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October 30, 2016

Press Release: Keynote Address by His Royal Majesty, Oba David Olusola Olatunde, the Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti at a Joint Teleconference Meeting with FIDUO on 10/30/16.

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Dear Compatriots:

Below please find the keynote address by His Royal Majesty, Oba David Olusola Olatunde, the Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti delivered at a joint teleconference meeting with FIDUO on October 30, 2016.

The Kabiesi has not only articulated his vision and developmental agenda for Ikun, but has also shed light on many grey areas that would help us become more informed about the general state of Ikun community today.

We hope that this message will stimulate a meaningful dialogue in the New Year that will help transform the vision of the Kabiesi into a real agenda of actions and results that will bring accelerated peace, harmony, and development to Ikun-Ekiti.

Once again, FIDUO would like to appreciate His Royal Majesty for taking time out of his busy schedule to address FIDUO. May God continue to direct his steps and increase him in wisdom, knowledge and understanding in the onerous task of community leadership.

Sincerely,

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

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, OBA DAVID OLUSOLA OLATUNDE, THE ONIKUN OF IKUN-EKITI AT A JOINT MEETING WITH THE FEDERATION OF IKUN-EKITI DESCENDANTS UNION OVERSEAS (FIDUO) ON OCTOBER 30, 2016**

#### **PROTOCOL**

I greet you all in the name of the Almighty God. Thank you for this special opportunity to interact with you as a whole body for the first time after my installation as the Onikun of Ikun Ekiti on the 23rd of December, 2015. I am particularly grateful to El-Shadai for His goodness and mercy over all of you in the diaspora and our people at home here. I am also very grateful to the entire FIDUO organization for giving me this unique opportunity to address you today. I feel delighted and honoured to be part of this historic meeting.

It gives me great pleasure and pride that I can sit down in my office in Ikun-Ekiti and simultaneously speak to FIDUO members domiciled in different countries of the world and dialogue on various issues affecting us as a people. This is wonderful. How time changes. We thank God that we are not left out in this information technology

age!

## **INTRODUCTION**

I'm glad to inform you that it is well with Ikun and God's abundance on her is unquantifiable. The Onikun selection tussle of almost a year ago had become history. While the contest was right, the attendant violence was unnecessary. To me, the process emboldens my love the more for Ikun. As a product of the people, it planted the democratic tenets into our traditional system; thus, in the decision making process, the people must be pivotal. That is, we must uphold the will of the people by all means necessary at all times! For those who might still bear any lingering grudge against me for emerging as the sole winner of the exalted stool of Onikun, I ask for your understanding that no one gets to any position in life without God's will. I'm reaching out to you for your guidance, help and support so that we can work together and move Ikun-Ekiti forward to the next level of greatness.

It is gratifying that immediately after my ascension to the stool of Onikun, we have begun the urgent task of reconciliation and rebuilding our community in our collective effort to achieve the dream of transforming Ikun to "Eko kekere." Thus, on the very day I emerged as the choice of the people, I placed an average of 25–30

minutes' telephone call to each of the then High Chiefs Obalegosi, Odofin and Obaedisun to encourage them and explain the fundamental reasons why we must come together and leave the past behind us. Each of them expressed shock over the spirit of sportsmanship I displayed. That is education and that is "Omoluabi." Each of the former High Chiefs also appreciated my kind gesture and promised to work with me, but to my dismay, they stuck to rocking the boat at all cost. The rest today is history. I should believe that the division caused by interests on the Obaship matter is put behind you, so is home. I can confirm to you that over 95% of Ikun people have reconciled themselves. Our concept and philosophy of informal reconciliation agenda works! The few undecided people are systematically finding their ways back to the fold in bits.

Needless to say, Ikun is greater than any of us. For one thing, the people wanted liberation and freedom, and my slow response at first to accepting my nomination by the whole Ilotin people was because I never knew the core issue was the desire of our people for freedom both from internal and external forces. As a social crusader of over 25 years in Nigeria, the experience garnered became imperative.

