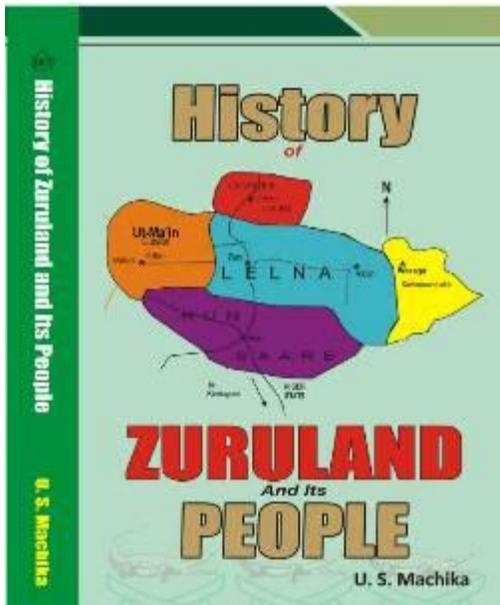


## Foreword

History is man's attempt to record facts as they relate to the life and times of peoples, Kingdoms and nations with a view to establishing the truth, which, guides existing and future generations about their identity, practices, body of knowledge, technology, exchanges and relations in trade and commerce. However, because of the nature and intentions of man and his limitations in recording, interpreting and storing information, facts are sometimes distorted and truths obscured. The 21st Century offers man the opportunity to deploy the tools of science and technology to gather facts through research. Thus, the 21st Century man lives in ignorance only by choice.



This is why I am excited about this book. It represents for me, the outcome of a genuine evidence-based research to establish facts and truths concerning a distinct nation, the Zuruland, a part of Southern Kebbi State, Nigeria. U. S. Machika in this incredible work has provided diverse evidence – archaeological, linguistic, sociological, political and historical – to prove his case in *History of Zuruland and Its People*. His scholarly and enquiring mind raises critical questions to which this book provides answers, opening up the space for more work to be done on the Zuru People. There is boldness in his interpretations and assertions because of the quality of the evidence available to him and the passion to present his findings. The book challenges academics and scholars generally and specifically those from the Emirate to understand Zuru's contemporary history, socio-economy and

politics by revisiting its past. While it is possible that one may not agree fully with the author on certain issues he may have raised in this book, the evidence and arguments he has presented are compelling. I recommend the book to everyone, particularly to each son and daughter of Zuruland.

From the introduction, Usman leaves no one in doubt about his mission and objectives and puts a finger on some of the most complex but inter-related issues bedeviling Nigeria – origin, land, indigene and settlers. He shows with evidence that Zuruland has long been occupied by people indigenous to it before the wave of immigrations to the area. This is followed by a fascinating journey of the peopling and formations of communities in each of the 5 Chiefdoms or Districts that make up Zuruland. The tools of science and technology are deployed to prove the case against the distorted facts of the past. He draws on the concepts of “identity politics” and the socio-politics of domination concluding that Zuru was never defeated in battle nor subdued by the forces of arms as preserved in her songs. However, he readily submits that the peoples of Zuru have been mentally and morally subdued! His characterisation of the trauma of neo-colonisation of the Zuru Emirate is touching and distressing, the symptom of a waiting time bomb to explode or diffuse by politicians and Governments at all levels. He ends, correctly in my view, by returning to God for the solution, with a look at the Islamic reality and the lessons for

our contemporary lives – a balanced approach to regulating the relationships between migrants and indigenes.

I commend the effort of U.S. Machika in presenting a well-researched work recommended for all categories of people – scholars, researchers, policy makers, politicians, religious leaders, public office holders and all of us called to the high office of citizenship of Nigeria. Let us play our role with a view to building a better society and a great nation. It is a must read!

**Amb. Sunday Thomas Dogonyaro (OON, Mni)**

Co-Founder & Executive Director,

African Policy Research (Katampe Hill) Institute

Abuja.

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