

[Press release](#)[About PlusD](#)**Browse by creation date**

1966	1972	1973
1974	1975	1976
1978	1979	1985
1986	1987	1988
1989	1990	1991
1992	1993	1994
1995	1996	1997
1998	1999	2000
2001	2002	2003
2004	2005	2006
2007	2008	2009
	2010	

Browse by Classification

UNCLASSIFIED
 CONFIDENTIAL
 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
 SECRET
 UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL
 USE ONLY
 CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN
 SECRET//NOFORN



PUBLIC LIBRARY OF US DIPLOMACY

[Text search](#)[View Map](#)[Make Timegraph](#)[View Tags](#)[Image Library](#)**EKITI UPDATE: HIS AND HER EXCELLENCIES**

Date: 2004 February 6, 15:44 (Friday)

Canonical ID: 04LAGOS296_a

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Handling Restrictions: -- Not Assigned --

Character Count: 5062

Executive Order: -- Not Assigned --

Locator: TEXT ONLINE

TAGS: KDEM - Democratization | NI - Nigeria | PGOV - Political Affairs-- Government; Internal Governmental Affairs | PINR - Political Affairs-- Intelligence | PREL - Political Affairs-- External Political Relations

Concepts: -- Not Assigned --

Enclosure: -- Not Assigned --

Type: TE

Office Origin: -- N/A OR BLANK --

Archive Status: -- Not Assigned --

Browse by Handling Restriction

EXDIS - Exclusive Distribution Only
LIMDIS - Limited Distribution Only
NODIS - No Distribution (other than to persons indicated)
STADIS - State Distribution Only
ONLY - Eyes Only
NOFORN - No Foreign Distribution
LOU - Limited Official Use
SENSITIVE -
BU - Background Use Only
US - US Government Only
CONDIS - Controlled Distribution

Browse by TAGS

US PFOR PREL PGOV ETRD
OEXC OGEN UR EFIN CVIS
OVIP BEXP ASEC CASC ECON
PINT EAID OTRA PHUM ENRG
NATO PINS OCON JA MARR
UN GE UK PARM APER IS
PINR FR EG EAGR SREF
MASS SNAR
KISSINGER, HENRY A TU
SCUL MX IN CH CA EAIR IR
PTER ELAB AORG EINV IT TH
SENV VS KS XF PL EGEN GW
GR BR MOPS OREP AFSP RP
TECH IZ PDIP CI RO SP MILI
PK KDEM ETRN UNGA AFIN
ACOM LE SA NI YO OSCI AR
SF ESTC SY VE PO ID TW AS
EIND EEC KPAO CGEN SOCI
OECD

Media Organizations

Australia - The Age
Argentina - Pagina 12
Brazil - Publica
Bulgaria - Bivol
Egypt - Al Masry Al Youm
Greece - Ta Nea
Guatemala - Plaza Publica
Haiti - Haiti Liberte
India - The Hindu
Italy - L'Espresso

Office Action: -- N/A OR BLANK --
From: NIGERIA LAGOS
To: -- N/A OR BLANK --

Markings: -- Not Assigned --

Content Raw content Metadata

Share Print

Show Headers

1. (U) Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Governor Peter Ayodele Fayose and his wife Feyisetan of tiny, impoverished Ekiti State have had their Public Relations Director working overtime recently to "spin" them a high-profile, positive public image. The couple has been appearing almost weekly in newspaper "personality" pieces proclaiming undying love and admiration for each other, and extolling the power of prayer to solve all problems, governmental and personal.

2. (U) On the darker side, Her Excellency (Mrs.) Fayose, as she prefers to be called, has somehow escaped an NGO suit against 26 "first ladies" which includes the wives of the president, vice president and at least six of the 36 governors. The ladies are being accused of fraud and corruption for the misuse of funds through "foundations" set up in their names. Although she has no verified training or experience in any field, one of the first things Mrs. Fayose did when her husband took office was to set up the "Fayose Foundation," which is said to be involved in health care, education, services for the elderly,

entrepreneurial

programs, etc. (Reftel). She claims that her education program and program to feed people with HIV/AIDS has already lowered the number of HIV/AIDS sufferers in Ekiti State -- although she does not say how the patients were identified, how many there were or are now, and, most important, how her "Foundation" is financed.

Fighting to save his office

3. (U) For his part, His Excellency is fending off lawsuits on several fronts. The most important suit was brought in the Elections Tribunal by the Alliance for Democracy Party (AD) shortly after Fayose was elected in April. This suit charges that Fayose presented falsified documents when he registered to become a candidate. The case has been dismissed or postponed on technicalities three times. When the Tribunal finally sat to hear the case on January 27, the courtroom was invaded by armed "thugs believed to have been sponsored by top politicians" according to police reports. The police, who had been dealing with violence between the AD and PDP supporters since Fayose's election, were prepared and out in force around the courthouse. They were able to disarm the protesters and force them from the courtroom. The trial was postponed.

4. (U) When the trial resumed on February 3, the court wanted to know why the diplomas and school certificates Fayose had presented as a candidate were for a "Peter Ayodele Oluwayose" and not Peter Ayodele Fayose. Fayose's father testified that in 1974 God had told him to change the family name to "Oluwayose" or he would die. The Governor swore that he only changed his name back to Fayose in 1994, and for this reason, all his school records are in the name "Oluwayose." Lawyers for the AD presented results from an investigation they said showed "Oluwayose" was actually a person who lived in Ibadan in Oyo State and was the owner of the diplomas and school certificates. They further pointed out that Fayose was unable to present any document at all, such as a passport or driver's license, showing that he had used the name "Oluwayose" at any time prior. A decision is expected soon from the Tribunal.

5. (U) The Governor is also being sued for 5 billion naira by Omegabank for damages to its business reputation. The bank had been the Ekiti State's central bank since the State was created. State funds were deposited with Omegabank and the bank says it frequently provided loans to the State when it was short of funds and paid State employees directly. In January, Fayose removed all State funds from Omegabank and alleged that the bank had been over-charging the State

government 500 million naira per year in fees from the beginning of their relationship and was now refusing to negotiate to reduce the fees. The bank countered saying that, shortly after assuming office, Fayose had demanded that the bank hire some of his relatives and, most importantly, that the bank accept his uncle, one Adabayo Brown, as the chairman of its board of directors.

6. (SBU) Comment. This is just one example of the sometimes farcical nature of state governance Nigerian-style that says much about this fledgling democracy. While many politicians "just don't get it" when it comes to transparency, NGOs, civic organizations and businesses do. Bringing suit against State Governors and first ladies is a step in the direction of demanding accountability from politicians. But only when the political high jinks result in certain losses at the ballot box, will Nigerians begin to see some of the dividends of democracy in governance. Unfortunately, that is still a long way off.

HINSON-JONES

References to this document in other cables

[04LAGOS637](#)

References in this document to other cables

If the reference is ambiguous all possibilities are listed.

Help Expand The Public Library of US Diplomacy

Your role is important:

WikiLeaks maintains its robust independence through your contributions.

Use your credit card to send donations

10 € 25 € 50 € 100 € 250 € €

For a receipt please enter your email address

Donate with VISA/MasterCard

(via FDNN/CreditMutuel.fr)

For other ways to donate please see <https://shop.wikileaks.org/donate>

