



Towards a New Western Region of Nigeria

Rebuilding the Political and Socio-Economics of the Yoruba Peoples of Nigeria, West Africa and in the Diaspora: Blueprint of Ideas and Strategies.¹

A. FUNDAMENTALS

We the citizens of the Yoruba Nation have allowed ourselves to be mistreated in Nigeria. With the exception very few doubting Thomas's that may be benefiting or hoping to be part of eating crumbs, the emerging consensus is that we must reclaim our Omoluabi ethos and spirit. Our identity must be restored to enable us focus on developmental issues. In anticipation of a successful quest, the rational thing to do is to prepare in earnest for self-governance.

It should be obvious that we must undertake definitive course correction in other to regain our trajectory of growth and development that was arrested since 1966. The objective of this effort is to stimulate thoughts and focus the attention of our collective minds on the imperatives of an internal restructuring of our polity as an avenue for projecting our identity. Remodelling our society out of the debacle of what subsists is a mighty goal that must start somewhere. This document is therefore for painstaking evaluation and discussion until all stakeholders are assured of being fully part of the journey to our prosperity.

A1. Introduction

The 1999 Constitution Sword of Damocles over our lives shall give way eventually, and Nigeria as we presently have it will have to be transformed inevitably. But when

¹ Draft by: Dr. Akin FAPOHUNDA (+234 803 312 1004)

it happens sooner or later, how will our territory that is presently configured into 6 States fare? What will happen in contiguously adjoining territories of Edo, Delta Kogi and Kwara States with Yoruba language and culturally flavoured constituents? How are we preparing in anticipation of the impending restructuring of the Nigerian polity?

In consideration of the foregoing, it has become self-evident that governments and governance in our 6 States is by and for the benefit and welfare of the political office holders and their supporting civil servants. The near total appropriation and deployment of the resources of our commonwealth for recurrent expenditures, not minding the magnitude of accruing debts has become a mindboggling threat to our survival. The quest for restructuring is therefore a matter of self-survival towards taking back sovereignty by the citizens.

The bureaucracy and attendant profligacy foisted on us by the Nigerian State must be halted through cost saving reforms that will institute a regime of value for money efficiency. This will be possible through the downsizing of administrative units and prescription of constitutional controls and limits on the actions of functionaries to whom we have delegated our sovereign powers.

Far more than the larger Nigeria, the Restructuring agenda is most appropriate for the Yoruba Society. Our governance structure must be reappraised to eliminate profligacy and wastefulness. Our way of life needs very urgent reconfiguration, regardless of whether we eventually hoist the flag of Nigeria or not. The emerging consensus is that we must reclaim our Omoluabi ethos and spirit. Our identity must be restored to enable us focus on developmental issues. The path towards this cause is to reappraise our ways and undertake fundamental course corrections.

A2. Present State of Socio-Economic Affairs in WRN

BudgetIT: a socioeconomic analysis NGO recently published a report titled “State of States, The 2020 Revised Edition Report.” In it are very interesting and eye-opening facts about the state of finances in our 6 States. An extract from the report is here presented in Tables 01 to 04.

Table 01: Internally Generated Revenue Profile in 2019

States	IGR (₦)	FAAC (₦)	Total Revenue (₦)	%IGR of Total Revenue
Ekiti	8,550,000,000	41,290,000,000	54,040,000,000	16
Lagos	398,730,000,000	117,880,000,000	564,060,000,000	71
Ogun	70,920,000,000	38,710,000,000	124,790,000,000	57
Ondo	30,140,000,000	57,930,000,000	97,250,000,000	31
Osun	17,920,000,000	24,220,000,000	69,330,000,000	26
Oyo	26,750,000,000	55,800,000,000	93,930,000,000	28

Source: BudgetIT – State of States, The 2020 Revised Edition Report; Contact: info@yourbudgetit.com

Table 02: Revenue, Expenditure and Deficit Profile in 2019

States	Total Revenue (₦)	Total Expenditure (₦)	Deficit (₦)
Ekiti	54,040,000,000	85,100,000,000	-31,060,000,000
Lagos	564,060,000,000	796,720,000,000	-232,660,000,000
Ogun	124,790,000,000	143,210,000,000	-18,420,000,000
Ondo	97,250,000,000	117,200,000,000	-19,950,000,000
Osun	69,330,000,000	100,490,000,000	-31,160,000,000
Oyo	93,930,000,000	149,310,000,000	-55,380,000,000

Source: BudgIT – State of States, The 2020 Revised Edition Report; Contact: info@yourbudgit.com

Table 03: Highlight of Recurrent Expenditure Profile in 2019

States	Recurrent Expenditure (₦)	Capital Expenditure (₦)	Total Expenditure (₦)	%Recurrent of Total Expenditure
Ekiti	68,460,000,000	16,640,000,000	85,100,000,000	80
Lagos	555,660,000,000	241,060,000,000	796,720,000,000	70
Ogun	107,790,000,000	35,420,000,000	143,210,000,000	75
Ondo	87,270,000,000	29,930,000,000	117,200,000,000	74
Osun	70,390,000,000	30,100,000,000	100,490,000,000	70
Oyo	120,340,000,000	28,970,000,000	149,310,000,000	81

Source: BudgIT – State of States, The 2020 Revised Edition Report; Contact: info@yourbudgit.com

Table 04: Indebtedness Status in 2019

States	External Debt (Dollars)	External Debt (\$@₦400naira)	Domestic Debt (₦)	Total Debt (₦)
Ekiti	102,970,000	41,188,000,000	86,910,000,000	128,098,000,000
Lagos	1,396,190,000	558,476,000,000	444,230,000,000	1,002,706,000,000
Ogun	100,610,000	40,244,000,000	142,290,000,000	182,534,000,000
Ondo	82,810,000	33,124,000,000	67,500,000,000	100,624,000,000
Osun	95,490,000	38,196,000,000	138,650,000,000	176,846,000,000
Oyo	100,200,000	40,080,000,000	91,570,000,000	131,650,000,000

Source: BudgIT – State of States, The 2020 Revised Edition Report; Contact: info@yourbudgit.com

Revenue Frittered away on Governance.

It could not be a matter of surprise that human development is on hold in our land. Investment in infrastructure is few and far in between. **Table 01** reveals the extend of our dependent of resources of South-South (Niger Delta) as we partake in the sharing of rent derived from crude oil sales. If the plug were to be pulled today, we shall face very dare consequences. It is therefore self-evident that we need to wean our society for the malfeasance of those around us.

It must be pointed out that what is given in Table 01 is however just a side of the coin. In month of December 2020, ₦51 billion VAT revenue was shared among the 36 States and FCT. While the State-by-State contributions are not revealed in any

published data, it is very safe to attribute about 55 to 60% of this monthly share is derived from our territory. **In a restructured Nigeria, our land will have a proper claim on its resources, inclusive of those generated in other sphere: Sea and Airports. The revenue accruing from intensity of economic activities will be to our advantage.**

Deficit and Debt Debacle

Table 02 shows that we are living a false life that is fuelled by deficit spending. In 2019, all the 6 States spent more than their income, with Lagos State being the most profligate. It is a matter of conjecture to fathom the thinking and thought process of our political leadership as they grapple with the import of this level of deficit spending.

The expenditure profile given in **Table 03** is skewed in favour of recurrent activities, primarily on salaries and overhead costs attendant to benefits and welfare of political office holders and civil servants. It is not open to debate that this situation is no longer sustainable.

The most alarming picture of our precarious situation is the level of our indebtedness as of 2019, as given in **Table 04**. Lagos State is indebted to the tune of over 1 Trillion naira, despite the magnitude of internally generated revenue accruing to her. It is a mere waste of intellectual time to discuss the state of affairs in Ogun and Osun States. Without doubt the future of the future generations have been consumed already, with no plans for strategic remedies.

Unlimited Governance Bureaucracy

The level of opaqueness exhibited in the availability of information on the management of government business is unsatisfactory. It has not been possible to lay hands on State Budgets, such as would furnish insight into heads of expenditure and yearly appropriations. As citizens, we have a lot to do for those in government to freely grant us the right to know how our affairs are conducted.

In the dearth of information, it is mere luck to have insight into the span of bureaucracy that is weaved around the government of the respective States. Lagos provides an illustrative insight into how we are at the state of deploying over 70% of all income towards the remuneration and welfare of political office holders, plus the supporting civil servants.

Lagos State as an Illustration

The Executive Council of Lagos State has 43 members: same as the Federal Executive Council at Abuja. There are 46 Ministries, Departments and Agencies. There is no data within easy reach about the number of Permanent Secretaries in the service of Lagos State. What is however available is that 17 of such officers on Consolidated Salaries for life were appointed in January 2021. It therefore makes sense to assume

that they may be more than 60 Permanent Secretaries service wide. The number of Directorate cadre of officer will thus be a matter of conjecture in terms of being bloated.

The above implies a virtually unrestrained creation of functional units and the attendant charges on the revenue accruing from citizens to the government. It has further implications for retirement and pension benefits payable to these officers for many years to come.

The Lagos State governance structure is apparently in consonance with the omnibus 1999 Constitution, out of which State Administrations derive authority to act in any manner without any restraint by the constituent citizens. The State House of Assembly has apparently failed or unable to act in public interest by being a check on the Executive.

It bears no restating that the citizenry public ought to be privy to the decision making that places an unrestrained burden on them. There is no doubt that a formal embargo ought to be placed on any further creation of functional units for governance. Most fundamentally, it has become expedient that the Lagos State Public Service be rationalised. An approved scheme of functions and manning specifications ought to be determined and enshrined in the Constitution of our Territory as Nigeria is restructured.

The data in the following pages particularises the above analysis revealing the extent to which the Lagos State is gulping revenue to service political office holders and civil servants, to the detriment of the larger citizenry.

Lagos State Executive Council Members

1. [Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu](#): Governor
2. [Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat](#): Deputy Governor
3. [Mrs Sherifat Folashade Jaji](#): Secretary to the State Government
4. [Mr. Hakeem Muri-Okunola](#): Head of Service
5. Mr. Tayo Akinmade Ayinde: Chief of [Staff](#)
6. [Mr. Gboyega Soyannwo](#): Deputy Chief of Staff
7. Dr. Rabiun Onaolapo Olowo: Commissioner for [Finance](#)
8. Mrs. Folashade Adefisayo: Commissioner for [Education](#)
9. Prof. Akin Abayomi: Commissioner for [Health](#)
10. Dr. Idris Salako: Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban [Development](#)
11. Mr. Tunji Bello: Commissioner for The Environment and Water [Resources](#)
12. Mr. Gbenga Omotoso: Commissioner for Information and [Strategy](#)
13. Mrs. Bolaji Dada: Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation
14. Mr. Lere Odusote: Commissioner for Energy and Natural [Resources](#)
15. Dr. Frederic Oladeinde: Commissioner for [Transportation](#)
16. Mr. Gbolahan Lawal: Commissioner for [Agriculture](#)
17. Mr. Moruf Akinderu Fatai: Commissioner for [Housing](#)

18. Mr. Moyo Onigbanjo (SAN): Attorney General and Commissioner for [Justice](#)
19. Mr. Hakeem Fahm: Commissioner for Science and [Technology](#)
20. Mrs. Ajibola Ponnle: Commissioner for Establishments, Training and [Pensions](#)
21. Mr. Segun Dawodu: Commissioner for Youth and Social [Developments](#)
22. Anofi Olanrewaju Elegushi: Commissioner for Home [Affairs](#)
23. Dr. Wale Ahmed: Commissioner for Local Government and Community [Affairs](#)
24. Mrs. Lola Akande: Commissioner for Commerce and [Industry](#)
25. Mrs. Uzamat Akinbile-Yusuf: Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and [Culture](#)
26. Mr. Sam Egube: Commissioner for Economic Planning and [Budgets](#)
27. Engr Tayo Bamgbose-Martins: Commissioner for Special Duties and Inter-governmental Relations
28. Architect Kabiru Ahmed Abdullahi Commissioner Waterfront [Infrastructure](#)
29. Mrs. Yetunde Arobieke: Commissioner Wealth Creation and [Employment](#)
30. Engr. Aramide Adeyoye: Special Adviser Works and [Infrastructure](#)
31. Ms Ruth Bisola Olusanya: Special Adviser for [Agriculture](#)
32. Princess Aderemi Adebawale: Special Adviser, Office of Civic [Engagement](#)
33. Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo: Special Adviser on Political and Legislative [Affairs](#)
34. Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka: Special Adviser for [Housing](#)
35. Mr. Joe Igbokwe: Special Adviser Office of Drainage [Services](#)
36. Mr. Tubosun Alake: Special Adviser for Innovation and [Technology](#)
37. Hon Ayuba Ganiu Adele: Special Adviser for Urban Development
38. Mr Oyerinde Olugbenga Olanrewaju: Special Adviser for Central Business Districts
39. Bonu Solomon Saanu: Special Adviser for Arts and [Culture](#)
40. Mr. Oluwatoyin Fayinka: Special Adviser for [Transportation](#)
41. Oladele Ajayi: Special Adviser for Commerce and [Industry](#)
42. Mr. Tokunbo Wahab: Special Adviser for [Education](#)
43. Mrs. Solape Hammond: Special Adviser for Sustainable Development Goals

