

THE PLANNING OF NEW OLUBADAN PALACE AND THE EVALUATION OF POTENTIAL TOURISM AND CULTURAL VALUE OF THE HERITAGE



IBADAN
1 City, 63 Towns, 3089 Villages
6 Million People

By:
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**THE PLANNING OF NEW OLUBADAN PALACE AND
EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIALS OF TOURISM
AND CULTURAL VALUE OF THE HERITAGE**

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1.0 FORMATION OF CCII:

The Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII) was founded in June 1982, by the Ibadan Progressive Union (IPU), Lagelu “16” Club and the Ibadan Descendants' Union (IDU) University of Ibadan/The Polytechnic, Ibadan. These three indigenous socio-cultural organizations were convinced that Ibadanland was blessed with abundant human and material resources. Indeed, they believed that all indigenes should pool these resources for the sustained growth of the frontline city in black Africa. There was also the deep seated conviction that such an umbrella organization would advance the interest of the people of Ibadanland.

Today, the Council is the umbrella body of all Clubs, Societies, Unions and Associations of Ibadan stock in various sphere of life worldwide with over 200 constituent Clubs in Nigeria, United Kingdom, United States of America, Saudi Arabia etc. His Royal Majesty, the Olubadan of Ibadanland is its Grand Patron.

CCII’s first President was the Late Chief S. I. Amole, the former Treasurer of the Ibadan Native Authority which later metamorphosed into Ibadan Municipal Government. A member of the Ibadan Progressive Union, he was the President from 1982 to 1989. He was succeeded by Late Chief Oseni Oyetunji Bello, one of the most respected Co-operative Administrators in Nigeria, in 1989. He served the Council

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with dignity irrepressible charm and dedication. The next National President inducted in 1996 was Chief Jacob Olabode Amao, OON, a distinguished industrialist and philanthropist par excellence. He continues to serve CCII with real dedication.

All these men have used their robust intelligence, strategic thinking and resourcefulness to improve the fortune of CCII.

The Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes has also benefited from the calibre of men who have held its Secretariat. Special mention must be made of Dr. T. Adejare Fadare who guided the affairs of the Council's Secretariat for eight years during pioneering days. He was succeeded as the Secretary General by Alhaji B.A.O. Ladeji, who also served CCII with exemplary dedication. His successor in office was Dr. Niyi Adedokun, in 1997. On his appointment as the Commissioner for Education, Oyo State in 1999, Mogaji Gbade Ishola became the Acting Secretary General between 1999 and 2001. At the critical stage of caretaker arrangement, Chief Bayo Oyero, a seasoned technocrat served as the Secretary General between October 2001 and May 2003. From 2nd May 2003, Mr. Olatunji Muhammed Oladejo, a young, dynamic and prodigious University Administrator became the Acting National Secretary. Again, Mogaji Gbade Ishola took over as National Secretary from 6 May, 2005.

Really, all these worthy Ibadan men have served the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes with great commitment and brought dignity to the Council's various periodic and annual activities. In periods of crises, the Council has profited immensely from their maze of experience.

In 1998, the foundation laying ceremony of the Ibadan House was performed. The Complex which is the Secretariat of the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes is the first socio-cultural organization multipurpose building in Nigeria. The facilities which was sited on **5.233 hectares** at the foot of Agala Hill, Oke Aremo, Ibadan. It comprises a main hall for about 500 people reserved mainly for activities such as

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conferences/meetings, boardrooms, symposia, social engagements etc. Also, it contains the office block for various administrative operations of the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes.

The Council organizes various activities throughout the year round to improve the quality of life of the people of Ibadanland. One of these activities is the Annual Ibadan Week celebration that was first held in 1992, with the overall aim of uniting all indigenes for self-help.

The Council, which grows like an oak tree every day, is committed to the sustainable socio-economic development of Ibadanland, in every way.



CENTRAL COUNCIL OF IBADAN INDIGENES (CCII)



CHIEF SIMEON I. AMOLE
1ST NATIONAL PRESIDENT
(1982 - 1989)



CHIEF TUNJI BELLO
2ND NATIONAL PRESIDENT
(1989 - 1997)



CHIEF BODE AMAO
3RD NATIONAL PRESIDENT
(1997 - 2007)



CHIEF YUSUFF AKANDE
4TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT
(2007 - 2011)



CHIEF BAYO OYERO
5TH PRESIDENT GENERAL
(2011 - 2015)



CHIEF WOLE AKINWANDE
6TH PRESIDENT GENERAL
(2015 - 2017)



CHIEF YEMI SOLADOYE
7TH PRESIDENT GENERAL
(2017 - 2021)



PRINCE YEMISI ADEAGUN
8TH PRESIDENT GENERAL
(2021 - 2023)

(b) Why Ibadan House Building Project?

When CCII came into being in **1982**, it had no definite meeting venue, therefore meetings were held in the houses and offices of the past presidents of the Council. For example, for many years, meetings were held in the house of Chief S.I. Amole, the first president from Ibadan Progressive Union (I.P.U). When the Late Chef O.O. Bello from Lagelu 16 Club took over as the president, the conference room of his ANCE building office became the meeting place of the CCII for many years before the meeting venue was shifted to Map Hall. After Chief O.O Bello, Asiwaju Bode Amao from Oluyole Club based in Lagos became the president. During the tenure of Asiwaju Bode Amao's leadership of the Council, the venue of the general assembly meetings was still at Ibadan South East Local Government Headquarters, Mapo while the Executive meetings were usually held at Chief O.O. Bello's House at Ikolaba. When Chief O.O. Bello died, the Executive meeting was shifted to the house of Asiwaju Bode Amao at his Agodi G.R.A., Ibadan.

