



Towards a New Western Region of Nigeria

Western Region of Nigeria Movement (WRNM)

1. Rationale for Establishment

We the Yorubas: the descendants of Oduduwa are inheritors of the educational initiative of Obafemi Awolowo. We are therefore likely to be very highly ranked among the most educated of all ethnic nationalities in the world. Our imprint and impact are recognizable all over the global village that now houses humanity. What has however been missing is cooperation and collaboration as would enable our organization into a network of knowledge and action to enable our being a proactive force for the good of our homeland in West Africa.

Since 1962 crises that was foisted on our region, the Nigerian nation has placed monumental obstacles in our path to development. As a result of the creeping and stealth dislocation, we have been bruised and battered over the years. The magnitude of the emasculation is such that a broad segment of our well-informed senior citizens hold the believe that outright exit may be the best course to pursue. Quite a few others have the worldview that we need not go on the voyage of Biafra-like declaration debacle of 1967 to assert our God granted rights.

It would therefore seem quite practical to painstakingly apply intellect and utmost brain power to re-organise, reclaim and assert our inalienable rights, being one of the largest homogenous segments of humanity.

2. Establishment and Membership

It is thus hereby proposed that the Western Region of Nigeria Movement (WRNM) be established and institutionalized immediately. The membership of WRNM shall be open only to all persons whose fathers and grandfathers are of Yoruba ethnic nationality at the inception of the Nigerian nation. Full membership will be granted subject to subsequent verification of identity

3. Statement of Objectives

WRNM is being formed to promote the idea that the Yorubas of the world must create a territorial base in the Western Region of Nigeria, with autonomous status to express their Omoluabi-like worldview without let or hindrance, while being good neighbours to other ethnic nationalities in the adjoining territories of Nigeria. The above broad objective is realisable vide the application of brain power and intellect.

The WRNM will be a platform for the propagation of values of **leadership and followership with principles**, knowledge with character **and work as basis for recognizable wealth**.

4. Take off Activities

- a) Organisation of all segments of the Yoruba society to relevance and inclusive participation in public affairs. **The elders of the society, especially those above 80 years of age are to be recognised and honoured for their services.** The youths, especially those in the tertiary institutions are to be cultivated for leadership possibilities.
- b) Quest for Formal Recognition of Western Region as a political entity by the Nigerian State. We are to demonstratively show the resolve of the Yorubas to politically differentiate from other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria, notwithstanding that we shall be friendly neighbours to everyone.
- c) Creation of Awareness among the Yorubas of the immense value of seeking to revert to the socio-political state as it was from 1954 to 1964, during which time all we now hold on to was created.
- d) Persuasion of the subsisting members of the Yoruba political leadership to do far more in asserting our self-determined rights to a much-focused development agenda to banish creeping poverty and hopelessness.
- e) Proactively engage with the current governments – executive and assemblies in our region to pursue harmonised collaborations and collaboration as against operating in silos is designing policies, programmes and projects. We are to make a case for quarterly consultative and programme planning meetings among various subject matter Commissioners and heads of MDA in the States
- f) WRNM is to act as ideas, programmes and Project consultants to our regional governments.
- g) Initiate a platform for formal engagement with Yorubas that are seemingly trapped in Kogi, Kwara, Edo and Delta States.

- h) Reaching out to the **Leaders of other geopolitical zones** and explore the possibility of concerted action. We need to work out a modality for a joint declaration towards October 01, 2024.
- i) Think through funding modalities in anticipation for the ending of federal allocation era foisted on everyone by the federal government that has patently become insolvent and running on debts, with no inclination for any way out.

There is a companion memorandum (WRNM 02) that details some modalities and frameworks for consideration. This document seeks to raise and amplify issues that will help the Yoruba Nation manoeuvre through the processes of effectively charging the course of its destiny as the leading light of the black race

5. Specific Actions

- a) Formal communications introducing WRNM are to be developed and forwarded to our Governors and Speakers of the State Assemblies. This will be extended to NASS members of Yoruba extraction – present and past members.
- b) Another set of introductory communications are to be produced and forwarded to all other segments of the larger Nigerian political leadership
- c) We are to reach out and engage with leaders of other ethnic nationalities that are equally seeking regional status, vide a restructured Nigeria
- d) We are to organise an event at a suitable location, such as Ibadan to present WRNM to the public. This will be for identity branding and marketing of our quest on behalf of our peoples.
- e) We are to replicate (4) above at Abuja, Enugu Kaduna, Jos and Port Harcourt, in order to show our resolve to all Nigerians
- f) We need a web site and social media presence
- g) We need a coordination office at Ibadan, Lagos and Abuja.

6. Critical Activity

A. WRN Governance Re-Design Panel (WRN-GRP)

This panel of 3 to 5 members is to be constituted and given utmost publicity to showcase the necessary resolve to prepare for the inevitability of Nigeria being restructured into regions sooner than later. The panel is to undertake the following.

