

## Obasanjo to Chair ABLI Conference

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) alongside The British and Foreign Bible Society is set to host current and emerging leaders in Africa at the 11th edition of the African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) Conference to be chaired by former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, disclosed this at a media briefing organised to announce the conference. According to him, the conference themed '*Value-Based Leadership: Model for Africa*,' will be held at the National Airforce Conference Centre, Abuja from October 21 - 24, 2024.

"Through this conference, we desire to stir up the minds of our leaders to embrace leadership with integrity and the fear of God. We desire to birth leaders who will lead with honesty, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to ethical principles; leaders who will take decisions that align with core values of integrity," Pastor Sanusi explained.



Chief Olusegun Obasanjo



Pastor Samuel Sanusi

According to the BSN CEO, African leaders are responsible for the status of the continent as the poorest and least developed in the world. He asserted that poor leadership, greed, corruption, and mismanagement are the banes of the continent.

He noted that through the conference, a new agenda would be set for African leaders and Nigeria and called on African leaders to shun greed and corruption and rise to make deliberate efforts to develop the continent.

African Biblical Leadership Initiative (ABLI) Forum, which was birthed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at a special session of the African Union Prayer Breakfast by African Heads of State and Government in 2010, is apolitical and non-denominational. The forum seeks to bring about personal and cultural transformation through informed leadership that is guided by biblical values. It aims to institute qualitative transformation of a nation through value-based leadership informed and inspired by biblical values as well as raise a generation of principled leaders with honour, integrity, capacity, and competence.

Pastor Sanusi disclosed that the First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, will be the special guest of honour at the event. Some of the other distinguished personalities expected at the conference include former Head of State, Gen. Dr Yakubu Gowon (Rtd) who is also the Patron of BSN, former president, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, and other distinguished personalities.

Keynote Speakers at the event are Hon. Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, former Chief Justice of South Africa, and Dr. Zienzi Dillon, founder/CEO of Carmel Global Capital, New York. The plenary speakers, who will be speaking on the Value of Social Harmony, Value of Justice, Value of Integrity, and Value of Wisdom, are Mrs. Juliet Binitie, Director of Programmes, Institute for National Transformation Lagos; Prof. Mike Ozekhome, constitutional lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria; Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi, social reformer and Christian philosopher, and Hon. Justice Catherine Bamugemereire, Justice of Supreme Court of Uganda.

There will also be a youth assembly session themed '*Arise and Shine: Raising a New Generation of Transformational Leaders*,' which will be addressed by Pastor Poju Oyemade, founder and Senior Pastor of The Covenant Nation and Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi.