

Mbiri Monarch Honours Dr. Gabriel Mbadiwe Mbata, Wife with Chieftaincy Titles 12



21st Ihu Iyase Football Tournament Final: Aliokpu Defeats Aliagwai 6



Anioma Association in Washington DC Hosts Second Okwa Akpele Competition 7



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS



Late Mr. Steve Ashien

Ika Weekly

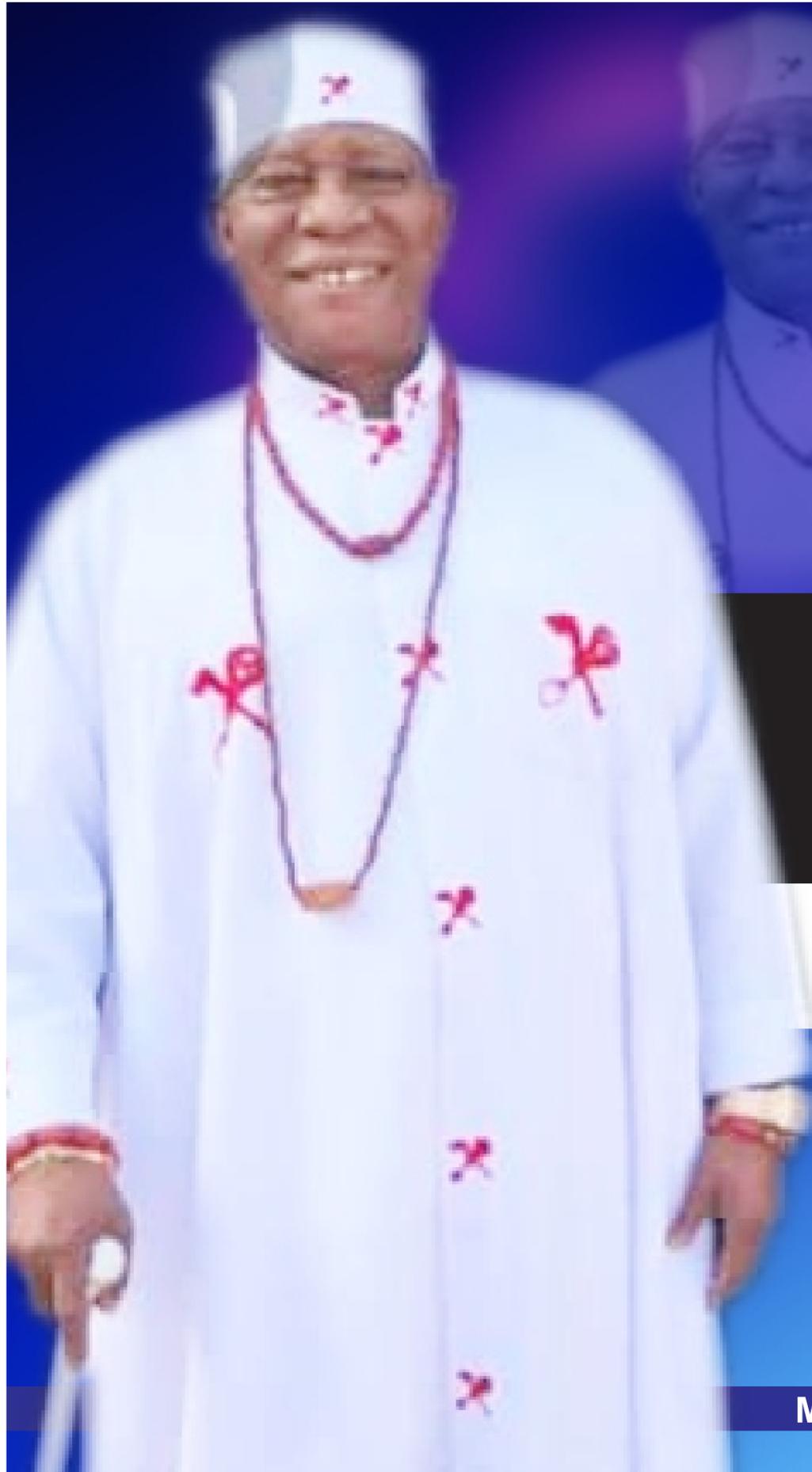


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Exit of AN ICON

With heavy heart but total submission to Almighty God the family of Akibor hereby announce the passing away to great beyond

Late Chief SUNDAY OKAH AKIBOR (AKA SUNKI)

who died in the hospital on Saturday, 12th December, 2025, in Lagos, after a brief illness

Until death, he was the founder of United Berger Motor Association, the biggest Auto-Market in Africa. born on November 15, 1948. He was the chairman Sunki Motors Ltd and Sunki Petroleum and Gas Ltd and several other companies.

He Hailed from-Ake, Igbanke in Orhionmwon L.G.A of Edo State.

MAY HIS GENTLE SOUL REST IN PEACE

Signed: The Family

Area Command's CPF Holds First Annual Prayer Meeting, Intercedes For Nigeria

By Sunday Memeh

Police officers and Ika indigenes who are members of the Christian Police Fellowship (CPF), Agbor Police Area Command, Delta State, were filled with joy as they gathered for the fellowship's first Annual Prayer Meeting to praise and thank God for His grace and mercy in preserving their lives to see the year 2026.

The prayer meeting was initiated by the founder of the ministry, Pst. Aloysius O. (DSP), who also serves as the Station Officer of the Area Command. The atmosphere was charged with thanksgiving as worshippers appreciated God's faithfulness over the years.

It is noteworthy that worshippers from Abavo, Umunede, Ekuku-Agbor, and other communities within Agbor Obi regularly converge with police officers every Tuesday morning at the Christian Police Fellowship Centre, Area Command, Agbor, to worship God. Some Ika residents who spoke with Ika Weekly Newspaper shortly after the service testified to their experiences

and divine encounters, expressing appreciation to the Area Commander, ACP Adolph Ogwu Ikenna, and Pst. Aloysius O. (DSP) for creating an enabling environment for joint worship.

Ministering the word of God on the topic "In My Father's Custody," Pst. Aloysius O. took his text from John 14:1-3, John 10:28-30, and Matthew 4:22. He emphasized the importance of every child of God remaining under God's custody for divine

protection and preservation.

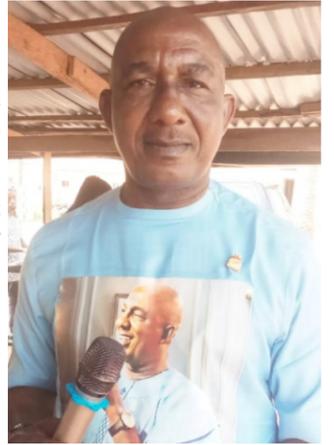
The cleric admonished Christians to trust God wholeheartedly and not allow their hearts to be troubled. He further encouraged believers to serve God in truth and in spirit by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour, stressing that this is the pathway to inheriting God's kingdom and enjoying the many mansions prepared in heaven, as recorded in John

14:2. Highlighting the benefits of being in God's custody, Pst. Aloysius listed divine appointments, protection, preservation, and open doors. According to him, those who remain in God's custody enjoy free access to the Holy Spirit, opportunities for greatness, and freedom from satanic oppression.

He urged Christians not to allow the month of January and the year 2026 pass without having a genuine encounter

with God, adding that faithful service to God guarantees divine reward, strength to overcome life's battles, and elevation beyond human expectations.

The prayer meeting concluded with fervent intercessory prayers for Nigeria, its leaders, and the nation's security, as participants called on God's divine mercy and protection upon all Nigerians.



APC Ika Federal Constituency Holds First Annual Meeting as Okowa Calls for Unity Among Party Faithful

By Sunday Memeh

Stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ika Federal Constituency, on Monday, January 5, 2026, held their first enlarged annual meeting at Vienna Arena, Boji-Boji Owa, Delta State, to deliberate on strategies ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Addressing party members at the well-attended gathering, the immediate past Governor of Delta State and

leader of the region, His Excellency, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa, urged APC members to work together in unity and harmony for the growth of the party and the overall development of the Ika nation.

Sen. Okowa called on every Ika son and daughter to embrace one another, shun division, and remain focused on the collective interest of the people, stressing that development is a shared

responsibility.

He noted that by consolidating on the foundations already laid, the party would be better positioned to attract greater benefits and opportunities for the Ika people.

According to him, collaboration remains more productive than unhealthy competition, urging party faithful to prioritize unity, grassroots mobilization, and effective strategies for future electoral success.

He also emphasized the

importance of sustaining party cohesion ahead of the forthcoming APC congresses, while calling for total support

for the current state and national leadership to ensure the re-election of party members and strengthen the

party's position going forward.



EDITORIAL

Nigeria's New Tax Policy: A Turning Point with Local Implications

Nigeria's new tax policy marks a major shift in the way government intends to generate revenue and manage public finance. By reviewing and merging several existing tax laws, the policy seeks to create a more organised, transparent and fair tax system. It is part of the government's effort to reduce reliance on oil income and ensure steady funding for public services such as education, healthcare, security and infrastructure.

One of the key ideas behind the new policy is fairness. Low-income earners and small businesses are given more relief through higher tax exemptions, while individuals and companies that earn more are expected to contribute more. This approach is meant to protect the most vulnerable in society while expanding the tax base. Essential goods and services like basic food items, education and healthcare remain exempt from VAT, helping to reduce pressure on household expenses.

For people in Ika land, the policy offers possible benefits if properly implemented. Many

traders, artisans, farmers and small business owners may experience reduced tax burden, especially those operating at a small scale. With states receiving more revenue through improved tax collection, there is hope that funds will be available for local development projects such as road repairs, school improvements, health centres and water facilities across Ika communities.

The new policy also introduces digital methods of tax administration to reduce leakages and corruption. In theory, this should improve transparency and make it easier for government to track revenue. However, this shift may pose challenges for many residents in Ika land, especially those in rural areas who have limited access to the internet or lack digital skills. Without proper support and guidance, some people may struggle to comply with the new system.

Public awareness remains another major concern. Many citizens are still not fully informed about what the new tax policy entails, what they are expected to pay, and what rights they have as

taxpayers. Poor communication could lead to confusion, fear and resistance. Continuous education through town halls, local media and community leaders will be necessary to ensure understanding and cooperation.

There is also the long-standing issue of trust. Over the years, many Nigerians have questioned how tax revenues are used. For residents of Ika land to fully support the new tax policy, they must see clear evidence that funds collected are being used to improve their daily lives. Visible projects and honest governance will play a critical role in building confidence.

In the end, the success of Nigeria's new tax policy will depend not just on the law itself, but on its implementation. Fair enforcement, strong public education and transparent use of funds are essential. If these are achieved, the policy could support local development and economic growth. If not, it risks being seen as another burden on already struggling citizens.

From the Altar to Eternity: He Began and Finished His Race at St. John the Baptist, Agbor.

*A Tribute to Very Rev. Fr. (Barr.) Stephen Chukwudumebi Chukwuma
June 5, 1962 – December 31, 2025.*

By: Hon.(Sir) Wallace Osoanimgba Okafor.

There are lives that preach louder than words, and there are journeys that come full circle only by divine design. Very Rev. Fr. (Barr.) Stephen Chukwudumebi Chukwuma's life was one of such sacred journeys. Born on June 5, 1962, to Pa Benedict and Madam Elizabeth Chukwuma of Idumu Obi Quarter, Akumazi-Umuocha, Ika North East LGA of Delta State, he was rooted early in faith, discipline, and service. From Ngala Primary School (1976) to Ika Grammar School (1982), his path was quietly but steadily being shaped by God.

His love for the Church began humbly as an altar server at St. John the Baptist

Catholic Church, Agbor, where he served Mass and assisted in liturgical celebrations. That same altar where his hands once trembled as a young server would later become the place where his priestly voice first echoed officially, and, by God's mysterious will, the very place where he breathed his last, having preached God's word one final time.

Fr. Steve was a man of deep learning and uncommon versatility. He earned a Diploma in Religious Studies, a Bachelor of Theology from Sts. Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Ibadan, and furthered his studies at Urban University, Rome. Ordained a Catholic priest in 1990 by Bishop Anthony Gbuji at St.

John the Baptist, Agbor, he went on to serve the Church with zeal, intellect, and compassion.

