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HISTORICISING THE EVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF EJIGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN OSUN STATE, 1991-2021

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Abstract
The main thrust of this paper is to historicise the evolution and development of Ejigbo Local Government in Osun State between 1991 and 2021. It critically interrogates thirty (30) years of the existence of Ejigbo Local Government under Osun State, which was created in 1991. Although Ejigbo Local Government had been in existence since 1976, when old Oyo State was created, this study is limited to its continuity in the newly created Osun state. It argues that between 1991 and 2021, Ejigbo Local Government came under the administration of both civilian and military administration. While under the military rule, the local government was controlled and managed by sole administrators appointed by successive military governors in Osun State, under the civilian administration, the local government was administered by both elected council members and appointed council members (through caretaker committee system). It concludes that the existence of local government as a third tier governmental system in the Nigerian federation cannot be overemphasized. The methodological approach adopted in this paper is historical, thematic and qualitative. Sources of information include primary and secondary materials derived from oral interview and extant literature. The interviewees comprised some officials, political office holders and residents of the local government.

Keywords: Democracy, development, government, local government, leadership.

Introduction

Prior to the introduction of western form of local government administration into Nigeria by the British, each ethnic group in the country evolved its own distinct political system of governance. For instance, while Sarauta system of government and later Emirate system after the Uthman Dan Fodio Jihad of 1804 emerged in Hausaland, Ogiso dynasty and later Eweka dynasty emerged in Benin Kingdom. There was the existence of Old Oyo Empire in Yorubaland and Council of Elders (known as Ama-ala) among the Igbo. These were the prevailing political systems prior to the imposition of British rule. Nigeriaparticularly the Yoruba in the West, Hausa/Fulani in the North and the Igbo in the East (Etebom and Wijaya, 2022: 2). With the successful amalgamation of Northern and Southern Protectorates of Nigeria in 1914, the British introduced indirect rule system (native administration), which was a form of local government administration to govern the country. Its introduction was made possible through the promulgation of Native Authority Ordinance No.4 of 1916 (Ogunna, 1996:63). The British used the traditional rulers (Obas in Western Nigeria; Emirs in Northern Nigeria; and Warrant Chiefs in Eastern Nigeria) as intermediaries between the British and the Nigerians. They were empowered by the ordinance to maintain lawand order, collect taxes, prevent crimes and apprehend criminals in their various areas of jurisdictions.

The situation remained until the 1950s Local Government Reforms caused by the agitations of the Nigerian nationalists. The 1950 local government ordinance marked the birth of responsible and democratic Local Government system in the country". Commenting on the local government ordinance of 1950, Wraith (1972) explains that, it was a pioneer measure which foretold the end of philosophies and practices that held the stage for nearly fifty years. While the Eastern Nigeria led the way in 1950, it was followed by the Western Region in 1952. In 1954, the Northern Region enacted Native Authorities Law (Adeola, 2009: 161).

Having attained political independence in 1960, the independent government inherited the British model of local government which was predominantly the "county" system. Thus, between 1960 and 1976, several local government reforms were introduced by successive civilian and military governments that emerged in the country. Of these reforms, the 1976 reform, which was introduced by General Olusegun Obasanjo was the most spectacular. It recognized local government as the third tier system of government in the country, and was inserted in the 1979 Constitution (Alex, 1987:175). The reforms also gave practical application which in December 1976, made nine of the nineteen states (Bendel, Imo, Benue, Rivers, Kwara, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Oyo States) to conduct direct election into the councils (Alex, 1987:175). Thus, since 1976, local government has continued to be recognized as a third tier system of government governed by either elected council members, sole administrators or caretaker committees. This development was facilitated by the creation and conduct of local government elections by successive governments. For example, in 1985, Buhari/Idiagbon administration set up a 21-Man Committee headed by Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki. The objective was to depoliticise Local Government activities, make it efficient as the third tier of government (Awotokun, 2001:45). Also, Babangida's regime began its political transition programme with elections into the local government councils, first on non-party basis in December 1987 and later on party basis in 1990 and later introduced a Sole Administratorship in 1989. The Babangida's administration eventually created 149 new Local Governments Council thereby bringing the total to 453 (Akindele and Olaopa, 1998:100-105). It is against this background that this paper historicises the evolution and development of Ejigbo Local Government under Osun State between 1991 and 2021

