



# SODIQ ISMAILA

RIGHT BACK

NIGERIA INTERNATIONAL

[TRANSFERMARKT LINK](#)

FACTS

21

AGE

175

CM

67

KG

NIGERIA

NATIONALITY

FREE

IN SUMMER 2025  
CONTRACT

RIGHT

STRONG FOOT

# PROFILE

A consistent performer at both club and international levels, **Sodiq Ismaila** has been recognised as the best right back in the **Nigerian Professional Football League (NPFL)** for **two consecutive seasons** and **one of the best right-backs in Africa**, with his excellent ability to defend, overlap, and deliver accurate crosses from deep positions. His strength, pace, tactical intelligence, and offensive versatility have earned him a debut call up in the Summer 2024 for a highly regarded and star-packed **Nigeria National of Super Eagles** at the World Cup Qualifiers. Known for his combination of defensive strength and attacking flair, Ismaila plays for **Remo Stars FC**, where he has been an indispensable part of the team's defensive and offensive strategies. He bagged **18 assists in 2022/23 season** and he scored **3 goals in less than half season of the running 2024/25**.



NPFL Team of the Season  
2023/24



Debut Day for Super Eagles  
With Kunle Soname (FC Remo Stars  
president and owner of Bet9ja)



NPFL Team of the Season  
2022/23

## Club Career: Remo Stars FC

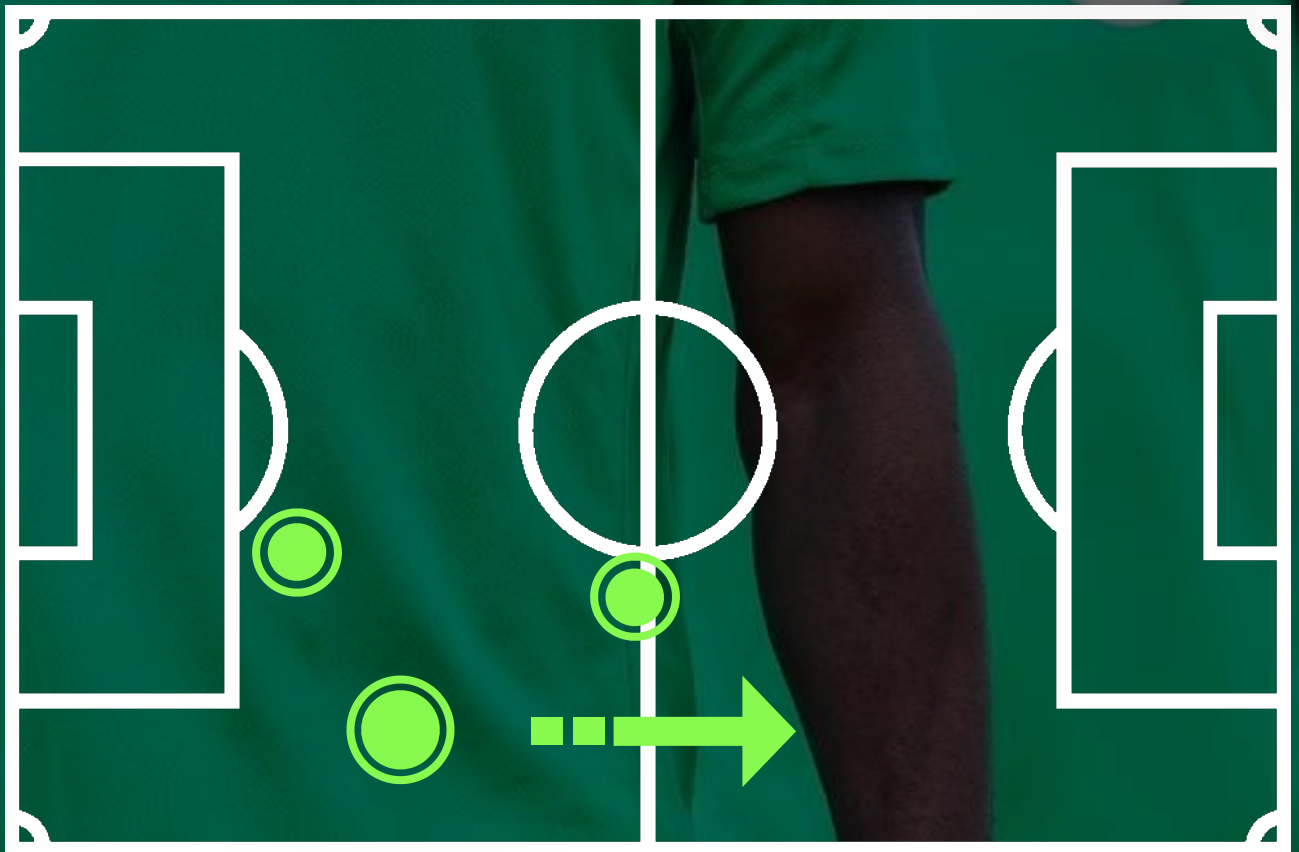
**Remo Stars FC** is well known for its exceptional conditions and European cultured style of football, where club's owner and president **Kunle Soname** has a history of organising highly regarded international scouting tournaments at Remo Stars FC, inviting both African and European clubs to participate and selling players to top tier sides in European **TOP5 leagues**, with likes of **FC Inter Milano, Eintracht Frankfurt, FC Betis Balompie**. It is here, at Remo Stars FC where Sodiq's professional journey has been largely shaped and where he has flourished in domestic Premier League. Recognised for disciplined playing style and emphasis on youth development, Remo Stars has provided the perfect platform for Sodiq to showcase his skills. Since joining the club, he has rapidly become one of the most influential players on the team.