His ministry took him far and wide:

Dean of Students at St. John of the Cross Spiritual Year Campus, Ekpoma (1990-1995)

Rector of St. Felix Minor Seminary, Ejeme-Aniogor. Member, Delta State Pilgrims Board He served meritoriously at All Saints Catholic Church, Onicha-Ugbo, and witnessed the solemn dedication of St. Charles Catholic Church, Ubulu-Uku, and St. Brigid's, Asaba. As a parish priest, he was a builder, not only of structures, but of faith communities. He created:

St. Martin of Tours Parish, Igbodo

St. Theresa's Parish, Obior

Immaculate Conception Parish, Isheagwu (while at Ubulu-Uku)

St. Augustine's Parish, Asaba (while at Ewulu)

Beyond the sanctuary, his light shone in the classroom as a lecturer at Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku. He was also a prolific author and publisher, leaving behind books that continue to teach and inspire. His work, *"My Journey as a Priest and a Lawyer,"* stands as a testimony to a man who bridged faith, law, and service with rare excellence. Indeed, he transitioned remarkably, from priest, to lecturer, to barrister,

yet never departed from his calling to serve humanity.

We mourn him today with heavy hearts, yet with gratitude. He began preaching God's word at *St. John the Baptist, Agbor,* and by God's perfect wisdom, he ended his earthly preaching at that same holy ground, joining the Lord on December 31, 2025. Just days before his passing, we saw his passion for community advocacy at the 60th birthday celebration of the Obi of Akumazi on December 27, 2025. Only two months ago, he visited our home in Akure, a visit my children still speak of with longing and love.

God knows best.

We love you, Fr. Chukwuma but God loves you more.

Rest on, Nwa Ononwu.
Rest in eternal peace,
Very Rev. Fr. (Barr.) Stephen Chukwudumebi Chukwuma.



A TRIBUTE TO REV. FR. DR. BARR. STEPHEN CHUKWUMA

By Chukwuma Anslem (Nephew & Son in Every Sense)

To the world, he was Reverend Father Stephen Chukwuma. To me, he was simply 'My Father and Mentor' a title born not just of the collar he wore with grace, but of the profound, earthly fatherhood he embodied for me.

For many years, I was blessed to walk beside him. We walked the quiet paths of home, where his guidance was my compass, and his presence, my sanctuary. We walked the streets of our community, where his laughter was a familiar melody and his counsel a sought-after balm. And ultimately, we walked together in faith, with his steady hand on my shoulder, pointing always towards the

light of Christ.

It is a profound and heartbreaking truth that his final steps on this earth were taken in the very act he loved most: preaching the Word. In the pulpit, his sanctuary, with a message of peace on his lips, he was called home. There is a sacred symmetry in this that, while it does not lessen the grief, speaks to the totality of his devotion. He was a man of peace until his last breath, a shepherd who served in the field until the very end.

Father Chukwuma was truly a man of the people. His door and more importantly, his heart was always open. He carried the burdens of his flock with a gentle strength, offering not just sacraments, but solace;

not just homilies, but hope. His care was not a duty, but the very essence of his being. He remembered names, cherished stories, and saw the image of God in every face, especially in the faces of the poor, the troubled, and the forgotten.

The emptiness he leaves is a testament to the fullness with which he lived and loved. Our home feels quieter, our community feels smaller, and my heart aches with a love that now has nowhere to go but upwards in prayer.

I will miss the sound of his voice, both in prayer and in simple conversation. I will miss his wisdom, his unwavering faith, and the profound peace that seemed to radiate from

him. I will miss my father, my guide, my mentor.

While we mourn a beloved priest and a pillar of our community, I mourn the man who raised me, the man who was my rock. His legacy is not only etched in the sacraments he administered and the parish he built, but in the countless lives, like mine, that he shaped with unconditional love.

He has fought the good fight, he has finished the race, he has kept the faith. May the Prince of Peace, whom he served so faithfully, now welcome His good and faithful servant into eternal rest, where there is no more sorrow, only everlasting joy.



Apostle Chris Eruemulor Declares New Dawn for Owa-Ekei at Ultra-Modern Hall Commissioning

By Patrick Gbuchanye

An illustrious son of Owa-Ekei Community, Apostle Chris Eruemulor, General Overseer and President of Calvary Bread of Life Ministries and Calvary World Outreach, on Friday, December 26, 2025, delivered a powerful prophetic ministration at the commissioning of the Owa-Ekei ultra-modern community hall—one of the major highlights of the 2025 Owa-Ekei Day celebration.

The historic occasion attracted traditional rulers, elders, youths, women groups, religious leaders, and guests from within and outside the kingdom, many of whom described the event as a defining moment in the history of the community.

Opening his message with Christmas goodwill, Apostle Eruemulor declared, “This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” He anchored his ministration on the biblical account of the birth of Jesus Christ, referencing the census decree under Emperor Augustus Caesar, the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, and the humble circumstances surrounding Christ's birth.

He emphasized that although adversity and evil surrounded the nativity story, such challenges did not originate from God but from the devil, stressing that God's purpose always prevails despite opposition.

Reflecting on his long-standing spiritual engagement with Owa-Ekei, Apostle Eruemulor disclosed that his participation in the commissioning was divinely ordained. According to him, after receiving the invitation, he sought God's guidance in prayer and was assured that the call was inspired by God.

He recalled a historic night vigil held years ago at the Church of God Mission, involving pastors from Benin, Agbor, and other locations, during a period when the community was perceived to be stagnant.

“The Lord told me He would open up this land, that millionaires would emerge from Owa-Ekei, and that the voices of the children of this land would rise higher,” he declared.

The cleric further revealed that he personally spent millions of naira to mobilize spiritual leaders to pray across the wider Owan area, following divine instruction that a great light would come upon the land. He added that God assured him that the fulfillment would occur within his lifetime.

Pointing to present realities, Apostle Eruemulor asked rhetorically whether the prophecy had not already begun to manifest, citing infrastructural development, the rising prominence of sons and daughters of Owa-Ekei, and the establishment of Sleek 101.9 FM Radio Station in the community as evidence of divine fulfillment.

Describing the newly commissioned hall as a symbol of emerging glory, he said, “No one ever imagined that developments of this magnitude would spring up in Owa-Ekei.” He noted that God has raised men and women from the community who are billionaires—not only in material wealth, but also in knowledge, influence, and capacity.

In his concluding charge, Apostle Eruemulor urged the people of Owa-Ekei to embrace unity, love, and mutual respect, warning against speaking evil of one another.

“Only through harmony and shared purpose can this community sustain its current pace of development and rise to greater heights,” he said.

Speaking with journalists, the Okpara-Uku of Owa-Ekei, Venerable Palmer Melekwe (rt.d.), expressed profound gratitude to God and the community for witnessing the completion of a project initiated around 2017.

According to him, the hall project required patience, resilience, and sustained

mobilization of both human and financial resources.

“We labored tirelessly—convincing people, mobilizing funds, and sustaining the vision. Today, we are witnessing the commissioning, and it gives me immense joy,” he said.

He described the hall as a legacy project that would serve as a center for meetings, cultural activities, social events, and development-driven engagements, noting that its dedication by Apostle Eruemulor was spiritually significant and prophetic.

“A new thing has begun in Owa-Ekei. A new beginning has come upon our land,” he declared.

The event also marked the second Owa-Ekei Day—an initiative aimed at fostering unity, rekindling cultural pride, and encouraging community development.

Calling for collective responsibility, Venerable Melekwe reminded the people that leadership and progress require unity.

“A tree does not make a

forest. You cannot say 'let us go' and then move back,” he admonished.

He described 2026 as a year of new beginnings and offered prayers for divine guidance, promotion, good health, and prosperity for all indigenes.

An elder statesman of the community, Chief Obi Melekwe, CEO of Sleek 101.9 FM Radio Station and the Obazenu of Owa Kingdom, praised the resilience and focus of the town hall project committee.

He described the completion of the project within five years—from demolition to commissioning—as a remarkable achievement for a community of Owa-Ekei's size.

“The committee was very painstaking and highly focused despite numerous challenges,” he said.

Chief Melekwe dismissed allegations and criticisms that trailed the project as distractions driven by personal motives, noting that the elders' decision to retain the same committee throughout ensured continuity and success. He particularly commended the

committee chairman, now the Okman Ruku, for his resilience and commitment to community development.

The elder statesman urged indigenes to take responsibility for the development of their homeland, cautioning against neglecting one's roots.

“You have only one home. You can work anywhere, but a time will come when you will realize that home is home,” he said.

Another illustrious son of the community, Hon. Christopher Orogodo Ekamagule, Education Secretary, LEA, Ika North East Local Government Area, and Chairman of the Event Planning Committee, described the occasion as historic.

Hon. Ekamagule, who originated Owa-Ekei Day, said the initiative was designed to promote unity, raise community consciousness, and encourage sustainable development among indigenes at home and in the diaspora.

“This is the second anniversary of Owa-Ekei Day,

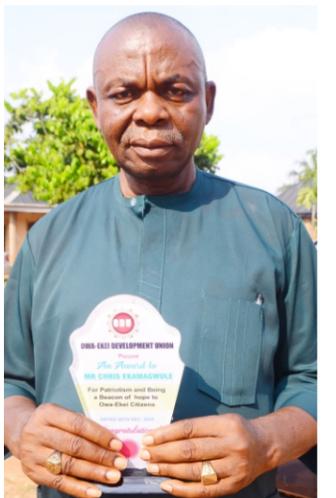
and today is special because we are dedicating this beautiful town hall built by the people,” he said.

He noted that awards were presented to deserving sons and daughters who have contributed selflessly to the community's growth, describing the event as peaceful, well-organized, and emotionally fulfilling.

“Today marks one of my happiest days. My people honored me for patriotism and service, and I am deeply grateful,” he concluded.

The successful commissioning of the ultra-modern community hall stands as a testament to what unity, patience, and visionary leadership can achieve. For the people of Owa-Ekei, the project represents not just a building, but a beacon of hope and a solid foundation for future development.

As celebrations drew to a close, residents described the occasion as a defining moment—signaling renewed commitment to growth, harmony, and collective advancement.



HER Feast 2025: Engineer Miracle Arimobi Redefines Community Celebration in Ika and Udu

By Patrick Gbuchanye

An atmosphere of joy, colour, and unity enveloped Ika land and parts of Udu on Thursday, December 26, 2025, as Engineer Miracle Arimobi, MNSE, Special Assistant to the Governor of Delta State on Female Youth Development, hosted a landmark community celebration tagged “HER Feast: The Ika Experience,” alongside the Udu Experience Feast.

The event, which attracted women, youths, children, families, and community stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, stood out as a bold demonstration of grassroots leadership and people-centred governance. Her Feast is a subsidiary and flagship project of Power of Power Women in Leadership, an initiative championed by Engr. Arimobi in collaboration with her office, aimed at empowering women, promoting youth inclusion, and strengthening community bonds through social engagement.

Speaking at the venue, Engr. Arimobi said the inspiration for HER Feast stemmed from her love for games and her conviction that happiness and recreation are vital to community wellbeing.

“I believe that Ika people deserve happiness, joy, games, and everything that brings smiles to our faces. That is why we are doing this—so our people can relax, laugh, and bond together,” she said.

The venue, Owa Model Secondary School, Boji-Boji Owa, was transformed into a vibrant recreational hub, featuring a wide range of indoor and outdoor games designed to cater to all age groups. Attractions included snooker boards, table tennis, Monopoly, chess, draughts, painting sessions, diary and board games, adult games, and other interactive activities.

Children were equally catered for, with special attention given to their entertainment and safety. Facilities such as trampolines, merry-go-rounds, running



games, and playful competitions created a carnival-like atmosphere that kept young participants actively engaged throughout the day.

One of the most remarkable aspects of HER Feast was its free-access policy. Engr. Arimobi emphasised that all games and activities were provided at no cost, reinforcing the event's inclusive philosophy.

“Every single game here today is free. Nobody is paying for any game. The only thing you pay for is the

food you eat and the drinks you take,” she stated.

This approach encouraged massive participation and reinforced the principle that community development initiatives should be accessible to all, irrespective of social or economic status.

Beyond recreation, the event also created economic opportunities for local vendors and small-scale entrepreneurs. Food and drink vendors offered a variety of meals, including fish, chicken, assorted local delicacies, drinks, water, and snacks, while others sold items

such as bonnets and accessories—thereby stimulating local economic activity during the festive season.

Engr. Arimobi further explained that HER Feast is a family-centred programme deliberately designed to bring together husbands, wives, children, teenagers, and extended families in a shared communal experience.

“This is not for women alone. As a family, you are included. As a child, you are included. As a teenager, you are included. This is for everyone in the community,” she emphasised.

As daytime activities transitioned into evening festivities, excitement mounted for the night entertainment segment, which featured Amapiano music, live performances, comedy acts, and appearances by actors and entertainers. The convener announced that the celebration would continue into the early hours of the following day, promising an unforgettable experience.

To further boost participation, 1,000 free tickets were made available to the public, with repeated calls on residents to “come and take a position” and be part of the historic gathering.

Importantly, Engr. Arimobi revealed that HER Feast is not a one-off event but is intended to become an annual December tradition, aimed at fostering unity, promoting youth engagement, celebrating culture, and providing a safe, joyful space for communal interaction.

The successful hosting of the inaugural Ika Experience under the HER Feast initiative has been widely applauded as a refreshing model of leadership that blends entertainment, empowerment, inclusiveness, and community development.

As stage lights illuminated the venue and music filled the air, one message resonated clearly: HER Feast is more than a celebration—it is a movement of joy, unity, and people-driven leadership in Delta State.



New Year's Eve Tragedy: Rev. Fr. Stephen Chukwuma Slumps And Dies During Mass

By Patrick Gbuchanye

The Catholic community in Agbor, the headquarters of Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State, has been plunged into deep mourning following the sudden death of the Parish Priest of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Very Rev. Fr. (Barr.) Stephen Chukwudumebi Chukwuma, who collapsed while delivering his homily during the New Year's Eve

Mass on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.

Eyewitnesses said the priest slumped at the pulpit while praying during his sermon, just minutes before the end of the year. Parishioners and fellow clergy immediately rushed to his aid and administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before he was taken to the Central Hospital, Agbor. Despite

further medical intervention, including the use of oxygen, he was later confirmed dead.

The sudden demise of the 63-year-old priest sent shockwaves through the church, leaving parishioners and worshippers in disbelief and sorrow over what was meant to be a moment of celebration and thanksgiving.

Until his death, the late Rev. Fr. Chukwuma served as the Regional Vicar of the Agbor Region in the Catholic Diocese of Issele-Uku. His passing has drawn an outpouring of grief across the diocese and beyond, with many describing him as a dedicated shepherd, administrator, and spiritual guide.

The late priest hailed from Akumazi-Umuocha in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State. Born on June 5, 1962, in Agbor, he began his Christian vocation early as an altar server at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He attended Ngala Primary School and Ika Grammar School in Agbor before entering the seminary in 1982.

His priestly formation included a Spiritual Year at St. Paul's Missionary Seminary, Iperu-Remo, and theological studies at Saints Peter and Paul Major Seminary, Bodija, Ibadan, where he completed his training in 1990. He was ordained a priest the same year by the late Bishop

Anthony Gbuji for the Catholic Diocese of Issele-Uku.

Rev. Fr. Chukwuma served in several parishes across Delta State, including St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Asaba; All Saints Catholic Church in Onicha-Ugbo; and St. Michael's Catholic Church in Ubulu-Uku. He also held several key leadership positions within the diocese, notably as Rector of St. Felix Minor Seminary, Ejeme-Aniogor, and Dean of the St. John of the Cross Spiritual Year Campus, Ekpoma.

The Catholic Diocese of Issele-Uku officially announced his death in a statement signed by its Director of Communications, Very Rev. Fr. (Dr.) Charles Uganwa. According to the statement, burial arrangements are as follows: a Vigil Mass will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist

Catholic Church, Agbor, while the Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral, Issele-Uku. Interment will follow immediately at the Priests' Cemetery, Issele-Uku.

The late Rev. Fr. Stephen Chukwuma is remembered for his humility, commitment to priestly service, and profound impact on the lives of the faithful he served.

Umunedede Monarch Restricts Elders from Eating at Young People's Burials

By Amos Chukwuekwu

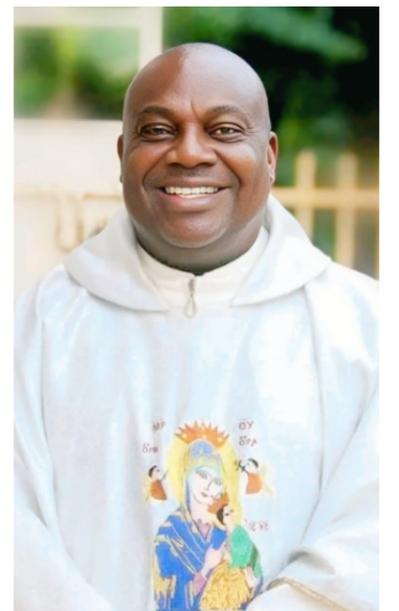
The revered traditional ruler of Umunedede Kingdom in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, HRM Dr. Ezeagwu Ezenwali 1 JP, has issued directives to elders in his kingdom to stop the traditional practice of eating at the burials of young people.

He gave the directives on Wednesday January 7, 2026, during an enlarged meeting with his subjects at his palace, saying that the restriction is aimed at reforming burial rites and upholding the customs of the kingdom.

The monarch stated that any elder that contravenes the directives will have himself to blame, saying that the restriction is part of efforts to preserve the kingdom's cultural heritage, reinforce age-long custom, and restore order to burial practices that have increasingly been abused.

HRM Dr. Ezeagwu Ezenwali 1 JP also enjoined non-indigenes residing in the kingdom to pay more attention to their business, and not to be selling lands in Umunedede, saying that he does

not want anyone to gamble with the lands in Umunedede.



12th Ihu Iyase Football Tournament Final: Aliokpu Defeats Aliagwai

By Patrick Gbuchanye



Aliokpu Community in Agbor, Delta State, has emerged overall champion of the 12th edition of the Ihu Iyase Football Tournament, an annual grassroots football competition sponsored by retired General Lucky E. O. Irabor, former Chief of Defence Staff of Nigeria.

The keenly contested final match, played on Saturday, December 27, lived up to expectations as Aliokpu Community faced Aliagwai Community in an exciting and fiercely fought encounter. After ninety minutes of action-packed football ended in a goalless draw, the championship was decided by a penalty shootout. Aliokpu displayed remarkable composure and precision to defeat Aliagwai 4-1 on

penalties and lift the coveted trophy.

Both teams thrilled the large crowd with disciplined defending, tactical organisation, and flashes of attacking brilliance in both halves. Despite several scoring opportunities created by the two sides, outstanding goalkeeping and resilient defensive lines ensured the stalemate remained unbroken until penalties were required to separate them.

The grand finale attracted an impressive turnout of football enthusiasts, community leaders, and notable personalities from across Ika nation and beyond. Dignitaries in attendance included the tournament sponsor, General Lucky E. O. Irabor (rtd.); the member representing Ika South Constituency at the Delta State

House of Assembly, Hon. Festus Chukwuyem Okoh, popularly known as Chuky Dandy; Mr. Joseph Irabor, Mr. Fabian Egun, Professor Cecil Okubor, and several other prominent sons and daughters of the area.

At the end of the tournament, Aliokpu Community, winners of the 12th edition, received a cash prize of ₦1 million. Aliagwai Community, who finished as runners-up, went home with ₦600,000, while Agbor Nta, who placed third, received ₦400,000. The rewards underscored the sponsor's commitment to promoting healthy competition and rewarding excellence.

Speaking with journalists after the final, General Irabor expressed delight at the high quality of football displayed throughout the competition.

He described the players as exceptional, praising their sportsmanship, resilience, and growing professionalism. He also commended the organising committee for their dedication and meticulous planning, noting that their efforts contributed significantly to the smooth and successful execution of the tournament.

Reflecting on the vision behind the competition, the retired General explained that the Ihu Iyase Football Tournament, which he initiated twelve years ago, was designed to promote unity, foster peace among communities, and provide a platform for discovering and nurturing young football talents within Ika nation. He called on the people to embrace greater unity and cooperation, expressing optimism that some of the

outstanding players showcased during the tournament would, in time, rise to national and international prominence.

In his remarks, Hon. Festus Chukwuyem Okoh (Chuky Dandy) lauded General Irabor for his consistency and unwavering commitment to sustaining the annual football fiesta. He described the initiative as a powerful unifying force that continues to bring communities together, engage youths positively, and uncover hidden talents. The lawmaker urged the former Chief of Defence Staff to remain steadfast, assuring him that the tournament has brought pride, joy, and a renewed sense of togetherness to the people of Ika South.

The presentation of trophies, medals, and cash

prizes to the winning teams formed the high point of the colourful event, which ended on a celebratory note, further reaffirming the Ihu Iyase Football Tournament as one of the most impactful grassroots sporting events in the area.



NDDC Chairman Pledges More Projects, Reaffirms Commitment To Niger Delta Development

By Sunday Memeh

The Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Governing Board, Mr. Chiedu Ebie, has pledged to initiate more intervention projects across the Niger Delta region in the coming year.

He made the pledge on Sunday, January 4, during a birthday celebration organised in his honour by aides, friends, and political associates at his country home in Agbor.

Mr. Ebie, who expressed gratitude to guests for the show of

goodwill, said the NDDC would intensify efforts toward sustainable development and community resilience in 2026.

"What we have achieved so far is only a preview. The Commission will roll out more projects aimed at improving livelihoods across the Niger Delta," he said, while extending New Year goodwill messages to Nigerians, particularly the people of the Niger Delta.

The event drew prominent Ika leaders, All Progressives Congress (APC) chieftains, and members of the Delta Unity Group (DUG), among others. Speakers at the gathering commended Mr.

Ebie's leadership style and inclusive approach, attributing significant infrastructure and human capital development in Ika Nation and other parts of the region to his tenure.

Speaking on behalf of the organisers, Mr. Emeka Ogbu, Personal Assistant on Special Duties to the NDDC Chairman, described the celebration as a mark of appreciation for "an astute leader and a unifying figure."

The occasion featured cultural entertainment, photo sessions, and goodwill messages, and concluded on a note of optimism for the year ahead.



Ojeah Urges Drivers To Obey Traffic Rules

By Sunday Memeh

As travellers begin to return to their destinations after the New Year celebrations, Comrade Prince Jonathan Ojeah, a member of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Branch A, Boji-Boji Owa, Ika North-East Local Government Area of Delta State, has advised road users—especially drivers—to strictly observe traffic rules and regulations to prevent road accidents.

Ojeah, who is also the immediate past Chairman of the defunct People's Democratic Party (PDP) Ward Four, Unit Four, Boji-Boji Owa, congratulated Nigerians on witnessing the year 2026 and prayed for God's continued protection so they may live to celebrate

the 2027 New Year.

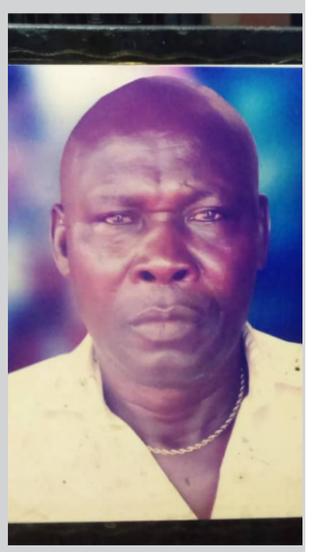
He cautioned members of his union against reckless driving and excessive speeding, urging them to moderate their speed on highways and inner roads to avoid unnecessary accidents. According to him, accidents are largely preventable when drivers adhere strictly to the rules and regulations of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC).

He emphasized that obedience to road signs and instructions—such as stopping where required—significantly reduces the risk of accidents.

Comrade Ojeah also advised vehicle owners to ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy, with functional lights,

indicators (trafficators), and other safety components, to prevent collisions.

He concluded by wishing drivers and passengers safe journeys as they travel and convey passengers to their various destinations.



Obi Agadagidi, Okowa, Irabor, Others Bag IPC Awards

By Patrick Gburchanye

The Ika Peoples Congress (IPC) rounded off the year in grand style with an Awards and Gala Night held at the Palm Event Centre, Boji-Boji Owa, in Ika North-East Local Government Area of Delta State.

The colourful ceremony, chaired by Professor Emmanuel Tibi, brought together prominent sons and daughters of Ika Nation from across the country. The event was organised to celebrate excellence, selfless service, and outstanding contributions to societal development.

Among the award recipients were His Royal Majesty, Obi Dr. Agadagidi Ezeagwu Ezenwali I, JP; Chief John Ujeh Ehikwe; former Governor of Delta State, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa; General Leo E. O. Irabor (rtd); Professor Stella Chinye Chiemekwe; Dr. Emmanuel Efe Emeffeni; Barrister Chiedu Ebie; Dr. Hillary Obioma Ibegbulem; Barrister Eugene Azuka Uzum; Roseline Nwaham; and the late Tony Onyeagwu.