List of 17 Permanent Secretaries Newly Appointed in January 2021

	NAME	PREVIOUS DEPLOYMENT
1	Dr. MUSTAFA, Ibrahim Akinwunmi	Consultant Special, Lagos State University Teaching Hospital
2	AYOOLA, Iyabo Oyeyemi	Director, Projects Financial Mgt. Unit, State Treasury Office
3	GEORGE, Abosede Oluwakemi	Director, Admin/ Human Resource, Sustainable Development Goals & Investment
4	HUNDOGAN, Sewanu Temitope	Director, Finance & Accounts, State Treasury Office
5	ENGR. (MRS) KOSEGBE, Abiola	General Manager, Lagos State Building Control Agency
6	ONAYELE, Augustine Abiodun	Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board
7	ADEDOYIN-AJAYI, Adenike	Head, Branding One Stop Shop (Citizens Gate, Service Charter & EODB), OTCI
8	SANGOWANWA, Olutomi Ajose	Surveyor-General, Office of the State Surveyor-General
9	ODUGUWA, Olusola	Director, Central Internal Audit, Office of the Chief of Staff

10	OLAJIDE, Charles Adeboye	Principal, Lagos Baptist Senior College, Orile Agege
11	MACHADO-ONANUGA, Toyin Olamide	Director, Public Service Standard & Performance Directorate, PSO
12	GAJI, Omobolaji Tajudeen	Director, Physiotherapy Services, Health Service Commission
13	OLOWOSHAGO, Kamar Owodiran	Director, Home Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs
14	SIMONE, Olayinka Fashola	Director, Admin/Human Resource, Office of Education Quality Assurance
15	DABA, Mobolaji Mojisola	Director, Admin/Human Resource, Public Service Office
16	OSHODI, Salimot Tolani	Director, Admin/Human Resource, Lands Bureau
17	KASALI, Adeniran Waheed	Head of Training, Public Service Staff Development Centre

46 Lagos State Ministries, Departments and Agencies

	Name of MDA	Website
1	Office of the State Auditor-General	https://auditorgeneral.lagosstate.gov.ng/
2	Judicial Service Commission	https://jsc.lagosstate.gov.ng
3	Ministry Of Agriculture	https://agriculture.lagosstate.gov.ng
4	Ministry Of Commerce, Industry & Cooperatives	https://mcic.lagosstate.gov.ng
5	Ministry Of Economic Planning & Budget	https://mepb.lagosstate.gov.ng
6	Ministry Of Education	https://education.lagosstate.gov.ng
7	Ministry of Energy & Mineral Resources	https://memr.lagosstate.gov.ng
8	Ministry of Establishments, Training and Pensions	https://metp.lagosstate.gov.ng
9	Ministry of Finance	https://finance.lagosstate.gov.ng
10	State Treasury Office	https://sto.lagosstate.gov.ng
11	Ministry Of Health	https://health.lagosstate.gov.ng
12	Ministry Of Home Affairs	https://homeaffair.lagosstate.gov.ng
13	Ministry Of Housing	https://housing.lagosstate.gov.ng
14	Ministry Of Information & Strategy	https://information.lagosstate.gov.ng
15	Ministry of Justice	https://justice.lagosstate.gov.ng
16	Ministry of Local Government & Community Affairs	https://mlgca.lagosstate.gov.ng
17	Ministry of Physical Planning & Urban Development	https://mppud.lagosstate.gov.ng
18	Ministry of Science & Technology	https://most.lagosstate.gov.ng
19	Ministry Of Special Duties & Intergovernmental Relations	https://specialduties.lagosstate.gov.ng
20	Ministry of the Environment	https://environment.lagosstate.gov.ng
21	Ministry Of Transportation	https://transportation.lagosstate.gov.ng
22	Ministry of Waterfront Infrastructure Development	https://waterfront.lagosstate.gov.ng
23	Ministry of Works & Infrastructure	https://worksandinfrastructure.lagosstate.gov.ng
24	Ministry of Youth & Social Development	https://youthandsocialdevelopment.lagosstate.gov.ng
25	Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture	https://tourismartandculture.lagosstate.gov.ng

26	Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation	https://wapa.lagosstate.gov.ng
27	Ministry Of Wealth Creation And Employment	https://wealthcreation.lagosstate.gov.ng
28	Lagos State Sports Commission	https://sportcommission.lagosstate.gov.ng
29	Central Business Districts	https://cbd.lagosstate.gov.ng
30	Office of Overseas Affairs and Investment	http://www.lagosglobal.org/
31	Office of Civic Engagement	https://civicengagement.lagosstate.gov.ng
32	Lands Bureau	https://landsbureau.lagosstate.gov.ng
33	Education District I	https://educationdistrict1.lagosstate.gov.ng
34	Education District II	https://educationdistrict2.lagosstate.gov.ng
35	Education District III	https://educationdistrict3.lagosstate.gov.ng
36	Education District IV	https://educationdistrict4.lagosstate.gov.ng
37	Education District V	https://educationdistrict5.lagosstate.gov.ng
38	Education District VI	https://educationdistrict6.lagosstate.gov.ng
39	Lagos State Civil Service Commission	https://civilservice.lagosstate.gov.ng
40	Audit Service Commission	https://asc.lagosstate.gov.ng
41	Health Service Commission	https://hsc.lagosstate.gov.ng
42	Local Government Service Commission	https://lgsc.lagosstate.gov.ng
43	Teaching Service Commission, TESCOM	https://tescom.lagosstate.gov.ng
44	Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission	https://lasiec.lagosstate.gov.ng
45	Civil Service Pension Office	https://cspo.lagosstate.gov.ng
46	Parastatals Monitoring Office	https://pmo.lagosstate.ov.ng

86 Lagos State Government Parastatals

	Name of Parastatals	Website
1	Lagos State Resilience Office (LASRO)	https://www.lagosresilience.net
2	Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation	http://lasric.lagosstate.gov.ng/
3	Office of Diaspora and Foreign Relations	http://diaspora.lagosstate.gov.ng/
4	Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board	https://lsfvc.lagosstate.gov.ng
5	Hotel Licensing Authority	https://hla.lagosstate.gov.ng
6	Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps	https://lagesc.lagosstate.gov.ng
7	Lagos State Agric Inputs Supply Authority	https://laisa.lagosstate.gov.ng
8	Lagos State Agricultural Land Holdings Authority (ALHA)	https://alha.lagosstate.gov.ng
9	Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority	https://ada.lagosstate.gov.ng/
10	Lagos State Blood Transfusion Services	https://bloodtransfusion.lagosstate.gov.ng
11	Lagos State Building Control Agency	https://buildingcontrol.lagosstate.gov.ng
12	Lagos State Security Trust Fund	https://lsstf.lagosstate.gov.ng
13	Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency, LASIAMA	https://lasiama.lagosstate.gov.ng
14	Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture	https://artandculture.lagosstate.gov.ng
15	Radio Lagos	https://radiolagos.lagosstate.gov.ng/
16	EkoFm	http://ekofm.lagosstate.gov.ng/

17	Lagos State Electricity Board	https://electricityboard.lagosstate.gov.ng
18	Lagos State Emergency Management Agency	https://lasema.lagosstate.gov.ng
19	Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit	https://taskforce.lagosstate.gov.ng
20	Lagos State Environmental protection Agency	https://lasepa.lagosstate.gov.ng
21	Lagos State Examination Board	https://examboard.lagosstate.gov.ng
22	Lagos State Ferry Services Corporation	https://ferryservices.lagosstate.gov.ng
23	Lagos Traffic Radio	http://trafficradio961.ng
24	Lagos State Liaison Office	https://liaisonoffice.lagosstate.gov.ng
25	Lagos State Library Board	https://libraryboard.lagosstate.gov.ng
26	Lagos State Metropolitan Area Transport Authority	https://lamata-ng.com
27	Lagos State Muslim Pilgrims' Welfare Board	https://muslimpilgrims.lagosstate.gov.ng
28	Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA)	https://lasoda.lagosstate.gov.ng
29	Lagos State Planning & Environmental Monitoring Authority	https://environmentalmonitoring.lagosstate.gov.ng
30	Lagos State Printing Corporation	https://printing.lagosstate.gov.ng
31	Lagos State Public Service Staff Development Centre	https://staffdevelopment.lagosstate.gov.ng
32	Lagos State Public Works Corporation	https://publicworks.lagosstate.gov.ng
33	Lagos State Records and Archives Bureau (LASRAB)	https://lasrab.lagosstate.gov.ng
34	Lagos State Scholarship Board	https://scholarshipboard.lagosstate.gov.ng
35	Lagos State Signage & Advertisement Agency (LASAA)	https://lasaa.lagosstate.gov.ng
36	Lagos State Sports Commission	https://sportcommission.lagosstate.gov.ng
37	Lagos State Traditional Medicine Board	https://traditionalmedicine.lagosstate.gov.ng
38	Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA)	https://lastma.lagosstate.gov.ng
39	Lagos State Universal basic Education Board	https://subeb.lagosstate.gov.ng
40	Lagos State University	www.lasu.edu.ng
41	Lagos State University Teaching Hospital	https://lasuth.lagosstate.gov.ng
42	Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority (LASURA)	https://lasura.lagosstate.gov.ng
43	Lagos State Valuation Office	https://valuationoffice.lagosstate.gov.ng
44	Lagos State Water Corporation	https://watercorporation.lagosstate.gov.ng
45	Lagos Television (LTV/LWT)	https://lagostelevision.lagosstate.gov.ng
46	Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA)	https://lawma.lagosstate.gov.ng
47	New Towns Development Authority	https://ntda.lg.gov.ng
48	Office of Surveyor General	https://surveyorgeneral.lagosstate.gov.ng
49	Lagos State Independent Electoral Commissions	https://lasiec.lagosstate.gov.ng
50	Lagos State Safety Commission	https://safetycommission.lagosstate.gov.ng
51	Lagos State Technical & Vocational Education Board	https://lstveb.lagosstate.gov.ng
52	Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA)	https://lasrra.lagosstate.gov.ng

53	Local Government Establishment, Training & Pension Office	https://lgetpo.lagosstate.gov.ng
54	Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA)	https://laswa.lagosstate.gov.ng
55	Office of Public Defender	https://opd.lagosstate.gov.ng
56	Lagos State Physical Planning Permit Authority (LASPPPA)	https://laspppa.lagosstate.gov.ng
57	Lagos State Market Development Board	https://marketdevelopment.lagosstate.gov.ng
58	Lagos State Public Procurement Agency	https://publicprocurement.lagosstate.gov.ng
59	Lagos State Driver's Institute	https://driversinstitute.lagosstate.gov.ng
60	Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK)	https://laspark.lagosstate.gov.ng
61	Agency For Mass Literacy, Adult & Non-Formal Education	https://adulthoodeducation.lagosstate.gov.ng
62	Lagos State Coconut Development Authority	https://lascoda.lagosstate.gov.ng
63	Office Of Transformation, Creativity & Innovation	https://otci.lagosstate.gov.ng
64	Motor Vehicle Administration Agency	www.mvaa.lagosstate.gov.ng
65	Lagos State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board	www.christianpilgrims.lagosstate.gov.ng
66	Law Enforcement Training Institute	www.leti.lagosstate.gov.ng
67	Lagos State Water Regulatory Commission (LSWRC)	www.lswrc.lagosstate.gov.ng
68	Lagos State Fire Service	www.fireservice.lagosstate.gov.ng
69	Lagos State Mortgage Board	www.lagoshoms.lagosstate.gov.ng
70	Lagos State Material Testing Laboratory, LSMTL	www.lsmatl.lagosstate.gov.ng
71	Lagos State Pension Commission	www.laspec.lagosstate.gov.ng
72	Lagos Bus Services Ltd	https://www.lbsl.ng/
73	Office of Auditor-General (Local Government)	www.oaglg.lagosstate.gov.ng
74	Land Use Charge	www.landusecharge.lagosstate.gov.ng
75	Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency	www.lansa.lagosstate.gov.ng
76	Office Of Education Quality Assurance	www.oeka.lagosstate.gov.ng
77	Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA)	www.lasimra.lagosstate.gov.ng
78	Office of Public-Private Partnerships	www.ppp.lagosstate.gov.ng
79	Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA)	www.lascopa.lagosstate.gov.ng
80	Lagos State Primary Health Care Board	www.primaryhealthcare.lagosstate.gov.ng
81	IBILE Oil and Gas Corporation	www.iogc.lagosstate.gov.ng
82	Lagos State Health Management Agency	lashma.lagosstate.gov.ng
83	Lagos State Coconut Development Authority	https://lascoda.lagosstate.gov.ng
84	Lagos State WasteWater Management Office	http://lswmo.lagosstate.gov.ng
85	Lagos Use Charge	http://luc.lagosstate.gov.ng
86	Lagos State Number Plate Production Authority	https://lsnppa.lagosstate.gov.ng

Ogun State as a further Illustration

It is quite commendable that Lagos State has used the Internet to place a substantial amount of her data in public domain. The other 5 States are not as helpful in this regard.

Ogun State had 2 items of relevant information on her website. There are 35 MDAs of the government. With 58 Permanent Secretaries on Consolidated Salaries. With an average of the usual 8 Directors serving under each officer, there would be about 460 Director officers in the service of Ogun State.

