



## Ondo State Education Reforms

Raphael Asaniyan  
Kayode Ogundele

Since the creation of Ondo State in 1976, no administration has placed as much premium on the education sector to accelerate development as is being witnessed today. The Oluwarotimi Akeredolu led administration has changed the narratives. Recent turn of events have shown that the government has utilised education, science and technology to fulfil public yearnings/aspirations to further expand the frontiers of its actions and mandate.

At inception, Governor Akeredolu began the journey of reforming the Ondo State education sector by renaming the State's Education Ministry as **Ministry of Education, Science and Technology**. Thereafter, it held the 2017 State Education Summit wherein a nineteen-point resolution was adopted for the education sector. This has brought about virile, symbiotic synergy between the Government and the Education Stakeholders, as the resolutions have assisted in charting the right course for educational development in the State.

Shortly after, the Ministry introduced the deployment of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) solutions for the management and daily administration of secondary schools in the State. The solutions comprises of modules such as Biometric data management of students and teachers, Results Computation and Checking, Computer Based Test (CBT), use of Library facilities, e-learning

activities and recently, Virtual learning, to mention but a few. This has greatly enhanced teaching and learning processes especially during the COVID-19 lockdown.

In line with global standard, the present administration through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, developed an ICT policy for the State's education sector, thus, making Ondo State one of the leading States in ICT in the Country. It also resuscitated the State Science Equipment Centre, Akure (OSSECA) which was hitherto moribund. The Centre has since began the production and fabrication of science equipment, adjudged to be of high standard which are being distributed to secondary schools in the State. The materials produced include: Science Teaching Materials such as T-Square, Drawing Board, Tripod Stands, etc. **Contd. on Pg 3.**



The Secretary to the State Government, Hon. Temitayo Oluwatuyi, along with the Head of Service, Mr. Dare Araigbaje at the presentation of Appointment Letters to 35 physically challenged persons, recently appointed by the Ondo State Government.

## Editorial

### REVITALISING ONDO EDUCATION: THE AKEREDOLU STRIDES

One of the most critical sectors in any society is Education. Beyond doubt, it is the springboard for societal growth and development. Therefore, it is trite that no country or state can toy with its education sector except to its own detriment.

Over the years, the education sector in Nigeria has been hamstrung by many factors, ranging from infrastructural deficiency and decay; personnel shortages to low personnel morale, to instructional inadequacy and in some cases, cultural inhibitions, among others. Ondo State is not immune to these setbacks. To rub salt in the gaping injury of the education sector, the recent COVID-19 pandemic which has affected the entire globe with frightening fatalities, has disrupted learning in all educational institutions since March 2020.

In Ondo State, Education at the primary and secondary levels in particular, remain a major cause for concern because of the profound foundational effects the two levels have on the entire education system. To this end, the Akeredolu-led administration is taking on the challenges headlong and reforming the education sector in the state aggressively in line with its 5-point development Agenda for the State. The State Government has therefore, sustained infrastructural rehabilitation and expansion, provision of instructional materials in sciences and other disciplines, personnel distribution and staffing, and aggressive enrolment of pupils, especially in the rural areas.

The Administration is sparing no effort at revamping the education sector of the Sunshine State. This will go a long way in sustaining its reputation as a frontline state in qualitative education.

Accordingly, the main menu of this edition of ODSIP Newsletter is an x-ray of some of the efforts of the present administration in the Education sector of the State. As usual, this edition also touches on other sundry but relevant service issues.

