

PRESS RELEASE / OPEN LETTER

EKITIS IN CANADA CALLS FOR A FRESH START IN EKITI STATE

Ekiti Kete Canada, a Toronto based community development association reviewed the recent developments in Ekiti State and pleads with all sons and daughters of Ekiti wherever they may be to support the Sole Administrator in creating an enabling environment for future progress.

It posits that the current emergency rule is a child of necessity, whose mother was impregnated by the political class and nurtured to maturity by need. The Ekitis found themselves being ruled by brazen executive looters, abetted by a bribed legislature and a compromised judiciary.

Never was it imagined that abused reasoning and poverty of food and water could dehumanize a section of the hitherto courageous and honest Ekitis into 'dogs hustling for bones'. Whoever said that the Fayose administration had done nothing good did not appreciate how a crude administration, corrupt and intolerant leadership could, like a cancer, inflict serious wound in the culture of integrity, hard work and mutual love for which the real Ekiti people are known for.

Under the Fayose administration, the state was run aground in the sandbanks of official corruption, abject poverty and underdevelopment. The state witnessed unprecedented murder of innocent citizens, politically motivated assassination of opponents and large scale corruption. There was no where to turn to other than to have a fresh start. The case of Ekiti was clearly that of a state where democracy and constitutionality collapsed. It was a state where law and order was politicized.

Ekiti Kete Canada laud the activities of the Nuhu Ribadu-led EFCC and believe that this commission should be enshrined the country's constitution to ensure continuity. It also hails the contributions of all decent Ekitis who mobilized non-violent means, even in the face of intimidation and harassment, to ensure a positive change in Ekiti land.

The group suggests that the choice of future leaders be based on background check, proven good leadership qualities and high moral values. The Ekitis can

transform the adversities of the recent past into huge gain through the quality of leaders at the helm of affairs in the next opportunity.

The Sole Administrator is advised to strive to heal the past wounds of a polarized community and harness the resources of the State within and outside the country to enhance the living standards of the people. Of topmost importance are security of lives and properties, availability of clean water, electricity, food, decent and affordable shelter, functional hospitals and clinics, education and skills development and promotion of entrepreneurship. The Administrator has a choice of making a good name that will endear his legacy in the mind of our people and endure after his stint in the state. Ekiti Kete Canada appreciate the Administrator's resolve to create a level-playing ground for all political parties and aspirants, and he should pursue this fairness commitment without fear or favour.

The group is committed to support real development of the state, and had contributed computers, hospital equipment, books and scholarship offers in the last five years. In line with the association's resolve and as corroborated with President Obasanjo's challenge in the course of his recent visit to Ekiti State, Ekiti Kete Canada will lend its generous support to the state in the mobilization of local and foreign investments to facilitate industrialization and job creation, as soon as accountable government and necessary public infrastructure are in place.

Strategies have been mapped out aimed at contributing to the success of the oncoming elections through voters' education and enlightenment campaigns. According to the spokesman of the group, "we shall educate our people against political apathy and warn them to beware of monetary and material inducement and other baits that desperate aspirants and their sponsors may use to rip off the people of their conscience and choice of good leadership at all levels of government in the next dispensation".

Signed:

Mr. Olumide Olatoye	–	President
Mrs. Bisi Odunaike	–	Vice President
Mr. Sola Adesua	-	General Secretary
Mr. Tolulope Adewumi	-	Assistant Gen. Secretary
Mr. Emmanuel Akinwumi	-	Treasurer
Deaconess Florence Fayose	-	Financial Secretary
Mr. Olupoju Olubunmi	-	Social Secretary

Mrs. Bola Akintade	-	Assistant Social Secretary
Mr. Joshua Daramola	-	Welfare Officer
Mr. Anthony Adesina	-	P. R. O.
Mr. Ayo Olubunmi	-	Chief Whip Officer
Mr. Dare Asaolu	-	Publicity member
Mr. Muyiwa Olaniyan	-	Publicity member
Dr. Joseph Omodara	-	Publicity member
Mr. Wole Odunaike	-	Publicity member