As was in Lagos, this has implications for the gulping of accruing revenue towards the benefit of a few public office holders and the supporting civil servants. The fate on the citizens on behalf of these resources are expended is sealed with dearth of infrastructural emplacement funds.

Ogun State (35) Ministries, Departments and Agencies

1. [Ministry of Commerce and Industry](#)
2. [Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development](#)
3. [Ministry of Budget and Planning](#)
4. [Ministry of Community Development and Cooperatives](#)
5. [Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs](#)
6. [Ministry of Works and Infrastructure](#)
7. [Ministry of Information and Strategy](#)
8. [Ministry of Regional Integration](#)
9. [Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development](#)
10. [Ministry of Youth Development, Sports and Employment Generation](#)
11. [Ministry of Environment](#)
12. [Ministry of Agriculture](#)
13. [Ogun State Internal Revenue Services](#)
14. [Ogun State Teaching Service Commission](#)
15. [Ogun State Urban and Regional Planning Board](#)
16. [Ogun State Housing Corporation](#)
17. [OGUN STATE HEALTH INSURANCE AGENCY](#)
18. [Public Service Transformation Office \(PSTO\)](#)
19. [Office of The Auditor-General For Local Governments](#)
20. [OGUN STATE PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION.](#)
21. [Bureau of Political Affairs and Administration](#)
22. [Bureau of Transportation](#)
23. [Bureau of Service Matters, Office of Head of Service](#)
24. [Bureau of Lands and Survey](#)
25. [Bureau of State Pensions](#)
26. [Ogun State Christian Pilgrims Welfare Board](#)
27. [Ogun State Local Government Service Commission](#)
28. [Ogun State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board](#)
29. [Ogun State Primary Health Care Development Board](#)
30. [Office Of The Chief Registrar High Court Of Justice](#)
31. [Ogun State Hospital Management Board](#)
32. [Trade and Investment](#)
33. [Ogun State House of Assembly](#)

34. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ABEOKUTA
35. Ministry Of Rural Development

Ogun State List of 58 Permanent Secretaries

1. Mrs S.O Ottun: Head of Service
2. MRS MOJISOLA DOSUNMU: TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION
3. MRS IRENE KOKUMO: BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONS
4. Engr Jonathan Olukunle Onajobi: House of Assembly
5. Engr. K.A. Ademolake: Ministry of Works and Infrastructure
6. DR (MRS) OLURANTI OLADEINDE: WOMEN AFFAIRS & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
7. Mr. A.A. Awere: Ministry of Information and Strategy
8. MR ADEBOWALE OYENEYE: PUBLIC SERVICE TRANSFORMATION OFFICE
9. MR FATAI OGUNLANA: CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
10. MRS OLASENI OGUNLEYE: EDUCATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
11. MRS OLUFUNMILAYO DADA: BUDGET & PLANNING
12. OREKOYA, Bolaji Ajose: HOUSING
13. LUKAN, Jubril Olalekan: RURAL DEVELOPMENT
14. SORUNKE, Dotun: AGRICULTURE
15. Dr. N.O Aigoro: Hospitals Management Board
16. Mrs. Yetunde .O. Dina: URBAN & REGIONAL PLANNING
17. Mr. H.T Adekunle: Ministry of Budget & Planning
18. LUKAN, Jubril Olalekan: Ministry of Rural Development
19. Mr. Olanrewaju I. Saka: Bureau of Cabinet and Special services
20. Dr. A.E. Ayinde: Ministry of Health
21. ENGR. OLAYIWOLA ABIODUN: Ministry of Youth and Sports
22. MR KOLAWOLE FAGBOHUN: Bureau of Service Matters
23. MRS MELUTIA OGUNREMI: Ministry of Culture and Tourism
24. Mr. Michael O. Idowu: Treasury & Accountant General
25. Engr. A. Olayiwola: Ministry of Housing
26. MR HASSAN ADEKUNLE: Ministry of Finance
27. MRS YETUNDE DINA: Ministry of Urban and Regional Planning
28. MRS LYDIA FAJOUNBO: Bureau of Establishment and Training
29. MRS LYDIA FAJOUNBO: BUREAU OF ESTABLISHMENT & TRAINING
30. BENSON, Lateef Adebola: Ministry of Forestry
31. MR OLUBOLA AIKULOLA: Min. of Edu, Science and Tech
32. MR ABAYOMI BAJELA: Office of the Governor
33. MR HASSAN ADEKUNLE: Ministry of Finance
34. SOTUBO, Olurotimi Olumide: Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs
35. Mrs Yetunde Oresanya: Ministry of Justice
36. Mr. Dolapo Odulana: Bureau of Protocol and Ceremonials
37. Mr. Gabriel Olumuyiwa Olukoga: Ogun State Independent Electoral Commission
38. Mr. Kunle Lanre Osota: Ministry of LG & Chieftaincy Affairs
39. SOTUBO, Olurotimi Olumide: Ministry of Special Duties
40. MR OLUBOLA AIKULOLA: COMMERCE
41. Mr S.O Ipinniwa: Ministry of Agriculture

42. Engr A.T Bakare: Teaching Service Commission
43. Mrs M.A Gbadamosi: Ministry of Women Affairs
44. FADITIMU, Olushola Oluleye: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
45. OJETOLA, Razak Olabode: ENVIRONMENT
46. SODEINDE, Olukunle Kolawole: BUREAU OF STATE PENSIONS
47. Mr. Olubola Olakunle Aikulola: Min. Education Science & technology
48. Mr Adesupo Abiodun Awere: Min. of Information & Strtegy
49. MRS SALIMOT OTTUN: Bureau of Political Affairs
50. Mr. O.O Odeyemi: Ministry of Community Development & Cooperative
51. Mr Isqueel Ishola Aboaba: Office of the Governor(1)
52. Mr hamsideen Olatunbosun Mosuro: Bureau of Governor House and General Service
53. Mr Dolapo Olufemi Adewunmi: Min of Forestry
54. Mr Olusegun Lanre-Iyanda: Office of the Governor(2)
55. Mrs Olaseni Abosedo Ogunleye: Min. of Agric
56. Mr. Olusegun Alao Olaleye: Min of Finance

Security Votes

A carry over from the era of Military was the special fund styled security vote. It was a quite easy recourse by the civilian executive governors. While verifiable data is unavailable, my search came up with the table below as an indicative extent of drawings from public funds, without any accountability.

- Lagos State: N1.429B Monthly [N1.297B (Public order and safety) + N132.5M (Social Protection)] (N17.149B Annually [N15.559B + N1.59B])
- Ondo State: N600M Monthly (N7.2B Annually)
- Osun State: N400M Monthly (N4.8B Annually)
- Ogun State: N80-N100M Monthly (N960M-N1.2B Annually)

B. FUNDAMENTALS OF A RESTRUCTURED WRN

It has been our longstanding desire and aspiration to roll the affairs of our polity back to the golden era under which the Yoruba territory was governed based on what was then embodied in the 1954 through to the 1963 Constitution of Western Nigeria. Regardless, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since the coup of 1966, such as would make a reappraisal of our governance framework a cardinal imperative.

Having spoken so much on the need to revert to self-government in our territory, it makes sense that we immediately draft a charter of governance that will produce a harmonious relationship between and among all the sub-ethnic nationalities in Yoruba territory.

B1. Description of Activity

We were very lucky indeed to have had a sagacious leader in Obafemi Awolowo in the 1954 to 1960 era. Else the then unitary flavoured Western Regional Constitution could have been mis-applied, as we have found out in recent years. It now behoves

on us to embed the fundamentals of federal governance into our region, such as would guarantee freedom and independence to pursue the development aspirations that suits every community in our territory. In so doing, all Yoruba sub-nationalities will not harbour old fears of being subordinated to the Authority at Ibadan, as it then was.

A proposed governance framework that is deliberately federal-flavoured would be produced, so that every Yoruba sub-ethnic nationality could have unfettered freedom to aggregate or disaggregate as Provinces and Districts, while being in control of their affairs without let or hinderance at whatever level of governance.

The communities making up the proposed WRN will be facilitated to agree on how to relate and function organically. Thus, our goal shall be that all internal relationships with underlying understandings that the coming together is a matter of choice that must be continually renewed and voluntarily nurtured.

Everyone: individual citizens and socio-political bodies comprising Yoruba peoples hereby covenant and earnestly agree to work jointly and severally towards and or execute the following:

1. The Yoruba people of Western Nigeria, inclusive of all those of our heritage and cultural affinities in Edo, Delta, Kogi and Kwara States hereby affirm and assert their desire to live in a secure territorial space with all rights to self-governance and autonomous management of their affairs unfettered and unhindered by anyone, as soon as possible.
2. We desire to organize and manage a positive identity and an absolutely safe homeland for all Yorubas wherever they may be across the world.
3. We are also desirous of living as friendly neighbours with all other ethnic nationalities currently put together under the umbrella of Nigeria.
4. In pursuance to (3) above, the Yorubas are in Readiness for Talks to work out and agree on a Reciprocal Protocol of Understandings with all other ethnic nationalities on group-by-group basis or with any combinations of groups thereof, as would enable us to subsequently live in peace and amity.
5. It is hereby expressly stated and conveyed that the Yorubas will exercise their rights without any further delay to proceed with all planning and implementation steps towards freedom for all and life more abundant for everyone.
6. The effective execution date(s) for all initiatives shall remain open as speedy progress is made in realizing our stated goals. It is after a coherent framework of governance and plans for rapid socio-economic development are finalized that a plebiscite would be mounted in order to seek an informed consent of our sovereign peoples.

B2. Case for a Restructured WRN

The Restructuring agenda is most appropriate for the Yoruba Society. Our governance structure needs to be reappraised to eliminate profligacy and wastefulness, regardless of whether we hoist the flag of Nigeria or not. The bureaucracy and attendant profligacy foisted on us by the Nigerian State through the 1999 Constitution must be reappraised through cost saving reforms that will institute a regime of value for money efficiency. This will be possible through the downsizing of administrative units and prescription of constitutional controls and limits on the actions of functionaries to whom we have delegated our sovereign powers.

In consideration of the foregoing, it has become self-evident that governments and governance in our 6 States is by and for the benefit and welfare of the political office holders and their supporting civil servants only. The near total appropriation and deployment of the resources of our commonwealth for recurrent expenditures, not minding the magnitude of accruing debts has become a mindboggling threat to our survival. The quest for restructuring is therefore a matter of self-survival towards taking back sovereignty by the citizens.

B3. Fundamental Considerations of a New Governance Framework for Regional Constitution

This should be a citizen understanding of the articles of association to be endorsed by all sub-ethnic nationalities in Yoruba land. The plain language draft should be well suited for transformation into a Draft Constitution that would be presented for the approval by the people in a referendum.

In order to return to the path of sanity, the fabric of the Yoruba society needs to be rebuilt. Elements of measures worthy of close study in relation to how we govern ourselves will include the following:

1. What political and administrative structure would be well suited for our self-reliance and rapid development
2. How do we secure our territory against internal criminality and external designs that are inimical to our interest?
3. How do we manage our territory in Western Nigeria such as would enable us to take our rightful place in the community of world's nation?
4. What frameworks will assure that the very least of our citizens, and aggregates thereof will have unfettered rights to pursue positive aspirations that will be of benefit to all?
5. How do we reconstruct our society to suit our inherited Omoluabi Ethos? There is need to redefine the parameters of political contest and ascendancy for leadership in Yorubaland. There is need to accept OMOLUABI ethos as the sole basis of competition and or appointment into positions of public trust at all levels

6. Approach for emphasizing independent candidatures: promoting individual attributes directly discernible by electorates; rather than wealth or naked power.
7. Will proportional representation after elections take care of the winner takes all syndrome
8. How do we prepare for administrative and developmental funding once Federal Allocation ceases?
9. How do we finance our society based on our bodily sweats using resource endowments granted by God Almighty?
10. Reliance on Internally Generated Revenue (IGR)-based political reconfiguration of territory, as there would be no source of external funding of bloated bureaucracy. It will make sense to consider the fusion of many existing administrative units that came about based on guzzling crude oil revenue
11. Reconfiguration of sub-ethnic nationalities for amicable territorial neighbourliness. A new map must be produced to reflect the latest wishes of the communities to associate into Districts, Provinces, and States, in a Western Regional/Republic Federation
12. Provide for joining possibilities by Yorubas scattered in adjoining, but contiguous territories of Kogi, Kwara, Edo and Delta States
13. Placement of the Traditional Institution in the polity
14. Referendum specifications at the lowest level of Governance possible to determine all sub-national relationships and entities based on informed consent and consensus
15. Provisions for conflict resolution and periodic review and modification of all configurations for governance.
16. Specifications of Indigene and Non-indigene Rights and obligations
17. Census with various themes to establish demographic parameters for infusion into developmental planning
18. Minimum and maximum specifications and configuration of institutions for governance: number of ministries and agencies, numbers of political appointees
19. Responsibilities and expectations of deliverables with timelines for all government institutional entities
20. Framework for partial and non-remunerative stipulations for political functionaries
21. Adoption of guilty until proven innocent in corruption and betrayal of public trust cases
22. Jury system of judicial management of applicable offences, such as breach of public trust and corruption, devoid of technicalities
23. Abolition of security or any other vote that erodes the access of citizens to information on public finance.
24. Benchmark for standardized range of procurement costs of goods and

services

B4. States or Regions as Federating Units

It has been apparent for years that the crude oil induced profligacy of creating political entities have turned out to be drainpipes for public revenue. This state of affairs alone justifies the need to reform the polity of Nigeria. **The use of the 36 States as Federating units is evidently not sustainable.** Governance structures must be drastically reduced through aggregation into a smaller number of entities that now have to be organically evolved, based on voluntary choices by the people. It cannot and should not be decreed. **The ethnic nationalities and all constituent communities across Nigeria must be afforded the opportunity of choice that is unfettered.**

State Legislature and LGA's

Based on Federal INEC created constituencies, there are 177 State Assembly Members and 137 LGA's in our Territory. The numbers have multipliers in terms of support staff and expenditures on overheads and other invisibles.