In his remarks, Professor Tibi showed encomiums on members of the IPC for their immense contributions to promoting unity, growth, and development in Ika Nation. He

urged them to sustain the momentum and prayed for God's continued strength upon the members. He congratulated the awardees for being found worthy of the honour and encouraged them to see the recognition as motivation to do even more. Professor Tibi also called on well-to-do sons and daughters of Ika to partner with the IPC to advance the overall well-being of the people.

In his address, the IPC Chairman, Mr. Williams Lince Eghebi, called for unity, inclusive growth, and strategic partnerships to reposition Ika Nation for sustainable development. He explained that the programme was also



for reflection on the future of the ethnic group. Mr. Eghebi expressed



infrastructure, declining interest in education, and the high cost of living, stressing the

notably the 2017 Ika Economic Summit, while lamenting that many of its recommendations remained unimplemented. He also acknowledged the growing impact of the University of Delta, Agbor, on education and commercial activities in the area.

The IPC Chairman called for stronger collaboration between political leaders and the private sector, urged increased support for the university as a research-driven institution, and appealed for urgent intervention to rehabilitate the Ika National Hall. He further called on the Niger Delta Development Commission

Commending the Delta State Government for the ongoing Agbor flyover project, Mr. Eghebi advocated for additional infrastructure development, including road rehabilitation, river dredging, and erosion control.

The event also recognised acts of compassion, with special mention of Roseline Nwaham from Umunede, who was honoured for her selfless care of three orphans.

Mr. Eghebi concluded that the gala night was aimed at promoting unity, friendship, and mutual understanding among the Ika people.

Other highlights of the event included cultural



designed to ease social tensions arising from prevailing economic hardship and to provide an opportunity

concern over rising challenges in Ika Nation, including political distrust, drug abuse, decaying

need for collective action to address the issues.

He highlighted key achievements of the IPC,

(NDDC) to formally recognise the Ika Nation to enable it benefit fully from development programmes.

displays, goodwill messages, and entertainment, as guests were treated to sumptuous meals and choice wines.

Anioma Association In Washington DC Hosts Second Okwa Akpele Competition

By Loveth Okolie

The ancient town of Igbodo in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State came alive on Monday, 29th December, 2025, as it hosted the second edition of the Okwa Akpele Competition, a cultural event aimed at preserving and promoting Anioma musical heritage. The competition was sponsored by the Anioma Association Okanga Group in Washington DC, USA, as part of its continued efforts to sustain indigenous culture among present and future generations.

This year's edition followed the maiden competition which was successfully held last year at Onicha Olona in Aniocha North Local Government Area of the state. At the maiden edition, Chizzy Ngadaonye from Onicha-Olona emerged winner and went home with a cash prize of two hundred thousand naira (#200,000), setting a high standard for subsequent competitions.

The Igbodo event featured five contestants drawn from different communities, all showcasing their skills with the Akpele, a revered traditional musical instrument among the Anioma people. Contestants were assessed based on clearly defined criteria which included their dressing, stage composure, and general knowledge of the Akpele, highlighting not just musical ability but cultural understanding and presentation.

The panel of judges was led by Prince Andrew Obiokoli from Ekuku-Agbor, who served as the Chief Judge, and was supported by Miss Awele Lillian Elumelu from Onicha-Olona and Mr Sunday Remi Ikebukwu from Akwukwu-Igbo. Their collective experience and deep knowledge of Anioma culture added credibility and professionalism to the competition. To ensure clarity and audience engagement, Diokpa Emeke Anionicha of Obomkpa volunteered to interpret and explain the meaning of each performance, helping spectators better understand what each contestant played.

At the end of the keenly contested event, Odiakose Ndukwe from Obomkpa emerged as the overall winner, clinching the first position and a cash prize of two hundred thousand naira (#200,000). Eyeneka Kashie of Ishagwu came second

and received one hundred and fifty thousand naira (#150,000), while Ossai Hycent of Onicha Ukwuani in Ndokwa West secured the third position and went home with one hundred thousand naira (#100,000). The winners were warmly applauded by the audience for their impressive performances. The rest of the participants include Egboh Michael of Ubulubu in Aniocha North, and Anionicha Chiedozi of Obomkpa in Aniocha North local government area.

The current President of the Anioma Association in Washington DC, Mr Justin Chiedu Molokwu, served as the Chairman of the occasion. In his remarks, he welcomed everyone present. He took time to highlight some achievements of the Association since its inception in 1989. According to him, "on November 22, 2025, the Egwu Enuani women's dance group gave a magnificent performance that honoured our tradition and brought joy to our community." He thanked HRM Bar. Okechukwu Nkeobikwu Osadumel, the Obi of Igbodo kingdom for hosting this year's Okwa Akpele. He also expressed heartfelt gratitude to his predecessor, Dr Christian Otado Mbulu for all he is doing to preserve Anioma culture and traditions.

Adding colour and excitement to the event were captivating performances by the Otu Egwu Namu dancing group, alongside traditional drummers whose energetic rhythms kept the audience entertained throughout the day. Their performances reinforced the cultural essence of the event and created a festive atmosphere.

Speaking with the press, the leader of the Otu Egwu Namu dancing group, Mrs Maria Bienonwu, said the cultural troupe was founded and formerly headed by her late mother, Late Madam Nwanne Nwani. She recalled that during her mother's leadership, the group made significant contributions to the promotion of Igbodo culture, including the release of a musical album titled "Igbodo Enweli Ofu Eze" to mark the installation of Obi Sunday Iyke 111 as the king of Igbodo Kingdom. Mrs Maria expressed gratitude to the group's patron, Dr Otado Mbulu, for his continued support, and appealed to well-meaning Anioma sons and daughters to assist the group in sustaining and promoting cultural heritage.

Speaking at the event, Chief Austen

Elumelu JP (Ozoma of Onicha-Olona), one of the home-based organizers, advised Akpele players across Anioma communities to form organized associations within their respective areas. According to him, such associations would make it easier to mobilize participants and ensure wider participation when future editions of the competition are held. He also expressed excitement about the quality of performances.

In separate interviews with the press at the end of the competition, the winner, Odiakose Ndukwe, could not hide his excitement. He thanked the sponsors and demonstrated his appreciation by playing his Akpele in celebration. Mr Molokwu expressed deep pride in members of Anioma association in Washington DC for their commitment to sponsoring cultural initiatives that reconnect Anioma people at home and in the diaspora with their roots. He emphasized that the association remains committed to cultural preservation and youth engagement. Chief Elumelu also praised the organizers and expressed optimism that future editions would attract more participants, as he attributed the relatively low turnout of participants to the busy yuletide season.

The event attracted several dignitaries from within and outside the community, including HRH Omu Lokwebe (Omu of Ukala kingdom), and High Chief Peter I. Nwaaji (Iyase of Ukala Kingdom) representing Coalition of Anioma traditional Chiefs under the leadership of High Chief, Ambassador, Mayor, Enujeko, the Odogwu of Ubulu-unor. Also at the event were Chief Austen Elumelu JP (Ozoma of Onicha-Olona), Ogene Clement Obi, Chief Ngozi Chika, Mr Iyeye Alfred, Mr Martin Ifeose, Mr Emma Ukponu, Mr Peter Igah, and many other notable personalities who came to support the cultural initiative.

Also present at the colourful cultural event were notable Ikpala members of Igbodo kingdom. They included Chief Martin Eboka, the Ikpala-Buisi of Igbodo Kingdom; Mr Chuks Ogbu, the Ikpala-Buisi of Anieme and Anikpeku, who was represented by Mr Paul Ofulue. Dr. Mbulu, the Ikpala-Buisi of Ndobu and host of the event, was represented by Mr Onyeje Samuel Nwaka. Others in

attendance included Chief Ngozi Chika, the Iyase of Anikpeku and Anieme among many other distinguished personalities.

Chief Ngozi Chika also spoke with the press, he commended Dr Mbulu for bringing the Okwa Akpele Competition to Igbodo. He encouraged him not to limit his cultural efforts to Okwa Akpele alone, but to also explore and promote other rich aspects of Anioma culture such as Egwu Idegebe Ani. Chief Chika expressed appreciation to the organizers of the competition for a well-coordinated event and also thanked members of the press for their role in documenting and promoting Anioma cultural heritage.

In a telephone conversation with the press, the immediate past president of the Anioma Association in Washington DC, and host of the event, Dr. Otado Mbulu, the Igbala-Buisi of Ndobu-Igbodo expressed heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the second edition of the Okwa Akpele Competition. He specifically thanked His Royal Majesty, Barrister Ikechukwu Nkeobikwu Osadumel I, the Obi of Igbodo Kingdom and the Izu-Enuani members of Igbodo Kingdom, for their royal support. He appreciated the Ikpala group of Igbodo led by Diokpa Martin Eboka, all Ikpala-Buisi of Igbodo, and the Deputy of the Ndobu Ikpala group, Ogbuefi Friday Tudeme. Dr Mbulu further acknowledged the Provost of both the Ogene of Ndobu and the Provost of the Ikpala group of Ndobu, Ogbuefi Happy Akanchawa Odum, and gave special appreciation to the Ogene of Ndobu, Chief Alexander Nwokolo and his deputy, Elder Ogor Nwokolo who performed very well in the traditional libation process. He thanked the chairman of the Anioma Akpele group, Chief Emeke Anionicha of Obomkpa, and Chief Austen Elumelu as well as all the contestants and participants, whose efforts, he said, made the event possible, memorable and impactful.

Dr. Mbulu further said that the Anioma Association in Washington DC is not just an Association of regular Anioma people but a group with many elders, thinkers, authors, writers, doers, givers, volunteers, and world leaders. The association since inception in 1989 has focused on enhancing Anioma in the areas of culture, tradition, health, public policy, and the creation of Anioma State. This association for many years has invested so much money and time for the sake of

uplifting Anioma at home and diaspora. The Association initially embarked on creating other Anioma Associations in other parts of the United States and eventually hosted the creation of Anioma National Association Inc. USA. The Association then took on medical missions, scholarship programmes, Adult and Youths Egwu-Enu Ani Dance groups, and Traditional Naming ceremonies for Anioma-Americans. The Association in 2005 created Washington-based Anioma Leadership Council (ALC) charged to ensure that Anioma communities in the Washington Metro Areas of the United States stick together as one enviable community. Recently, the Association added to their programme the implementation of Ancestral Naming programme for Americans that are able to trace their roots back to Anioma land, and then enhanced the presence of Washington-Based Okanga Dance group as initiated by Dr. Prof. Nwanne Onyemenem of Onicha Olona.

Dr. Mbulu, while appreciating the founding fathers and mothers of the Association, thanked the current and past members. He sends his special appreciation to all the presidents before him: Ogbuefi George Nwabukwu of Asaba (founding president), Rev. Dr. Obi Arinze of Ogwashi-Ukwu, Hon. Jonathan Madagu of Ndokwa, Dr. Austin Nwabueze of Isele-Uku, Diokpa Onyema Nmoroka of Ute-Alohen, Dr. Ceasar Adigwe of Ibusa, Chief Mrs. Ify Nwabuku of Asaba, Mr. Joe Ijeh of Ogwashi-Uku, Chief Clement Azagba of

Umunede, Dr. Mrs Rita Ntosi of Asaba, and Mr. Elias Uwandi of Ogwashi-Uku. Dr. Mbulu specially appreciates those who served with him: Dr. Mrs Angela Osadebe of Ogwashi-Uku, Mr. Emmanuel Osadebe of Ogwashi-Uku, Mrs. Chinyere Otuya of Ndokwa, Prince Dr. Peter M. Ngwodo of Ubulu-Uku, Mr. Mike Ohai of Ogwashi-Uku, Prince David Ngwodo of Ubulu-Uku, Mrs. Priscella Segal of Asaba, Mr. David Onwuka of Ndokwa, Mrs. Peace Oke, and Mr. Justin Molokwu of Ubulu-Uku (the successor). "Above all, I thank all my elderly mentors and leaders, including but not limited to Dr. Prof. Nwanne Onyemenem, Dr. Chris Agboli, Mr. Andrew Emenanjo, Chief Alex. Okechukwu, Mr. Fidelix Iwugo, Mr. Tony Agholor, Mr. Onyema G. Nmoroka, Pastor Tony N. Okonkwo, and Prince George Mordi." He said. Dr. Mbulu noted that he still remembers his late Anioma mentors that have passed on to glory, Scholar Dr. Kunirum John Osia and Mrs. Theresa Esealuka.

Overall, the second edition of the Okwa Akpele Competition at Igbodo was widely regarded as a success, reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation and community support. It also reaffirmed the Anioma Association in Washington DC's role in promoting Anioma heritage and ensuring that traditional values and art forms continue to thrive in a modern society.