We are encouraged by the feedback from public servants on our publication. We promise to keep serving them and other esteemed readers. █

**O. Aragbaiye,**  
*Publisher/Editor-in-Chief*

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### COVID-19

## DO YOUR PART

HUMANITY NEEDS YOU NOW, MORE THAN EVER



Wash your hands with soap and water REGULARLY 

<p><b>No Handshaking</b></p>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✗</span>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>	<p><b>Keep Physical Distancing</b></p>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✗</span>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>	<p><b>Always use Nose Masks</b></p>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✗</span>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>
<p><b>Cover Nose or Mouth when Coughing or Sneezing</b></p>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✗</span>  <span style="color: orange; font-size: 2em;">✓</span>	 <p><b>DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT (DPSR&amp;D)</b></p>	<p><b>IF YOU NEED TO REACH OUT,</b></p> <p>CALL 0800COVID19 0700COVID19 07001COVID19</p> <p><b>KEEP SAFE</b></p>

## Ondo State Education Reforms contd.

The Centre also has Entrepreneurial components such as Knitting, Laundry, etc. The Ministry intends to scale up activities in the centre necessitating the proposed **Science and Technological Hub**, to empower our teeming youths with entrepreneurial skills.

No doubt, the present administration is doing everything possible to improve the entrepreneurial skills of the students, part of which birthed the first Science and Entrepreneurial Week, organised by the Ministry to make students functional and their innate potential explored. This contributed immensely to the giant stride of the State contingent at the National Entrepreneurship Programme (N-ship) held at Aso Villa, Abuja in 2018 where they produced COMFY Sanitary pad to the admiration of other States.

In the same vein, the Ministry through Public and Private Partnership (PPP) has partnered strategic Stakeholders in the area of infrastructural development of secondary schools to complement Government efforts at the period. This has resulted into massive renovation and construction of school buildings (classrooms, laboratories, libraries etc) across the State. Consequently, Mr. Governor at the recently held **"Philanthropists' Day"** honoured Philanthropists and Old Students who have contributed immensely to the development of Education in the State.

Additionally, the present administration also procured modern equipment like Printers and Scanners to fast-track the operations of the Examinations Management Department, especially in the conduct of hitch-free State Examinations. This has enhanced the activities of the department as results are released within 48 hours of conduct for Common Entrance Examinations into Unity secondary schools and Public secondary schools in the State while Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) and Joint SS2 Promotion Examination are released before resumption of schools. Apart from this, the Ministry has gone viral in the use of social networking applications to form group chats and platforms to enhance easy dissemination of information among staff and stakeholders in the sector.

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

It is also worth mentioning that the COVID-19 Pandemic which necessitated the closure of schools has its positive impact, by being the first State to start Virtual Learning and Educational

Television in Nigeria. This Virtual Learning recorded a huge success and projected the image of the State to the entire globe. The rating done by National Education Management Information System (NEMIS), a Department in the Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja, on the various educational programmes put in place by various States of the Federation scored Ondo State's Virtual System of learning as one of the best.

### AKEREDOLU'S IMPACT ON BASIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS

It is germane to observe that Akeredolu's administration inherited a massive decay of primary schools in the State. The UBEC fund accessed during the past administration was largely used for the construction of Mega Schools at the expense of one thousand, one hundred and seventy seven (1,177) other schools that were in a sorry state. A total number of fifty one (51) Mega Schools were constructed then, with minimal impact.

This administration took a giant step and mustered resources to access accumulated UBEC Funds. This visionary effort has attracted applause from UBEC and has given the State an enhanced recognition. The fund released has been judiciously expended to carry out complete rehabilitation of Seven hundred and ninety – seven (797) primary schools from the inception of this administration to date. A total number of Two thousand, Nine hundred and fifty three (2,953) Projects involving Constructions, Renovations and Supply of Equipment were carried out. Other innovative projects/programmes initiated by the Akeredolu administration at the Basic Educational level through Ondo State Universal Basic Educational Board (SUBEB) are: School to Farm Agricultural Entrepreneurial Initiative, Re-engineering of e-Quality Assurance School Evaluation, Education Management Information Systems (EMIS), among others.

### DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The tertiary institutions in the State were also greatly impacted by the present administration, with resuscitation of monthly subvention. All of them have left the status of glorified secondary schools and can now compete favourably with their counterparts anywhere in the world. Evidence of this was the recent rating of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko as the Best State University in Nigeria.

