

 Bille Kingdom has been in its present location in Degema Local Government, Rivers State near Bonny and Abonema, South of Port- Harcourt since the 9th century but is in no way comparable to her contemporaries with whom she settled in the Eastern Niger Delta. This Development Agenda is to take the Kingdom to where we want in 2040


BILLE KINGDOM DEVELOPMENT AGENDA 2040

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY



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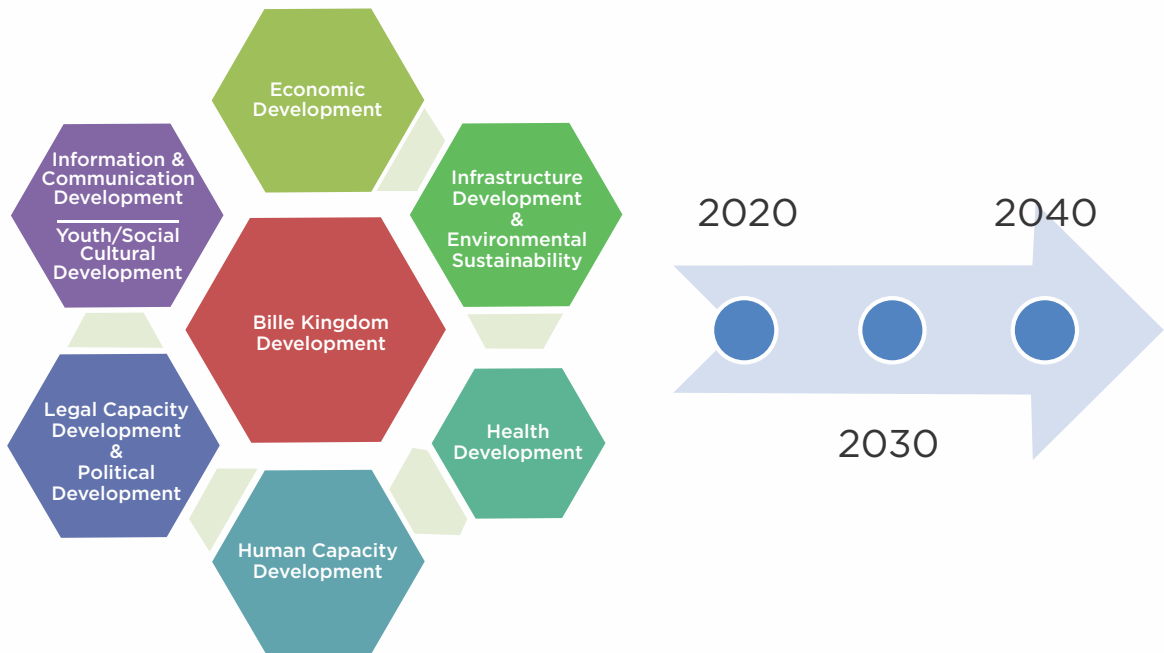


MAY 2019



MAY 2019

THE BILLE KINGDOM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOCAL AREAS OF BLUE-PRINT/TIMELINES




We are grateful to our Development Partners over the years & hope you will support this initiative




TABLE OF CONTENT

1.	Focal Areas of Blue Print.....	ii
2.	Executive Summary.....	v
3.	Introduction.....	1
4.	Agenda 2040-Aspirations of the Future.....	3
5.	Methodology.....	7
6.	Bille Strategies for Economic Development.....	11
7.	Human Capital Development.....	15
8.	Health Development.....	21
9.	Youth & Socio-Cultural Development.....	25
10.	Environmental Sustainability Activities.....	35
11.	Political Evolution.....	41
12.	Infrastructure Development & Maintenance.....	47
13.	Information and Communication Development.....	57
14.	Legal Capacity Development.....	67
15.	Epilogue.....	71
16.	Sub Committee Membership.....	73



This high level summary puts across a quick overview of development targets over the short, medium and long term. The intention is to give individuals, community development associations, development partners a quick glance of our aspirations and guided intervention to transform the Kingdom to a semi-urban status with a modular economy that supports livelihood beyond oil



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Bille Town from the Sea

Bille Kingdom has been in its present location in Degema Local Government, Rivers State near Bonny and Abonema, South of Port-Harcourt since the 9th century but is in no way comparable to her contemporaries with whom she settled in the Eastern Niger Delta.

We realize that if we continue to wallow in self-pity and play the blame game we shall remain underdeveloped and have no future for our children.

The Present generations are confident that the destiny of Bille Kingdom is in their hands, and that they must act now to shape the future they want.

The people aspire that Bille shall be a prosperous Kingdom, with the means and resources available to drive its own development as is, and with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources.

In this respect we have focused our aspirations (Vision/Blue print) around eight (8) thematic areas as follows:

We realize that if we continue to wallow in self-pity and play the blame game we shall remain underdeveloped and have no future for our children.

1. Economic Development
2. Human Capital Development
3. Health Development
4. Youth/Socio-Cultural Development
5. Environmental Sustainability activities
6. Political Evolution
7. Infrastructure Development and Maintenance
8. Information & Communication Development
9. Legal Capacity Development

To attain the “BILLE KINGDOM WE WANT” in each focal area the following questions were asked and answered by over 83 persons strong committees cutting across the various strata of the community:-
**Where Are We? Where Do We Want To Be?;
How Do we Get To Where We Want To Be?
What Strategies do we adopt? And How
Do We Mobilize Resources To Achieve Our
Goal?**

This high level summary puts across a quick overview of development targets over the short, medium and long term. The intention is to give individuals, community development associations, development partners a quick glance of our aspirations and guided intervention to transform the Kingdom to a semi-urban status with a modular economy that supports livelihood beyond oil.

To this effect the role of robust Infrastructure development and economic empowerment are stressed, while supportive developments in qualitative and quantitative education. Health, youth and socio-cultural development are also addressed. A society stays together when there is proper communication/Information, Integration into wider policy formulation (politics) and there is order. Legal reforms, information and political development were therefore profiled and recommendations made for a society in transformation.

We hope you find this inspiring and call for your modest support for development of Bille Kingdom.

Elder Boma V. Benebo
Summit Facilitator
Dated: May 11, 2019

INTRODUCTION

OUR DEVELOPMENT PLEDGE



Bille Kingdom Chiefs' Council

We, the people of Bille Kingdom at home and in Diaspora united in diversity, and from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all past generations for their noble efforts to sustain a unique Bille kingdom and the development efforts achieved so far.

2. Bille kingdom is self-confident in its identity, heritage, culture and shared values and as a strong, united entity has the capability to realize her full potential in development, culture and peace and to

establish a flourishing, inclusive and prosperous society.

3. Bille Kingdom has been in its present location since the 9th century but is no way comparable to her contemporaries with whom she settled in the Eastern Niger Delta. We realize that if we continue to wallow in self-pity and play the blame game we shall remain underdeveloped and have no future for our children. The Present generations are confident that the destiny of Bille Kingdom is in their hands, and that they must act now to shape the future they want.



Wives of Bille Kingdom Chiefs

4. In realization of this grim fact We as a people have decided to take this new and noble initiative, to review our past and commit ourselves to a path of growth and Development beyond Oil and we pledge to implement a Development Agenda renewable every twenty years , with the first Agenda tagged - Bille Kingdom Development Agenda 2040.

The steps to be taken shall include:

- a. Mobilization of the people and their ownership of this Development Aspiration; Building on a principle of self direction, self-reliance and actively seeking financing from its own and stakeholders operating in its territory for development;
- b. Advocacy for promotion of capable manpower for administration of its development

We, the people of Bille Kingdom at home and in Diaspora united in diversity, and from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all past generations for their noble efforts to sustain a unique Bille kingdom and defend the Kingdom interest.

drive, inclusive growth and accountability at all levels and in all spheres;

- c. Promoting the critical role of unity among interest groups and Communities for the development of the kingdom;
- d. take into account the special challenges faced by the kingdom over the years; and holding ourselves and our governments and institutions accountable for results.

5. We realise that this Development Agenda 2040 will not happen spontaneously, it will require conscious and deliberate efforts to nurture a transformative leadership that will drive the agenda and defend the Kingdom's interests.

6. To realise our Aspiration We rededicate ourselves to the Development vision of our land to achieve "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Kingdom, driven by its own citizens to make Bille Kingdom an enviable state for reference."

2. AGENDA 2040 THE BILLE KINGDOM WE WANT



ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE!

Drone Picture of Bille Town

We aspire that Bille shall be a prosperous Kingdom, with the means and resources to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources. We desire shared prosperity and well-being, unity and integration, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.

In this respect we have focused our aspirations (Vision/Blue print) around eight (8) thematic areas:

As follows:

1. Economic Development

Kingdom Finance- Sources, Controls & Accountability, Economic empowerment- Youth empowerment, integration into national economy, Internal business enhancement- Agriculture, commerce, tourism, integration into state economy.

We aspire that Bille shall be a prosperous Kingdom, with the means and resources to drive its own development, with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources. We desire shared prosperity and well-being, unity and integration, where the full potential of women and youth, boys and girls are realized, and with freedom from fear, disease and want.

2. Human Capital Development

Education, Women Development, Youth Development, Entrepreneurship Development, Development of Human Capital in various works of life.

3. Health Development

Improving health care, Infant & maternal Health, Health Education, Health Infrastructure Stock development, Disease/Epidemic Controls, Improving life Expectancy.

4. Youth/Socio-Cultural Development

Youth Development, Sports Development, Recreation Infrastructure development, Cultural development for export, Integration of Cultural activities into State cultural calendar.

5. Environmental Sustainability activities

Developing a Green Bille, Environmental Pollution control, Harnessing waste to wealth, Erosion & Flood control, Sensitization on environmental issues.

6. Political Evolution

Integration of Bille Kingdom into Online Politics, Political Education, Attaining political appointments, Upgrading the Political status of Bille Kingdom- traditional stool & Ward Status.

7. Infrastructural Development and Maintenance

A new map of Bille Kingdom showing Bille Town & Satellite communities, A new Map of Bille Town 10yrs from now with internal roads and smart city infrastructure, Transformation of Bille Town & Satellite centers Into smart cities, strategies for Infrastructure Maintenance, Developing a Transport infrastructure network, Landing facilities and commercial centers.

8. Information & Communication Development

Effective Information Communication among Billeins at home & in diaspora, Developing a positive image for Bille, Selling Bille to the World, Improving Information & Communication among the Satellite settlements and Bille, Developing Communication linkages with our neighbors.

9. Legal Capacity Development

Development of legal archive, Consolidation of Bille legal rights, Documentation of

traditional heritage of the kingdom , Fostering of Unity among legal luminaries in the Kingdom, Development of Human capital in various segments of the legal profession.

To attain the “BILLE KINGDOM WE WANT” in each focal area the following questions were asked.

1. Where Are We?
2. Where Do We Want To Be? And
3. How Do we Get To Where We Want To Be? (What Strategies do we adopt)?
4. How Do We Mobilize Resources To Achieve Our Goals?



Aerial view of Section of Bille Town



We, the people of Bille Kingdom at home and in Diaspora united in diversity, and from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all past generations for their noble efforts to sustain a unique Bille kingdom and defend the Kingdom interest.