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**COME AND EXPERIENCE
THE EASE OF EVENTS MANAGEMENT**

Prof. Paul Okechukwu Nwiyi Champions Unity, Purpose, And Excellence At Mbiri Patriotic Union Annual Conference

By Patrick Gbuchanye

The annual gathering of Mbiri sons and daughters on December 26 once again provided a platform for reflection, reconnection, and renewed commitment to communal growth, as the Mbiri Patriotic Union (MPU) held its much-anticipated

progress, address challenges, and chart a sustainable path for community development.

According to him, the annual conference offers a rare opportunity for indigenes—young and old, home-based and diaspora-based—to deliberate on strategies for unity, growth, and advancement.

the conference, “There Is Reward in Building.” Prof. Nwiyi explained that the lecture extended beyond physical infrastructure to encompass career development, skill acquisition, character formation, and the pursuit of excellence in all fields of human endeavour.

he noted.

Drawing vivid analogies from construction and professional life, Prof. Nwiyi emphasized the importance of unity, specialization, and collaboration, stressing that no individual can succeed in isolation.

He further highlighted that building a successful career often spans several decades, beginning from basic education through advanced professional training. While acknowledging the obstacles individuals encounter along the way—such as financial challenges, setbacks, and moments of frustration—he urged perseverance.

“If you are focused, determined, and willing to endure, obstacles will surely give way to success,” he said.

The professor also underscored the central role of faith, noting that good health, resilience, and clarity of purpose are divine endowments essential for long-term achievement.

“Without God and good health, progress becomes

extremely difficult,” he stressed.

Reflecting on his participation, Prof. Nwiyi described the conference as one of the most fulfilling experiences of the year, noting that it afforded him the opportunity to reconnect with his roots and engage meaningfully with his people.

“There is truly no place like home. Being among my

Nwiyi urged Mbiri people to embrace the season with gratitude and reflection, while recommitting themselves to hard work and excellence.

He proudly recalled Mbiri's rich educational heritage, noting that the first female graduate in the entire Ika land hailed from Mbiri—a testament to the community's long-standing commitment to education.

“Mbiri people are industrious, resilient, and ambitious. If we work together in unity, with the fear of God, there is no height we cannot attain,” he concluded.

In recognition of his academic excellence, professional achievements, and impactful contributions to the development of Mbiri land and humanity at large, Prof. Paul Okechukwu Nwiyi was honoured with an Award of Recognition during the ceremony.

The award was presented alongside those of other distinguished Mbiri sons and daughters who have continued to make meaningful contributions to the growth and positive image of the community.



From left, Prof. Nwiyi, MPU President general Barr. Ehianuka



Professor Paul Nwiyi displaying his award plaque

annual conference in Mbiri land.

A major highlight of the event was the keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Paul Okechukwu Nwiyi, a distinguished consultant and Professor of Veterinary Microbiology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State. His scholarly contribution and active participation added depth and inspiration to the conference, which attracted indigenes from across Nigeria and the diaspora.

Speaking during an interactive session, Prof. Nwiyi described the December 26 conference as a long-standing tradition that brings together Mbiri people of all generations to assess

“This gathering allows us to evaluate where we are as a people and how best to move forward collectively,” he said.

Speaking on the theme of

“Before any building takes place, there must be preparation. Preparation requires time, patience, sacrifice, and consistency,”



Professor Nwiyi and others

Alisimie Community Calls For Construction Of Ekpenike Road Linking Community To Uromi Junction

By Nicholas Ebeghoni

The recent commencement of the Uromi Junction flyover by the Delta State Government has been widely commended as a significant step toward improving traffic flow and urban infrastructure in the area.

However, residents of Alisimie Community have appealed to the state government to further maximize the benefits of the flyover project by constructing the Ekpenike Road, which would link Alisimie Community directly to Uromi Junction.

Speaking with our correspondent, the Public Relations Officer of the Alisimie Community Union, Comrade Friday Okpali, noted that despite the community's proximity to the major transport corridor, Alisimie remains largely disconnected.

“Alisimie Community remains largely cut off from this major transport route despite its closeness to it. The

absence of a direct and motorable road has continued to limit movement, economic growth, and access to essential services for residents,” he said.

Comrade Okpali explained that the construction of Ekpenike Road would not only improve accessibility to the community but also serve as an important feeder road that would help decongest traffic around the Uromi Junction axis.

He outlined several benefits of the proposed road, including enhanced connectivity between rural and urban areas, support for local businesses, farmers, and traders, as well as reduced travel time and transportation costs for residents and visitors.

According to him, the road would also improve access to essential social services, particularly healthcare, while boosting property values and investment opportunities for the Agbor area and its

environs.

“It will indeed drive long-term socio-economic growth for the entire community,” he added.

Speaking further, Comrade Okpali stressed that infrastructure development yields the best results when projects are properly integrated.

“As infrastructure development thrives when projects are integrated, the Ekpenike Road should be

considered a necessary extension of the ongoing flyover project,” he said. “We therefore respectfully call on the Delta State Government and relevant authorities to prioritize the construction of this road in the interest of inclusive development and community welfare. Sustainable development must reach every community, and Alisimie deserves to be part of the progress the state is witnessing.”

He maintained that the flyover project reflects the government's commitment to modernizing road networks and boosting economic activities across the state, adding that the inclusion of Ekpenike Road would further help achieve these objectives.



PHOTO NEWS OF THE CONFERMENT OF CHIEFTAINCY TITLE ON DR GABRIEL MBATA AND WIFE BY THE OBI OF MBIRI ON 3RD OF JANUARY, 2026 AT THE PALACE OF THE OBI OF MBIRI, MBIRI



PHOTO NEWS OF THE CONFERMENT OF CHIEFTAINCY TITLE ON DR GABRIEL MBATA AND WIFE BY THE OBI OF MBIRI ON 3RD OF JANUARY, 2026 AT THE PALACE OF THE OBI OF MBIRI, MBIRI



Mbiri Monarch Honours Dr. Gabriel Mbadiwe Mbata, Wife with Chieftaincy Titles

By Patrick Gbuchanye

Dr. Gabriel Mbadiwe Mbata, a renowned medical professional and philanthropist from Emuhu-Eze Community in Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State, has described his recent conferment with a chieftaincy title by the Mbiri Kingdom as both humbling and motivating.

Dr. Mbata, who lived and practised in the United States for over 45 years, was honoured on January 3, 2025, alongside his wife, Mrs. Francesca Mbata, by the monarch of Mbiri Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwu Alekwe II, JP. The honours were in recognition of the couple's outstanding contributions to community development across the Ika Nation.

At the colourful ceremony, the monarch conferred on Dr. Mbata the title "Diken Ka Ibe of Mbiri Kingdom," while his wife was honoured with the prestigious title "Enyawu Ne Tini Ora of Mbiri Kingdom."

Remarkably, the titles were bestowed despite the couple not being indigenes of Mbiri, a gesture that underscored the monarch's appreciation for selfless service and commitment to pan-Ika development.

Speaking after the



ceremony, High Chief Mbata expressed deep gratitude, describing the recognition as a renewed call to greater service to humanity.

"I feel very good. This honour will encourage me to do more for the community. It shows that people are truly seeing and appreciating what you are doing," he said.

He emphasised that his philanthropic activities were never driven by the desire for recognition.

"When I started, I did not expect anything in return. I am a Christian, and my belief is simple—do unto others as you would want others to do unto you. Whatever I did, I did it from the heart."

Commending the Mbiri monarch, Dr. Mbata described him as an enlightened and visionary ruler.

"The king is very educated and observant. He saw what we were doing and decided to honour us. He is a great king, and I respect him deeply. I pray he continues to lead his people with wisdom."

High Chief Mbata, a trained medical doctor and pharmacist licensed in both Nigeria and the United States, disclosed that he practised pharmacy in the U.S. for nearly four decades. He used the occasion to urge Nigerians in the diaspora to

return home and invest in grassroots development.

"Many people are doing well financially. I encourage them to come home and do something meaningful in their villages. Be magnanimous—it does not cost as much as people think."

He recounted one of his interventions at a secondary school in Emuhu, where students were exposed to danger due to the absence of basic sanitation facilities.

"The principal told me the students were using the bush, with snakes everywhere. That touched my heart. I provided toilets, water, solar lighting, and a backup generator. From there, other interventions

followed."

Responding to questions bordering on political ambition, Dr. Mbata maintained that his primary focus remains service rather than the pursuit of political office, though he acknowledged increasing calls for his involvement.

"I am a professional. Politics was never my ambition. People have been encouraging me, but I have not said yes or no. It is a matter of time."

He lamented the absence of visible government impact in the constituency since the return of democracy, noting that some notable projects were facilitated through the

Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) by one of their sons.

"If the call to serve comes and the time is right, I will answer. There is nothing I want to gain from government. I can take care of myself. Service will always remain service."

High Chief Mbata concluded by reaffirming his commitment—alongside his wife, Mrs. Francesca Mbata—to the continued growth and development of the Ika Nation, stressing that true fulfilment lies in uplifting lives and communities.

Queen Anthonia Ezeagwu Spreads Christmas Cheer to Needy, Widows, and Persons with Disabilities in Umunedede

By Patrick Gbuchanye

Queen Anthonia Ezeagwu, wife of the Umunedede monarch, His Royal Majesty Obi Dr. Agadagidi Ezeagwu Ezenwali, on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025, brought joy and relief to needy women, widows, and persons living with disabilities in Umunedede Kingdom through her annual Christmas humanitarian outreach.

The Queen Mother, who also serves as the Isor of Umunedede Kingdom, expressed deep satisfaction over the success of the programme, noting that the turnout this year surpassed that of previous editions. She emphasized that the initiative was purely humanitarian, devoid of any political undertone, stressing that all beneficiaries who patiently turned out received gift items—mainly foodstuffs—to enable them celebrate Christmas with joy and dignity.

According to her, a town crier was dispatched across the various quarters of Umunedede to inform needy mothers, widows, and persons with disabilities about the outreach, which was sponsored by the Umunedede royal family.



"I am extremely happy that despite all odds, this year's outreach by the Umunedede royal family was not an exception. This has allowed us to celebrate Christmas with all and sundry," Queen Anthonia said. She explained that the primary objective of the programme was to spread love and ensure that no one was left out of the festive celebration.

The Queen Mother particularly appreciated the family of the late Chief Peter Ihiekonye Sala of the popular Hotel De Lover for their immense support through a foundation established in memory of their late father. She noted that every beneficiary went home with items to mark the season.

While praying for continued strength and resources, Queen Anthonia assured that the outreach would be sustained in the coming years, describing

inclusiveness as a top priority of the royal family. She also appealed to well-to-do indigenes of Umunedede to support the less privileged, stressing that sharing was key to sustaining the joy of the festive season.

Reflecting on the New Year, she thanked God for the gift of life and expressed optimism that 2026 would be better for all. She used the occasion to advise youths to shun internet fraud and drug abuse, urging them instead to embrace hard work through education or skill acquisition.

Also speaking at the event, Ms. Victoria Ngozi Ihiekonye, daughter of the late Chief Peter Ihiekonye Sala, highlighted the role of her family foundation in supporting the outreach.

"My name is Victoria Ngozi Ihiekonye, daughter of the late Chief Peter Ihiekonye Sala. This is the

Peter Sala Women's Health Foundation.

We are here to celebrate Christmas and also mark the 35th anniversary of my late father. We brought items for the village to share, mainly to empower women," she said.

Ms. Ihiekonye disclosed that the foundation is 10 years old this year, and that the anniversary informed their decision to return home to Delta State for the outreach.

"We have been to the North, West, and South of Nigeria over the years, but this year we felt it was right to bring it home. This is also part of activities marking the 35th remembrance of our late father," she added.

According to her, the foundation focuses on humanitarian and social empowerment, particularly for women, children, widows, single mothers, and the motherless.

Expressing joy over



bringing the initiative home, she said, "It feels really good bringing it home for the first time in 10 years. The love has been massive, and we are very happy we made this decision."

She further revealed that the foundation collaborated with the Umunedede Royal Palace to ensure wider impact.

"This year, we worked with the Royal Foundation to distribute food items such as rice, Indomie, and other supplies. We also shared wrappers, school uniforms, school bags, and exercise books. Our desire is simply to promote love and peace," she said.

On sustainability, Ms. Ihiekonye assured that the foundation would continue to support the community even beyond physical visits, noting that assistance could always be channelled through the royal palace.