The citizens of our territory must come to terms with the desirability or otherwise of this bureaucratic necessity for our welfare and well-being. This imposition by the 1999 Constitution should now be open to question. The question has to be asked on the basis of cost benefit analysis to our larger society.

	No of LGAs	No of Assembly Members
Ekiti	16	26
Lagos	20	40
Ogun	20	26
Ondo	18	26
Osun	30	26
Oyo	33	33
	137	177

The picture illustratively painted with data in the preceding section makes a restructured polity a matter of expediency. The structure of our governance must be rationalised so that we can live within our means, while planning for the welfare of all citizens beyond those of the political class.

Our fervent clamour has always been for the Nigerian System to be restructured so that every ethnic nationality can manage her affairs in a Federal Nigeria. It has so far been to no avail. Of course, we seem to be at the darkest period of the night that precedes the dawn of transformation. As change is inevitable, it is apt that we contemplate how we shall govern ourselves with greater efficiency, effectiveness and the best for all.

B5. Governance Specifications

It has become imperative that we discard old maps drawn of us by the British and the “well-meaning” Military Administrations since 1966. It is our desire to let all territories with majority Yoruba speaking and or cultural affinities be afforded the opportunity of choice to belong to the proposed Oduduwa Region.

Restructuring ought to be about rationalization of government bureaucracy and adoption of new modalities that will free resources for the effective development. The self-evident change should be driven through new nomenclature that will demystify state power for deployment in favour of citizens. Naming and nomenclature is of utmost significance in our psyche as Yorubas. In the quest for re-configuration and downsizing, an option to consider might be to retain the present boundaries, but to creatively downgrade the paraphernalia of political administration as follows.

1. To introduce One Regional Government with executive and legislative functions and bodies as presently being exercised by the States. Headship title shall be **Premier**.
2. The Six (6) States converted to **Provinces**. Governance will be by **Provincial Councils** that integrate executive and legislative functions: with Chairman and Support Specialist Administrative Officers. The 6 Houses of Assembly are to be abolished, as all law making shall be at the level of Regional Government.
3. The 26 Sub Nationality territories are to be designated as **Municipalities**, with headships being equivalent to Mayors. We might find better naming subsequently. Thus, instead of the present 137 LGA’s we shall have 26 territorial administrations, each being based on sub nationalities that are homogenous in cultural and language dialects. If this proposal is upheld, we shall be on the way to drastically reduce the recurrent cost of governance

Some might wonder why rename all these political units. The message ought to be sent out to the citizenry, that the political system is being entirely overhauled as a point of departure from the subsisting order.

In furtherance to the above, it shall be our quest that the portion of the North Central and South-South Zones that was historically ceded to the North and Mid-West Regions prior to 1960 be reconfigured as part of the new WRN. We shall work towards a mechanism for ascertaining the wishes of the peoples in these areas, along with others in Akoko Edo and Itsekiri lands of Edo and Delta States respectively.

It is thus understood that the following are to be incorporated into the map of the proposed Oduduwa Region, **subject of course to the voluntary decision and consent to belong by the peoples of the area.**

Kwara State: 12 Yoruba speaking LGA and their headquarters.

1. Ilorin West- Oja Oba

2. Ilorin East- Oke Oyi
3. Ilorin South- Fufu
4. Asa- Afon
5. Irepodun- Omu-Aran
6. Ifelodun- Share
7. Isin- Owu Isin
8. Ekiti- Ilofa
9. Offa-Offa
10. Oke/Ero- Araromi Opin
11. Oyun-Ilemona
12. Moro- Bode Saadu

Kogi State: 7 Yoruba speaking LGAs and their headquarters.

1. Kabba/Bunu- Kabba
2. Ijumu- Iyara
3. Yagba East- Isanlu
4. Yagba West- Odo-Ere
5. Mopa/Muro- Mopa
6. Lokoja-Lokoja
7. Ogori/Magongo- Akpafa

Delta State: 7 Yoruba speaking LGA's

1. Warri South
2. Warri North
3. Warri South West

Edo State: 1 Yoruba speaking LGA

1. Akoko-Edo



B6. Provincial Administration

The LGA's were created largely as administrative units for the sharing of crude oil revenue out the Niger Delta. The peoples in the respective territories are already sensitized to this basis of governance by robbing Peter to pay Paul. It is to be expected that ordinary peoples will impulsively resist any attempt to reform the LGAs through aggregation that would drastically reduce the cost of governance.

In the realisation that crude oil money will no longer flow from Abuja, while the source of funding would be through personal and corporate taxation, it is to be expected that in no time, sanity will prevail. It is to be expected that the peoples themselves will see the need to opt out of any administrative units that will deploy their taxes towards the welfare of public functionaries.

Possibilities for aggregation of LGA's and their designations as DIVISIONS have been identified by affinity and geographical cardinal point divisions. Needless stating herein that this are mere proposals that must be validated by the peoples themselves. It self-evident that the balkanisation of homogenous communities that **Ibrahim Dasuki Panel** undertook during the Obasanjo Regime must now be reversed. Illustrative examples of needless balkanisation are as follows:

Ogun State

1. Abeokuta North, Abeokuta South
2. Yewa North (Egbado North), Yewa South (Egbado South)
3. Ijebu East, Ijebu North, Ijebu North East

Ondo State

1. Akoko North East, Akoko North West, Akoko South East, Akoko South West
2. Akure North, Akure South
3. Ondo East, Ondo West

Osun State

1. Atakunmosa East, Atakunmosa West
2. Ilesha East, Ilesha West
3. Obokun, Oriade
4. Ede North, Ede South, Egbedore
5. Ife Central, Ife East, Ife North, Ife South

Oyo State

1. Ibadan North, Ibadan North East, Ibadan North West, Ibadan South East, Ibadan South West

2. Ibarapa Central, Ibarapa East, Ibarapa North
3. Ogbomosho North, Ogbomosho South
4. Oyo East, Oyo West
5. Saki East, Saki West

B7. Proposed Governance Stipulations

South Africa and Canada are very good models to evaluate for ideas on drafting a new constitution for WRN. A panel of knowledgeable persons will do the needful and produce a draft that will suit our society. The above suggestion notwithstanding, I have set out some ideas for consideration.

1. There shall be one **Legislature** body for the region, with not more than 3 members from each of the 25 sub nationalities, however elected or nominated
2. The **Executive Council** shall comprise only members drawn from among those that were elected/nominated into the Regional Legislature
3. The **Judiciary** shall determine all cases from the region with finality, except only those that pertain to Region-Region and or Region-Federal disputes
4. There shall be an **Internal Security Council**, as a body answerable to the Legislature only. It shall comprise only members with guaranteed tenure nominated directly by civil society and relevant professional organisations as may be recognised by the legislature.
5. There shall be **Funds Management Council**, as a body answerable to the Legislature only. It will have sole custody of government funds and disbursements only at the direction of the Legislature

Structure of the Organs of the Regional Administration

- (1) WRN shall comprise Regional Administration and the Provinces.
- (2) WRN shall have legislative, executive, and judicial powers over her Regional space
- (3) The Regional administration constitutes the highest organ of executive power. It shall not be subject to any other authority, other than that of Yoruba people sovereign.
- (4) Regional judicial power is vested in its courts.

Powers and Functions of the Regional Administration

- (1) WRN Administration shall formulate and implement policies, strategies and plans in respect of overall economic, social and development matters.
- (2) It shall facilitate inter-Regional coordination of policies, plans, programmes and projects in respect of all facets of human development.

- (3) It shall establish and implement standards and basic policy criteria for public health, education, science and technology as well as for the protection and preservation of cultural and historical legacies.
- (4) It shall formulate and execute the country's financial, monetary and foreign investment policies and strategies.
- (5) It shall establish and administer defence and public security forces as well as a Regional police force.

Regional Executive Council

- (1) There shall be a Regional Executive Council, whose function shall be to work with the Premier in the running of the government and in all affairs of the Region.
- (2) The Regional Executive Council shall consist of the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Ministers as approved by the Parliament.
- (3) In all its decisions, the Regional Executive Council shall be severally and collectively responsible to the Parliament.
- (3) The Regional Executive Council shall comprise single digit number of members. Ministries shall be rationalised and configured (as suggested herein) in compliance with this stipulation.
 - a) Justice and Internal Security
 - b) Social Services—Health, Women Affairs & Youth Development, Sports & Social Development, Culture & Tourism
 - c) Planning & Budget, Finance & Economic Development
 - d) Mineral Resources & Energy
 - e) Natural Resources—Agriculture, Water Resources, Environment
 - f) Infrastructure Development—Works, Transport, and, Communications,
 - g) Education, E-Government and Technology Applications
 - h) Manufacturing and Industrial Production
- (4) An increase beyond the single digit stipulation must be made only vide a special request by the Premier for approval by a resolution of the Parliament through a vote of not less than four-fifths of all members.
- (5) All other subordinate appointments and designations below Ministers shall be made from the ranks of civil servants with permanent tenure in the public service.
- (6) Approval of additional Ministerial appointments granted under this Article shall lapse with the subsisting administration unless subsequently renewed by the succeeding Parliament.
- (7) A person appointed as a member of the Regional Executive Council shall vacate his position in the Council if he ceases to be a Minister of the

Government of the Region or if the Premier, acting in accordance with the advice of his colleagues, so directs.

- (8) Unless disqualified as a result of infringements to any law that is validly enacted, a Minister shall continue to be a member of the Parliament, notwithstanding his vacation of his position or removal from the Regional Executive Council.

Regional Parliament

- (1) There shall be a Parliament for the Region. It shall be a uni-camera legislature.
- (2) The principal function of the Parliament shall be the enactment of laws for good governance and an effective value for money performance monitoring of the operations of the Region.
- (3) The Parliament shall consist of members drawn equally to represent the respective Provinces. Each Province shall elect 7 representatives based on such conditions and stipulations, such as in respect of proportional representations as may be determined by the peoples of the Province.
- (4) Notwithstanding the provision in Article 1 of this section, and regardless of Provincial numerical reconfigurations, the members of the Parliament shall not exceed sixty (60) at any one time.
- (5) There shall be a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker of the Parliament, both of whom shall be elected by the members from among themselves.
- (6) Disciplinary actions concerning the general conduct of each member shall lie with the Provincial administration of origin, and not by any organ of the Regional Administration; except in matters that are of criminal nature as prima facie confirmed by the judiciary.

Provincial Administration

- (1) The Provinces shall be run by Provincial Development Administration, headed by the Provincial Development Administrator.
- (2) The Provincial Development Administration shall function through the exercise Executive Management of the affairs of the Province.
- (3) Its legislative powers shall derive from the Regional Parliament.
- (4) Provincial judicial power is vested in its courts of original jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters.

Powers and Functions of the Provincial Development Administration

- (1) The Provincial Development Administration (PDA) shall formulate and implement policies, strategies and plans in respect of overall economic, social and development matters.

- (2) It shall facilitate inter-Provincial coordination of policies, plans, programmes and projects in respect of all facets of human development.
- (3) It shall establish and implement standards and basic policy criteria for public health, education, science and technology as well as for the protection and preservation of cultural and historical legacies.
- (4) It shall formulate and execute the country's financial, monetary and foreign investment policies and strategies.
- (5) It shall establish and administer defence and public security forces as well as a Regional police force.

B8. Proposal for Districts based on Sub Nationalities

The British arbitrarily composed Provinces. The Military also arbitrarily conscripted our peoples into States. Yet we knew who we were then and even now. There are 26 sub-nationalities occupying distinct territories across Western Nigeria as follows:

1. Akoko
2. Awori
3. Ekiti
4. Eko
5. Egba
6. Ibadan
7. Ibarapa
8. Ife
9. Ijebu
10. Ijesha
11. Ikale
12. Ilaje
13. Igbomina
14. Itsekiri
15. Ogori/Magongo
16. Ogu (hitherto referred to in error as Egun)
17. Okun (Bunu, Ijumu, Owe, Oworo & Yagba)
18. Ondo
19. Onko (Oke Ogun)
20. Oshun
21. Owo
22. Owu
23. Oyo
24. Remo
25. Yewa

In fashioning out, a better way that will organically link the political space and the leadership as they emerge, we now have an historic opportunity to focus on the communities most appropriately in the various territories that comprise the Yoruba

Nation, which quite aptly is differentiated into identifiable **Sub Nationalities**.

