

Dear Editor

## LAW IS AN ASS - THE CASE OF NAFIF'U BALA GOMBE AND ADC, THE PRESIDENT HAS TO BE CAREFUL

Dr. Amali taught me English Literature in the University of Maiduguri in 1984. One day in class, he asked us to read a novel titled *Oliver Twist*, a 1838 book written by Charles Dickens. Many of my friends bought a copy because of the title. They thought the book was about ass - the human buttocks. When I finished reading the book, what was clear in it was that the book was about ass quite alright. However, what is also clear is that in the traditional and standard English language usage, the word 'ass' means a donkey or a fool. Over time however, a slang vocabulary had emerged in the use of English and the term 'ass' became a reference to both the animal (donkey) or, colloquially, to a human's buttocks; especially woman's buttocks. So from Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, the phrase "the law is an ass" simply refers to the situations when the law is applied too rigidly or too flexibly that it becomes blind to the realities on the ground and the requirements for justice. It is based on this that I want to use this opportunity to warn President Tinubu, Nigerian lawyers, INEC chairman Prof. Joash Ojo Amupitan, a distinguished Prof. of Law and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, our 36 governors and the National Assembly that when applied too rigidly the law can be blind to the realities on the ground and the requirements for justice.

And that the rigid, stubborn, or illogical application of legal rules that run contrary to common sense, justice, or reality is dangerous; especially considering the realities of what is on ground in Nigeria. If the Court of Appeal, the President and Nigerian lawyers support what INEC has done, and apply the law too technically or without regard to human context, the law will behave with the "stubbornness of a donkey" since any law can be directed and manipulated by those in power, acting as a "donkey" that goes wherever it is led, rather than following the path of justice. Those around the president should inform him this. The clock is ticking. We love this nation. No election should hold in 2027 without the ADC. This is not negotiable. Yes, the law may be an ass, but lawyers must resist the temptation to be ass holes.

Dear Editor

## INEC, David Mark, and coming Abachaian coronation

With INEC's overtly partisan, intentionally illegal, and possibly remote-controlled withdrawal of recognition for the David Mark-led ADC, Nigeria has officially reverted to full-on Abacha-era suffocation of even the wispiest pretence to competitive electoral politics. Lawyers have said that the judgement of the appeal court, which INEC invoked as a convenient crutch to carry out a predetermined action, said the status quo should be maintained. In other words, the judgement says David Mark should remain the chairman of the ADC until the merit of the appeal has been determined. However, it appears that INEC is in the know of what the final judgement will be and decided to jump the gun. Yet the INEC chairman is a professor of law and a SAN! He can't even pretend to be neutral. It seems obvious that the ADC faction INEC will ultimately recognize, as I predicted in my column of two weeks ago, will be the faction that will merely be an extension of the APC, much like the PDP now is. They will either present dummy candidates or adopt Tinubu as their candidate, which is a distinction without a difference. It is obvious that Tinubu wants a coronation, not a competitive election, in 2027. He is scared to death about a real electoral contest. We all know why. Well, according to public records, it cost around ₦300-₦355 billion to conduct the 2023 presidential election. It is projected that it will cost almost ₦870 billion to conduct the 2027 election. Why should Nigeria spend close to a trillion naira on a preset, make-believe, Abachaian coronation exercise? Let's kuku cancel democracy and make Tinubu the supreme leader. At least we would save a trillion naira. **By Farooq Kperogi**



Dear Editor,

## WIKE AND THE WEAKENING OF NIGERIAN OPPOSITION

The political trajectory of Nyesom Wike has become one of the most controversial chapters in Nigeria's democratic history. What is unfolding is not just political strategy—it is a display of raw influence that underscores the steady collapse of party discipline and the triumph of personal power over institutional order. The crisis within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) has clearly outgrown the label of "internal wrangling." It is now an existential battle, with Wike—currently serving in an APC-led government—at the center of its fragmentation. At the

heart of this crisis lies a troubling paradox: a man whose political identity was built within the PDP now operates from within the ruling structure while simultaneously weakening the very party that made him. This contradiction is not just unusual—it is destabilizing. How does a leading figure of the opposition justify a position that undermines his own party's ability to contest power effectively? The idea that the PDP should not even field a presidential candidate, simply because of shifting personal alliances, strikes at the core of what opposition politics represents. It erodes the very concept of a credible alternative and reduces democracy to a one-sided contest. Recent developments in Abuja have only deepened these concerns. Factional meetings, disputed gatherings, and the reported involvement of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in controversial sessions point to a dangerous weakening of institutional integrity. When court orders are ignored and political actors act with impunity, the rule of law gives way to the rule of influence. Even more troubling is the silence—from both within and outside the party. Where are the elders? Where are the architects of the PDP who once positioned it as a formidable political force? Their inaction is no longer neutral; it is complicity. A democracy without a strong opposition is democracy in name only. It becomes vulnerable to excesses, unchecked authority, and eventual decline. The PDP's founding figures must recognize this moment for what it is—a decisive turning point—and act with urgency. If one individual can so profoundly shape, divide, and weaken a major political party while aligning with its rival, then Nigeria's multi-party system stands on fragile ground. What is at stake is not just the future of the PDP, but the health of Nigeria's democracy itself. The time to act is now. History will not be kind to those who stood by while the opposition collapsed under the weight of internal sabotage and personal ambition.

Martins Ajayi Ibikunle Ekiti State

Dear Editor

## Remember when the office is gone only truth remains

Most of the people around you while you're in office are professional opportunists, certified hypocrites, and licensed political scavengers. They are not your friends; they are tenants of your influence. They camp around power the way vultures circle a carcass, patient, calculated, and hungry for personal gain. While you sat in that office, they worshipped you. Not because you deserved it, but because you controlled access. You became a god in their eyes simply because you could sign, approve, recommend, or protect. They laughed at your weakest jokes, defended your most obvious failures, and insulted anyone who dared question you, all in the name of "loyalty." But it was never loyalty. It was survival instinct. The moment that office slipped from your hands, the mask fell. Suddenly, you were "no longer relevant." The same people who swore allegiance rewrote history overnight. They deleted pictures, denied association, switched camps, and began singing new praise songs to a new master. Some even joined the chorus of those attacking you, just to prove how quickly they could betray. This is the dirty secret of power, office does not reveal friends, it reveals predators, and once the feast is over, the predators move on. No gratitude. No shame. No memory. Just naked self-interest. So hear this and hear it well, every appointed and elected official intoxicated by today's relevance, your office is not your identity. The cheers will fade. The escorts will disappear. The convoys will vanish. Friends disappear. And when the dust settles, you will either stand alone or stand with the very few who loved you without extracting value from you. If you are wise, you will govern with humility, not arrogance. You will invest in people, not sycophants. You will fear God, not applause. Because power is borrowed, not owned and when the owner demands it back, all the fake loyalty you gathered will scatter like cockroaches when the light is switched on. Tread Softly, Rule Carefully. Remember this, when the Office is Gone, only Truth Remains, and Truth is Merciless. Be wise.