

Nigerians should not despair, there is a brighter tomorrow

... HON.DR. ADEDAYO SAMUEL

Dr. Hon Adedayo Adeshola Samuel a first term Member representing Apapa Federal Constituency of Lagos State spoke to our Editor- In-Chief, Peter Emuekpere on his mission in the National Assembly and the expectations of the people of his Constituency and other salient issues bothering on the country's democracy. Below is an excerpt of the chat.

Can we get to meet you briefly?

My name is Dr. Adedayo Adeshola Samuel. I am a medical practitioner by vocation. I graduated from the University of Ibadan in 1979 and I went into private practice in Lagos. I was a former Council Chairman in Apapa/Iganmu Local Council Development Area in Lagos state from 2008 to 2014. Presently I am representing Apapa Federal Constituency in the 10th National Assembly in the House of Representatives.

What impact do you think your being in the National Assembly will make in the life of the people of your Constituency?

Well since when I was a Chairman, I lived in their midst and they already know that I have a passion to make life better for them. A large proportion of the people in my Constituency Apapa /Iganmu are peasants and they cut across every part of Nigeria. There is no state in Nigeria that is not represented in that local government and most of the people are poor and vulnerable. As their representative in the House I am going to work hard to ensure that they feel the impact of good governance. I am going to struggle to ensure the passage of bills that will lead them out of poverty, bills that will help ameliorate the challenges and hardship they are facing as well as bills that will encourage women. This is because if you look at the analysis of those who voted for me during the election, women were more in number. Many of them were old women, widows, the unemployed and youths in their teeming thousands and they are expecting something good from government. Like I have said in other fora's, I am particular about their general well being especially about their health. I believe there should be a universal health coverage for all Nigerians and if we cannot get it done for everybody now then at least we should start with the poor



and the vulnerable and those that are weak in the society. I am also passionate about children because we must bring them up well and expect them to take over from us in the future. These are the areas that I am passionate about and I want to see that we promote women in our society and not look at them as inferior but encourage them even for them to get basic education.

Sir what do you consider as the major development challenge of your people?

My people basic challenge is that they don't have access to capital. You know if one is poor, one cannot raise money to do business. I am looking at a situation where we will

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organize them into associations and cooperatives and then approach the bank of Industry to help raise capital for them. My people are not looking for money for frivolous things, they want money to invest so they can be independent or rather economically dependent. I also want a situation where we put up health insurance for the poor and vulnerable. Honestly, I am in for anything that will lift them out of poverty and make them productive and self-reliant.

How will you access the democratic experience in Nigeria since the inception of the present republic in 1999?

This is a difficult question, but the answer depends on one's perspective. For me there is hope at the end of the tunnel because 63 years in the life of a Nation is minimal and not enough to judge the nation. We just need to keep hope alive and be focused. Some of the largest democracies we see across the world today have gone through what we are going through presently. I believe that our diversity should be our greatest strength as a nation. It is supposed to keep us together, pulling apart will not help the country. I believe that by the grace of God all the challenges we are going through now as a nation will be surmounted and we will see a better and more prosperous country for us and our children. Nigerians should not despair; we should not lose hope if we remain a focused and united people. The country will certainly get better.

Hon. Sir many Nigerians are of the opinion that politicians are not men of honour. Do you agree with them?

No, I don't agree with them. It is a matter of choices. Initially when I wanted to contest for the position of Chairman of local government, a lot of people were saying I should not go because according to them politicians are cultist and bad people whose only interest is self-aggrandizement and looting the resources of the people. They argued that good and honest people like me are not cut out for politics. But the question I asked them was if we allow the ungodly people alone to contest for elective positions then things will get worse, how can the country

get better? So, I always encourage godly people to come into politics. This is because politics and governance are twin brothers and you can't leave serious business of governance and leadership to people who are not godly because ultimately, they will make bad decisions that will not favour the people including you. So, I am encouraging Christians and good people to come out and contest elective positions. If you think that those people, there are not doing well then throw your hat into the ring and participate. If you look around the world you will see that it is politics that is managing and propelling the world. If you go back to history thousands of years ago politicians have been in charge and they are still in charge till date. You cannot make a generalization for everybody. It is not all politicians that are bad, and it is not all politicians that are good. So, if you bring in those who are righteous, they can as well influence those who are bad so the country will become better.

Hon. Sir what is your greatest motivation in life?

I am passionate about lifting and helping people- that is supporting humanity in every form. It doesn't matter where you come from all of us have liberty to freedom, free speech and independent living so I like to help people so that everyone can be independent. So, my motivation is the word of God that instruct me daily to do the right thing and impact the lives of other.

So, Sir what do you do at your leisure?

At my leisure I do a lot of reading. I also watch football and other sports. I am a football fan.

As a Father how have you promoted family values?

I am a Zonal Pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God. You know we have a good leader who has imbibe us with a lot of things about the family and that has trickled down. My parents too were Christians and strict disciplinarians though were not educated. We came from a small clan called Igbomina in Kwara State. I am from Kwara State although I represent Lagos State. The values we grew up with then in the village helped a lot in fashioning out our outlook about life. In our small community there is love and we care for one another and that to a great extent affected my family life.

What is your favourite meal?

I like Amala with Ewedu soup. I also like pounded yam with Egusi soup well prepared and garnished. I also like to eat rice and dodo.

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

I want them to be patient and pray that God will give me the wisdom and knowledge to represent them well and manage the people. I promise to be truthful to them and see their own problem as my own problem. I pledge to them that I will do my best to ensure that my being in the National Assembly will impact as many of them as possible.

Thank you Honourable Adedayo for talking to us. We wish you the best in your service to your people.

I am most honored. Thank you.