A CLARION CALL TO PEACE IN IKUN-EKITI BY DR. GABRIEL S. BOMIDE PRESIDENT OF FIDUO, NEW YORK, USA

Dear Beloved People of Ikun-Ekiti:

It has been brought to our attention in FIDUO that a crisis has developed in Ilotin Compound, the ruling house for the selection of the next Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti. This letter is a call to positive and constructive action that aims to foster peace, dialogue, and understanding among the various parties involved in the current crisis.

Please permit me to briefly take you down the memory lane. Throughout our history, Ikun people are known to have co-existed and worked together fruitfully and peacefully for the overall development of our community. The fact also remains that deep-rooted divisions and conflicts had occurred in Ikun-Ekiti community in the past. However, historic examples of peaceful crisis resolution through dialogue and mutual understanding also abound – to the glory of God. Therefore, the current crisis should not be an exception.

Needless to say, our community is currently faced with several pressing socioeconomic and political challenges which can only be overcome in an atmosphere of peace and harmony. The selection of the Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti is one of these pressing issues that we must resolve quickly and peacefully. Failure to do so will be a missed opportunity and a disservice to this generation and generations yet unborn!

To these ends, FIDUO would like to appeal to all parties involved in the current crisis to please exercise restraint, eschew bitterness and violence, and embrace dialogue, tolerance, mutual understanding and respect. These virtues are critically important to creating the enabling environment, as steps are being taken by the Chiefs and Elders of the ruling house towards the ultimate selection of a candidate to fill the vacant stool of the Onikun.

It is our prayer that God, the master kingmaker, will intervene in this matter and restore peace and harmony back to our beloved Ikun-Ekiti community. Meanwhile, the General Assembly of FIDUO will convene next Sunday to review the issue at hand and present its collective resolve on the way forward for our community.

May the peace of God Almighty be upon Ikun-Ekiti community during this trying time. And may this letter be accepted as a small step towards opening doors to genuine dialogue, understanding and peaceful resolution of the current conflict. May it also lead the way towards concrete and positive outcomes of the Onikun selection process.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide President of FIDUO New York, USA June 22, 2014

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