economic surgeries. Furthermore, appointing established private-sector technocrats to head critical ministries shows a deep respect for professional excellence.

As for how professionals add value: we bring measurable metrics to public service.

- Engineers ensure project optimization and value for money in infrastructure.
- Tech innovators introduce digitization to block financial leakages and eliminate bureaucracy.
- Doctors and Lawyers streamline healthcare delivery and institutionalize the rule of law.

Why Tinubu?

One of the defining qualities that genuinely aligns our group with President Tinubu is his capacity for decisive action and bold reform. In leadership, you often encounter two types of failures: leaders who simply lack a clear vision, and leaders who have a vision but lack the political courage to execute it. President Tinubu defies both categories. He not only possesses a clear understanding of what needs to be done, but he also has the grit to implement those decisions. He refuses to hide behind populist, short-term fixes. Even when his policies demand difficult sacrifices in the immediate term, it is evident they are engineered for Nigeria's long-term prosperity.

Secondly, his commitment to human capital development through the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) is a game-changer. This isn't just policy on paper; I have close friends whose children are actively benefiting from this initiative right now, gaining access to higher education that might have otherwise been out of reach. While there is undeniably still a long road ahead and much work to be done, it is clear to me that President Tinubu is intentionally laying the bedrock for a stronger, self-sustaining, and better Nigeria tomorrow.

Without an iota of filtering I see in the action of Mr. President..a very high sense of sincerity in all his policy direction drive.

Yakubu GOWON:

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY FINALLY...

A Life of Duty and Allegiance: General Yakubu Gowon, rtd. Finally Unveils His Memoirs



In an event defined by pomp, pageantry, and profound historical significance, Nigeria's oldest living former Head of State, General Yakubu "Jack" Gowon, GCFR, yesterday put an end to decades of speculation by launching his highly anticipated autobiography, "My Life of Duty and Allegiance."

The high-octane event, which took place at the packed-to-capacity Kashim Shettima Hall within the Bola Tinubu International Conference Centre in Abuja, was flawlessly orchestrated by the internationally acclaimed Havilah Group, led by the ebullient Akogun Lanre Adesuyi. It brought together a stunning constellation of Nigeria's military, political, corporate, and traditional elite.

Profile of an Icon: Who is General Gowon?

To understand the gravity of the event, one must look at the towering legacy of



The Wartime Commander

His legacy is indelibly linked to the 30-month Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970). Faced with the secession of the Eastern Region (the Republic of Biafra under Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu), Gowon led the Federal Government to a victory that preserved Nigeria's geographical integrity.

THE YOUNGEST LEADER

Born October 19, 1934. Took power at 31 after the counter-coup of 1966. Nigeria's youngest-ever leader and longest continuously serving Head of State (1966–1975).

Architect of Unity

At the war's end in 1970, he famously declared "No Victor, No Vanquished" and instituted the 3Rs (Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Reconciliation) to heal the fractured nation. Furthermore, in May 1967, he reshaped Nigeria's federal architecture by breaking its four original regions into 12 states, effectively diluting regional secessionist power bases.

International Statesman

In 1975, alongside Togolese President Gnassingbé Eyadéma, he co-founded the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to foster regional economic integration.

Exile and Scholar: Overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Brigadier Murtala Mohammed on July 29, 1975, Gowon went into exile in Great Britain. In a rare feat for a former world leader, he returned to the classroom, earning a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Warwick in 1983. Later pardoned, he returned home to assume his role as Nigeria's revered elder statesman.

Tributes and Goodwill Messages

The launch served as a powerful reminder of Gowon's enduring influence across generations, with speakers pouring out heartfelt tributes.

1. The Reviewer's Perspective: A "Muscular Christian"

The book was masterfully analyzed by the prominent Catholic Bishop, Matthew Hassan Kukah. In a brilliant intellectual assessment, Bishop Kukah described Gowon as a prime example of "Muscular Christianity"—an ideological concept originating in 19th-century Victorian England that fuses physical discipline, robust masculinity, and patriotism as genuine expressions of Christian ethical values.

