

A CALL FOR ACTION COMMUNIQUÉ FROM THE OKPE UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

PREAMBLE

1. The Okpe Union of North America was inaugurated on Saturday, April 30, 2005, in East Elmhurst, New York, United States of America (USA), at a meeting attended by Okpe sons and daughters from various states of the United States of America and the province of Ontario in Canada.
2. The Okpe Union of North America is the umbrella organization of Okpe unions, clubs and organizations in North America.
3. At the 1st Annual General Meeting & Conference of the Okpe Union of North America, held in the City of Ontario, California, USA, on October 07 - 09, 2005, critical issues affecting the Okpe Kingdom and Okpe nationals were discussed.
4. Organized around the theme of **The Place of Okpe in Nigeria**, conference participants discussed the papers presented by prominent Okpe scholars dealing with “Investing in Okpeland,” “Governance and Accountability in Sapele and Okpe Local Government Councils,” and “Collective Choice: Making Sapele and Okpe Local Governments Models in Nigeria.”
5. Particular attention was devoted to the delay in installing a new Orodje of Okpe, as well as on the evident lack of development in Okpeland and the threat of extinction facing the Okpe Language.
6. It was noted that, despite the fact that Okpe constitutes 1.3 million people, very little has been done to effectively promote and defend the interests of Okpe in Delta State and in Nigeria.

RESOLUTION

In calling for action from Okpe leaders and Okpe nationals worldwide, we resolved as follows:

1. The Okpe Union of North America will continue to coordinate the activities of Okpe in North America toward the development of Okpeland.
2. The Okpe Union of North America will pursue a policy of peaceful coexistence towards our neighbours in Delta State, and work with them for the development of Delta State.
3. To establish an OKPE SCHOLARSHIP FUND to assist Okpe sons and daughters in pursuing their higher education.
4. We call on Okpe leaders to take immediate measures to resolve the controversy over the Orodjeship of Okpe, and facilitate the installation of a new Orodje of Okpe as soon as

- possible.
5. We welcome the proposed Sapele Petroleum Limited, pioneered by Chief David O. Dafinone, as a vital contribution to the economic and industrial development of Okpeland.
 6. We note the policy initiatives of the chairmen of Sapele and Okpe local government councils and call on them to take appropriate measures to prevent the extinction of the Okpe Language, by ensuring that Okpe Language is taught in all educational institutions throughout the Okpe Kingdom.
 7. We also call on the chairmen of Sapele and Okpe local government councils to take appropriate measures to ensure that Okpe Language is used in all places of worship throughout the Okpe Kingdom.
 8. We further call on the chairmen of Sapele and Okpe local government councils, as well as on all Okpe political leaders to institute a policy making it compulsory for all Okpe to complete their secondary school education, in order to elevate the level of literacy of Okpe.
 9. We condemn the deplorable situations in educational and health institutions in Okpeland, and call on the chairmen of Sapele and Okpe local government councils as well as on the Delta State government to address these anomalies, in order to facilitate a conducive environment for learning and teaching in our schools, and to enhance the health of our population.
 10. The local government councils in Okpeland should institute policies to enhance the sanitation of the environment in Okpeland.
 11. We call on Okpe business and political leaders to attract domestic and foreign investments to Okpeland.
 12. We urge Okpe businessmen and women, and Okpe political leaders, to develop and implement an economic development strategy that will eliminate the leakage of wealth in Okpeland by facilitating the growth of Okpe businessmen and women in key sectors of the economy in Okpeland.

OUR HOPE AND COMMITMENT

In bringing the above concerns to the attention of Okpe leaders in Nigeria, it is our hope and commitment that, by working together, we will be able to serve the interests of Okpe better. We recognize the complexity of these problems, but we remain convinced that they can be resolved if only we devote due attention to them.

Signed:

OKPE UNION OF NORTH AMERICA

Delegates to the 1st AGM, Ontario, California, USA

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ASENIME, Elizabeth.

EDERAINE, Alfred

EDERAINE, Edward

EKEJIJA, Frank Ojogwa .

ENAJERO, Samuel Enajite

EGBEDI, Style

FIEBOH, Edward

NATUFE, Omajuwa Igho.

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