

EDO GLOBAL ORGANIZATION: A FOCUS FOR UNITY.

Dear Edos,

INTRODUCTION:

Edo Global Organization (EGO) is an umbrella organization for all Edos in Diaspora and registered as a charity.

The main objectives are as espoused in our web site.

www.edoglobalorganization.org

Principally it is to forge the unity of all Edos in Diaspora and make us relevant to the fast changes taking place in Edo State and Nigerian politics

and above all act as a catalyst for economic emancipation, good governance,

accountability, security and preservation of our cultural heritage.

EGO was conceived on this forum about ten months ago as result of two articles that were published '**Talking without words 1 and 2**' The articles

stressed a lot about the futility of talking too much without taking any

obvious action which we described as amounting to making noise in the forest

where it is of no effect. It was agreed that Edos in Diaspora should lead the

way in taking the destiny of all Edos in their hands and pulling us from this

quagmire so that we can make the desirable progress like other Nigerian nations.

Postings on the net then were aimed at the government who took no notice and

as such were not accountable to nobody.

It was obvious then as it is now that write-ups no matter how elaborate and

meaningful they are, make no desirable impact in the scheme of things in Edo

land.

Rather than being confrontational and make no progress, EGO is setting up a

body '**the implementation committee**' to liaise with the state government on one hand and actualise the

yearnings and wishes of all Edos in Diaspora.

This implementation body will advice, provide technical support, arrange feasibility studies, provide professional exchange to Edo state to help our people. This is not a new phenomenon in the world as the Jews, Indians, Bangladeshis and Chinese are already facilitating progress in the land of their birth

which translate into job opportunities and economic development.

We at EGO believe that setting up an avenue of constructive engagement between the Edo State government and Edos in Diaspora based on trust, mutual

respect and understanding will augur well for progress in Edo land. EGO will

take a stand on issues affecting our people and it may be for or against the executive as Edo people will be our first consideration.

CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:

We at EGO believe that government alone cannot succeed in solving all Edo

state problems. There is no government anywhere in the world that can provide

all amenities for her people. Social amenities and economic progress are usually provided from partnership between the state or national government on one

hand and the people on the other. For the government to succeed, the people

have to be motivated. That is where accountability and communication comes

into play. A successful government must inform the people daily on progress

or failure so that the people are aware all the time of the true state of affairs in the government.

Developments anywhere in the world results from efforts of national or state

governments which is minimal presently in our state due to lack of adequate resources, lack of accountability and the

loss of proposed good intentions between the drawing board at the executive

level and implementations at the grass root. The popular parlance for this is

'you chop, I chop' resulting in incomplete or abandoned projects which litter

the landscape of our state. This of course is not peculiar to Edo state as similar results can be found anywhere in Nigeria.

The second level of development is through personal efforts of members of communities. This is traditional to our people to bear each others' burden. That attitude of collective effort and responsibility is visible with our mothers who collect '**osusu**' to build houses, pay children's school fees and establish their trade. I am a living witness to my mother's osusu group.

There is no policing, no default, no complaints as the money moves from one

member to the other. When I look around I wonder what has happened to that

level of trust our parents had in dealing with each other in Edo land.

Brigadier Ogbemudia's government exploited this to the fullest during his tenure

in office. The results of people mobilization is visible in all

corners of the then Bendel state. This is an area that needs special government involvement; if the people can be motivated by any committed government in Edo state then they can be

made to provide for themselves through self-help developments projects.

The role of charity in community development is where EGO will play an active

role in assisting our people as a non-governmental agency. As a child, growing up, I

attended St Joseph's Catholic primary school, set up by the

Roman Catholic Church. I am sure a lot of our friends and colleagues attended similar

schools set up by Christian Missionary societies. These missionaries came all

the way from Europe and America as Roman Catholics, Anglican, Baptists,

Wesleyan societies etc. They built schools, colleges, churches, hospital and

social centres for the people. They facilitated socio-economic growth in Edo

land. Today these schools are still viable, producing students for our universities.

As Edos in Diaspora. it is time we started making pilgrimages to our mother

land to facilitate it's development. If the American and European

missionaries could act as facilitator for our people, we Edos in Diaspora

should do it for our kits and kins in Edo land. This is not the time to be pointing accusing fingers, rather it is time to harness all our resources and in

unity pull Edo indigenes from the doldrums they are in today. Finally EGO is

already liaising and inviting assistance from international sources to help Edo state development programmes. Charitable organizations as NGO are involved in cancer research, providing for the homeless, assisting in disasters, help for the aged etc. The list is endless. If it is successful elsewhere, we should make it successful in our country and in particular Edo state.

EDO UNITY:

These laudable objectives are not achievable on individual basis. They will require the collective will of everybody to make it successful. No single individual has the answer and the means to make the desirable impact in Edo

land. The problems are so numerous that one wonders where to start. It is for

the above reasons we are requesting the help of all Edos through their various organizations like Edo State community in the UK, Edo Nation

Associations of Italy, Germany, USA, Hungary, Austria, Japan and South

Africa. We know there will be other associations not mentioned. I will

appreciate passing this information of good intentions on to other Edo groups not mentioned above. We are setting up a bigger office in Benin for the use of members and member associations.

to facilitate their charitable activities and to act as a focus for dissemination of information in Edo land.

For those who wish, they can join us as individual members, or join as associations or contribute their widows mite to facilitate our goals.

With the present problem in Edo Traditional Council and the claims of Agadagba to our ancestral land, there is no better time to work together for the unity of all Edos so that we can speak and act with one voice for the benefit of our people.

POLITICS:

EGO is completely non-partisan as we do not belong or support any political party. We felt it is best to be completely neutral so that we are able to work with any government in place in Edo land. Insulting the governor or government in place in Edo land will be counter productive. Disharmony and disunity brings about retrogression and inaction. We shall plead with the government in Edo state to show accountability and if such pleading is not heeded, we may be compelled to pull all the strings at our disposal to bring that government into disrepute.

SUGGESTIONS AND DONATIONS.

We will appreciate help in various form, expert advice in our projects, suggestions on how best to achieve our goals, donations to run the organizations and achieve our charity objectives.

During our sojourn in Europe and America and while enjoying the labour of the past generations of our host countries, we should not forget the land of our birth. We have to make the sacrifices now so that our future generations can enjoy the fruits of our labour and not seeking asylum or

prostitution in foreign land.

Contribute to the success of EGO by supporting us as a volunteer, by giving generous donations and by providing technical support in our work.

May God Bless you as you give.

My usual regard to all