

FROM WOLE BALOGUN, ADO EKITI

For Oluwatobiloba Daniel Adeigba, 31, January 4, 2011 would remain a most unforgettable day for him, sadly not for good reasons, but for very ugly reasons. It was the day he had a ghastly auto crash that has robbed him of his eyes. Now, poor Adeigba can only feel the presence of anyone around him, identify the sex of the individual through his or her voice, aura and others. The once vibrant, energetic and brilliant Adeigba has been reduced to a blind, brilliant but withdrawn gentleman.

He narrated his ordeal: "My nightmare started on January 4, 2011, the day I had the ghastly auto crash that claimed my eyes. I went for the compulsory National Youth Service Corps of 2010/2011 session. I was posted to the Government Secondary School, Digingari, Damaturu, Yobe State, for teaching with registration number YB10C0610.

"I was one of the Batch 'B' Corp members in that year, before the school went for break, I took permission from my principal that I wanted to travel and he granted it. When the school was on break during the Christmas and New Year, I traveled. On my way home, I received the information that corps members would be assigned for the 2011 election and that we could apply on the internet. I did that and was appointed to work as an ad-hoc staff.

"Much more later, I received a message that we should report to the Government College, Damaturu, to learn how to use the machine for the election. I rushed down from Enugu where I boarded a bus going to Jos and after that, I boarded another bus going to Damaturu from Jos.

"When we got to Damaturu I already told the driver where I was stopping so that I could take a motorbike to where I was going. I was preparing to alight from the vehicle when the accident happened. I cannot really recall what actually happened. Our vehicle, while still on high speed, just swerved off the road and crashed against a huge tree in the bush.

"We were 18 in the bus and one lady died instantly. Others were then taken to different hospitals. But there is one other lady, by name Chikodinaka, that I know who is still alive. The two of us were taken to the same hospital for treatment.

"She got married a year before the accident, so she should be with her husband now. The lady was in coma for six weeks while I was in coma for two days. We were taken from the General Sani Abacha Hospital to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Borno State.

"I lost my eyes to that accident. The medical report was that my two optical nerves are damaged and that happened through a head injury. According to the medical reports, optical nerve is not treatable, once it is damaged, that means I would be blind for the rest of my life. I was not blind when I was going to the NYSC. I lost my sight to service to my nation and it appears the government doesn't care about me. I have been on this since 2011 without any government intervention and no help from any NGO.

"Yes, the NYSC visited us at the General Sanni Abacha Hospital. When they found out

Blinded in auto crash while serving, ex-corps member cries to Jonathan for help



• Adeigba and his family

that there was still life in us, they took us to the teaching hospital where I was abandoned. The other lady was treated by the Borno State NYSC because she was a Borno State corps member. I was a Yobe state corps member and sadly, no further help to me from the NYSC in Yobe State.

"There is hope with some of the hospitals I contacted in India and in America where they said I can still regain the sight. What I am agitating for now is government's proper rehabilitation for me. I want the government to send me abroad to go and do the test which

is part of the rehabilitation. On my part I have spent a huge sum of money to assist myself, but the effort has not yielded any result. I have spent well over N1.5 million because I have even sold some of the things that I have like landed property, electronics among other things.

"No help from government, NYSC, NGO except for individuals who helped me and some individuals. I met someone who helped me, got me an apartment in Lagos and when the rent expired, I left Lagos and came down to Ado-Ekiti yet, I have no job."



• Adeigba in NYSC orientation camp before the accident.

Adeigba managed to get married to an Ekiti based freelance reporter, Adefunke, and the union was recently blessed with a bouncing baby boy:

"I got married this year April 12, 2014, and now I have a child, Ademiju Akachukwu. He is four months old. My wife is working as a contract staff at Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State and Ekiti FM for over four years now. She was employed by the past administration. She is a graduate of Mass Communication from the Polytechnic, Ibadan. It hasn't been easy for her to fend for us with the little she gets as a contract staff. If I am working, it would have been better. It isn't as if I cannot work with my present condition. I can also work on radio as either presenter or even script writer. I still have my senses intact and I can identify people to a large extent, for instance, I can sense correctly if I'm with a male or female. It's only that I cannot really move around on my own in the public without being guided, but I sometimes go to my place because I have been familiar with the place.

"What is worsening my situation is that I'm from a humble home and have even lost my parents: I lost my father 14 years ago and also lost my mother a couple of weeks ago. My mum died as a result of my inability to cater for her ailment because the little money I struggled to get in writing for people is used to support my wife to get food on the table, so I was unable to help her when the ailment started. I am the seventh because my mum had eight children. My elder brothers are placed all over the country, because they are in the Army. Every one of them has big responsibilities to shoulder and that is why I can't blame them because we all know the situation of things in the country.

"I have a serious challenge now, which is accommodation because my landlord's lawyer gave me a letter to vacate the house within seven days. I don't have idea of where to put my wife and my little born baby. I need assistance, those who can help me, rehabilitate me, those who can stand by me and say we are ready to support you. I also want President Goodluck because he is the President of the people, let him give me a job, let him rehabilitate me, let him come to my rescue; let him see me as one of his children and help me. I'm really frustrated now."

Adeigba could be reached on 08157017044. His account with GTB is Adeigba Daniel 0012077141. He also appealed to well meaning Nigerians to come to his aide.

Rep lifts college, schools with boreholes, cyber cafe, furniture

FROM WOLE BALOGUN, ADO-EKITI

A member of House of Representatives, Hon. Oyetunde Ojo, has called on public-spirited individuals and corporate organizations to contribute to the development of education in Nigeria.

Speaking in Ijero Ekiti while commissioning the main gate he built for the College of Health Sciences and Technology in the town, He stated that the falling standard of education would have been addressed, if philanthropists could fund education in the country.

Ojo who represents Ekiti Central Federal Constituency II, also donated two

boreholes, N1 million for the completion of laboratory, SUN cybercafé, 120 computer systems for the ICT Centre that he is currently building for the school among others. He stated that the donations made to the institution were meant to help lift the college to a degree-awarding institution.

Ojo, who is Chairman, House Committee on Communications, said government alone cannot fund education, hence the need for corporate organizations and individuals to support the cause of raising the nation's educational standard.

Provost of the college, Pastor Bayo Ojo, described the lawmaker as unique and special, commending him for his contributions to the school. He called on other

politicians and organizations to emulate Ojo's benevolence and readiness to ensure people around benefit from social responsibility and the dividends of democracy.

The federal lawmaker also donated 200 customized chairs and tables to Ipoti High School and Comprehensive High School, Odo-Owa Ekiti in Ijero.

He decried the fallen standard of education in Ekiti, noting that the state which was known for the large turnout of professors has lost its place in the nation's educational rating.

Principal of the school, Mr. Joseph Adeniyi and the monarch of the town, Oba Oladipupo Kolade Oluwademilade I, thanked him for ensuring the students had a conducive environment for learning.