REVITALIZING & HARNESSING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIALS OF EGBIRALAND:

A PATHWAY to SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT and SELF SUFFICIENCY

REPORT DEC 2024

Credits

The symposium's proceedings are summarized in this report based on the interpretation of designated rapporteurs from special committee on sustainable development and renewable hope, Area 10 Elites Forums, Abuja Nigeria. This Report was neither review nor authorised by the participants. The symposium follows a modified Rotunda Rule.

Therefore, no extra attributions have been provided in the report beyond the speakers and the paper that were delivered and cited.

Chaiman of the Series: **Prof. Salawu Ayemi Jibril**

Editor: **Alhaji Yoonus Suleiman**

Copy-edited by: **Dr. Isa Karikat**

Rapporteurs: **Dr. Luqman Wuli**
Alhaji Ishaq Shuaib
Abdulqudus Imam

Designed and printed by:
Rash Ideal Kreations Ltd, Abuja

Maiden Report
December 2024

Revitalizing and Harnessing the Economic Potentials of Egbira land:
A Pathway to Sustainable Development and Self-Sufficiency



Our Story

Area 10 Elites Forum was a focal point for progressive reforms during this period, which saw efforts to make government more accountable, improve the living conditions, and address community issues like poverty, illiteracy and urban rehabilitation. A number of elites volunteered in Abuja and Kaduna emerged during this period to form a Progressive Elites Movement.

Volunteers came from diverse professional callings;

Businessmen, journalists, Civil servants, Activists, Private Individuals and Internationalists who were all heavily involved in their communities, built networks, and made lasting friendships. At their annual get-together in Abuja, representatives from different grassroots met up to celebrate good life every December and decided that, even though the primary aim was over, the movement was too important to be abandoned. They chose a time and location to meet again, back in Area 10, Garki, Abuja where they voted to incorporate and setup Area 10 Elite Forum.

Vision

To be a global Initiative and progressive forum that concerns with community growth, development and egalitarian distribution of wealth and resources with emphasis on Kogi Central of Nigeria.

Mission

Area 10 Elites Forum aims at reviving, preserving, and promoting the Egbira heritage and culture for economic and social development. It focuses on cultural pride, community empowerment,

collaboration, innovation, sustainability, and unity as its core values.

Area 10 Elites Forum shall mobilize citizens and advocates for, and defends, the well-being of our people within its communities.

Area 10 Elites Forum welcomes affiliation, collaboration and linkages with like-minded groups and individuals globally as it seeks to create progressive and constructive changes in Egbira land and beyond.

Area 10 Elites Forum shall make education its cornerstone that support both professional and academic efforts to any length as long as such engender progressive growth and ensure academic excellence.

Area 10 Elites Forum seeks to facilitate constructive dialogue and interface in order to promote global humanity and progressive unity of Egbira sons and daughters

Leadership

The Area 10 Elites Forum is governed by an Executive Committee elected by the Board of Trustee, which is in turn composed of subcommittees with unique responsibilities.

Isa Karikati,	Chairman
Abdulrahman Ahmed,	Vice-Chairman
Abdulqudus Imam,	Secretary
Yoonus Suleiman,	External Affairs Director
Luqman Wuli,	Financial Director
Abdulwahab Opiri,	Treasurer
Ishaq Shaib,	Counselor
Abdul Mumuni SI Bello,	Advisor

guests on all our occasion as it will remind attendees of our rich Egbira heritage, perhaps mentioning our lineage from the Kwararafa confederation and the historical significance of our Egbira land.

We thank all our organising committee for their present and selfless efforts, participation, and unwavering support, remember that your collective efforts are what has been driving the organisation forward.

We express our gratitude to His excellency Governor Ahmed Ododo who strongly received our visitation, he did not only recognise, but accepted and supported our initiative during our presentation. He urged us to serve as a brainbox and annex all opportunities to advise our political leaders. Our appreciation also goes to Professor Ahmad Okene Abere, for his guidance and wisdom. Also, our infinite thanks to our donors especially our brother Engr. Daud Abere for sponsorship and financial support. The Chairman urge members to work together, emphasizing the strength in collective action and a shared sense of purpose. We further encourage everyone to contribute their best efforts to move the group forward and build upon its foundations.

We once again welcome all of you to please take advantage of the lectures that will be delivered by our luminaries' professors and other special guest speakers with reputation. At the conclusion of this events, the conversation will be beneficial to our government, business entrepreneurs, emerging youths, students and those at mantle of leadership and financial contribution.

Program of Event

Date: Thursday-19/12/2024 **Time:** 2PM **Venue:** Arts and Culture Auditorium, Area 10, Garki, Abuja]

2PM–3PM	Arrival/Registration at the Cyprian Ekwensi's Art and Culture Auditorium, Area 10, Abuja
	Introduction of Guests and Dignitaries to The High Table
3PM	OPENING PRAYER:
3:05pm - 3:15pm	CHIEF HOST ADDRESS:
3:15PM - 3:30PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Preservation and Documentation of Egbira History
Session 1 3:30PM- 3:50PM	Revitalising And Harnessing the Economic Potentials of Egbiraland: A Pathway to Sustainable Development and Self Sufficiency
3:50PM - 4:00PM	Governor's Remarks:
Session 2	
Discussant 1	
Discussant 2	
Discussant 3	
Discussant 4	
4.00PM - 4:10PM	Presentation of Souvenir

8. WORDS OF ADVICE FROM OUR DIGNITARIES

9. REFRESHMENT: PLATED MEAL/LIVE MUSIC/DJ ENTERTAINMENT)

10. VOTE OF THANKS

TABLE OF CONTENT

Our Story, Vision and Mission ▶ ii-iii

Credits ▶ iv

Program of Event ▶ v

Opening Statement by:
Dr. Isa Karikati
The Chairman Area 10 Elites Forum ▶ 1-2

Keynotes Address by:
Prof A.O Ahmed
Provost, National Defence College, Abuja
The History of Egbira land ▶ 3-7

REVITALISING AND HARNESSING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIALS OF EGBIRA LAND: A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY
BY: **PROF ZAKAREE SAHEED**
Economics Lecturer
Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna. ▶ 8-19

Discussants ▶ 20-23

Observation ▶ 24-25

Recommendation ▶ 25

Agric Farming, Cotton Farming the Textiles Industry ▶ 26

Education, Partnership ▶ 27

Social Engagement and Conclusion ▶ 28-29

Closing Remark ▶ 30-31

Participants ▶ 32-36

Photo Speaks ▶ 37-46

Opening Statement
By
Dr. Isa Karikati
The Chairman
Area 10 Elites Forum

The chairman organising committee, Dr. Isa Karikati, welcome to all attendees, including elders, stakeholders, all our guest and dignitaries to this event. The annual event which started some years ago by friends of the like mind is to evaluate the challenges facing the Egbira people both at home and those in the diaspora with a view to addressing them. He highlighted some of the successes they have recorded over the years, through the association. While responding to questions from Journalists, Karkati said the association would expand this year's event to reflect on some of the positive developments that happened in the lives of sons and daughters of Egbira, especially the victory of Governor Ododo at the last election and subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Court.

According to him, the Area 10 Elites Forum is neither political or a religion group, rather social cultural forums of elites aim at discussing and addressing the challenges facing our immediate society and the people. As elites, our members are drawn from various works of live such as academician, successful business men and women, civil servants and technocrat attaining greater heights in their endeavours.

The yearly event is celebrated every December at, Abuja to discuss the challenges facing our society. It's expected that every citizen of Egbira living in the Federal Capital Territory will continue to be our

Economic and Occupation

Looking into history; values, ethos, industry, valor, courage, hardworking, creativity, oneness. The nature of the physical environment of Egbira influenced not only the land tenure system but also agricultural practices which in fact were the main determinant of the people's economy. Agricultural production was geared towards both domestic consumption. Almost every household, which was the basic unit of production, was involved in farming.

Apart from fishing and hunting, which complemented farming, the Egbira economy also to some extent depended on local industries and craft production like iron technology and blacksmithing, textiles dyeing, wood carving and basket, mat and raffia weaving. The Egbira are highly organised in politics and production; as far back and according to Henry Barth (1851) saw Egbira cloth in Kurmi market. His conclusion to this session is an assertion that it's an exclusively female preserve, the distinct technique employed by the Egbira textiles producers was vertically mounted single loom system, locally called Oguntoro. The Egbira cloth weaving had undergone series of styles, patterning and specailization that made it excellent and one of the best in the Western Sudan before the advent of the British rule.

KEYNOTES ADDRESS
By
Prof A.O Ahmed

Provost, National Defence College Abuja

Prof A.O Ahmed is a respected historian who has written extensively on the history of Egbira land, focusing on its colonial conquest, economic transformations, and cultural development. His works, such as the book; **The Transformation of Egbira land and articles on the British conquest.** The Professor, in his keynote address at the annual lecture of Area 10 Elites Forum, Abuja, started of his lecture, by providing insights into the historical, military, and socio-economic aspects of the Egbira people and their interaction with other tribes in Northern Nigeria.

Commendation; history of groups of this nature, economic group, politics, academics group, support cohorts, search & rescue advocacy, financial interventionist consortium, donor agencies, democratic and economic pressure group etc.

History of Egbira

According to Professor Abere, the history of Egbira is long one; language, the people and their land, their culture before 10th century, Egbira people existed at the Northeast, by 14th century they flourished in central Nigeria around the current Gongola Rivers, Taraba, Benue, Adamawa etc.

Thereafter, they moved into the current areas of Igu, Opanda, Etuno & Okene .

The Egbiras, are the people of Okene, Okehi, Adavi and Ajaokuta local government areas of Kogi State. The word “Egbira” refers to the people themselves, their language and their geographical location. Using the name of the most popular town of the land, we may refer to them as Egbira Okene. Other Egbira groups are Egbira Igu in Kogi and Koton Karfi local government areas of Kogi state; Egbira Toto and Umaisha of Nassarawa Toto local government area of Nassarawa state; Egbira Mozum of Bassa local government area of Kogi state; and Egbira Etuno of Igarra District of Ako-Edo local government area of Edo state. Other Egbiras are to be found in Abaji in the Federal Capital Territory and Agatu in Benue State.

The Egbira people through their hard working are known to have brought civilization to the areas they went, such as craft, land management, trades, warrior-ship, which today they are known for. He thereafter emphasises on the preservation and documentation of Egbira history, saying proper document will help our children from consuming the conjecture and fabrication history.

Culture of Egbira People in Kogi Central

Masquerade is not part of Egbira Culture, Prof Abere Declares, that farming, craft making are the culture of Egbira people and that masquerade was never part of the history of Egbira people, it is a borrowed culture which is been practiced by many ethnic groups like Igbo, Yoruba, Igala and host of others in Nigeria.

The Six Clan of Egbira

Egbira Itaazi has 6 children and all the children found the district in Egbira land, the six children are the primary founders of the lineages, which further expanded into numerous sub-clans that form the present-day social structure of the Ebira Tao people.

The largest socio-political unit among the Egbira was the clan-group locally called Ekura. About six of such clan-groups that survive to the present are; Okengwe, Okehi, Adavi, Eika, Ihima, and Eganyi. The head of each was priest-chief (Ohinoyi-ete). Each group was made up of the believe that they had distant patrilineal. For instance, the Okengwe group like others comprised of different clan as indicated in the table below with strong blood tie. Though each was self-autonomous, they however related on issues of common concern.

	Group	**Several Clans Blood Tie**
1	Okengwe-Uga the founder of Okengwe	Agada and Okovi
2	Eika-Obaji the founder of Eika Ehi	Ododo and Obaji
3	Adavi-Adaviruku who found Adavi	Uka, Aniku, Uhami, Upopo Uvete, Adeika
4	Ihima-Ochuga/Ododo the founder of Ihima.	Emani, Ohionowa, Ohuete Oha, Odumi
5	Eganyi-Ohunene the founder of Eganyi	Eheda, Onoko, Esugu,Ogodo, OnoguEde, Ogu, Aniku

indigenes. For instance, most of the economic ventures in Kogi Central are not owned by the indigenes. In fact, many family houses have been sold out to non-indigenes for business and other economic activities.

According to Adam Smith (1776), no society can be flourishing and happy of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable. A nation is not made wealthy by the childish accumulation of wealth at the centre, but it enriched by economic prosperity of its citizens. Your Excellency, I believe you have what it takes to propel the land towards achieving a competitive advantage through our factor endowment.

Establishing a Vision and Mission of Egbira land.
To calm a crying baby, a mother must understand the problem and what the baby needs. Only then can she provide a solution. Similarly, the first task in effective management is defining and understanding the mission. As a nation, as a State, as a people, what is our Vision and Mission, what are the vision and mission of Egbira land? Understanding where we have been, where we are, and where we want to be is essential for navigating the way forward.

An individual or nation without a destination cannot lose their way. A clearly defined vision and mission form the foundation for policy formulation and the establishment of a national agenda, which should guide our representatives, Local Government chairmen and others, irrespective of the ruling party. Socioeconomic solutions must align with our vision and mission; otherwise, governance risks becoming a series of trials and errors.

CONCLUSION/WAY OUT

- **Inter group relations with Igala, Kabba, Koton-karfi & other groups In Kogi state, etc**
- **Education:** massive investment in education by the state govt, private organizations and individual philanthropists
- **Economic Development:** nothing stops us from having in Kogi central gari and yam markets in Egbira land
- **Supporting Diasporas:** by backward linkage. They constituted mass voters during the elections in Kogi state and other states; farm implements, fertilizer, scholarships for their children etc
- **Health:** emphasis in primary health care
- **Utilities:** water, electricity, roads cottage industries etc
- **Documentation & Research:** we must speak and celebrate our achievements literary. Here academics and PR groups counts here.

REVITALISING AND HARNESSING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIALS OF EGBIRA LAND: A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

BY
PROF ZAKAREE SAHEED
Ph.D (Devt. Econs; Indo), M.Sc. (Mgt; Indo),
B.Sc. (Econs;Indo), FMNES, FCAI
Department of Economics
Faculty of Management Sciences
Nigerian Defence Academy
Kaduna.

A PAPER PRESENTED AT THE
AREA 10 ELITES FORUMS 2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE
HELD AT ARTS AND CULTURE
AUDITORIUM,
AREA 10, GARKI, ABUJA
DATE: 19 DECEMBER, 2024

REVITALISING AND HARNESSING THE ECONOMIC POTENTIALS OF EGBIRALAND: A PATHWAY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Introduction

In December, 2016, I was invited to Okene, where I delivered a paper on **Power Shift in Kogi State: Political and Economic Implication for the People of Egbira land.** I narrated in my paper, that individual or group within a region or state often compete for power whether political power, social power or economic power. In my submission, I told the gathering that if I was to choose for Egbira, I would have preferred Economic Power to Political power as at then. However, since Egbira was then holding the Political power, the question then was what next?

With the political power shifted to the Central, the main challenge remain a how to transform the political power into economic power for the people of Egbira. Economic power can be thought of as self-sustainability and the ability to resist external control or influence, because of over dependence on external suppliers is sufficiently diverse to preclude vulnerability to outside pressure, especially when “a hungry man is not always free”.

Unfortunately, no any senatorial zone in Kogi State can be categorically said to hold any of these powers. There is no clear evidence that any of the senatorial zones in the state has made or making any attempt to acquire economic or social power to balance the equation rather they are preoccupied with pursuit of political power, while the economic power of the state is left to foreigners and non-

Establishment of a Gari Processing Cottage Industry in Egbira land.

Kogi State is endowed with vast arable land and a favorable climate for cassava cultivation. Despite this advantage, the region lacks adequate processing facilities, leading to significant post-harvest losses and limited income for farmers. The establishment of a Garri Processing Cottage Industry will:

- Provide a market for local cassava farmers and empower local farmers and processors through training and capacity building
- Reduce post-harvest losses through timely processing.
- Generate employment opportunities, especially for women and youth.
- Improve the economic well-being of the community.
- Increase the availability of high-quality garri in local and regional markets

Funding Sources:

- Government grants and subsidies.
- Loans from agricultural banks.
- Contributions from local cooperatives.
- Partnerships with NGOs and development agencies.

Enriching the Masses to Enrich the Nation.

There should be a paradigm shift to the strategy of **enriching the masses to enrich the nation/state.** However, according to Niccolo Machiavelli, “There is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to manage, than to initiate a new order of things. for the initiator has the enmity of all who would profit by the preservation of the old system, and merely lukewarm defenders in those who would gain by the new one. Niccolò Machiavelli observed, “The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.” It is not about working with those who can fit into your vision, but who share your vision and mission.