2. State and Institutional Acclaim

The Presidency: Vice President Kashim Shettima, representing President Bola Tinubu, led the government delegation. FCT Senator Ireti Kingibe, representing Senate President Godswill Akpabio, lauded Gowon as a "symbol of national healing who displayed profound humility in victory."

General T.Y. Danjuma (Represented by Gen. Martin Luther Agwai): Reflecting on a friendship spanning over 70 years since their childhood in Wusasa, Zaria, Danjuma described Gowon as an international icon whose leadership saved Nigeria from total disintegration.

General Abdulsalami Abubakar (Message read by co-compere Eugenia Abu): The former Head of State warmly described his former boss as the ultimate "soldier and a gentleman."



Governor Caleb Mutfwang (Plateau State): Proudly claiming Gowon as a favorite son of Plateau State, Mutfwang noted that he was barely two years old when Gowon became Head of State. He affectionately called him “our grandfather.”

International Perspectives: Prof. Christopher Famoyo of the US National Democratic Institute and former CBN Deputy Governor Prof. Kingsley Moghalu both emphasized that writing this 20-chapter book was a historic duty fulfilled to preserve institutional memory.

3. Royal and Personal Reminiscences

The Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi: The Emir recalled with gratitude that Gowon had appointed his father as Nigeria’s ambassador to Canada and China. He shared a touching personal story: “When I was eight years old and my friend lost his father, General Gowon—despite being Head of State—would send handwritten letters to keep tabs on the boy. It shows the incredible humanity he possesses.”

The Sultan of Sokoto, Saad Abubakar:

Welcoming Gowon as a true member of his own family, the Sultan fondly remembered his father sending Fura to the Gowons at Dodan Barracks during the war. He added, “I thank Allah that Yaku-bu Gowon is alive to write and defend himself. People are now free to respond, and the discussion continues.”

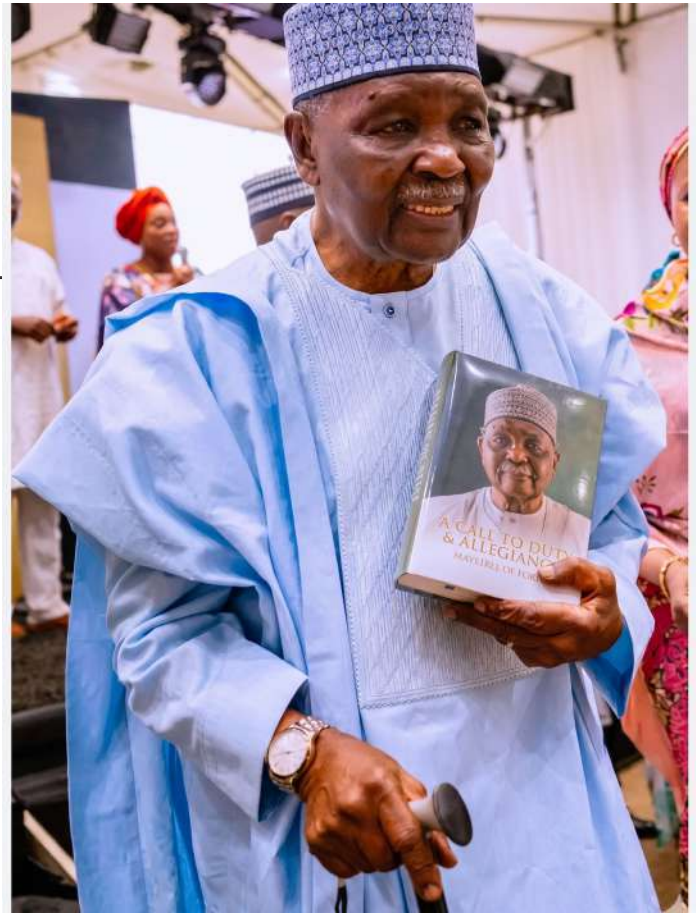
Erelu Aisha Babangida: Representing her father, former President Ibrahim Babangida, she was warmly welcomed by the Vice President as the nation’s “former first daughter” and celebrated the deep, generational ties between the Babangida and Gowon families.