Conclusively, the legacies of the Oluwarotimi Akeredolu led administration at pulling education out from its decayed status will linger for generations in the State. ■



## COVID-19 - ARE YOU A DOUBTING THOMAS?

■ Dr. Adetolu Ademujimi

To pander to the denial of humanity's uninvited guest at the moment – the Corona Virus Disease, is to assume that the saying - "seeing is believing", supersedes all other rational means of proof in all situations. It amounts to 'playing ostrich' with the issue of COVID-19.

In spite of the alarming number of deaths heard across the globe, it is ridiculous that a lot of Nigerians are in doubt about the rapacious hands of COVID-19 which has berthed in the country. Official figures daily released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) are directly related to results of body samples collected from Nigerians and analyzed by the national laboratories designated for diagnosis. The world's media space is awash with stories of overpopulation of hospital yards and by extension, the graveyards, owing to the ominous figures of Coronavirus casualties across the world, inclusive of our country. In spite of all these information, I'm trying so hard to fathom the denial among the educated and uneducated alike, about this public health reality due to COVID-19, whose fangs have even envenomed the social and economic waters in which we all swim.

Chronic mistrust for government-spewed news have conditioned the minds of most Nigerians to receive everything from Aso Rock or State Government houses as elitist-concocted half-truths and lies. If those with the highest level of education in our society still claim that COVID-19 is reserved for the political subset of the elite, how do we convince the not-so-educated to wear face masks, maintain social distancing, wash hands regularly or use hand sanitizers?

My grandmother told me when I was young and before her demise, that whenever I hear *gbe, gbe, gbe, sora, ki won ma lo gbe si eyin ile e* (be vigilant when an alarm is raised, else you become a victim or it's dumped at your backyard). The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised alarm over the untested but asymptomatic carriers among the world population. These are individuals who are not even aware they are repositories/vectors of the infection, simply because they show no symptoms or signs of any illness. Their immune states are probably very strong, preventing them from succumbing to physical ill-health from the virus. They are the ones we should all watch out for by doing the needful. Do you even know if you are an asymptomatic carrier? Why not protect the next person, whose immune status may not be as strong as yours, by simply complying with the NCDC rules at this time.

I have had to recommend over 30 suspected persons for COVID-19 test over the past 1 month and a sizeable number was positive for the virus, necessitating home treatment for the mild cases and hospital admission at the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH), which doubles as the State treatment center on Igbatoro road in Akure. I know children, adult men, women and aged among them. Some have been discharged, while some are still receiving treatment. The skepticism is so rife that I had to physically point at the IDH in Akure and put a call across to one of the Medical Doctors working there, in order to satisfy some people's curiosity and disbelief.

My appeal is that we do the needful in Ondo state to douse the escalating figures of positive persons in our Sunshine state especially as the Governorship elections approach. Elections should not make us elect a care-free attitude towards our individual and collective health. We must not take turns in Ondo state to visit the treatment center located beside the School of Nursing on Igbatoro road, Akure, to believe that COVID is truly here. We don't have to see, before we believe.

## HEADS of Service of Ondo State 1976-date



**Mr. Theophilus A. Iwajomo**

1976 - 1979



**Chief E. Emuleomo**

1979 - 1980



**Chief J.K Akingbade**

1980 - 1981



**Chief J.B Abegunde**

1982 - 1985

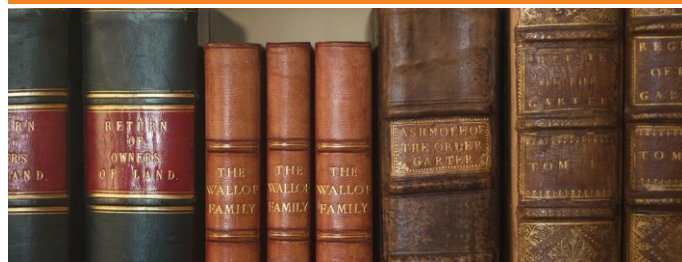


**Dr. Olaiya Oni**

1985 - 1987

# YOU and the R U L E S

Aderemi Olabode



*This corner is specially designed for the Public Servants to familiarize themselves with the Rules and Regulations guiding the State Public Service. We will be focusing on the 1999 CSR, CSCSR, FR and other extant Regulations and Circulars meant to guide our operations and conduct in the Public Service. We hope it will be beneficial to the readers.*

In the last edition, we discussed appointment into established posts and some requirements that must be met before a person can be eligible for recruitment into the Public Service. In this edition, we shall be discussing different forms of Appointment that are clearly spelt out in the Civil Service Rules. These include: Appointment on probation, Contract Appointment and Short-Term/Temporary Appointment.