3. METHODOLOGY



The blue print in each area is arrived at through review of previous works and innovative submissions to the Bille Kingdom Chiefs Council. The Submissions were conceptualized at committee level, debated and accepted before submission for inclusion in this blueprint.

The methodology adopted was a Need-Gap Analysis and Priority Setting of necessities.

The result of this procedure formed the foundation of Strategic Goals which structure the premise of a ten-year Strategic Development Plan stated below.

Summary of Strengths

1. Natural Resources: Bille is Blessed with natural resources which constitute 95% of Degema Local Government contribution to National Revenue.
2. Physical Facilities: Bille has a Youth Development Center, possess a Cold-Room building, nearby Bille 1 flow station and a functioning Health Services Centre .
3. Management: It has Visionary, creative and very committed leaders, & stakeholders.

Summary of Weaknesses

1. Funding: Inadequate funding and near-

total dependence on the Oil and Gas companies operating in Bille as the main financier or sources of funds.

2. Poor Educational System: Poor educational structure to meet changing societal demands and the vision and mission of this initiative.
3. Physical Facilities: Inadequate physical infrastructure to support the economy.
4. Library Spaces/Holdings: Absence of library and e-library to support knowledge economy.
5. Management: Outdated and conflicting Terms-of-Reference on the functions of community service providers, poor appropriation of kingdom funds due to lack of comprehensive vision.
6. Security: Lack of funding to cater for collaborating security agencies and security patrol on our water ways.
7. Market: No market where traders can easily meet to transact business and also no designated commercial area for business activities.
8. Power Supply: Inadequate power supply to drive business activities especially the small scale businesses and entrepreneurs.

External Analysis

Environmental scanning was undertaken. The outcome of the scan showed the following will help in the implementation of this Development Plan:

Summary of Opportunities

1. GMOU Fund: Mapped out fund could be reinvested to raise other revenue for

the kingdom for implementation of the initiative.




2. Oil and Gas Facility Surveillance: The existing contract value with Eroton and Newcross E&P could be reviewed and structured to support the development plan.
2. Physical Facilities: There are excellent opportunities for Bille Greening and Sustainable space management practices through a revision of the New Bille Physical Master Plan.
3. Graduate Ratio and Welfare: Graduate employment opportunities in Industry, Public and Private Establishments and self-employment. Bille has a rich oil industries in its environment with opportunities/ strong potential to improve the youths.
4. Funding: There are opportunities to develop local bye laws for the immediate catchment for Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).
5. Collaboration: There are several opportunities for national and international collaboration and opportunities provided by the new Sustainable Development Goals which can be tapped into.
6. Research and Development: There is ample opportunity for accessing research funds from, IOCs and Government agencies. Sub committees articulation of the vision in each focal area and their reports form the next segment of this report.

Tradition Has Defined Our Methods Over Time


Chieftaincy Installation in Bille Kingdom



Bille Sekiapu Group at Chieftaincy Installation



We aspire to achieve growth in Internal Gross Domestic Product through increased productive activities; increase in access to Micro Finance; Increase in Community & Individual earnings from Oil Industry operating in the environs and dominance of agriculture in daily livelihood



4. BILLE STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kingdom Finance- Sources, Controls & Accountability, Economic empowerment- Youth empowerment, integration into national economy, Internal business enhancement- Agriculture, commerce, tourism, integration into state economy,



An Integrative Model for Economic Development

INTRODUCTION

This Strategic Economic Plan presents to the Bille Kingdom formal structural Strategies for reversing the established basic beliefs of the fathers of a “one island network, one island future” whereas Bille Kingdom is not just Bille Town but comprise of several other settlements. Terms-of-Reference as specified by the

central committee were:

1. To set up a Strategic Economic Development Plan for the Kingdom
2. To survey and detail approaches for the improvement of our reserves

Bille Economy Today

As the economic state of a people is a



reflection of their socio-cultural setting, The People rely on the River for their wellbeing and has diversified to earn a living from the Government, Business, Remittances, Service to the Oil sector, etc.

The Dominance of the Oil Industry in the area has shifted dependence of the local economy from fishing/aqua economy to the oil Industry such that:

- Income from Service to the oil Industry- 75% (Earnings from the oil Industry is mainly to individuals); Civil service jobs (direct/indirect) - 10%; Micro - Business outside oil industry- 2%; Remittance from diaspora - 10%; Others -3%
- The boom (75%) and burst (25%) cycle of the local economy is dependent on activities of Oil companies

Local Government/State Government economic impact is very low. The Health Center, Utility service & Schools are the Government establishments on the island. Earnings from Satellite settlements is near zero as there is no major economic link.

The Kingdom is Import Dependent, No productions and no structures to support production. Internal Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is near Zero. The Service Industry for building, craftsmanship and others is dominated by foreigners.

Constraints to Economic Development

- Lack of skills development in Youths; Poor Intra Community mobility; Poor Inter Community Communication; Poor access to micro credit; Lack of Development plan; Poor Accountability/Unity of Purpose; Poor Internet capability for advert; Absence

- of designated Commercial Areas
- Petro-naira illusion (Psychological); Poor passion for entrepreneurship; Lack of support for Women-Owned businesses; Unavailability of Research and Development; Lack of strategic infrastructure investment; Low level of purchasing power; Pricing of goods; Cost of transportation.

Where We Want To Be

- Growth in Internal Gross Domestic Product through increased productive activities; Increase in Access to Micro finance
- Increase in Community & Individual earnings from Oil Industry operating in the environs; Dominance of agriculture in daily livelihood

Local Government/State Government economic impact is very low. The Health Center, Utility service & Schools are the Government establishments on the island. Earnings from Satellite settlements is near zero as there is no major economic link.



- Presence of Industrial Activity in Bille Territory
- Increased Participation of Bille Youths in oil service Industry/Self employment
- Reduction of Unemployment in Bille Kingdom
- Bille as a Tourist Destination; Designated Commercial Area
- Access to Entrepreneurship and Mentorship;
- Balance in distribution of Resources and income.

How To Get There

Internal GDP Increase Initiatives

- Internal roads to increase population mobility
- Internal transport service
- Establishment of Commercial center (s)
- Establishment of recreation Areas
- Re-opening of Ke-Bille-PH transport

- route
 - Linkage of Satellite Economies to Bille Town beginning with Touma
 - Establishment of Bille Boatyard for all marine vessels service
 - Establishment of Bille Army & Police Barracks to integrate Army & Police into Economy
 - Creation of Oil service Island in Bille Territory with hostels & Helipad for Oil Coys
 - Developing tourism potential.
 - Identify and encourage cultivation of viable agricultural produce
 - Establish cooperative fish farming
 - Establishment of Micro Finance Bank (BICOM MICRO FINANCE BANK)
- Establishment of school in Port Harcourt (Nursery, Primary & Secondary)
 - Purchasing of Landing Crafts (to replace the ones at Awoba flow station)
 - Registration of Community Company Name with CAC (to apply for most jobs with the MNOGCs.
 - Formation of / strengthen Existing Economic associations-
 - Bille Youth Cooperative Society
 - Bille Women Business Associations
 - Bille Investment & Cooperative Society
 - Bille Oil & Gas Service Coy
 - Bille Marine Association
 - Bille Cultural Society



The Kingdom is Import Dependent, no productions and no structures to support production. Internal Gross Domestic Production (GDP) is near Zero. The Service Industry for building, craftsmanship and others is dominated by foreigners.



5. HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Education, Women Development, Youth Development, Entrepreneurship Development, Development of Human Capital in various works of life



PREAMBLE

The vision to develop Bille Kingdom, especially through the enhancement of its human and natural resources, remains a priority in the heart of every Billeinbo. A long history of marginalization generally blamed on government and other political neglects has spurred a new generation of visionary citizens into designing the present blueprint for “The Bille we Want.”

OBJECTIVES

The two basic issues to be addressed with respect to attaining the dream of “The Bille

We Want,” are:

- Where we are
- Where we want to be

The Human Capacity Development sub-committee considered the current human capacity status of Bille Kingdom in various professional spheres.

CONCEPTUALISING HUMAN CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Human capacity development is generally conceived, in line with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) description, as the process by which individuals and larger societies obtain,

strengthen and maintain their capabilities to set and achieve own growth objectives over time; a process founded more in a change of attitude than in the multiplication of resources. This Sub-Committee has approached that concept as the process of identifying, developing, deploying and sustaining needed skills, talents and abilities towards societal development. From that perspective, the acronym IDD+S, from the

four key words, became the pivot for engagement:

1. Identify; 2. Develop; 3. Deploy; 4. Sustain

WHERE WE ARE

In terms of human capacity development, Bille Kingdom still stands steps behind its neighbours. The Sub-Committee undertook an overview of certain capacities according to the following criteria and categories:

<p>Capacities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · level of manual skills · level of educational attainments 	<p>Locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Billein in Bille · Billein in diaspora 	<p>Populations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Children (age 1 – 12) · Youths (age 13 – 30) · Adults (designated according to gender): males/females
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The evaluation based on a scale of 1 – 5 interpreted as : 1 – Very Poor ; 2 – Poor; 3 – Average; 4 – Good; 5 – Very good indicated that the Kingdom faired within 1-3. The general picture of 'where we are' is a sad average, which calls for deliberate steps towards 'where we should be.'

human capacity development with an aim to reaching "where we want to be" within a stipulated time. The roadmap to the dreamed future considered the following points:

- The areas for development
- The process for development
- The time frame for development

These key points instructed a division of the twenty-year vision into short term phases of 5 years, 10 years, and 20 years.

WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Drawing from the status above, the need was apparent, to pay closer attention to

1st phase (short term)	2nd phase (midterm)	3rd phase (long term)
1 - 5 years	1 - 10 years	1 - 20 years

SHORT-TERM GOALS: 1 - 5 YEARS

S/NO	SKILLS	TRAINING DURATION	MARKET AVAILABILITY	LOCATION
1.	Mechanical Skills	1 year	Viable	Bille
2.	Tie & Dye	3 months	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
3.	Bead Making	6 months	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
4.	Wrapper Weaving	1 year	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
5.	Cobbler	6 months	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
6.	Music	1 year	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
7.	Tailoring	1 year	Viable	Bille /Diaspora
8.	Bakery/Water Plant	1 Year	Viable	Bille
9.	Net Weaving	6 Months	Viable	Bille /Diaspora

MIDTERM GOALS: 1 - 10 YEARS

The midterm phase is proposed to address capacities in agriculture, such as fish farming, poultry, piggery, crop farming, etc. The time frame of 1- 10 years is considered adequate for developing and sustaining skills in those and other agricultural capacities.

LONG TERM 1 - 20 YEARS

The high rate of school dropouts in Bille Kingdom has lately become a subject of

great concern. To the extent that education is fundamental to social development, that problem portends danger to the future of the community. Attempt was made therefore, as enumerated below, to identify some of the causes, with a view to beginning to arrest the problem.



1.	teenage pregnancy and premature parenthood
2.	lack of sponsorship in school (comm unity grants, individuals and collaborative sponsorships, etc. could redress this)
3.	insufficient parental support and faulty family structures
4.	Cultism/drug abuse
5.	wrong role models

The problem is not peculiar to any specific level of the educational tower, but cuts across all levels from crèche through primary to tertiary education. In line, therefore, with United Nation’s UNDP’s stress on re-orientation and lifestyle change with respect to community development and capacity enhancements, the sub-committee

recommends periodic enlightenment workshops towards mental emancipation from long-held inhibitive traditions, values, world views, practices, etc.