Financial Rain: Notable Book Purchases and Donations

The launching ceremony witnessed an extraordinary display of financial goodwill, led by captains of industry, states, and institutions:

Donor Details of Purchase / Donation

Aliko Dangote (Represented by Mr. Mansur Ahmed) ₦500 Million for 25 copies. Ahmed noted that Dangote was just a 10-year-old primary schoolboy during the war, and Gowon’s preservation of Nigeria created the stable environment for his pan-African empire to flourish.



“2026 is a year that connects with the past and points to the future.”



Plateau State Government **₦200 Million** for 100 copies (plus an additional **₦25 Million** on behalf of each state government).

Chief Emeka Offor **₦50 Million**

General T.Y. Danjuma donated **₦3 Billion** (The largest Sum of that day) pledge + directive to purchase and distribute 12 copies of the book to the libraries of each of the 20 universities that have awarded Gowon honorary doctorates.

Alhaji Abdul-Samad Rabi'u (BUA Group) **₦25 Million**

Alhaji Dahiru Manga **₦25 Million**
Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) **₦20 Million** for 10 copies.

Barewa College **₦10 Million**

University of Abuja (UniAbuja) **₦2.5 Million**

Public Complaints Commission **₦3 Million**

Bayo Ojo, SAN **₦500,000**

General Haladu Hannaniya (Rtd) **₦500,000**

The Author's Response: "My Story and Nigeria are Intertwined"

When the celebrant, General Yakubu Gowon, took the microphone, the room fell into a respectful silence. He expressed overwhelming gratitude to the political class, scholars, and journalists who paused their schedules during an intense political season to attend.

"2026 is a year that connects with the past and points to the future," Gowon mused. "Publishing my autobiography 60 years after my assumption of office is a mere coincidence. There was immense pressure by friends and associates to write, to dispel rumors and lies. I am not sitting in judgment; I chose this stance to pursue institutional memory. My story and Nigeria are intertwined. I do not intend to reopen old wounds."

He extended profound gratitude to his former

First Lady, Victoria Gowon (whom the Sultan earlier jokingly dubbed his "Chief Nursing Officer"), as well as key associates who helped preserve the nation's unity, specifically mentioning Akogun Lanre Adesuyi, Dotun Adekambi, and Moses Ihonde.

Concluding with a powerful charge on the current state of the nation, the aging statesman sent a strong message to contemporary politicians:

"We must rise to stop 'do or die' elections, even in intra-party politics. We must disappoint the naysayers who say Nigeria is a failed nation. I am confident that despite its challenges, she will not fall. Our government should simply stop proffering difficult solutions to simple problems."



Yakubu Gowon Autobiography Event Pictures



Yakubu Gowon Autobiography Event Pictures



KARU: where Abuja wakes up before dawn

By Gboko Naomi Sewuese



By 5:00 a.m., Karu is already in motion. Headlights cut through the early morning haze, buses fill quickly, and footsteps echo along narrow streets as residents begin their daily migration into Abuja. This is not just a suburb it is a rhythm, a routine, a quiet engine powering the capital.

Often described as a “bedroom community,” Karu sits on the edge of opportunity. It is where the city exhales where teachers, civil servants, traders, and young professionals return at night to something more affordable, more grounded, and, for many, more real.



The Commute That Defines a Community

Life in Karu is measured in movement. The road into Abuja particularly along the ever-busy Nyanya axis is both a lifeline and a daily test of patience. Commuters navigate the movement of buses, tricycles, and shared taxis, where delays are expected and endurance becomes routine.

