**IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING HIS EXCELLENCY. ALH. ATIKU ABUBAKAR. GCFR.**

**UHURU/RAILA AFRICAN PEACE ACCORD AWARD. AFRICA POLITICAL LEADER 2021.**

**CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRATIC PEACE, HUMANITY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE.**

**Atiku Abubakar** GCON (born 25 November, 1946) is a [Nigerian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian) politician and [businessman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Businessperson) who served as the [Vice President of Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_Nigeria) from 1999 to 2007 during the presidency of [Olusegun Obasanjo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo). He ran as Governor of [Adamawa State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamawa_State) in 1990, 1997 and later, in 1998, being elected before becoming [Olusegun Obasanjo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olusegun_Obasanjo)'s running mate during the [1999 presidential election](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1999_Nigerian_presidential_election) and re-elected in [2003](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2003_Nigerian_presidential_election).

**Family and Education**

Atiku Abubakar was born on 25 November 1946 in Jada, into the family of Garba Abubakar, a Fulani trader and farmer.

**Education**

Despite opposed by his father to the idea of Western education, Atiku went to Jada Primary School, [Adamawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamawa_State). After completing his primary school education in 1960, he was admitted into [Adamawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamawa_State) Provincial Secondary School and graduated from secondary school in 1965.

Following secondary school, Abubakar studied a short while at the [Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria) Police College in [Kaduna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaduna). He left the College and worked briefly as a Tax Officer in the Regional Ministry of Finance, from where he gained admission to the School of Hygiene in [Kano](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kano_(city)) in 1966. He graduated with a Diploma in 1967, having served as Interim Student Union President at the school. In 1967 he enrolled for a Law Diploma at the [Ahmadu Bello University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmadu_Bello_University) Institute of Administration, on a scholarship from the regional government. After graduation in 1969, during the [Nigerian Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Civil_War), he was employed by the [Nigeria Customs Service](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigerian_Customs_Service).

Business career

Abubakar worked in the Nigeria Customs Service for twenty years, rising to become the Deputy Director, as the second highest position in the Service was then known; he retired in April 1989 and took up full-time business and politics. He started out in the real estate business during his early days as a Customs Officer.

He ventured into real estate and later moved into mass agriculture.

Abubakar is a co-founder of [Intels Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intels_Nigeria" \o "Intels Nigeria) Limited, an oil servicing business with extensive operations in Nigeria and abroad.

Atiku's other business include the Adama Beverages Limited, a beverage manufacturing plant in Yola, an animal feed factory, and the [American University of Nigeria (AUN)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_University_of_Nigeria), the first American-style private university to be established in Sub-Saharan Africa. He retired in April 1989 and took up full-time business and politics.

**Marriages and personal life**

Abubakar has four wives and twenty- eight children.

In 1989, Abubakar was elected the National Vice-Chairman of the Peoples Front of Nigeria in the build-up to the [Third Nigerian Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Nigerian_Republic).

On 29 May 1999, Abubakar was sworn in as [Vice President of Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vice_President_of_Nigeria). His first term was mainly characterized by his role as Chairman of the National Economic Council and head of the [National Council on Privatization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Council_on_Privatisation), overseeing the sale of hundreds of loss-making and poorly managed public enterprises alongside [Nasir El Rufai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nasir_Ahmad_el-Rufai).

He has always seen the need to restructure the country. He democratic leadership has led him to receiving massive endorsement for his stand on True [Federalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism).

He recently declared at an event where he was conferred the award Hero Of [Democracy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy) by Hall of Grace Magazine.

“Political decentralization will also help to deepen and strengthen our democracy as it will encourage more accountability. Citizens are more likely to demand accountability when governments spend their tax money rather than rent collected from an impersonal source.”

He also said: "*True Federalism will encourage states to competes to attract investments and skilled workers rather than merely waiting for monthly revenue allocation from Abuja*"

Many of his speeches have caused positive stir nationwide as Nigerians are supporting the idea of True [Federalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federalism) which involves allowing states to have control over their resources most especially the South-South and South East of Nigeria.

**Influence on Education and Community service**

In his speeches and commentary, Abubakar is a vocal advocate of the importance of Nigeria's educational system. He is also the founder of the [American University of Nigeria (AUN)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_University_of_Nigeria) in [Yola, Adamawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yola,_Adamawa)

He has said that having benefited from the U.S. system of instruction as a young man, he was eager to make available in Nigeria an American styled faculty – emphasizing critical thinking, small classes, student participation, problem-solving. AUN has received special recognition from Google.

In 1982, Abubakar was given the [chieftaincy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chieftaincy) title of the *Turaki* of [Adamawa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adamawa_Emirate).

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Atiku Abubakar is one leader who has contributed immensely to the development of higher education on the continent of Africa. His contribution to humanity led to his donation of $750,000 in 2012 to the National Peace Corps " to fund a new initiative featuring global leaders who will discuss Peace Corps's impact." This was the largest ever individual donation in the Association's history.

His credibility has honoured him with the [Harris Wofford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris_Wofford) Global Citizen Award.

"*No private businessman in Africa has worked harder for democracy or contributed more to the progress of higher education than Atiku Abubakar,*" the NPCA said.