The best way to develop people is to empower them based on their endowment factor. Our land can attain greatness economically if we are able to identify and harness our endowment factors towards the development and benefit of the community and the people. One of the economic potentials of the people of Egbira land lies in the craft of cloth weaving. It is a well-known fact that the Egbira women, both old and young, are experts in the craft of weaving.

However, the art is dying a gradual death as the younger generations have abandoned this cultural heritage, and the next generation may not even know about it. The craft is no longer seen as a means of livelihood, because the government and the societies are not encouraging the development of the art, whereas, the craft of cloth weaving in itself, is a profession with the potential of generating employments for the youth.

To revitalize the art and make it a viable profession, Your Excellency, it has to be institutionalized it. The first step towards achieving this is to establish an Institute of Traditional Egbira Cloth Weaving Craft, or Weaving Craft Vocational and Skill Acquisition Centers, where modern skill of the craft can be developed to make the products more competitive in the national and regional market. You can only value what you have if only you understand its usefulness, The center will not only train on the craft of producing it but also on effective utilization in producing other products like cap, hand bag, office bags, Ties, shoes, interior decoration and even belts. History has it that our traditional weaving clothes was first used for military belts during the civil war, indicating that beyond sewing into wears, the traditional clothe can be designed into various products.

Home demand plays a significant role in upgrading competitive advantage. Through continuous demand for the traditional clothe there will be improvement in the quality and standard that can make it gain competitiveness. Demand for the product can increase when the consumers are able to identify new ways of using the product. Your Excellency, your government can contribute to the domestic demand for the product by directing all public schools in the Egbiraland to adopt our traditional clothes for uniform: shorts/trousers for boys and skirts for female. Also, civil servants in the senatorial zone should have a day in a week when they use traditional clothes to office. This will increase demand for the clothes thereby improve productivity.

Furthermore, there will be need for a shopping complex in Egbiraland exclusive for the sales of the materials only. This will attract customers from within and outside the land. This will in turn has a trickle-down effect on other sectors like cottons, threads and other weaving materials.

Agriculture

For want of arable land for farming, our farmers have to travel far across the western and eastern part of the country to farm. From Edo State to Ondo State, the Egbira farmers engage in subsistence farming using the traditional and less productive technology to produce food for many communities. Their productivity is limited by the available piece of land, and the outdated traditional farm implements. They work in the farms all year round, and their rewards are nothing to write home about. Consequently, while some crops can be identified with some regions in Nigeria, for example, Onion, beans and groundnut are identified with the northern Nigeria, the western part of Nigeria are identified with crops like cocoa, coffee and kolanut, the eastern and southern part are identified with palm kennel. However, there is no single farm product that has been categorically identified with Egbira land. It is not the limited output that make them unknown but the packaging. Ijebu Garrri is not the best in the market, but the brand is well known across the nation and even outside the country, due to the promotion given to it by the people of the region. What our people need is Community Economy, where the people form a cluster, and they are empowered on how to produce and packaged quality brand of garri with a brand name of Egbira Garri. The product can be exported and sold across the country.

have expected our historian to have written a book on the likes of “Achehuru Obanyi”, and Sule Adeiku and “Ikede” in Egbiraland. It would have helped the young generation to know about their land.

Impact of Ajaokuta Steel on the Economic Growth of Kogi Central.

The completion of Ajaokuta Steel may be a blessing to the people of the state, since it has the potential of generating thousands of job opportunities for the people, where they can earn income and improve their standards of living. But can it be a source of economic power to Egbira land?

An increase income will lead to increase in demand for goods and services. The increase in people's income through the salary earn from Ajaokuta will improve their purchasing power, and increase their demand for goods and services include accommodation, hotels, recreational centers, Supermarkets/Malls, and modern restaurants. How many of these are available and owned by the Egbirans in the area? Where the goods are not available, the people's demand will be channel to other cities like Lagos and Abuja. By implication, people would be earning their income in Ajaokuta but spend it somewhere else.

Conclusion

The socioeconomic challenges in Egbiraland are profound but not insurmountable. It only requires a visionary leader like we have in Your Excellency, the governor, strategic planning, and collaborative problem-solving, efficient policies, citizen

Cashew Processing Cottage Industry

Nigeria is one of the largest producers of cashew nuts in Africa, with significant potential for value addition through local processing. Establishing a cashew processing cottage industry will not only create employment opportunities but also increase the income of local farmers, boost exports, and contribute to rural development. It will add value to raw cashew nuts through local processing; create employment opportunities for local communities, especially women and youth; reduce post-harvest losses and support rural development and poverty alleviation

Establishing a cashew processing cottage industry in Egbira land is a viable venture with significant socio-economic benefits. With an initial investment of NGN 8,850,000 and strategic planning, the project has the potential to generate sustainable income and contribute to rural development.

Establishing a Quarry in Egbira land.

The establishment of a quarry in Egbira land, aimed at extracting and processing granite and other construction aggregates to meet the growing demand in the construction industry. With the rapid urbanization and infrastructure development in Nigeria, there is a rising need for high-quality construction materials that are readily available across Egbiraland. This project will provide economic and social benefits to the host community and stakeholders.

The establishment of a quarry in Egbiraland represents a profitable business opportunity, driven by high demand in the construction sector.

With strategic planning, adherence to regulatory standards, and community engagement, the project will generate significant economic, social, and environmental benefits

Farmers Market

Agricultural or Farmers markets exist worldwide and reflect the people's culture and economy. Such markets are traditional open places where agricultural and domestically produced goods are traded, and where people from the neighbouring communities can converge to transact business. Some of the markets may be on weekly or fortnight basis. A weekly or fortnight market day is a part of normal life in villages and town squares throughout the world, particularly in sub-Sahara Africa. A market day provides opportunity for travelers to sample local foods and learn about local culture, especially when it coincides with a festival.

