

ADVERTORIAL
REMO FORUM

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Distinguished Senator David Mark
The President of the Senate of
The Federal Republic of Nigeria
&
The Rt. Honourable Oladimeji Bankole
The Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives of
The Federal Republic of Nigeria
National Assembly
Three Arms Zone
Abuja.

15 November, 2009

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY REMO DIVISION FOR THE CREATION OF A STATE OUT OF THE PRESENT OGUN STATE

With this letter comes the Memorandum of Remo Division for the creation of a state out of the present Ogun State.

It is our sincere and ardent wish and desire to submit our Memorandum personally to both the Distinguished Senator and President of the Senate and the Rt. Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives.

We made our first attempt on Wednesday 22 April, 2009 to submit our Memorandum personally to the two leaders of the National Assembly on the advice of the Honourable Speaker. That attempt was thwarted at the very last minutes after some of us had arrived Abuja and taken rooms in hotels.

The second aborted attempt was made on 28 May, 2009 at the behest, we were informed, of the Senate President. This time, the *Akarigbo* of Remo with 12 other Remo Traditional Rulers, and many of the leading lights of Remo were all in Abuja to submit our Memorandum: all in vain as we had to turn back having been gratuitously refused.

In the normal course of events, Remo representatives ought to appear before you with our kin of the Ijebu Division on Wednesday 21 January, 2009 when they submitted their Memorandum to your august selves. Our brothers and sisters of Ijebu Division came to you without letting us know.

That of course, was contrary to the agreement reached on 12 December, 2008 between Ijebu and Remo Committee dealing with the state creation. The agreement of that Committee of the two Divisions on December 12, was to hold another meeting on 29 December, 2008 which Ijebu Committee members failed to attend without letting Remo members of the Committee know.

Soon after that, Remo members wrote to their counterparts of Ijebu enquiring why they did not come for the meeting without taking us into confidence. No reply. The next thing Remo knew was that our Ijebu kith and kin had gone to Abuja and submitted their Memorandum to you on 21 January, 2009 stating in paragraph 6 (iii) of their Memorandum.

"...People of Ijebu Remo Division may indicate if they wish to join their kith and kin of Ijebu Division in the new state and for which they are most welcome."

More in this regard in the body of their Memorandum.


His Royal Highness, Oba (Dr.) Michael Adeniyi Sonariwo, CON, the *Akarigbo* of Remoland and all Remo Obas, chiefs, sons and daughters of Remo desire earnestly to have the proposed state created out of the present Ogun State in a manner that will be quite equitable, most acceptable and ultimately, harmonious to people in both Divisions – Ijebu and Remo.

personally meeting with the Senate President and the Honourable Speaker as others throughout Nigeria have done. We, therefore, take it upon ourselves to send our Memorandum to you, our two foremost leaders in the National Assembly, by courier in the prayerful hope that you will accept and read our Memorandum with the one submitted by our brothers and sisters of Ijebu Division and find your way clear in doing all that is needful, fair and just between us.

Please be assured of our sincere regards and warmest best wishes.

Representing Remo Traditional Rulers

His Royal Majesty
Oba (Dr) Michael Adeniyi Sonariwo CON


The *Akarigbo* of Remo

Their Royal Highnesses

Alaiyeluwa
Oba Adewale Osiberu


The *Espe* of Epe, Sagamu

Alaiyeluwa
Oba Emifayo Awobajo


The *Alara* of Ibara

Alaiyeluwa
Oba Adeleke Idowu Basibo


The *Alaperu* of Iperu

Alaiyeluwa
Oba Odunraye Solarin


The *Oludotun* of Idotun, Ikene

Alaiyeluwa
Oba Oyesoki Akinsanya


The *Ewusi* of Makun, Sagamu

Representing Remo Forum


Sir Olanrewun Ajayi, Chairman

Remo North Local Govt.

Asiwaju S. K. Onafowokan


Sagamu Local Government


Olotu Omoba M. O. Oyedele

" " "


Chief Idowu Sofola SAN

Ikene Local Government


Sir (Chief) Kesington Adebute CON

" " "


Hon. John Obafemi, Secretary

Remo North Local Govt.

