

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the decades, from 1968 to date, Ikono Ibom clan has been severely marginalized and neglected in the scheme of things in Uyo LGA and indeed Akwa Ibom State as may be applicable.

Even in these days of democratic rule in Nigeria, Ikono Ibom clan is yet to enjoy any meaningful dividend of democracy: no public utilities, no water supply, inadequate supply of electric power and no tarred roads in the clan.

In addition to the above, despite the impressive pool of highly qualified professionals of Ikono Ibom extraction, both at home and abroad, no indigene of Ikono Ibom clan has been appointed into the State Cabinet since 1970.

This negative state of affairs has bred suppressed anger in the land, leading to loud outcry for positive change, especially amongst the youths of Ikono Ibom clan. Therefore, when Ikono Ibom Unity Forum (IIUF) sounded the clarion call to action for positive change, the response was overwhelmingly on the affirmative.

With the prevailing mood of the people, it was easy for Ikono Ibom Unity Forum (IIUF) to catalyze the formation of the Central Technical Committee (CTC), a think tank of Ikono Ibom professionals, on the 3rd of October, 2020 to bring up a road map that can fast track the holistic development of Ikono Ibom clan, through self-help efforts.

Therefore, in this report is presented the road map for the development of Ikono Ibom clan. The CTC having deliberated on each of the items on the terms of reference namely:

- Increasing scholarship and university education for our youths in specialized fields.
- Exploring the potentials of entrepreneurship, apprenticeship and job creation for our economic prosperity.
- Scouting for employment opportunities and mentorship for Ikono Ibom youths.

- Succession planning template to ensure continuity of Ikono Ibom relevance in all the sectors of human endeavor in the socio-political life of Uyo LGA, and indeed Akwa Ibom State.
- Evolving a conflict resolution mechanism in Ikono Ibom clan, through peace and reconciliation.
- Bringing all the development associations in Ikono Ibom land under one inclusive umbrella body.
- Compiling a register of all Ikono Ibom professionals, at home and in the diaspora, to form a think tank which resources can be explored for the benefit of Ikono Ibom people.
- Restoring the dignity of the Ikono Ibom man, and taking Ikono Ibom clan back to its pride place of as the most prominent clan in Uyo, that is used to be, etc.

The CTC, therefore, has recommended in this report the creation of IKONO IBOM UNION, an inclusive social model, with a think tank, working through standing committees of Ikono Ibom professionals as the most effective and sustainable instrument to solving the Ikono Ibom development question.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

All the Central Technical Committee (CTC) meetings were held in Uyo.

Since the CTC members operated from their various individual work stations around the country, it wasn't possible for all the members to be physically present in all its meetings. Therefore, the CTC adopted a hybrid of actual/virtual meetings, through Zoom, during the period of its assignment.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

For over 50 years now, Ikono Ibom Clan in Uyo LGA, of Akwa Ibom State has suffered neglect and debilitating marginalization in Uyo LGA. While the other clans in Uyo have

continued to enjoy government patronage and presence, and the dividends of democracy, there are no government amenities, nor presence: whether local, state or federal government anywhere in Ikono Ibom Clan.

Ikono Ibom Clan is the most rural, and least developed among the four clans that make up Uyo L.G.A, with no tarred roads, no public utility infrastructure like water, adequate electric power supply and communication facilities, and so on. The only road that connects all Ikono Ibom villages (traverses the clan from North to South), constructed since colonial days, by *Uyo Federated County Council*, still remains as earth road till today, and is in a very bad state.

Furthermore, despite the huge pool of top flight professionals of Ikono Ibom extraction, in every field of human endeavour, both at home and in the diaspora, no Ikono Ibom son or daughter has so far been appointed into the state cabinet since the creation of Akwa Ibom State in 1987. It is obvious that the above-mentioned state of wanton neglect of Ikono Ibom clan, by various governments, over the decades, has led to a state of suppressed mass anger, and increasing dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in our clan. This has now resulted in a tense atmosphere, provoking huge outcry for immediate positive change, especially among the youths, who are feeling alienated from the affairs of their own local government, in particular, and their state in general.