Agricultural or Farmers markets can be very beneficial to a local community because they provide advantages for the consumers, the farmers, and the local area itself, including the commercial drivers. Part of the money gained at farmers' markets remain in the community, whilst creating local jobs and raising incomes in the community. In Egbiraland, the women travel near and far to neighbouring towns like Ibilo in Edo State, Ose, Ayere, Ago Panu and Ajowa in Ondo State to trade. In the past such markets existed in Bariki, Manaka and Ajaokuta. However, environmental and social factors hampered their growth, hence no neighbouring towns visit any market in Egbiraland because such market no longer exist. The farmers market should be

established, anywhere between Osara and Ogaminana, and Check-Point area towards Ajaokuta road which are links between the South and the north especially, for travelers to Abuja who plight the route. This will bring our land to lime light, and boost the economy of our land, but must be in a friendly atmosphere.

Cultural Economy

If the Osun festival in Osun State and “Eyo” festival in Lagos state could attract both local and international tourists thereby contributing to the growth of those states economy. Our culture should be made attractive to outsiders especially now that every state and country are doing everything possible to attract foreign tourists and investors. Foreign tourists who come to the land to watch a festival may be thirsty and need a pure water, drinks, food and even need hotel accommodation. Any amount spend on any of these items will contribute to the economy of the state.

Even our historians failed to detect the economic benefit of our culture. I was a kid when I have been hearing fabulous stories about a masquerade called “Adokita” and his drummer “Onoko”. I was not opportune to watch him live during his active days, but from all I have heard about him, I am sure many people would consider him an “Icon” in his own right. One would have expected his costumes and the talking drum of “Onoko” to be kept in our museum if we have any, as part of our history.
If “Adokita” and “Onoko” could have been from other part of this country, researchers and historians must have written many books about them for the benefit of history. Just like one would

political power, government should be people oriented, harnessing resource to support empowerment in order to enhance poverty alleviation as it tends to permanently lift the people from worrying condition.

v. Political, Economic and Social power are foundations for sustainable development. However, emphasis and advocacy on social power is done through gathering of this nature to brainstorm towards problem solving, where such is entrenched.

vi. A collaborative foundation with our youths should be developed for them to discover their potential. The idle mind they say is the devil's workshop. The high level of insecurity such as incidence of kidnapping, ritual killing, internet fraud is manifesting among our youths. An achievable sustainable government policy and program is highly required to address the societal ills in Egbira land and Nigeria as a whole.

vii. Rather than seeking for unavailable white collar jobs, people should venture into physical productive activities to backup with university degrees.

viii. **Skill acquisition program:** Egbira as a whole has just one technical school, we therefore appeal to Kogi state government to establish more technical schools across Kogi Central senatorial district to enhance skill acquisition.

participation, and a focus on inclusive growth. It requires unity of all, the Governor, the Senator representing Kogi Central, House of Representatives from all Kogi Central constituencies, and the Local Government Chairmen must be on same page for the benefit of our land. According to Asian sayings, **Kita ini ibarat laut, jika dilewati kapal kita akan terpisah, apabila kapal itu sudah lewat kita kembali bersatu..**

“We are like an ocean, when a ship passes over us, we are divided into different parts, but when the ship leaves, we will be back together as one unit again...” There is need to come together and work toward the greatness of our land.

Discussants

After the presentation from our guest speakers on revitalising and harnessing the economic potentials of Egbira land: a pathway to sustainable development and self-sufficiency, eminent discussants and the speakers made their assertive statements on the subject matter, focusing on how the well-meaning and hard working indigenes can take advantage to explore the God given natural resource endowed in Egbira land. Their deliberations were directed to annex and draw from what is already available that will increase us in wealth and further eliminate the current level of societal ill in our land. The presenters with empirical evidence show how Egbira culture promote unity and peace among our forefathers, throwing lights on our known occupations such as farming, cloth waving and among others that Egbira people are known for. The foregoing summaries of presentation tends to provide an insight to comprehence and enhance components of our rich cultures and traditions which needs preservation and documentation of Egbira history.

The contribution from our discussants is paragraph as follows:

i **Prof. Salawu Jibril** denoted that Egbira people are by nature very intelligent, hardworking and focus in their respective endeavours. What is presently requires is to maintain the trend of their trace characters as it need to be passed on to the upcoming generations.

ii. Further to his assessment, he emphasized that food is a basic essential of life and the Egbiras are known to have contributed

largely to food production through consistent farming in Ekiti, Ondo, Edo and Ogun State that enhance agricultural activities.

iii. **The role of education he said enhance agriculture activities in commercial production that ease food security, therefore state and federal government at all level should strive to:**

a. empower farmers with modern equipment to yield high production level

b. Help to source and provide high quality seeds

c. High quantity breed for animal production. In his conclusion, he encourages farmers to engage in all year farming, thereby shifting away from seasonal activities which can be achieved if government provide infrastructure for irrigation as this seems to improve the principle of visible hand. Empowering by way of entrepreneur will take the people of Egbira and Nigeria in general out of the present level of poverty.

iv. Another discussant queried the under utilisation of intellectuality of Egbira people as asserted, maintaining that their brain power if properly explored can equally be translated matching into Economic Power. In the current dispensation, where the Egbiras are endowed to the top mantle of

In essence, our people's journey toward sustainable economic development and prosperity is a collective endeavor that requires commitment, collaboration, and perseverance. By working together and staying focused on long-term goals, The Egbiras can achieve its prominence in Kogi State as a beacon of growth, opportunity, and progress on the national stage.