**Appointment on Probation:** In line with Rule 02301 of the Civil Service Rules, Officers on probation will be required to serve for 2 years before confirmation. This period may, however, be reduced to not less than six months by deduction of any previous period of public service rendered satisfactorily in post of cognate status involving similar duties. The period of probation shall not exceed 2 years unless an extension is approved by the Civil Service Commission, in case of senior officer and Head of Department, in case of junior staff. Extension of probation may result in the incremental penalty.

**Contract Appointment:** According to Rule 02401, a Contract Appointment is a temporary appointment (which does not provide for payment of pension) made by the Civil Service Commission and Ministries/Extra Ministerial Departments for a specific period, as opposed to appointment on pensionable terms. The appointment must however be recorded in a formal document of agreement.

**Short-Term/Temporary Appointment:** Rule 02501 provides that appointment of officers on month to month basis and other short-term appointments in the service are governed by the conditions set out in letters offering such appointments. Heads of Departments are authorised to terminate these appointments in accordance with such terms. █

Mr. Omolorun Modupe

1987 - 1991



Prince Fioye Bajowa

1994 - 1999



Mr. Akin Adaramola

Jun. 1999 - Aug. 2003



Mr. Alaba Isijola

Aug. 2003 - Feb. 2009



Mr. Ajose Kudehinbu

Mar. 2009 - Aug. 2012



Mrs Stella Kosemani Kolawole

Jan. 2013 - July 2013



'Toyin Akinkuotu Esq

July 2013 - June 2019



Mr. Dare Aragbaiye

July 2019 - Present



# ODSIP Update

 Oluwagbenga Akingbasote

 Olumuyiwa Akinkuolie

## CHAT WITH HEAD OF SERVICE

In a bid to keep the channel of communication and Stakeholders' Engagement open amid the COVID-19 physical gathering restrictions, the Office of the Head of Service held its first ever Online Chat with the State public servants. This is in fulfillment of the resolve of the Ondo State Head of Service, Mr. Dare Aragbhaiye, to always keep workers abreast of issues bordering on the Service.

Responses poured in from all sectors of the Public Service. Senior and junior workers, including retirees sent in comments and suggestions touching on recruitment, salaries, career progression, and other policies and practices, all of which the Head of Service promptly responded to.

For those that missed it or wish to go through the questions and answers again, please visit the Reform Office website at [www.dpsrd.on.gov.ng](http://www.dpsrd.on.gov.ng)

The next edition of the exercise is in the offing. Watch out!

## HRM/PAYROLL SOFTWARE PACKAGE (ON-GOING)

Having noticed the bottlenecks in the management of Human Resource, the Governor of Ondo State, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Akeredolu has approved the development of a Human Resource Management software package for optimum performance and resourcefulness.

The software package which is expected to cater for all HR related matters and help reduce all financial leakages in the Public Service is totally homegrown. Personnel and resources committed to it are drawn from within the Public Service. This is done to ease cost, and aid integration and sustainability.

The Development is on-going and is expected to be completed within the shortest possible time. Please, watch out.

## 2ND HOS INTERACTION WITH CHANGE AMBASSADORS

With strict adherence to all safety measures, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Quarterly Head of Service Meeting with Change Ambassadors held in the month of August, 2020, 7 months after its first edition in January. This is due to the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While addressing the Change Ambassadors, the Head of Service, Mr. Dare Aragbhaiye stressed the importance of the Ondo Service Improvement Programme (ODSIP) and how pivotal it is to the success of the shared goals of the Public Service. He therefore asked that the Reform Office should be given all the support it requires to achieve those goals. He also cautioned them to stay clear of partisan politics in these electioneering times, as the Governor frowns at it and has made this known severally.