It is now expedient to erase the artificial configuration of LGAs and replace it with Districts based on the 25 Sub Nationalities. Each District based on the Sub Nationalities will therefore be equal in form and function across the Provinces.

It might become expedient that the Provincial Boundaries are adjusted to ensure that the Districts fall wholly under a Province. There might also be internal realignments and reconfiguration to the District make-up of the Provinces

B9. Autonomy for the Sub Nationalities

- (a) Twenty-six sub nationalities have been identified. Once published, we should open to entertain that some of our peoples may wish to assert their identities as being distinct and separate from their adjoining neighbours. We may therefore have more or less number eventually.
- (b) It is important to point out that this may be the first time ever that the Yoruba peoples are being afforded to differentiate and yet associate as Nation. It was the British that created Provinces and Municipalities. It was largely the military rulers of other Nigerians that grouped and or balkanized our lands into LGA's and States without formal recourse to the peoples as they occupy their respective domains
- (c) WRN should now be constituted into a Commonwealth of Sub Nationalities: A Federation of peoples similar yet differentiated into dialets. No sub-nationality should be made to feel subordinated to another.
- (d) The sub nationalities ought to be accorded unfettered autonomy, such that every community occupying a defined land territory could have control over their affairs. A scale of resource derivations should be worked out to the benefit of all concerned, as would stimulate self-reliance in the generation of resources.
- (e) A mechanism of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of common projects and services should be instituted into our governance framework. Based on this, we may specify frameworks for aggregation into larger blocks.

Nevertheless, we must be mindful that in the USA system that we are apt to copy, there is California and Texas. There is also Maine and Delaware. The key requirement for each proposed political entity is self-reliance and self-sustenance, while contributing to Regional/National Recurrent Expenditure.

- (f) Post-Election proportional representation system in constituting government and governance.

The proposed regionalization is predicated on the condition that the new units will be autonomous and self-sustaining, with very minimal governance set up. The creation of lower tier units therefore must be based on consensus that will accord a

sense of belonging to all communities in the new region. To be outlined in this section would be delineations with the following names as options:

- Provinces (to replace States) and consensus administrative capitals.
- Districts, based on Sub Nationalities to replace the LGAs and consensus administrative capitals.

Instead of the subsisting gubernatorial and legislative paraphernalia of wastefulness, 8 Provincial Administrations are proposed with not more than 5 elected official each, with designations to reflect Socio Economic Project Execution and Management focus. The Provincial Administration will thus have technical rather than political flavour that was hitherto the bane of the present State set up.

B10. Citizens Quest to Seek the Respect of the Yoruba Political Leadership

The occupiers of political positions have zero respect for the feelings and wishes of the citizens. They come once a year and deploy all manner of gimmicks to attain their positions over us, once in a season of 4 years. Thereafter, we are pointedly ignored. They convert our commonwealth and appropriate all resources in favour of their family, friends and favourites. The budgeting process is reduced to mere ritual. No accountability. Local Government administration is privatized in favour of cronies favours by the so called executive governors.

Projects are just pointed at for commissioning with prior notice as to cost, contractor and value for money. What we have is tantamount to slavery. We are mere onlookers as we are all rendered irrelevant until we are called out to come and line up in rain and sunshine to rubber stamp the act of our being cheated and plundered.

What to do?

1. Work towards the institution of Civil Society Mechanism for Demanding Accountability at all levels of Governance.
2. Demand for quarterly reporting fora where activities of government are presented for public discourse and scrutiny.
3. Set up a Bureau of Public Project Evaluation to be hosted by a Faculty of Social Sciences in one or more of our universities.

B11. Finalized Political Structure for WRN

The conviction that the country of Nigeria will eventually unravel is not controvertible. **Nigeria shall willy-nilly be restructured to get rid of the unitary stranglehold over all others.** It is merely a matter of when the pieces will be ripe for harvest. We need to start acting in anticipation for the glorious dawn of our emancipation so that the light will go forth to the Yorubas across the universe, especially to our brethren in the Brazil, Cuba, the entire Caribbean basin and the

Diaspora. The institutionalization of Oduduwaland out of Nigeria is an idea whose time shall come much sooner than later.

First and foremost, we need to formulate our societal objectives and grow them into **Oduduwa National Creed**. In the past, this was encapsulated in the slogan: **“Freedom for all, Life more Abundant.”** This can be distilled into these seven (7) cardinal points:

- a. Federation of Sub-Ethnic Nationalities in Yorubaland, Self-determination rights for every community in Yoruba territory
- b. Citizen-focused and selfless political leadership
- c. Facilitation of all citizens into governance and public decision making
- d. Assimilation of education, research and development into government and governance
- e. Pride of place to merit, academic Intelligence and indigenous expertise.
- f. Self-reliance and sufficiency: leveraging on comparative advantages in the production of required products and services
- g. Application of Science and Technology in all its Ramifications to all development initiatives.

Secondly, the above are to be re-worked into a **term of reference** for the proposed **WRN Constitution Panel, whose task would be** to work out all modalities towards giving effect to the ideas being canvassed in this presentation. In doing this, it is important to collate past efforts in this regard, rather than re-inventing the wheel.

This effort must be publicized to get the word out that we in the South West are working in earnest towards a new order. It will let others know that we are grossly dissatisfied with the state of anomie that presently subsists in the Nigerian polity; and that we are seeking changes without any delay again.

C. RESTRUCTURING FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The dysfunctional state of the Yoruba polity is reflected in the situation of our socioeconomics. The foundation laid through the primary and secondary education for all during the period 1954 to 1966 was not carried forward into a coherent policy and programme for tertiary, technical and vocational education as would have guaranteed mass employment for all in our society. The very best of our citizens now lie marooned in all continents across the world.

C1 Closed Industries and Businesses

Our environment is littered with abandoned industrial facilities and underutilized human capital development institutions. Evidence of the way we are is embodied in the list of indicative industries set up in Yoruba land that have now been closed under the atmosphere of wealth without work foisted upon us by Nigeria.

1. Dunlop Nigeria, Lagos
2. Volkswagen Nigeria, Lagos.
3. Leventis Bus Assembly, Ibadan

4. Niger Motors, Lagos.
5. BEWAC & VYB Company, Lagos.
6. ATP/Piedmont Plywood, Sapele
7. Lafia Canning Factory, Ibadan
8. Alumaco Aluminium Company, Lagos
9. Critical Hope Ltd, Lagos.
10. Ovaltine Ltd.
11. Cocoa Industries Limited, Lagos.
12. Nigeria Textile Mills.
13. United Nigeria Textile Mills.
14. Vegetable Oil Nigeria, Lagos.
15. NIPOL Plastics Limited, Ibadan.
16. Cashew Industry, Ibadan.
17. Metaloplastica Limited, Lagos
18. John Holt Limited (Yamaha Motorcycles & Outboard Engines).
19. Almarine Limited.
20. Leventis Limited (Stores, Technical, Hardware & Motors).
21. Boulous Enterprises Industries (Motorcycle Assembly)
22. Oluwa Glass Industry, Okitipupa.
23. Isoglass Glass Industry, Ibadan.
24. Triplex Glass , Ibadan.
25. West Africa Exide Batteries Ltd.
26. Berec Batteries.
27. UTC Stores, Technical, Hardware and Motors.
28. Leventis Industries.
29. Sanyo Industries.
30. Maiden Electronics Limited. (Guobadia) Maryland, Lagos
31. Apex Paper Mill, Lagos
32. Nigercafe Limited, Maryland Lagos.
33. Bata Shoes Limited.
34. Singer Limited (Refrigerators and Sewing Machines). Sango Ota.
35. Adebawale Electrics Ltd.
36. Adebawale Industries Ltd.
37. Tella Fruit Canning Industry, Ibadan.
38. Blaise Fruit Juice Company, Abeokuta.
39. Top Breweries.
40. Epe Plywood Ltd.
41. Omo Wood and Plywood Company.
42. 33 Breweries.
43. Albix Biscuits Company.
44. Odutola Foods Limited.
45. Odutola Tyre and Foam Industries.
46. Okin Biscuits Ltd Ijagbo/Ofa.
47. Tarpaulin Limited.
48. Spie Batignolles Ltd
49. Brossette Limited.
50. Esquire Stores.
51. Kingsway Stores.

52. GB Ollivant Limited.
53. Dizengoff Limited.
54. A.J. Seward
55. Federated Motors Industries
56. John Holt
57. Gottschalks Limited
58. C. Zard Limited (Agric, Technical and Hardware)
59. Chanrai Stores.
60. Kewalram Stores.
61. Chellaram Stores.
62. Bhojsons Stores, Technical and Hardware.
63. West African Drugs.
64. Longmans Publishers.
65. Temple and Guilder Limited.
66. Vegetable Oil Ltd.
67. AVOP Vegetable Oil Limited.
68. Osogbo Steel Rolling Mill.
69. Lafia Canning Factory,
70. NIPOL Plastics
71. Biode Pharmaceuticals,
72. DECCA Records,
73. Afrodisia,
74. Remo Carpets,
75. ARCEDEM
76. Lisabi Mills (Foods)
77. Standard Breweries
78. International Breweries
79. Africola Bottling Company.
80. Sanusi Steel Company.
81. Askar Paints Limited.
82. Regency (Sigma) Paints Limited.
83. JOAS Electronics Limited.
84. Polygram Records
85. Sony Records.
86. EMI Records.
87. Royal Carpets.
88. Limson Shoes Limited.
89. Coates Inks Limited.
90. Abiodun Paper and Packaging Limited.
91. Stationery Store Ltd.
92. Onwards Paper Mills.
93. Shokas Lace & Embroidery Ltd.
94. Aiyepe Lace & Embroidery Company.
95. Phonodisk Records Limited.
96. Temitope Biscuits Company.
97. Ebum Industries Limited.
98. Pfizer Livestock Feeds Ltd
99. Dorman Long Steel Fabrication Company

100. Federated Motors Industries

Fifty (50) universities are domiciled in Yorubaland: 7 Federal, 11 State and 32 privately owned. The level of intellectual capital residing in these 50 campuses is far beyond quantification in terms of national investment in the education of every academic in the respective faculties. But **the command and control of these institutions lie in faraway Abuja; at the National Universities Commission**

I have included the full listing here for emphasis to illustrate the magnitude of human capital that is lying fallow, or at best ignored and un-assimilated into the development projects execution across the region.

(a) Ekiti State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	Federal University	Oye-Ekiti	Federal
2	Ekiti State University	Ado Ekiti	State
3	Afe Babalola University	Ado Ekiti	Private

(b) Lagos State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	National Open University of Nigeria,	Lagos	Federal
2	University of Lagos	Lagos	Federal
3	Lagos State University	Ojo	State
4	Eko University of Medical and Health Sciences	Lagos	State
5	Augustine University	Epe	Private
6	Caleb University	Lagos	Private
7	Pan-Atlantic University	Lagos	Private
8	Anchor University	Lagos	Private

(c) Ogun State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	Federal University of Agriculture	Abeokuta	Federal
2	Olabisi Onabanjo University	Ago Iwoye	State
3	Tai Solarin University of Education	Ijebu Ode	State
4	Babcock University	Ilishan-Remo	Private
5	Bells University of Technology	Otta	Private
6	Chrisland University	Abeokuta	Private
7	Christopher University	Mowe	Private
8	Covenant University	Ota	Private

	University	Location	Ownership
9	Crawford University	Igbesa	Private
10	Crescent University	Abeokuta	Private
11	Hallmark University	Ijebu Itele	Private
12	Mcperson University	Ajebo	Private
13	Mountain Top University	Makogi-Oba	Private
14	Southwestern University	Oku Owa	Private

(d) Ondo State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	Federal University of Technology	Akure	Federal
2	Adekunle Ajasin University	Akungba	State
3	Ondo State University of Medical Sciences	Ondo	State
4	Ondo State University of Science and Technology	Okitipupa	State
5	Achievers University	Owo	Private
6	Elizade University	Ilara-Mokin	Private
7	Wesley University. of Science & Technology	Ondo	Private

(e) Osun State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	Obafemi Awolowo University	Ile Ife	Federal
2	Osun State University	Osogbo	State
3	Adeleke University	Ede	Private
4	Bowen University, Iwo	Iwo	Private
5	Fountain Unveristy, Oshogbo	Osogbo	Private
6	Joseph Ayo Babalola University	Ikeji-Arakeji	Private
7	Kings University	Ode-Omu	Private
8	Oduduwa University	Ipetumodu	Private
9	Redeemer's University	Ede	Private

(f) Oyo State

	University	Location	Ownership
1	University of Ibadan	Ibadan	Federal
2	Oyo State Technical University	Ibadan	State
3	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology	Ogbomoso	State
4	Ajayi Crowther University	Ibadan	Private
5	Lead City University	Ibadan	Private

	University	Location	Ownership
6	Kola Daisi University	Ibadan	Private
7	Dominican University	Ibadan	Private
8	Precious Cornerstone University	Oyo	Private
9	Atiba University	Oyo	Private

C2 Governance Blueprint: Ideas and Initiatives towards Self-Reliance

As stated earlier in this document, it is a matter of time that the Nigerian country state will collapse under the weight of her internal contradictions. The least we could do is to prepare in earnest for an orderly management of our affairs as soon as we are afforded the opportunity. There is therefore an urgent need to produce a **Governance Blueprint for our territory**.

