

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Horhn, Chaney

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

1 A RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE NIGERIAN-EDO STATE DELEGATION
2 PARTICIPATING IN THE LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATION AND DEMOCRACY
3 STRENGTHENING PROGRAM AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES OF THE SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, we in the Senate have been honored in the final
5 weeks of the 2001 Regular Session by the presence of a
6 distinguished delegation of legislators and public officials from
7 the State of Edo, Nigeria, who are participating in a MCID/United
8 States State Department sponsored legislative strengthening
9 program for Nigerian governmental leaders; and

10 WHEREAS, this program consists of a governmental study tour
11 of representative operations in the United States, including the
12 Mississippi Legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, EDO State was created in 1991 out of the former
14 Bendel State. Edo State is bounded in the south by Delta State,
15 in the west by Ondo State, in the north by Kogi State and in the
16 east by Kogi and Anambra States. It occupies a land area of about
17 17,802 square kilometers. From the 1991 census the state has a
18 population of 2,159,848. The original request for the creation of
19 Edo State was presented to the National Assembly in Lagos on July
20 16, 1981, by a delegation headed by the Oba of Benin, Omo n'Oba
21 Erediauwa. A steering committee had earlier been set up to work
22 out proposals for the state's creation. Bendel State was one of
23 the oldest political entities in Nigeria, having started out life
24 as the Midwest Region created by referendum August 9, 1963, and
25 excised from the then-Western Region, it then became known as
26 Midwest State, and then as Bendel State (a contraction of the
27 phrase BENin DELta). As time went on, the "federal character"

28 provision for the sharing of federal revenue amongst the states in
29 the Federation was hampering the growth and development of the
30 state. Although the demand for the creation of the state did not
31 come to fruition in the Second Republic, this demand led the
32 Babangida regime to split the then Bendel State into two parts --
33 one which had an Edo-speaking majority (Edo State), and the other
34 which had a more heterogeneous mix of ethnic groups (Delta State).
35 With the creation of Edo State, the dream of the Edo-speaking
36 peoples and other groups in the territory for a separate identity
37 and entity was finally fulfilled; and

38 WHEREAS, Edo State is one of the more homogenous states in
39 Nigeria. The cultural and linguistic affinities that exist among
40 the various groups in the state points to this fact. A lot of the
41 communities in the state trace their roots to the ancient kingdom
42 of Benin. Customs, burial rites, diet and traditional modes of
43 dress tend to be similar throughout the state. The political
44 pattern and behavior were based on a system under which both
45 monarchial and republican ideas flourished in an integrated
46 manner. The monarchial (or chieftaincy) system revolved largely
47 on primogeniture, while the republican element was reflected in
48 the free selection by villages and communities of elders; and

49 WHEREAS, the Edo State list of participants is as follows:

50 MCID/USAID SPONSORED

51 M.E. Egbadon	Speaker and Chairman SWC
52 I.O. Pally Iriase	Deputy Speaker
53 Dauda Abu	Legislator
54 Elizabeth Ighodaro (Mrs.)	Legislator
55 Esohe Jacobs (Mrs.)	Legislator
56 David Iyoha	Legislator
57 Victor Edos Ebomoyi	Commissioner for Information, 58 Youths and Sports
59 Herbertta Okonofua-Ayu (Mrs.)	Commissioner for Women Affairs 60 and Social Development

61 Osagie Ize-Iyamu Chief of Staff, Govt. House,
62 Edo State
63 Egbe Evbuomwan Director, Legislative Matters,
64 Edo State

65 EDO STATE SPONSORED

66 Peter Ekhatator Legislator
67 Samson Osagie Legislator
68 Benjamin Olajina Legislator
69 Akhere Ugbesia Legislator

70 Fatima Akinbami (Mrs.) Judge of the High Court of
71 Edo State

72 WHEREAS, the Governor of Edo State, the Honorable Governor
73 Chief Lucky Igbinedion, is a graduate of Jackson State University,
74 which gives our Capitol a special tie to this delegation; and

75 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
76 participation of these respected officials from a visiting state
77 who have shown their interest in our Mississippi Legislature and
78 who are in the process of organizing their own democratic
79 government:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby welcome the Edo State, Nigeria,
82 delegation participating in the Legislative Orientation and
83 Democracy Strengthening Program and extend the best wishes of the
84 Mississippi Senate as these respected public officials implement
85 the democratization of their republic.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
87 presented to the Honorable Governor Lucky Igbinedion, the
88 Honorable M.E. Egbadon, Speaker and Chairman of the SWC, and the
89 Honorable Fatima Adinbami, Judge of the High Court of Edo State,
90 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.