ADVERTORIAL

REMO-IJEBU STATE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CREATION OF REMO-IJEBU STATE FROM THE PRESENT OGUN STATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.01 Proem

The Obas, High Chiefs and leaders of thought whose signatures are subscribed below, wish to convey the desire and aspiration of the people of Remo Division to be constituted into a new State, from the present Ogun State, with our Ijebu neighbours.

1.02 Background To The Desire of Remo People.

The desire of our people for a new state is time-honoured and chequered. In documented history, this desire was initially conveyed to the Justice Ayo Irikele Commission of 1975, set up to consider the problems and the advisability of creating more states in the federation. In 1989, the old desire of Remo and Ijebu people (arising from previous efforts) was conveyed to the Federal Military Government in the wake of fresh official considerations for the creation of states. This resulted in the present 36 states structure without any consideration for the request of the Remo and Ijebu divisions of Ogun State. In all the deliberations for State Creation so far, our people's desire was met with serial disappointments, despite our spirited effort and factual presentations. We are happy that the process for the creation of new states has been restarted and given our strong conviction about the need to create a new state for the people of Remo and Ijebu divisions, we are making this fresh submission with high hopes and expectations.

1.03 The People Of Remo And Ijebu Kingdoms

Remo and Ijebu Kingdoms were founded by different stocks of the Yoruba nation. They share some similarities today due to centuries of neighbourly coexistence, but historically they are not the same "people".

Their Affinity

The close location of the two kingdoms, and more significantly, the vicinalities of inter-marriage, trade, internecine strife and depredations of pre-colonial Yoruba country meant, however, that they would adopt similar traits and thus be perceived erroneously by some as a monolithic sub-ethnic group.

Remo's Distinctness

In the case of Remo, it is most appropriate, indeed crucial for us to let the world know that as between Remo and Ijebu, from the moment of migration from Ile Ife, our mutual (Yoruba) ancestral home, the base or the starting point of each sub-ethnic group has been different. The route taken by each of them to get to its final settlement has also been different.

To substantiate the point that Ijebu and Remo are separate national entities, with their respective identities, some documentary proofs are not only apposite; but they are also appropriate and pertinent.

Governor Moloney's letter (Despatch) dated 25th March 1890 to the Honourable Colonial Secretary about "the King of Remo the Akarigbo who resides at Sagamu" (Exhibit G2 in Martindale Enquiry Report 1937).

Despatch dated March 26, 1893 from George C. Denton A.g. Governor to the Marquess of Ripon in Lagos about a misunderstanding between the Awujale of Ijebu Ode and the Akarigbo of Ijebu Remo concerning Ikenne Remo. (Exhibit-African West No. 428, Pages 33-38 Martindale Report).

The agreement with the British Government signed by Akarigbo at Sagamu Remo for the inclusion of Remo within the Protectorate of Lagos, dated the 4th of August, 1894.

A treaty dated the 4th of August, 1894 was signed by Akarigbo with the British Government ceding and transferring Ikorodu to the British Government.

On 7 December 1894, the British Government proclaimed and declared that Remo would thenceforth be part of the Protectorate and Colony of Lagos.

On 8 September 1894, the Governor of Southern Nigeria signed an Agreement to prospect for and, mine mineral oil, with the Awujale at Ijebu Ode.

On 15 September 1906 similar Agreement was concluded between the Akarigbo and the same Governor of Southern Nigeria at Sagamu. The third of such Agreements was executed between the Oloja of Ikorodu and the Governor Southern Nigeria. The concluding proof of the distinctness of Remo as separate and distinct from Ijebu are the Findings of the Commission of Inquiry conducted at the instance of the British Government by the Hon. Justice M. H. Martindale in 1937.

1.04 Particulars of the Proposed State

Name and capital of existing State
The name of the existing State from which the new State is to be created is Ogun State, with its capital in ASOPOKUTA.

The Name of the Proposed State
Earnestly and honestly, the proposed state should be called **REMO-IJEBU STATE**. Our choice is informed and reinforced by the need to preserve the distinct cultural identity of both Remo and Ijebu people and to foster a veritable sense of belonging to all in the proposed State.

The Capital of the Proposed State
The issue of the name of the State and location of the Capital had been the bone of contention between us (Remo) and our Ijebu neighbours. Although our brothers and sisters in Ijebu Division are very firm in their stand that **Ijebu Ode** should be Capital of the proposed state, our people in Remo Division are of the considered and very strong opinion that **Ikenne Remo** would be best suited for and appropriate as the Capital while the name of the state should reflect unmistakably, **REMO** identity which is the Kernel of paragraph 1.03 (iv) i.e. a-g above.