The table below shows various professional key areas speculated within the timeframe of 20 years.

S/NO	PROFESSION	SPECIALIZATIONS	TIMEFRAM E	PROCESS	TARGET NUMBER
1.	Health	Medical doctors, Nurses, Lab Scientist, Surgeons, etc.	1 – 15 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	1,200 persons in various health-related fields
2.	Engineering	Electrical, Mechanical, Structural, Marine and oil & Gas etc.	1 – 15 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	2,000 persons in different fields of engineering

3.	Legal	Magistrates, Judges, Senior Advocates, etc.	1 – 18 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	1,800 legal practitioners
4.	Humanities	actors, script writers, movie directors, make-up artists, stage managers, cinematographers, song writers, music business managers, etc.	1 – 12 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	1,000 field players in the humanities
5.	Management	Human Resource managers, international relations, diplomats, hospitality managers, politics, etc.	1 – 10 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	8,000 key players in various management fields
6.	Security	Police officers, D.P.O(s) of Police, Inspector Generals, Custom officers,	1 – 15 years	Community grants, individual and collaborative sponsorships, etc.	3,000 persons in military and paramilitary capacities



We realise that this Development Agenda 2040 will not happen spontaneously, it will require conscious and deliberate efforts to nurture a transformative leadership that will drive the agenda and defend the Kingdom's interests.



6. HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Improving health care, Infant & maternal Health, Health Education, Health Infrastructure Stock development, Disease/Epidemic Controls, Improving life Expectancy,



PREAMBLE

Health as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) is a state of complete physical, mental, and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. A healthy Community is a wealthy community.

Bille due to her geographical location and

terrain has the challenge of insufficient access to healthcare delivery services. Good Health has strong correlation with other health promotion features, such as roads, pipe-borne water, environmental pollution, adequate power supply and etc.

2 THE HEALTH SITUATION IN BILLE TODAY:

In the light of the above, the challenges of health development in our environment are divided into two segments:

(a) HEALTH PROMOTION FEATURES:

1. Inadequate water supply
2. Crowded housing pattern
3. Poor environmental sanitation
4. Pollution of our waterways with crude oil
5. Poverty
6. Poor Nutrition

(b) CORE HEALTH CHALLENGES:

1. Inadequate health infrastructures
2. Inadequate Manpower
3. Inadequate essential drugs
4. Inadequate public enlightenment
5. Ignorance of citizens
6. Poor motivation of Health workers
7. High prevalence of the following conditions:
 - Diarrhea (Intermittent outbreak of Cholera diseases); Malnutrition/Anemia; STD/HIV Aids; Upper Respiratory Tract Infection/Pneumonia; Malaria (commonness); Skin infections
 - High maternal and infant mortality
 - Hypertension; Diabetes; Cataract; Arthritis

Good Health has strong correlation with other health promotion features, such as roads, pipe-borne water, environmental pollution, adequate power supply and etc.

- Teenage pregnancies; Unwanted pregnancies/Abortions
- High mortality rate

3. Strategies To Achieve Health Development From 2019 - 2024 Include:

1. Carrying out of a baseline survey
2. Conversion of the Bille Health Centre to a Cottage Hospital
3. Provision of Health Insurance Scheme
4. Establishment of Health post in all our other communities
5. Public Enlightenment
6. Employment of qualified Manpower such as: Doctors, Nurses and other Paramedics
7. Training and re-training of the available Health staff
8. Provision of essential medicines
9. Environmental cleaning campaign against the pollution of land and waterways



10. Stoppage of Jetty Latrine system (Degi)
11. Campaign for mass education (especially the female child)
12. Supply of potable water and how to treat the available one(Open well water)
13. To operate a “Gantt Chart” – a time bound, activity chart for the implementation of health related activities in the kingdom.

4. Determination Of The Resources To Implement These Tasks And People Responsible For Its Implementation Include:




We propose continuous appeal to the Government (Federal, State and Local) for infrastructure provision and funding. This

can be complemented with funds from Community self help; Appeal to the Multinational oil Companies operating in and around Bille Kingdom; Philanthropic Organizations/Individuals.


The Healthcare Development Committee members should raise needed awareness from time to time to ensure gaps are addressed.

5. Tips On How To Implement The Strategies Are:

- Team work; Prudent management of resources and
- Utilization of standard method of need assessment and operational research method for the project to be internationally acceptable.



The future of Bille Kingdom
depends on the building of youths
that would be relevant in the
affairs of tomorrow



7. YOUTH/SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Youth Development, Sports Development, Recreation Infrastructure development, Cultural development for export, Integration of Cultural activities into State cultural calendar

INTRODUCTION



The future of Bille Kingdom depends on the building of youths that would be relevant in the affairs of tomorrow. Their skills set, psychological orientation and physical well being therefore needs to be provided for. An idle mind and a lazy body are instruments of the devil. Their cultural entertainment activities also need to be profiled for economic well being.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this blueprint is to

deliberately design a roadmap to attain the “Bille Youth we want” by reviewing: Where we are; Where we want to be; and proffer strategies on how to get to where we want to be as well as how to mobilize resources to achieve our goal.

In view of the above the subject of YOUTH/SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT was considered under the following sub-heads: Youth Development; Sport development; Recreational Infrastructure e-Development; Development of Culture for export; Integration of cultural activities into state cultural calendar.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The committee perceived a youth to be a mid-term person between the ages of 18-40years (or between adolescence and adulthood). In other to answer the questions to attain the Bille we want, we present our submission in a tabular form as follows:

Where we are? (Problems Identification)	Where we want to be?	Strategies on how to get to where we want to be (Possible Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Teenage Pregnancy <p>Factor: victim of Sexual abuse, peer group pressure, low self-esteem, Drugs and alcohol use and poverty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Good Physical development · Good risk management · High Intellectual development · Adequate knowledge of essential life and vocational skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Prevent minor (0-17) from involvement in pre-marital sex. · Inculcate compulsory sex education at various educational levels (Primary & secondary). · Discipline/Constant Monitoring. · Encourage abstinence.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · School Dropout <p>Factor: Financial difficulties, Orphans, Intelligence level, pregnancy, drug abuse, negative Influence etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Good social, emotional, moral well being · Opportunities for all round empowerment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identification and paying special attention to children with Low IQ. · Parent's skill development/ micro loan scheme (Trade). · Scholarship scheme (indigent Wards) · Regular Sensitization/counselling Team. · Engagement of competent and qualified teachers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Drug abuse <p>Exposure to drugs like, Marijuana, Cough Medicines eg. Codeine, Pain Killer (Vicodin, Tramadol, Cocaine etc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Quality education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Peddling/Selling of hard drugs should be prohibited and enforced by Police and Drug Law Enforcement Agency. · Regular sensitization · Re-directing the mind to recreational/sport activities. · Vocational skills development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cultism <p>Factors: Inordinate ambition for Fame and position, intimidation, Dropout, financial assistance, protection, peer group(Association), corruption, poor education etc.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sensitization and enlightenment (Adequate counselling services). · Formulation of local laws to ban cultism. · Possibly handing over culprit to law enforcement agencies. · Proper home upbringing · Improvement of security · Provision of recreational activities.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination Malpractice <p>Factors: Faulty educational system, Parents' Irresponsibility, environmental, Students attitude, lack of synergy between community leadership, parents and management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement of competent and qualified teachers. Introduction of award scheme (best performing students or ward) Provision of essential and standard infrastructures viz. Library, Laboratory, etc. Ensuring and enhancing conducive environment for effective and efficient teaching-learning process. Adequate preparation for external examination and inter school competitions eg. Spelling Bee, Easy, Mathematics and science quiz.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prostitution <p>Factors: Financial needs/inducement, parental care, personal choice, divorce, unemployment, peer pressure, laziness, addiction, heartbreak, rape victim etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitization and Awareness Campaign Protective rehabilitation Improved Quality Education Counselling and guidance Recreational and social service provision Surveillance system. Entrepreneurship intensive training /employment opportunities



SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Sport is a medium for the unification of youths and diverse stakeholders within the Bille environs. It could also be a career path for youths strong psychomotor skills. Bille has produced continental gold medalist in

swimming in the past and has also been a force to contend with in football in recent times. Many youths are scouting for international engagements in football due to the skill level developed through local football competition.

Where we are? (Problems Identification)	Where we want to be?	Strategies on how to get to where we want to be (Possible Measures/Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal Participation/ Exposure to outside competitions • Cultism • Ego • Low Sponsorship/ motivation • Lack of focus/ Foresight • Absence of adequate sports facilities (eg. Football, training kits. • Lack of means of team Transport • Inferiority complex • Packaging Problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active involvement of Bille youths into local, state, national and international Sport competitions. • Sports as a means of livelihood for Youths . • National and international stars or celebrity in the arena of global sports of Bille origin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-orientation/Sensitization through Introduction of various sports at the primary to secondary school level. • Organizing Competition (local) • Registration and affiliation with the state and other sports councils. • Encouraging Key players to develop foresight (occupation) • Sponsorship/motivation by Individual, Community & Corporate bodies. • Promoting the image of Bille Kingdom to the outside world through sports. • Establishment of Bille Kingdom Sports Council (BKSC). • Introduction of Inter-School and other Competitions • Strengthening sports education in Bille. • Construction and provision of standard sports facilities • Annual budgeting in the area of sports. • Obtain basic education (minimum qualification of first degree) • Diversification to other sportive areas apart from existing one. • Increasing public relation mediation (mass media)

CURRENT FOOTBALL CLUBS IN BILLE



RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Recreation simply involves the use of leisure time or evaluation of spare time. Basic aspects of recreation identified include:

- Relaxation in Guest House, Picnic Areas, Parks, Zoo, fun fair etc
- Tourism through visit to Museums, camping ground, etc
- Cultural Festival and Arts (Memorial Celebration, Wrestling Competitions, Culture House)
- Social (Weddings, dancing, etc)
- Sports and games. (indoors and outdoors games) such as: Scrabble, Cheese, Volley Ball)

Where we are? (Problems Identification)	Where we want to be?	Strategies on how to get to where we want to be (Possible Measures/Solutions)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Awareness • Relegation of indigenous culture • Security challenges • Misrepresentation of the culture Abroad • Inadequate Investment and funding • Poor Infrastructures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job creation and employment opportunity • Income generation that will alleviate poverty • Pride in our cultural heritage • Preservation of ecosystem and biodiversity • Attraction of direct foreign investment • Developed local sports infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of adequate infrastructure such as standard hotels, electricity, good road network, etc. • Tackling security issues • Develop a standard information technology network • Documentaries of our environs. • Proper management team • Indigenization and showcasing the Bille cultural values. • Encourage educational advancement on recreational development. • Develop diverse service area; hospitality, transportation, food, entertainment (Amusement Parks, Theatres, Cinemas, music venue & Comedy shows).

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE FOR EXPORT

Culture involves the combination of values, esteems, attitude which are being shared by members of a group or society, and which have impacts on their life style, be it material or non-material.

