



## ODUDUWA REGIONAL CHARTER OF UNDERSTANDINGS

In the unfolding scenario of the Nigerian polity, the major players have presented us with an Asiwaju/Atiku option; effectively being 2 sides of the same coin that is most likely to plunge us deeper into the abyss of despair

It has therefore become imperative that we fashion out a realizable objective, framework of actionable steps, plans for implementation and timelines for obtaining deliverables. The children of Oduduwa now have their future to contend with; without any equivocation.

### Our Sub-Nationalities

In fashioning out, a better way that will organically link the political space and the leadership as they emerge, we are focusing most appropriately on the communities in the various territories that comprise the Yoruba Nation, which quite aptly is differentiated into identifiable **Sub Nationalities**. There are 26 sub-nationalities occupying distinct territories across Western Nigeria as follows:

1. Akoko
2. Awori
3. Ekiti
4. Eko
5. Egba
6. Ibadan
7. Ibarapa
8. Ife
9. Ijebu
10. Ijesha

11. Ikale
12. Ilaje
13. Igbomina
14. Itsekiri
15. Ogori/Magongo
16. Ogu (hitherto referred to in error as Egun)
17. Okun (Bunu, Ijumu, Owe, Oworo & Yagba)
18. Ondo
19. Onko (Oke Ogun)
20. Oshun
21. Owo
22. Owu
23. Oyo
24. Remo
25. Yewa

Above is our make-up as a people with culture and language. This fact has now been used to formulate new governance ideas. Updates would be made as new facts come up.

### **A Body for Ideas Processing and Clearance**

In other to manage and drive the anticipated objectives a body that is inclusive of notable leaders of thoughts and at least 2 bona fide representatives from the 26 Sub-Nationalities listed above is being constituted. The proposed body will help process ideas for agreement of implementable actions. It will regulate its affairs and forge inclusiveness and give senses of belongings to all communities in our land.

**Another body of elders: Egbe Agba Omo Oduduwa is to be formed in due course, to accommodate Leaders/Elders in age range above 85 years that have offered a lifetime of service to the cause of our society**

### **An Oduduwa Region out of Nigeria**

**The land territory hitherto known as Yoruba land shown in the map below would be transformed into an Oduduwa Region, with autonomy to self-govern and be in control of her affairs, subject only to reciprocal protocols with ethnic nationalities in adjoining territories.**

In furtherance to the above, it shall be our quest that the portion of the North Central Zone that that was historically ceded to the North Region prior to 1960 be reconfigured as part of the new Oduduwa Region. We shall work towards a mechanism for ascertaining the wishes of the peoples in these areas, along with others in Akoko Edo and Itsekiri lands of Edo and Delta States respectively.

It is thus understood that the following are to be incorporated into the map of the proposed Oduduwa Region, **subject of course to the voluntary decision to belong by the peoples of the area.**

Kwara State: 12 Yoruba speaking LGA and their headquarters.

1. Ilorin West- Oja Oba
2. Ilorin East- Oke Oyi
3. Ilorin South- Fufu
4. Asa- Afon
5. Irepodun- Omu-Aran
6. Ifelodun- Share
7. Isin- Owu Isin
8. Ekiti- Ilofa
9. Offa-Offa
10. Oke/Ero- Araromi Opin
11. Oyun-Ilemona
12. Moro- Bode Saadu

Kogi State: 7 Yoruba speaking LGAs and their headquarters.

1. Kabba/Bunu- Kabba
2. Ijumu- Iyara
3. Yagba East- Isanlu
4. Yagba West- Odo-Ere
5. Mopa/Muro- Mopa
6. Lokoja-Lokoja
7. Ogori/Magongo- Akpafa

Delta State: 7 Yoruba speaking LGA's

1. Warri South
2. Warri North
3. Warri South West

Edo State: 1 Yoruba speaking LGA

1. Akoko-Edo



## Produce Proposals for Lower-Level Administrative Units for the Sub Nations of Yorubaland

The proposed regionalization is predicated on the condition that the new units will be autonomous and self-sustaining, with very minimal governance set up. The creation of lower tier units therefore must be based on consensus that will accord a sense of belonging to all communities in the new region. To be outlined in this section would be delineations with the following names as options:

- Provinces (to replace States) and consensus administrative capitals.
- Districts (to replace LGAs) and consensus administrative capitals.

**Instead of the subsisting gubernatorial and legislative paraphernalia of wastefulness, we shall propose a Provincial Councils that will integrate administration and legislative functions.** It might be expedient to institute sub-regional entities as incorporated public corporation-like bodies, such that the citizens will be construed as shareholders. The goal would be to cap expenditures on administration, while freeing more funds for infrastructural development.