# CLUBS



# POSITIONS



# NIGERIA NATIONAL TEAM

## World Cup Qualifier (June 2024)

Sodiq made his debut appearance in Nigeria's World Cup qualifying match against **South Africa in June 7th, 2024**, and his debut play against **Benin** 3 days later. His inclusion in such a high-stakes game solidified his growing reputation.



### Nigeria Squad

World Cup Qualifiers  
Summer 2024

### National Team Training Camp For World Cup Qualifiers



... with Victor Boniface  
(front) and Terem Moffi  
(back)



### Nigeria vs South Africa

World Cup Qualifiers  
07 June 2024





### Benin vs Nigeria (Sodiq #2)

World Cup Qualifiers

10 June 2024



## 2024 CHAN Playoff Qualifiers

Sodiq is set to represent **Nigeria B in the 2024 CHAN** (African Nations Championship) playoff qualifiers against **Ghana**. The first leg is scheduled for **December 22, 2024**, and the second leg on **December 28, 2024**. This tournament, which features players who play in domestic leagues, provides Ismaila with another opportunity to showcase his skills on the continental stage.

# PLAYING STYLE & ATTRIBUTES

Sodiq Ismaila is combining exceptional defensive ability with impressive offensive contributions. His **full right-side coverage** allows him to be an integral part of his team's formation, whether he is defending in his own half or pushing forward to support the attack. Below are the key qualities that define his style of play:

## Defensive Qualities

1. **Physically Dominant:** he extremely strong and well-built player, capable of holding off challenges from opponents. His physicality makes him difficult to bypass in one-on-one duels, and he is dominant in aerial challenges, winning headers and clearances with good timing and ball projection.
2. **Clean Tackling and Interceptions:** Ismaila is known for his clean tackling style. He is not prone to committing fouls, with a notably low foul count. His interceptions and ability to read the game allow him to regain possession efficiently, preventing dangerous counter-attacks.



3. **Excellent Positioning:** One of Ismaila's key attributes is his ability to position himself effectively both defensively and offensively. He is always aware of where the ball is and where his opponents are, ensuring he can provide cover when needed or close down attackers quickly.

## Offensive Qualities

1. **Sprint-like Pace:** Sodiq possesses **sprinter's pace**, enabling him to recover quickly after making an attacking run and to support counter-attacks with speed. His pace also allows him to engage in overlapping runs, providing width to his team's attack.
2. **Accurate Crossing:** Ismaila's ability to deliver precise crosses from deep positions is one of his most defining attributes. He consistently provides quality service into the box, creating numerous goal-scoring opportunities for his teammates. This has been evident in his record of **18 assists during the 2023/24 NPFL season**.
3. **Multiple Solutions from the Back:** Ismaila is known for his creativity and intelligence in the final third. He doesn't just deliver basic crosses; he finds multiple solutions from the back—whether it's a long pass, a through ball, or a perfectly timed cross into the box. He doesn't shy away from a 1v1 attack to the box with a shot on target as well. In half of the season in current 2024/25 season he contributed **3 goals**.