The event gave the Change Ambassadors an opportunity to draw from the wealth of experience of the recently retired Permanent Secretary of the Pension Transitional Department, Mr. Tope Kolawole. He gave an engaging session on pension reforms, especially in the areas of Ease of Process of Retirement Benefits.

One of the high points of the event was the honorary appointment of Engr. Idowu Allen as a Change Ambassador having given a roadmap to how the cost of road construction was reduced at the Ondo State Ministry of Works.

The Administrative Secretary of the office, Mr. Oluwagbenga Akingbasote while reeling out the expectations from the Change Ambassadors in the days ahead charged participants to observe COVID-19 safety protocol at all times, as the world needs their cooperation in personal precautions, now more than ever.

## ODSIP Lens

### "WE WILL REWARD HARDWORK", ARAGBAIYE ASSURES WORKERS

Workers in the Ondo State Public Service have been assured of adequate motivation for improved performance and more importantly, as reward for diligence and hardwork. **ODSIP Lens** reliably gathered that the State Government recently motivated some workers with the 'accelerated promotion' given to three (3) well-deserving Engineers in the State Ministry of Works for their exemplary services to the State, specifically in the areas of reducing cost of road construction in these times of scarce resources.

**ODSIP Lens** commends the Engineers and Government for the incentive. No doubt, this will make more workers "to give their best" in line with the motto of ODSIP and for improved service delivery in Ondo State, to the benefit of tax payers.

# E FI YE WA

“E FI YE WA” is a 30-minute Yoruba programme sponsored by the Office of the Head of Service and anchored by a media consultant - the Supreme International Group Communications, on Positive 102.5 FM, Akure by 10.00 a.m., every Tuesday.

The Programme is designed to sensitize the public on the responsibilities, functions and activities of Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments (MEDs) of government and how they are contributing to the development of the State through implementation of their mandates. It also aims at reminding the Public Servants in the State on the need to give their best at all times and to be accountable to the public. It is an avenue for feedback on the impacts of government actions. The Programme is borne out of Ondo Service Improvement Programme (ODSIP) Reform Agenda, a brain child of the current Head of Public Service of the State, Mr. 'Dare Aragbaiye.

The programme which was flagged off by the Head of Service in January, 2020 has featured the following Permanent Secretaries: Service Matters Department, Office of Establishments & Training, Finance, SUBEB, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Health, SITA, Pension Transitional Department, Accountant-General, Local Government & Chieftaincy Affairs, Local Government Service Commission, Secretary, Reform Office and still counting. It will be on air throughout the year.

Public Servants are therefore, enjoined to tune in to the Station (Positive 102.5 FM) for the Programme, every Tuesday, by 10.00a.m

## Words on MARBLE

If I take care of my character, my reputation will take care of me

D.L MOODY

L e t t e r

to the EDITOR 





**NOTE:** All letters to the Editor should be directed to: [odsipnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:odsipnewsletter@gmail.com) OR WhatsApp 08160622636

# P U Z Z L E





**Answer to the last puzzle:** King to Chief 1 and back. Then, to 7, 6, 5, 2, 3, 4, 11, 10, 9, 8, 15, 14, 13, 12 and out. OR King to Chief 7 and back. Then to 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 10, 5, 6, 9, 8, 15, 14, 13, 12 and out to celebration ground.

1

If

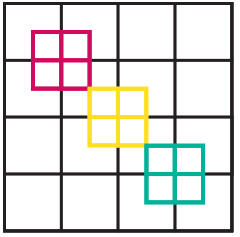
	+		=	16
	+			
	-		=	12
26		16		

Then, what is

 +  +  +  = ?

2

How many squares are in this figure?



(A) 44 (B) 45 (C) 46 (D) 50

You can send your answers to the Managing Editor. Handsome rewards await the winners.

## ODSIP Lens contd.

### STOP LITTERING THE STREETS

In the past few months and until very recently, Akure metropolis has been an eyesore with the heaps of waste seen at very odd places, including medians of major roads and parks. The situation was so bad that the heaps of waste were left there for days, thereby causing unbearable stench which could in turn lead to other illnesses.