Although our tradition allows many contestants for the competitive stool of Onikun, only one candidate usually

emerges as the winner, after inauguration, we have to remember that we are actually all one team. We are Ikun people first. We are patriots first. We all want what's best for Ikun community. That's what the community needs — a sense of unity; a sense of inclusion; a respect for our institutions, our way of life, rule of law; and a respect for each other. I believe that it is important for all of us, regardless of our individual differences, to now come together, to work together. I assure you that I will be the royal father of everyone. And under my leadership, democratic ideals will be cherished and respected - peaceful coexistence, the rule of law, the principle that we all have equal rights and dignity, as well as freedom of worship and expression.

I would like to use this medium to publicly recognize and appreciate some individuals and groups for the outstanding roles they played in the struggle for freedom, justice, truth, unity and progress of Ikun during the Onikun selection process. Special thanks to the following individuals as the martyrs of our liberation struggle: Chief Edemo of Idemo, the first casualty; followed by my young and promising “aburo” from Ilotin, Master Adewale Owoeye; High Chief Obalemikun, Chief Thaddeus Olajide, a man of noble character and impeccable integrity, who died just three days before my installation; and finally, our lyalero, Chief Mrs. Ajiyegbe who

suffered so much molestation, physical attacks and crude impunity. She passed on without bidding us farewell. Other heroes of our struggle included Prince Ajibola Olajide, Pa J.B. Ajayi, Pa G.B. Kayode (Keijiyan), Pa M.A. Atejioye, Hon. S.K. Oyeleye, Hon. Robinson Ajiboye, Engineer Olakanmi Owoola, Mr. Matthew Atejioye, Pa Olatunde, and Mr Bomide, among others. The chiefs both male and female are noble and wonderful; their roles were priceless.

The role of Egbe Omo Ikun, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Isaac K. Abolarin was commendable towards ensuring justice and fairplay in the Obaship selection process. In addition, FIDUO, under the able, dynamic and visionary leadership of Dr. Gabriel S. Bomide, played a tremendous role towards the peace, unity and stability of Ikun during the Obaship tussle. I also thank Mr. Adesola Dada and Mrs. Olayemi Yusuf of Florida (USA) for their unflinching support.

### **MY VISION AND STRATEGY**

My vision of Ikun is to become “Eko kekere.” No doubt, Ikun- Ekiti has tremendous potentials and we are naturally endowed with resources which, if properly harnessed can accelerate the growth and development of our town.

Under my leadership, every single citizen of Ikun will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential in a safe and secure environment. The forgotten men and

women of our community will be forgotten no longer. I will work aggressively to break down the barriers that hold Ikun indigenes back from achieving their dreams.

We are going to collaborate with both government and private entities, as well as community organizations and individuals to secure our community; increase food production through commercial farming; rebuild our roads, bridges and schools; upgrade our health center, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide employment opportunities for our teeming population through aggressive entrepreneurial initiatives. The dairy farm and Ero dam will also be maximized to enhance the local economy and improve the living standards of our people.

## **IKUN-EKITI TODAY**

### **Security:**

I'm very proud to say that Ikun security situation is the best among the 12 other towns and villages in Moba Local Government. Security agencies, other towns and people discretely request for the methods and tactics we applied to tame the scary situation in the town. Recently, I seconded Chief Osolo to represent me at a state security forum in Ado-Ekiti; the presentation of our representative on how to curb or minimize the growing wave of crime and violent attacks in Ekiti State was roundly applauded and commended. Today, our yams, goats, animals, property are now safe from the criminal marauders. By

this time last year, yam farms had been emptied by thieves, domestic animals were stolen even in the day time and owners must remain mute, people were molested freely and many unbelievable things were happening without hope for help. Today, our night guards take charge from 10:30p.m, people now sleep with their two eyes closed. The night now remains serene and people now go out for their businesses without any fear –all to the glory of God!

