

Dear Editor

Cutting Ribbons, wasting resources in the name of Road Commissioning in Nigeria

One of the most troubling aspects of governance in Nigeria is the culture of celebrating routine government responsibilities as though they are extraordinary achievements. Few examples illustrate this better than the elaborate ceremonies organized to commission roads and other public infrastructure projects. Road construction is not a favour to the people; it is one of the fundamental duties of government. Citizens pay taxes, businesses pay levies, and governments borrow in the name of the people to fund public projects. Therefore, when a road is completed, it should be seen as the fulfillment of an obligation, not an occasion for excessive self-congratulation. Yet, across the country, we continue to witness lavish commissioning ceremonies complete with banners, convoys, media campaigns, security deployments, rented crowds, and endless speeches. Millions of naira are often spent on events whose sole purpose is to celebrate projects that should have been delivered in the first place.

What makes this even more disturbing is that these ceremonies take place in a country facing serious economic challenges. Millions of Nigerians struggle daily with inflation, unemployment, poor healthcare, inadequate schools, and unreliable electricity. In such circumstances, every kobo of public money should be spent with prudence and a clear focus on improving the lives of citizens. In many countries around the world, roads are completed and opened to the public with minimal fanfare. The emphasis is on efficiency, quality, and value for money. Governments are judged by the impact of their projects, not by the size of the ceremonies organized to unveil them. The infrastructure itself is the achievement, not the ribbon-cutting event. The obsession with commissioning projects has unfortunately become a tool for political branding rather than public service. It shifts attention away from critical questions such as the actual cost of the project, the quality of the work done, whether the project was delivered on schedule, and whether it truly meets the needs of the people. Nigeria deserves a governance culture that prioritizes substance over spectacle. Public officials should be remembered for the quality of services they provide, not for the grandeur of the ceremonies they organize. The true measure of leadership is not how loudly a road is commissioned, but how effectively it serves the people long after the cameras have left.

George Okoyo Abuja.

Dear Editor,

How did public service suddenly become a gateway to massive wealth?

Two former Inspectors General of Police under former President Muhammadu Buhari, Usman Alkali Baba and Abubakar Mohammed Adamu, both contested for governorship tickets under APC in Yobe and Nasarawa States. Both men bought APC nomination



and expression of interest forms reportedly worth about ₦50 million each. These were public servants. Police officers who spent most of their careers in government service. Yet immediately after leaving office, they suddenly became wealthy enough to spend ₦50 million on forms alone, not including campaigns, consultations, logistics, delegates, and elections that could easily cost over ₦500 million or more if they had won the primaries. And Nigerians are expected not to ask questions? Abubakar Adamu served as IGP from 2019–2021. Usman Alkali Baba served from 2021–2023.

In less than three years in office, they became powerful political figures with enormous financial strength. Meanwhile, millions of Nigerians became poorer during the same period. Inflation exploded, insecurity increased, businesses collapsed, and the economy suffered heavily. This is why many Nigerians keep asking: What really happened during the Buhari years? How did public service suddenly become a gateway to massive wealth? Why are retired security chiefs immediately turning into heavyweight politicians? The painful part is that ordinary Nigerians struggle daily to survive, while many former public officials move from government office straight into politics with unbelievable financial capacity. Nigeria cannot truly recover from what Buhari, Tinubu and APC did to this country until citizens begin asking hard questions without fear or tribal sentiments. Some truths are uncomfortable, but silence has cost this country too much. How did these men become so rich in less than 3 years of serving as Inspector General of Police?

Ndubuisi Nicholas Ifedoro

Dear Editor

VANITY has no other name but VANITY

A Wrist watch for N5, 000000;00?? Will it show me when the world will end? A Bathing soap for N150, 000?? Will it wash away sins and sorrows? One Eye glasses for N850, 000?? If I wear it, will I be able to see the future? An Italian shoe for N900,000?? Shebi I will be able to walk on water? A Plasma TV for N5,000000?? Will it show me the Judgement day on the last day live?

A Gold plated mobile phone for 4 million naira. Chai!!! Will I use it to answer heaven's call?

A Hand Bag for 3.3Million naira?? Will I put my life inside it? 3 million naira for a table in comedy show. Which kind of laugh I never laugh before? 5 Million naira per year at a university. After graduation, will they make me the president? Sometimes, I wonder why some people spend like craze, knowing fully well that there are hungry children in the streets roaming about naked. The smallest act of kindness you show, can change someone's life. Remember, money only brings happiness if you help people with it. Let someone say to you, BECAUSE OF YOU I DIDN'T #GIVE UP!!! When God bless' you financially, don't just raise your STANDARD OF LIVING, also raise your STANDARD OF GIVING. I saw this and felt the Whole World should see it too.