Where we are? (Problems Identification)	Where we want to be?	Strategies on how to get to where we want to be (Possible Majors/Solution)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Packaging Pattern • Local Products consumption • Negative perception by Religious People (With Judgement, wrong perception and poor understanding) • Poor and Non Visionary Leadership • Ineffective communication with other social groups & Outside world (dialect, drums, etc). • Poor Capacity for preparation & planning of displays. • Poor research & documentation (Marriage system, Dressing pattern, Chieftaincy Installation etc) • Lack of objectivity and reliability of sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affirming the authentic cultural values and heritage • Building up national and international cultural identity parallel and different from other ethnic group. • Development of cultural infrastructure • Establishing links between culture, education and cultural industries (Mass Media). • Providing Administrative and institutional structure for clear implementation of framework of cultural policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness/enlightenment of the importance of cultural export • Establishment of Bille National Symbols • Cultural taste advertisement • Recruitment/training of specialist • Establishment of research based history and documentation. • Transmission of cultural values in schools. • Introduction, implementation and review of socio-cultural policy.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Investment in recreational infrastructure
- Building up national and international cultural identity parallel and different from other ethnic group.
- Development of cultural infrastructure
- Establishing links between culture, education and industries.

- Job creation and employment opportunity trough sports and culture
- Establishment of Bille Kingdom Sports Council (BKSC)
- Encouragement of young ones to participate in Para-Military Organisation (such as Boy's Scout, Red Cross, Brigade etc) to develop the act of discipline at the various level of school system.



Culture packaged for export

CONCLUSION:

It is of great worth to note that Youth/Socio-cultural Development plays a cardinal and fundamental role in ensuring effective and efficient administration/management of both human and capital resources aimed at answering the questions of where we want to be through the Bille Kingdom Development Agenda 2040.

Culture for Entertainment in Bille





Environmental Laws/policies are important tools for compelling people to act environmentally responsible. Currently there are no standard environmental regulations/laws guiding the management of our environment this has led to inappropriate waste disposal, land and air pollution. This needs to be addressed going forward.



8. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTIVITIES

Developing a Green Bille, Environmental Pollution control, Harnessing waste to wealth, Erosion & Flood control, Sensitization on environmental issues.



The Mangrove Forest before Oil pollution

CURRENT SITUATION

Bille Town and its communities are currently experiencing rapid environmental degradation, with increasing biodiversity loss, land and air pollution, poor waste management, soil erosion, flooding, etc. The blueprint is set to seek measures to improve, protect and

sustain the natural and built environment of Bille Kingdom.

CONSTRAINTS

The following constraints have been identified:

- Environmental Education constraint-

environmental education is an important process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take action to improve the environment. It helps individuals to develop deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions.

5 components of environmental education which are currently lacking in Bille include:

- Awareness and sensitivity to the environment and environmental challenges.
- Knowledge and understanding of the environment and environmental challenges.
- Attitudes of concern for the environment and motivation to improve or maintain environmental quality.
- Skills to identify and help resolve environmental challenges.
- Participation in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges.
- Sociocultural constraint – the general attitude of the society toward the environment, varying beliefs, values or cultures of the people, are factors which contribute to either the building of constructive atmosphere or failure of environmental performance. Culture affects the individual in the traditions he has learned, shared and valued (Benita

Environmental education is an important process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take action to improve the environment. It helps individuals to develop deeper understanding of environmental issues and have the skills to make informed and responsible decisions. 5 components of environmental education which are currently lacking in Bille

Yap). culture is one of the pressing challenges of the Bille people leading to loss/degradation of our natural environment.

- Economic factors – this is of great significance with special consideration to production factors, natural endowment and available natural resources. Production factors include necessary services to support the production, distribution and consumption of certain products which may have environmental impact. We use wood for fuel, refuse disposal into the river and suspended toilets for open defecation all with environmental consequences.

- Lack of Environmental Law: Environmental Laws/policies are important tools for compelling people to act environmentally responsible. They are an effective means of protecting the environment and contribute to environmental pollution control, prevention, and planning. Lack of enforcement of environmental laws contributes to poor environmental practices. Currently there are no standard environmental regulations/laws guiding the management of our environment this has led to inappropriate waste disposal, land and air pollution, etc.
- The introduction of relevant environmental laws is the way forward for a greener Bille Kingdom.
- Lack of Green initiatives in promoting environmental sustainability

FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Promote Environmental education in Bille to increase environmental awareness and performance.
- Initiate environmentally oriented programmes aimed at encouraging environmental consciousness and shared values that influence behavioral changes toward environmental issues in Bille.

- Provide Sustainable fund/resources that can sustainably manage all environmental issues in Bille Kingdom.
- Encourage environmentally sustainable production and consumption of goods and services.
- Provide laws and regulations that promote a green Bille Kingdom.
- Introduce Green Programs that promotes Environmental sustainability.
- Foster community spirit through the provision of public spaces and by facilitating active civic participation in sustainable development

STRATEGY

1. Environmental Education and

Awareness: Establishment of Bille Environment Day- An annual event that will take into consideration diverse environmental topics and activities/campaigns aimed at educating all Billein. Success indicators will be an environmentally informed society with positive behavioral change towards the environment.

2. Sociocultural Constraint: Introduction of programs such as 'the Green Champion: 'Green Ambassador' or Environmental Man of the Year' to encourage individual and group participation in environmental sustainability of Bille Kingdom. Overall aim is to see an environmentally motivated people

whose beliefs, shared values/ culture are rooted to meet the environmental sustainability goals of Bille Kingdom.

3. Economic Environmental Factors:

Establishment of Bille Kingdom Environment Sustainability Trust Fund (BKEST) aimed at raising fund for the management of our Natural and Built environment. This will be annual event carried out on Bille Environment Day in partnership with the Rivers State Ministry of Environment and other NGOs and stakeholders. Identify all businesses – both large and small scale, which activities places stress on the environment and introduce 'the Packaging Producer Responsibility System (PPRS) where all business owners, producers will take responsibility for reducing the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging and increase the amount of recyclable packaging through reforms to packaging producer responsibility regulation amongst others.

4. Environmental Laws: Formulate and implement, in accordance with the Nigerian Environmental Laws, policies/regulations that will protect the environment and promote green Bille Kingdom. These will take into consideration the following

- Pollution control – Land, Air, Water, oil spill
- Endangered species – plants and animals

- Hazardous waste
 - Land use – regulation of green parks, Designated areas of local and national interest, agriculture, heritage,
 - Ecological conservation
 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - Factories
 - Territorial Waters – pollution control
 - Petroleum products and distribution – environmental aspect
 - Polluters Pay Principle – make business owners to account for all environmental aspects of their businesses
- 5. Lack of Green Initiatives:** introduce green programs such integrated waste management, tree planting, mangrove restoration and conservation, establishment of green parks, Recycling and reuse, modern landfill and toilet facilities to reduce pollution, green energy – solar energy, biofuels, establishment of green walls, increase biodiversity etc.
- Growing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)
 - Encouraging Green Volunteerism: Care for the environment is a social responsibility that an increasing number of people have embraced.
 - Keeping Bille Clean, One Act at a Time: Our living environment need to be shaped by people who care about their

neighborhoods and shared spaces, and who are prepared to act upon it.

- 4) Enriching our Natural Heritage: We will continue to build on, protect and reinforce our natural heritage within our environment.
- 5) Expanding Communal and Recreational Spaces: Public spaces enable the community to come together and bond over common activities and experiences. We should create community-centric spaces and distinctive neighborhoods.
- 6) Bringing Our Common Spaces to Life: Creating new public spaces and


rejuvenating existing ones for the community

Funding action plans


To ramp up implementation of the priority strategies and advance sustainable environmental management, coordinated kingdom and philanthropic action is urgently needed. There is need to work with funders, and other partners to develop detailed funding action plans for the near term while laying the groundwork for longer-term systemic change.



Save Our Environment, Save Our Planet And Means Of Livelihood



To grow politically and get dividends, we should be able to form coalition with politicians from the other non Kalabari speaking communities in DELGA and also get along well with our Kalabari brothers.



9. POLITICAL EVOLUTION

Integration of Bille Kingdom into Online Politics, Political Education, Attaining political appointments, Upgrading the Political status of Bille Kingdom- traditional stool & Ward Status



INTRODUCTION

The people of Bille at last have agreed to redefine their existence, progress, genuine developmental future and evolve into a force to reckon with in the Ijaw nation and Nigeria as a whole.

One of the onerous task is to design the Political future of our dear Bille kingdom. This section examined the political

participation/achievements of Bille in the Nigerian political circle in the past, today and where we want to be politically in the future and strategies needed to get to our proposed goal. This work was done during the electioneering period. The outcome would have been richer and of more quality if this assignment was given outside the

electioneering period.

This presentation for ease of understanding and to achieve our desired goal, is split into 3 segments thus:

- a. Where we were in the past and examine some of the causes;
- b. Adoptable strategies to be where we want to be; and
- c. The likely financial resources required to be where we want to be.

WHERE WE WERE IN THE PAST

1ST Republic Era (1960-1963)

Bille Kingdom participated in party politics – NCNC, ACTION GROUP and NCP but on non-elective ground.

2nd Republic Era (1979-1983)

In 1979, the Late Mr. Manson S. Boisa (latter Rev.), contested and lost the Degema Constituency 2 seat in the Rivers State House of Assembly under the platform of the Great Nigerian Peoples' Party (GNPP).

In 1983, Mr. Dawari N. Romeo became the flag bearer of the Nigeria Peoples' Party (NPP) and ran for the House of Representatives seat to represent the Degema Constituency but lost.

3rd Era (1992-1993).

This was the General Ibrahim B. Babangida's unsuccessful attempt to restore Nigeria to democracy and no Billein at the time sought

to run for any political office. Non Party System Experimented By The Babangida's Administration (Zero Party System)

In 1996, Mr. INC. Herbert unsuccessfully vied for the Chairmanship of the Degema Local government Council.

4th Republic Era (1997 till date).

In 1999, Hon. Ikurowa J. Igani became Vice Chairman in the Degema Local Government Council under the umbrella of the Grassroot Democratic Movement (GDM).

In 2006, Mr. INC. Herbert made a second attempt to secure an elective position. He contested to clinch the PDP ticket in the primaries to represent the people in the House of Representatives in the Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency but was unsuccessful.

In 2011, Mr. Fidelis Odom's desperate effort to capture the PDP's ticket in the primaries to represent the people in the Degema/Bonny Federal Constituency seat in the House of Representatives was also thwarted.

In 2015, Alhaji Ibrahim Owanate Sanipe contested but failed the Delga APC primaries to run the LGA Chairmanship Seat.

Between 2017/18 both Hon. Stephen Horsfall and Mr Abebe-Owibo Jacob purchased Intent-Forms to contest the PDP primaries for the Chairman of the Degema Local

Government Council. Reliably, they were persuaded to drop their ambitions by His Excellency, the Governor of Rivers State, Chief Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON.

Same period, the Governor in quick succession, appointed Hon. Mrs. Okorite Carrie-Adiele and Chief Hon. Boma Renner Dappa, respectively as Caretaker Committee chairmen of the Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State.

In 2018, Hon. Anthony Soberekon secured the PDP's Primaries ticket, contested the March 9th, 2019 Election for the Degema Constituency Seat in the Rivers State House of Assembly Election and won.