## **DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS**

### **Ikun Ekiti Palace:**

Our palace is a cynosure of all eyes, it stands out as an edifice, thanks to all sons and daughters of Ikun-Ekiti for their contributions towards it. The magnanimous support of FIDUO towards this project is acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

### **Ikun Dairy Farm:**

The dairy farm is alive again and shall die no more. Large farmlands have been cultivated to develop materials for feeds; tractors and equipment in the yard are undergoing refurbishment, orientation and education of potential labour, workforce and partners to making the new efforts yield results are ongoing. Two weeks ago, Ikun played a host to a mega seminar where representatives from our surrounding towns and villages were also participants. We



thank God that the potential opportunities for our people to shake poverty off our terrain are now at our corridor.

### **Ero Dam:**

During my installation, the Ekiti State Government promised to complete the construction of the new Ero bridge, the deadly economic recession may be responsible for the yet to be fulfilled promise. The Federal Government sent a group of experts for the survey of the water level in September, engine boats were used to do the succinct survey meant for further recommendations. In my closed door meeting with the leadership of the team, the essence of the survey may have to do with the expansion of the water size and depth for irrigation and other infrastructural purposes. Also, discussion is on-going between me and one of the foremost Obas in Yoruba land on the possibility of getting an investor for energy generation from Ero river.

### **The skill Acquisition Centre:**

The Federal Government-sponsored Ikun Skill acquisition centre remains the only surviving acquisition centre currently under development in the whole of Ekiti State. Skeletal work is going on there too. The centre is situated on about 10 hectares of land along lye road. The master plan shows it consists of a Bank, Police station, School, Hospital and Recreation centre, among others. A building at the centre was just fully completed last month. The

newly constructed standard hotel of my Uncle, Prince Ajibola Olajide would soon be completed. The documentation and formalization of Ikun Irewole Co-operative Society is in progress, with God on our side, it shall be formally launched soon. Our former post Office has been renovated to serve as the main office of the Co-operative Society. The purpose of this expanded economic initiative is to help develop the entrepreneurship potentialities of our people to full capacity. Many groups have registered their interest and Prince Ajibola Olajide has also promised to donate a lump sum for its take-off. I also recently had a meeting with a bank for partnership and collaboration on this economic initiative.

### **Education:**

The standard of our education both in the primary and secondary schools was very worrisome. In the month of May this year, I conveyed a large meeting of all the heads and two representatives of our Nursery and Primary Schools both public and private. We robbed minds and highlighted areas that required attention. I used the opportunity to appeal passionately to them to help bring substantial improvement to the products coming out of their schools. The gesture was also extended to Amure High School, Ikun Ekiti. The WASSCE and NECO results of 2016 showed a huge improvement over the last six years. The school was awarded a prize of 40 desktop

computers with full facilities for internet surfing by the federal government for coming first position in Ekiti State and third in the whole federation in a yearly competition. With this new set of computers added to the 50 laptops and a whole Technology Building donated by Prince Ajibola Olajide, Amure high School now boasts of about 90 computers. We are already working with one of our illustrious sons on how to commercialize the computer centre for viability and effective use by our children. I want to use this opportunity to appeal to FIDUO to join hands with us for more development in the school and the town. Individual's initiative and contributions too will be greatly appreciated.

