



EGBÉ OMO YORÙBÁ

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EKITI ELECTIONS NEED TO BE FAIR AND FREE OF MAYHEM

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COTTAGE CITY, MD March 11, 2009...On Tuesday, February 17, 2009, the Court of Appeal, sitting at Ilorin, Kwara State, nullified the election of Engineer. Olusegun Oni as Governor of Ekiti State. The Court of Appeal further ruled that fresh elections be held in 10 of the 16 local government council areas in the state.

The National Executive Council (NEC), the highest decision making body of the Egbe Omo Yoruba, National Association of Yoruba Descendants in North America viewed this decision as a landmark decision and a second opportunity for the people of Ekiti State to fix the 2007 butchered elections managed by the inept Maurice Iwu of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as well as to clear the air once and for all, who truly was chosen to represent the Ekiti people.

The Egbe uses this opportunity to appeal to all Ekiti people in every nook and corner of the state especially within the 10 local governments areas involved, all political parties, candidates and supporters, to seize this opportunity to show the world how an organized election could be run and to let peace reign during this period.

Further, the Egbe demands that INEC and the Nigerian Police Force should this time around, play their constitutional and statutory roles in order not to have the mayhem and lawlessness of April 2007 repeat itself.

Unfortunately, it appears that the some enemies of peace have begun to take advantage of the good nature of the Ekiti people to start disruptions, and scare the electorate. Fingers are already pointing between candidates as to who is responsible for the sporadic violence in parts of the state. Again we urge the Inspector General of Police to have his police force check such disruptions according to the law, and send a clear message to his staff at all levels that, their fiduciary responsibility is to protect the people as well as to maintain peace. Their job is not to become tools of political parties or those who are connected. The Nigerian Police needs to ensure that an atmosphere where the electorate is confident enough that if they do go out to vote they will return home unharmed and not harassed exist.

The Egbe implores INEC to ensure that all materials to be used for the election are publicly displayed, and to make sure that the voters are properly educated on the need to maintain order and transparency during the voting process. Further, it is advocated that INEC immediately following the close of voting, to publicly announce the results of elections at all polling stations. The usual delay in announcing the results which has led to results miraculously being changed in transit on its way to Abuja will not be accepted.

All eyes including those of all Yoruba are on Ekiti state and we ask that you keep in mind, that you are bearing the flag for all Yoruba. To that effect, the Egbe plans on dispatching a team of election monitors to join other international monitoring organizations to monitor the forthcoming state elections.

In conclusion, the Egbe calls for calm, order and transparency in this second chance and pray that the Ekiti People will seize the opportunity.