

First black mayor for Ireland

by UPI

PORTLAOISE, Ireland - A Nigerian immigrant who fled religious persecution in his homeland has become the first black mayor in Ireland.

Rotimi Adebari was elected mayor of the town of Portlaoise, Ireland, Thursday under a system in which the job rotates among Fine Gael, Sinn Fein and independent Town Council members, the Irish Times reported.

Adebari told the Times he wanted to show that Ireland is a "land of opportunities and it is a country that is described as a place of a thousand welcomes."

Adebari works for an immigrant integration project and consults with companies and schools on cross-cultural awareness, the Irish newspaper reported.

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