Distribution Of Wards In Our Degema Local Government Area: In 1976 and thereabout, when Bille and Ke constituted one ward in the Old Degema Local Government Area (now Delga, Asalga and Akulga), Bille Kingdom alone had 33 polling units by its voting strength. This was reduced to 15 polling units in 1979 – 1983. This has again been reduced to just nine (9) units today, just to further strangle the Bille Kingdom politically. In the bigger Old Degema Local Government Area, Bille had some political relevance, but for a smaller new Delga, Bille is reduced to be politically very, very irrelevant. See the projected population figures (1996) of the communities and the wards distribution in Delga.

Bakana and settlement	6 wards	Population 23,383	ie 3897/ward
Tombia and settlement	4 wards	Population 18,825	ie 4706/ward
Bille and its settlement	1 ward	Population 22,021	ie 22,021/ward
Degema-Town & Consulate	2 wards	Population 18,256	ie. 9,128/ward
Ke and Old Bakana	1 ward	Population 10,227	ie 10,227/ward
Obuama	1 ward	Population 4,481	ie. 4,481/ward
Bukuma & settlements	1 ward	Population 11,462	ie. 11,462/ward
Usokun	1 ward	Population 3,898	ie. 3,898/ward

Comparing 3897/ward for Bakana, 4706/ward for Tombia and 22,021/ward for Bille. It can be seen at a glance that there is everything wrong in the distribution of Wards and units in Delga.

This is in spite of the fact that the Census figure for Bille Kingdom (Bille Town and her settlements) was politically censored to be low for geo-political reasons. In fact some of its settlements were even wrongly hijacked into Asalga.

Classification Of Chieftaincy Stools: Bille Chieftaincy Stools predate all the Chieftaincy Stools in the Old Degema Local Government Area (now Delga, Asalga and Akulga). In 1980s, the only recognized stools in the Old Degema LGA were the Amanyanabo of Kalabari and the

Amanyanabo (sic: Amadabo) of Bille. This is captured in the Nigeria Year book of 1985. Today the Amanyanabo of Bille Stool (Currently gazette as Amadabo of Bille) is still Third Class government (political) recognition, while 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class recognitions have been given to stools in almost all the communities in these LGAs.

The foregoing is the state of the Bille Kingdom's political exploits vis-à-vis when party politics began in Nigeria. It is abundantly clear that we had not fared well. Apart from our attempts to grab elective offices, there was/were no visible records that we had had any political appointment until recently. If there had been, then they/it must have been very insignificant compared to what obtains to our neighbouring Kingdoms in the political space.

Reasons For Our Current Status:

- The Absence of educational prowess among the people.
- Inferiority Complex
- Absence of growth and expansion
- Absolute low-level of Political participation in party politics
- Marginalization
- Hiding our identity
- Lack of funding political parties and candidates
- Politics of isolation

- Tactical blackmail through the Press

Strategies To Be Adopted To Keep Us Where We Want To Be

- Internal Conflict resolution
- Adopt a common ground on negotiations
- Build bridges across to our Kalabari neighbours and others nationwide.
- Media friendliness.
- Associating with the powers that be at all levels and always.
- Constant visit to all levels of Government.
- Deliberate involvement in campus politics to groom the younger generation.
- Carry out periodic orientation and political enlightenment programmes at the CSS level, which must be deliberate.
- Sponsorship and participation in political parties.
- Upgrading our various satellite communities, making them distinct and autonomous.
- Discourage Pulling Him Down (PHD) syndrome/spirit.
- Form and sponsor political parties and candidates to run for the highest offices at the Local, State and Federal levels.
- Lobby and persuade INEC to increase the number of wards (ward delineation) for Bille Kingdom.

- A rational and equitable distribution of electoral wards based on the projected census figures for 1996, using the basis

in creating the wards in Bakana, should have been as follows.

S/NO	COMMUNITY	PROJECTED POPULATION 1996	PRESENT NO. OF WARDS	PROPOSED EQUITABLE WARDS
1	Bakana & Settlements	23,383	6	6
2	Bille & Settlements	22,204	1	5.7 = 6
3	Bukuma & Settlements	11,462	1	2.9 = 3
4	Degema-Town & Consulate	18,256	2	4.7 = 5
5	Ke & Settlements	7,125	½	1.8 = 2
6	Obuama	4,481	1	1.2 = 1
7	Old Bakana	5,310	½	1.4 = 1
8	Tombia & Settlement	18,825	4	4.8 = 5
9	Usokun	3,898	1	1.0 = 1


- Target participation in getting the highest positions politically at the Local, State and National levels in all political parties.
- Equipping oneself in all ramifications before presenting oneself for political positions, education being the key.
- Consistency in political activities.
- Encouraging and sponsoring education at all levels.
- We should be able to form a coalition with politicians from the other non Kalabari speaking communities in

DELGA and also get along well with our Kalabari brothers.


- Update the Rivers State Gazette on Chieftaincy Affairs of the nomenclature of the Bille Chieftaincy Stool to Amayanabo of Bille Kingdom.

Required Financial Resources To Achieve The Above

- Establish a Political Trust Fund and encourage donations and contribution to pursue the course of political evolution.



Infrastructure development and availability attract and retain people as well as accelerate economic activities which eventually lead to prosperity and improve the living standard of the people. Infrastructure development has been the key reason for the disappearance of rural communities to urban societies.



10. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

A new map of Bille Kingdom showing Bille Town & Satellite communities, A new Map of Bille Town 10yrs from now with internal roads and smart city infrastructure, Transformation of Bille Town & Satellite centers Into a smart city, strategies for Infrastructure Maintenance, Developing a Transport infrastructure network, Landing facilities and commercial centers.



INTRODUCTION

The advancement of every facet of human, society even our communities' hinges on infrastructure e-development and maintenance of same through diligent management. Infrastructure is defined by the Oxford Advanced Dictionary as "the basic systems and services that are necessary for a country or an organisation to run or operate

smoothly; for example, buildings, transport, water and power supply". Infrastructure, therefore, means those fundamental facilities, systems and structures necessary for the economy and operation of a country, state, community and organisation to smartly and effectively function.

Infrastructure is anything that have

economic, social and aesthetic value. Infrastructure, therefore, are those things we refer to as amenities which availability makes life pleasant and conducive. That a country or nation or community is developed is a measure of the availability of amenities or infrastructures. Thus, infrastructure entails public and private physical elements such as transport systems (roads, bridges, sea and



air), water and electricity supply, sewers, tunnels, telecommunication systems, factories, warehouses, shopping complexes, schools, markets, hotels, natural and artificial parks/gardens/recreational facilities, housing, hospital, etc. Its provision makes life comfortable and drives economic activities. Infrastructure triggers creativity and productivity giving rise to ingenuity and

technological advancement. Bille as a host kingdom for oil production, deserved to be rich in infrastructure and economic wellbeing.

Infrastructural development and availability attract and retains people and as well as accelerate economic activities which eventually lead to prosperity and improves the living standard of the people. Infrastructural development has been the key reason for the disappearance of rural communities to urban societies.

Bille Kingdom Infrastructure Today

In terms of infrastructural development, Bille Kingdom (Bille Siye) is very backward. In the next 5 to 20years, the kingdom of Bille should be infrastructurally vibrant and economically attractive. The sand filling of Iwoama through land reclamation, has greatly paved way for infrastructures like the Community Secondary School, Guest Houses and Hotels, Telecommunication Masts, Cold Room, Health Centre, Modern Primary School, Enlarged Play Ground and Modern Residential Layout in gridiron pattern. The provision of electricity in Bille Town from diesel powered generators though skeletal, have greatly checked the huge migration to Port Harcourt.

Even more pathetic, the outlying

In the next 5 to 20 years, the kingdom of Bille should be infrastructurally vibrant and economically attractive.

communities in Bille territory are handicapped deprived of basic infrastructures of the myriad of communities that dot the Bille Kingdom. Only Jike-Ama and Krikama have primary schools, yet it is surprising to discover that these primary schools operate in Bille Town. In addition, Bille Town and her communities suffer horrendous sea erosion and regular flooding. Of a truth, our failure even in the face of glaring scarcity of spaces in the main land, we (Billein) find it hard to occupy these outlying lands/communities. This reason also aggravated the seeming abandonment and pathetic state of our settlements/communities.

In the late seventies (70's), the Orokubu section of Bille Town was sand filled and dredged by SPDC meeting just only 25% of the wish of Chiefs and people of the community. This became the turning point in the fortune of Bille Town with the arrival of CSS, Bille, Hospital, Primary and Nursery

Schools, Telecom Mast and lots more just for the single reason of land expansion and availability of space to accommodate development. There is urgent need now and the next twenty (20) years to change the narratives of our sorry state of development amongst others to sand fill and shore protect the rest of our communities; linking Bille Town to Touma through dredging thereby making Touma an industrial hub



and the main access to Bille Town; linking Bille Town to Olaka Ama with bridge and linking Bille Town to Oruama through canalisation. Maximising the IOC's facilities in and around Awoba and Krikama axes to changing the landscape of communities located there to the greater good of the entire Kingdom and making them more habitable and attractive henceforth.

This document, provide the Bille Siye just like other nations or communities a road map/template for her infrastructural and maintenance developmental needs for today and the future.

The core infrastructural elements to making the communities in Bille Kingdom “a smart city model” would include:

- Adequate water supply
- Assured electricity supply
- Sanitation including solid waste management
- Efficient urban mobility and public transport
- Affordable housing especially for the poor
- Robust IT connectivity and digitalization
- Good governance especially e-Governance and citizen participation
- Sustainable environment
- Safety and security of citizens particularly women, children and the

elderly

- Health and education
- Robust industrial hub and recreations
- Historical parks, monument, cemeteries, green fields, reserves, etc

The purpose of the Smart Cities Model is to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local area development and harnessing technology, especially technology that leads to Smart outcomes.

**BILLE KINGDOM VISION 2040
INFRASTRUCTURAL PLAN - 20 YEARS
PROJECTION/AGENDA:**

Clusters Mapping And Allocation:

For a holistic and even development of the kingdom, it is necessary to zone the various settlements and communities into clusters to create a symbiotic approach to collective infrastructural distribution, implementation and management decentralization but not limited to the communities listed thus:

CLUSTER 1	CLUSTER 2	CLUSTER 3	CLUSTER 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bille Town • Iwoama • Touma • Olaka Ama • Borma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikpakiaba Ama • Imopele Ama • Opu Bille Boko Ama • Oruama Boko Ama • Oruama 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fenipaan • Emmanuel Kiri • Dabira Kiri • Egbepiri • Menjidu Kiri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Krikama • Gogobo Ama • Ekema Ama • Jike-Ama • Dekima Boko • Oboma

A robust projection is made for BILLE TOWN, TOUMA,OLAKA AMA and BORMA. For the High level summary only that of Bille Town is highlighted. This model is to be extended to cluster 1.



Fig 3: Bille Town Showing Developed & Proposed Developments

In the late seventies (70's), the Orokubu section of Bille Town was sand filled and dredged by SPDC meeting just only 25% of the wish of Chiefs and people of the community. This became the turning point in the fortune of Bille Town with the arrival of CSS, Bille, Hospital, Primary and Nursery Schools, Telecom Mast and lots more just for the single reason of land expansion and availability of space to accommodate development.

Bille Town

· Location	-	4.578 Latitude; 5.886 Longitude
· Population	-	41,004
· Occupation	-	Fishing, Farming, Trading
· Tribe	-	Ijaw (Bille)
· System of Governance	-	Traditional
· Religion	-	Christianity, Islam, Traditional Religion
· Resident Characteristics	-	Predominantly Bille Indigenes
· Land Formation	-	Natural & Marginal

CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURAL STATUS:

- Footpaths as road networks; Primary Health Centre; Secondary School
- 2 Dilapidated Landing Jetties; 2 Primary Schools; 2 Private Nursery Schools
- Amanyanabo (King's) Palace; Palace Administrative Building
- Town Square with Odumdum Trees; Football Field with One-Lined Stand



- Skill Acquisition Centre; Youth Federation Secretariat
- Community (Town) Hall
- 1 Hotel (Local); 2 Guest Houses (Local)
- 2 Diesel Power Generator; Generator Powered Rural Electrification
- 2 Elevated Braithwaite Water Tank (One Functional); Water Reticulation Scheme; Ministry of Power Staff Quarter
- Cold Room - Not Functional
- Army Garrison Outpost; Police Station
- 300m combined concrete lined drains with slab crossings
- Numerous Churches

FIVE TO TEN (5-10) YEARS INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTION - 2030 TARGET:

- One (1) Large Standard/Modern Main Jetty at Opu Sira Community
- Reconstruction of Opu Imo Community Jetty

- One (1) Complimentary Modern Jetty at Iwoama close to CSS, Bille
- Setting out and construction of a minimum of 10ft (3m) wide road from the proposed main jetty extending to a proposed internal ring road emptying into the CSS, Bille entrance
- Construction of ring road linking major access roads within Bille Town and Iwoama
- Construction of the main access road from Iwoama to CSS, Bille main entrance
- Construction Paved walkways, footpaths and surface drains within Bille Town
- Construction of 30% of internal roads, drains and culverts at Iwoama
- Gas Turbine Power scheme with standard grids and transformers
- Procurement of Swamp Buggy
- Procurement of Standard Dredger
- Linking Touma to Iwoama in Bille Town – Sand Filling with earth supports
- Construction of Community Library
- Construction of Community Museum
- Rehabilitation and upgrade of the water reticulation scheme
- Gradual facing out of open defecation with modern health and environment friendly systems

**TEN TO TWENTY (10-20) YEARS
INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTION –2040 TARGET:**

- Development of Maxinal Lands for cemetery along the proposed Touma – Bille Town road axes
- Construction of Touma – Bille Town road with short deck pile bridges or culverts
- Construction of recreational parks or centres
- Completion of all internal roads at Iwoama
- Shoreline Protection
- Construction of sport centre and multipurpose hall
- Construction of industrial parks, light industries and market between Touma and Bille Town
- Construction of ring road on twin piled sand filled and deck-on-pile portions – Phase 2



- Construction of water related sport and boat regatta bay by Opu Abekere shoreline
- Construction of Airstrip for Helicopters
- Land Reclamation and Expansion through Sand Filling and Dredging
- Waste and Sewage Management
- System construction and Installations
- Construction of road from Obonoma Akulga) through the mangrove to Egbepiri and Olaka-Ama via Borma

PROJECTION FOR SATELITE COMMUNITIES

The Projections for the various satellite

Communities are in the full brochure. A High Level Summary however has the following intentions for the period:

CURRENT INFRASTRUCTURAL STATUS:

- Footpaths as road networks
- Portable Water – Locally Dug Well/rain water/bulking of fresh water from Awoba flow-station
- Makeshift landing jetty
- Skeletal local wooden shore Protection
- A few Zinc houses

FIVE TO TEN (5-10) YEARS INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTIONS - 2030 TARGET:

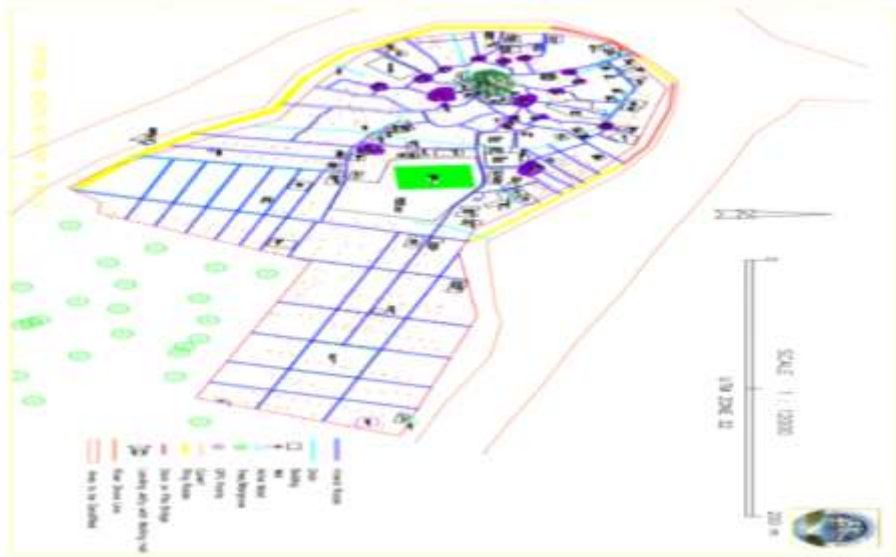
- Provision of portable water
- Construction of hotels and resort for oil industry contractor staff
- Construction of internal roads network
- Provision of electricity
- Construction of primary health centre
- Location and establishment of plantations/Fish farms and support facilities

TEN TO TWENTY (10-20) YEARS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTIONS - 2040 TARGET:

- Construction of concrete shoreline protection
- Construction of concrete landing jetty
- Construction of playground

INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES:

- Establishment of kingdom trust fund and management committee
- Procurement of Industrial Swamp Buggy and Sand Dredgers for community's canalization and reclamation
- Establishment and registration of kingdom neighbourhood security outfit for internal security management
- Standardized construction of portable prototype buildings that will be simple but adaptable in the various communities
- Institutionalization of tariff payment in all our communities
- Commissioning and institutionalization of Smartcity Committee




Bille Town With Proposed Roads Network


CLOSING REMARKS

There is urgent need now and the next twenty (20) years to change the narratives of our sorry state of development amongst others to sand fill and shore protect the rest of our communities; linking Bille Town to Touma through dredging thereby making Touma an industrial hub and the main access to Bille Town; linking Bille Town to Olaka Ama with

bridge and linking Bille Town to Oruama through canalisation. Maximising the IOC's facilities in and around Awoba and Krikama axes to changing the landscape of communities located there to the greater good of the entire Kingdom and making them more habitable and attractive henceforth.



In the next ten years, we foresee a Bille
where people of other clans and government
personnel could readily want to visit.
A community where there is decorum and security
of lives and property, a Bille which will be daily
mentioned positively in the news.



11. INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

Effective Information Communication among Billeins at home & in diaspora, Developing a positive image for Bille, Selling Bille to the World, Improving Information & Communication among the Satellite settlements and Bille, Developing Communication linkages with our neighbors.



PREAMBLE

In realization of the need for the Bille Kingdom to step up its development in the next ten years, the Amanyabo-in-Council, in consultation with the citizenry, resolved to organize the first ever 'Bille Kingdom Development Summit 2019' aimed at making Bille a truly great Kingdom in the next twenty years with the optimum utilization of its abundant human and natural resources. The overall vision is a 20 year projection (from 2020 to 2040) to be taken

in phases – short, medium and long term basis. The vision was articulated by various committees on theme basis.

The Information & Communication Development Sub-Committee deliberated on the following terms of reference:

1. Effective information & communication among Billein at home and in diaspora.
2. Develop a positive image for Bille and to sell Bille to the world.

3. Improve information & communication among the satellite communities and Bille.

4. Develop communication linkages with our neighbours.

With the aim of attaining the 'Bille we want', the Sub-Committee was required to focus on the following:

- a) Where we are at the moment
- b) Where we want to be in the next ten years (in 2030)
- c) Produce a strategy on how to get to the place where we should be
- d) To suggest viable avenues to mobilize resources to achieve our goal

TERMS OF REFERENCE, OUR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

EFFECTIVE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION AMONG BILLE IN AT HOME AND IN DIASPORA.

Where we are as at today,

- Every Bille adult has a hand-set (with a GSM line or two) with which he/she communicates with his kith and kin so we should have not less than 800 handsets in the eleven polo and the various satellite towns.
- Specifically, we have two networks - Airtel & MTN - operating in the Bille Kingdom.
- We estimate that there should be an

average of 50 GSM lines in every polo and village in the Bille Kingdom (including the mainland communities and the satellite communities).

- with two or more lines in each handset. We further estimate that there should be more than 1000 lines available to the Bille people and others resident in the Bille territory.
- we do not have other networks other than the two - MTN and Airtel - and as such Billein who use 9Mobile, GLO et al suffer communication problems when in the Bille territory.
- There is the problem of 'no service' with the networks at the various satellite settlements. Touma, Jikeama, Bille boko, Enesirama, etc.
- The Committee observed that we have very weak Internet Service in Bille. This means that teachers, students and other elite who may require the internet to transact business and other registration matters are incapable of doing so within the Bille Kingdom.
- There is a cyber café at the Opu Angula square but, it is not enough considering the size of Bille and its development potentials.
- There are several social media platforms. These have become very valuable for effective communication between Billein in different parts of the world. E.g.

Facebook group called 'Billein' (a closed Facebook platform for only **Bille** users with 1719 members), WhatsApp platform named '**Bille Community, Port Harcourt**' (209 members as at March 2019). others are **National Union of Bille Students** (455 Bille students), **Ijaw National Congress, Bille Clan** (243 members of the INC Bille Clan), **Bille Prayer Network (81 Bille Christians)**, **Bille Kingdom Elders Forum** (8 Bille elders), **Old Skool Social Club** (17 members), **Concerned Citizens of Bille** (644 concerned Billein), **Bille Advocates for peace, social, economic & Political Emancipation** (a socio-political platform with 72 members) and **Bille Kingdom All believers Fellowship** (44 believers in Bille)

- We also use the Town Crier (for the entire Bille Town), Youth Leader (for each polo) for issues about communal or polo meetings and other information,
- Circular to churches for announcement on Sundays and the Mass media.

Where we want to be in the next ten years (in 2030)

Our Committee foresees a situation where more persons would be given access to such facilities by making these systems available at Bille at subsidized prices. We foresee a Bille that would need more cyber café and

telephonic facilities in the nearest future, as envisaged by the Bille Development Summit.

Also, our Committee believes that by 2030 every adult should be able to have an email through which such services can be rendered to him/her. We look forward to seeing a Bille with Community Wifi facilities available for more users, especially during holidays and festive periods.

We foresee more persons registered in all the Social media platforms as they become more relevant to society. We also foresee a Bille radio to be operational in Bille Town to replace the Town Crier. We expect a rebirth of the local print media for information dissemination like the defunct Bille Mirror, or any newsletter that could function like it. It is possible to make a greater impact with the current rate of literacy in the Kingdom.