In separate remarks, the Chairman of the Umunedede Council of Chiefs, Chief Amos Onuwa Onyeagwu (Akonuwe of Umunedede Kingdom), and Chief Augustine Ikechukwu Aghaulor (Igirigi of Umunedede Kingdom), praised the monarch, Obi Ezeagwu, Queen Anthonia Ezeagwu, and the entire Umunedede Royal Palace for their consistent commitment to the welfare of the people.

"All we are saying is thank you to the royal family of Umunedede. Indeed, we are blessed to have them," they said.

The yearly Christmas outreach once again underscored the Umunedede royal family's enduring commitment to compassion, inclusiveness, and community service.

PHOTO NEWS: THE ANIOMA ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON DC HOSTS 2ND OKWA AKPELE COMPETITION ON MONDAY, 29TH DECEMBER, 2025, AT IGBODO.



Let's Develop Idumuesàh Inaugurates New Executives, Charts Roadmap for Community Transformation

By Patrick Gbuchanye

The socio-cultural and development association, Let's Develop Idumuesàh, has ushered in a new leadership era with the inauguration of its newly elected executives, led by Rev. Dr. Ambassador Success Ijeh. The ceremony formed part of activities marking the association's end-of-the-year celebration.

The colourful event, held on Sunday, December 29, 2025, also featured the official launch of the association's 2026 Almanac, which outlines its vision and development agenda for the coming year.

The occasion attracted a large turnout of dignitaries, community leaders, and members, including the Okpara-Uku of Idumuesàh Kingdom, His Royal Majesty John Alika, who was represented by Chief Dr. Ifeanyi Chigborgwu, the Onye-Dozihien of Idumuesàh. Other traditional rulers, elders, and key stakeholders were also in attendance.

In his acceptance speech, Rev. Dr. Ijeh described his emergence as both an honour and a solemn responsibility, stressing that leadership must be anchored on service, accountability, transparency, and collective participation. He urged members of the association and residents of the kingdom to embrace unity as the foundation for sustainable development.

According to him, his administration will prioritize critical sectors that directly impact the well-being of the people, including education, healthcare delivery, environmental sanitation, social welfare, and economic empowerment. He disclosed that special emphasis would be placed on youth development through skills-acquisition programmes, entrepreneurship support, and mentorship initiatives aimed at reducing unemployment and social vices.

"Our community is rich in human and cultural resources. If we harness our diversity, resilience, and shared values, Idumuesàh can become a model of progress and development," he stated.

The newly inaugurated president reaffirmed his commitment to social welfare, assuring that vulnerable groups such as the elderly, widows, and the less privileged would be fully integrated into the association's development agenda. He further pledged that Let's Develop Idumuesàh would collaborate with government agencies, development partners, and well-meaning individuals to attract meaningful projects and investments to the kingdom.

Rev. Dr. Ijeh commended the electoral process that led to his emergence, describing it as peaceful, transparent, and credible. He paid glowing tribute to Honourable Mrs. Ogerejuego Mondella, JP, whom he described as "an iron

lady and a woman of integrity," for her steadfast support throughout the electioneering process.

He also applauded Rev. Capt. Jude Kelubia, Chairman of the Electoral Committee, and other committee members for ensuring a smooth and orderly transition of leadership. Appreciation was equally extended to the Elders-in-Council, the AGM and Inauguration Committee, and other ad-hoc committees for their dedication to the success of the event.

The ceremony was further graced by the presence of the traditional ruler of the

kingdom, His Royal Highness Okpara-Uku Alika Arimoro John, Ibili I of Idumuesàh Kingdom, for whom the president prayed for a long, peaceful, and prosperous reign. Special prayers were also offered for sustained peace, unity, and development in Idumuesàh Kingdom.

In his closing remarks, Rev. Dr. Ijeh appealed to all sons and daughters of Idumuesàh, both at home and in the diaspora, to rally behind the association's vision, emphasizing that community development requires collective sacrifice

and shared responsibility.

Speaking on behalf of the Okpara-Uku, Chief Dr. Ifeanyi Chigborgwu expressed gratitude to members of Let's Develop Idumuesàh for their commitment to community growth. He urged them to sustain the momentum and prayed for divine wisdom and strength as they discharge their responsibilities.

The event also featured the recognition of the Okpara-Uku, deserving executives, and outstanding members of the association.

Other newly inaugurated executives include Comr. Princess Rose Nndi (Vice

President), Comr. Victor Tudebi (Secretary), Comr. Esther Iweriau (Assistant Secretary), Comr. Sunday Ikpelr (Treasurer), Comr. John Ugboh (Administrator), Comr. Mathew Onwugbonu (Financial Secretary), Comr. Stanley Okocha (Assistant Financial Secretary), and Comr. Kenneth Okonta (Public Relations Officer), among others.

The inauguration marked the beginning of a renewed chapter for Let's Develop Idumuesàh, with community members expressing optimism that the new leadership will drive meaningful transformation and sustainable development across the kingdom.



New Year Message: Kabadi Urges Youths to Embrace Meaningful Ventures

By Amos Chukwuekwu

Youths in Ika Nation, Anioma, and Delta State have been urged to shift away from idleness and negative tendencies by channeling their energy and skills into profitable and constructive ventures.

The call was made by the leader of Anioma Youth Forum (AYF) Worldwide in Ika North East Local Government Area, Engr. Kabadi John, noting that the new year presents a fresh opportunity for growth and achievement.

Engr. Kabadi, who is also the Director of Ceyon Computers, emphasized that youths are the future leaders and driving force of society. He encouraged them to set clear goals for the year and remain committed to achieving success.

He said, "Youths must value time, uphold integrity, avoid procrastination, seize opportunities, and implement their plans diligently. Anyone who fails to plan will eventually achieve nothing.

They must remain resilient, disciplined, and proactive in pursuing their goals."

Kabadi further stressed that Ika, Anioma, and Delta youths should be enterprising and productive, rather than being associated with social vices. He urged them to maintain peace, avoid violence, and act responsibly to foster community development.

He concluded by advising youths to remain focused, persistent, and resolute in order to succeed in all their ventures.



CHISOSA '91 Set Holds Agm, Reaffirms Unity And Commitment To Alma Mater

By Patrick Gbuchanye

Members of the Comprehensive High School Old Students Association (CHISOSA), 1991 Set, on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in accordance with the association's constitutional provisions, reaffirming their unity, mutual love, and unwavering commitment to the development of their alma mater.

Speaking with journalists at the event, the President of the set, Mr. Anthony Mwabianke, described the 1991 Set as a unique and closely bonded group of both male and female members residing within and outside Nigeria.

According to him, the AGM is a statutory end-of-year gathering distinct from the group's regular monthly online meetings, as it allows members to physically deliberate on critical issues affecting the association and to chart a clear course for the future.

"This is a constitutional matter. Towards the end of every year, we are expected to hold our Annual General Meeting, which is quite different from our monthly

online meetings," he said. Mr. Mwabianke noted that the strength of the 1991 Set lies in the love, unity, and cooperation among its members, stressing that these values have enabled the association to achieve its objectives seamlessly and without rancour.

"One thing about us is love. It is our love for one another that brought us together, and since we came under this umbrella, we have been very helpful to ourselves. Whatever we set out to do, we always achieve it stress-free," he stated.

He commended members of the executive council for their dedication and effective leadership, as well as diaspora members, whom he described as consistent and dependable whenever the association calls for support.

On efforts to give back to their alma mater, Mr. Mwabianke explained that the 1991 Set operates as a subsidiary under the broader CHISOSA umbrella, through which members contribute to various developmental projects in the school.

He cited the renovation and replacement of school roofs with green-coloured roofing sheets as one of the notable projects executed by

the umbrella association with significant contributions from members of the 1991 Set.

"We have been contributing and giving back to the school that made us. The roofing projects you see around here were executed by the umbrella body, and as a set, we have contributed immensely to those efforts," he said.

Looking ahead to 2026, the CHISOSA '91 President urged members to remain united and intensify their commitment to service and impact.

"My appeal to my members is that we should aspire to do more, be more united, and continue in the spirit of cooperation and oneness. By the grace of God, 2026 will enable us to achieve more and deliver more tangible projects to the school that made us who we are today," he concluded.

Mr. Mwabianke expressed gratitude to God for the progress recorded so far and reaffirmed the set's determination to continue contributing meaningfully to the growth and development of Comprehensive High School, Igbodo, in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State.

In his goodwill message, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Mr. Uyawanne Emeka, thanked God for the opportunity for members to reunite physically and deliberate as one family.

"This gathering provides us with a platform to brainstorm collectively on how we can contribute positively to our alma mater, Comprehensive High School, Igbodo, where we all completed our secondary education. It is a call for reflection, responsibility, and renewed commitment to the institution that shaped our early lives," he said.

He added that beyond giving back to the school, the AGM also serves to strengthen bonds of love, unity, and togetherness among members.

"When we unite, share ideas, and carry everyone along, progress becomes achievable and sustainable," Emeka noted.

He further urged members to consider the younger generation, stressing that the association's actions should inspire students and create a supportive environment for their academic and personal growth.

"A united CHISOSA '91 Set is a strong force for positive change, both within our school community and beyond," he

added. On his part, Mr. Ozili Ekwomegbo, a diaspora member and auditor of CHISOSA, 1991 Set, expressed deep satisfaction with the growth and unity of the association following his first physical attendance at the AGM.

Although he had participated in several virtual meetings over the years, Ekwomegbo said attending the AGM in person gave him a clearer picture of the commitment and dedication of members.

"This is my first time attending the meeting physically, and I must say I am very happy with what I'm seeing. The effort, love, and commitment everyone is putting into this association are truly commendable," he said.

He recalled that the 1991 Set began informally through the coordination efforts of one of its members before being formally structured with elected executives.

"Since then, the progress we have made has been very encouraging. The unity and affection among members have continued to grow, and I am very pleased with how far we've come," he added.

Reflecting on past

activities, Ekwomegbo applauded the success of the 2024 reunion held in Asaba, which he described as "fantastic," despite his inability to attend physically.

"I watched the videos and followed everything online. It was well organised and impressive," he noted.

Looking ahead to 2026, he encouraged members who are yet to fully participate in the association to do so, noting that the platform offers more than meetings.

"Some of us are seeing our classmates for the first time since we left school in 1991. It's an opportunity to reconnect, share memories, crack jokes, and enjoy ourselves the way we did back then," he said.

He concluded by commending the leadership of Mr. Anthony Mwabianke and the executive council for steering the association on a progressive path.

"Our president is doing a great job. Together with the executives, they are ensuring that this association continues to move forward. I truly commend them."



Crossover Night Blows Hot As Baba Fire Reveals 2026 Prophecies

By Sunday Memeh

The atmosphere was charged with praise and spiritual fervour during the Crossover Night service ushering worshippers from 2025 into 2026 at Wind of Change Deliverance Ministry, also known as Liberation City, located at No. 116, New Lagos-Asaba Expressway, Agbor, Delta State.

The General Overseer of the ministry, Apostle Dr. Okenye Chuks Elisha, popularly known as Baba Fire, unveiled what he described as divinely inspired prophecies for the year 2026.

According to him, 2026 shall be "a year of the supernatural and the above only" in line with Deuteronomy 28:13. He said men of the supernatural would be clearly distinguished from others, while strange manifestations would be evident within the Wind of Change Ministry.

Baba Fire further revealed that in 2026 it may appear as though the government is working against the Church due to tax reforms, urging believers to pray fervently for the

Church. He also foresaw widespread protests across the nation and called on Nigerians to pray, adding that fuel prices would drop, leading to national celebrations, although tax reforms would pose significant challenges.

Continuing, the cleric prophesied that a political party would gain massive popularity against the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), and that a former governor would be imprisoned. He added that insecurity would be significantly tackled in 2026, with state policing coming into effect.

Among other revelations, Baba Fire said he foresaw a great man of God being called home, while former presidential candidate, Mr. Peter Obi, would escape an assassination attempt, urging prayers for his safety. He also prophesied celebrations following a presidential pardon for the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu.

He further warned of internal leadership battles within the APC, noting that

Peter Obi would gain more popularity. He advised President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to pay close attention to his health and urged prayers for him. He also cautioned the Governor of Delta State to be vigilant of those around him, praying against any form of set-up.

The prophet additionally revealed that a strange sickness might break out in 2026 and urged Nigerians to pray.

Speaking from the twentieth prophecy onward, Baba Fire prayed for all traditional rulers in Ika Land, declaring there would be no loss of life. He prophesied that a member of the Delta State House of Assembly would collapse and called on Deltans to pray. He also foresaw political battles over House of Representatives positions in Ika Land.

According to him, Abavo Kingdom would witness celebration following oil discovery, while construction workers at the Uromi Junction Bridge would narrowly escape death. He also declared

greater unity in the Body of Christ and urged Nigerians to pray against any form of war. He added that some banks in Nigeria might face serious challenges, leading to closures or mergers.

Speaking further during what he described as the 2026 Prophetic Declarations, the Abavo-born prophet declared blessings upon the people, assuring them that they would be the head and not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13), enjoy uncommon grace and favour

(Proverbs 18:22), and walk in long life (Proverbs 3:16).

He stated that genuine Christians would experience acceptance and honour like never before (Zephaniah 3:17), while delayed prophecies would come to fulfilment (Habakkuk 2:3). He assured worshippers of divine preservation (Psalm 121:7), financial supply (Philippians 4:19), and respected voices (Jeremiah 33:3).

Baba Fire further declared all-round increase (Psalm

91:16), flourishing like the palm tree (Psalm 92:12), divine protection (Psalm 121:8), anointing for project completion (Isaiah 61:1), victory over adversaries (Isaiah 54:17), and freedom from shame (Psalm 149:4).

He concluded by declaring speed (Isaiah 60:22), brighter days ahead (Isaiah 60:1), comfort and restoration (Isaiah 51:3), renewed passion for God (Psalm 2:11), and a life of blessings and impact (Genesis 12:2).



Owa-Nta Community Wins Monday Odigwe Football Competition

By Sunday Memeh

There was resounding joy among youths of Owa-Nta Idumuetor Community, led by their Coordinator, Comrade Friday Buzugbe, popularly known as Kpokponte, as the community emerged winners of the football competition organised by the Executive Chairman of Ika North-East Local Government Area, Hon. Monday Hunkanma Odigwe.

The final match of the tournament was played on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at Owa-Alero Mixed Secondary School. The keenly contested encounter was between Ute-Erumu and Owa-Nta communities, with Owa-Nta clinching victory through a penalty shootout after regulation time ended goalless.

It was also gathered that among other participating communities in Ika North-East, Ward Four, Boji-Boji Owa, was defeated by Idumuesah Community,

which secured third position in the tournament.

Speaking with Ika Weekly Newspaper shortly after the final match, the organiser of the competition and Executive Chairman of the council, Hon. Monday Hunkanma Odigwe, thanked God for the successful completion of the tournament, describing it as a symbol of peace, unity, and harmony among the participating communities.

He noted that all the communities that took part in the competition were duly appreciated and rewarded with attractive prizes to encourage sportsmanship and future participation. Hon. Odigwe pledged continued support for youths, particularly in football and other initiatives that would aid their growth and development.

Encouraging youths to remain active in sporting activities, he disclosed that over four youths from the local government area had already travelled to Europe to pursue

professional football careers. He prayed for God's continued guidance and success for the youths, adding that they would make Ika people proud.

Also speaking, the Chairman of the Owa-Nta Land Office and Coordinator of the Monday Odigwe Football Competition in Owa-Nta commended the council chairman for creating a platform that brought youths from various communities together through football. He appreciated the efforts of Owa-Nta players and prayed for God to grant them strength and renewed zeal to achieve greater successes.

According to him, "The Bible says that whatever you ask God for is what He does for you. Before the commencement of this great football competition, I prayed to God for victory for Owa-Nta Idumuetor Community, and at the end of the exercise, God granted us



success.

"Last year, Ute-Erumu Community defeated us, but this year I interceded for my people through prayers. I encourage our youths to always embrace sporting activities, as sports remain one of the national and international social tools that promote growth and development in any society."

The Councillor representing Ward Five, Owa-

Nta, Hon. Johnbull Chibueze, also expressed appreciation to the Executive Chairman for organising the tournament and for his numerous developmental efforts within the local government area. He commended all participating communities, especially members of his ward, for their commitment and sportsmanship.

Similarly, the Chairman of the Environmental Taskforce,

Ika North-East, Comrade Echenim, popularly known as Akulu, described Hon. Odigwe as a man committed to peace, growth, and development. He noted that football tournaments foster unity and peaceful coexistence among communities, and prayed God to continue to grant the council chairman the resources and wisdom to do more for the people.



Ehiwarior, Donald Peterson Are Pillars of Our Existence in Ika South – JONAPWD Chairman

By Sunday Memeh

The Chairman of the Joint National Association of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWD), Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State, Comrade Ogor Friday Okoh, has described the Executive Chairman of Ika South Local Government Council, Hon. Engr. Jerry Ehiwarior, and Dr. Donald Peterson as heroes and strong pillars supporting the existence of persons with disabilities in the area.

Comrade Okoh, an indigene of Abavo Community, made the remark during an interview with Ika Weekly Newspaper shortly after the end-of-year get-together of JONAPWD members in Ika South. The

event was held on December 30, 2025, at City Car Wash, Agbor.

Speaking while addressing members and invited guests, Comrade Okoh expressed profound gratitude to God Almighty for making the occasion possible. He noted that the joy of being alive to witness another end-of-year celebration was enough reason to give thanks, praying that God would continue to sustain the lives of all JONAPWD members to enable them celebrate many more years together.

He stated that since assuming office as Chairman of JONAPWD in Ika South, Hon. Jerry Ehiwarior and Dr. Donald Peterson have remained the only leaders and sons of the soil who genuinely have the interests of persons

with disabilities at heart. According to him, their humanitarian efforts have transformed many beggars within and beyond the local government into givers.

Comrade Okoh urged other sons and daughters of Agbor Kingdom to emulate the selfless leadership style of Dr. Donald Peterson and Hon. Jerry Ehiwarior in order to support the less privileged in society. He also prayed for God's continued blessings upon them, wishing them fulfillment of their heart's desires.

Earlier in his address, the National President of the Boy Child Initiative, Comrade Fortune Ogoegbulem, said he was at the event on behalf of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Persons with Disabilities and Equal

Opportunities, Hon. Issa Abba Mohammed.

"I bring you warm greetings from the Senior Special Assistant to the President and assure you that you are neither forgotten nor left behind. The Renewed Hope Agenda of Mr. President, His Excellency Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is designed for every Nigerian, irrespective of location, condition, or circumstance," he said.

Comrade Ogoegbulem further assured the gathering that the dividends of supporting the President in the last election would reach them in due course, noting that the current administration remains the most inclusive government Nigeria has ever had.

He described the creation of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Persons with

Disabilities and Equal Opportunities as a clear testament to the administration's commitment to inclusive governance, adding that Hon. Issa Abba Mohammed is widely known for his compassion, benevolence, and dedication to service.

"As you celebrate today, he sends his heartfelt wishes

for a glorious, peaceful, and memorable celebration. Let me leave you with this reminder: the only true disability is a disabled mindset. When the mind remains healthy, strong, and determined, there is no limit to what one can achieve," he concluded.



Full Attendance as Frontliners Club of Umunede Holds Annual General Meeting

By Amos Chukwuekwu

As part of their commitment towards the growth and development of their fatherland, members of Frontliners Club of Umunede in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, were in full attendance during their 2025 annual general meeting (AGM).

The event was held on Saturday December 27, 2025, at Ede Club Hall along Ekwuoma road Umunede, and was under the chairmanship of Chief Andrew Emeri, and featured free medical care, lectures, among others.

The famous dancing group in Umunede known as Ile wonders, were also in attendance to thrill all present with their melodious tunes and amazing dancing steps.

The yearly meeting with its theme, "Frontliners: Building Legacy Through Service", was graced by different branches of the club across the country, and also had the Queen mother of Umunede, Queen Tonia Ezeagwu (Isor of Umunede), the Crown Prince, Barr. Prince Solomon Korisekwu Ezeagwu, and dignitaries from all walks of life in attendance.

In his welcome address, the National President of Frontliners Club of Umunede, Mr. Maduka Caesar welcomed all present and said he is indeed elated with the large number of members in attendance.

He revealed that Frontliners Club of Umunede was founded in 1995 in Lagos State as a non-partisan, non-profit, and non-governmental, and not-for-profit organization of eminent sons and daughters of Umunede Kingdom.

Mr. Maduka disclosed that since the establishment of the club, it has maintained its fundamental objectives which includes, rendering selfless service to their hometown, contributing to the course of good leadership in their fatherland, projecting Umunede in good light both at local, state, and national level, as well as seeking to influence the socio-political, economic, educational and cultural standing of their town.

He explained that achieving the aforementioned laudable objectives has made the club over the years engaged in the award of scholarships to deserving students at the tertiary level, and organizing free medical programs for their fatherland as well as neighboring communities.

Mr. Maduka added that they



individuals for contributing towards the progress of Umunede Kingdom.

The National President of the club revealed that they now have seven branches across the nation, saying that their seventh and youngest branch is Enugu State branch which he said was inaugurated in 2024, and remains their first branch in the South East geopolitical zone.

He noted that other existing branches included, Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Asaba, Agbor, and Home branch, saying that they are all working towards one goal.

Mr. Maduka disclosed that for them to leave a lasting legacy, they embarked on the building of a club house, affirming that they need the

club, friends, and associates to ensure a speedy delivery of the project.

In his brief opening remark, the chairman of the occasion, Chief Andrew Emeri, welcomed all present, saying that he is indeed honoured to be the chairman of the event.

The Chairman, who was represented by Amb Pastor Sunday Nkwor, said Frontliners club has become one of the pillars in the growth and development of Umunede Kingdom, affirming that their humanitarian, academic support, free medical outreach to the people, among other good things they have been doing in their hometown is indeed laudable.

with the objectives of the club, as well rejoiced with members of the club on their 2025 annual general meeting.

Also speaking during the AGM, Queen Tonia Ezeagwu commended members of Frontliners club for their good work in Umunede thus far, saying that they have indeed done well.

She averred that the Club has shown that with meticulous planning and determination, a community, society or an organization can build for the future through her investment in human capital development, with its flagship program, the yearly medical outreach and its scholarship program for indigent people.

She explained that through the yearly organized medical

widows and less privilege in their community are provided access to good health care and education.

Queen Ezeagwu stated that this year's AGM will provide members of the club the opportunity to reflect on the journey thus far, examine carefully their past achievements and challenges, discuss the present and plan for the future as well as take decisions that will chart the way forward for the club.

Others who spoke during the annual event appreciated the good works of Frontliners club, assuring that they will continue to support the objectives of the club, urging other groups in Umunede to emulate the footsteps of Frontliners club for the

Kingdom.

Highpoint of the occasion was the rendering of lecture on this year's theme: "Frontliners: Building Legacy Through Service" by a guest speaker, Prof. Calistar Kidochukwu Obi.



Emeke Nweke Set To Bury Father-in-law, Mosco

By Sunday Memeh

A staff member of the Ika North-East Local Government Council, Mr. Emeke Nweke, is set to lay his father-in-law, Mr. Moses Miti, popularly known as Mosco, to rest. The late Mr. Miti passed on a few months ago at the age of 78.

Speaking with Ika Weekly Newspaper during a brief interview, Mr. Nweke expressed

gratitude to God for His grace and mercy upon the family. He described his late father-in-law as a hero and a great man whose words of encouragement and support positively impacted the lives of many who came in contact with him.

According to him, "I bring you greetings from the throne of God Almighty and welcome you all to 2026. I invite

my friends and well-wishers to join me on Sunday, January 18, 2026, as I lay my father-in-law, late Moses Miti, to rest."

He disclosed that the burial ceremony will take place at Ngala Primary School Field, along Efeizormor Street, Boji-Boji Owa. Mr. Nweke prayed God to grant the soul of his late father-in-law eternal rest.



Mr. Moses Miti



Accolades as Ukpeghoro Builds Bus Terminal for Umunede Kingdom

“Hon. Lucky Aninye is a good representative for his people; I am proud of him”—Hon. Odigwe

By Amos Chukwuekwu

An ultra-modern waiting shade, popularly known as bus terminal newly constructed in Umunede in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, was on Thursday January 1, 2026, commissioned amid cheers by indigenes and residents.

The high capacity bus terminal alongside logistic office was executed by the member representing Dsiec Ward 20 (Obi and Oba), Umunede in the Legislative Arm of Ika North East Local Government Council, Hon. Lucky Ukpeghoro Aninye as part of his constituency projects in the town.

In his commissioning speech, Hon. Lucky Aninye welcomed everyone present to the landmark ceremony, saying that he is indeed overwhelmed with joy.

He stated that the trust and support given to him by his constituents remains the driving force behind the project, hinting that he is truly elated.

