



BONNY TRADITIONAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

Bonny was founded before 1000 AD. It was structured along the lines of the Greek city states, with a strong central capital and surrounding satellite towns and villages. The King or Amanyano is the head of traditional authority in Bonny Kingdom. Next in authority are the district heads or Amadapu and the Chiefs or Se-Alapu. The King has a Chiefs council comprising the Chiefs and district heads, with whom he rules the Kingdom. The Chiefs or Se-Alapu are the heads of the component houses of Bonny.

The administrative units or houses in Bonny are classified into three categories: Duawari which are the aboriginal houses, the Opuwari or major houses derived from the Duawari houses and the Kalawari or minor houses which are branches of the major houses. Their Chiefs are selected or elected based on the tradition of their individual houses.

The Chiefs have a council composed of branch heads called Ikpangi Sibidapu or Wariseniapu, with whom they rule their houses.

The Ikpangi Sibidabo (Head of the family branch) is the head of the family unit within the larger house. A Warisenibo (House elder or representative) represents his House during meetings of the house and before the Chief of the house. The Matriarch of the family unit or Burusu normally appoints her eldest son to be the head of her family unit. The Chief can also appoint a warisenibo as a reward for service to the community. The position of warisenibo is therefore attained by heredity or honorary appointment. The Ogbokoroama, Bonny's club of Mask dancing artists was formed by Queen Kambasa of Bonny. They put on masquerade displays in Bonny for entertainment. They are also part of traditional governance and act as Police in the Kingdom. Ibanise Kubiri or the Peoples parliament is convened during times of emergency, war or when important decisions affecting the Kingdom need to be taken. The meeting is presided over by a chairman assisted by a secretary. The Ibanise Kubiri is the highest decision-making body in Bonny Kingdom.

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