The situation informed Chief Bode Amao to set up a technical committee for the building of Ibadan House with the Late Engineer Oderino as Chairman. Other members included; Architect Chief Buliaminu Sodehinde, ESV. Lola Tomori, Late Dr. Niyi Adelakun, Late Alhaji Oladokun, the Chief Inspector of defunct Trans International Bank. When Engineer (Chief) Oderinlo died, Chief Bayo Mustapha Oyero took over and completed and the Ibadan House was commissioned in May, 2007.

2.0 BACKGROUND:

The principal land uses of the ancient cities in Yorubaland are the **royal palace, the royal (central) market, the roads, the residential quarters and the defence fortification**. All these were physical features in Ibadan when it was established at the present site at **Oja’ba** including the Oba’s abandoned central palace. **The House occupied by Chief Labosinde was part of the structures left behind by Lagelu descendants in the abandoned second Ibadan after the Owu-Ogbere War in 1825**. This was one of the five quarters (oke-Igede) created by Lagelu descendants and directly opposite Oke-Ibadan Shrine when Baales and later Olubadan are crowned. The mosque at the Central market was destroyed by Basorun Oluyole while Baale Omololu Opeagbe donated another land in **1850** to build another Central Mosque. The city wall passed through this mosque according to Rev. Samuel Johnson (1921).

The position of the palace was invariably the city’s geographical centre or as close to it as possible if there was physical constraints. As the embodiment of the city and the foundation of city life, all the **radial arteries of communication** converge on it.

The THIRD AND PRESENT IBADAN established in 1825A.D. had n ancestral father but co-founders who are eligible to become the king (Oba) of the city unlike the common hereditary kingship system in Yorubaland. Therefore, each Baale (1825 – 1936) and Olubadan from `936 till date usually **converts his resident to a palace**

3.0 THE PRESENT STATUS OF IBADAN

According to the UN-Habitat report of 2008, Ibadan located at the interface of savannah and forests and the capital of Oyo State, is the **third largest** city in Nigeria by population after Lagos and Kano. Ibadan is however, Nigeria's **largest city in geographical area (3,146.98 sq.km)** with **eleven** administratively separate Local Government area. In 1960, Ibadan was the **second-most populous** city in Nigeria and the **tenth largest** in Africa after **Alexandra, Algeria, Cairo, Cape Town, Casablanca, Durban, East Rand, Johannesburg, and Lagos**. It is located in south-western Nigeria, 140 kilometres inland from Lagos and **constitutes a prominent transit point** between the coastal region and the Nigerian hinterland to the North. Its population was 2.55 million according to the Nigerian 2006 census and 2.67 million in 2007. Ibadan had been the centres of administration of Nigeria's old Western Region since the days of British colonial rule when Ibadan grew into an impressive and sprawling urban centre. Ibadanland now had **1 city, 63 Towns and 3,089 central villages**.

In her praise for the book published by professor Toyin Falola (2012) titled: **IBADAN: Foundation, Growth and Change**; the Emeritus Professor Bolanle Awe described Ibadan as the largest indigenes African town south of the Sahara, has grown from its humble origin as a refugee settlement in the nineteenth century into a **sprawling cosmopolitan city** that is now home to many millions and serves as the intellectual capital of Nigeria. **A city of contrasts, of tradition struggling with modernity** and Ibadan's unique history has engaged the attention of writers and scholars right from the nineteenth century to date.

4.0 THE NEED FOR A NEW OLUBADAN PALACE COMPLEX

The old Olubadan Central Palace at Oja'ba is located close to Mapo Hall and Oja'ba Central Mosque in Ibadan South East Local Government and also very close to the central market established by the descendants of Lagelu as part of the second Ibadan.

The building of the first Olubadan Palace at Oja'ba is a reflection of cultural transformation of the Yoruba traditional, religious, social and political institutions. In the **1980s**, according to Asiwaju Bode Amoo, Ibadan elites made efforts to construct a located at Oja'ba, in the centre of the town. Before then, each individual Olubadan lived in his personal house. Unfortunately, the Olubadan Palace had some inadequacies such as;

- That it is rather chunky for present day usage and because of constraint of space, it has no room for expansion
- That there is no open space for ceremonies and other out-door activities.
- That the environment falls short of a befitting Palace of the most populous, indigenous African city.
- Therefore, Oja'ba Palace serves only as an occasional meeting venue of the Olubadan Advisory Council and the meetings of the Association of Mogajis

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Professor Toyin Falola (2012). In the exercise of power, the **Baale** was the **Chief Executive**. There were cases when the overall civil and military authorities were combined in one person (for instance, **Oluyole, Ogunmola, Latosa**) but when the power was separated between the **Baale** and the **Balogun**, the former was supposed to preside at meetings.



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5.0 PROCESS AND MAIN CRITERIA FOR LOCATION SELECTION:

When **Chief Oyetunji Osoeni Bello** led members of the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (C.C.I.I) Executive Committee on a solidarity visit to Governor Olawuyi Kolapo Ishola on 5th August, 1992, the Council among many requests demanded for the release of a suitable and sizeable parcel of land by Oyo State Government to Ibadan Traditional Council for the erection of a **befitting Olubadan Palace Complex** and complementary buildings. The Technical Committee members were;

- | | | |
|-------|---|------------|
| (i) | Chief Dosu Babatunde (Town Planner) | - Chairman |
| (ii) | Chief (Engr.) Dele Oderinlo (Mechanical Engr.) | - Member |
| (iii) | Chief (Surveyor) Emiola Olarinde
(Land Surveyor/Map maker) | - Member |
| (iv) | Architect Lanre Ladeji (Architect) | - Member |
| (v) | ESV. Lola Tomori (Estate Surveyor & Valuer) | - Member |

(a) The Task of the Committee

The first major task of the Committee for actualizing the dream of building a befitting New Olubadan Palace was the securing a suitable site and acquisition of sizeable land that would accommodate a grandiose and befitting Olubadan Palace.

