ALLEGED DEPORTATION OF ANAMBRA INDIGENES

Many issues have been raised about the alleged deportation of Anambrarians from Lagos.

These issues have been raised in a politically colored atmosphere and in a way that seeks to incite our Igbo brothers against their host communities in the run up the Anambra Governorship election.

The impression sought to be created is that Lagos has adopted a discriminatory policy against the Ndigbo generally and against the Anambra people in particular.

Also there is the suggestion by some human rights "advocates" that the freedom of movement of citizens has been violated.

None of these suggestions of discrimination or violation of rights is true.

A very simple and routine humanitarian gesture for which Lagos State Government should be commended has either been genuinely misunderstood or deliberately manipulated to create misunderstanding.

As head of this Government, I understand and value the quality of our rich and diverse human capital in Lagos and I have acknowledged that publicly on many occasions.

Our ability to live mutually and co-exist peacefully has been critical to the progress we have recorded here and nothing will jeopardize that relationship.

This place remains a home and refuge for all those who respect the law and we intend to keep it that way.
The facts are that 14 (fourteen) not 70 (seventy) or 72 (seventy-two) destitutes (as has been reported) were picked up on the streets of Lagos as part of a continuous exercise to assist vulnerable citizens who roam our streets without food, or shelter and a number who have medical ailments, usually in the nature of mental infirmity.

They were taken to Majidun Rehabilitation Centre where they were treated, detoxified and restored. Thereafter it was possible for medical officers and social workers to interview them.

In the event, they disclosed that they were from Anambra and sought assistance to go back home.

So it is not true that Majidun is a detention centre. It is a rehabilitation centre for destitutes that is funded by budgetary support and we are planning to improve the services and upgrade it to a full state-run mental institution; to provide mental health care for those who need it.

It remains unclear to me why the Governor of Anambra chose the media as the first place of complaint if he was truly aggrieved.

He has not called me as he has done in the past on less important matters, and I have not received any letter from him.

I have read excerpts in the newspapers of a letter purportedly written by him to His Excellency, Mr. President, where he was quoted as saying amongst other things that:-

"...Lagos State did not even bother to consult with Anambra State authorities before deporting 72 persons..."
If it is true that the Governor made this allegation, he was either being economical with the truth and deliberately seeking to mislead or unaware of actions taken by his officers.

First, only 14 (fourteen) persons were involved, in our effort to “integrate” them back with their home communities.

Secondly there was exchange of correspondence dated 9th April 2013, 15th April 2013 and 29th April 2013; between Lagos State Government and the Anambra State Government through its liaison office in Lagos which was the closest to the scene of the issue in dispute that we were in communication with the Anambra Government about “integration” not “deportation”. See Annexures 1, 2, 3 & 3A.

Unfortunately in spite of our request to the Anambra Government officials to come and validate and identify these people who claimed to be from Anambra which was what our social workers were told, the Anambra Government agency did not respond.

They could have helped matters by attending since April to question these people, by their names, and identities of their villages. We were unfortunately not in a position to do these.

Incidentally we have ourselves just received a similar notice from Government of Akwa Ibom of 2 alleged Lagos indigenes whom they picked up in a lunatic clean up exercise in Uyo and our officials are responding to it. See Annexures 4 & 5.

Finally I wish to say that while we respect the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution, none of them is absolute in the way that some of our “experts” want the public to believe.

Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN
Governor of Lagos State
Ref No: OYSD/596/VI/762

Date: 9th April, 2013

The Liaison Officer
Anambra State Liaison Office
Plot 1231 Ahmadu Bello Way
Victoria Island, Lagos.

RE: INTEGRATION OF BEGGARS / DESTITUTE WITH THEIR FAMILIES

I am directed to remind you about the Lagos State Government Social Welfare Policy in respect of the above subject matter and inform you that the rescue of beggars / destitute from the streets of Lagos is a continuous exercise.

2. In view of the above, I am to inform you that Fourteen (14) persons who claimed to be indigenes of your State are currently in our centre awaiting your response for identification towards evacuation and integration with their families, back in Anambra State.

3. I hereby solicit for your urgent response in this regard as to screen them to verify if they are truly from your State.

4. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

O.T. Ajao
For: Special Adviser
Office of Youth & Social Development
The Special Adviser  
Youth & Social Development  
Ministry of Youth & Social Development  
State Secretariat Complex  
Alausa Ikeja  
Lagos.

Sir,

Re: Integration of Beggars/Destitute

I write to acknowledge your letter on the above subject matter reference OYSD/596/VI/762 of 9th April, 2013 and received on the 13th April, 2013.