- ❖ Collate all available documents such as (a) the 1963 Constitution of Western Region (b) Yoruba Agenda Document presented at the various National Conferences (c) Socio-Economic Design papers that may be at the DAWN Commission and NISER (d) Various Drafts of Constitutional Propositions by Yoruba flavoured bodies.
- ❖ Synthesize all the above documents to produce a new governance framework that would be well suited to all segments of the Yoruba peoples of the homeland and in the diaspora.

Below are set out an outline of what could be considered as the basis for a detailed formulation of governance character to be adopted as the basis for running the Yoruba society.

a) Yoruba National Objectives and Creed

- Federation of Sub-Ethnic Nationalities in Yorubaland, Self-determination rights for all in Yoruba territory
- Citizen-Focused and selfless political leadership
- Self-Reliance and Sufficiency
- Putting all to work based on merit and ability
- Embrace and Apply Technology in all its Ramifications to problem solving
- Pride of place to Expertise and Academic Intelligence
- Reciprocal Framework for dealing and relating with non-Yorubas

b) Political Framework

- Proportional representation in governance to cure the winner take all modality that currently subsists
- Business-flavoured and Reliance on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)-based political reconfiguration configuration of territory
- Consensus on the re-configuration and re-alignment of boundaries at lower level tiers within the Yoruba territory
- Provide for joining possibilities by Yorubas scattered in adjoining, but contiguous territories
- Specifications of Indigency Rights and obligations
- Census with various themes to establish demographic parameters for infusion into developmental planning
- Approach for emphasizing independent candidatures: promoting personal attributes of candidates directly discernible by electorates
- Referendum at the lowest level of Governance possible to determine all sub-national relationships and entities based on informed consent and consensus
- Provisions for Conflict Resolution and periodic review and modification of all configurations for governance
- Minimum and Maximum specifications and configuration of institutions for governance
- Responsibilities and Expectations of Deliverables with Timelines for all institutional Entities
- Minimum and maximum specifications and configuration of institutions for governance: number of ministries and agencies, numbers of political appointees
- Jury system of judicial management, devoid of technicalities
- Adoption of guilty until proven innocent in corruption and betrayal of public trust cases
- Framework for Partial and Non-Remunerative stipulations for political functionaries

- Benchmark for Standardized Range of Procurement Costs of Goods and Services

c) Socio-Economic Framework

- Futuristic development planning at all levels of governance
- Emphasize and assimilate intellectual capital in all undertakings
- Tertiary institutions as the primary consultants for all Initiatives of programmes and projects
- Local resources-based Production rather than procurement of ready-made things or services
- Land holdings and ownership reforms
- Urban renewal initiative
- Mass Transit Management
- Industrial development finance initiative
- Education with focus on production and productivity enhancement
- Popularization of futuristic disciplines and skillsets
- Adoption of think tanks and infusion of intellect
- Assimilation of technology into life and living
- Re-configuration and setting up of research institutions

- Socioeconomics planning and development
- Energy and power
- Engineering production and manufacturing
- Materials science and mining
- IT, robotics & artificial intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Agricultural Production and Processing
- Nanotechnology
- Sustainable Environment and Spaces
- Energy and Power
- Alternative Energy
- Water and Marine Technology
- Ageing Science

- Matching grant modality for stimulating competition among institutions
- Institution of schemes for the stimulation and encouragement of achievement and excellence in all spheres of the society
- Strategies for orderly restoration of competitions and application of verifiable merit in all government's dealings

❖ Formulate socio-economic elements and parameters that should govern our society towards a rapid transformation into an equitable, but prosperous nation. This should be well suited as the basis for preparing 5, 10- and 25-year development plans, to be financed by internally generated revenue.

B. Prospectus for WRN

A document to showcase and market our potentials and endowments has to be produced, as soon as possible. Having decided to aggregate as a self-determined peoples in our territory, the next step would be to produce a prospectus, embodying the rationale for any proposed region. The document will detail the following:

- Insignia for identification: flag, logo, coat of arms
- Identification of all ethnic communities in the proposed territory
- List of mother tongue languages and dialect variations
- Accurate Map showing perimeter and internal boundaries of administrative units.
- Directory Notable Personalities of Repute
- List of Cities Towns and villages
- Names and Capital towns of Sub Regional entities
- Physical and Socio-economic environment
- Description of present infrastructure
- Manpower profile to justify sustainability.
- Financial profile to justify sustainability, discounting Federal allocations.

The document should be in two formats

- The abridged version for mass marketing and
- The comprehensive version that will fully define our aspirations towards the coming of the Region and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Akin Fapohunda', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Akin FAPOHUNDA

27-June-2024