Site selection planning is an interactive process whereby all the professional members of the committee would try to achieve an optimal solution within the planning regulations, the applicable engineering and architectural design criteria. An optimal solution will generally have a number of characteristics, for example in terms of costs; the solution should lead to favourable construction costs and low maintenance costs. On the other hand, the design should be such that **all users of the palace** have access to a service, that this service is of good quality and that the body responsible is able to take care of the infrastructure once constructed.

(b) Site Selection Criteria:

- (i) Availability of sizeable land that has no other development plans are considered for the same land
- (ii) The site has a suitable topography for building a befitting New Olubadan Palace on a gentle slope (if possible), that is the change in elevation is rather gradual similar to the location of palaces.
- (iii) The location of the site must be close to the central area of the city that is accessible from all directions to the inhabitants and visitors to the palace.
- (iv) The location is close to water and electricity resources
- (v) Identification of the main features of the new Olubadan Palace Complex location
- (vi) Environment Impact Assessment.

Detailed plans and engineering designs have been made for the Olubadan Palace and Ibadan House, including other various infrastructure facilities, such as the road system, the sanitation, drainage, electricity, drinking water supply systems, police station and car-parks.

Unfortunately, all of the above mentioned studies were carried out using traditional procedures without any involvement of Geographic Information System (GIS) analysis.

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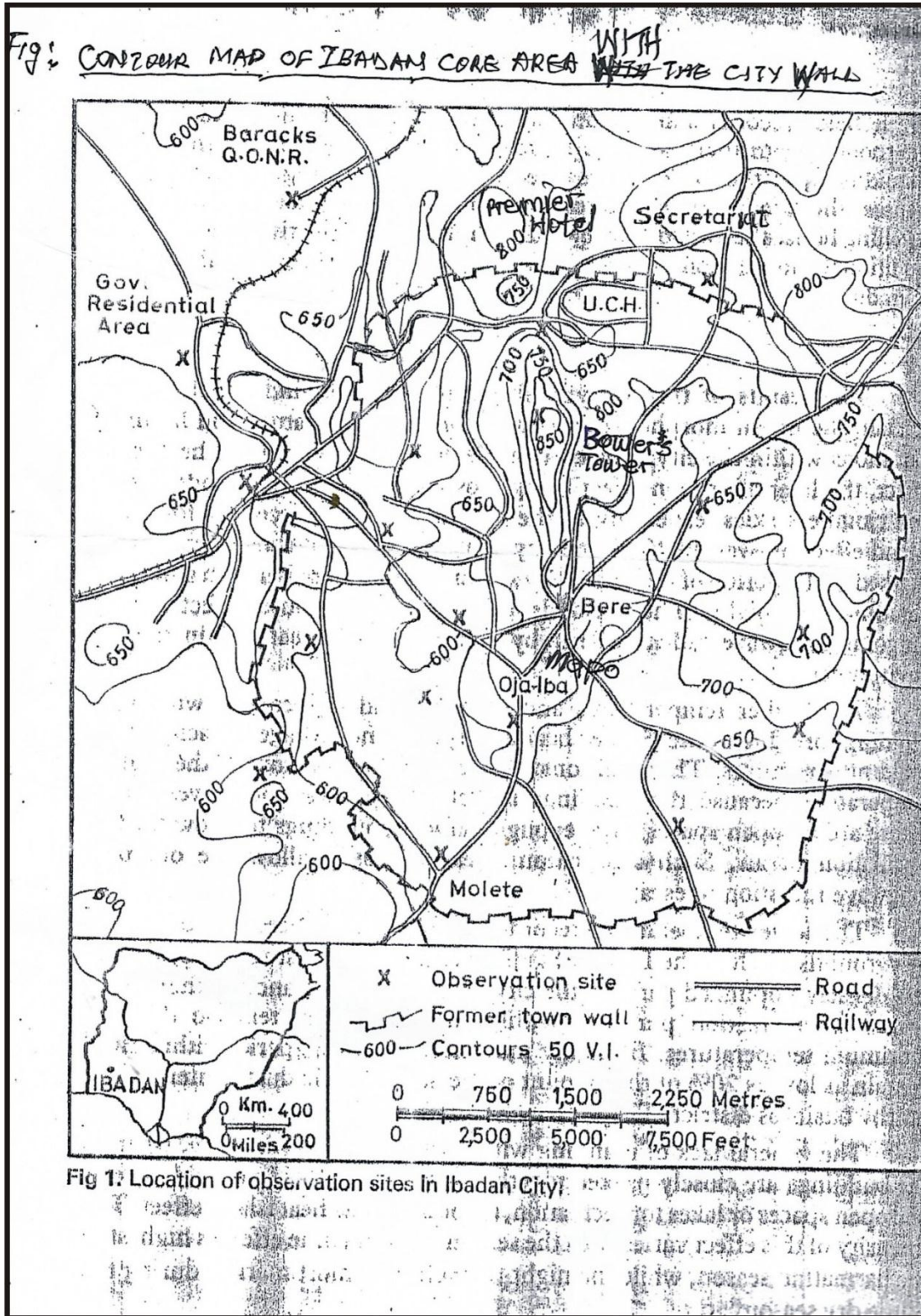


