

**A JOINT ADDRESS BY THE FEDERATION OF IKUN-  
EKITI DESCENDANTS UNION OVERSEAS (FIDUO)  
AND YOUTH SAVING LIFESTYLE CREATION  
INITIATIVE (YSLCI) DELIVERED AT A COMMUNITY  
SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP AGAINST DRUG ABUSE,  
CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN IKUN-EKITI ON 14<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY, 2016.**

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Your Royal Majesty, The Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti

The Ikun Oba-in-Council

Our Royal Fathers from Outside Ikun-Ekiti

The Chairman, Moba Local Government

The State Commander of the NDLEA

Chairman of Today's Event

Special Guest of Honour

Distinguished Guest Speakers

Other Dignitaries

The Press Corps

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are very grateful to God Almighty for enabling us to see this glorious day. May his name be praised forever. We also thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this

program. We believe that a brief background will help us to see the significance of today's historic event.

As we are all aware, the Ekiti State Government recently installed a new monarch for Ikun community, in person of His Royal Majesty, Oba Olusola David Olatunde, the Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti, following a long, contentious, rancorous and divisive selection process. Anecdotal reports (Awoyemi, 2014 & Ajayi-Odoko, 2015) indicate that during the Onikun selection process, several criminal and anti-social incidents occurred in Ikun community, including violent behaviors among the youth, drug and alcohol abuse, physical assaults, gangs' attacks, weapons use, charms use, vandalism, elders' abuse and homicide. The homicide involved the premature death of one of Ikun promising youths, Mr. Wale Owoye, on December 8, 2014.

In a recent survey conducted in Ikun by FIDUO (2016), the respondents ranked the lack of education and awareness of the dangers of youth violence as the top reason why young people engage in violent behaviors. This situation called for urgent action, as a result of which FIDUO recently formed a strategic partnership with YSLCI to combat the scourge of drug abuse, crime, violence and other anti-social vices in Ikun-Ekiti and its environs, through carefully organized campaigns. Today's workshop is the first step to sensitize Ikun community to this social problem, with a view to developing strategies for prevention.

It should be stressed that the main objective of the campaign against drug abuse, crime and violence in our society is to reposition Ikun community to achieve sustainable peace, harmony, stability and rapid development which will improve the quality of life of all the citizens. It will also create the enabling environment for investors which can promote the development of the local economy. This is why the theme of this workshop is “Making Ikun-Ekiti a safe place to live and attract investors.”

FIDUO and YSLCI will continue to partner with other relevant agencies to ensure that our society becomes a better and safer place to live in than before. Following today’s workshop, FIDUO and YSLCI will begin to implement its action plan designed to achieve this goal. We need your cooperation and support to make this happen.

Let all of us join hands together in this crusade to fight against drug abuse, crime and violence in Ikun-Ekiti, with a view to bringing lasting peace, harmony, stability and development to our beloved fatherland.

Long live Ikun, long live Ekiti State, long live Nigeria!

Thank you and may God bless you all.

Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide  
President of FIDUO  
New York, USA

Hon. Olugbenga Oke  
National Coordinator  
YSLCI, Nigeria