

MARGINALIZATION OF KOGI WEST BY EASTERN PART OF THE STATE - CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CORRECTION

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I write today to furnish the general public with critical information concerning the terrible marginalization of Kogi West people of Kogi State, the will be subsequent press conference to analyze every sector of Kogi state and show the world that we are slaves in our own state. However the focus of the press conference today is the brutal and wicked lopsidedness and deliberate oppression of the Kogi west people and by extension Okun People in our God given University, (Kogi State University). The situation is as worse in all other sectors of the state.

Before I analyze the precarious situation in Kogi State University, I want to bring to the notice of the general public that other than the Igala people, no other part of the state has been Director General Government House or Permanent Secretary Government House, Accountant General of the State, Chief of Staff to the governor etc.

EMPLOYMENT IN KOGI STATE UNIVERSITY

Employment in KSU as of 2013, while the east had 94% of Junior Staff, 76.60% of Senior Staff, West had only 1.5% of Junior Staff and 16.60% of Senior Staff. Most unfortunately non-indigenes has 1.4% of Junior Staff and 25.90% of Senior Staff. In total while the East Senatorial District had a total of 73.7%, non-indigenes 15.2%, West has only 7.60% please see more detailed analysis below;

	Total Staff	Central Senatorial		Eastern Senatorial		West Sena
		No of Staff	%	No of Staff	%	No of St
Junior Staff	661	19	2.80	632	94	10
Senior Staff	855	43	6.80	486	76.60	105
Junior + Senior	1,516	62	4.09	1,118	73.70	115

Please see below the list of principal officers and their positions

POSITION	ETHNIC
Chairman of Council	Igbira Okene

POSITION	ETHNIC
Vice-Chancellor	Igala
DVC Admin	Igbira Koto
DVC Acad.	Igbira Okene
Ag. Registrar	Igala
Ag. Librarian	Igala
Bursar	Igbira Okene

Out of the 37 positions listed below, central has 5. East has 27, West has 3, Non-indigenes have 2. The level of marginalization is too glaring in a State University where positions are supposed to be fairly distributed across the three senatorial districts. There is a clear case of injustice and inequality. The table below speaks for itself and as a summary of what is happening in KSU;

POSITION	ETHNIC
Chairman of Council	Igbira Okene
Vice-Chancellor	Igala
DVC Admin	Igbira Koto
DVC Acad.	Igbira Okene
Ag. Registrar	Igala
Ag. Librarian	Igala
Bursar	Igbira Okene
Dean PG School	Igbira Okene
Dean Student Affairs	Igala
Director Academic Planning	Igala
Director Advancement	Igala
Director PD/Diploma	Okun
Director Consultancy	Igala
Director Entrepreneur	Igala
Director Physical Planning	Igala
Director of Maintenance	Igala
Director Centre for Cashew	Igala
Medical Director Teaching	Igala
Senior Staff Establishment Officer	Igala
Junior Staff Establishment Officer	Igbira Okene
Director of Sport	Igala
Ag. Director Medical Services	Okun

POSITION	ETHNIC
Academic Officer	Igala
Chief Security Officer	Igala
Chief Security Coordinator	Igala
Head of Legal Unit	Igala (VC Wife)
Head of Counselling Unit	Igala
Head of Information Unit	Igala
Director Leadership Accounting	Igala
Dean of Agric.	Igala
Dean of Arts	Igala
Dean of Education	Igala
Dean of Law	Non-Indigene
Dean of Management	Igala
Dean of medicine	Igala
Dean of natural Sciences	Igala
Dean of Social Sciences	Non-Indigene

OUR DEMANDS

1. Employment profile of all state institutions and parastatals should be looked into so that each senatorial district is represented in each unit of such institutions and parastatals. This will also address the issue of injustice and equity in those institutions and parastatals.
2. To address the poverty problems in West Senatorial district, we advise that the state government should have a state presence in the West as we have in the Eastern Senatorial district where the state government established multi-billion naira palm industry at Egume, a multi-million naira fertilizer plant at Agbeji, a Bio fuel refinery near Idah and multi-billion naira Ibaji Sugar Company, to mention a few.
3. There should be some semblance of fairness, equity and justice in the distribution of the wealth, benefits, projects and programmes of the state to which we all lay claim. A single senatorial district should not corner the greater percentage of most of the resources of Kogi State.
4. The Law establishing Kogi State University which has been revised recently should be revisited to reflect decentralization of the state university to meet the aspirations of the founding fathers. This will be in line with other state universities in Nigeria such as Osun State University, Delta State University, Benue State University, Kwara State University, and Lagos State University etc. where their campuses are decentralized into senatorial districts so that all segments of the state can benefit from such institutions. It will interest to know that there are Faculties such as Education, Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences that do not required much financial implication. The white paper on visitation panel recommended decentralized of Kogi State University, but this recommendation was thrown overboard and certain percentage of each local government in the state is deducted on monthly basis for the university. In addition to this decentralization, the choice of rotating the Vice

Chancellor among the 3 senatorial districts should be discussed as a matter of urgency since the tenure of the incumbent Vice chancellor will soon come to an end. Already the issue of Vice Chancellorship is a birthright of the Igalas and no other tribe of the state can be the Vice-chancellor. In other state Universities, VC and Registrar cannot come from the same senatorial district so also the Bursar. These are all what we should challenge and fight since the tenure of the incumbent VC will soon come to an end the position of the registrar and VC will be vacant.

5. The process of appointing the VC is going on. It is terribly sad that this present process by the VC who hates our people is not transparent. It is biased and lack integrity. For example, it does not reflect the three senatorial districts. Of all the people shortlisted no single person from the West. Very unfortunate indeed, since the establishment of the University 16 years ago, the East has produced both the Registrar and Vice Chancellor. We have no confidence in this process where candidate shortlisted were asked to present their visions and yet no one is permitted to ask any question in the public presentation. Something should be done about it
6. We should solicit for multi-campus structure of the Federal University Lokoja as it is done in Ekiti State where the campuses are located in Oye and Ikole Respectively so that such campus could be located at kabba or Isanlu where there is already existing infrastructure for such. Kogi West deserves a federal presence as we have Federal Polytechnic in Idah and Federal College of Education in Okene.
7. Road network in the West should seriously be looked into as it is done in the Eastern Senatorial District where all roads leading to towns and villages have been fully tarred. This will ease the movement of goods and people in the West no deliberate effort by kogi State Government to lobby the Federal Government on Aiyegunle-Iluke-Aiyetoro-Kiri_Abugi_Eggan Road. Could you believe that almost all positions starting from non-prominent ones like ordinary class representative in the University must come from Igala Land in Kogi State? It is as bad as that in a University system. Our acceptance of slavery in our land is pathetic and very unfortunate. The Kogi West people are helpless and we cannot do much here without the support of the media.

Gentlemen of the press, if we keep quiet, the West will continue to suffer in silence God forbid, we hope and believe that he world will see this as a matter of urgent public importance.

In conclusion we give the Kogi State Government 30days from today to invite us and correct all these anomalies or we will carry out massive civil disobedience and do all within the law to liberate our people. A stitch in time saves nine. The battle to fight for our right even with the last drop of our blood is a battle of NO RETREAT NO SURRENDER enough is enough.

Sen. Dino Malaye

Spokesperson of the Nigerian Senate.