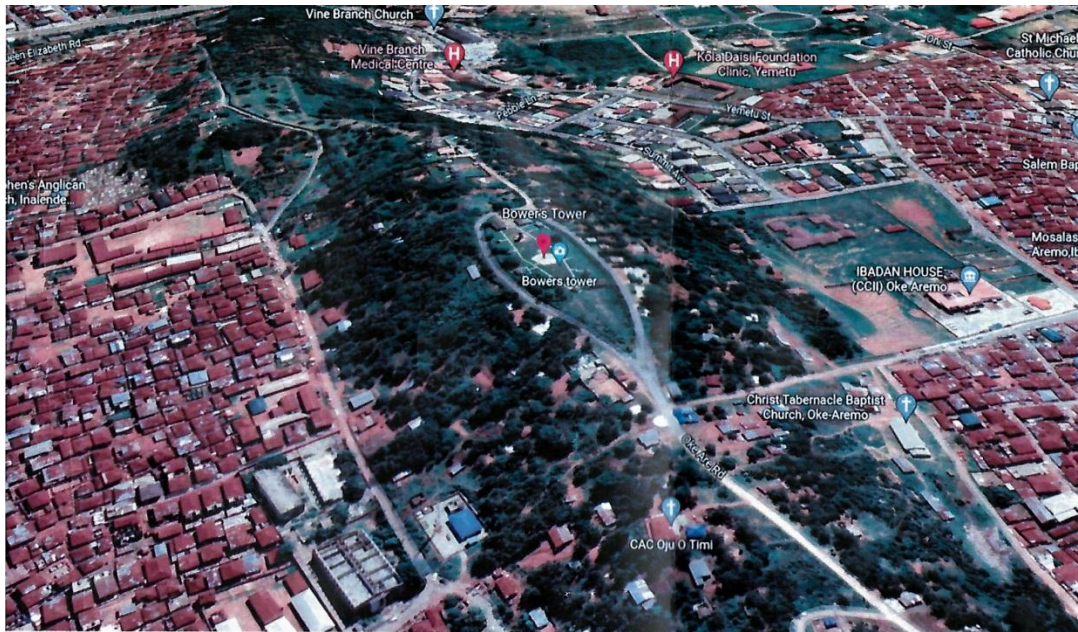
Fig 1: Location of observation sites in Ibadan City.

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(c) Site of the New Olubadan Palace:

The Committee of five identified and selected the Oke-Aremo (Agala Forest Reserve) at the slope of the Bower's Tower located on the highest point of Aare Hill, one of the range of hills that run from Mapo towards North-east-west of Ibadan and divide the city up to Mokola Hill.

His Excellency, Governor Olawuyi Kolapo Ishola granted a Certificate of Statutory Right of Occupancy (C of O) on the surveyed parcel of land at the slope of **Aare Latosa Hill and below the Bower's Tower monument Oke-Aremo area covering 5.233 Hectares** in favour of Ibadan Traditional Council. **The C of O was registered as No. 4 page 24 in volume 32381 dated 13 October, 1993 with Survey Plan No. IB 1932.**



Bowers Tower

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In **1997**, **Asiwaju Bode Amoo led Executive** realized that the acquired land would not be enough to accommodate all the envisaged components of the Palace complex. His administration then took another bold step to acquire more land for the palace complex which was granted by **His Excellency, Senator Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja** between 2003 and 2007. The additional land area was **3.91 hectares** thus making the **total acquired land for Olubadan Palace Complex to be 9.143 Hectares**.

(d) Assessment of the Site of the new Olubadan Palace

The usual site of the **Yoruba Palace** was an extensive eminence in the **city centre** where the sheer magnitude and upward thrust of the palace usually dominated the rest of the city. Impressed by the monumental scale of Ife's palace in **1910**, Frobenius wrote;

“The palace of Ooni of Ife, whose massive walls meet the eye from whatever quarter one approaches, it is, that which most impresses everyone who visits the town of Ife today. Its front, especially with the **open square** on which it stands, makes an imposing effect in spite of all tis ruin. The walls are mighty, over a yard broad at the base and some eighteen feet high. The mighty entrance is barred by a handsomely sculptured door”.