Strategy on how to get to the place where we should be

Enlightenment Campaign on the importance of telephone and internet services to our people at home. Also, we need to discuss with service providers to ensure that services at the local areas are best at all times and extended to the other villages.

We recommend that oil servicing companies and other firms which operate in our area

should be made to provide Wifi services free of charge to the communities near their operational bases.

We suggest that the community establish a standard ICT centre to enable our youth, who may not have the privilege of formal education, to be equipped in the field of ICT. The administrators of the various Facebook/Whatsup and other social media platform accounts should help collate more numbers of Billein and add them to the existing numbers which as at today is less than 2000. Billein in Bonny, Yenagoa, Lagos, Abuja, Calabar, London and in the USA added would serve as a veritable platform for easy communication between Billein at home and in the diaspora.

In addition, we recommend the revival of the contract for the establishment of the Bille Radio station. Wires were placed at strategic places but the contractors have been quiet thus far. We wish that it would be revived.

We propose the replication of Telecom Masts in all satellite villages to cover the Bille Kingdom with GSM Networks.

An understanding can be reached with the two GSM providers to enable community information via sms to persons within the Bille mast.

Community Bill Boards can also be erected in strategic locations for adverts and information dissemination.

Viable avenues to mobilize resources to achieve our goal

The provision of telephone services in the form of GSM and lines had been and would continue to be an individual endeavour. The community can only relate with the service providers and marketers to subsidize for the rural peasants especially at such places as Jikeama, Opu Bille Boko, Touma, and other villages,

DEVELOP A POSITIVE IMAGE FOR BILLE AND TO SELL BILLE TO THE WORLD

Where we are at the moment

There has been a serious damage to the image of Bille in the past decade due to the dominance of the oil economy. Not only have we been given a disgraceful tag of a town where youths wield guns and other dangerous weapons we have also seen how our name had been associated with illegal bunkering and oil theft by the government and security agencies.

We also have Billein who give only their polo names on forms without anyone mentioning the names of any of the villages within the Bille Kingdom.

In addition, our history had been told by our neighbours with some degree of venom attached to it.

In the 80s, a Commissioner came to Bille and

gave us a hint of what they told her about Bille being muddy that she had to come with rain boot to move in the town, in case it rained. What have we done so far we feel is not yet enough.

There is a dearth of professionals in the fields of ICT, Public Relations, Mass Communication, etc. as well as the general information & communication industry in Bille.

Where we want to be in the next ten years (in 2030)

In the next ten years, we foresee a Bille where people of other clans and government personnel could readily want to visit. A community where there is decorum and security of lives and property, a Bille which will be daily mentioned positively in the news.

We expect our villages to be recognized not only by our chiefs but by government. We foresee a Bille Kingdom where chiefs and other officials will be appointed or installed for the villages as government agencies have their presence in such villages.

Concerning the dearth of practitioners in the communication & information industry, we should have more people in the world of ICT, Broadcasting and Journalism.

STRATEGY ON HOW TO GET TO THE PLACE WHERE WE SHOULD BE

This can be achieved through self-help. Also, the kingdom should prioritize areas of educational interest which we would like our strategic partners to assist us grow. There should be a definite policy to tilt scholarship awards to such sectors in the next ten years for us to reach a reasonable level in the industry.

Practicing journalists, broadcast personnel and writers in Bille should form a Bille Writers Association (or Forum). Luckily, we have a few of them in the Radio and Television stations as well as Newspaper staff who could make it happen. This body shall be responsible for publishing periodic (if possible, daily) articles about Bille in the National Dailies. In addition, we should assemble a team of journalists who will help to write commentaries in Radio stations about Bille on a periodic basis.

The Bille Kingdom Chiefs Council shall equally help to be in the news at all times for positive reasons as to attract government patronage. The State Governor should be constantly visited and urged to visit Bille as such visits could equally properly present the image of Bille in the eye of the public.

Another avenue to promote the image of Bille is for historians to publish the History of Bille and make it wider, instead of publishing and launching same at Bille where not much publicity is given to such an activity.

Viable avenues to mobilize resources to achieve our goal

We suggest that publicity should be a budget item and a percentage of Kingdom receipts be voted for this venture. Also, the Bille Writers Association, when formed, should be a fee/levy paying organization so as to be able to fend for its operations with subvention/support of the BKCC.

**IMPROVE INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION
AMONG THE SATELLITE COMMUNITIES
AND BILLE**

Where we are at the moment

There is virtually no means of communication among the satellite communities and Bille. Chats via GSM or the social media, be it Facebook, Twitter or WhatsApp is not possible. This is not appropriate and should be resolved in the next five years.

At the moment, even transport service between Bille Town and the villages in the Kingdom is difficult. One must hire a speed boat to be able to reach anywhere within the

territory. In effect, there is no programmed movement of people and goods within the Bille Kingdom.

**Where we want to be in the next ten years
(in 2030)**

In the next ten years, we should have easier and an improved communication between persons residing in our satellite communities and those resident in Bille. There should not be have any difficulty getting to any of these villages. In the next few years, the Committee suggests that transportation services are made available for persons wishing to visit the villages and also for those in the hinterland wanting to reach Bille Town.

Above all, it is necessary for GSM facilities to be extended to the satellite communities so that everyone in the Bille territory would have easier access to friends and relations away from home.

**Strategy on how to get to where we should
be**

The Committee suggests that providers of GSM services and oil servicing companies plying the area should be urged to assist the Bille Kingdom in this direction. Oil Service operators in the area have communication gadgets and equipment that enable them to have access to their head offices in Port Harcourt they should assist to ensure that communication is not an exclusive privilege.

Also, boat owners should be given incentives so that they could avail passengers of adequate services at reduced prices for goods and personnel moving between the main town and the villages in the Bille Kingdom. If this is done, we have no doubt that communication between residents in Bille Town and those in the villages would have tremendously improved by 2024. We also believe that constant meetings between leaders of the various communities at different locations should be encouraged. This would help to improve the communication between the villages and the main land. The Sub-Committee recommends that the Report of the Committee set up to address the administration of the Satellite Communities should be implemented by the BKCC without any further delay. It would surely shoot up the value placed on the satellite communities and the integration of these communities with the leadership of the Bille Kingdom and the state government.

Viable avenues to mobilize resources to achieve our goal

The major requirement for the actualization of this goal before year 2030 is the will and the zeal on the part of the leaders of the Bille Kingdom. The residents in these communities as well as those residing in Bille Town that have business in these settlements could also help to fund the drive

to ease the communication problems between the main town and the villages by sponsoring masts, while the GSM providers install their equipment.

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION LINKAGES WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

Where we are at the moment

The Sub-Committee observes that Bille currently relates well with her immediate neighbours – the Kalabari people – whose towns and villages surround the Bille Kingdom but we need to improve upon it. Specifically, we have economic, religious and marriage links with all of them. We also have such non-Kalabari speaking and friendly communities as Degema and Bukuma with whom we play politics but there is room for improvement in our relationship with our neighbours. Although there is good relationship, there is poor communication leading to mutual suspicion and lack of healthy integration of their economies.

Where we want to be in the next ten years (in 2030)

In the next ten years, we should be having regular inter communal sports festivals, social interaction between Billein and members of the neighbouring communities. Also, we should be in partnership instead of the antagonism that exist between us, once in a while. In the political sphere, we should be able to form a coalition with politicians

from the other Kalabari & Non-Kalabari speaking communities in DELGA.

Strategy on how to get to the place where we should be

The Committee suggests that informal meetings be started between Bille clubs and clubs from other communities. We are aware that persons from neighbouring clans are members of such Bille clubs like G12, People's Concern and Bille Musical Association. In the annual BDAFA soccer competitions, players from the other clans also participated freely. We urge our students to see beyond the Bille Kingdom and establish cordial relationship with students from Kalabari, Okrika, Nembe and Bonny.

The Committee also suggests that inter clan (or community) football competitions be arranged for youths of Bille to compete on a periodic basis with teams from places like Krakrama, Idama, Ke, Abonnema and Kula. We can equally organize such sports competitions against our brothers in Bonny, Okrika and Nembe. This will not only bring us together, it will reinvent the cordial relationship that our forebears had with these ancient clans.

We are aware of the existence of the IYC, INC and other Ijaw groups in the state, but we suggest that more of such groupings be initiated by Billein so as to improve the

existing relationship with the other clans.

Areas of Cooperation should be identified between Bille and its neighbours and memorandum of Understanding entered into. In the past our forebears had covenants of peace, trade etc with or neighbors especially after costly wars or infractions.


Viable avenues to mobilize resources to achieve our goal

We advise that public spirited philanthropists in Bille should be approached to assist in the sponsorship of such sports events as football, wrestling, boxing, and athletics between Bille and her neighbouring communities. We should bring back the days when Bille people had wrestling contests against the people of Rumuekpe, Ndele, Abua, etc. It was community project aimed at sustaining a better relationship with our neighbours, so we urge the community leadership to assist the Bille sporting bodies in arranging such sports festivals that will help bring the other clans closer to the Bille Kingdom.


In addition to the individual sponsorships, organizations, corporate entities and government departments could be approached to make this a reality. We have no doubt that if we, in Bille, can make the first move, other clans will accept it. That way, we shall achieve the required peace in our territory and a positive image for development.

Current Infrastructure That Needs Upgrade in Bille Town





For orderly and meaningful development in Bille Kingdom we need a legal framework to regulate, guide and guard the way the people conduct themselves. The present state of affairs in the Kingdom where there appears to be no restraint on what people do is no longer acceptable. There should therefore be a constitution for the political governance of the Kingdom.



12. LEGAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Development of legal archive, Consolidation of Bille legal rights, Documentation of traditional heritage of the kingdom, Fostering of Unity among legal luminaries in the Kingdom, Development of Human capital in various segments of the legal profession.



Preamble

The fabrics of every society is held together by rules and regulations. They could be written or unwritten. These rules are backed by sanctions which may be overt or covert. We call them traditions, bye-laws, constitutions, etc. They become our norms, value system etc. when contradicted we sanction through naming and shaming, fines, penalties, isolation, restriction or even expulsion. Bille has all

these in place in various forms. However when the rights of a person is to be established outside the confines of the immediate society a recourse need to be made to authorities beyond the community. This committee examines how the Bille kingdom can enforce its rights in the larger society and preserve internal cohesion in the face of a rising population with various shades of belief systems.

Where We are

- Bille presently has strong traditions, culture and values which guide daily conduct. This is challenged daily and in some cases overcome by miscreants.
- There is inadequate documentation of the rights of the Bille People
- There is lack of cohesion of its legal luminaries.
- The various aspects of community life are not regulated leaving room for manipulation. Some of these are Chieftaincy installation, Internal Administration, Marriage, Land Ownership, Installation of Amayanabo, etc
- There is no legal archive to for reference,
- There is poor documentation of the legal rights of Bille over its territory
- There is no update of Government gazette as the status of the Kingdom improves
- The Bille Bar Association is not very visible as a body at the moment because of some challenges.

Where we want to be

- A Kingdom where there is legal archive, with its structures of administration properly documented
- A kingdom with valid references for land ownership, marriage, local administration, etc

- A strong and virile Bille Bar Association
- A Legal Personality for the Bille Kingdom Development Initiative to track and drive implementation and patronage.
- Bille as a seat for Adjudication Customary and Magistrate Court.

