

PALACE COURT

IMESI-EKITI

PALACE COURT SITTING AT IMESI EKITI

IN THE MATTER OF: the issue of the feud arising from centralised management of the Ancestral land of Oke-Ode, Imesi-Ekiti

BETWEEN:

The Head, Oke-Ode quarters, Imesi-Ekiti

AND

Mr. Oluwole Oluyemi and family.

RULING/RESOLUTION OF THE PALACE COURT

Date: 22/08/25

Venue: Oba's Palace, Imesi-Ekiti

Presiding: HRM Oba Festus Olatunji, Olatunde, Olaibiyemi II, The Onimesi of Imesi Ekiti

Members Present:

1. High Chief Emila – Pleaded to be exempted because he is an interested party.
Permission granted
2. Chief Mrs Tayese
3. Chief Odofin Ilogbo
4. Chief Sasere Awogbeni – Court Secretary

BACKGROUND:

Following the emergence of a dispute arising from Centralised management of Oke-Ode Ancestral land the Onimesi-in-Council, at its sitting held on 28/02/25 constituted an **Ad-Hoc Investigative Committee** to examine the facts, interact with all parties, and make recommendations.

The committee was composed of:

1. Barrister Adelusi Ilesanmi – Chairman
2. Chief Ajibade Adelana – Member
3. Elder Samuel Olonisakin – Member
4. Mrs. D. A. Ojo - Member
5. Dr. Lawrence Kunle Otitoju – Secretary
6. Pastor Mike Adeniyi - Member

The committee was given clear terms of reference and was mandated to report back within Five weeks.

The parties involved were invited, heard, and allowed to present their positions before the committee.



REPORT SUBMISSION:

On 20/06/25, the committee submitted its final report to the palace, having:

- Conducted hearings,
- Examined documents,
- Taken witness testimonies.

The report was presented and copies served to all relevant parties.

PARTY RESPONSE:

HRM invited both parties separately to respond to the committee findings and recommendations. He took notes.

RULING AND RESOLUTION:

Having carefully reviewed the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee, and having listened to the reactions of the parties concerned, the Palace Court of the Onimesi-in-Council hereby resolves as follows:

1. The report of the Ad-Hoc Committee dated 20/06/25 constituted to examine the intra-family conflict regarding the administration and control of Oke Ode family land, the **Onimesi Palace Court hereby adopts the committee's report**, subject to the following amendments and resolutions:

- a. **Centralized Land Management (No Partitioning)**

There shall be no boundary demarcation or partitioning of the ancestral Oke Ode family land. Instead, the family shall continue to uphold the historical and cultural tradition of centralized land administration under the authority of the Quarter Head. The palace considers any attempt to partition the land as a potential threat to peace, unity, and cultural identity within the Oke Ode family.

- b. **Recognition of Traditional Authority**

High Chief Emilla is hereby reaffirmed as the traditional head of the Oke Ode family. His position, actions, and leadership role in managing family affairs and land must be respected, supported, and obeyed by all sons and daughters of Oke Ode without exception.

- c. **Land Transactions Must Have Consent of the Head**

All matters relating to transfer, lease, or sale of any portion of land within Oke Ode must be carried out only with prior consultation and express approval of

the family head; High Chief Emilla. No individual member has **autonomous authority** to dispose of family land without due process.

d. Compulsory Participation in Family Meetings

All members of the Oke Ode family are duty-bound to attend scheduled family meetings as convened by the traditional family head. Such meetings remain a crucial platform for resolving misunderstandings, preventing future conflicts, and promoting collective progress and unity.

e. Leadership Conduct and Responsibilities

In exercising his role as head of the Oke Ode family, High Chief Emilla must ensure fairness, transparency, and a robust fatherly disposition in all decisions affecting the family. His leadership must foster peace and a sense of belonging among all family branches

f. Obligation of Mr. Oluwole to Respect Family Hierarchy

Mr. Oluwole is specifically directed to respect and comply with the long-standing leadership structure of the Oke Ode family. His interactions with family heads, particularly elders, must reflect due deference and obedience to established custom and age hierarchy.

g. Tenancy Matters Under Quarter Head's Jurisdiction

The management of tenants and all tenancy-related issues within Oke Ode land falls exclusively under the authority of the traditional head of the quarter. Any decision involving tenancy, whether admittance, renewal, transfer, or eviction must be brought to his attention and approved by him on behalf of the entire Oke Ode family. This maintains orderly administration and avoids confusion in family-held communal spaces.

2. This judgment is hereby **declared binding** on all members of the Oke Ode family. The Onimesi-in-Council expects **full compliance** in the interest of lasting peace, order, and the preservation of cherished ancestral heritage. All parties are hereby **ordered to comply** with the outcome of this ruling.
3. This matter is now **closed before the Onimesi-in-Council**.

GIVEN UNDER ROYAL SEA:



HRM Oba Festus Olatunji Olatunde, Olaibiyemi II
The Onimesi of Imesi Ekiti
Presiding Traditional Judge

3. This matter is now closed before the Onimesi-in-Council.

2. This judgment is hereby declared binding on all members of the Oke Ode family. The Onimesi-in-Council expects full compliance in the interest of lasting peace, order, and the preservation of cherished ancestral heritage. All parties are hereby ordered to comply with the outcome of this ruling.

confusion in family-held communal spaces.

entire Oke Ode family. This maintains orderly administration and as such, eviction must be brought to his attention and approved by him on behalf of the land falls exclusively under the authority of the traditional head of the quarter. The management of tenants and all tenancy-related issues within Oke Ode

2. Tenancy Matters Under Quarter Head's Jurisdiction

established custom and age hierarchy. family heads, particularly elders, must reflect due deference and obedience to standing leadership structure of the Oke Ode family. His interactions with Mr. Oluwole is specifically directed to respect and comply with the long-

1. Obligation of Mr. Oluwole to Respect Family Hierarchy

among all family branches affecting the family. His leadership must foster peace and a sense of belonging ensure fairness, transparency, and a robust fatherly disposition in all decisions in exercising his role as head of the Oke Ode family. High Chief Famula must

e. Leadership Conduct and Responsibilities

and promoting collective progress and unity.

critical platform for resolving misunderstandings, preventing future disputes, and meetings as convened by the traditional family head. Such meetings shall be held on a regular basis. All members of the Oke Ode family are bound to attend such meetings. d. Compulsory Participation in Family Meetings

the family head; High Chief Famula. No individual member has autonomous