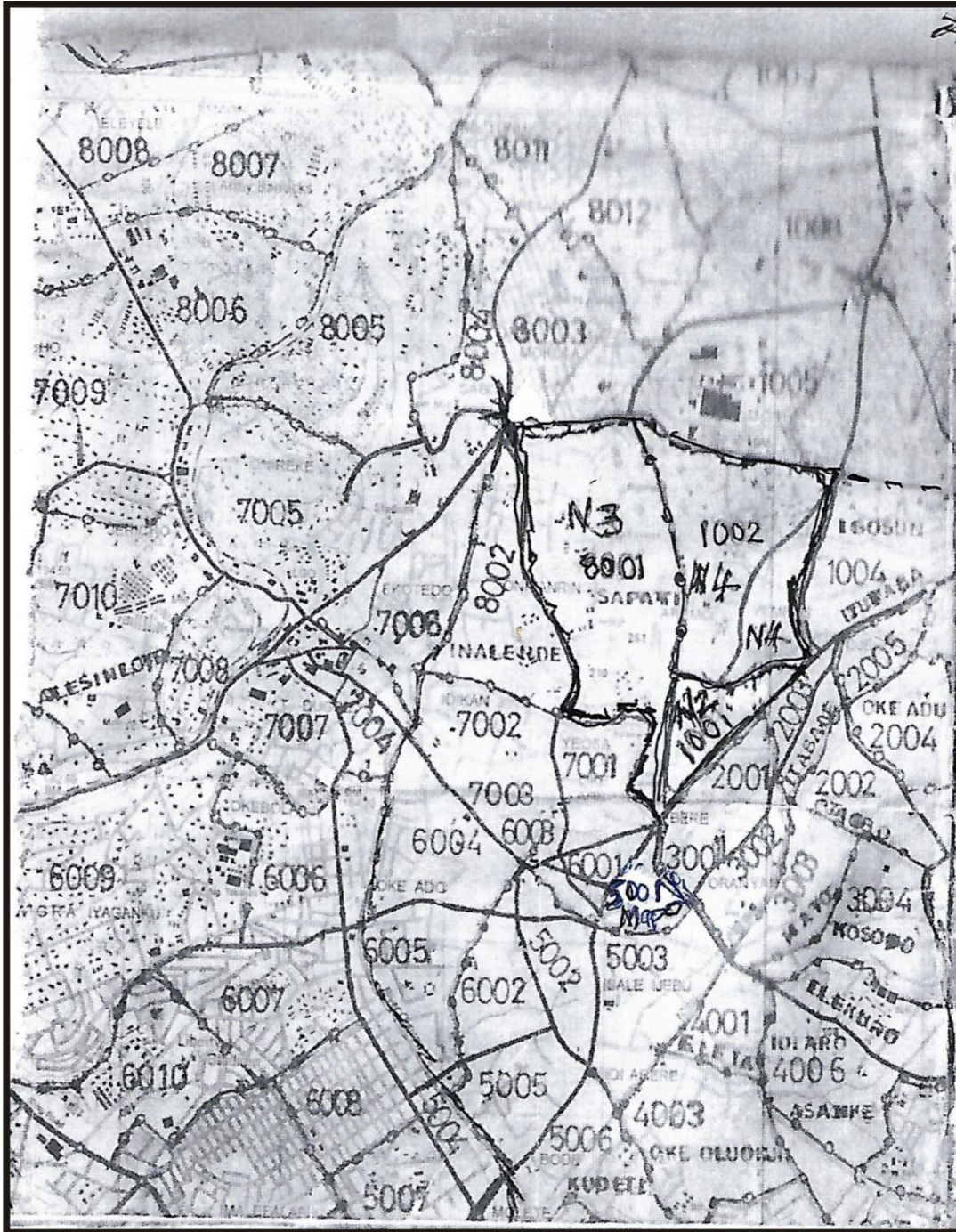
The sitting of the royal palace on an elevated land is not singular to the Yoruba city. Urban history, since the Early Dynastic periods in Mesopotamia, reveals that the palace and the great temple have almost everywhere been **associated with low hills**, natural or artificial (Oluremi I. Obateru, 2006).



The hill was also a military device. It was a **nature fortress** commonly walled to protect the king against enemies within the city and without. The Greek associated the hill with kings, oligarchies and tyrants, and the **lowland** with democracy. According to **Aristotle**, “*an acropolis, I suitable for oligarchy and monarchy, level ground for democracy*”.

The choice of a hilltop for palace erection may be explained also by its environment qualities

- **Firstly**, a hilltop was a lookout, a place from which the surrounding urban landscape and the countryside beyond could be viewed.
- **Secondly**, a building erected on a hilltop was an eye-target for people as it was readily seen.
- **Thirdly**, eminences afforded their occupiers visual privacy, protection against overlooking by neighbouring residents.
- **Lastly, elevated grounds** were well drained contrasting with low grounds and valleys which might be plagued by flooding, river pollution and diseases, particularly malaria.



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF AARE LATOSA HILL RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD IN IBADAN NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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OLD WARD IDENTIFIER	GEOCODE ZONE	POSTCODE NUMBER	LOCALITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD	POPULATION 1991
N2	1001	200101	Bere Oke-Are Ile-Agbo Kannike Odoye Sapati Agbadagbudu Isale-Alfa Galaxy	8,843
N3	8001	200801	Oniyanrin (NITEL) Yeosa Odo-Olo Inalende (part) Catholic Seminary Bower's Tower Elizabeth	39,794
N4	1002	200211	Aladorin Agala Estate New Olubadan Palace Oke-Aremo Temidire Adeoyo St. Paul Pry. Schl Total Garden Yemetu Barracks Salawu Aminu Palace St. Paul Church Babasale S. Ade-Ojo (Oje) Yemetu Market	34,542

6.0 MULTIPURPOSE FUNCTIONS OF THE PALACE:

(a) Location and Security:

Usually the first public facility constitution in every royal city was the **palace**. For this, an effort was usually made to find a distinctive location, normally a low hill around which the new city could evolve. **A wall (known as gbagede)** or fence was then built round the palace and its grounds, with access through one **large gate**. The **gate structure** was a measure of king's success as an improvement upon the palace. There is a police station as integral part of the New Olubadan Palace.

(b) Marketplace:

The **creation of a king's market place** or **Oja-ba** was one of the most important developments in every new royal city. Trade was very important to Yoruba people, and the kings took seriously the provision of facilities for its proper running. As soon as the building of the place commenced, therefore, an area its foreground, a short distance beyond the **palace gate**, was declared and measured out for the king's market place. A market place close to the palace, usually located just outside its front wall, became an unalterable attribute of the Yoruba royal city or town. Today, market is still an integral part of the palace:

(c) OPEN SQUARE:

The palace is also a place for **socio-cultural activities**, for functions and annual festivals in particular. Various associations and societies hold their meetings in the palace. It is there also that dancers and masquerades entertain the king and the community.