The attraction of the Yoruba citizenry to the idea of Yoruba self-determination quest would be predicated on a coherent plan that their social and economic fortunes will significantly improve. It behoves on all canvassing this option to articulate plans which if painstakingly implemented will result in life more abundant for everyone.

The modality of Development Plans for 5, 10 and 25 years is hereby proposed. A panel of knowledgeable persons should be composed and publicly inaugurated before the end of 2020. The attendant publicity will send a message to other Nigerians about our seriousness to take our self-determination quest very seriously. In this section are issues and themes that are highly likely to shape the work of the panel.

C2.1 Fundamental Parameters for Consideration

Below is 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.

- 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, tenure and duration of land leases
- 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

C2.2 Integration of education, research and development into government and governance

The reason why we seem to endlessly argue in the Nigerian society about what percentage (2%, 5% or 25%) of the budget to be devoted to education is because we apparently have a DISCONNECT or DIVIDE between the government, governance on the one hand and the educational/intellectual segment of the Nigerian society on the other. Whereas, the correct and appropriate framework and modality is to holistically link government, governance and all its undertakings with the intellectual capital that resides in the tertiary education sector. This seems so simple, but it is truly a call for a national ideology of self-reliance and a voyage on a journey of a true transformation of Yoruba nation.

Several research institutes are domiciled in our territory. But all the scientifically based institutes are for primary agricultural crop production. None is for the transformation of our production processes. Furthermore, all others are of themes that have virtually ceased to be of strategic relevance to contemporary socio-economic development and transformation across the world. Here they are:

1. Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Onigambari, Ibadan
2. National Cereals Research Institute (NCRI), Moor Plantation, Ibadan
3. Forest Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN), Jericho, Ibadan
4. Nigeria Institute for Horticulture Research (NIHORT), Jericho Ibadan
5. Medical Research Institute of Nigeria (MRIN), Yaba, Lagos

6. Centre for Management Development (CMD, Agidingbi, Lagos)
7. Nigeria Institute for Social and Economic Research (NISER)
8. Nigerian Institute for International Affairs (NIIA), Victoria Island, Lagos

In view of our long-standing problem with electricity, one would have expected a **Power Development Research Institute** all these years. This is quite strange indeed.

It is therefore time to re-appraise the institution of research institutes. The predominant focus on primary agricultural commodities needs to be urgently transformed to those that can generate inter-disciplinary ideas and themes underpinning futuristic development. New themes for consideration are:

- i. Virtual Technologies
- ii. Biotechnology
- iii. Agricultural Production and Processing
- iv. Nanotechnology
- v. Sustainable Environment and Spaces
- vi. Energy and Power
- vii. Alternative Energy
- viii. Engineering Production
- ix. Materials Science
- x. Water and Marine Technology
- xi. Ageing Science

We are certainly going to have an ageing society by 2050. It is time we start looking at issues of managing aged populations as is being done in all parts of the world. Another very important point to note is that we should deviate from the very wasteful approach of Nigeria that separates research institutes from universities. All research institutions should no longer be stand-alone entities. Rather, they should be administratively aligned and integrated with Universities/Polytechnics in their vicinities.

C2.3 Futuristic Disciplines & Skill Sets

Owning a university has become a superficial symbol of “bigness” in our country, with everyone craving to establish it, regardless of its lack of relevance to the developmental issues that we face as a society. **Most of the universities that dot the landscape of Yorubaland are essentially shell institutions with large classrooms filled with benches suited only for giving dictations and lecture handouts that merely produce crammers of knowledge for putting down towards obtaining certificates.** Academic courses such as Business Administration, Banking and Finance, Economics and even Computer Science are generally devoid of skills and skill set content that could be of benefit to the graduants and the society at large.

The need to acquire new knowledge will most certainly entail new learning themes in our educational institutions. The existing themes of our courses: Economics, Law, Medicine Pharmacy, Engineering, etc. ought to be re-worked and expanded to include emerging disciplines and tertiary education courses such as the following:

- a) Smart Homes & Cities Technology
- b) 3-D Fabrication Technology
- c) Robotics and Artificial Intelligence
- d) Electronic Commerce
- e) Virtual Learning Management
- f) Alternative Energy Management
- g) Nanotechnology
- h) Cloud and Grid Computing
- i) Geospatial Information Technology
- j) Data Analytics and Modelling
- k) Hydroponics Technology
- l) Ocean Environment Management
- m) Power Electronics
- n) Mass Transit (Railway) Technology
- o) Mechatronics
- p) Garment Design & Manufacture
- q) Instructional Design Technology
- r) Computer Aided Design/Manufacture
- s) Building Technology
- t) Medical Imaging
- u) Multimedia Technology
- v) Electronic Commerce
- w) Software Engineering
- x) Data Mining

C2.4 Urban Renovation and Rural Planning Renovation Initiative

All buildings and dwelling places across Yoruba land needs to be re-designed, re-modelled and re-built. City centres need to be de-congested, through concerted development of new villages in concentric circles off thick population centres. **Our environment is littered with various contraptions and refuse-like vehicles, trucks and equipment brought in from Europe. There has to be a very massive initiative to treat and process unserviceable vehicles and other forms of household equipment as wastes.**

There ought to be a Street Trading Curtailment Initiative. The street traders really have no other choice but to stay on roadsides and divides. **Merely chasing street traders away periodically is of no practical effect.** Whereas, given an

alternative of build or rent to own kiosks, many will do a rethink and stay off the danger of being killed by hit and run drivers on daily basis.

There is need to rapidly develop satellite villages in the vicinity of major cities. Each satellite village is to comprise clusters of activities that will afford living and working with advanced skills and skill sets, as follows:

- a. Multimedia Production Centre – Screen, Ceramic, Textile, Plastic and Electronic Media Printing, Animations and Film Making, Medical Imaging, Web Design, Social Media Marketing and Map Making.
- b. Dwelling Spaces Redesign and Buildings Renovation – Facilitation of Survey Plans and Land Titles, New Satellite Towns and Villages, Redesigned Living Spaces, Low Cost, Green Energy Prototype 2 Storey Buildings, Low Cost, but Functional Construction Technology, New Construction Materials
- c. Textiles and Garments Production – Dyes and Yarn, Fabric Production, Uniforms and Work Clothes, T-Shirts and Ceremonial attires
- d. Food, Meat and Horticultural Production, Processing, Packaging and Marketing Value Chain – Nursery and Green House Farming,
- e. Automotive Repairs, Electrical Electronic Business Centres
- f. Model Restaurant Canteens, Sports, Recreation and Entertainment Centres

If this model is applied for instance to Ibadan, it will mean targeting Asejire (Ife Road), Moniya (Oyo Road), Onigambari (Ijebu Ode Road), etc. for re-development with clusters of related services mixed with low and medium cost housing. Each satellite town will specialize and focus on typical sets of vocations as specified above.

Something is happening to our society and no one is speaking about it. I speak of the **misguided investments in the building of Event Centres for hire across Yorubaland**. Aren't we misdirecting our investment capital in a very wasteful manner? To what ends are the weekly display of false affluence being deployed. We should be channelling the entertainment and celebration resources towards the building of production capacity. **Party and Partying Tax should be on the cards for the legislature to consider.**

C2.5 Mass Transit Management

There is need to streamline the Make and Models of vehicles used for mass transportation. All commercial vehicles should have capacity to carry a minimum of 20 persons. The match-box like Nissan Macron being used at Ibadan has to be phased out. This will decongest our roads considerably.

There is no portion of any of our roads that up to 20 kilometers of paved road is devoid of pot holes. Why wait until pot-holes become gullies before action? So, we spend endless hours inhaling dust and auto-mobile emissions, while on “go slows.” What is the obstacle preventing the creation direct labour crews to rapidly and continually fix pot-holes and clear gutters and drainage ways?

While we obscenely focus on the very ugly opulence on Lekki axis of Lagos, is there any serious thoughts on the Mile 2 – Badagry to Seme border corridor? I had the misfortune of returning to Badagry recently, after my last visit of December 1991. **I kept asking myself whether we as a people have innate empathy and feelings for what misery and poverty is, amidst the people we claim to serve and represent.** What I saw and perceived on that trip of last years is beyond belief. We have just left ourselves utterly down.

It is difficult to understand the obstacle that makes sea transportation impossible between Badagry to Epe with 30 minutes departure and arrival schedules at each stop both ways. Had we been a very proactive society, there ought to have been the 4th and 5th Mainland Bridges in Lagos. Sadly, the 3rd Mainland Bridge is now near collapse.

The traffic situation is an avenue for a thoughtful infusion of technology for the management of our lives. In place of the wasteful daily commuting to work, is it not time we give thoughts to working out corporate incentives that will bring about the application of TELEWORKING modality, in which segmented members of the working population are facilitated and enabled to work at home for at least 3 days in a week. There is no reason why we cannot institute a 6-day working week with options for 3 days in the office, alternated with 3 days working from home. I can imagine about 30 to 40% reduction in rush-hour traffic.

C2.6 Land Holdings and Ownership Reforms

It is hereby proposed that a Land Administration and Management Agency (LAMA) be established in each of our States. The proposed State LAMA is to facilitate actions and efforts that empower individuals, families, and corporate entities to own, use, develop, and further become proactive land stakeholders. The ultimate objective would be to wake up the citizenry to the idle capital that land currently represents and create the enabling environment for bringing about systemic change very rapidly.

It should be possible to ask for the recertification of all deeds of Conveyances and Certificates of Occupancies, based on new ownership stipulations, as prelude of digitisation of all land titles.

C2.6.1 Domiciliation of Land Matters in one Organization

Hitherto land matters have been handled by various functional units of government, such as Agriculture, Forestry, Land and Housing and even Justice. This should change. The issue of land should now be handled holistically and in a multidisciplinary manner, with all related expertise brought under central administration. This will bring the matter of land under a very sharp focus as the basic foundation upon which all development will spring off.

C2.6.2 Sensitize the Public to the Imperativeness of Cadastral Surveying of all Lands

The subsisting world view of every citizen is to hold land for its sake with no apparent intention of doing anything with it. Most family land is just held by families, whose members do not have any idea of location and extent. Apart from hereditary norm, very few of our people have come to the realization that land is wealth, and that the wealth is for utilization. It seems to be a taboo to sell land. Is it not the norm to pray against children that would sell off landed property? But suppose the sale is for getting greater value?

The foregoing makes it imperative to sensitize the public to the advantages of having land ownership appropriately documented and registered with a view to facilitating commercial transactions. The ultimate goal would be the creation and sustenance of an **Online Land Exchange and Market** in our region, as is the case with the STOCK MARKET for shares in companies. The public therefore needs to be sensitized to the potential benefit of engaging in land transactions for commercial purposes, whose basis is cadastral surveying and title registration.

C2.6.3 Cadastral Surveys and Registration of Land Ownership Rights and Titles

Cadastral surveys in general create, mark, and define, retrace, re-survey and re-establish the boundaries and subdivisions of land. All processes and activities that will result in accelerated survey of all lands have to be explored. While the responsibility for cadastral surveys should lie with the land owner, there ought to be creative ways of administering government subsidies that will ginger everyone towards having their land holdings demarcated and surveyed with a view to obtaining title deeds.

The land registry should be computerized for web—based access. One major problem that needs to be addressed is that of reflecting the names of every family member on land titles. This will make it easier to families to register their land holdings inclusively of every stakeholder.

C2.6.4 Institution of a Framework for Land Tenancy for Short and Long Term Uses

Most landowners just sell land outright. No consideration for fixed term leases as is the case with buildings. Tenants are rarely permitted to plant tree crops or undertake any long-term development. Even in urban areas, the concept of Built, Use and Transfer, say after 20 to 25 years is not quite common.

It is therefore imperative that a framework that will facilitate long term land leases has to be worked, based on a refined and amplified “ISAKOLE” traditional rental system that will be mutually beneficial to all parties. A legal enactment of such a framework will likely stimulate increased commercial activities.

C2.6.5 Institution of a Framework for Zoning Lands for Best Uses

Zoning land for respective optimal uses is a fundamental void in the existing modality for land administration in Nigeria. Land best suited for agriculture ought to be zoned as such and be prevented for being utilized for any other purpose. Just as a 150 metre corridor is set as right of way for roads, protected wetland buffer corridors ought to be defined for all river courses. Areas with fragile top-soils ought to be designated as Protected Lands for Environmental Sustainability.

C2.6.6 Land Rental System for Commercial Agriculture

Despite the legality of the Land Use Act as currently embodied in the 1999 Constitution, it is the families and individuals that effectively own land across our region. As it were, most land is held by individuals and families that often have no desire or inclination towards commercial farming activities. Most are also generally un-willing to sell their family heritage. Those willing to sell often attach exorbitant prices as to discourage practical investment. The resultant stalemate is the lying fallow of land across this region of Nigeria.

