

Okorocho's Distabilization of Njemanze Dynasty

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As an Njemanze I was not at all shocked to read about the current issues affecting the existence of the Njemanze Dynasty and the unity of the five compounds in Owerre commonly called Owerre NchiIse.

I was disappointed to hear that the current Governor of Imo State is the one partaking in the destruction of Nde Owerre.

Gov. Okorocho came into power with a lot 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 Owerre were in

existence before this governor was born and will continue to survive past his regime in Imo State. So help us God.

When a stranger arrives in a new city, it is his or her responsibilities to study and understand the history, origin, culture and tradition of the city he or she is about to reside in and govern. The history of the five compounds in Owerre is available and in several history books in Nigeria. The Governor and members of his administration some of whom are Owerre citizens should have read a little deeper about the history of Owerre NchiIse. No one can destroy the bond and unity instilled on us by our forefathers. It will never be done.

It was very funny but sad when I read about the newly crowned political red cap chiefs in Owerre (alias The Owerre 7) by the Governor of Imo State. The shame is not with the Governor but with the 7 so called citizens of Owerre NchiIse who allowed an Orlu man to breeze into their father's land just to conquer and divide an entity that was set up, preserved and protected by their fathers, grand fathers and great grandfathers. Our forefathers fought hard and died fighting to preserve the union and unity we have today, only to be destroyed by a stranger. What will these Red Cap Chiefs be called in Owerre?. They cannot be called Eze. The title Eze is only granted by elders of your community and your subordinates.

What will they tell their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren about how they acquired their title? I hope they will shamelessly tell them they were crowned by the political governor of Imo State who is a citizen of Orlu local government and not an Owerre man. How will the 7 political red cap chiefs celebrate Oru Owerre and other cultural activities that Owerre NchiIse uses as a bond to celebrate the teachings and struggles of our forefathers?. Where will the "Owerre 7" fit in?

The fight for autonomous communities did not start today in Owerre. It can be dated back to many years ago and as recent as the 1980's when my father the late EzeIgwe Alexius Anumaku Njemanze, Ozurigbo IV of Owerre was still in power. My late uncle Chief D.C.O Njemanze a well-known power house in Owerre fought with all his strength to protect and preserve the Njemanze Dynasty and Owerre NchiIse as a whole. The unity of Owerre NchiIse for them was very vital to our existence as a community. There was a history to the five compounds that make up Owerre NchiIse that resonated so well with our fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and uncles that was worth fighting to protect. The information can be found on our USA website at www.njemanzeabroad.com. I invite Governor Okorochoa to log in and educate himself as to why our unity should be left alone.

No Governor has won a battle with the Njemanzes yet and I can assure you based on my little experience Governor Okorochoa you will not win this fight. Insulting the Njemanzes is not a very good option in Ala Owerre. The Njemanzes will not physically fight a man with all the machine guns and machetes. The whole drama with Area K several years ago was another way of the Governor insulting the Owerre people. Not paying faithful Imo State workers for several months was unbearable.

The late Martin Luther King Jr. fought and won the human right battle for equality in America without violence and no guns. He prayed a lot and the God of injustice answered his prayers. Today Governor Okorochoa can visit the United States of America freely without discrimination

because of the positive struggles of one man called Martin Luther King Jr.

I remember my father's battle with the late Governor Ikweche of Imo State in the late 1980's. My father and members of his cabinet won the battle without violence and no guns. Governor Ikweche returned to apologize to my father. My father only had one weapon against Ikweche and that was simple. He woke up every morning and went to his father's grave the late Eze Njemanze Ihenacho a few steps from his bedroom and poured libation to his late dad while having a conversation with the most powerful ruler of his time that set up the five compounds in Owerre and who laid his life in several battles to protect that union. He called upon his late dad for guidance, wisdom and strength to continue his fight against a military governor that had all the machine guns and armored cars. My father saw his dynasty in trouble and reached out to the founding fathers. They immediately answered him with victory.

Today I call upon all sons of the five compounds of Owerre who believes in our union and existence to wake up on December 31st 2015, and everyday thereafter to have a graveside conversation with our fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, uncles, cousins etc with your libation asking them for wisdom and guidance to handle this repeat of the 1980's. if our forefathers want Owerre Nchi Ise the way they cautioned us to live, they must resolve this invasion into our union.

I believe and like my daddy said we shall overcome.

No one should use violence to resolve this issue I beg you all. No one should protest and be destructive giving the Governor a reason to hurt anyone. David killed Goliath with a very little stone as stated in the bible. We must march with caution and pray to our God of Injustice who never fails.

No one should insult a community just because they know they can. Each community has traditional values and customs that are unique to them, and NO Governor or President has the right to destroy a community and take away the rights of its people.

It is a big shame that citizens will fall prey to Destroyers of their culture and traditional values because of fame and money. What will happen to the "Owerre 7" when the governor's tenure is over? I guess they will relocate to Orlu local government and establish their own personal colonies.

Nde Owerre please wake up and unite. We are our own problems. We sell our brothers and sisters when we see the Naira sign. We sell our votes to politicians that give us twenty naira and cry injustice later.

We must unite to fight our battles together and go to the polls to vote politicians that will respect our existence and traditional values. We cannot complain as a community if we sit at home and do not exercise our God given national right to vote on Election Day. You must start educating yourselves today for the 2019 election. How long shall we remain at the mercies of politicians from all over Imo State? You must vote your conscience on Election Day and not vote by the power of Nigerian naira. Look at the insult Owerre is getting under this administration?

I once loved the vision Governor Okorocho came into office with during his first term in office and I wrote several time to congratulate his free education programme and the way he was doing his job in Imo State. A State Governor should serve all citizens of his state and not a selected

few. Nde Owerre are not your enemies Mr. Governor. You can reach out and work with them to make our State a better place.

Nde Owerre are waiting for your honest hands in friendship and together you can make your second term an acceptable and memorable time for Owerri nation.

If this Governor continues to insult Nde Owerre, the Owerri Nchi Ise group abroad will write a letter to the united Nation 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 Imo State Nigeria under Governor Okorochoa. and let them investigate him. He is ruling Imo State as a dictator. We will be meeting soon to address the issues in Owerre.

Long live the Njemanze Dynasty. Long live Ala OwerriAnyi and OwerriNchiIse. Long live Imo State. Long live the Fedral Rebuplic of Nigeria.

Stella Neboh (Nee Njemanze) writes from USA.