(d) ROYAL CEMETARY

As regards religious elements of the old city palaces, there was the cemetery of deceased kings. No other person is buried in the palace. Like the shrines of national deities, the burial places of deceased kings are now found both in around the palaces. **Royal burial** outside the palace was uncharacteristic of the old kingdoms and kings palaces. It is a feature of the post-Golden Age era (after 1800 A.D) non-availability of space within the palace. In **Akure**, for instance, the **royal cemetery** is in front of the palace. In **Ile-Ife**, the graves of **Oba Adelekan Olubose¹** and **Oba Ademiluyi Ajagun Lowarikan** are in the **city hall** while that of **Oba Asesoji Aderemi (1930-1980)** is within the palace.

(e) RESIDENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

The palace is the **residence of the reigning king**. The king (Oba) resides there as long as he reigns or lives. **In the palace are provided all his residential needs for comfort, safety, privacy and sanity**. He seldom gets out of the palace neither is he often seen in the public except during important national festivals.

The other residents of the palace live there either by his grace or because of the public functions they perform. The **nuclear family** of the king (Oba) normally lives there with him and sometimes some of his **close relatives** to share in the royal honour bestowed on their ruling house and to give him necessary advice and support to ensure his success as the Ambassador of their ruling house.

Resident in the palace also are service chiefs, servants and slaves as well as talented craftsmen and artist whose products are for royal use and palace decoration.

(f) GOVERNMENT/ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS

The royal palace was the seat of government of the government of the kingdom; consequently all governmental functions, legislative, executive, administrative and judicial were performed there. It was the office of the king, the chief executive of the kingdom,(the entire Ibadanland) the secretariat of the state(kingdom) and the house of the legislative where the laws of the land were made and reviewed in the name of the king as the chief Judge whose verdict was final as far as Ibadanland is concerned.

7.0 PHYSICAL ELEMENTS OF THE NEW OLUBADAN PALACE COMPLEX:

A. IBADAN HOUSE BUILDING: where all the socio-cultural institutions of the Ibadan hold their meetings such as:

- Community Associations, Clubs, Societies etc.
- Association of Ancient Ibadan Warlords Families
- Central Council of Ibadan Indigoes Executive and General Assembly.

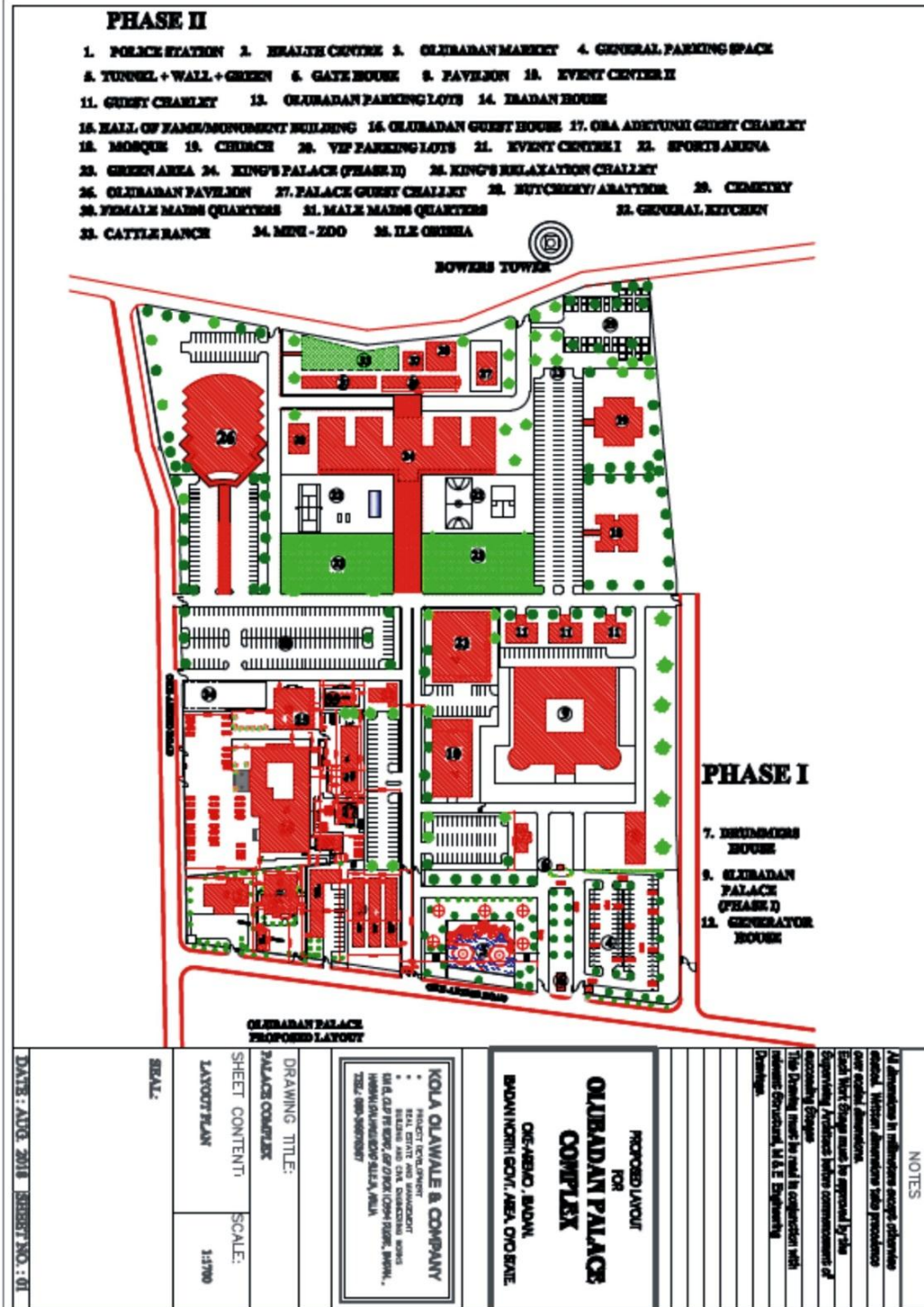
IBADAN HOUSE is situated on land measuring **9.86** hectares portion of the palace complex land at the foot of **Agala Hill**, Oke-Aremo, Ibadan, (registered on certificate of Occupancy (C of O) No. 4, page 24, Vol. 32381 of 13th October 1993, during the time of Governor Kolapo Olawuyi Isola and Senator Adewolu Ladoja. It is about the first socio-cultural organization multipurpose building in Yorubaland.

