



ADDRESS OF HRH OBA ADELEYE ADEBANJI AWOJOBI JP AT THE 2013 FIDUO CONVENTION HELD IN ORLANDO FLORIDA, USA, AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup> 2013

My dearly beloved people of Ikun -Ekiti I give thanks to our great God who ordained this 2013 FIDUO convention even before we were born. The almighty God in his infinite mercy has brought us this far as individuals, as families and as a community. I thank the president, the executive council and the entire members of this great organization for your spirit of patriotism over the years. There is no doubt FIDUO has come a very long way and Ikun- Ekiti as a community has come a much longer way. Where we are today as individuals, families, an organization and a community are definitely not where we are going or where God is taking us but an important junction along our way to greatness. There is a great need of sacrifice to go from where we all are today to where God ordained us to be. I remember as if it were yesterday growing up as a young boy the gloom, hopelessness and emptiness that hung over our beloved town. I saw the poverty, the illiteracy and above all the serfdom under which my father, your fathers and grand-fathers lived. They dared not ate their farm produce until a portion had been taken to the supreme monarch to whom they were subject. The years of my youth were a time Onikun and other monarchs traditionally prostrate before the supreme monarch. Our ancestors were made to risk their lives periodically hunting for wild and dangerous animals that must be brought live to the supreme monarch!

Moreover, our ancestors labored with other towns to build and maintain the palace of the supreme monarch. They had to pay levies for the purchase and upkeep of the supreme monarch's car. This was the tradition and the norm. No monarch anywhere could change or challenge this. A couple of them that did paid deadly consequences. Life then was not much short of slavery. I lived crying inside as a result of the kind of oppression my people suffered without any help or hope Insight. I was a



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27- Years old bachelor when I was entreated to ascend this throne. I was shocked and confused so I refused because this was not remotely in my dreams or plans. My dreams were completely different and I already got a very solid platform to fulfill my dreams and accomplish my life plans.

However, after a while it became evident that the call on me to ascend this throne was not just from humans but from the divine coupled with the condition of life in the town; I could no longer refuse. I resolved to sacrifice my dreams, my personal goals, my entire life ambition so that my people can be free to dream and live comfortable lives like you are living today. On my ascension of this throne I stood before the supreme monarch to whom we had always been subservient and inferior shaking hands while other monarchs greeted him prostrating on the bare ground. Eventually other monarchs gained boldness to stop prostrating.

I liberated Ikun people from carrying their farm produce (isakole) to the supreme monarch. Other towns followed suit. I ended all the levies, labors and many other obligations to the supreme monarch including hunting for live, wild animals. Other towns followed suit. All of these happened amidst of great strives and contentions that I single handedly undertook. I stared death in the face to declare that you, your children and the generation after them will never be second class people or subject to anybody, any people or another community again. I am still living today because God honors huge sacrifice such as I made. I was nick named "EKUN OKO MOBA"( Lion of Moba). My mother would I cry and and plead with me not to undertake any of these deadly adventures fearing that I will lose my life in the process but I never budged because I was determined to sacrifice myself for the freedom, welfare and wellbeing of my people. This is a big part of Ikun history you did not know and a lot of people have forgotten because we are all used to our community sovereignty. But the truth is that this present sovereignty was borne out of great strife, sacrifice and risks on my part.



Ikun Ekiti enjoyed great prominence 56 years ago because of the selflessness and sacrifice of a 27 year old bachelor with only a high school education. The question is, how prominent is Ikun-Ekiti today despite the fact that most Ikun people are all Well educated? If we are less prominent, why? What happened? The only answer possible is either both total selflessness and sacrifice are not where they need to be or they are altogether nonexistent.

**POLITICS:** One of the biggest problems that affected us for many years as a community was lack of political representation. During this period our community was marginalized. Few political dividends that came to us were through fierce wrestling. Political representation has improved considerably over the last few years to the glory of the name of our God. However, political benefits resulting from improved representation have not been much. We can no longer blame this problem on lack of representation when we have or have had representations at local, state and federal government levels. The governor recently gave a good chunk of money to many towns for various developmental community projects of which our community was left out. Though we have hope of being included in the second phase of the program, it is imperative that our representatives keep our community in the first phase of everything the government does. It is also very important that FIDUO network with our political representatives for effective and productive representation.

However, you must understand that you are in this world for divine mission of God (Jeremiah 1:5). You are here on a borrowed time for a specific and divine mission of which you will give an account to God. Your life is not simply about you and your family or God would have made a very bad and unprofitable investment given what it took him to bring you this far. We are all set on a course to fulfill our destiny or miss it completely and eternally by the choices we are making today, the way we think, our relationship with each other and our community. It is time to



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free yourself from yourself and rise up to the occasion of fulfilling your destiny as a generation on God's mission for such a time as this in Ikun - Ekiti knowing that your existence is much more than taking care of you and your family. Esther was face - to - face with sudden elimination of her race and instantly rose to the occasion with a conviction that she did not become the queen for herself aggrandizement but for such a time as that – to rescue and preserve her nation. Nehemiah Was comfortable in the service of the king in Babylon but was not comfortable with reports from home back in Jerusalem. He did not rationalize his immigration status, helplessness and hopelessness but made a move. Nehemiah did the impossible, by approaching his captor (the king) for help to carry out his mission to rebuild the walls of his city, Jerusalem which his captor) broke down years back. The king granted Nehemiah's wish because his heart desire was selfless and sacrificial making it worthy of God's blessing and support.

However, I applaud your initiative and efforts to build a new palace. You all know that every palace is a public or official building that reflects the image of the entire community. Consequence upon this, a modern palace is the desire of all well- meaning communities. The ongoing construction may stop indefinitely for lack of fund even though it is already over 30 years lat!. There is no better time and place to begin a revolution of sacrifice than this palace construction project. A call upon some of you to come back home to teach in our elementary schools as investment for good education for our children may be too much of a sacrifice. But you all can make sacrifices that may only require giving your earnings for one or two months to build this palace and other important uncompleted projects in the town. This is the kind of sacrifice I made 56 years ago. This is the kind of sacrifice that made late Dr. Olukayode Omotunde, Chief Oluomo to locate his hospital at Ikun instead of a big city where tons of money could be made. While you cannot be asked to sacrifice the rest of your lives for the welfare and wellbeing of your beloved town; FIDUO or



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Any other association can come together and sacrifice to give Ikun town a face lift or makeover for your own dignity and pride not necessarily for me. This is the kind of sacrifice that changes history and makes a better history.

Moreover, the platform for this kind of sacrifice is unity. There is no mountain we cannot climb when we are united neither is there any battle nor war we cannot win when we stand, speak and act as one body. United we stand divided we fall. We must however understand that the bedrock of unity is love. Jesus said to his disciples "only one new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another" as I have loved you. This requires us to eschew all bitterness and bickering and to sacrifice all personal pride and ego.

On a final note, I want you to remember and keep remembering that you are the Esther and Nehemiah of Ikun- Ekiti and your generation at large. Therefore, when life is all over will there be anything to show you were here, at Ikun- Ekiti? What mark or print are you planning to leave behind when life is all over? Will your existence count for something or for nothing when life is all over? I pray that you will all live very long and grow very old in Jesus' name. You will live and not die to declare the works of the Lord in Jesus' name. The Lord will satisfy you with long life and show you his salvation in Jesus' name. Thank you all. I wish a very happy, successful and productive convention.

(Signed)

His Royal Highness

Oba A. A. Awojobi, JP

Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti