

Eko Foundation tasked Ambode on appointments of indigenes into sensitive positions

Eko Foundation, a socio-cultural association, rose from its one day meeting to call on Governor Akinwunmi Ambode of Lagos State to consider its qualified members into sensitive positions in the interest and federal character and the principle of federalism.

At a meeting attended by prominent indigenes of the state the group took a critical look at the lopsided appointments in favour of non-indigenes into sensitive positions and called on the governor to reverse the trend.

In a statement signed by its Secretary, Kunle Uthman, Eko Foundation considered this situation as "very unfortunate and that there is no state in the federation that key offices of an extreme sensitive nature are occupied by non-indigenes moreso when there are eminently qualified indigenes who are willing to serve, but denied that opportunity due to mediocrity and Godfatherism."

The group mentioned some specific offices, especially the ongoing appointment process to appoint new Vice-Chancellor for the state foremost tertiary institution, Lagos State University (LASU) adding that, "It was disclosed that all the applicants for that exalted office had been interviewed and three persons have been shortlisted in the order of merit. It was gratifying to note that candidate that came first in that interview, as published in the print and electronic media is an indigene of the state. Governor Ambode was therefore called upon to appoint the "Vice-Chancellor based on merit and not on any other parochial consideration of patronage or satisfying interests of a political nature".

The meeting also resolved to have " a very proactive youth wing, to encourage Lagosians to work in the civil service and to contest elections. It is therefore important to mobilise Lagosians to contest next election at all levels to wrestle the political powers from non indigenes. It would no longer be business as usual and a comprehensive compilation of prominent offices held by non indigenes in all facets and arms of the Lagos State Government should be published as soon as possible."

Eko Foundation, according to Mr. Uthman has set up a committee to organise Eko Week, among other activities to showcase the rich heritage of the people of the state.