The Land and People of Ejigbo in Osun State

Ejigbo town in Osun State is one of the prominent and ancient towns in Yorubaland. According to oral tradition, Ejigbo town which is one of the ancient towns in Yoruba land is dated back to around 15th century. Geographically, Ejigbo town is found in Osun state, it is located around 7.902920 latitude and 4.314190 longitudes and it is situated at elevation 353 meters above sea level. Ejigbo town has population of 138,357 making it the 9th biggest city in Osun State (Nwanchukwu, etal, 2020:1). The history of Yoruba people is associated with the town of Ile-Ife, it was there they first became conscious of themselves. Ejigbo town was formally one of the towns under Oyo State but its now one of the towns in Osun State after Osun State was carved out of old Oyo State in 1991 (Oloyede, 2020:33). Also, the town is about 40 kilometers from Osogbo, the capital of Osun State. According to the 2006 population census, the estimated population of 138,357 making it 9th biggest city in Osun state. Ejigbo town area falls within the Tropical Savannah climate and has an average temperature of 29 degrees centigrade, the humidity level of Ejigbo town area averages 62 percent while the average wind speed in the area is 13km/h (Ashimolowo et al, 2017:10).

According to oral history, Ejigbo is one of the ancient settlements in Yorubaland founded by AkinjoleOgiyan. Ogiyan has a rich pedigree been a descendant of Oduduwa and the ruling family of Ife. Together with his brother, particularly the Akinrere, the founder of Ikire Ile, they both left lle-Ife with Oranyan (Oranmiyan) the founder of old Oyo, to establish their own towns (Tella, 2025:4). The fact that Ogiyan, is from Ile-Ife is confirmed by EjigboMekun' the name of a market in Ile-Ife. Akinjole settled many other villages spread

around Yorubaland. He is the paramount ruler and prescribed authority over many, if not all of them. The following towns and villages, among others were under him, Ika, Igbon, OlosinOlogede, Inisa, Aato, Ijimoba, Afake , Ilawo, InisaEdoro, Isundunrin, Olia, Ado Ori-oke, Ayegunle, Idigba, Ibogunde, Songbe, OlorinOsuntedo and Iwata (Tella, 2025:4).

Historically, around 1835, Ejigbo came under Ibadan, when the Ibadan army moved to protect Osogbo from Ilorin invaders. In fact, detachments from Ejigbo assisted the Ibadan army in the ijaye, jalimi, and kiriji wars between 1860 and 1866. Ajayi Ogboriefon, balogun and leader of the Ibadan army in the Jalumi war circa 1860 and 1878 was a native of Ejigbo from the Akala compound and his mother, Alagbabi was the daughter of an Ogiyan of Ejigbo. In 1934, when the then government retained to the terms of the 1893 treaty which recognized Ibadan's independence and gazettes the bale and divisional council of Ibadan as an independent native authority, five district Obas including the Ogiyan were made members of the Divisional Council (Abigbinde, 2016:10). Ejigbo town is located in a warm tropic region of the rain forest of South Western Nigeria. The town also located in plain and hilly terrains with beautiful climate and favourable vegetation is noted for agricultural activities and located in plain and hilly terrains with beautiful climate and favourable vegetation is noted for agricultural activities (Abigbinde, 2016:9). The people of Ejigbo are very fashionable, most especially their women also specialized in palm oil productions and trader within Ejigbo and outsider. Also, most of their women like to dress in Ivory coast style which include Ginea, Brasel, aside from their native dress which include, Buba, Sokoto, Agbada, Iro and others. Apart from the above mention, there is also no Ivory Coast product that one cannot find in Ejigbo. it is important to note that there is no way one will talk about Ejigbo town without making reference to Ivory coast and also it very rare that there is no family that is now in Ejigbo town that does not have any relative in Ivory coast not too common in Ghana and Togo. The social engineering of the Ejigbo people in French West Africa and how the ability of the Ejigbo – Yoruba to quickly assimilate into their new environment have influenced and contributed to shaping the culture in Ejigbo and its environment to the extent that colloquial Abidjan French and France have become legal tender in Ejigbo, Osun State (Tella, 2025:7).

