

Chief Abiola Iyiola

AARE EGBE OMO OLÚBÀDÀN OF ÌBÀDÀNLAND

Awaiting installation as Òótá Olúbàdàn. Chevening Scholar, founder of the Safeway Group, and philanthropist based in Houston and Ìbàdàn.

ROOTS

His story begins in Ìbàdàn, in two families whose compounds still stand at Ojà'bà. From his mother he inherited a throughline of Islamic piety, service, and discipline, values that would resurface decades later in the way he gives.

PATERNAL LINE

The Anlamole Family

Of the Iyiola Adedeji Odunbaku branch, Anlamole Family of Ìsàlẹ̀-Ìjẹ̀bú, Ojà'bà, the compound whose name he would later carry as Mògàjí.

MATERNAL LINE

The Olupoyi Family

Of the Olupoyi Family of Olupoyi Compound, Ojà'bà, and a mother whose quiet insistence on service became the measure he still keeps.

FORMATION

One documented path, Kùdeti to Houston: Ìbàdàn's first missionary primary school, two Nigerian universities, a Chevening Scholarship to Manchester, and a second life built in the United States.

Saint David Primary School, Kùdeti — Ìbàdàn's first primary school, founded by missionary David Hinderer, then Eleta High School.

University of Ìbàdàn · Lagos State University — undergraduate foundation in Nigeria.

1999 — Chevening Scholar, University of Manchester — the UK's flagship government scholarship, awarded on merit.

2003 — To the United States — selected by the British Council and the Human Rights Institute of South Africa to study parliamentary sessions in South Africa the same year.

Houston — BA Public Administration, Texas Southern · MBA, University of Houston — following early work with the Law Centres Federation, London, and the Legal Resources Consortium under Olawale Fapohunda SAN.

ENTERPRISE — THE SAFEWAY GROUP

A multi-sector conglomerate spanning oil and gas, drilling, shipping, real estate, and water, built across two continents.

SHIPPING

Safeway Shipping

Freight and logistics moving goods across international routes.

OIL & GAS

Mattox Safeway Limited

Energy-sector operations within the group's core.

DRILLING

Safeway Drilling Nigeria

Drilling services, and the training ground for engineering and geology students.

REAL ESTATE

Homestead Nigeria

Property and development interests in Nigeria.

REAL ESTATE

Space Nigeria Limited

Real-estate holdings and development.

WATER

Safeway Purelife Water

Clean, packaged drinking water for the Nigerian market.

DISTRIBUTION

SpareParts Connect

Parts sourcing and distribution.

THE ASCENSION

Seven titles in under a decade, earned. In Ìbàdàn, chieftaincy is not inherited, it is climbed, rank by rank, through demonstrated service — from Mògàjí in 2017 to his current rank of Àrẹ̀ Egbé Ọmọ Olúbàdàn, with Òótá Olúbàdàn awaiting installation. The ladder never stops climbing.

COMMUNITY

Ìbàdàn Descendants Union USA — former president of the Houston chapter, and now serving a second term as National President, holding the diaspora to its home city.

Ìbàdàn Palace Fundraising Committee — as chairman, he led the fundraising that completed the Olúbàdàn Palace at Òkè-Àrẹ̀mọ, a seat for the very institution he serves.

FAMILY

Married to Dr. Adetayo Mabadeje-Iyiola, daughter of Prof. Saida Mabadeje, former Chancellor of the Federal University Oye-Ekiti, and Prof. Biola Mabadeje. Together they have two children, a daughter and a son.