

Balkanization of Owerri, Princess Neboh tackles Okorochoa. May drag Gov. to UN

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By: Chidiebube Okeoma

One of the daughters of the Njemanze royal family of Owerri-Nchi-Ise in Owerri Municipal, Imo State, Princess Stella Neboh has taken a swipe on the state Governor, Rochas Okorochoa following the creation of more autonomous communities from Owerre-Nchi-Ise.

In a release, Princess Neboh who is a United States of America, USA, based pharmacist and the daughter of His Royal Majesty, Eze Onumaku Njemanze, the predecessor of the current monarch of Owerri Ancient Kingdom, Eze Emmanuel Njemanze chided the governor for planting and fueling the seed of discord in the ancient kingdom.

The USA based pharmacist maintained that Governor Okorochoa as a stranger has no right to disorganize nor destroy the culture, tradition and values of the people of the kingdom.

“Governor Okorochoa came into power with lots of dreams on how to make Imo State the greatest state in the nation” little did we know that one of his dreams was to destroy the Njemanze family and its dynasty. The Njemanze family and the five compounds in Owerri were in existence before this governor was born and will continue to survive past his regime in Imo State. So help us God.”

“No one should insult a community just because they know they can. Each community has values and customs that are unique to them and no governor president has the right to destroy a community and take away the rights of its people.

She urged Owerre people to unite themselves, be their brothers keepers and refuse to join politicians to destroy their rich cultural and traditional heritage.

Princess Neboh threatened to petition the Governor to the United Nations general secretary, the United States Secretary of State and the British Prime Minister, the USA ambassador to Nigeria and the USA white house, citing human rights violations in the state.



Balkanization of Owerri: Okorochoa is a Dreamer

by [Nigeria Newspoint](#)

A Nigerian Senior citizen, and a native of Owerri Nshi-Ise, Prince Bob Njemanze on the eve of Christmas in Owerri broke his silence, on the recent development in Imo state following the

balkanization of Owerri into five autonomous communities, by the State Governor, Owerri Rochas Okorochoa and the selection of their Traditional rulers. Mixed feelings have trailed the action and while some are of the belief that the famous Prince has given his nod to the balkanization, many others hope on him to fight against such Government decision read excerpts!

Q: Given the recent development in Imo state as it affects the balkanization of Owerri, could you please let the Imo people at home and in diaspora know your stand.

Ans: Owerri has not been balkanized. It is a misconception. If anything, Okorochoa has lent his weight and credence to the paramount rulership of Njemanze dynasty. Njemanze is not a new creation in rulership. The first-, Njemanze Iheanacho received the first colonial master, HOM. Douglas after whom the Douglas Road is named. If I take you through the line of history, Njemanze descendants are through Iheanacho, Okorie, Ekeonunwa, Ikenegbu, Ekwemaraugo and if you have any knowledge of the delineation of streets in Owerri, you can follow this trend into Ikenegbu to Ekeonunwa. Njemanze of Owerri is not a village in Owerri. Incidentally what Rochas has done is lending some official and Government backing to village heads of Owerri and acknowledging them as occupying positions in line with the numerous people, Government has adopted as traditional rulers which is as Boys company played by senior prefect. When you talk about Njemanze and rulership, you should divert your mind to Oba of Benin, Obong of Calabar, Obi of Onitsha, Ooni of Ife and the like. The present day masquerades created by government in the name and guise of traditional rulers are in no way on the same platform with Eze Njemanze.

Q. Why did you say there is no balkanization?

Ans: There have always been village heads in Owerri and these village heads have been with the various families. As at today the village heads of Umuororonjo is Chief TOS Oparaugo – Amawom; where the Eze incidentally is from is Chief Dennis O. Dike, Umuodu-Chief Ikeafuaka Anozie Emeto; Umuoyima, Chief Cyril Ukaegbu. These headships of villages have remained with these families from inception of the clan called Owerri and Njemanze the main Umbrella of rulership in Owerri as Ozuruigbo and as at today the 5th and the 12th descendant of that clan of rulership.

Q. Don't you think that Government could rely on laws to achieve this in Owerri?

Ans: The issue of laws is a privilege of the House of Assembly and the present day House of Assembly is guided by their quest and demand bordering on greed and property but that does not remove the fact that sitting on the Assembly they are free to make anything they think is law but to sustain it might be an issue. Thereafter, only misguided people might think that what has been done in Owerri has anything to do with the image of position of status of Eze Njemanze as the paramount ruler of Owerri.

Okorochoa himself said to me that Eze Njemanze remains a paramount ruler of Owerri. It is easy to

misguide or mislead Okorocho for he is a leader who dreams dream and he is in a hurry to leave out his dreams leading to a situation where his emotion can run wild and out of contest with reasons. A leader must never say he was misled.

If the village Heads of Owerri must be recognized as Eze in line with the present day balkanization of Traditional rulership, it must not be done outside the families that hitherto held the position to avoid variance and acrimony I hear the one nominated as village Head for Umuonyima is a brother-in-law to Eze Agunwa Ohiri, the present day Eze Imo. Some of these mis-applications lead to the exhumation of certain sentimental facts that have long been buried for peace and harmony. For the origin of Uba family of Umuoyima is not completely Owerri and this may raise issues that are better buried, Certain positions and appointments must not be determined as patronage. And I say this because I over heard the governor bemoan over losing over 2000 cases and in fact suspended virtually every Director in the Ministry of Justice while not realizing the fact there is appointment of Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice who although is said to be a senior advocate was ill-equipped to run that Ministry. He is placing the blame on every wrong premise. His appointment of his bother was a bane of mismanagement of the cases and wrong advice that created the perception of a Governor who never respected the rule of law. If I were to advise, he should return those directors to their places of work and this time around, appoint a seasoned lawyer to run the affairs of the Ministry of Justice. A similar situation is gradually brewing in Imo State University and by the time the issues come up, they will blow up all those who are behind the Governor for now and lending him uncalled for backing, will leave him a paper tiger. I personally remain grateful to him for restoring the image of the Njemanze dynasty Owerri problem as a family has been domestic.

When the Eze's palace got burnt, the governor quickly came to rescue the situation but misguided by quest and avarice, the wife of the traditional ruler stopped the contractors believing that her brother Emeka Ihedioha with Goodluck Jonathan will build for her, a paradise on earth, for peace and harmony in his home, the Eze toed this line of taught Okorocho still was not deterred, he offered the Eze accommodation till date in one of the Government comfort zone Guest houses, if he had no regard and respect for the paramount nature of Eze Owerri. He would not have attended any of these purported over 600 Ezes, set their homes ablaze and see if they will not be walking in the streets in search of roof over their heads. Njemanzes have no conflicts with Okorocho. I advise that as he is giving out the Staff of Office to the other four Village Heads; Dike of Amawom on who most of the lands presently occupied by Government and even the ones government is desirous of is also being accorded recognition as Eze. It will be wrong for any one to go to the neighbouring town of Egbu where my brother comes from and think of Eze Umuokfo, Umuanyalu, Mpama, what you have there is Eze Egbu but there will be nothing wrong if Government makes provision of salary and maintenance for the various Village Heads in Egbu and titles them in any form so long as it does not affect the position of Eze Egbu. The issue of Eze Egbu, Eze Owerri is sacrosanct.

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