1. **Agric Farming;** Modern Farming, the nature of the physical environment of our settlement influenced not only the land tenure system but also agricultural practices which in fact were the main determinant of our economy. Therefore, agricultural production should today be geared towards both domestic and commercial consumption, this can be enhanced through application of modern farming technique sourcing loan from government and private partnership.

   Cotton Farming, **the textiles industry:** Cotton, the main raw material of the industry, is a crop of antiquity with the Egbiras. the soil of which was fortunately very favourable for its commercial cultivation. While our men are encouraged to advance in production of cotton farming, the women will enjoy its availability as a source of raw material for textiles waving which is exclusively preserved for female, the distinct technique employed by the Ebira textiles producers was vertically mounted single loom system, locally called Oguntoro.

ix. Vocational studies should be embedded in our school curriculums to pave way for wider awareness creation.

x. **Rehabilitation of dilapidated Schools.** Some, among many of our public-school buildings in Egbira land are out of sight, classrooms are unattended, while previous and present government efforts are highly recognised, we crave the kind indulgence of Kogistate government to please touch those schools that required urgent attentions.

xi. **Provision of pipe borne water:** water is our major problem; we are again pleading with Kogi state governor who has taking governance to the next level to please live a footprint.

xii. **Farmer's loan:** To reduce food inflation and uncertainty of food insecurity, farmer's loan should be spread thereby encouraging the small-scale farmers and dry season farming activity that boost production.

Observation

There are few points that I would like to highlight following today's discussions as taking home messages:

i. The first take home message is that we have to recognised that our history and the preservation of our heritage is to the infinite, because of inadequate learning from well informed source, our children and the further generation are beginning to experience a lost record.

ii. To guarantee the right to know for our present and future generation, we must pursue a greater investment revisiting our monumental past as Professor Ahmed postulated in his lecture, the absence of adequate historical market is incentives for a lost generation.

iii. The insufficient attention paid by educational institutions and actors to develop a sound curriculum for all schools in Egbira land could lead to dangerous adrenal imbalances in the body of our children, which carry a heavy price. It was said that history as a subject must be part of subjects taught in our schools to enhance sustainable development.

iv. The importance of investing in innovative farming was underlined today as well in the cloth waving should be reconsidered. It has been observed and stated that greater investments are required from governments to address unmet business needs such as this.

v. Collaboration, Sharing and Public Private Partnerships are the key factors. The lecture reminded us that, only collaborative project can lead in breakthrough. Egbira land is blessed with natural resources and we as people are hard working. For this reason, we create initiative to explore what is beneath the ground, facilitate the cooperation among the entrepreneur. And, this is true in all our case.
Only a strong collaboration between governments and community can achieve our common goals.

Recommendation

In conclusion, Egbiraland and her people is presently at a grave in its quest for economic prosperity and sustainable development.

However, the symposium has geared participant to explore the potential pathways for people of Egbira land to ascend as a dominant force in Kogi economy by the years ahead. Egbira land, is endowed with abundant natural resources, a large and youthful population, and a strategic geographical location, possesses the essential elements for economic ascendancy. However, significant challenges, including institutional inefficiencies, infrastructural deficits, and socio-political complexities, currently hinder its progress.

Moreover, fostering regional and international partnerships, embracing sustainable development practices, and fostering a conducive business environment are vital for sustained growth and competitiveness.

Closing Remark

The closing remark was given by the Vice chairman in person of **Alhaji Abdulrahman Ahmed**

Distinguished guests and participants, I would like to thank you on behalf of the organizers for sacrificing your valuable time and cost not only to grace our first outdoor annual lecture but to make live and a memorable event. It is indeed my pleasure to make a few closing remarks and express gratitude to all those who made this event a reality.

We thank the guest speakers for their invaluable insights and for making the symposium a success, highlighting how their expertise inspired and informed the audience. Conclude by expressing gratitude to everyone involved and looking forward to future collaborations.

To our guest speakers: To our esteemed guest speakers **Prof AO Ahmed** and **Prof ZS Saheed** on behalf of Area 10 Elites Forums, we extend our sincere gratitude for your time and expertise." Your presentations on topics were truly insightful and has left a lasting impression on us all." "Thank you for sharing your knowledge and for making our annual symposium a memorable success."

To the audience: "We would also like to thank everyone for your participation and for making this event a vibrant exchange of ideas. Thank you to all our attendees, organizers, and partners for your contributions. We hope you found this symposium to be a valuable learning experience, and we look forward to seeing you at our future events."

Craft production like iron technology and blacksmithing, textiles dyeing, wood carving and basket, mat and raffia weaving. Apart from fishing and hunting, which complemented farming, the Egbira economy also to some extent depended on local industries

2. **Education:** The deplorable condition of some local primary and secondary schools in most of our communities are becoming a source of public mockery, old and had never been renovated over decades. The institutions had deteriorated severely, with teachers and principals forced to abandoned their classrooms and office during rain. Numerous classrooms becoming unusable. Having recognised the governor's commitment to development across all communities in Kogi state, Area 10 Elites Forum is pleading with our governor in his generosity to consider restoration.

3. **Partnership;** Private partnership, through a comprehensive analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in Egbiraland and her people, this symposium has also outlined strategic initiatives and policy frameworks necessary for sustainable development not only for people of Egbira but for Nigeria and the global world. We therefore recommend that by leveraging its diverse resources, investing and private partnership with government and well meaning business individuals among Egbira sons and daughters both at home and in diaspora to foster innovation and

entrepreneurship, youth unemployment that will mitigate current societal ills and insecurity being experience.

4. **Social Engagement;** Social engagement through symposiums and social events such as this annual interaction offers a wide range of benefits, from community building, creating awareness, professional growth and knowledge sharing to personal well-being.