In an addition to the office block, it has a main hall (Asiwaju Bode Amoo Hall) with a **sitting capacity of about 1,000** for conferences, symposia, executive meetings and general meeting of Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (C.C.I.I.) members. There are other components.

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**IBADAN HOUSE
COURTESY : MACOS URBAN MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT**



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B. THE TRADITIONAL MAIN GATE OF OLUBADAN PALACE:

The most impressive of the newly built main entrance to the New Olubadan Palace as shown (the gateway to the Afin) provides access to the palace ground while the main palace was fenced round with minor gates. (See the picture).



The palace wall is a defense and safety device of the king, a protection against danger and onslaught, either from within the city or from without. The palace wall also afforded the palace and the king (Olubadan) privacy against the searching eyes of the inquisitive public.

C. THE IMPORTANCE OF KIRIJI MEMORIAL MONUMENTS:

Obelisks are cultural and **aesthetic elements** of the same Yoruba cities particularly Ife, Ijebu-Ode, Ijesha, Shagamu and Ibadan. As also in ancient Egypt from where the **culture of Obselist** derived, the **Yoruba produced Obelisks to commemorate their dead kings and heroes**. The Obelisk of Oranyan's staff (Opa Oranyan) is an impressive granite monolith erected on the supposed grave of Oranyan. The founder of both Benin and Oyo dynasties and the son of Oduduwa, the progenitor of Yoruba race other obelisk at different locations are:

- In Ijebu-Ode is the **Obanta** memorial staff at the shrine of Obanta (near the grave of Obanta), the first Awajula of Ijebuland.
- The Obelisk of **Ogedengbe** in Ilesha is in the central market **in front of the royal palace**. It was erected in honor of **Ogedengbe**, a renowned **Ilesha warrior** of the Kiriji War **1879-1886** who died in 1910.
- In shagamu is another Obelisk erected **in front of the royal palace** in memory of the first Akarigbo of Ijebu-Remo
- Ibadan are these Obelisks erected in honour of the war heroes namely: Basorun **Oluyole Iyanda** erected at Bere roundabout and **Balogun Oderinlo** erected at Mapo round-about while that of **Iyalode Rukayat**.



By the peace, friendship and commerce Agreement of 1889 signed with Alaafin Adeyemi Ibadan Council of Chiefs, Ogedengbe, the Seriki of Ilesa, Awujale of Ijebu-Ode and Federation of Ekiti Chiefs as well as Baale of Modakeke and Ooni of Ife (elect), Derin Ologbenla on the other hand, **Ibadan became a sovereign state and a Empire of its own after the Agreement or Peace Treaty of 1886.**

Before the Kiriji War broke out, when Prince Lawani lost to Alaafin Adeyemi I, the 39th Alaafin (1875-1905), he (Lawani Agogoiija), and the Crown Prince, Siynabola Ladigbolu, were provided asylum at Oke-Aremo by Aare Latoosa (1871-1885) of Ibadan Empire, they lived as exiles in Ibadan for thirty (30) years till Alaafin Adeyemi I died **1905**. This was a repeat of what Ibadan did for Aremo Adelu in the reign of Baale Oyesile Olugbade prior to 1858 (Sir (Dr.) Jide Fatokun, 2011 and Chief M.A. Ogunmola, the Otun of Oyo, 2000). Oke-Aremo neighbourhood is where the

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New Olubadan Palace is located and the Kiriji Memorial Monument is located within IBADAN HOUSE.

8.0 THE TOURISM POTENTIAL OF BOWER'S TOWER

The 60 feet (18.288 metres) high tower also provided, and still provides, and still provides a good opportunity for a **panoramic view** of the city of Ibadan at a glance. From the top of this monument, it is possible to see of rusty corrugated iron roofs and the occasional shining of the roof tops in the newly built or renovated houses. Standing from any point of the square **shaped gallery** therefore; it is possible to view the expanse of Ibadan city at a glance, particularly the University Teaching Hospital (U.C.H.), Gbagi/Dugbe commercial area of the city, and **Mapo Hall**.

The site of the Bower's Tower was for several years commissioning a centre of **tourism attractions in Ibadan**. Until the recent past, people from within and outside the town used to swarm the site to see the **tower and its double spiral steps**, while some utilized the advantage offered by the tower to visit Ibadan for the first time. And with its serene environment decorated with beautiful flowers, It served as a conducive environment for **picnic, excursion** and other get-together programmes, such visits often enhance the **social and commercial** life of the people living in the vicinity of the tower.