### **Political and Social:**

Our son, Hon. Ade Anifowose from our town represents the whole constituency II at the Ekiti State House of Assembly. He and the president of Federation of Ikun Descendant Union (FIDU), Mr. I.K Abolarin have been very wonderful to work with. We synergize our efforts in all fronts together with the entire Chiefs and good people of Ikun Ekiti to get the town to where she is today. Our collective efforts have been instrumental to seeing Ikun at a higher pedestal. Between September 16 and 17, the aged women in Ikun who are between the ages of 85 and above were celebrated in a carnival-like occasion. Fierce competition also took place in the cultural contest among the five quarters a day earlier. It was an event you would

not like to miss! The video disc of the twin events is now available for sale in the town. Thanks to my Olori, Omotayo Omowunmi Olatunde who initiated and committed so much to the success of the programmes. We also appreciate all those who backed us up, may God continue to bless you in Jesus name. Life is back to Ikun, peace is abundant and hope for a better tomorrow is rich. Miss Ikun event preparation is on-going. It's gratifying that our Olori, my wife is on high consideration to coordinate Miss Ekiti 2017 as we have almost completed all the required processes with the Ekiti State Bureau of Arts and Tourism. Unlike before when a good population of our youth delved into hard drugs, played Ayo Game early in the morning, our people now work, because I, as the head, lead with the ethos of diligence and the dignity of labor. I don't spare thieves; I don't tolerate violence or injustice. We must set our community on solid ground of democratic norms and social justice. Our people are happier and grateful to God for the new era. We need more people in the political arena, more people to contest the political space. We need people at the top to help the town.

## **CHALLENGES**

Looking back and looking around, we have made tremendous progress in less than one year of my ascension to the throne of Onikun, especially in the security sector. The dramatic improvement in the security

situation also means that Ikun is now a safe place to live in and invest. The little acorn is growing into a promising oak. But there's a lot still left to be done. As you know, the work of building a great community never really ends and it presents several challenges.

First, the need to wake our youth to the demands of the new dawn, is a collective responsibility. A few people still bottle up on the past Obaship matter, they should let go the ugly past. Physical development of Ikun-Ekiti is beyond paper presentation, ideas and concepts but pragmatic and result-oriented steps are of the utmost importance. Your contribution, even if only cottage industries, will be greatly appreciated.

Second, there is an urgent need for FIDU and FIDUO to intervene in the apparent land issue between Ikun and Ikosu. The portion of land between Eyiyi River and Ero River is being craftly overrun by Ikosu with the laissez-faire attitude of my llotin people from Ile Owa. This portion of land endangers the sovereignty of Ikun and portend great dangers for the future generation. From history, our boundary is Eyiyi River not Ero River! The entire town can testify to the fact that much effort has been put into resolving this conflict but the leadership of Ile Owa, for whatever reasons has not been helpful. There seems to be collaborators whose hands are soiled!

Third, I appeal to FIDUO to use its international network of investors to lend support to Ikun community on critical developmental projects in education, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure and youth development. This will facilitate the rapid growth and development of Ikun.

### **CONCLUSION:**

I cannot be grateful enough to the Almighty God for how far we have gone in less than a year on the throne. From both insight and prophesy, Ikun- Ekiti is destined to be great, it's destined to be a host to black and white people across the globe – we are the Israelites of Nigeria! Ikun Ekiti, your town, my town, I mean, our town is a great settlement from creation; please come let us rebuild the city together, join me and my Chiefs to re-enact the city on the mountain's top.

It is significant to note that Ikun is now a bride of all nearby towns. Our roles in the various Councils of Obas are remarkable. Apart from the award I received from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLA) for fighting head long the hard drug use in Ikun-Ekiti, I was one of the three obas that represented the Yoruba geopolitical zone in a Traditional Rulers conference on women liberation at Abuja from August 29 to 1st of September 2016. I can do nothing without God, and you should stand as a pillar of God behind me and behind Ikun Ekiti town. As a leader, I am a servant of all. I shall run

the errand to bring back the dream of “Eko kekere” in us. While I thank you for this singular honor to interact with you, I look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with you individually and collectively to achieving the divine destiny of Ikun Ekiti. May the Lord Almighty keep you all, bless and fulfill the promises of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac on you and your households in Jesus name.

Sincerely yours,

H.R.M, Oba David Olusola Olatunde  
Otagirimoye Akorewolu 1  
The Onikun of Ikun-Ekiti

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