Our legislature should consider the institution of a **Rental System or Framework as part of an innovative land reform**. It would be that as we rent houses, cars and even persons (salary to employee is rent of human service) one should be able economically rent/lease land for say 10, 25 and or 50 years tenure from owner individuals, families. With this modality approved and enacted into law, renters of land will be able to make long term investment in tree crops or mechanized horticultural production without hindrance. The original owners of land will also be partners in progress, since they will be guaranteed some returns emanating from their land holdings. This is an idea that is worthy of in-depth study by our legislature.

C2.7 PTA Mechanism for Primary and Secondary School Management

All public schools across Yorubaland are in various states of disrepair. Service delivery in the educational sector is below the par of decency. **The point has been reached where; it has become a disservice to humanity to pretend that all is well.**

The first step towards parental and community involvement towards getting public schools into proper shape is to immediately adopt the mechanism of **Parent-Teachers Associations (PTA)** as an instrument of State policy for the operation and management of the necessary improvement of all primary and secondary public schools. All public schools are to be immediately facilitated to re-constitute their respective PTA across our States. A model constitution is to be worked out to guide their operations. On establishment, they are to operate as Governing Boards for all schools, with responsibility for the processing and execution of capital projects.

Our government ought to commit itself to a level of annual capital grant to each school, which will be matched through a termly contribution ranging from ₦500 to

₦2000 by parents. All projects are to be executed by direct labour using volunteer parents with requisite skills.

Another positive differential of this policy is that the PTA bodies will be quite autonomous in the regulation and management of its affairs. Even in contract awards, it is most likely that a body comprising 6 parents and 3 teachers will do well to defend what is best for the students in each school.

This is an avenue for action, without doubt, the government has to devise very creative ways of getting parents to be financially involved in upgrading the status of public schools. Many more proactive steps have to be creatively devised and implemented without further delay. The business of the educational sector cannot continue as usual under the watch of our legislature and executive government.

C2.8 Pilot Take-Off of Information Technology (IT) Business Parks

Several businesses can easily share infrastructure in a cooperative manner under the umbrella of government regulations and bye laws. It is in fact more cost effective to have just one large power generator and a single Internet Service Provider serving a cluster of business entities. Hereby proposed for consideration is a Public/Private/Participation (PPP) scheme that will entail the respective State Governments undertaking to provide the following subsidy:

1. Identification and renovation of say 5 or 6 otherwise un-used or underutilized public buildings in selected locations
2. Installation of Power Supply Infrastructure: up to 1000 KVa of Solar Panels and Electricity Generator for shared use
3. Installation of Internet Infrastructure for shared use
4. Approve Plans and Processes for extending Entrepreneurship, Business Development and Management Training to all businesses
5. Commitment to patronize and utilize resultant products and services

Companies preferably those with at least two (2) members of the Board being Yoruba citizens are to be requested to Express Interest in the setting up and managing of IT-Related Business across the land. Among the requirements to be stipulated are

1. Production of Business Plans that will result in employment of at least twenty (20) citizens of the respective States at the point of take-off
2. Evidence of ownership of requisite equipment
3. Evidence of having requisite working capital
4. Specifications of space and infrastructural requirements

Prospective IT Business owners are to be sensitized to consider the following technology-flavoured options:

- A. Mechatronics
- B. Medical Imaging
- C. Electronic Textbook Publishing
- D. Web Publishing
- E. Web Design and Internet Presence
- F. Digital Prints and Multimedia Production
- G. Digital Film Editing and Production
- H. Digital Music Production
- I. Digital Television Production
- J. Interactive 2-D and 3-D graphics
- K. Digital Photography
- L. Screen Printing
- M. Electronic Drafting and Draughtsman Ship
- N. Telecommunication Support Services
- O. Access Control Systems
- P. Alternative Power Systems
- Q. Electronic Games and Learning Facilitation Software
- R. Tailor-Made Software Package Development
- S. Electronic Equipment Manufacture and Repairs
- T. Computer Skill Acquisition Training Services

If implemented, at least 50 companies are envisaged for immediate operations in a typical centre. **In the pilot phase, each State might consider building at least three (3) such IT Business Parks with permanent facilities based on Site and Services modality.**

C2.9 Development Finance

While others may be content with rent seeking and other avenues for wealth without work, we the Yorubas are generally professionally inclined and intellectually minded. It is this our “Omoluabi” character that have not stood us in good stead in any contention with our brethren across the Niger. It is the reason why we are helpless competing with our brethren to the East in the retailing business.

It is more than expedient therefore that a framework for development financing of investment in the manufacturing production of goods and services be explored. An avenue to savings and capital accumulation must be found so that everyone with innovative ideas for production can attract funds at single digit interest rates.

An Oduduwa Development Bank must be created as a matter of utmost priority to facilitate sustainable investment. The idea of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority must be appraised for creative adoption.

The diaspora has most Yorubas across the world. The inflows from this our brethren are presently channeled into the Central Bank of Nigeria and then handed over to “abokis” all over the streets of Nigeria. This situation has to be remedied.

D. SPECIAL PROJECTS TO ENERGIZE THE YORUBA SOCIETY

It is time we to initiate several public good flagship projects and propose same to the governments of the 6 States. Public-Private partnership model is applicable for the execution of the following:

1. Oduduwa Identity Card Project
2. Oduduwa Academy of Achievement
3. Oduduwa Academy of Entrepreneurship
4. Oduduwa Research Institute
5. The Meat and Cattle Ranching Business Opportunity

D.1 Oduduwa Identity Card Project

Identification and registration of every Yoruba born citizen is a veritable step towards asserting our differentiation from all other Ethnic Nationalities in what is presently tagged Nigeria. The technology for doing this is accessible once a go forward decision is made on the idea.

1. Proof of Age
2. Proof of Yoruba paternal parentage
3. Proof of Home Address

Any resident of Yoruba territory would be captured, but categories are to be created to differentiate non indigenes and foreigners. A separate Card Code would be created for the Yorubas of West Africa and those in the diaspora.

In a very short period of implementation, the Oduduwa Card will be an instrument of identity in the Yoruba territory of Western Nigeria

The equipment that the financial system deploys for issuing Credit/Debit Cards are readily available for emplacement is all major city council headquarters. The cards with suitably designed Oduduwa logo could be branded and sponsored by any of our successful businesses.

D.2 Oduduwa Academy of Achievement (OAA)

Achievements based on tangible efforts have long being relegated in Nigeria. What with quota and federal character stipulations by the Nigerian State that have bastardised demonstrable attainments that are based on striving for the best. Aside from sports and media, we don’t seem to care about anything else again.

Regardless, it is obvious that, the growth of any society or nation is predicated on modelling lives of achievers to inspire all others. The Yoruba Nation must return to the golden era of the past during which merit-based competitive examinations were

the yardstick for entry into the public service. We need to rapidly institute the quest to accord honour and pride of place to everyone with excellent achievements from among us. The subsisting unitary mode of governance is no excuse for the children of Oduduwa to uniquely identify and celebrate the achievements of her sons and daughters.

A platform in the form of an NGO – **Oduduwa Academy of Achievements (OAA)** is to be created for the promotion of improved performances through the recognition and celebration of achievers and the very best of the Yoruba nation across the world. It is also hereby proposed that a week for the **Recognitions and Awards for Achievements** be instituted and promoted on yearly basis. It is also hereby proposed that we formulate programmes and activities towards the eventual building of **Halls of Fame at all State Capitals in our territory** to showcase the very best in excellence in all spheres of human endeavour.

D.3 Oduduwa Academy of Entrepreneurship (OAE)

Despite having benefitted from tertiary education and armed with degrees in various disciplines, many youths of our land are unable to navigate their paths out of poverty towards prosperity. The easy option of salaried employment has become a mirage. The road to being an entrepreneur is not for the faint hearted. Our societal and business environment is very hostile under 25 youths to navigate without any lifeline. There is no miracle to any quest to bring about transformational change.

It is therefore a new imperative that creative avenues be instituted to provide platforms for soft skills and entrepreneurial training, business plans writing, start-up business incubation and access to capital. There is need to create an avenue for offering help and support to our teaming population.

It is therefore being proposed that a **Oduduwa Academy of Entrepreneurship (OAE)** be instituted targeted at empowering Yorubas; as a collaborative project with the respective governments of our 6 States. Our mission to stop poverty in Yorubaland one entrepreneur at a time; targeted initially at graduates of our tertiary institutions. Our goal shall be the creating jobs where there are none - the best way to help men and women who live where there are no jobs is to teach them how to create their own jobs.

OAE shall offer Postgraduate Ordinary and Advanced Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Start-up Business Management, designed and mounted collaboratively with cognate institutions in the respective States/Localities to selected participants. It shall organise business plan writing workshops and boot-camps, with appropriate guidance and focus on how to access venture capitals.

D.4 Oduduwa Research Institute (ORI)

The institution being proposed herein is a **Think Tank**. The term denotes a group of people who are paid to do nothing but read, discuss, think, and write, usually to address and redress a matter or theme of vital importance. Despite being the avenue

for interfacing governance with the intellectual community in any nation, only one attempt has so far been made to use the instrument of think tank in Nigeria. In 1977, the **National Policy Development Centre** was set up with **Uma Eleazu** as the head. But, it disappeared with the upheavals attendant to the Military regimes of the period.

At the last count, the United States had 1,984 think tanks: nearly a third of the world's total. American think tanks are constantly researching solutions to a variety of the world's problems, and then arguing, advocating, and lobbying for policy changes at local, state, and federal levels. Here are links to websites that give insight into the world of think tanks in Canada and USA

- <https://thebestschools.org/features/most-influential-think-tanks/>
- <https://guides.library.ualberta.ca/think-tanks>

The very least we could do is to adopt the modality of assimilating thoughtful thoughts and rigorous intellectual appraisals of all options towards shaping public policy in our region. It is therefore being proposed that an Institute be established to help generate ideas for the Yoruba ethnic nationality as it shall willy-nilly evolve into a distinct territorial region of Nigeria.

The **Oduduwa Research Institute (ORI)** is being proposed as a **think tank to generate new ideas, infuse public space and governance decision making with reasoned policy and program options towards life more abundant for all Yorubas across the world.** ORI shall be a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank; dedicated to informing and improving public policy through independent, objective, nonpartisan research.

Its modality shall be based on the believe in the power of good information to build a brighter future for our region. It will be committed to providing high-quality research and analysis; encourage civil, productive dialogue that inspires sustainable policy solutions.

Working with a **lean and non-resident directing staff**, ORI will execute its mandate through a multidisciplinary research staff that will include experts in all relevant disciplines drawn from all educations institutions and industry. It shall formulate questions and themes periodically and seek expert knowledge as may be applicable.

Unlike the subsisting standalone modality for all research institutes that dot many locations across Nigeria, **ORI will be domiciled and assimilated into relevant departments and or faculties of hosting tertiary institutions.** Rather than having a full complement of administrative and bureaucratic outlay, it will rely on adjunct staff that has cognate expertise regarding all themes of investigations. Thus, **we shall have thematic specializations located in as many campuses all over Yoruba regional territory.** Envisaged would be ORI with one or multiples of the following specializations in a campus:

1. Governance Framework, Law and Order

2. Socio-Economics Data Studies
3. Entrepreneurship and Investment Studies
4. Population and Urban Development Studies
5. Adaptation and Application of Technology
6. Software Engineering Studies
7. Geospatial and Land Use Studies
8. Mass Transportation Studies
9. Hydroponics and Biotechnology
10. Oceanography and Marine Studies
11. Agricultural Production Technology
12. Product Development and Manufacturing Engineering
13. Educational and Online Learning Technology
14. International and Diaspora Affairs
15. Merit and Excellence Promotion Mechanisms

D.5 The Meat and Cattle Ranching Business Opportunity

The defect in our worldview is to ignore work-based wealth building avenues in favour of great expectations for divine miracles. Else how could it be that we have ignored all the opportunities for action in the cattle production business. We eat so much meat. Our weekly parties are cow meat based.

It makes so much practical sense for governments that is working for her people to commit itself to arousing consciousness among our peoples on the business opportunities that abound in cattle production. More than economic advantages, the security and self-determination of contemporary times makes the idea worthy of our focus.

What are the respective governments waiting for to roll out a basket of fiscal incentives that will attract private investment into the cattle ranching business? Suppose we have had the following modalities in place of our lack of action in the last 2 years:

1. Acquisition of 500 ha of land each in the 3 Senatorial Districts
2. Parceling of the land into 50 ha plots for allocation to prospective investors, after due prequalification
3. Building of Earth Dam for water supply at each location
4. By now there would have sprang up 60 enterprises devoted to cattle production and processing

I am in possession of a draft of prefeasibility study on cattle ranching that was produced by a friend and classmate: Professor Bola OKUNEYE (sadly, now deceased in 2020). This should be an initial launch pad Organization to commence proactive facilitation of the business.

Furthermore, we might find it expedient to study what obtains in Botswana through visitation by a delegation of prospective investors in meat production.

In the interim, and after due consultations with as many relevant stakeholders, especially the traditional and religious leaders, a kickoff date should be set for the people to be sensitized and mobilized to refrain further from eating cow meat derived from cattle imported into our territory. If we truly desire self-determination, this sacrificial step will demonstrate the level of our resolve to all and sundry.

D.6 The Amotekun Palliative?

