

**REVAMPING THE ECONOMY OF
ILORIN EMIRATE**

EDITED BY HASSAN A. SALIU, Ph.D.

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Acknowledgements

On behalf of the President, National Executive Committee members of the Ilorin Emirate Descendants Progressive Union (IEDPU) and members of the organizing committee for the Economic Summit, who worked tirelessly towards making a success of the programme, I wish to thank the Ilorin Emirate Community for supporting the maiden Economic Summit of the IEDPU. Our thanks and gratitude go to our invited guests and elders who graced the occasion. Their presence, especially that of Justice Mustapha Akanbi Oniyo, CFR, Wakili of Ilorin, who kept the programme in mind and piloted the affairs so efficiently, added grandeur to the occasion. Alhaji A.G.F Abdulrazaq, SAN, OFR, Mutawalin Ilorin, the Co-chairman of the occasion, who in absentia, delegated his power as the Co-chairman to the Wakilin Ilorin, Justice Mustapha Akanbi Oniyo. He was supported by Alhaji (Justice) Abdulkadir Orire, CON, Serikin Malami and Marafa Ilorin, and Alhaji Mudi Gold, former Head of Service in Kwara State, who served as Chairmen of sessions.

The Economic Summit that gave birth to this book was a kind of intellectual exchange between the paper presenters and the attentive audience. The discourse was led by our lead paper presenters namely, Alhaji Lasisi Ayinla Kolawole Jimoh, Professor

Shehu Ahmad Jimoh, OON, Ibrahim Yinka Yahaya and Tunde Salami. Their presentations were well-received. I, therefore, thank them for their brilliant submissions.

The IEDPU members from zones and branches across the nation attended the Summit. Also, in attendance were members of Development Associations from various wards within the Emirate. Their enthusiastic participation in form of questions, summaries and comments introduced valuable dimensions to the effort.

This book would not have been ready without the efforts of the Publications Committee made up of Professor Hassan A. Saliu, Kale Yusuf and Abubakar S. Imam, who under two weeks produced this worthwhile book, **Revamping the Economy of Ilorin Emirate**. I should not also fail to appreciate the printers and proof readers who had to work under pressure to produce this book. I say Jazakumullah.

Alhaji AbdulHamid Adi,

Chairman,

IEDPU Economic Summit Organizing Committee,

Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

15th December, 2012

Foreword

The goal of accelerating the level of growth, unity and development in Ilorin Emirate has remained the cardinal objective of the Ilorin Emirate Descendants' Progressive Union (IEDPU). This consideration had informed the engagement of the Union with past administrations in the State, to be sure, the long battle that the Union had with the George Innih administration was informed by the need to preserve the cultural values of the Emirate and all the allied matters.

The idea of the Economic Summit, which became an urgent issue in the last couple of years, came about as a result of the happenings in Nigeria and the Emirate, symbolized by high level of youth unemployment, worsening poverty level, infrastructural decay and the corresponding loss of economic power by the indigenes of the Emirate. The Union, on a daily basis, was receiving complaints, protests and petitions requesting for her intervention as a kind of ombudsman. Over the years, the IEDPU has done her best in interceding in matters of injustice and other wrong-doings taking place in the community. But much as she tried, the complaints kept coming with the consequence of being misunderstood by some critical stakeholders in the Kwara project.

The Union, therefore, ventured into organizing her maiden Economic Summit to raise alarm on the precarious economic situation in the Emirate and to use the forum as a platform to chart a progressive future for our community. I want to believe that the

indigenes of the Emirate have spoken through their participation in the Summit and their commentaries which are included in chapter six of this book. At the end of the Summit, it was clear that the IEDPU was, indeed, correct in expressing grave concerns about the future of our beloved Emirate. I, therefore, salute the efforts of the current Executive Committee of the Union for approving the Economic Summit and this publication that grew out of it for posterity. This publication climaxed the first phase. I solicit for a greater level of support as the Union moves to give expression to the second leg of the effort which is in twofold; (1) to encourage our people to come back home and invest more in the economy and (2) to seek for financial support in giving some skill acquisition training in some selected trades to our youths who are currently roaming about the streets searching for jobs. I must be quick to add here that through these programmes, the I.E.D.P.U is only complementing the efforts of governments at all levels at reducing poverty and unemployment which are quite rampant in Nigeria. The book is, therefore, a kind of wake-up call on all our people to start thinking more about the future of the Emirate and its continued well-being.