A History of Ejigbo Local Government under Oyo State, 1976-1991: An Overview

The history of the existence of Ejigbo Local Government was traced to the colonial period. Then, it was referred to as the Ejigbo District Council, which was created as a result of the Western Regional Local Government Law of 1952. The Council, which operated under Western Regional Government between 1952 and 1966, came under the Western State, created General Yakubu Gowon in May 1967. In that year, twelve states were created. Ejigbo District Council came under the Western State, with its capital in Ibadan. Also, with the creation of nineteen states in 1976 by General Murtala Mohammed, Ejigbo District Council came under the control of old Oyo State. The defunct Western State was polarized into three states, namely Oyo, Ondo and Ogun States. With this development, the defunct Ejigbo District Council of Osun West Division, was later transformed into Local Government status in April 1st, 1976. Thus, between 1976 and 1991, Ejigbo Local Government existed under old Oyo State. During this period, the local government was under successive sole administrators and Chairmen (both elected and caretaker). Ejigbo Local Government building was officially commissioned by the then military Governor of old Oyo State, Colonel Adetunji Idowu Olurin on Monday 19th October, 1987 (Jayeola, 2023). The table below shows the list of former chairmen of Ejigbo Local Government under old Oyo State.

TABLE 1: LIST OF EJIGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMEN UNDER OLD OYO STATE

SN	NAME	DATE
1	Chief Bisi Akinpelu	1976-1979
2	Hon. Folorunso A Adeyemo	1979-1983
	Hon David Oyedele Alabi	1983-1985
	Mr. Femi Osunro	1985-1988
5	Mr. K. O Bolaji	1988-1989

Source: Tella, O.A. 2025. Leadership, Management and Stewardship in Local Governance in Ejigbo, 1991-2021. Unpublished M.A Thesis, Department of History and International Studies, Osun State University, Osogbo

A Historical Trajectory of Ejigbo Local Government under Osun State, 1991-2021

The period between 1991 and 2021 marked a new phase in the political history of Ejigbo Local Government. This phase was characterized by the creation of Osun State out of the old Oyo State by the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida. On 27 August 1991, General Ibrahim Babangida created nine states, namely Abia, Delta, Enugu, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kogi, Osun, Taraba and Yobe states. Ejigbo Local Government, which hitherto was under old Oyo State fell under the newly created Osun State. With the creation of Osun State, a military governor, known as Col (later Major General) Leo Segun Aborisade, was appointed by General Babangida to govern the state. Prior to the creation of Osun State, the then military governor of old Oyo State, Colonel SaseniaOresanya had already appointed Mr Toni Osanyin as a sole administrator, over Ejigbo Local Government in 1989. MrOsanyin served as the sole administrator of the local government up till when Osun State was created in 1991 as well as when the local government election was conducted in December 1991. However, with the successful conduct of local government election in December 1991 by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) under the chairmanship of Professor Humphrey Nwosu, across the country, democratically elected local council members took over the administration of local governments. With respect to Ejigbo Local Government, the election was won by the candidate of Social Democratic Party (SDP) in person of Alhaji Abdu Salam Abbas. Thus, Alhaji Abbas became the first democratically elected Executive Chairman of Ejigbo Local Government under the newly created Osun State. He governed the local government up till the overthrown of the Interim National Government (ING) by General Sani Abacha in November 1993 (Adewuyi, 2023).

With the demise of the aborted Third Republic occasioned by the emergence of General Sani Abacha as the military Head of State of Nigeria, military governors were appointed to govern all the states of the federation. In Osun State for example, Navy Captain Anthony Udofia was appointed in December 1993 as the third military governor. Having taken over the reins of power, he appointed sole administrators over all the local government areas in the state. In Ejigbo Local Government for example, three different sole administrators were appointed to govern the local government, namely Major Ademola Abayomi, 1993-1994, Prince Oyeweso Akande, 1994-1995 and Mr Michael Ajibade Falade, 1995-1998. The two of them were in charge of the management of Ejigbo local government between 1993 and 1995 during the military governor of Navy Captain Anthony Udofia (Ayegbayo, 2023). With the reshuffling of the military governors of the thirty states in the country in August 1996 by General Sani Abacha, Navy Udofia was replaced with another military governor known as Lt. Col. Anthony Obi. He was the fourth military governor of the state and served between August 1996 and August 1998 (Ademola, 2020). Although Lt. Col Obi appointed some new sole administrators to govern some local governments, with respect to Ejigbo Local Government, he retained the sole administrator appointed by Navy Captain Udofia known as Mr. Michael Ajibade Falade (Ademola, 2020).

Prior to the mysterious death of General Sani Abacha on 8 June 1998 and the appointment of General Abdulsalam Abubakar as the new military head of state of Nigeria, General Abacha government initiated a transition programme, which affected the administration of local government. In 1995, General Abacha regime drew a three year transition programme, which was to end in 1998. In a bid to implement this new transition to civil rule, the regime through Decree No. 9 of 1997 set up new electoral commission known as National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON). With this, ban on politics was lifted. Out of fifteen political associations that showed interest in participating in the transition programme, only five political parties were eventually registered by NECON. The five political parties were National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN), Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN), Grassroots Democratic Party (GDP), United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP) and Congress for National Consensus (CNC). Following the conduct of primaries by all the registered five political parties, elections were conducted into Local Government councils, state and National Assemblies and Governorship positions. In Ejigbo local government, the chairmanship election was contested by four major political parties, namely Hon Bada Buade of Congress for National Consensus (CNC), Deakin Simon Adebowale of the United Nigeria Congress Party (UNGP), Mr. Rasaaq Akande of the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) and Hon Michael Falade of the Grassroots Democratic Party (GDP). At the end of the election, Hon Michael Falade of the GDP was declared winner with Prince Jubreel Afolabi as the Vice Chairman (Adewuyi, 2023). Hon. Michael became the second democratically elected Executive Chairman of Ejigbo Local Government in Osun State between 1997 and 1998 (Adewuyi, 2023).

With the emergence of General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the elected local council officials were removed. General Abdulsalam reshuffled the cabinet and appointed new military governors for the thirty-six states of the federation. In Osun State for instance, Lt. Col. Anthony Obi was removed and Col. Theophilus Bamigboye was appointed as the new military governor of the state. Col Bamigboye later appointed sole administrators for all the local government areas. In Ejigbo Local Government for example, Mr. Moses Tokunbo Sadejo was appointed as the sole administrator. He remained the sole administrator of the local government until the conduct of local government election in December 1998 across the country by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) under the chairmanship of Professor Maurice Iwu, marking the birth of the Fourth Republic, which began on 29 May 1999 (Adesote&Ofogbor, 1998:222). The local government election (which involved chairmanship and councillorship) was the first election to be conducted by INEC. The election which was held on 5 December 1998 across the federation was mainly contested by the three registered political parties by INEC. These political parties were All People's Party (APP), Alliance for Democracy (AD) and People's Democratic Party (PDP) (Akinbi and Adesote, 2014:99). With respect to Ejigbo Local Government, the Chairmanship election was contested between Hon. Kunle Jayeola of the PDP and Hon. Jamiyu Olarewaju of the AD. At the end of the election, Hon. Kunle Jayeola of the PDP was declared as the winner of the election with Hon. Yinka Adigun as his Vice-Chairman (Akindele, 2022).

After the 1998 local government election, which was conducted by INEC, subsequent local government elections across the 36 states of the federation in general were handled by the State Independent Electoral Commission of each state. This development was in line with the Section 197 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) which establishes for each state, State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC). Third Schedule Part II of the Constitution establishes the functions of SIEC to include the commission shall have power to organize, undertake and supervise all elections to local councils within the state {1999 Constitution (as amended)}. By this provision, the successive administrations that emerged in Osun state between 2003 and 2021 oversaw the administration of local government areas through the appointment of Caretaker Committee and the conduct of local government elections. The

details of these administrations vis-à-vis the administration of Ejigbo Local Government during this period would be discussed subsequently. Between 1999 and 2021, Osun State was governed by four successive Executive Governors namely Chief Bisi Akande (1999-2003, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola (2003-2010), Engr Rauf Aregbesola (2010-2018) and Mr. Gboyega Oyetola (2018-2022).

The emergence of Chief Adebisi Akande as the first civilian governor of Osun State under the Fourth Republic was facilitated by the conduct of the 1999 gubernatorial election, which was held across the 36 states of the Nigerian federation on 9th January 1999. With respect to Osun State, the election was contested by Chief Adebisi Akande of the AD and Senator Olu Alabi of the PDP. At the end of the election, Chief Adebisi Akande of the AD was declared by INEC as the winner of the election, securing a total votes of 295,557 against the PDP candidate who had 136,105 votes. He was inaugurated on 29 May 1999, thus becoming the second civilian governor of Osun State as well as the first executive governor of the state in the Fourth Republic. During Chief Bisi Akande administration, Hon. Kunle Jayeola served as the Executive Chairman of Ejigbo Local Government. Other elected council members of the local government were Hon. GafaruOyolola (Ward 2), Hon. Samson Owalude (Ward 1), Hon. Taiwo Ogundapo (Ward 4), Hon. Deloye (Ward 3), Hon. Taiwo Ogunwobi Baba (Ward 8) and Hon. Jacob Olateju (Ward 6) (Ayegbayo, 2023). After the expiration of the administration of Hon Jayeola, rather than the state government to conduct another local government election, Caretaker Committees headed by Caretaker Chairmen were appointed by Chief Adebisi Akande administration to govern all the 30 local government areas in the state. In Ejigbo for instance, Barrister WaliuSalimon was appointed. He was administered the local government between 2002 and 2003 (Ayegbayo, 2023).

The second civilian governor of Osun State during the Fourth Republic was Prince OlagunsoyeOyinola. His emergence was made possible by the 2003 gubernatorial election. In the build up to the 2003 governorship election in the state in particular and general elections in Nigeria in general, INEC registered some new political parties such as National Conscience Party (NCP), All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) and so on. Unlike the 1999 governorship election, which was contested by only three political parties, the 2003 election was contested by several political parties. Although several political parties participated in the election, the contest was mainly between Chief Bisi Akande of the AD (incumbent governor) and Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola of the PDP. At the end of the election, which was held on 19 April 2003, the candidate of the PDP was declared winner by INEC polling 493,509 votes to defeat the AD candidate, who polled 237,041 votes. Other political parties polled 13,669 votes (African Elections Database, 2003). On 29 May 2003, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola was inaugurated as the third Executive Governor of the State. Following the emergence of Prince Oyinlola as the governor of the state, he dissolved all the appointed Caretaker Chairmen by the previous administration and appointed new Caretaker Chairmen to manage all the 30 local government areas of the state. In Ejigbo Local government for instance, Hon. Yinka Adigun was appointed as the Caretaker Chairman. He was in control of the local government between 2003 and 2004. However, in April 2004, the government of Prince Oyinlola conducted the second local government election during the Fourth Republic. The election was mainly contested by two major political parties namely the PDP and the AD. In Ejigbo Local government, the election was won by the then incumbent Caretaker Chairman, Hon Yinka Adigun. He administered the local government between 2004 and 2007. After the expiration of Hon. Adigun's tenure in 2007, Hon (Prince Jacob Oladipupo Oyetunde was appointed as the Caretaker Chairman of Ejigbo Local government by Governor Oyinlola. He administered the local government between 2007 and 2008 (Ayegbayo, 2023).