Over time, residents adapt waking earlier, planning smarter, and adjusting to a system that rarely bends. Yet beneath the congestion lies something deeper, DETERMINATION. Karu residents are not waiting for ease; they are building lives in spite of the challenge.

A Place of Hustle and Hope

By late afternoon, the narrative shifts. Markets swell with activity, voices rise in negotiation,



and the streets take on a different kind of energy. Small businesses, tailoring shops, salons, food vendors line the roads, each one reflecting the quiet ambition that defines the community.

“I started with just a table,” says Aisha, a local food vendor. “Now I have regular customers. Karu gave me that chance.”

Karu is a rapidly expanding Local Government Area in Nasarawa State, Nigeria, serving as a major residential and commercial suburb to the nearby Federal Capital Territory (Abuja). It is known as a high-density, ethnically diverse commuter town with a population exceeding 2 million in its urban area.

Key Aspects of Karu:

Location: Situated in Nasarawa State, bordering Abuja. It includes areas like Mararaba, New Karu, and Ado.

Economy: Primarily a “dormitory town” for civil servants and private sector workers in Abuja, with a bustling, fast-growing market scene.

Infrastructure: While experiencing massive growth, it faces challenges with traffic congestion on the main expressway, though road expansions are ongoing.

Development: Agriculture is still practiced, but the area is rapidly urbanizing, transitioning from small villages into a significant urban center.

Important Distinctions:

Karu (Nasarawa): The main municipality, which includes [New Karu] (the headquarters) and [Mararaba].

Karu (Abuja): A smaller satellite town situated directly inside the Federal Capital Territory. The area is known for being more affordable than the Abuja city center, attracting a diverse population.

Karu, Nasarawa State - The majority of the population of Karu LGA works in agriculture, and the region is well-known for cultivating crops like yam, maize, salad greens, and tomatoes.

New Karu is the headquarters of Karu Local Government Area, Nasarawa State. It is one of the largest towns that make up the greater Karu urban centre in Nasarawa



“Karu residents are not waiting for ease; they are building lives in spite of the challenge.”

CURRENT RENT IN ABUJA (FCT): 2026 PRICES

MARKET INSIGHT

Abuja remains one of Nigeria's most expensive real estate markets, driven by federal presence, diplomatic demand, and a growing professional class. Prime-area rents have increased significantly since 2023.

AREA	PROPERTY TYPE	ANNUAL RENT (₦)
PRIME AREAS – MAITAMA, ASOKORO, WUSE, GARKI, UTAKO		
Prime Areas	Self-Contained	₦1.5M – ₦3.5M
Prime Areas	1-Bedroom Flat	₦3M – ₦5.5M
Prime Areas	2-Bedroom Flat	₦5M – ₦8M+
Prime Areas	3-Bedroom Flat	₦10M – ₦25M+
MID-RANGE AREAS – MABUSHI, APO, GWARINPA, JABI, LOKOGOMA		
Mid-Range	Self-Contained	₦400k – ₦800k
Mid-Range	1-Bedroom Flat	₦700k – ₦1.5M
Mid-Range	2-Bedroom Flat	₦1.5M – ₦3M
Mid-Range	3-Bedroom Flat	₦2.5M – ₦4.5M
Mid-Range	Duplex	₦6M – ₦12M
SATELLITE TOWNS – KUBWA, LUGBE, NYANYA, GWAGWALADA		
Satellite Towns	Self-Contained	₦250k – ₦600k
Satellite Towns	1-Bedroom Flat	₦300k – ₦700k
Satellite Towns	2-Bedroom Flat	₦400k – ₦900k
Satellite Towns	3-Bedroom Flat	₦600k – ₦1.3M
Satellite Towns	Duplex	₦2M – ₦5M

KEY NOTES

Garki & Utako: High demand due to central location and commercial activity. Mabushi & Apo: Fast-developing with increasing rental value. Satellite towns: Most affordable but longer commute. Prices vary based on estate quality, security, and finishing.