   These events create valuable opportunities for networking, skill development, creating access to investors, or partnerships, helping to drive business growth, efficient transfer of knowledge and accelerated learning, addressing the innate human need for connection, together, leaders, policymakers, and industry experts can influence the development of new policies and strategies. And finally, it helps to develop essence of belonging and collaboration among various communities. This sense of community is crucial for overall happiness and resilience of Egbiraland.

Conclusion

Our enviable Professor of Development Economy at Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Professor Zakaree Saheed who presented a paper on "revitalizing and harnessing the economic potential of Egbiraland: pathway to sustainable development and self-sufficiency" has identified some economic potential areas, where the people of Kogi Central can thrive, such as;

- Agriculture
- Cashew Processing Plant
- Mining
- Quarry Business

According to him, full quarry business is possible because the city is surrounded by rocks, which can be processed into various sizes of aggregates for construction companies. Talking about funding sources.

As-of-today:

- Today we achieved an important milestone,
- Today we are no longer alone in Kogi State but a dominant tribe in five states and FCT
- Today we are not a silent minority in Nigeria anymore,
- Today our voice was heard.
- Today we can finally focus on finding concrete solutions for people living in Egbiraland,
- Today the right to know our heritage and culture of millions of Egbira nation starts to be respected!

Egbira which denote good behaviours represent our name, tribe, language and geographical settlement. Egbira people are peace loving, not violate by nature and we should not allow our youths to become one. Therefore, there is need for our people to make sacrifices for Egbira land, a place we call home. We cannot continue to look for ourselves in the shadows of other tribes, we should continue to find ourselves in the light by rebuilding and giving back to our community.

44	Alh. Shaib Isa	Businessman-Kaduna
45	Alh. Isa Oba Sule	Businessman
46	Alh. Muhammed Bahir	Businessman
47	Ismaila Ajoge	Businessman
48	Umar Abdullahi Ohikere	Businessman
49	Kabir Ewenyi Peter	Dept of Transport, FCDA
50	Dahiru Musa Abdullahi	Fmr CBN Staff
51	Dr Sani Abdullahi Ozamata	SSA. Kogi State Government
52	Alh. Abdulrahim Ahmed	NIA (Retired)
53	Tijani Abdulsalam	Businessman
54	Salihu Yakubu	Assistant Chief (QS FCDA)
55	Aliyu Bello	Spacewatch Publication
56	Yahaya Sanni Ogedenbge	Businessman
57	Dahiru Salihu	Printer, UTC -Abuja
58	Ogara Abdulrazaq Uthman	Educational Consulting (Unilfe)
59	Alh. Suleiman Ibrahim	Businessman
60	Dr. Muhammed Suleyman	Fmr. Dirc., FCDA
61	Yusuf Hassan Oriyo	Businessman
62	Abdulrahman Abdulrasheed	Rash Ideal Kreation, Abuja
63	Suleiman Bello	Dir. National Population (Retired)
64	Nurudeen Seidu Osama	Photographer
65	Ahmed Baba	Businessman
66	Suleiman Okueyete	Businessman

As we had this fruitful discussion, I would like to close this day with an appeal to Egbira sons and daughters that we as people has the capacity to make a different and improve our well-being.

Thank you so much to each one of you to pave the way of making lecture as our people priority.

Participants

S/N	Names	Organisation
1	Prof. A.O Ahmed	NDC, Abuja
2	Prof. Zakaree Saheed	NDA, Kaduna
3	Prof. Salawu A. Jibril	ATBU, Bauchi
4	Prof. Abdulraheem Momoh	ABU, Zaria
5	Prof. Suleiman Otuoze	ABU, Zaria
6	Prof. Abdulkabir Raji	FUT, Minna
7	Prof. Musa Saliu	FUT, Yola
8	Dr. Rekiya Yusuf	Director, CBN
9	Dr. LuqmanWuli	Deputy Director, FCDA
10	Dr. Isa Karikati	Harvard Security Consult
11	Ahmed Abdulrahman	Security Exchange Commission
12	Yoonus Suleiman	Head, Marketing (AIT)
13	Alh. Imam Qudus	Deputy Dir. AMAC
14	Alh. Wahab Opiri	Asst Dir. National Assembly
15	Alh. Ishaq Shaibu	Ministry of Agric
16	Alh. Abdulmumeen SI Bello	Mayas Insurance Brokers
17	Engr Dauda Abere	CEO Goedata World
18	Alh. Ismaila Saliu Aliyu	Touch Down Travel
19	Hon. Abdulraheem Abdulmalik Danga	Member House of Representative
20	Dr. Jimoh Abubakar	Former Dir. NAFDAC
21	Engr. Idris Araga	NDA, Kaduna
22	Muhammed Abdulsalam	Businessman
23	Qs. Musa Ibrahim	CEO. Fismas Consult Ltd
24	Arc. Shuaib Sadiq	Dir. Nat. Open University of Nig
25	Musa Owuda	Publisher
26	Mohammed Bilal Omeiza Abubakar	Blue Print Media
27	Abdul Mumuni Isa	Former Dir. CBN, Abuja.
28	Abdulsalam Maikarfi	CBN, Retired
29	Alh. Abdulmumuni Abdulrahman	Printing Press, Abuja
30	Abdullahi Isa Gomina	Businessman
31	Aliyu Ahmed Adoke	Ray Power FM, Abuja
32	Alh. Suleiman Ibrahim	Businessman
33	Alh. Muhammed Suberu	Former Dir. Fed Min of Power
34	Alh Abdulrasaq Laremo	Dir of Education FCDA
35	Alh. Mumuni Isa	Dir. FCDA
36	Svyr Musa Adams	Fmr Dir. Fed Min of Housing
37	Alh. Suleima Isa	Otaru Egbira Lugbe
38	Alh. Hon. Abdullahi Bello	Former Speak Kogi State
39	Hon. Sanni Abdul	Former Comm. Kogi State
40	Alh. Dauda Bello	ICPC, Retired
41	Alh Ahmed Abdulwahid	Fmr. Dir. Foreign Affair
42	Alh Chogudo Aliu Suleiman	Fmr Dir Min of Hum Affair
43	Alh. Iliya Idris Anda	Businessman