On 14 April 2007, the third governorship election was held in the state and was mainly contested by Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola of the PDP and Engr. Rauf Aregbesola of

the Action Congress (AC) (Olakunle and Ogundele, 2018). Although INEC initially declared the candidate of the PDP as the winner of the election and was sworn in, the candidate of the AC and his party challenged the result of the election in the court of law, first at Election Tribunal and later at the Court of Appeal. The judgments of the two courts were favourable to the candidate of the AC. With the Court of Appeal judgment on 26 November 2010, which nullified the election of Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, Engr. Rauf Aregbesola, the AC candidate was declared the winner of the 2007 governorship election. Prior to the swearing in of Engr Aregbesola on 27 November 2010 as the Fourth Executive Governor of Osun State, the second local government election under the administration of Prince Oyinlola was conducted in 2008 by the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC). With respect to Ejigbo local government, the election was worn by the Hon Samuel Ajiboye Adegboyega of the PDP. He was in control of the local government until he was sacked in December 2010 by the Supreme Court judgment led by Justice Maria Aloma Mukhtar. With the sacking of the elected local government chairmen of the state in December 2010, Governor Aregbesola appointed caretaker chairmen to administer all the 30 local government areas.

On 9 August 2014, the fourth governorship election was held in Osun state. Although twenty political parties fielded candidates for the election, in reality, the contest was between the APC and PDP candidates (Egwemi, 2015). These political parties and their candidates were Engr. Rauf Aregbesola of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Senator Iyiola Omisore of the PDP, Senator Sunday Fajinmi of the AD, Elder Olusegun Akinwusi Male SDP, COM. Afolayanka O. Jimoh of the NCP, Alhaji Fatai Akinbade of the Labour Party (LP) and so on. According to the election results released by INEC on the morning of August 10, 2014, the APC candidate won the majority vote and was declared the winner of the election. Engr. Rauf Aregbesola who won in 23 local government areas polling a total vote of 394,684, was re-elected as the Executive Governor of the State, while the PDP candidate, Senator Iyiola Omisore, who came second won in seven local government areas with a total vote of 292,747 (Durotoye, 2014:5). Engr. Rauf Aregbesola became the first Executive Governor to serve for two terms, making a total of eight years as the civilian governor of the state. Between 2010 and 2017 that Engr. Aregbesola was in control of Osun State, he did not make any attempt to conduct local government elections. The state government adopted caretaker system of administration to govern the entire 30 local government areas during this period. With respect to Ejigbo Local Government, between 2012 and 2017, the local government was under the leadership of two different leaders namely Hon Tiamiyu Abiodun Akinwale as the caretaker chairman and Alhaji Hassan Olaniyi as Executive Secretary (Ayegbayo, 2023). However, after ten (10) years, the state government constituted a new State Electoral Commission known as Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSIEC) under the Chairmanship of Otunba Segun Olaitan and charged the commission to conduct parliamentary election in all the 30 local government areas including 31 Local Council Development Areas created by the administration of Engr Rauf Aregbesola. The election was conducted on Saturday 27 January 2018. With respect to Ejigbo Local Government, at the end of the election, Hon. Ayegbayo Gbenga Olafimihan was elected as the Chairman of the local government under the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC). He remained the Executive head of the local government up till the emergence of a new administration under MrGboyega Oyetola. He died in 2020 and was succeeded by his Deputy in person of Hon Ogunmola Teslim Sola (Aderohunmu, 2024).

Importantly, the leadership of Ejigbo Local Government was also affected by the emergence of new administration in the state under Mr Gboyega Oyetola. The emergence of Mr Gboyega Oyetola was facilitated by the 2018 gubernatorial election held on 22 September 2018. The election, which was the fifth governorship election in the state, was contested by forty-eight political parties (Tella, 2025). Of these political parties, five were the major