The Amotekun idea and concept is a mere palliative. We are infested with leprosy, yet we are focused on ring worm. The brain has tumor, yet we are bringing up Panadol. The security architecture of our territory ought to be revisited

There is already a defined and policed border in place separating Mexico from the United States. Yet, it is the challenge of massive influx of peoples from Mexico into the US that informs the quest of Donald Trump's plan to build a 3,145 km length wall. Britain, being surrounded by water already has defined borders. But she has just exited Europe, principally to stop influx of low skilled immigrants from the likes of Bulgaria, Romania and the like from the Eastern bloc.

Our brethren to the North chose to solely rest on the benefits of quota system and federal character, rest assured and boastful on the value of shunning education. Beyond the Yoruba territory to the North are over 18 million children out of school and out of any vocation beyond roaming the streets scavenging for food. For various obvious reasons, the Northern landscape has become quite harsh. Desert has encroached. Cheap lush grass has become scarce. With boko haram campaigns, their farmlands are emptying into IDP camps. The very easy recourse is to mount a 911 Mercedes Trailer in hundreds and head to the South West territory

Whereas the Yoruba Society chose education and skill acquisition. That was the legacy bequeathed to us since the Awolowo years. Every father and mother invested lives and fortunes in their children. We were on a hyper trajectory of progress. Years of Federally inspired quest to hold us down has taken its toll. Our recent children, along with many of their fathers have scampered for safety across the world. Our society is loosing it. Our fabric is up for destruction.

Our territory is being overrun. The Amotekun idea is therefore the medicine ostensibly to cure death that stares the Yoruba society in the face. Amotekun is a mere starting point.

Is the Amotekun option the best alternative to a fully decentralized police system? Whichever: Amotekun or a Regional Police, their control and management ought to be insulated from the political leadership. Rather, it should be placed under the supervision of the civil society bodies and answerable only to the legislature. It will be wise to consider popular elections as an avenue for selecting the respective heads of the organization at all levels of administration

D7. Other WRN Initiatives

The Amotekun Corps is the public appellation for the **Western Nigeria Security Network**. We actually need to move rapidly to institute the following bodies with flavours of regional cooperation and collaboration among the 6 States:

- WRN Industrial Development Board
- WRN Enterprises Promotion Agency
- WRN Examinations Board
- WRN Mass Transit Board
- WRN Technology Applications Agency

E. INTER-PROVINCIAL BODIES

The case should be made to the governors that in all spheres of governance, there ought to be a standing regional platform for consultation and collaboration. Bodies of Commissioners in charge of the following responsibilities ought to be instituted by the 6 States, with observer status representations from Kogi and Kwara States:

1. Economic Planning
2. Education, Science & Technology
3. Health
4. Transport
5. Commerce and Industry
6. Urban Planning

Our respective 6 State legislative houses ought to be persuaded to stop being operated in “silos.” Regardless of party affiliation, there ought to be common grounds, common modalities, common services and cooperative collaboration in pursuit of common delivery of services. It should be possible to work in concert in the formulation, design, funding and implementation of programmes and projects across political boundaries.

Furthermore, there is need for an institutionalized **Body of Provincial Administrators**; meeting at least quarterly to share development ideas and produce common budget lines. If ever, we are to overcome our current state of despair, the legislature ought to steer away from being a rubber stamp of budget line items in favour of being the avenue for thrashing out ideas on better ways of managing ourselves towards a society that is in search for its soul. The respective legislatures ought to be transformed into THINK TANK institutions for the generation of development ideas and implementation strategies across our State boundaries.

F. RELATIONS AND OUTREACH ALL SEGMENTS OF THE YORUBA SOCIETY

F1. Outreach to all Segments of the Society

It is a worthy effort to mount a series of consultative fora targeted at the following segments of the Yoruba Society:

- Artisan and Trade Groups
- Towns and Cities Unions and Development Associations
- The Academic Community
- Professional Bodies
- Traditional Rulers across our territory, and
- Religious Leaders

The objective would be to explain the rationale for the quest by the Yorubas to manage her affairs without interference and or control by other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria.

Equally of importance is the effort to engage with notable Yoruba personalities to be drawn from all tendencies of politics, professions, academia, retired military and paramilitary officers, religion and traditional bodies, being representatives of the 6 territorial States: plus, nominees from Yoruba communities in Kogi, Kwara, Edo and the Yoruba part of Delta States. This will be an informal way of testing the acceptability of our undertaking among our own people. With this we are to develop a contacts database of supporters of the quest.

A public outreach and enlightenment committee is to be set up immediately.

The committee will develop and maintain an electronic data base of several segments of the Yoruba society. In the era of COVID, virtual meetings would be cost effective to organize with so much ease.

F2. Assembly of Yoruba Elders of Thought

It has become imperative that we activate an axiom of the Yoruba society: *Agba kii wa loja . . .* An all-inclusive Assembly of Yoruba Elders is hereby being proposed for constitution and institutionalization. It is open to any bona-fide Yoruba elder that must have attained the specified age of 80 years as at 01-January-2024.

The Yoruba Club 80 has the historic opportunity to act in the self interest of all Yorubas. At the topmost pinnacle of life well lived in the past glorious years, providence hereby confers the duty on members in this age bracket that have been favoured with bounty blessings during the years of youth.

The fundamental challenge to the proposed assembly is to facilitate and or midwife the redefining, and reaffirmation of our **OMOLUABI ETHOS** for infusion and assimilation into our way of life in terms of self-governance and promotion of the welfare of the very least member of our society. We need to recreate an atmosphere

that will make life more abundant for the generality of Yorubas in our territory and across the world.

Illustratively, qualifying notable personalities to be recognised and honoured periodically for a lifetime of achievements and contributions to the Yoruba Society will include, but not limited to the following

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1) Chief Ayo ADEBANJO | 8) Dr. Christopher KOLADE |
| 2) Chief Michael ADE-OJO | 9) Chief Akinola OLAITAN |
| 3) Professor Peter ADENIYI | 10) Dr. Michael OMOLAYOLE |
| 4) Chief Mrs Nike AKANDE | 11) Professor Akin OYEBODE |
| 5) Chief Afe BABALOLA | 12) Chief Mrs Folake SOLANKE |
| 6) Chief Olu FALAE | 13) Professor Siyanbola TOMORI |
| 7) Chief Rueben FASORANTI | |

Once selected and celebrated, the notable personalities are inducted into the Club 80+ of the Yoruba Nation. They would become automatic patrons of the organisation

F3. Leadership Recruitment Modality for Youths

The occupiers of social and political spaces have largely been the same over the years, such that we now have a glaring disconnect, albeit alienation of the educated youths from the ageing population. Yet, our society will not thrive if the energies and zest of the best amidst us are not integrated into all spheres of the quest to re-build.

It is therefore my proposal that make conscious effort to attract the youth segment of our society, vide contacting all tertiary institutions for **a list of (a) student union presidents whose character was beyond reproach, (b) students that graduated with first class honours and (c) those that that earned Ph.D. degrees; all in the last 10 years.**

In addition to those at home, we also need to make a call **for the registration of all our diaspora talent.** We have to use the avenue of the Social Media to attract the attention of these persons. It is expedient that we build an electronic directory of these best of the best minds of our race for nurture and encouragement to participate in leadership.

G. PROSPECTUS FOR WRN

G1. Print Publication

A document to showcase and market our potentials and endowments. 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:

- 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.
- **Anthem, Coat of Arms, Flag:** several versions of these branding items are already in the public space. The flag design below that seems to have found the favour of all should just be adopted forthwith. Once produced in large quantities, these items are to be distributed through motor parks, educational and religious institutions, until every household is covered. We are to encourage every car and house to be decorated with the Oduduwa Flag.



It is important to establish the design philosophy that was applied and the identity of the designer of this flag for attribution and record purposes.

G2. Social Media Presence

Creating and managing a **website for the prospective Western Nigeria Region** of Nigeria - www.wrn.org.ng is one avenue for continuous interaction with the public. The website could at any time in the future be re-Christened - www.yoruba.org.

The broad objective is to commence online documentation of anything about the Yoruba Nation. For now, we shall maintain the low profile of Western Nigeria. The proposed website will in no time become a point of information on anything Yoruba at home in Nigeria, across West Africa, and then in the diaspora.

It will feature information about our worldview in all spheres of human life. The proposed website will reintroduce the Yorubas to ourselves and the world. This is of utmost significance and value to the children of those in diaspora.

It will feature even more:

- a. The historical place of the Yorubas in the World.
- b. Persons and personalities of notable achievements as role models.
- c. The worldwide reach of the Yorubas in all spheres.
- d. The case for being unique as Yoruba in the world - justification for self identity.
- e. Particularisation of potentials for rapid development of our society at home.
- f. Programmes and project ideas on what will bring rapid development.
- g. Collaborative avenues and opportunities
- h. Governance framework that will promote inclusiveness of every Yoruba person.
- i. An Online Newsletter or magazine for social media dissemination.

What we could do with the website is virtually limitless. It seems a very big undertaking that will entail a lot of intellectual processes. But very little or no finances. No need to ask for any funds at all.

The first step is to assemble a Web Development Technical Team of say 3 to 5 members. I proposed the identification of our youths who are motivated to work for very little compensation or even free of payment. We need volunteers with an eye on recognition by the Yoruba Society eventually.

Then, we shall need a Web Content - Technical Writing Team to gather and sift through the world of information that would be well suited for placement on the website. Its first task would be to propose a structure for the website - much like specifying the topics and chapters for the intended encyclopaedia of everything Yoruba.

Then there would be a Web Development Advisory Panel - a Steering Committee of knowledgeable persons - a mix of young and old. This panel will formulate a policy on what to publish on the website.

For take off, we need a Project Coordinator with cognate expertise and experience from your end that I can work with. We shall build up gradually with time.

H. READINESS FOR ENGAGEMENT AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER ETHNIC NATIONALITIES

Events and situations are unfolding at a very dizzying pace, such that if we don't prepare appropriately, we may give room for charlatans to seize the moment of our liberation. So, it was in 1998/99 when those who genuinely fought against the grips of the military were easily side-lined. The damage done then persists to this day.

In order to prevent a recurrence, there is need to do the following:

1. An articulation of what we want for the Yoruba Nation: our opening position ought to be outright separation from Nigeria. The fallback position should be a confederal arrangement that must permit autonomy to undertake:
 - external relations,
 - management of foreign currency,
 - domestication of military and paramilitary security forces
 - finance and economic development, including customs/excise and public debts issues
 - infrastructure and energy
 - Urban Transportation
 - Sea boundaries and aviation
 - Census and Citizens identity
2. We need to be settled on our take on the structure and nature of relationships with other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria:
 - A very lean political framework,
 - Uni-camera legislature,
 - representatives no longer based on the current census and land mass delineations.
 - Reciprocal rights of citizens across territories
3. Start to collate names and contacts of persons that have perceived positive attitude towards the autonomy of the Yoruba Nation, We need to do this on State and LGA basis spread across the 6 States, Kogi, Kwara, Delta and Edo States. All these in readiness for the anticipated call for the nomination or election of delegates that will be part of the process to negotiate Nigeria.

I. CONCLUSION

This document has canvassed that several things be done. Some are quite easy to accomplish. Others will take greater efforts and thoughtfulness. If managed as a classical project, then there is need to do total work breakdown (TWB), then accompanied with milestones and timelines. Set out below is a rough layout of actionable steps

1. Preparation for Exit Negotiations: Prequalification of Representation Team and articulation of minimum themes for negotiations with other ethnic nationalities
2. Execute recruitment modality that will incorporate and assimilate the youths into Leadership process
3. Produce and Publish a Prospectus (in full and Abridged Form) that makes a coherent case for the aspirations towards an autonomous Yoruba territory
4. Decide on the Paraphernalia of Identity: Anthem, Coat of Arms, Flag and Maps; raise funds for mass production.
5. Seeking of Judicial Remedies regarding various injuries to the Yorubas by the Nigerian State; principally for public education and raising of awareness purposes.
6. Make suggestions to the 6 government in our territory on avenues for creative confrontations with a view to witting down the grip of the Unitary Government at Abuja.
7. Outreach and Mobilization of all segments of the Yoruba society: Meetings with all politicians and notable personalities
8. Courtesy Calls to the 6 Governments to make Collaborative Proposals that will lead to the institution of
 - Oduduwa Academy of Achievement
 - Oduduwa Academy of Entrepreneurship
 - Oduduwa Research Institute
9. Constitute and publicly inaugurate the Panel on Political Structure and Constitution
10. Constitute and publicly inaugurate the Panel on Governance Blueprint.

Regardless of how the geographical entity called Nigeria fares eventually, the territory occupied by the children of Oduduwa has to be appropriately restructured. It is imperative that the governance system of the territory has to be reconfigured to enable it serve and work of the citizens. The focus would be to bring down the cost of maintaining public servants and political office holders to within the range of 10 to 20 percent, as would free resources for human capital development.

The credo of the Yorubas, which historically has been “Freedom for all, Life more Abundant” must be embedded in the structure of political administration, as would enable the Yoruba peoples of the world emerge rapidly into her rightful place in the comity of World’s nations.

Dr. Akin FAPOHUNDA

08-March-2021

Revised: 27-June-2024