The situation has however eased up as at our recent visit to the Secretariat complex, major roads, NEPA, and Oja Oba markets. We sighted notices instructing people not to dump their waste indiscriminately at the identified odd places, but at designated spots.

**ODSIP Lens** is still watching to see if the improvement will be enduring. **ODSIP Lens** demands waste managers to ensure compliance with instructions and timely evacuation of waste. They will be doing us and themselves some good by this act. They should also train truck operators on proper and effective waste evacuation and disposal. The Dumpsite off Igbatoro road itself needs special attention, as excess waste often litter the road, causing environmental and health hazards to those living nearby and passersby. █



# P S T I : GATEWAY TO ATTAINING QUALITATIVE PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

 Jide Ekpobomini

History has shown that many developed countries of the world like Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, the Scandinavian countries, Singapore and Malaysia reached their present status through strong and capable public services. Thus, the Ondo State Public Service Training Institute, Ilara Mokin popularly referred to as PSTI stands a better chance of assisting the Government realize its Development Agenda.

The prestigious Ondo State Public Service Training Institute, Ilara Mokin was birthed as the State's Staff Development Centre (SDC) in 1976, to improve the capacity and efficiency of officers in the State Civil Service within the lower cadre. It was specifically meant to encourage self-development, achieve better performance and productivity among the officers who were already on the job, while government took responsibility for sponsoring their training.

Through its partnership with the Ondo State Polytechnic now Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, the SDC metamorphosed into a Training Centre (TC) with an enlarged scope and curriculum, including training of clerical and other secretariat personnel.

The Centre was however invigorated in 2007, with additional responsibility of training more professionals and running intermediate courses like Diploma in Management Studies (DMS) and Advance Diploma in Management Studies (ADMS) with options in Accounting and Public Administration. Today, the Public Service Training Institute, Ilara Mokin has upgraded its curriculum and programmes in line with global standard, thus making it dependable and comparable with contemporaries like the Lagos Business School (LBS), Ghana Institute of Management & Public Administration (GIMPA) and the Centre for Management Development (CMD), Lagos; while its ultra-modern edifice at Ilara Mokin remains a cynosure of all eyes with perfect serene environment for teaching, training and learning.

In an interaction with the Ondo State Head of Service, Mr. Dare Aragbaiye, the Institute's mandate is to be a world class Management and Professional Institute for the promotion of excellent service delivery in the public service, by bringing modern capacity building solutions, carrying out researches and exchange programmes to inspire the workforce to adopt global best practices in the service of the state and its environ.

Mr. Dare Aragbaiye stated that the Institute is saddled with the responsibility of providing distinctive and relevant capacity to address stakeholders' needs and achieve values for staff development. Furthermore, the institute is expected to take care of Ondo State and other sister states like, Osun, Ogun, Oyo, Lagos, Ekiti, Edo and so on. In the training and re-training of personnel.

Today, with the support of the Head of Service, the Institute is enjoying increased buy-in from the government in terms of involvement of Public Service and the entire bureaucracy in the Institute's scheme of events, carrying out reforms in the entire public service, imbibing global best practices while rendering quality services to the populace.

The Institute's brochure for the year 2020 courses encapsulate all cadres within the Public Service of the Federation. Some of the courses offered by the Institute are:

## **Graduate Training Programmes (GTP)**

The Graduate Training Programmes are certified programmes that run academic calendars of two (2) semesters per session and can run for not less than two semesters and maximum of four (4) academic calendars. Such programmes include Diplomas and Advance Diplomas. They are support programmes to enable civil servants improve their skills/career progression and as well generate revenue for the Institute. PSTI is at advance stage towards accrediting some of its programmes with conventional and relevant Tertiary Institutions within and outside Ondo State.

## **Management Training Programmes (MTP)**

The Management Training Programmes are advance management programmes that enhances managerial skills of officers. They include Seminars, Workshops and Conferences and other management based programmes that span for periods of two, three, four and five days and maximum of one month.

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