MAY DAY MIRACLE: PROMISELAND Estate Empowers FCT Workers With Free Fuel, N50Million Tournament, Plots Of Land

In a spectacular display of philanthropy and national solidarity, PromiseLand Estate, under the leadership of CEO Ambassador Dr. Lawrence Oloche (MON) and Wife, Amb. Gift Emmanuel, the Executive Director transformed the 2026 Workers Day celebrations into an unforgettable experience for thousands of laborers in the Federal Capital Territory.

The real estate giant marked the occasion with a dual-pronged approach of humanitarian aid and community engagement, distributing free fuel across the city and hosting a high-stakes football tournament where over 50 million Naira in cash and several plots of land were awarded.

The festivities began with a token of love that addressed the immediate economic pressures facing Nigerian workers.

Motivated by scriptural teachings and a profound empathy for the public, Dr. Oloche sanctioned a free fuel giveaway on Friday, May 1st.

The giveaway offered half-tank refills between 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon at three selected locations: Shema Filling Station on Kubwa Expressway, Shema Filling Station at Airport Road/City Gate, and Total Filling Station in Wuse Zone 5.

Beneficiaries, many of whom had been struggling with the soaring costs of petrol, described the gesture as a May Day Miracle.

For civil servants like Mr. Samuel Oghenekaro and Madam Rose Ogbuke, the relief was both emotional and financial, providing a much-needed reprieve during a period of economic volatility.

While the fuel pumps were flowing, the spirit of sportsmanship was soaring at the Turf Arena in Wuse 2.

The PromiseLand Workers Day Football Tournament brought together eight formidable teams representing various sectors: PromiseLand Estate Champions, Nigerian



Securities and Exchange Commission, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Abuja Selected



(a special team selected from different personalities), White Crescent Multipurpose Co-op Society, Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), NRS Halal Corporative Society, and NNPC Staff Multipurpose Co-op.

The event was a star-studded affair, graced by football legends like Samson Siasia and Brown Ideye, as well as popular entertainment figures such as Charles Okocha, known as Mr. Phenomenon, and Habeeb Hamzat, known as Peller.

The tournament reached a thrilling conclusion when the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) clinched the top prize of 20 million Naira after a tense penalty shootout against the Nigerian Customs Service.

The runners-up did not go home empty-handed, with the Customs team securing 15 million Naira and the third-place White Crescent Multipurpose Co-op earning 10 million Naira.

In an extraordinary show of generosity, every participating team received a 2 million Naira consolation prize, while the tournament's MVP, Lawal, was awarded 2 million Naira for his standout performance.

The climax of the day occurred during a random draw for spectators, which saw five lucky attendees walk away as the newest landowners in Abuja.

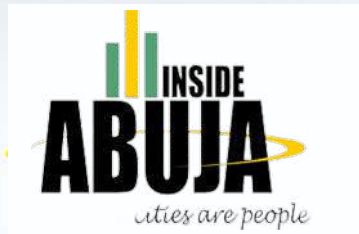
The winners were overcome with emotion, celebrating their life-changing acquisition of plots of land provided by PromiseLand Estate.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Lawrence Oloche emphasized that these initiatives are part of a broader mission to foster national transformation and sustainable development.

He noted that Workers Day is not merely about tasks completed, but about recognizing the passion and commitment of the individuals who serve as the bedrock of the Nigerian economy.

Through its foundation, PromiseLand Estate continues to set a benchmark for corporate social responsibility, proving that strategic investments in people and community well-being are the truest ways to celebrate the Nigerian workforce.

As the sun set on the 2026 Workers Day, the resounding sentiment across Abuja was one of gratitude for a firm that chose to lead with its heart.



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CONT. FROM PAGE 2

"Sometimes they take everything," she said. "You may borrow money to buy goods in the morning and lose all of it before evening."