Therefore, when on the 3rd of October, 2020, Ikono Ibom Unity Forum, through its president, Mr. Ubong Udofia of Nung Asang Ikono, invited seventeen number well-meaning sons and daughters of Ikono Ibom Clan to constitute the Central Technical Committee (CTC) of Ikono Ibom professionals, to synergize their experience, and draw up a road map for the comprehensive development of Ikono Ibom Clan, through self-help, there was overwhelming affirmative response, from the whole clan.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP OF THE CENTRAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (CTC)

The 17 members of the CTC are as listed below:

1. Engr. Bassey E. Nsentip - Chairman (Ikot Mbon)

2. Obongawan (Pharm) Dorah Ebong (Ikot Ekpeyak)
3. Otumba Uduakabasi Udoma (Ikot Ofon)
4. Prof. Ezekiel E. Williams (Ikot Odung)
5. Dr (Hon) Ekere Afia (Anan Ikono)
6. Prof Dianabasi Eduwem (Mbiabong)
7. Prof Imo Umoinyang (Ikot Mbon)
8. Obong Ime Ekpo – President Ikono Ibom Development Union (Ikot Ekpeyak)
9. Prof Etim Umanah (Ikot Ekpeyak)
10. Obong Utuk B. Nkanga (Ikot Ofon)
11. Obongawan Rose Stephen (Ikot Mbon)
12. Hon. Anthony Ekong (Ikot Ekpeyak)
13. Mr. Sabbath Inyang (Mbiabong)
14. Eteidung Polycarp Sunday Udoudo – Secretary, Ikono Ibom Clan Council (Ikot Ofon)
15. Pastor Daniel George (Mbiabong)
16. Dr Etim Tommy (Nung Ukim)
17. Barr Otu Inwang – Secretary CTC (Mbiabong)

5.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE OF CTC ASSIGNMENT

The following terms of reference (TOR) were given to the CTC, during the commissioning of the committee:

- i. To draw up a road map, like the marshal plan, to take Ikono Ibom out of the doldrums back to its pride of place in the socio-political equation of Uyo LGA.
- ii. The CTC should work out a template through which Ikono Ibom elders could mentor to success a chosen number of Ikono Ibom youths of their choice; establish a succession plan to sustain smooth succession, from one generation to another.
- iii. The CTC should create a model to bring in Ikono Ibom Development Union (IIDU), Ikono Ibom Supreme Youth, etc. to synergize with Ikono Ibom Unity

Forum (IIUF) and the Clan Council of chiefs, to pursue our common dreams and aspirations collectively as one people.

- iv. To create a model that can assist at least 20 youths, yearly to study courses in the university, especially Medicine, Law, Engineering and other areas of study where Ikono Ibom Clan is deficient.
- v. To put in place a proper scholarship scheme for qualified students of Ikono Ibom origin, to study specialised courses, at home and abroad.
- vi. The CTC should design models for self-employment for Ikono Ibom youths, through entrepreneurship, and apprenticeship.
- vii. The CTC should create a register of Ikono Ibom professionals, at home and abroad, to pull together the synergy of our rich human resource base to help in the development of the clan.
- viii. That the CTC should set up a standing peace and reconciliation committee to be managing crisis in Ikono Ibom clan, whenever such a need arises.
- ix. That the CTC should set up various advisory standing committees to accommodate all Ikono Ibom clan experts and technocrats, to make available their professional advice and skills, for the benefit and development of Ikono Ibom clan.
- x. The CTC should submit a comprehensive blue print of the road map for the development of Ikono Ibom clan, that can take Ikono Ibom back to its position of preeminence as the leading clan in Uyo LGA, as it used to be between 1948 and 1968.

6.0 DISCUSSIONS/CONCLUSION

The CTC in its wisdom, after exhaustive deliberations on each of the above listed terms of reference came to the general conclusion that to execute the Ikono Ibom vision, we need a roadmap: a strong inclusive social structure that can effectively drive the Ikono Ibom dream.

Therefore, to bring all the various organisations and development associations under one umbrella, to collectively execute the Ikono Ibom development vision, a new organization known as Ikono Ibom Union should be established immediately in the clan. In other words, to execute the Ikono Ibom vision, successfully and sustainably, we need to establish Ikono Ibom Union.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION:

7.10 IKONO IBOM UNION

At the conclusion of the CTC deliberations, it was recommended that to achieve an effective and sustainable execution of the terms of reference contained in the CTC assignment, in a comprehensive way, an inclusive umbrella body, to be known as Ikono Ibom Union, should be established in Ikono Ibom clan to drive the Ikono Ibom dream.

7.11 IKONO IBOM UNION: GENERAL/STRUCTURE

Ikono Ibom Union shall be an alliance of all the various indigenous development associations and social groups, articulating the dreams and aspirations of Ikono Ibom people: traditional institutions, development associations and other social groups. Groups like The Traditional Rulers Council (TRC), Youth groups, Women association, development associations, etc shall all be brought together to function under one big umbrella body: The Ikono Ibom Union (IIU), while still keeping their individual identity. The smaller groups will still retain their identity and independence, but would be working side by side with Ikono Ibom Union to achieve common development objectives for our people.

