

'I BELIEVE IN NIGERIA BECAUSE WE HAVE A GREAT FUTURE'

-Rev. (Sen). Amos Yohanna

Rev. Amos Kumai Yohanna, Senator representing Adamawa North Senatorial District spoke to our Editor-In –Chief, Peter O.Emuekpere on the development challenges of his people and their expectations and of course the prospects of a true and united Nigeria. This erudite theologian, a minister of the gospel and consummate administrator have held different Spiritual , Political and Administrative positions at State and Federal levels across board before he ventured into politics He is indeed an epitome of peace as well as an embodiment of humility and love. Below is an excerpt of the Exclusive Chat.



State in 1982 where I passed out in 1985 having obtained my General Certificate of Education. I was also admitted into the Makauma University College in Tanzania from 1994 to 1997 where I bagged my Bachelor of Divinity with Honours. I proceeded to the Theological College of Northern Nigeria where I got my Masters degree in Pastoral Theology.

Now that you have been elected by your people what do you think are their expectations?

Well like in any other society mine is not different, they know they needed very diligent, mature and very honest representation at the National Assembly and they saw in me the quality of somebody who will give them such quality of representation and for that reason they gave me their votes and they are expecting that I deliver on their expectations which by the special grace of God I will do.

Distinguished Sir, what major challenges do you think is confronting your people and how do you intend to help ameliorate them?

There are many serious development challenges confronting the people of my senatorial district. This is an area which has been ravaged by the menace of Boko Haram for the past ten years. Our roads are terrible and in most places non existence. Our educational facilities are terribly challenged. Other facilities like portable water, health care, sanitation etc. are completely non existence in some areas. I

must confess that the state Government is doing her best to help meet up with some of these challenges but you know the ravage that has been inflicted over the past one decade in some of the communities are very massive and still visible and it will take a very long time to recover. Both the state and local governments are doing their best but we still

Who is Distinguished Senator Amos Yohanna?

I am Reverend Amos Yohannah Senator representing Adamawa North Senatorial district of Adamawa State. I was born 62 years ago in Mubi North Local Government of Adamawa State. I went to primary school at Yelwa from 1969-1975. From there I proceeded to Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, LCCN Bible College, Ganye Adamawa

need the intervention of the Federal Government and so the people are looking up to their representatives in the National Assembly to take up their challenges and speak up for them and this is exactly what we are doing here. We are doing our best to raise a voice for our people here at the centre to ensure there is federal intervention and hopefully we will succeed.

How will you assess Nigeria democratic experience since 1999, do you think we are progressing or retrogressive?

It depends on how you look at it. I am a very positive and optimistic person who sees the cup as half full instead of half empty. I believe that as a nation we have made great strides and we have moved forward. Definitely we are not where we started in 1999, we have moved forward but that does not mean we don't have challenges. We have challenges with our electoral system, we have challenges with the attitudes of us- the politicians and this to a great extent has posed a serious threat to our political development. So the challenge is not only with the institutions but with the politicians as well but in spite of all these we have moved forward. Our electoral system is being reformed, judiciary is being reformed and the successive governments have contributed their own quota to the development of the country in spite of the numerous challenges. I look at it as positive movement and I believe that Nigeria has a great future.

Many people are of the opinion that Nigerian Politicians are not men of honour. Do you agree with them?

Politicians are part of the society, they did not fall from the sky neither are they from China or India. They are Nigerians. They are the products of the Nigerian Society. If we say that our politicians are not men of honour then we are also saying that Nigerians are not people of honour. So we are part of this society and we are molded by this society. Politicians reflect the society because they are voted for by the society. So I believe that Nigerians are good people. All across the world there are people who are not so good. It is not peculiar to Nigeria. I have travelled to more than 30 countries spanning across different continents and I have interacted with a lot of people. I know that human beings are all humans irrespective of their creed, colour or affiliations but one thing is evident and that is that there are good people and there are bad people. So Nigeria is reflective of the universe and global community and so I believe that we are good people in Nigeria in as much as there are bad ones and I know that the good people are always triumphant.

In your own opinion do you think that the 10th National Assembly will deliver to Nigerians?

I believe so otherwise I will not be here. I know every member of the National Assembly will do their best to contribute their quota. Nigeria is a stage everybody comes in to play his or her own part and disappears; the difference is whether or not you play your own part rightly or wrongly. I believe that this 10th National Assembly will play their good role to move Nigeria forward to where they

will stop and others will take over.

What is your greatest motivation in life?

My greatest motivation in life is to see people develop, to see people move into better sphere of life, to see people's means of livelihood improving, to see families improving and moving up the ladder of success, to see people doing well in any of their chosen endeavor. I am motivated when I see a person moving forward and not retrogressing, that is what gives me joy.

What do you do at your leisure?

Hmmn. I hope I have leisure. I read a lot, I watch movies and I enjoy my coffee.

What is your favorite meal?

I love to eat Tuwo and Mia Yakwa. I enjoy it because that was how my family brought me up.

As a father how have you promoted family values?

I have a wonderful family. God helped me to raise a good family. My children are well established and God fearing. They are doing well with their families in their homes and places of work. They are raising their own children which I appreciate God for. I am a very happy and contented man. I thank God for being my strength and strong hold. He has always been there for me and my family.

What message do you have for the people of your constituency?

I enjoin the people of my constituency to let us put our heads together and move forward as a people. Let us shy away from all the tendencies of division, eschew bitterness and all forms of tribal or religious sentiments that tends to promote disunity. Let us move together as one family. For me that was the greatest message I have been preaching even during my campaigns. You know politicians tend to divide us so that they can get votes. For me even if I will lose an election I would love my people to be together and united. That is the future of Nigeria and until we begin to realize that those little things that tends to divide us remains our strength and uniting factor. We must strive to be united so that we will move forward as a great and prosperous nation.

What will you like to be remembered for after your sojourn in politics?

I want to be remembered as one that has touched the lives of the people of my constituency. That one day they will remember Amos Yohanna, and say when he was here he touched the lives of many people, he made their live better, he opened doors for many people, he was able to bring legislations that outlived him and that indeed he was a blessing to us and humanity.

Thank you for talking to us

You are most welcomed