Across the city, scenes like this play out almost daily. Enforcement teams move through hotspots confiscating wares, dismantling illegal stalls, and dispersing traders from restricted areas. But economic pressure keeps drawing people back to the streets.

The Law and Enforcement Efforts

Officials of the FCTA insist that Abuja was designed as a planned city with designated markets and business areas. According to city authorities, street trading violates environmental and urban development regulations established to maintain order within the capital.

Enforcement operations are usually carried out by task force officials and environmental enforcement teams. Areas such as Banex, Wuse Market roads, Nyanya Bridge, Kubwa Expressway, and the city gate corridors are regularly targeted during sanitation and compliance exercises.

Authorities also argue that roadside trading poses serious safety concerns. Traders moving between vehicles risk accidents, while some security experts warn that overcrowded roadside activity can make monitoring criminal activities more difficult.

Residents remain divided on the issue.

Some motorists and business owners support the crackdowns, arguing that street trading contributes to traffic congestion and makes roads untidy.

"Sometimes these traders block the roads completely," said Chinedu Okafor, a commercial driver in Central Area. "It becomes difficult for vehicles and pedestrians to move freely."

Others believe enforcement should be more humane.

"You cannot fight poverty with force alone," said Esther Samuel, a civil servant living in Kubwa. "Many of these people are trying to survive honestly. The government should create affordable spaces for them."

Between Survival and City Order

The persistence of street trading reflects a larger economic reality facing many Nigerians. With limited job opportunities and increasing hardship, informal businesses have become a major source of income for thousands of families.

Experts say the challenge requires more than arrests and confiscation of goods. Urban development analysts argue that sustainable solutions must combine enforcement with social support, affordable markets, and economic empowerment programs.

Some residents have suggested the creation of organized roadside vending zones where traders can operate under proper regulation without obstructing traffic or violating sanitation laws.

Others believe stronger public awareness campaigns and improved market infrastructure could reduce the spread of illegal roadside trading.

For now, however, the tension between enforcement and survival continues to define Abuja's streets.

As evening falls and traffic thickens across the capital, traders once again emerge with goods balanced on their heads and hope in their voices. For city authorities, it is a fight to preserve order and the image of the nation's capital. For the traders, it is simply another day in the struggle to earn a living.



CONT. FROM PAGE 3

National Reach: Moving from a localized focus to a federal mandate that requires balancing the diverse, complex needs of women across all geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Institutional Collaboration: Co-coordinating with the newly appointed Governing Council (led by Princess Joan Jummai Idonije) and various international development partners to secure funding and execute large-

scale welfare programs.

Why She is Equipped for the Mandate:

While the responsibilities are immense, Benjamins-Laniyi's career trajectory aligns directly with the demands of the office:

Proven Administrative Track Record:

She isn't entering the public sector green. She serves as the pioneer Mandate Secretary for the FCT Administration's Women Affairs Secretariat. This previous role gave her hands-on experience navigating government bureaucracy, policy design, and grassroots women's advocacy.

Grassroots and Political Mentorship:

As the Grand Matron of "Hope Again for FCT Women in Politics" and founder of the Dream Girls project, she has spent years actively mentoring women and girls, giving her deep insight into the practical barriers Nigerian women face in leadership and socio-economic advancement.

Mastery of Communication: Known widely as an elite enterprise communicator and media entrepreneur, her background as a high-profile master of ceremonies and speaker gives her a distinct advantage. A massive part of a



DG's role is advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and changing public narratives surrounding women's rights—areas where her communication skills will be a massive asset.

The Verdict

The expectations are undoubtedly high, but her transition from managing women's affairs at the FCT level to leading a national institution is a logical progression. With a four-year term ahead of her, the foundation is there for her to make a significant institutional impact if she can successfully scale her previous successes to the national stage.