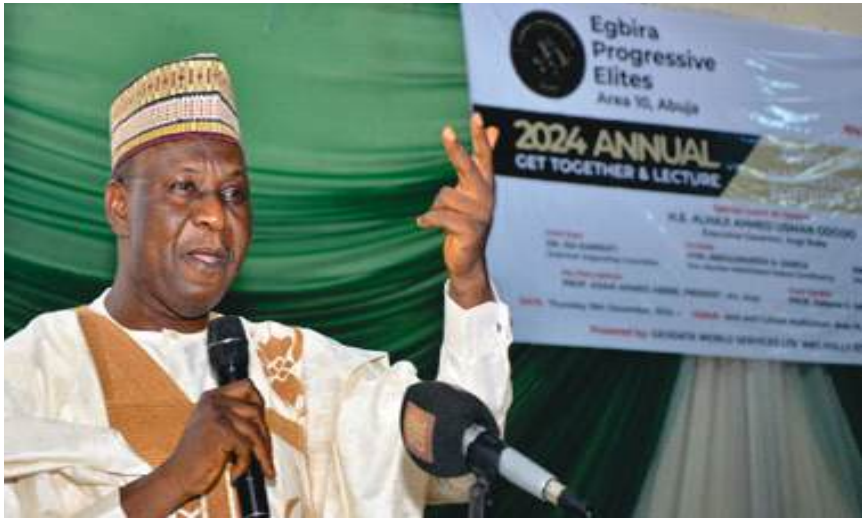


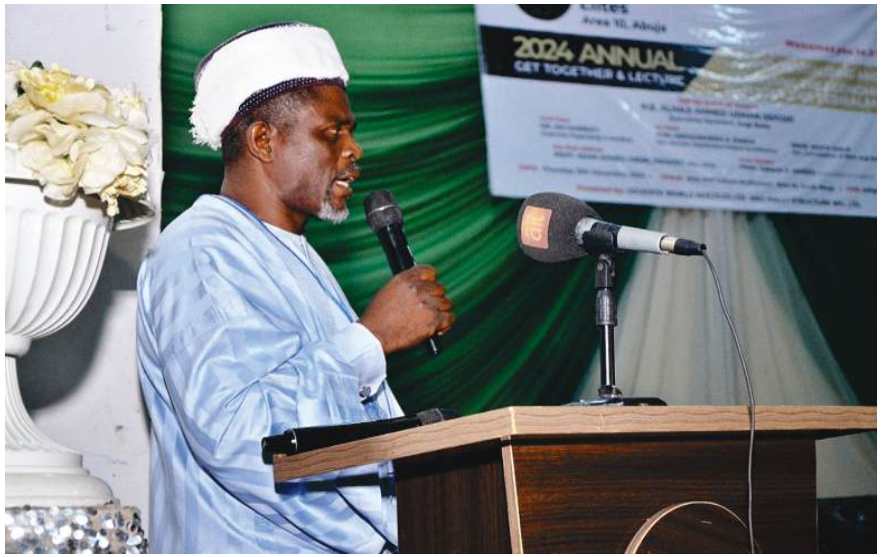
67	Muhammad Sanni Aliyu	Photography
68	Josephe Anivasa	Dir. Internal Affairs (Retired)
69	Alh. Azeez Suberu	Retired Banker
70	Muhammed Bello	Fmr. Dir. Radio Nigeria
71	Abdulmumuni Anivasa	Min. of Industry
72	Engr. Sanusi Obatemi	Businessman
73	Nasir Idris	Businessman
74	Onsachi Abdulmumuni	Businessman
75	Haruna Suberu Adaja	Businessman
76	Musa Dan Suleiman	Businessman
77	Isah Ogirima Sheidu	Businessman
78	Abdulwaheed Imam	FCT-UBEB
79	Pharm Musa Bello	Director FCDA
80	SP Hussein Audu	Nigeria Police
81	Jimoh Mas'ud	Radio Nigeria
82	Abdul Jamah Imam	Businessman
83	Bello Jimoh Mohammed	Businessman
84	Abdulkareem Sanusi	Businessman
85	John Obakachi	Businessman
86	Ibrahim Aliyu	NTA, Abuja
87	Alh. Muhammed Suberu	Fmr. Dir Fed Min of Power

88	Abdul Akoko MJ	Hon. Banker
89	Sheidu Nurudeen	Deen Digital Photos
90	Adams Yunusa	Businessman
91	Haruna Malik Onivehu	Businessman
92	Pharm Isa Ataiza	Fmr National Health Insurance
93	Hajia Zainab Abdulrasaq	FCDA
94	Mrs. Hajia Zainab	Ize Foundation -Kaduna
95	Mrs. Rekiya Jimoh	FCDA
96	Mrs. Bashirat Jegede	Business woman
97	Mrs. Hassana Ize Aliyu	Business woman
98	Hajia Bilqees Salawu	Business woman
99	Mrs. Ummul Katumi Muhammed	Business woman
100	Hassana Ibrahim	Business woman

Photo Speaks






2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE


Egbira
Progressive
Elites
2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE






Egbira
Progressive
Elites
Area 10, Abuja
2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE


2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE


2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE


Egbira
Progressive
Elites
2024 ANNUAL
GET TOGETHER & LECTURE