## Physical and Technical Attributes

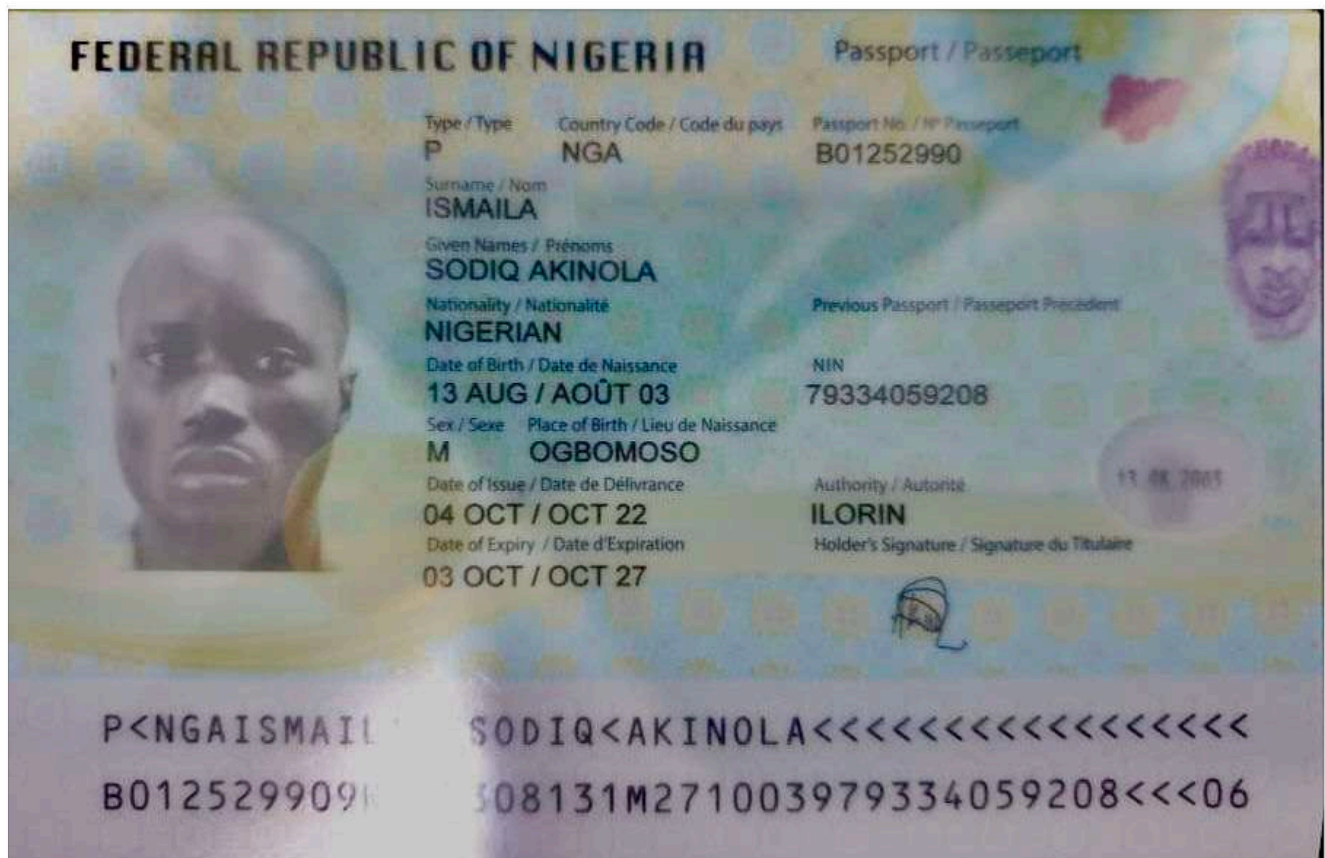
**Strength:** Standing as a physically dominant player, Sodiq has a muscular frame that he uses effectively to challenge opposing players and to protect possession.

**Pace:** His sprinting speed allows him to both defend and attack effectively, quickly transitioning from one phase to the next.

**Stamina:** His endurance allows him to keep up high-intensity performances for the full 90 minutes, consistently contributing to both ends of the pitch.

**Tactical Awareness:** Ismaila has an excellent understanding of the game. He reads the opponent's offensive plays well, anticipating movements and cutting out passes.

**Low Foul Count:** One of his most impressive qualities is his ability to regain possession without resorting to fouling, maintaining composure and discipline in high-pressure moments.



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