“She has spent years actively mentoring women and girls, giving her deep insight into the practical barriers Nigerian women face in leadership and socio-economic advancement”

The RISE & RISE of Hon. James Abiodun FALEKE TINUBU'S "MAN - FRIDAY"

By Dookaan Johnbosco

While Faleke's entry into the Lagos State Governors Advisory Council (GAC)—the state's most powerful APC decision-making organ—marks his official elevation into the elite tier of Lagos politics, his inclusion is actually the culmination of over two decades of absolute fidelity. Here is what Faleke did over the years to earn the absolute trust of Mr. President:

1. Rooted in the "Tinubu School of Politics" (2003)

Faleke is not a latecomer to the Tinubu camp; he is a foundational product of it. In 2003, when then-Governor Bola Tinubu created the new Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in defiance of the federal government, he needed fierce loyalists to man them. Tinubu appointed Faleke as the pioneer Executive Secretary of Ojodu LCDA. Faleke proved his mettle, later winning election as substantive chairman for two terms and becoming the Chairman of Conference 57 (the powerful body of all local government chairmen in Lagos). This foundational era forged a deep, battle-tested trust.

2. The Supreme Sacrifice in Kogi (2015)

The ultimate test of Faleke's loyalty to Tinubu came during the 2015 Kogi State gubernatorial crisis. Faleke, running as deputy to the late Abubakar Audu, was on the cusp of victory when Audu died suddenly just before the election results were fully declared. When the APC national leadership bypassed Faleke and handed the ticket to Yahaya Bello, Faleke fought a fierce legal and political battle. Crucially, throughout this crisis, Faleke was acting as the arrowhead of the Tinubu faction fighting federal forces trying to diminish Tinubu's influence. By refusing to accept the deputy governor slot under Bello at the time, Faleke chose to protect the political integrity of the camp rather than take an easy compromise for personal power.

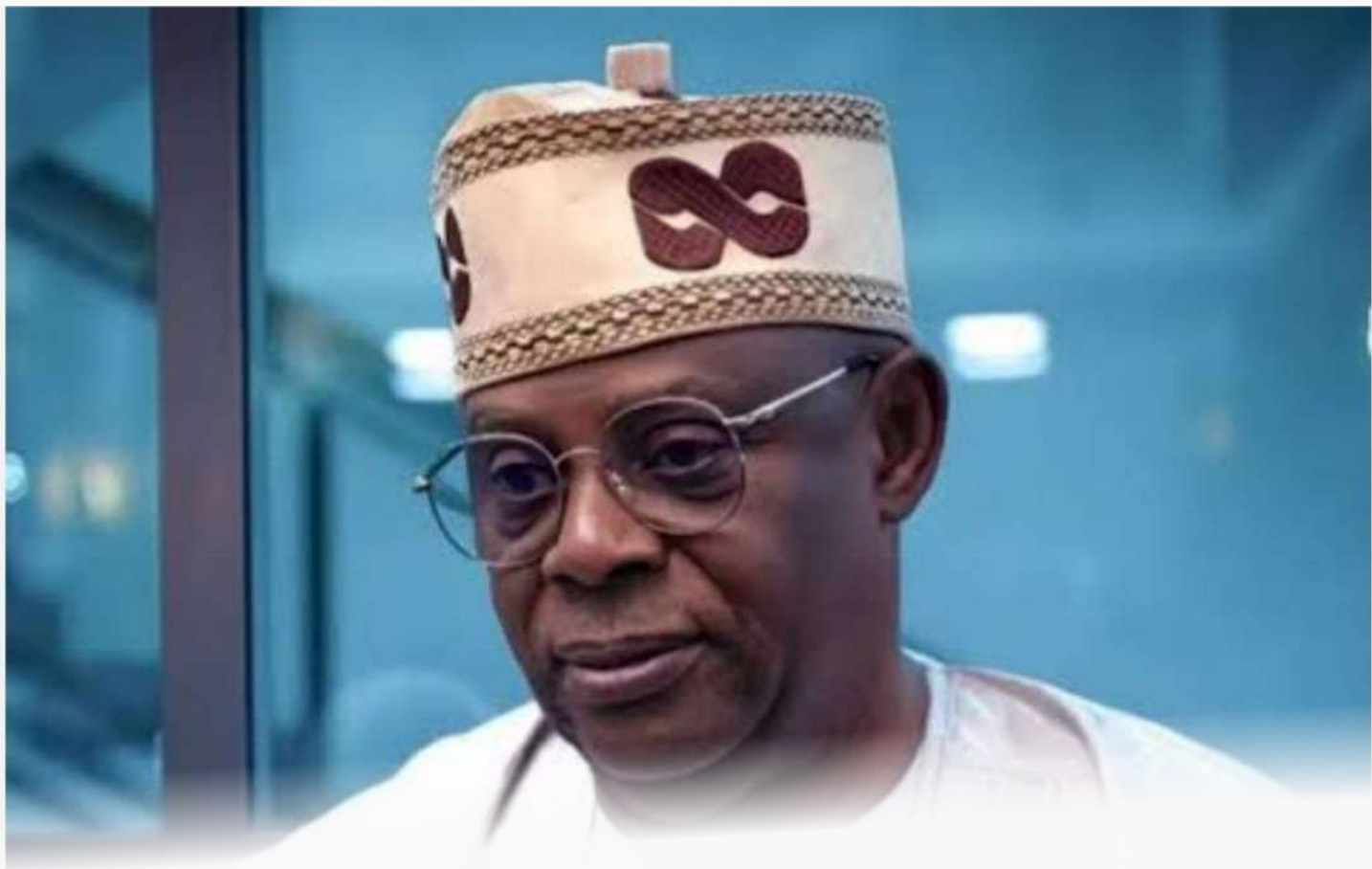
3. The Engine Room of the 2023 Presidential Campaign