The union shall be driven by a Think Tank: The Central Technical Council (CTC), headed by a Chancellor, working through standing committees to generate new ideas, proffer solutions and give advice on the way forward on all issues of interest to Ikono Ibom People. The CTC shall be made up of top flight professionals of Ikono Ibom extraction, in every field of human endeavour, at home and in the diaspora.

An Executive Council (EC) headed by a President General, shall manage the day to day business of the Union. Resolutions of the CTC, TRC and all the other organs of the Union shall ultimately be submitted to the (EC) for implementation.

In addition, a Board of Trustees (BOT) shall superintend over the Union and give policy direction to the group. But the highest decision-making organ of the Union shall be the Ikono Ibom People's Council (IIPC), to be headed by the BOT Chairman.

7.12 ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANS

Ikono Ibom Union (IIU) shall be run and managed through the under listed organs, namely:

1. The Ikono Ibom People's Council (IIPC): Head: BOT Chairman
2. Board of Trustees (BOT) – Head: Chairman
3. Executive Council (EC) - Head: President General
4. Traditional Rulers Council (TRC) – Head: Clan Head
5. Central Technical Council (CTC) – Head: Chancellor
6. Women Council (WC) – Head: Women Leader
7. Ikono Ibom Youth Council (YC) – Head: Youth Leader
8. Religious Council (RC) – Head: Minister/Pastor
9. Council for coordination with other Ikono Ibom development organizations -Head: chairman

7.13 FUNCTIONS OF THE ORGANS AND THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

7.13.1 IKONO IBOM PEOPLE'S COUNCIL (IIPC)

The IIPC, presided by the BOT chairman, shall be the most powerful organ of Ikono Ibom Union.

Decisions taken at the IIPC shall be final and shall be taken as the decision of Ikono Ibom Clan.

The IIPC shall be made up of the following:

1. The President General, Ikono Ibom Union

2. Secretary General, Ikono Ibom Union
3. Chairman CTC (Chancellor)
4. Ikono Ibom Clan Head
5. BOT Chairman
6. Youth Leader
7. Women Leader
8. 18 Persons from the 18 Villages (one person per village)
9. 5 No nominated ex-official members
10. Ikono Ibom Development Union President
11. Ikono Ibom Unity Forum President
12. Secretary Traditional Rulers Council

Thus, making up a total of 33 No. members.

7.13.2 BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

The BOT shall take responsibility of ownership and management of Ikono Ibom Union. They give policy direction and generally superintends over the union. The BOT shall be made up of a chairman, secretary and 7 No other members, bringing the total number to 9 persons.

7.13.3 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC)

The Executive Council shall see to the day to day management of Ikono Ibom Union. This is the organ that shall run the union and execute all its programmes and projects.

The Executive Council shall consist of the following:

1. President General
2. Secretary General
3. Financial Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Publicity Secretary
6. Vice President
7. Assistant Secretary

8. Public Relations Office (PRO)
9. Marshal
10. Secretary Ikono Ibom TRC (ex-officio)
11. Secretary Ikono Ibom Youth Council (ex-officio)
12. Secretary women council (ex-officio)

7.13.4 TRADITIONAL RULERS COUNCIL

This organ comprises the Traditional Rulers Council of Ikono Ibom Clan.

It is made up of the Clan Head, and the other 17 no village heads of Ikono Ibom Clan, as it is currently constituted.

7.13.5 THE CENTRAL TECHNICAL COUNCIL (CTC)

The Central Technical Council is the think tank of the union. It shall operate through advisory standing committees detailed herein as follows:

1. Education/Scholarship Committee
2. Works & Environment Committee
3. Health Committee
4. Employment/Entrepreneurship Committee
5. Welfare and Succession Planning Committee
6. Government Matters Committee
7. Publicity/Media Committee
8. Security Committee
9. Peace & Reconciliation Committee
10. Social Activities & Special Duties Committee
11. Ikono Ibom Registry Unit
12. Foreign Affairs Committee
13. Traditional Rulership & Clan Matters Committee
14. Food & Agriculture Committee
15. Audit Committee
16. History, Documentation & Publication Committee

The CTC shall be headed by a Chancellor and shall have a Council Secretary.

7.13.6 IKONO IBOM YOUTH COUNCIL

This Council shall interface and work with all recognized youth groups in Ikono Ibom Clan.

