



# EGBÉ OMO YORÙBÁ

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YORUBA DESCENDANTS IN NORTH AMERICA  
USA AND CANADA

8340 Bladensburg Road  
Cottage City, MD 20722  
(925) 858-2565

Internet: [www.yorubanation.org](http://www.yorubanation.org) e-mail: [nsa@yorubanation.org](mailto:nsa@yorubanation.org)



## **CROSSROADS: STATEMENT BY THE EGBE OMO YORUBA ON THE CURRENT STATE OF NIGERIA**

Over the last fifty years, Nigeria has undergone several transformations. Recently the word “reinvention” has been used for the same thing. Transformation or reinvention, the results has been the same: disenfranchised citizenry, the rich getting richer, a broken system of governance, cumulating in what Senator Hilary Clinton speaking for President Obama termed a “Failed State.” This is the same Nigeria we all called “*our home dear native land*” but now more like “*Cry thy beloved Country.*”

With the recent swearing in of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan after a prolonged and embarrassing absence of our number one citizen, President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua, Nigeria once again has a chance to correct itself and had back towards the right path.

Egbe Omo Yoruba, National Association of Yoruba Descendants in North America, urge Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in the little time left in this administration to seize this opportunity to do what President Yar Adua was unable to do in his three wasted years as the President of Nigeria.

The Egbe urges AG Goodluck to add the following high priority items to his to do list:

1. Make do on his promise to improve the nation’s power supply;
2. Review and act on the recommendations from the Uwais Committee Report; and
3. Begin the process for a true Conference of Nationalities within Nigeria.

No economy can thrive on weak or inadequate power supply. Recently Cadbury announced that it spent over one billion Naira (N1 billion) on diesel to power its plants in Nigeria last year. Along that same line, Nigeria has witnessed several large and middle sized corporations closing shop and moving to neighboring West African countries. This disappointing power issue which every Nigerian administration over the last 20 years has spent billions of Naira to fix is still grossly inadequate. We need to fix this thing once and for all in order to reverse the losses in the economic sector.

Nigeria has a pattern of commissioning a board to investigate a pressing matter or disaster. Once the committee completes its job and a report is issued, if the administration disagrees with the findings and recommendations of the committee, that report never sees the light of day. Whereas in other developed and developing countries, such reports are taken as an opportunity to change course and fix whatever is broken thereby learning from past mistakes. Most Nigerians believe that the Independent National

Electoral Commission under Professor Maurice Iwu has failed woefully in all aspects of discharging its duties. This is collaborated by the lack of any generally acceptable credible election in Nigeria under his tenure as the INEC Chief. That is why the Egbe and other concerned citizens of Nigeria continue to call on the administration not just to release but to act on the Justice Uwais Electoral Reform Committee report. This should be done immediately without delay in order to avoid another crisis during the forthcoming 2011 electoral season. On that note, the Egbe would like to commend the National Assembly for its attempts to reform the Electoral Code. However, what is required is a complete implementation of the Uwais Report and not some half-measured amendments to short circuit it.

The continued dastardly acts allegedly to have been organized Fulani cattle herdsman in Jos and around Jos, the fragile cease fire with terrorist South-South militia men, as well as other issues of National Concern make it imperative that a true conference of nationalities be convened so that each of the major regions can be structured and allowed to pursue the best way for it to govern its people within the confines of Nigeria. If this call continues to go on without any action being taken by Abuja, the Egbe warns that the inaction may lead to the break-up of the country Nigeria as we know it. Recently, President Moammar Ghadafi spoke on the splitting of Nigeria which has led his condemnation by the powers that be. For years Ghadafi has advocated for a one Africa and is considered a pro-Africanist.

For someone like that to now advocate for a splitting of Nigeria either by religious lines or by ethnicities must have taken some consideration. Although the Egbe does not support his recommendation of a two way split between religious lines, but it is no secret that a large population of Nigerians are in support of his proposal to split the country into ethnic regions. The Egbe is in support of the best solution for all and the best place to determine what that is, a true National Conference of Nationals.

The Egbe congratulates Acting President Jonathan for taking being brave enough to dismantle the tiny cabal in the old cabinet that had held the country to ransom for so long. One year is a very short time to make all the needed and necessary reforms, but much can be done.

Nigeria is once again at crossroads and the opportunity should be seized to make lasting positive changes. A word is good enough for the wise.

Ola Oduwole  
National President

R. Oladapo Odunlami  
National Secretary of Public Affairs