If Tinubu had any lingering doubts about Faleke's capability, they were completely erased during the build-up to the 2023 presidential election. Faleke served as the Director of Finance and Administration for the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC). More importantly, he was the convener and driver of the Tinubu Support Group (TSG), which mobilized



Faleke with NWC of APC after purchasing and collecting the Nomination and expression of interest Forms for Mr. President

“Faleke’s elevation to the GAC positions him strategically to anchor the grassroots machinery in Lagos and across state lines ahead of future elections.”



More importantly, he was the convener and driver of the Tinubu Support Group (TSG), which mobilized grassroots support across the country long before the primaries even began. Managing the financing, logistics, and strategy for a winning presidential campaign requires an absolute confidant. Faleke handled this with airtight discretion and efficiency.

4. Master Mobilizer and Party Diplomat

Faleke has proven that he can protect Tinubu's interests without causing chaotic party rifts. In his role as the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Finance, he serves as a vital bridge between the executive and the legislature. Furthermore, ahead of the 2027 political cycle, Faleke directed his formidable political structures (like the Faleke Youth Vanguard) to collapse entirely into the mainstream APC architecture, ensuring absolute unity and zero friction for the administration.

Admission into the GAC: Why Now?

The Governors Advisory Council (GAC) is traditionally reserved for the foundational "Lagos political aristocracy." For a politician originally

from Kogi State to be formally admitted into this ultra-elite boardroom of Lagos politics, it signifies two things:

a. The Ultimate Badge of Honour:

It is President Tinubu's way of signaling that Faleke's loyalty is beyond question, cementing his status as an indispensable asset to the "Lagos Dynasty" regardless of his state of origin.

b. Securing the Home Front:

As the convener of key mobilization networks, Faleke's elevation to the GAC positions him strategically to anchor the grassroots machinery in Lagos and across state lines ahead of future elections.

In Nigerian politics, where alignment changes like the weather, Faleke's career stands out because he chose a political benefactor early, took heavy political bullets for him, and delivered on every assignment. His seat at the GAC table is simply the harvest of that 23-year investment.