Justice Saka Yusuf (Rtd) OFR,

National President,
I.E.D.P.U, Ilorin.
16th December, 2012.

Preface

The journey that led to this publication was a long one. In the immediacy, it started with the 2011 Convention of the Ilorin Emirate Descendants' Progressive Union (IEDPU) which featured Alhaji A.G.F Abdulrazaq, SAN, OFR, as the Chairman of the occasion and Sheikh Abdurrahman Ahmad, Chief Missioner of the Ansaru-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria as the Guest Speaker. In the Chairman's speech delivered on his behalf by Professor Shehu Ahmad Jimoh, OON, Alhaji A.G.F. Abdulrazaq, Mutawali of Ilorin, raised a number of pertinent issues affecting the Ilorin Emirate. He was worried about the poor representation of women in IEDPU's activities and the dwindling economic fortune of the Ilorin community. Alhaji Abdulrazaq, at the end of his presentation, gave the Union some challenges. Sheikh Ahmad, as the Guest Speaker, spoke passionately about the future of the Emirate by arguing that the reality confronting the Emirate is that it cannot be producing the Governor of the state forever. The implication of this is that all the indigenes of the Emirate must begin to put on their thinking cap on how to revitalize the economy of the Emirate. He specifically called for the establishment of a Development Fund into which every indigene will make a contribution for the development of our community.

Among other people and factors, the submissions of these great Ilorin sons, served as an impetus that brought about the idea of the Economic Summit that led to the publication of this book. It

contains four main chapters written by the resource persons who addressed the Summit on topical issues that revolved around transforming the economic climate of the Emirate so that it can provide engagement for the youths, reduce the level of poverty in the community and empower the indigenes to compete with other economic players in the Emirate. Two additional chapters have been added. These are the introduction and the report of the rapporteurs on the Economic Summit.

Based on the relevant issues raised in the book, the IEDPU hopes that her intervention will be the needed wake-up call on our people to re-dedicate themselves to the task of building the Emirate community and continuously seek for ways to hand it over to future generations better than we met it. The book is, therefore, recommended to all indigenes of Ilorin, friends and lovers of the Emirate, diplomats, economists, historians, culturalists, geographers, anthropologists, politicians and political scientists, academic and non-academic professionals and all students of inter-group relations.

Hassan A. Saliu. Ph. D,

Ilorin, Nigeria.

15th December, 2012

The Presidential Address delivered by the National President, Justice Saka Yusuf, OFR at the Economic Summit organized by the Ilorin Emirate Descendants' Progressive Union (IEDPU) held at the African Peoples' Hall, No. 34 Onikanga Street, GRA, Ilorin, on 8th December, 2012 (24th Muharram 1433AH)

All protocols duly observed.

I am most privileged, fortunate and delighted to warmly welcome you to this august occasion being organized by the Ilorin Emirate Descendants' Progressive Union, IEDPU, to address the unpalatable and worsening economic situation that is bedeviling the Ilorin Emirate, particularly in recent times.

Although, Ilorin had never been the most industrialized or commercialized entity in Nigeria, the Emirate, some years back, was biased with so many industrial and commercial outfits which enhanced the economic well-being and respectability of the people of the Emirate.

The people of Ilorin Emirate also engaged in worthwhile traditional enterprises and trades such as aso-oke, pottery making, embroidery and animal husbandry, among others. The gains of yesteryears, derived from such vocations, had been painfully -eroded by the passage of time, mad-rush for white-collar jobs and general economic denudation, occasioned by the negative implications of unbridled globalization, which have left our people poorer and more economically-disadvantaged.

While the traditional occupations have been neglected and virtually dead, the once booming opportunities in the public/civil service and the possibilities of being engaged by erstwhile thriving privately-owned establishments, which have virtually disappeared, conspired to expose our people to poverty and its attendant decadence.

The situation is so alarming because its effects had manifested heavily on the increasing population of jobless youths across the Emirate coupled with the concomitant consequences on the security and general well-being of Ilorin Emirate.