For once the peoples of Yorubaland from villages, towns, communities, will reflect over a period of about 6 months and voluntarily decide on how we shall be together.

**The Oduduwa Region Initiative would be unveiled in September 2022. The steps to be activated towards its realization latest by October 2023 will be announced.**

**All other ethnic nationalities that are desirous of being constituted into autonomous regions of Nigeria are hereby encouraged to adopt our model and commence proactive steps towards the stated goals, based on the same timelines of implementation. It is by so doing that we can achieve a reconfigured Nigerian territory of the dreams articulated at independence in 1960.**

### **Outreach to other Ethnic Nationalities**

**From all indications, the peoples of Nigeria are content with mere grumbings about the unsatisfactory state of affairs and poor choices fostered on us by the Nigerian polity to the point of being numb and emasculated. This situation as to change very quickly.**

**An outreach panel is being raised to commence immediate consultations and discussions with all other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria.** We shall seek to discuss and negotiate reciprocal protocols towards an understanding for peoples in adjoining territories to live as friendly neighbours with mutual respect for the rights of one another.

In this regard, it is our understanding that sovereignty and powers to determine governance frameworks for subsequent enactment as a constitution lies not with the National Assembly, but with the peoples themselves. We are at the minimum committed to the following stipulations in the quest for a restructured Nigeria,

1. Affirmation and assertiveness of the rights of all ethnic nationalities to live in a secure territorial space with self-governance and autonomous management of their affairs unfettered and unhindered by anyone, as soon as possible.
2. All regional territories must have Constitutions, separate and distinct from that of the Central Administration, to enable them to be in control of their affairs without let or hindrance.
3. All reasonable understandings and protocols towards maintaining good neighbourliness relations with all others shall be formulated and agreed to by the representatives of the ethnic nationalities, with subsequent express consent of the people through a plebiscite.

The foregoing is the fundamental article of understanding that would be embodied in our offer to other ethnic nationalities, such that we can live in peace with one another in Nigeria.

We shall facilitate an assembly of notable leaders of the ethnic nationalities to finalize various understandings that would then be embodied in an agreed constitution.

## **Design of Appropriate Government Framework of the Proposed Oduduwa Region**

We were very lucky indeed to have had a sagacious leader in Obafemi Awolowo in the 1954 to 1960 era. Else the then unitary flavoured Western Regional Constitution could have been mis-applied, as we have found out in recent years. It now behooves on us to embed the fundamentals of federal governance into our region, such as would guarantee freedom and independence to pursue the development aspirations that suits every community in our territory. In so doing, all Yoruba sub-nationalities will not harbour old fears of being subordinated to the Authority at Ibadan, as it then was.

A proposed governance framework that is deliberately federal-flavoured would be produced, so that every Yoruba sub-ethnic nationality could have unfettered freedom to aggregate or disaggregate as Provinces and Districts, while being in control of their affairs without let or hinderance at whatever level of governance.

The communities making up the proposed Oduduwa Region will be facilitated to agree on how to relate and function organically. Thus, our goal shall be that all internal relationships with underlying understandings that the coming together is a matter of choice that has to be continually renewed and voluntarily nurtured.

**An Oduduwa Regional Governance Re-Design Panel (ORGRP) Panel is being constituted and would be inaugurated before the end of July 2022** to undertake the following.

- (a) Collate all available documents such as (a) the 1963 Constitution of Western Region (b) Yoruba Agenda Document presented at the various National Conferences (c) Socio-Economic Design papers that may be at the DAWN Commission and NISER (d) Various Drafts of Constitutional Propositions by Yoruba flavoured bodies.
- (b) Synthesize all the above documents to produce a new governance framework that would be well suited to all segments of the Yoruba peoples of the homeland and in the diaspora. In so doing, the panel will produce blueprints that will provide answers to the following questions:

## **Security will no longer be treated with Levity**

The security of our territory is now our sole responsibility. The Owo massacre represents a point of departure from the confidence we hitherto reposed in the Nigerian State. We are discarding all encumbrances and obstacles that stand in our ways. Various measures whose deliverable will be obvious as they unfold over time are in the works.

One element of our plan is to as soon as possible commence the registration of everyone whose father or grandfather is indigenous to the territory of Yorubaland of Western Nigeria. After due diligence to authenticate, we shall issue identity cards evidencing such confirmation.

## **Clarion Call to Yorubas in political Offices at all Levels**

Ordinarily, the Yorubas have their manners and ways of living as the Omoluabis of this world. We would rather look inwards for solutions and enterprise, rather than covet what belongs to others. Right from 1959 elections, it has been on record that we were content with being in opposition at the Federal level. We would rather thrive through self-reliance and self-governance.