8.1 THE PERIOD OF NEGLECT AND DISUSE AND OUTLOOK:

The poor patronage of the **pre-1994 period** was due to a number of factors. The **Igbo-Agala** remained for long unkempt and uncared for by both the state and Local Governments. Most indigenous inhabitants of the area therefore held tenaciously to their age long belief that such an usually quiet location in the centre of every busy city like Ibadan must have been accommodating certain evil spirit.

Patronage also declined steadily while the popularity with which it was greeted from inception to the immediate **post-independence era** waned as the attitude of people changed towards the monument. This was a trend that continued until **1994** when the **acute shortage of fuel especially kerosene and electricity** forced people to the **once-dreaded Agala Forest** to fell many of the big trees in the site for **firewood**. This was what opened up the tower once again for public attention, until the present renovation and modernization by agencies of the Federal and Oyo State Government.

(a) RENOVATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE MONUMENTS

The successive supervising agencies did not show adequate commitments to the program maintenance of the monument. Apart from the access roads which became poor, the renovation of the Tower's fence started in **1983** by members of the **National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)** scheme, lingered on for years, while the **floodlights** meant to illuminate the Tower remained for a long time, non-functional. Worse still, the **Spiral Steps** which earned the monument the name **Layipe** was left in a state of disrepair. Moreover, the **metallic balcony of the Tower** got rusted making it unsafe on the top of the 60 feet (18.288m) structure

(b) MAINTENANCE EFFORTS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

After decades of neglect and disuse, it is noteworthy that sixty (60) years old historical monument was renovated and modernized by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the **Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation**. To this end, a sum of **Twenty Million Naira (₦20,000,000)** was committed towards the **resuscitation of the monument**, after which it is expected to be contracted out to private individuals and corporate bodies to manage. On completion, the proposed **multi-purpose Amusement Park** being constructed as part of the modernization exercise on the site of the Bower's Tower, is expected to have a number of **ultra-modern facilities and conveniences** such as **Restaurant of international standard, Amphitheatre, Kiosks, a borehole** to ensure uninterrupted water supply. **Toilet facilities, children's playing ground, Indoor games room** and a **car park**. Besides a **binocular** is to be installed by the balcony on top of the Tower to enable **tourist** have a clear panoramic view of Ibadan.

9.0 BENEFITS OF INTERVENTION OF GEOSON, OYO STATE BRANCH, IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OLUBADAN PALACE COMPLEX AT OKE-AREMO, IBADAN

9.1 THE ROLE OF GEOSON IN DEVELOPING GEOSPATIAL DATA

GeoInformation Society of Nigeria, Oyo State Branch (GEOSON) was formed to develop and facilitate the implementation of a strategic roadmap for the review and validation of GRID3 Oyo State Ward Boundary Datasets with the purposive goal of developing an accurate geo—spatial data that will promote suitable development in Oyo State.

Geo-referenced Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development (GRID3) is a global initiative that aims to improve access to a data for decision making in participating countries. It is pertinent to note that the goal of this project is to increase access to geospatial data for use by Federal, States and Local Governments as well as Donor Agencies, Non-Profit Organization and private Sector Patterns in Nigeria GRID3 Nigeria project domiciled and managed by national Space Research and Development agency (NASRDA) has provided a robust and up-to-date geo-database and Ward Level mapping for Nigeria and is requesting for each state to co-ordinate the validation of their Ward boundaries.

This exercise is long overdue and will address a myriad of problems. Prominent are the challenges experienced before, during and after election, tax/revenue generation and the difficulty of planning and implementing government policies. A ward boundary validation exercise is therefore required for good governance and sustainable development.

Data and information will make the New Olubadan Palace management very easy and convenient. We need data about the heritage assets, the services, the performance, finance and more for effective asset management planning and decision-making by the body managing the complex.

Lola Tomori

Satellite Images (Google Earth Map) and image processing has the potential and capability of mapping urban development (e.g. New Olubadan Palace Complex), transport Networks power generation plants, informal settlement, Housing Estate etc).

Therefore, the application and usage of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology transcends professionals barriers **because location of intelligence is required;** fro accurate scientific investigation, resource management, development planning, public health, smart agriculture and other every-day solution requirement of our world.

9.2 FEATURES OF THE PROJECT AREA:

Ibadan is characterized by **rugged terrain with steep slopes** creating a very dense network of streams with **wide valley plains** (see fig 1). The city ranges in elevation from **150 metres** in the valley area, to 275 metres above sea level on the major **north-south ridge which crosses** the central part of the city. On Mapo Hill, Mapo Hall was built in **1929** after the acquisition of 6 compounds which forced the lineage of Olubadan Aminu to Adeoyo. Part of Oke-Are, Aare Latoosa hill was located on Aare Compound and the customary court, while at the highest point, the Bower's Tower was erected in 1936, the Ibadan Native Authority on the slope of the Bower's Tower on the easter side is the site of the New Olubadan Palace Complex.



9.3 BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING GEO-SPATIAL INFORMATION

- i) Geospatial data is essential to identify where people and low critical services can be equitably and effectively allocated
- ii) To promote effective coordination across stakeholders to support national development efforts and optimize delivery of key interventions.
- iii) The geospatial data is being collected across the country on administrative boundaries settlements, and population database.
- iv) The GIS map of the New Olubadan Palace will support Micro-planning
- v) GEOSON is currently reviewing existing ward boundaries in the 33 Local Governments in Oyo State
- vi) We are pleased to inform the Central Council of Ibadan Indigenes (CCII) under your leadership that the National Population Commission (NPC) and Nigeria Postal Service NIPOST have adopted and use GRID 3 (Geo-Reference Infrastructure and Demographic Data for Development) data sets for consistency and strong topological structure.