



PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEMORANDUM OF GRIEVANCES

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Pretoria, South Africa
Progressive Forces – United for Change (on behalf of concerned civic movements and South African citizens)
30 March 2026

We, the undersigned representatives of Progressive Forces who are United for Change, together with allied civic movements and concerned South African citizens, hereby submit this memorandum to formally raise our grievances and demand urgent clarity regarding recent developments involving members of the Nigerian community in South Africa.

This memorandum is submitted in the spirit of accountability, transparency, and the preservation of social cohesion within the Republic of South Africa.

It has come to our attention that an event was publicly communicated and promoted as the installation or coronation of an “Igbo King” in KuGompo (East London), Eastern Cape.

Subsequent to public concern, conflicting statements have emerged attempting to downplay the nature of this event. These inconsistencies have heightened tensions and raised serious questions among South Africans. We view this matter as one of national importance, touching on issues of sovereignty, respect for local governance systems, and the rule of law.

We formally raise the following concerns:

1. Misrepresentation and Public Communication

- An event was widely circulated and understood by the public as the installation of a “king.”
- There has since been an apparent shift in narrative, creating confusion and undermining public trust.

2. Respect for South African Traditional Leadership Systems

- South Africa has established and recognized traditional leadership structures, particularly within the Eastern Cape among the amaXhosa.
- Any parallel or perceived competing leadership structures, especially those framed in terms of kingship, are viewed as deeply inappropriate and potentially destabilizing.

3. Legitimacy of Claimed Titles

- We question the legitimacy of individuals claiming titles such as “Igwe” or “Eze” within South African territory.
- Even within Nigerian traditional frameworks, such titles are subject to strict cultural and territorial rules.



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4. Legal and Immigration Status

- There is a lack of clarity regarding the legal and immigration status of individuals involved in organizing and participating in this event.
- South Africans have a right to know whether all applicable laws and regulations have been complied with.

5. Social Cohesion and Public Order

- The manner in which this matter has unfolded has contributed to rising tensions within communities.
- Lack of transparency risks further destabilizing social cohesion.

In light of the above, we formally request the following:

1. Full Disclosure of clear account of the event in question, including its purpose, organizers, and participants.
2. Identification of Individuals Involved, transparency regarding the identities of those who organized and participated in the event.
3. Clarification of Legal Status., confirmation of the legal and immigration status of the individuals involved, in cooperation with the South African Department of Home Affairs.
4. Commitment to Respect Local Laws and Systems, assurance that members of the Nigerian community in South Africa will operate within the legal, cultural, and governance frameworks of the Republic.

We reiterate that this memorandum is not an act of hostility, but one that calls for accountability, transparency, and mutual respect between nations and communities.

We remain committed to peaceful civic engagement and constructive dialogue. However, we expect that our concerns will be taken seriously and addressed with the urgency they deserve.

Failure to provide adequate responses will necessitate further lawful civic action.

Issued by:

Progressive Forces – United for Change

(On behalf of concerned civic movements and South African citizens)

Gugu Nkosi

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