2. May I request that the particulars of the (14) persons claiming to be indigenes of Anambra State be furnished to us to enable us make proper enquiry as to finding out their true origin.

3. The above request is of urgent importance, to facilitate their integration with their families if they are from Anambra.

Please be assured of my esteemed regards.

Chukwudum Ucheoma N. (Mrs)  
Senior Special Asst. to the Governor/Liaison Officer  
Lagos.
Ref No: OYSD/596/VI/773

Date: 29\textsuperscript{th} April, 2013

The Senior Special Assistant to the
Governor / Liaison Officer, Lagos
Government of Anambra State of Nigeria
Anambra State Liaison Office
Plot 1231 Ahmadu Bello Way
Victoria Island
P.M.B 80073
Lagos.

\textbf{RE: INTEGRATION OF BEGGARS / DESTITUTE.}

I am directed to acknowledge your letter Ref No: ANSLO/ADM/15/110 dated 15\textsuperscript{th} April 2013 on the above subject matter and forward the attached list containing particulars of the fourteen (14) persons claiming to be indigenes of your State.

2. Be that as it may, your presence at our Rehabilitation and Training Centre, Owutu in Ikorodu might be necessary to conduct a physical identification through your interaction with these persons.

3. Thank you for your cooperation.

O.T. Ajao
For: Special Adviser
Office of Youth & Social Development
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>TOWN/VILLAGE</th>
<th>LOCAL GOVT AREA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nokonu Ani</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Ikanu</td>
<td>Ikanu L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Onyekua Okuwa</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Ihiala</td>
<td>Ihiala L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jude Olunba</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Omunama</td>
<td>Inewi South L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Emmanuel Okon</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Ikolegbene</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ndubisi Kalu</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Onisha</td>
<td>Ogbosili L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Okoro John</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Osarobi</td>
<td>Inewi South L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Andy Oshornogor</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sunday Nwagwu</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Joseph Eto</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Gbogboasan</td>
<td>Obudu L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Christian Otu</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Ifeoma Chukwuemeka</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Ojoto</td>
<td>Idemili L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Juliet Ikemere</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Ufuma</td>
<td>Olumbra L. G. A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Grace Udoh</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td>Isia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Victoria Agboola</td>
<td>Anambra</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Ref: MWASW/AD/239/VOL.111/102  
Your Ref:  

The Hon. Commissioner  
Ministry of Women Affairs  
and Social Development  
Lagos State  

Date: 23rd July, 2013  

REPATRIATION OF LUNATICS, BEGGARS AND DESTITUTES TO THEIR HOME STATE  

This is to inform the Honourable Commissioner that in our bid to rid the State Capital of Lunatics, in line with the transformation policy of the present Administration, the underlisted persons who are known vagrant psychotics were evacuated, during the clean up exercise to remove Lunatics off the Streets of Akwa Ibom State.  

Since then, the patients were hospitalized and duly treated with good responses. Following their processes of recovering of sanity, the Doctor has placed them on trial leave. However, in view of the fact that they are indigenes of Lagos State and have no relations in Uyo, we have decided to refer them to you for further Medical Management/treatment and necessary action, please.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Patient</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Babatunde Obamaiviaya</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Lagos State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunde Jimmy</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Lagos State</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attached is the Doctor’s treatment and recommendation/trial leave.  

Thank you.  

Akâ€™inyene S. Ubara  
for: Hon. Commissioner  

Send your child to school today
Ref No: OYSD/596/VI/825

The Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Women Affairs and
Social Welfare
Indongesit Nkanga Secretariat
P.M.B 1132 Uyo
Akwa Ibom State.

Date: 26th July, 2013.

RE: REPATRIATION OF LUNATICS, BEGGARS AND DESTITUTE TO THEIR
HOME STATE.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter Ref No: MWASW/AD/239/Vol.III/102
dated 23rd July, 2013 on the above subject and inform you that the two persons
by name Babatunde Obamaiviaya and Tunde Jimmy were diligently interviewed
and from their response could not in any way be Lagosians either by the name,
their spoken dialect and description of where they claimed their parents ever resided.

2. However, out of compassion for your Social Worker and the unfortunate
young men, our management out of magnanimity and best practices decided to
take over their cases for further rehabilitation and tracing of their relations, since
we observed they are likely to have come from any of the South Western States
of the Country. Be that as it may we are compelled to advise you, in case of
another time, to explore the possibility of reaching out to us first for screening of
affected persons to ascertain their true origin before sending them to us to avoid
rejecting such person(s).

3. Please be assured of the assurances of the Special Adviser’s highest esteem
at all times.

O.T. Ajao
For: Special Adviser
Office of Youth & Social Development

Original copy received by me
Mr. Samuel Akpan
26/7/13