



**FEDERATION OF IKUN-EKITI DESCENDANTS UNION
OVERSEAS, INC.**

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PRESS RELEASE

**FIDUO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON THE SELECTION PROCESS OF
THE NEW ONIKUN OF IKUN-EKITI**

Dear Elders and High Chiefs of Ilotin/Ilemo Ruling Houses:

Our attention has been brought to the apparent crisis that has recently developed in our community as a result of the ongoing selection process of the new Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti. This is a trying time in the history of our beloved community. Our focus at this moment should be on what unites us rather than what divides us, because “a house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Based on the information provided to FIDUO by a representative of the Ruling Houses, the initial selection of the new Onikun violated the traditional ethos and procedures for choosing the monarch. We are aware of the deep division the outcome of that process has caused. The distortion of the conventions in the traditional system and government interference that produced the Oba-designate, was deemed as the reason for the outcry and protest of the aggrieved sections of the community.

Given the position of FIDUO as a non-partisan organization of indigenes of Ikun community in the diaspora, we held an emergency meeting on August 24, 2014 to seek a lasting solution to the crisis at hand. At the meeting, several avenues were explored to find ways by which we can end this deadlock. Following exhaustive deliberation, the General Assembly of FIDUO resolved to recommend four main suggestions. These recommendations are informed by the need to conduct a more transparent, peaceful and credible selection process that will not only reflect the due process established by our ancestors, but also the wishes and aspirations of the people. The four recommendations are as follows:

1. The initial selection of the Onikun should be cancelled.

The cancellation of the initial selection will provide a neutral ground for the community to redress the lapses in the former process. Even though the

outgoing Ekiti State Government reportedly insists on retaining the Oba-designate, a legal redress can forestall such imposition on Ikun community. The high chiefs and elders should ensure a peaceful means of reconciling the aggrieved individuals.

2. A new selection process should begin as soon as possible.

A new selection procedure should be conducted as soon as possible to enable proper screening of candidates, and to avert a breakdown of law and order in the community. The new procedure should include the former candidates and any other interested persons from the Ruling Houses who feel marginalized. This new selection process will also give the Ruling Houses a broader option to select the final candidate.

3. The community should embark on a 7-day fasting and prayer.

This spiritual exercise is necessary because our community needs the intervention and guidance of God in choosing our King. We want a peaceful reign and a strong, unified and prosperous community.

4. There should be a clear-cut guideline for the selection of the new King.

FIDUO strongly recommends that objective and clearly defined eligibility criteria should be developed to screen all interested candidates for the position of the Onikun. It was suggested that any candidate that will indicate interest in ascending the throne should possess the qualities that are in tandem with the challenges of our modern-day society. The candidate should:

- a) Possess a minimum of Bachelor's degree
- b) Have a record of Ikun community service
- c) Present a statement of vision for the community

These guidelines are designed to ensure that the new Onikun selection process is objective, fair, inclusive, transparent and peaceful. More importantly, these guidelines will help us to prequalify the ideal candidate that will show the willingness, strength, knowledge, vision and ability of leadership that can meet the socio-economic and political challenges of the 21st century.

Concluding Remarks

The foregoing recommendations are not intended to undermine the wisdom of our elders or the norms and conventions of selecting the Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti. Instead, they are meant to serve as our own contribution to ensure peace, unity

and overall development in our beloved community. We pray that our people will remain one and that the prosperity of Ikun-Ekiti will not elude all of us. We also hope that FIDUO's position on this matter will lead the way towards concrete and positive outcomes of the Onikun selection process. Finally, we would like to appeal to His Excellency, the Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, to please intervene in this matter as a matter of urgency, to avert a potential breakdown of law and order in Ikun-Ekiti community.

Sincerely,

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New York, USA

Cc:

Ilotin/Ilemo Ruling Houses, Ikun-Ekiti
Ilotin/Ilemo Elites, Ikun-Ekiti
Egbe Omo Ikun, Ikun-Ekiti
Ikun Council of High Chiefs
Chairman, Moba Local Government Council
Hakeem Jamiu, Special Assisstant to Ekiti State Governor
Dr. Kayode Fayemi, Executive Governor, Ekiti State
File

“Therefore, let's keep on pursuing those things that bring peace and that lead to building up one another” Romans 14:19 (ISV).

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide, President; Mrs. Rose Awoyemi, Vice-President; Mr. Kunle Fasanu, Executive Secretary; Mr. Dipo Oyeleye, Assistant Executive Secretary; Mr. Samuel Aborisade, Treasurer; Mr. Aremu Fashanu, Project Coordination Officer; Mrs. Olayemi Yusuf, Membership Development & Welfare Officer; Rev. Femi Olajide, Public Relations Officer; Mr. Ademola Ajiboye, Financial Secretary.