Strategies to achieve these Objectives

1 Constitution For Bille Kingdom

For orderly and meaningful development in Bille Kingdom we need a legal framework to regulate, guide and guard the way the people conduct themselves. The present state of affairs in the Kingdom where there appears to be no restraint on what people do is no longer acceptable. There should therefore be a constitution for the political governance of the Kingdom.

The Constitution will specify, for example, the powers of the Amayanabo, Chiefs Council, CDC, BKYF, Ekine Sekiapu, Egbele-ereme, Internal Security, etc., and the relationship among these organs. It will also provide for the structure of our towns, villages and satellite communities and their relationship with the Bille Kingdom Chiefs Council, the central governing body.

2 The Chieftaincy Institution

The manner of accession and succession to the recognized chieftaincy stools in Bille

Kingdom, including the Amayanabo, Amadapu and Alapu generally, should be specified and enshrined in the Constitution. This will give some order to the present confused state of affairs that breed rancor and bitterness.

3 External Relations

In our competitive global village today, interest is what underpins relations between nations and communities; and every interest must be protected by law. Guidelines should therefore be drawn up on how the interests of Bille Kingdom should be protected and defended by those who conduct our relations with our neighbours and the wider world, including corporate bodies.

4 Land Holding

Land holding has always been a sensitive issue since the creation of the earth, because every living thing, particularly man, who is given authority to rule over it, dwells on land. Every activity of man involves land since it is on land that he lives, moves and has his livelihood. Rules should therefore be formulated for Billein to hold land legally. In Bille Town land is controlled by the individual compounds which allocate portions to their members without any proper documentation. Thus, owners of pieces of land cannot use their title as collaterals in business transactions. The entire Degema

Local Government Area is designated as an Urban Area. Therefore, Bille people should be able to obtain Right of Occupancy for their pieces/parcels of land, following due process.

We suggest therefore that henceforth any piece/parcel of land partitioned, apportioned or sold (as in Iwo Ama) to anybody should be by Deed of Grant or Deed of Conveyance, which can be subsequently registered with the Urban Development Authority in Degema for a Right of Occupancy. A Land Registry should also be established in Bille where these documents would be registered for the purpose of tracing root of title to land. There is no distinction between men and women in extant legal enactments in Nigeria on land ownership. We should therefore give conscious consideration to ownership of land by women in Bille Kingdom.

Again, consideration should be given to how we assert ownership and control over our riparian settlements (Sic. fishing ports) within the Bille Kingdom territory. In this regard, everyone who establishes a settlement should be registered and given a title document. This will prevent a repetition of the present system where such settlements are given foreign names, resulting in our sharing of our inheritance (including our oil facilities) with impostors,

impersonators cum trespassers. It is a pity that we have condoned this up to now!

5. Marriage

Our culture in relation to marriage has been nebulous. Traditional Marriage is the bedrock on which other forms of marriages are built. Thus, there is need to attest it with a Certificate to any couple who have gone through the process. This will protect marriage contracted



under Bille culture. We suggest, therefore, that a committee should be appointed to review the system for proper codification or documentation with full incidental consequences to check the rate and careless manner of divorce.

6 Creation Of A Documents Archive

There is an embarrassing lack of evidence of whatever legal relations Bille Kingdom has had with her neighbours and corporate bodies in the past. This is because documents on such relations were usually left in the custody of whoever was Secretary of the Chiefs Council at the time. There was also little or no appreciation of the value or importance of such documents because there were no legal eyes to look at the documents to evaluate them. By God's grace, there are lawyers in Bille Kingdom today; so any interaction with corporate bodies, other communities or organizations

by the Chiefs Council that would be reduced into writing should be moderated by a lawyer or lawyers. Such documents must be kept securely for future guidance. A Documents Archive for the custody of all such documents and every document of importance to the Kingdom is therefore the answer to our present embarrassing situation. The Archive should be managed by an educated and trustworthy individual.

Registration Of Association

The Bille Kingdom Development Initiative (Agenda 2040), is an initiative which we believe will outlive earlier visions of other groups such as the Bille Enlightenment Group (BEG), etc It should therefore be registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja with Registered Trustees. The Registration should enable it track and monitor the development Agenda. Its registration as an Association with legal personality will enable it seek patronage from corporate concerns on various aspects of the Agenda. Also ensure that those to be appointed Trustees are trustworthy as they will be given power, with the consent of the executive committee of the Association, to dispose property of the Association.

Bille Lawyers Association

This body has been inaugurated informally. We have dined and wined together, and held a couple of meetings. But we are determined to overcome these challenges and will bounce back very soon.

13. EPILOGUE



Amayanabo's Palace at Bille Town

It is our hope that in using this Vision document as a compass for the next ten years to guide ourselves and investment of our Development partners and by Implementation of this Development agenda, Bille kingdom will be amongst the best in quality of life measures. The present Economy will be structurally transformed to create shared growth, decent jobs and

economic opportunities for all.

This will be attained through strategies of inclusive growth, job creation, increasing agricultural production; investments in various spheres of business endeavors and innovation; youth empowerment and the provision of basic services including health, nutrition, education, shelter, water and sanitation.

The Following Support Initiatives shall be used for Implementation & monitoring of Development Plan.

- Bille National Day of Development for Planning & review of Progress
- Establishment of Bille Kingdom Development Trust Fund
- Development Fund Launching & Development Appeal in Thematic Areas
- Resource control can be domesticated in principle and in practice for the growth and development of our dear kingdom (Details in Brochure)
- Memorandum of Understanding with stakeholders – LGA, State, Associations, NGOs, individuals
- Secondment of Youths for Skills training/Entrepreneurships

The Kingdom's unique natural endowments, its environment and ecosystems, including its wildlife and wild lands would be healthy, valued and protected, with climate resilient economies and communities. We aspire that the Kingdom's collective GDP will be proportionate to her contribution to the national economy through the natural resource endowments in its domain.

To this cause we invite all and sundry to join hands to achieve for Bille and its people.

Bille Kingdom Development Summit Committee

Dated: May 11, 2019
PORT HARCOURT



Facilitator with Sub-Committee Heads

SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP



Brain-storming section by Sub-Committee Members

SUB COMMITTEES FOR ARTICULATION OF BLUE PRINT FOCAL AREAS

1	<p><u>Economic Development</u> Elder Boma.V. Benebo - Team Lead Engr. O.H. Fenibo Engr. Adokiye Tombomieye Mr. Given Asi Ebenezer</p>	<p>Mr. Elisha Tekenari David Mr. Tamunoemi Jenewari Mr. I.N.C. Herbert Bar. Alphonso Sibi Engr. Jephtah Gbobo</p>
2.	<p><u>Human Capacity Development</u> Prof. Kontein Trinya - Team Leader Dr. Alfred Albert Frimenjibo -Deputy Mr. Osaki Evans Tariah (HR)-Team Secretary Engr. Onengiyefori H. Fenibo Mr. Taminoibi F. Sanipe Engr. Flag Sanipe Mr. Okesiyesima Gilpin Mr. Tubo -oreriba Elisha Ms.Dikibujiri Diri</p>	<p>Sir. Ibigotemiari Herbert Engr. Wisdom Raph Gbobo Comr. Taminofiri Digbani Mr. Opiriari Benebo Mr. Amoniya Godswill Festus Asatubo Ibigotemiari Herbert Prince Ibifa Iyalla Dappa Engr. Flagg Sanipe Mr. Okesiyesinma Gilpin</p>

3.	<p><u>Health Development</u> Dr. (Mrs) Justina Jumbo – Team lead Mrs. Magdalene Kemuel Mrs. Warigbani Gift (Nee Tolofari) Mr. Tonte Ibraye Mrs. Dumo Herbert Kari Mrs Apaemi Ben Amaye</p>	<p>Mrs. Silverline Harry (nee Allison Diri) Mr. Sabbath Talbot Temebo Mr. Ibiyekaribo Dokubo Mr. Ipalibo Sanipe Dr. Mrs Loliya Koko (nee Igani) Ms Owanaba Dappa</p>
4.	<p><u>Youth/Socio-Cultural Development</u> Mr. Osaki W.R. Miller –Team Leader Comrade Herbert Brobiayeofori –Secretary Barr. Amaye Israel Mr. Ibigotemieari Herbert Mrs. Alice O. Syer</p>	<p>Comrade Larry Isaac O. Priest Kentein Fenibo Mr. Miller Ibinabo wellington Mr. Taria Osaki Mr. Festus Harry D.</p>
5.	<p><u>Environmental Sustainability</u> Dr. Somiari I. Harry – Team Lead Comrade Mathias Ibiyemi Mr. Elisha Otekenari David</p>	<p>Mr. Harry Festus D. Miss. Blessing Digbani Mr. Owanari Raphael Digbani</p>
6.	<p><u>Political Evolution</u> Asatubo I.A.S. Kemuel – Team Lead Bishop Abiye Carrie Alwell Ibiba Huttons Seleipiri George Sanipe Chf -Elect. Opiriabo-ofori Isaac Chief-Elect. Luckyman Egila Mr. Biriiai Williams Amb. Dumo Briggs Eleki Alh. Ahmed Owanate Sanipe Chief Nengi E. Nwuche.</p>	<p>Arc. Ibroma Kemuel Hon. Adokiye Levi-Akinda Nominated for Cooption Chf. Boma R. Dappa Ibiba Don Esq O. E. Deinbo Esq Hon. Mrs. Okorite Carrie-Adiele Hon. Anthony Soberekon Mr. David Harry Alh. Ibrahim Birena</p>

7.	<p><u>Infrastructural Development and Maintenance</u> Sir (Engr.) Boma Kemuel -Team Leader Mr. Fred Frimenjibo - Deputy Team Leader Engr. Asoliya Benebo - Coordinator Engr, Ogbeba Syer Digbani -Secretary Mr. Osaki Evans Tariah - Assist. Secretary Engr. Dimabo George Arc. Ibroma Kemuel Mr. Ibigotemiari Herbert</p>	<p>Mr. Biobelemaye Gido Mrs. Susan Dappa Tyger Mr. Ipalibo J. Sanipe Mr. Atubofele V. Thomps on Mr. Abi Sampson Bille Kingdom Smart City Committee -Co-opted Bille Kingdom Development Network- Co-opted</p>
8.	<p><u>Information & Communication Development</u> Rev. Mac Inoma Diri - Team Leader Mrs. Margaret Omualabo Kejeh Mr. Harvest Emmanuel Olu</p>	<p>Dakoru Daniel Dappa, Esq. Mr. Boma Iyalla Igani Mr. Okesiyesinma Gilpin Mr. Andrew Kio Asatubo Ibroma Kemuel</p>
9	<p><u>Legal Sub Committee</u> Bar. J.J.J. Igani – Team Lead Bille Lawyers Association</p>	

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- v. Elder Iyalla.G. Igani Esq
- vi. Mr. Fi-ibite A. Bibi & All Exco BiComPort

Correspondence by email can be sent to:

**The Conference Facilitator
 Bille Kingdom Development Summit
 Attention: Elder B.V. Benebo**

(Chairman, Bille Community Welfare Association, Abuja)
 Email: benebovb@gmail.com; bkdevsummit@gmail.com; bcwaabuja@gmail.com

