

There is No Single Federal Presence in my Senatorial District

... *Sen. Binos Yaore*

Distinguished Senator Binos Dauda Yaroe a second term Senator representing Adamawa South Senatorial District of Adamawa State spoke with our Editor-in-Chief, Peter Emuekpere on the challenges facing the people of his senatorial district and their expectations from the government of the day. Below is the excerpt of the chat.

Who is Senator Binos Dauda Yaroe?

Thank you very much. You are welcomed. My name is Senator Binos, Dauda Yaroe, Senator representing Adamawa South Senatorial District in the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I was in the 9th Senate and by the grace of God I have been re-elected again by my people to represent them in the 10th Senate. This is a testimony of the acceptance of my quality representation in my first tenure by my people.

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

Essentially what I have promised my people is effective representation and by effective representation it means to highlight their plights in the floor of the senate when the need arises, to speak for them and to intervene on their behalf whenever there are issues that affects them as well as to help them to get what is their due and entitlements to make sure they are not shortchanged in the scheme of things at the national level. This was exactly what I did during my first tenure and that again is what I am set to do again for them.

Sir what major development challenge do you think is facing the people of your Senatorial District?

My Senatorial District Adamawa South is the largest Senatorial District in the state comprising of 9 out of the 21 local governments that we have in the state. It has vast land; it has major federal roads traversing the senatorial district but almost all the roads are in poor state. For example, from Numan to Jalingo is virtually not motorable now because of the bad state. Contract was awarded seven years ago for the job that was supposed to be completed within three years. The level of work on that road as we speak has not advanced up to ten percent. As a matter of fact, the contractor has abandoned the site because successive budgets did not make reasonable provision for that road. Remember that in the last budget it was only N250million that was appropriated for that road. Initially it was 150million but after much pressure and lobbying another N100million was added. So that is the number one problem in my zone. The very bad state of roads. Equally, the road from Gombe to Yola through Numan, the portion of it that is in Adamawa State is in my senatorial district, it is from Cham to Numan. That road has



also been awarded, work is going on especially at the Numan end of the road and then the road from Nguroje through Mayobelwa through Zin to Apawa that was also linked to Jalingo, that road is very bad. In the supplementary budget of 2022, a provision was made for N1.09 billion Naira for that road and the contract was awarded and the contractor patriotically moved to site without receiving any mobilization fee. He started work that was progressing very well but unfortunately the N1.09 billion Naira that was in the supplementary budget was revised and was removed and only N100million was left. That amount was not even enough for the contractor to fuel even the equipment he had on site. So, the contractor abandoned the site and the road continued to get worse. That is about the roads but secondly and perhaps more important is the fact that there is no single federal presence or institution in Adamawa south, no federal or tertiary institution. Adamawa state is fortunate to have a

Well, it is too early in the day to be categorical but to me the signs are not too encouraging. I am on record to have accused the 9th Assembly Senate of being a rubber stamp and I was hoping that the 10th Senate will be different but from what we have seen so far in the Senate it is like an extension of the executive arm of government. Most times when things are brought in from the Executive we are ambushed and not allowed to look at them and vet properly. In fact, if they think your views will be contrary you will not be allowed to speak, you will raise your hand and get tired. So, from the omen that I see unless there is a serious change, I do not see us achieving much. This is my honest opinion. Everything that comes from the Presidency will be passed but it is not supposed to be so, we are supposed to examine it, debate it and subject it to a thor analysis and when we are satisfied that is will be for the good of the country then we pass it. But if they bring something and within thirty minutes it is passed without the necessary scrutiny by senators then it certainly will not augur well for democracy.

Federal University which is in Yola. It has a Federal Polytechnic which is in Mubi. There is also a Federal College of Education which is also located in Yola. Yola is in Central Zone and Mubi is in North Zone. There is also a Federal Technical College which is in Michika, and also a Federal Health Center which is in Hong and another one in Mubi. So, all the Federal Institutions of learning and health care all either in Central or North whereas South is a bigger Senatorial district. It is like we are being blacklisted and punished for whatever reasons we don't know. It seemed we are not part of this country. So, these are the two major areas of development concern of my people. We are believing that this current administration will do things differently and do her best to ensure that our people feel the presence of Federal Institutions in Adamawa South Senatorial District.

Distinguished sir, how will you assess the democratic experience so far in Nigeria since 1999?

Well, the fact that we have run several cycles of elections in this country is a progress of some sort but again we will keep improving and fine tuning the whole democratic process until we get it to a level where we can all be comfortable. But I think there is still a lacuna and other issues and challenges with the electoral system especially in situations where the umpire is inconsistent with the ideals of the Commission. INEC is supposed to be an impartial umpire, but sometimes you see them descending into the arena and taking sides openly. Most times you even see them flouting their own rules and regulations and recanting statements of assurances they made. These are some of the challenges we have but on a general assessment we are making progress.

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

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What is your greatest motivation in life?

For somebody like me who will soon be clocking seventy I think my greatest motivation is to finish well and to make heaven. That is my biggest motivation.

What do you do at your leisure?

I read and I watch films. I am an unapologetic Arsenal supporter. I love to watch football especially the Premier league. I also watch football when our National Team is playing. But generally I love to relax at home but when I am in the village I go to my farm quite often even if I don't do the work myself I go round to see the shrubs and plants growing and take a breath of the natural air the farming environment has to offer.

What is your favourite meal?

Well you will be surprised to know that Kunu Zaki is my favourite. I can drink Kunu Zaki from morning till evening. If you don't give me any solid food, I can live on that.

As a Father how have you helped to promote family values?

Generally, I try to set good examples for my children. I conduct myself in a way that they can always be proud of me so they can learn and imitate my lifestyle and live according to the standard I have laid for them. Generally, I live a life of service to humanity. Any environment I find myself I try to make a difference.

What message do you have for your people?

I urge them to keep trusting and always expect the best representation from me. They should know that I will always stand for their interest, I will never compromise the interest of my people even if it will make me unpopular in certain areas. I will continue to conduct myself in a way that I will never discriminate against anybody based on religion, sex or ethnicity.

Thank you for talking to us Distinguished Senator Binos Yaore Dauda

Thank you for having me.