7.13.7 WOMEN COUNCIL

This Council will be headed by the women leader and shall work with all recognized women groups, with respect to women and family affairs; vaccination, cooperatives, community sensitization, etc.

7.13.8 RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

This Council shall work with the churches and religious groups to help in the mass mobilization and sensitization of the Ikono Ibom public for purposes of development. It shall be headed by a religious leader.

7.13.9 COUNCIL FOR COORDINATION WITH OTHER IKONO IBOM DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

This Council shall interface with other Ikono Ibom Development Organization like IIDU and IIUF, etc. with the aim of achieving consensus on clan wide issues.

7.14 IKONO IBOM UNION: MODE OF OPERATION

Ikono Ibom Union (IIU) shall be an all-inclusive mass participatory organization for all Ikono Ibomites.

The mode of operation of the IIU shall be as follows:

- i. Resolutions on issues affecting the development of Ikono Ibom clan, or the decisions of other organs of the IIU or the BOT shall be submitted to the CTC for further processing.
- ii. The CTC shall direct the relevant standing committee to treat accordingly.
- iii. The standing committee of the CTC shall process the matter to conclusion and submit its observations to the plenary for adoption.

- iv. Resolutions of the CTC shall be forwarded to the Executive Council (EC) of the IIU for implementation, through the BOT.
 - v. The BOT shall decide if the matter should be taken to the IIPC (Ikono Ibom People's Council) for approval or direct the EC to execute immediately.
- Matters that require approval of the IIPC shall be spelt out in the IIU constitution. The decisions of the IIPU on any matter shall be taken as the decision of Ikono Ibom clan.

7.15 IKONO IBOM UNION: HIERARCHY OF AUTHORITY

The hierarchy of authority within the Ikono Ibom Union shall be considered as detailed below in descending order:

- i. Ikono Ibom People's Council (IIPC)
- ii. The Board of Trustees (BOT)
- iii. Traditional Ruler's Council
- iv. Executive Council
- v. Central Technical Council
- vi. All the other remaining organs shall operate at the same level of authority.

7.16 FUNDING OF IKONO IBOM UNION

No organization can function successfully, without sustainable funding. Therefore, IIU shall be sustained by the following sources of funding, namely:

a) Initial Take-off Funding:

Free will donations from patriotic sons and daughters of Ikono Ibom clan shall provide the take-off funding for the union.

b) Continuous Funding of Union:

To achieve sustainability, the following sources of funding are herein proposed to keep the union running:

- i. Membership Registration Fees
- ii. Monthly dues from villages and individual members.

- iii. Donations collected during fund launch.
- iv. Goodwill donations from patriotic and well-meaning Ikono Ibomites during Ikono Ibom Day celebrations.
- v. Special levies
- vi. Return on Investments on IIU assents (long term), etc.

7.17 TENURE OF OFFICE OF THE OFFICIALS OF THE VARIOUS ORGANS OF IKONO IBOM UNION:

The tenure of office of the various officials serving under the various organs of the IIU shall be as spelt out in the IIU constitution.

7.18 MEMBERSHIP OF THE IKONO IBOM UNION

The membership of Ikono Ibom Union shall be opened to every sound minded indigene of Ikono Ibom clan, who can satisfy other membership registration requirements as spelt out in the constitution.

7.19 PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IKONO IBOM UNION

To establish Ikono Ibom Union as a strong umbrella body to articulate the collective dreams and aspirations of the Ikono Ibom people of Uyo LGA and put to effect the road map for the development of Ikono Ibom clan, the following steps would have to be taken:

- i. Submission of report to an expanded clan council meeting on a date to be chosen by the Central Technical committee and the IIUF.
- ii. Appointment of the BOT by the expanded clan Traditional Ruler's Council (TRC) meeting.
- iii. The BOT with the assistance of the IIDU and IIUF shall nominate executive members of the protem Executive Council (EC) and the Central Technical Council (CTC) of the Ikono Ibom Union.
- iv. The BOT with the assistance of the EC and the CTC shall create the standing committees of Ikono Ibom professionals, under the CTC.

- v. The EC and the CTC shall immediately commence work on all the burning issues affecting the development of Ikono Ibom clan, including the amendment of the IIU draft constitution.
- Except for the TRC, the BOT together with the EC shall nominate the executive council of all the other remaining organs of the IIU.
 - Funding of the take-off activities of the IIU shall come from free will donations by members of the current IIUF – CTC, and also donations from other patriotic sons and daughters of Ikono Ibom clan.
 - The process for the registration of the IIU with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria shall also proceed *pari pasu* with its establishment.