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The Alaafin of Oyo's Palace

CALL FOR ENTRIES

COMPOSE THE OFFICIAL OYO EMPIRE ANTHEM: A SONG FOR OUR HERITAGE. A VOICE FOR OUR EMPIRE. A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS.

As part of the historic Maiden Annual Oyo Empire Day Celebration, scheduled for 17–19 December 2026, the Central Working Committee invites individuals, musical groups, cultural organizations, choirs, composers, and creative talents across the Oyo-speaking world and the Diaspora to submit entries for the **Oyo Empire Anthem.**

This is a call to create an enduring musical heritage that will speak to the past, present, and future of the people of Oyo ancestry.

THE ANTHEM The proposed **Oyo Empire Anthem** must be:

- Entirely in Yoruba, with language that is dignified, inspiring, and accessible across the pan-Oyo communities.
- Pan-Oyo in spirit, embracing people of Oyo ancestry across Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, Kwara, Kogi, Lagos, Edo, the wider Yoruba-speaking communities, and the Diaspora.
- Not more than two (2) minutes in duration.
- All entries must be entirely original and must reflect the spirit, heritage, and identity of Oyo Empire.
- No entry shall reproduce, adapt, plagiarize or substantially imitate any existing song, anthem, or musical composition.
- In the true spirit of "Ajíṣebí Ọ̀yọ́ làárí", Oyo is inherently original, participants are therefore expected to present fresh, distinctive, and authentic musical and lyrical expressions.
- Suitable for performance at Oyo Empire Day and other pan-Oyo cultural, social, royal, and community events and activities.
- A powerful celebration of the historic royalty and institution of the Alaafin, while reflecting the broader heritage of Oyo.

- A musical expression of the military strength, diplomacy, trade, cultural accomplishments, social organization, and civilization associated with the Oyo Empire and its historical influence in Yorubaland.
- Inspiring enough to evoke unity, dignity, pride in heritage, responsibility, and hope for the future, without promoting ethnic superiority or division.
- The anthem should capture the enduring spirit of Oyo as a historic civilization whose legacy remains the pillar of the cultural heritage of Yorubaland.

WHAT TO SUBMIT: Each entry must contain:
1. The complete Yoruba lyrics of the proposed anthem; and
2. An MP3 audio recording demonstrating the melody/tone and intended performance.
**Entries may be submitted by an individual or a group.

DEADLINE: All entries must be sent to **info@oyoempireday.org** **on or before 30 October 2026.**

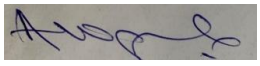
A LEGACY BEYOND A PRIZE: This is more than a competition for a monetary reward. The selected anthem will have the rare opportunity to become a lasting musical symbol of Oyo heritage, potentially sung and performed at pan-Oyo events and activities for generations.

The eventual winner will receive a generational award and recognition, with other honours and opportunities associated with the adoption of the winning composition as the **Oyo Empire Anthem.**

This is an opportunity to leave your voice in history.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS: 📞+234 803 207 5079, 📞+234 813 890 5721, 📞+234 909 970 5674, 📞+1 708 551 8407, 📞+234 915 848 5275, 📞+234 816 929 1111, 📞+234 803 496 3676, 📞 +351 920 417 829

COMPOSE. CREATE. PRESERVE. INSPIRE.



Dr. Adekunle Ogunmola
Chairman, Oyo Empire Day Celebration Central Working Committee
For and on behalf of His Imperial Majesty, the Alaafin of Oyo
20th September 2026