

Fashola the link between Lagos and FG, says Ambode

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...vows to uphold good governance



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode; President, Humbert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumni Association, Nigeria, Mr. Jude Ememe and Public Affairs Officer, U.S Consulate General, Lagos, Dehab Ghebreab, during the 2015 Humbert H. Humphrey Annual Lecture and Awards Luncheon, at the Metropolitan Club, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, on Thursday, November 19, 2015

Lagos State Governor, Akinwunmi Ambode on Thursday described his predecessor and Minister of Works, Power and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) as a synergy between Lagos and Federal Government that will accelerate and actualize his administration's plans for infrastructural development in the state.

Ambode who said this while delivering a keynote address at the Lagos Business School Alumni Conference noted that the State is privileged to have Fashola in charge of key federal ministries at this critical moment in the history of the

State.

“We are privileged to have my predecessor in office at the center in charge of Works, Power and Housing. This effectively means we have a synergy between Lagos and the Federal Government to accelerate and actualize our current plans for infrastructural development,” Governor Ambode said.

He added that though building infrastructure to improve the quality of life is a top priority in Lagos, traffic and security remain the two key priority focus areas that need urgent attention.

He said: “Dealing with the terrible traffic problems that afflict so many Lagosians on a day to day basis is my key area of focus in relation to infrastructure. Our problems with traffic have to be improved. It is harmful to the quality of life of too many people in our city.”

“Lagos will continue to grow and as we are more successful, the population will of course grow more quickly, generating more demand for traffic. We are looking at the potential of rail and water-based systems, repair the roads and work with the private sector to deliver the projects.

We are putting in place the finances we need to enable us make our plans a reality,” Governor Ambode said.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode (left); exchanging

pleasantries with Group Vice President, Mr. Guy Murray-Bruce (right); while Founder/C.E.O, Centre for Values in Leadership, Prof. Pat Utomi (2nd left) and Dr. Raymond Ihuoma (2nd right), watch, during the 2015 Humbert H. Humphrey Annual Lecture and Awards Luncheon, at the Metropolitan Club, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, on Thursday, November 19, 2015

He also informed the gathering that there would be a traffic summit in Lagos next week to address the issues by combining the perspectives of international best practice and local knowledge and experience.

The Governor also described the summit as a step on the way to a new strategy that will improve the lives of Lagosians.

Speaking at another function, Governor Ambode said he has nothing else to give to humanity than to uphold the tenets of good governance.

He said this while speaking as guest lecturer at the Annual Lecture and Award ceremony of The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumni Association in Nigeria.

The Governor, who spoke on the theme: “Deepening The Democratic Culture In Nigeria”, said as part of efforts to deepen democracy and make Lagos work for all, he has since set up the office of Civic Engagement and Ministry of Wealth Creation.

He added that as part of efforts to carry people along in his programmes and policies and to run an all-inclusive government, he has since embarked on a quarterly town hall meeting, where he can hear from the people directly.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship is a programme for mid-career professionals sponsored by the United States Department of State in honour of Humphrey, a former U.S Senator and Vice President who dedicated himself to public service and upliftment of humanity.



Lagos State Governor, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode (right) being presented with a plaque by President, Humbert H. Humphrey Fellowship Alumni Association, Nigeria, Mr. Jude Ememe, during the 2015 Humbert H. Humphrey Annual Lecture and Awards Luncheon, at the Metropolitan Club, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

It is a ten-month programme in selected U.S Universities, where fellows are tutored on good governance and service to humanity.

Governor Ambode, who is an alumnus of the fellowship, had saluted the courage and dedication of Humphrey, who he said stood for excellence and commitment in leadership.

He, however, urged the fellows of the programme to do more in terms of commitment to public service and be builders of social bridges.

Describing Lagos as the fastest growing city in the world, Governor Ambode said in the midst of several challenges, Lagos State since 1999 has managed to sustain the momentum of growth, and that he is ready not only to sustain it, but also improve on it and truly make Lagos works for all.

Earlier, the President of the Hubert H. Humphrey Alumni Association in Nigeria, Mr. Jude Ememe described Governor Ambode's commitment to public service as

unparalleled and unprecedented, and expressed confidence in the sterling leadership qualities of the Governor.