1.05 Population Names and Distribution of the Local Government Areas of the Proposed State

Division	2006 Census	2009 (Projected)
Ijebu	816,256	944,490
Remo	432,058	499,934
TOTAL	1,248,314	1,444,424

(National Census 2006 Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette No. 24 of Lagos 15th May, 2007 Vol. 94)

Names and Distribution of the Local Government Areas.
From the above population figures, it is apparent that Remo is in the minority. In this situation and as it is the practice in Nigeria and indeed in established democracy, the bases for sharing should be, Equality and Population

We are proposing 20 Local Governments for the new State and sharing is proposed as follows: Remo - equality 5 plus population 3 = 8 and Ijebu - equality 5 plus population (6+1)7 = 12.

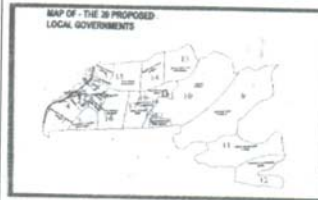
Government	Headquarters	Local Govt. Headquarters
Sagamu	Sagamu	1. Sagamu East 2. Sagamu West 3. Remo South 4. Remo South East
Remo North	Isara	1. Remo North 2. Remo North West
Ikenne	Ikenne	1. Ikenne 2. Remo Central
Ijebu East	Ogbersi	1. Osimayegun 2. Ojowo
Ogun Water Side Abag		1. Ijebu Waterside 2. Redapo Waterside
Ijebu North	Ijebu Igbo	1. Ijebu Igbo East 2. Ijebu Igbo West 3. Ikelodun
Odogbolu	Odogbolu	1. Odogbolu 2. Ijebu South
Ijebu Ode	Ijebu Ode	1. Ijebu Ode West 2. Ijebu Ode East
Ijebu North East Atan		1. Ijebu Alaro

iii. Boundary Adjustment

No boundary adjustment is desired.

iv. Relevant Maps

The relevant maps are attached herewith as Appendices III-VII.



1.06 Socio-Economic Prospects

Viability

We believe that the Proposed State will be viable and in fact be as viable as any of the existing States and will be able to hold and account for itself given its population, its human resources, geographical spread of infrastructural facilities, minerals, agricultural and marine resources, with which the State is endowed.

ii. Population

As shown above, the proposed State had, according to the 2006 Census, a population of 1,248,314. The projected figure for 2009 based on the said 2006 Census is 1,444,424. This population size is comparable to the population of many existing States.

iii. Land Area

The land area of some 6,000 square kilometres is ample, fertile and relatively flat and will provide adequate land resource suitable for agriculture, industrial and commercial exploitation.

iv. Urban Development

There are over 20 fairly developed urban and semi-urban settlements, which can serve as Local Government headquarters in the proposed State.

v. Human Capital

We believe that the proposed state is one, which will survive. It has an abundant supply of human resources who are substantially well educated and self-developed and are dedicated to its survival.

vi. Agriculture

There are about nine (9) agricultural estates that will form the bedrock of the development in agriculture in the new state.

Other resources that exist include navigable rivers. There are about six (6) existing Agro-Industrial Project and Farming Functions of the New State.

ix. Health

Numerous healthcare facilities exist at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in the Proposed State there are about Eleven (11) in number.

x. Industrial Base

There are numerous large and medium manufacturing factories presently operating in the proposed State and various products.

xi. Mineral Deposits

The proposed state is well endowed with following documented mineral resources: Crude Oil, Clay, lignite, talc, glass sand, limestone, Tar sand, and Bitumen/Petro-Chemical Raw Materials.

xii. Educational Institutions

The proposed State has presently within its confines, two Universities with College of Medicine, one University of Education, two Polytechnics, College of Education, Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, three Technical Colleges, 300 Secondary Schools, 500 Primary Schools and several Private craft training facilities. Others are Conference Centre, Development Institute, and African Centre for Development and Strategic Studies.

1.07 Conclusions

The creation of a state for Remo and Ijebu people is long standing and well deserved. In our humble view, it is long overdue for the particular reason that their area is the only province yet to become a State. We sincerely assure you, that the proposed state when created will contribute most meaningfully to the rapid socio-economic and political development of our dear nation, Nigeria.