actors. These five political parties and their candidates were Mr. Gboyega Oyetola of the APC, Senator Nurudeen Adeleke of the PDP, Senator Iyiola Omisore of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Fatai Akinbade of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), and Adeoti Moshood of the Africa Democratic Party (ADP). The election, which was under the supervision of the Returning Officer, Prof Joseph Fuwape, the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) was declared inconclusive (The Punch 2018). Quoting INEC's Standing Rules, Prof. Afuwape said the reason behind the decision was that margin between the two leading candidates (that is candidates of the PDP and APC) was lower than the registered cancelled votes. While the PDP candidate polled 254, 698 votes, the candidate of the APC polled 254, 345 votes. While the number of votes in which the PDP candidate had ahead of the APC was 353, the number of cancelled votes was 3,498. As a result, a rerun election was fixed for September 27, 2017 in seven polling units in Ife North (one polling unit), Ife South (two polling units), Orolu (three polling units) and Osogbo (one polling unit) local government areas, where elections were initially cancelled due to electoral irregularities, malfunctioning of card readers and ballot box snatching (The Punch, 2018). At the end of the rerun election, which was mainly contested by two major leading political parties, PDP and APC, the candidate of the APC was declared winner, polling 255,505 votes against PDP candidate who polled 255, 023 votes (The Vanguard, 2018). The declaration of the APC candidate as the winner of the governorship election was later challenged by the PDP candidate at the Election Petitions Tribunal. On 22 March 2019, the Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in Abuja ruled in favour of the PDP candidate (The Premium Times, 2019). However, the ruling of the Election Petitions Tribunal was later challenged in the Court of Appeal by Mr. Gboyega Oyetola and his party. On 9 May 2019, Appeal Court ruled in favour of the APC candidate (The Premium Times, 2019). The PDP candidate also challenged the ruling of the Appeal Court at the Supreme Court. On 5 July 2019, Supreme Court affirms Mr. Gboyega Oyetola of the APC as the winner of Osun State governorship election held in September 2018 (The Premium Times, 2019). Following the expiration of the administration of the elected Chairmen in 2021, Mr. Oyetola appointed new caretaker chairmen for all the 30 local government areas. With respect to Ejigbo Local Government, Hon. Gbolahan Muyiwa Ayegbayo was appointed as the caretaker Chairman. (Ayegbayo, 2023). See below the list of sole administrators/chairmen of Ejigbo Local Government between 1991 and 2021.

TABLE 2: LIST OF EJIGBO LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOLE ADMINISTRATORS/CHAIRMEN UNDER OSUN STATE, 1991-2021

SN	NAME	DATE
1	Mr Toni Osanyin	1989-1991
2	Alhaji Abdu Salam Abass	1992-1993
3	Major Ademola Abayomi (retd)	1993-1994
4	Prince Oyeweso Akande	1994-1995
5	Mr Michael Ajibade Falade	1995-1998
6	Mr Moses Tokunbo Badejo	1998-1999
7	Hon. Kunle Jayeola	1999-2002
8	Barrister WaliuSalimon	2002-2003
9	Hon Yinka Adigun	2003-2007
10	Hon (Prince) Jacob Oladipupo Oyetunde	2007-2008
11	Hon Samuel Ajiboye Adegboyega	2008-2010
12	Hon. Tiamiyu Abiodun Akinwale	2012-2015
13	Alhaji Hassan Olaniyi	2015-2017
14	Hon. Ayegbayo Gbenga Olafimihan	2018-2020

15	Hon Ogunmola Teslim Sola	2020-2021
16	Hon. Gbolahan Ayegbayo,	2021-2022

Source: Tella, O.A. 2025. Leadership, Management and Stewardship in Local Governance in Ejigbo, 1991-2021. Unpublished M.A Thesis, Department of History and International Studies, Osun State University, Osogbo

Concluding Remarks

The foregoing has critically examined the evolution and development of Ejigbo Local Government between 1991 and 2021. It argued that the history of local government administration was not new to the Nigerian peoples. However, the western system of local government was traced to the British, which took the form of native administration that was introduced to govern the country after the 1914 amalgamation. It witnessed new reform in 1950s, occasioned by nationalist agitations. Following the attainment of political independence in 1960, several local government reforms were introduced by successive governments. Local government wore a new garment as a result of the 1976 Local Reforms leading to its recognition as a third tier system of government within the federation. It was this reform that led to the creation of Ejigbo Local Government, which was formerly known as Ejigbo District Council. The local government initially existed under the old Oyo State between 1976 and 1991. However, with the creation of Osun State in 1991 out of old Oyo state, Ejigbo Local Government came under the newly created state. Between 1991 and 2021, the local government was governed by elected council members, sole administrators and caretaker committees.

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