

Ontological Validation of Land Tenureship in Esan Tradition

Christopher E. Ukhun¹ and Nathaniel A. Inegbedion²

- 1. Department of Philosophy, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Edo State, Nigeria*
- 2. Department of Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria*

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ABSTRACT This study recognizes that land tenureship is of considerable importance in many cultures. Such tenureship is guided and guarded by certain dispositions or laws. For instance, in Nigeria, the Land Use Act of 1978 inaugurated by the Federal Government gives the impression that it is the only overriding law which guarantees land acquisition in Nigeria. In this work, efforts were made to correct the above impression by insisting that traditional or customary land tenure has the force which dwarfs other land tenureship laws. An Esan instantiation epitomizes this. In Esan tradition, the Customary Land Tenure prevails, but such is validated by the ontological or metaphysical. This aspect which current authors explored obviously has been ignored in discussions on land tenureship in Nigeria.