This is therefore an historic clarion call on all Yoruba compatriots who are supposedly our representatives as politicians and occupiers of political positions out of our territory to urgently give consideration to a new approach of looking inwards, with focus on an agenda that accords the pride of place to the welfare of citizens. It is time to return home and apply your respective intellects and sagacities towards the rebuilding of Oduduwaland with a more certain hope of making us the pride to the black race, and Africa's leading light to be.

The years of Olusegun Obasanjo did not stand us in good stead. Even if Ashiwaju Tinubu were to be miraculously installed, with the security architecture that has enveloped the presidency and the underlying bankruptcy of the economy, we would still be worst off under the unitary 1999 Constitution.

It will thus be in the self-interest of all our sons and daughters to whom this call is directed to treat this advisory with utmost seriousness. Yoruba peoples have very deep and long memories of leaders that respect their inherent sovereignty. All therefore should be part of the resolve to reclaim our dignity and self-respect, at whatever cost, lest they be taken as traitors. Of course, there would be consequences.

## **The Role of Religious Leaders**

Apart from politicians and occupiers of political offices, the role of religious leaders is of paramount example. The world is replete with positive examples of religious leaders that have provided leadership to free their flock from political oppression. Of note is the famous Cardinal Sin that led the charge against the misrule of President Ferdinand Marcos of Philippines. There was Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and of course the renowned Rev. Martin Luther King of the United States.

Our call is therefore to our revered, respected and blessed religious leaders to do more than giving sermons inside the confined walls of buildings. Earthly welfare of members should now be of greater focus and attention.



## Advisory to National and Multilateral Institutions

The subsisting Federal Government has in recent years been taking all sorts of loans and granting concessions that are in seeming violation of extant laws and various stipulations that ought to have been applied in the domestication of respective international treaties. Of important relevance is the extant law that vests all lands in the respective States and not the Federal Government.

This is therefore to notify the United Nations, all foreign countries of the world: notably China and multinational lending institutions to cease and desist forthwith from any further draw down on loans and even grants, as any subsequent disbursements shall not be countenanced as part of assets and liabilities of the Nigeria country that is about to be reconfigured and as may be dissolved eventually.

This document is produced and presented to guide the actions of all Yoruba peoples that are desirous of fundamental changes to the polity of Nigeria. We are all to anticipate, organize, mobilize and prepare for the Commencement of Self-Government in the respectively proposed Oduduwa Region of Nigeria, expectantly from October 1, 2021.

It is important to plan for a transitional period towards the date of the new republic slated for 2023. No matter what happens, the proposition in this document is to do the utmost, so that no further elections would be possible until the polity is restructured to the satisfaction of all constituents' members of the Nigerian territory.

## Activities and Timelines

### August 2022

Constitution of Oduduwa Leadership Council (OLC)

Constitution of Technical Work Groups (TWG)

- Outreach to the Yoruba Nation & to other Nigerian Nationalities
- Contacts and Engagements with the Political Leadership of Yorubaland
- Design Governance Architecture and Regional Constitutional Framework
- Formulate Socio-Economics and Development Plans for Self-Reliance

### September 2022

Agreement and understanding to proceed with the formation of the Movement for the Actualisation of **Oduduwa Region of Nigeria** in other to

- Mass organize and mobilize Yoruba citizens indigenous and in the diaspora for identity consciousness and self-determination.
- Provide platform for political action towards socio-economic development.

Public Presentation of Oduduwa Leadership Council



Presentation of the proposed map showing new political understandings of disaggregation or aggregation of political and administrative units to the CONSULTATIVE FORUM OF ALL ETHNIC SUB NATIONALITIES.

Public Presentation of the approved insignia of the proposed Oduduwa Region of Nigeria: Flag, Coat of Arms, Anthem.

Presentation of Negotiation Protocols and Offer for Talks and negotiations with other Ethnic Nationalities of Nigeria.

## **February 2023**

Public Presentation and Launching of Oduduwa Regional Readiness for Self-Governance Plans.

Launching of the Oduduwa Identity Card Initiative

## **May 2023**

Host the Congress of Yorubas in West Africa. With all others in the diaspora as participants

## **Conclusion**

In this document is a brief on what we wish to covenant with our people at home and in the diaspora. We undertake to give effect and meaning to the spirit and words of our national anthem:

ISE WA FUN'LE WA, FUN ILE IBI WA  
KA GBEGA (3x) F'AYE RII,

IGBAGBO WA NIPE  
B'ATI BERU, LA B'OMO  
KA S'ISE (3x) KA J'OLA

ISOKAN, AT'OMINIRA  
NI K'EJE, K'AMA LEPA  
ITESIWAJU, F'OPO IRE, AT'OUN TO DARA

OMO OODUA DIDE. BOSI IPO ETO RE  
IWO NI IMOLE, OGO ADULAWO

Draft by AF  
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