

## TALKING WITHOUT WORDS 2

I wish to thank all the contributors to the discussion 'Talking without

Words' for taking it to this advanced stage so quickly.

A lot of wonderful ideas and suggestions were floated but unfortunately not

>all of them will be workable and so will not be included in this summary.

What came across strongly is the desire of all to work and sacrifice for the

benefit and good of all in Edo Land so that they are empowered socially,

>economically, physically, culturally and morally.

>I therefore crave your indulgence to read through this proposal thoroughly

>and ask pertinent questions if necessary as such questions will be answered

>to the best of our knowledge.

### THE PROPOSAL.

>We propose a Global Edo Community that is not limited by national boundaries,

>distance or ethnicity, talking with one voice for the good of all our people.

>Edo Global will be non-governmental, non-political charitable organisation with the primary objective of contributing to the overall improvement of Edo Land. This Charity Organisation (CO) will be all embracing and non-confrontational as our primary role will be to complement the efforts of the Edo State Government in all aspects. Membership will be strictly voluntary and open to all

Edo State indigenes with the burning desire of seeing a better economically empowered and thriving Edo people. The organisation will be registered in all the countries where members reside so that they can be free to generate fund, seek donations and disburse funds as the case may be, for the common good of Edo People. As there are numerous areas of lack in Edo Land, priorities will be set after listening to presentations from different committees at the two yearly conventions of members that will be holding in Benin City. Where there is a tie the overriding interest of Edo People will prevail and this will be decided by the Board of Directors of the organisation. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE.

A Board of Directors made up of eight members and the Board Chairman. (total9).

Three Directors each from Europe, Americas and Africa (Interest from Asia is minimal presently). They will meet annually in Benin City in January and work closely with the implementation committee which will be based in Benin City. During this formative years they will meet their travel expenses but as the financial standing of the organisation improves, the organisation will reimburse half of their travelling expenses. The meeting will involve finalising and inspecting ongoing projects, presiding at the two yearly convention and helping to raise fund on behalf of the Organisation. The following career civil servants may be co-opted into the Board of Directors meetings. Head of Service of Edo State. Clerk to the State House of Assembly Secretary to the State Council of Chiefs, Secretary to The Oba of Benin.

Their involvement will be advisory as regard area of need in Edo Land but they cannot vote on any project implementation. The following committees will be formed to administer specific areas and facilitate implementation, carry out research so that the best decisions are made in the interest of the Edo People. Finance Committee, Culture and Social Welfare committee, Education and Publicity Committee, Tourism Committee Legal and Safety Committee Health Committee. Implementation Committee.

The Secretariat.

The Edo Global Charity Organisation will maintain a secretariat in Benin with employed secretarial staff and an internet outlet. It

will constitute the hub of the implementation committee. They will operate the implementation account under the auspices of the members of the Board of Directors and the implementation committee.

#### The Implementation Committee.

Members of this committee will be based in Edo Land. They will run the secretariat on behalf of the organisation. They will physically supervise projects in any part of the state. They will assist any committee trying to implement their projects in an area of need in the state like arranging venues for lectures, symposia, workshops and co-opting the D/Gs of the corresponding ministry with any of the committee that have organised a function in the state. For example if the Education Committee has say 20 volunteer teachers for deployment, they will contact the secretariat and the implementation committee after approval at the Board level. The secretariat and the implementation committee will discuss with the Director General in the Education ministry. The D/G in turn will identify the state schools where there is shortage for the deployment of the Volunteers.

#### Education and Publicity Committee,

In addition to volunteer work, they will arrange seminars and workshops for teachers in the state. They will actively publicise the activities of the organisation as well.

#### Culture and Social Welfare,

They will carry out research into our oral traditions , organise and transform this oral tradition into book forms, plays and other means of storage of information. Our culture is our life we must not lose it. They will seek to expunge the outdated tradition and enhance the practices that gives us pride as a people. This committee will also be charged with proper upbringing of our youths and assist those with learning disability.

#### Health Committee,

The terms of reference here will be to reduce the morbidity and mortality of our people after minor illnesses, reduce maternal and

peri-natal morbidity and mortality' and deaths on our roads. They will strive to improve the state of our hospitals, arrange for volunteer medical staff to man from time to time our rural hospitals and train the medical staff on modern methods. They will advocate and assist the completion of the State Specialist Hospital since abandoned, purchase ambulances and help train paramedic staff to man them.

Tourism Committee. Our travel to Edo Land for the two yearly conventions will bring financial benefits to the tourist industry. All Edos in Diaspora should help "sell" the state as a tourist destination for holidays to our friends and neighbours. Members of this committee will find ways and means to revive the tourist industry in the state.

Legal and Safety Committee,

They will be involved in drafting all the organisation's documents and act on the organisation's behalf in legal matters when necessary. They will also research on ways and means of reducing crimes and getting the muggers off our streets.

Finance Committee,

They will collect all the funds on behalf of the Edo Global Charity Organisation and run one account (the collection account) by direct debit which will be based in the USA or the UK and the implementation account (disbursement account) which will be based in Benin City. They will have the power to invest a percentage of our funds where capitals are guaranteed, operate a savings account to obtain interest on our funds, as well as an emergency account. A ceiling will be placed on the amount the finance committee can disburse. Beyond that ceiling, the signatories of at least one Director from the USA and one from Europe will be necessary. The suggestion that the levy should only be \$20 was unanimous and will be collected by direct debit for ease of accountability.

Audit Committee,

This will be external.

Edo Nation Association.

Strong reference to this organisation came up repeatedly and was described with various adjectives which decency will not allow me to repeat here. I disagreed completely with those calling for the demise of this association. It is my believe that ENA is well placed to further the interest of the Edo People along their own line but paying for thugs to do dirty jobs on its behalf will make all of us look like thugs and that is not our yearning.

Conclusion.

The first Global convention will be planned for summer 2003 to allow for adequate time for committees to organise and produce proposals for implementation. What we have presented here is framework to initiate the foundation.

Your first action as a committed Edo individual is to indicate the committee where you will be keen to serve. This is the time to join the Edo Global Charity train. Do not be left on the platform. You must not be dissuaded by any of the proposal as they are subject to change on popular demand at the convention.

Thank you.

Dr Stephen OGBONMWAN.

MBBS, FMCOG(Nig,),

M.MED. SCI (Assisted Reproduction),

MFFP, MRCOG(UK).