Understandably, the Union, as the umbrella socio-cultural platform of the people of the Emirate, had been consistently inundated with persistent complaints, sufferings, dislocations and malady encountered by our compatriots over the years due to crippling unemployment and the diseased social system.

The persistence of these problems, as observed by the union coupled with the patriotic observations of participants at the last National Conference of the Union held in December, 2011, compelled her to engage in series of activities that eventually culminated in today's event

I must say that the conviction of the Union that the reversal of the dwindling economic fortune of the Ilorin Emirate community required concerted efforts of stakeholders informed the convocation of this intellectual engagement.

I am, therefore, delighted to disclose that, so far, the Union has secured the cooperation of the wide spectrum of the community, which has manifested in the high calibre of not just the officiating personalities but also the distinguished egg-heads consulted to lead discussion on various sub-themes of the Summit as well as the assemblage of brilliant compatriots seated here to dissect, digest and perfect the expectedly-wonderful presentations of the four presenters for the betterment of our community.

While I do not want to pre-empt the observations and submissions of our highly-rated scholars and professionals who would be shedding light on the all-encompassing economic problem, I want to implore all of us not only to listen attentively but also direct our thinking faculties to what we can do, individually or collectively, to redress the situation Mere relocation from Ilorin, glossing-over the issues or apportioning blames would not arrest

the situation and is, indeed, not the intention of the Union. What we expect is the pulling of material and human resources together so as to lead Ilorin Emirate out of economic degradation.

Today's event is just the beginning of the journey aimed at restoring the economic potency of an average Ilorin man or woman. After listening to the envisaged-scholarly presentations of our guest speakers and the resourceful contributions of the audience, the next phase will involve artisans, other self-employed and the unemployed, among the relevant publics of the Union, as we are determined to reach out to them to re-assure them that the Union is not only-interested in drawing attention to their plight but also offer advice to them on what they should and could do to make use of their potentials and resourcefulness for themselves, their families and the community at large.

Ladies and gentlemen, the task is not herculean. It is achievable and we must achieve it not only for the contemporary generation but multitude of generations yet to come. That was what the founding fathers of Ilorin did about two centuries ago. We must act fast to protect and preserve the heritage of industry, togetherness and collective viability to ensure the continuous existence of our community as a respectable one, not only within the State but the Nation at large.

Maa-salaam.

THE OPENING REMARKS DELIVERED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION, HONOURABLE JUSTICE M.M.A. AKANBI. CFR, AT AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT PROGRAMME ORGANIZED BY THE ILORIN EMIRATE DESCENDANTS' PROGRESSIVE UNION (I.E.D.P.U) AT THE AFRICA PEOPLES' HALL, ONIKANGA STREET, GRA, ILORIN ON SATURDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2012

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to be here with you all this morning. It is good to be part of a programme like this. The I.E.D.P.U. has broken new ground. It is making progress. It is making history. And to me, it is great to be part of the history of our people. By organizing an Economic Summit at this point in time, the I.E.D.P.U has shown itself to be alive to the problems of the time and social responsibilities that have been foisted on us in these turbulent times. It is common knowledge that the generality of our people are experiencing difficult times; the poor are becoming poorer, while the exploiters and looters of commonwealth are becoming richer. Poverty continues to stare us in the face.

The people of Ilorin once known to be hard working, dedicated, adventurous and committed to duty have suddenly become a different people altogether. Some of them have become beggars and indolent going from place to place to beg for sustenance. The most disheartening is the fact that the once thriving factories in the city have all closed down. The big names in business here in Ilorin have sunk into oblivion. In this fluid state of affairs, we cannot and we must not fold our arms waiting for manna to fall from heaven. Now is the time for positive action. We owe it a duty to ourselves, to our children and children's children to wake up and do

something to restore the pristine glories of the past and ensure that Ilorin resumes its place of pride in Nigeria.

This is why all of us must support this Economic Summit being organized by our umbrella organization, the IEDPU. It is both timely and appropriate. The great speakers chosen to speak on the diverse themes or sub-themes of the Summit are equal to the task and I have no doubt that they will do us proud. I believe that at the end of the day, we shall be highly motivated and be able to stem the tide of economic decline in our beloved Emirate, banish poverty, hunger and raise the quality of lives of our people.

Allah will help us. As-salaam alaikum warahamatu-lai.