The councilor disclosed that the location where the project was built was an underdeveloped space posing challenges to their community's transportation needs, affirming that the goal of the project is to enhance transportation efficiency, convenience and safety for residents.

Hon. Aninye stated that the ultra-modern hub will offer secured waiting area, clear signage, ease traffic congestion and provide a safer environment for commuters away from the menace of impromptu pick-up points creating a vital link within their local economy.

He averred that the ultra-modern terminal which he named after his name, “Hon. Lucky Ukpeghoro Aninye Bus Terminal”, is a testament to their shared commitment to community development and positive impact of dedicated local leadership.

In his words, “Dear Chairman, as we celebrate this development, the kingdom has also expressed an urgent need for dedicated commercial spaces; I therefore respectfully request that

the Local Government Area Council to look into the feasibility of building lock-up shops in the kingdom; this will empower small businesses and ensure that the economic benefits of this terminal are fully realized by all residents”, he said.

Hon. Aninye emphasized that the project was achieved through meticulous planning and judicious use of resources ensuring transparency and accountability in all round.

He urged the good people of Umunede to make good use of the new Bus terminal, maintaining that it is their collective responsibility to ensure its maintenance and security.

He explained that the commissioning of the bus terminal is in line with the agenda of the Council Chairman, Hon. Monday Hunkamma Odigwe as well as the MORE Agenda of Governor Sheriff Oborewori, noting that the ceremony is a demonstration that their administration is committed to delivery on its promises.

In his brief remark, the Legislative House leader, Hon. Eric Dikewonsi thanked the good people of Umunede for their hospitality, saying that they have done well for sending a good and refined gentle man to Ika North East Legislative arm whom he said has been working hard and supportive hence the bus terminal.

He affirmed that Ika North East Local Government Council is heading towards greater accomplishment, saying that they need the support and prayers of Umunede people.

Hon. Dikewonsi commended the council chairman for his good work in the local government, and councilors for their great achievements in their various wards, urging them to keep up with the good work.

On his part, the council chairman, Hon. Monday Odigwe congratulated Hon. Lucky Ukpeghoro Aninye for being a good representative for his people, saying that he is indeed proud of him.

He stated that great people handle little things in great ways,

hinting that Hon. Aninye has handled one little thing in a great way, pointing out that he is sure that more good things will come from (Hon. Aninye).

The council boss averred that Umunede people are expecting more good things and they deserve the best, expressing that they will continue to key into the MORE Agenda of the governor.

He noted that the bus terminal is coming at the right time when the people are celebrating the new year, hinting that he has no doubt that they will have harvest of projects in Ika North East.

In his words, “Umunede people are very appreciative and homely; and someone who appreciates little things done for him, deserves a lot more; and I can guarantee you that this administration will do more for

the good people of Umunede; Indeed, I am truly happy for this project”, he said.

Hon. Odigwe used the opportunity to applaud the councilors for their continued efforts to ensure that the grassroots feel their presence in the legislative house.

Others who spoke to Ika Weekly Newspaper reporter on the sideline described Hon. Lucky Ukpeghoro Aninye as a worthy ambassador of Dsiec Ward 20, stressing that the councilor had provided quality representation to constituents as their representative in the legislative

arm of Ika North East local government council.

Highpoint of the ceremony was the official commissioning of the Hon. Lucky Ukpeghoro Aninye bus terminal by Hon. Monday Odigwe alongside HRM Dr. Ezeagwu Ezenwali 1 JP and others.



Akumazi Umuocha Mixed Secondary School Old Students '97 Set Honours Six Members

Ensure you train your children in school for a brighter future — Mr. Chuks

By Amos Chukwuekwu

Six members of the Akumazi Umuocha Mixed Secondary School Old Students Association (AUSS), Class of '97, in Ika North East Local Government Area of Delta State, have been honoured for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the group.

The annual ceremony, which held on Wednesday, January 31, 2025, at Palm Grove, opposite Akumazi Umuocha Mixed Secondary School Road, attracted members of the '97 set who were elegantly dressed, reminiscing about their school days.

The event was also graced by one of the group's patronesses, Dr. (Mrs.) Augusta Okanma Iwelu, alongside other invited guests.

In his opening address, the President of the AUSS '97 Set and former Board Member of the Delta State Rural Development Agency (RDA), Comrade Mathias Isioma Chukwuekwu, expressed his excitement and gratitude to members for their immense contributions to the progress of the association. He described the occasion as fulfilling and rewarding.

Comrade Chukwuekwu particularly commended the Senior Prefect (SP) of the set, Mr. Ikem Chuks, for his consistent and selfless support to the group, assuring him that his contributions would not go unrewarded.

He disclosed that the AUSS '97 Set has recorded remarkable growth and achievements since its formation, noting that the group marks tangible accomplishments every year.

Taking members down memory lane, the former Board member revealed that the association started with only a few members but has now grown to about 120 active members excelling in various fields of endeavour.

He further applauded members for their unity, cooperation, and support, stating that he is proud of the collective progress achieved so far.

According to him, the decision to honour six members was in recognition of their steadfastness and dedication, adding that the honour would eventually rotate among all deserving members.

In his remarks, the Senior Prefect of the '97 Set, Mr. Ikem Chuks, thanked members for their unwavering support and commitment to the advancement of the group, describing himself as overwhelmed with joy.

He urged members to prioritize the education of their children, emphasizing that proper training in school is key to securing a brighter future.

Mr. Chuks maintained that education remains a fundamental tool for the success of any child and

advised parents not to overlook its importance.

While encouraging members to remain focused and more committed to the association's objectives, he assured them of his continued support and contributions toward the growth of the group.

In her brief remarks, the patroness of the association, Dr. (Mrs.) Augusta Okanma Iwelu, applauded members of the AUSS '97 Set for their commendable efforts, expressing delight in being associated with such a purposeful group.

She noted that the group harbours genuine intentions for the development of their alma mater and pledged her continuous support to help them achieve their goals.

Dr. Iwelu encouraged members not to relent in their good works but to keep uplifting the name of Akumazi Umuocha Mixed Secondary School and make the '97 Set a reference point for other sets of AUSS.

The high point of the ceremony was the presentation of awards to six distinguished members of the association.

The award recipients were Mr. Ikem Chuks, Lion Marian Chinye Anizor, Chief (Mrs.) Onyeisi Ochei Ogbeku, Mr. Collins Chibueze Nwachukwu, Comrade Isioma Morka, and Comrade Grace Isioma Gilbert.





NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AGBOR BRANCH

SECRETARIAT: 197, Old Lagos - Asaba Road, Boji Boji Owa, Delta State.
Chairman: 08034449429 Secretary: 08022157589

PUBLIC NOTICE.

This is to inform members of the Public that the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Agbor Branch adopted a Resolution on 26th October 2025 to enforce the Legal Practitioners Remuneration Order 2023 as directed by the NBA National. By this, all Legal Practitioners within the jurisdiction of NBA Agbor Branch shall comply with the scale of charges in the preparation of land instruments which include Deeds, Conveyances, Mortgages and similar documentation affecting interest in land and follow the approved procedures in the preparation of the documents forthwith.

Equally, all persons and Establishments who are not Legal Practitioners that engage in the preparation of such documents contravening applicable laws on the issue will henceforth be made to face the full weight of the law. We will enjoin all members of the public who have need to prepare any instrument affecting interest in land to do so by consulting Legal Practitioners of their choice who are duly called to the Nigerian Bar and enrolled in the Supreme Court of Nigeria for the documentation and pay the approved charge. Thereafter, the client should insist that the document be prepared through the approved procedures. Members of the public are enjoined not to put any lawyer chosen to prepare a land document into problem by negotiating for a reduced payment which when accepted will amount to professional misconduct or patronizing Public Letter Writers, Business Centers or any other person whomsoever who is not a Legal Practitioner duly called to the Nigerian Bar as such conduct has far reaching negative implications on the prepared document and the persons involved when discovered. It is an act of foolishness to acquire property and fail to do proper documentation. Protect your property/interest properly for no one knows what may happen in the future. BE WISE.

DATED THIS 6th DAY OF January 2026.

.....Adm......
Ambrose O. Egwunatum Esq.
(Chairman)

.....F. Chinonso Chigbo.....
F. Chinonso Chigbo Esq.
(Secretary)

BRANCH OFFICERS

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Modupe Ogor Obuh: A True Daughter of the Ika Nation

Recent political shifts within the Ika Federal Constituency have sparked concern among the Ika people, both at home and in the diaspora.

At the heart of these discussions is the urgent need for sustainable development and the genuine empowerment of our citizens.

Amidst these challenges, one name stands out: Modupe Ogor Obuh. A true daughter of the soil, Mrs. Obuh has dedicated herself to selfless service, much of which has remained under the radar of the general public.

While it is time to spotlight her quiet yet profound contributions to the Ika nation spanning two Local Government Areas and numerous vibrant communities, it is time to show the world that the people of Ika Federal Constituency has benefited immensely from Mrs. Obuh's generosity.

She embodies the spirit of giving, often preferring to work behind the scenes rather than in front of the cameras. Her focus has always been on helping individuals achieve their dreams and transforming lives through tangible support.

While Modupe Ogor Obuh has yet held any Political Office, her leadership prowess and liberal affiliations have earned her the love and respect of many.

Her disposition serves as a reminder that Ika land possesses capable leaders who can bridge the gap left by unmet expectations in the current political landscape.

Since the passing of her beloved husband, she has not only sustained his political structure but has also become a pillar of support for the Oki communities and Ika in general

As a people committed to the interests of our people, Otu Ihien Ri Nma International recognizes Mrs. Obuh as a priority for the Ika people globally.

She has proven that life is like a river—continuously giving back to the source from which she draws her strength.

She is a true daughter of Ika land who deserves our collective support and inspiration.

By Otu Ihien Ri Nma International



The Truth When Fragile Shoulders Carry The Weight

By Joel Owah - 08168232475

There is an old proverb that deserves to be handled carefully, not dragged out of context. It says that when a young man's legs begin to wobble at the thought of helping an old woman struggling to carry her load, he may walk past the elderly woman, leaving her to fend for herself. It is not a story about cruelty. It is a warning about misdirected strength, about energy spent too early and in the wrong places. It is directed to boys who wobble into roles not meant for them, stepping into the shoes of girls' fathers. It is not maturity. It is a confusion of roles!

That proverb swept through my mind today at the supermarket.

The scene was unremarkable until it was not. A boy, unmistakably under eighteen, stood at the counter, counting money with the seriousness of a man paying his children's school fees. His companion was younger still, no more than fifteen or sixteen by appearance. What drew the eye was not just their age, but the contrast between it and her presentation. She wore a shiny gown, tight and attention seeking, designed with scale-like patterns that caught the light as she moved, clinging to a body still meant for childhood. It was the sort of outfit that announces adulthood loudly, even when age has not arrived.

The boy paid for everything. There was no hesitation. No shared responsibility. Just a cruel acceptance of a role he had no business playing.

This is where the lie walks confidently dressed as truth. We call it young love. We excuse it as normal. We applaud it as growth. In reality, it is a finance-draining role play, rehearsed far too early, with boys cast as providers before they have learned how to provide even for themselves.

The truth, less flattering and therefore less popular, is that a fifteen, sixteen, or seventeen year old boy has no business in a relationship that demands money, emotional labour, or adult responsibility. A teenager is not supposed to bankroll affection, manage heartbreak, or carry expectations borrowed from grown men who have already lived through their mistakes.

Yet, this has become a sponsored norm. Boys are nudged into spending, protecting, and providing. Girls are encouraged to dress older, act older, and demand bigger. When it collapses, as it almost always does, the boy is left with something invisible but heavy. An early exhaustion. A sense of loss he cannot name. An emotional hunchback formed before his spine has finished growing.

That is where the proverb returns, not as an insult but as a

mirror. When strength is spent too soon on romance theatre, it is absent where it truly matters. Respect for age. Discipline. Direction. The capacity to help carry real loads, not imagined ones.

Only a few people still recognise this naked truth. Fewer still speak it with weight. So the lie continues its stroll, well dressed and widely accepted, while truth remains exposed, rejected, waiting.

The supermarket queue moved on. The boy walked out lighter in pocket, heavier in ways no one applauds. The proverb hovering behind their footprints, unchanged, reminding anyone willing to listen that maturity is not something you wear, and responsibility is not something you practise as a child.





Late Mr. Steve Ashien



Queen Antonia Ezeagwu Spreads Christmas Joy to Needy, Widows, and Persons with Disabilities in Umunede ¹²



Accolades as Ukpeghoro Builds Bus Terminal for Umunede Kingdom ¹⁸



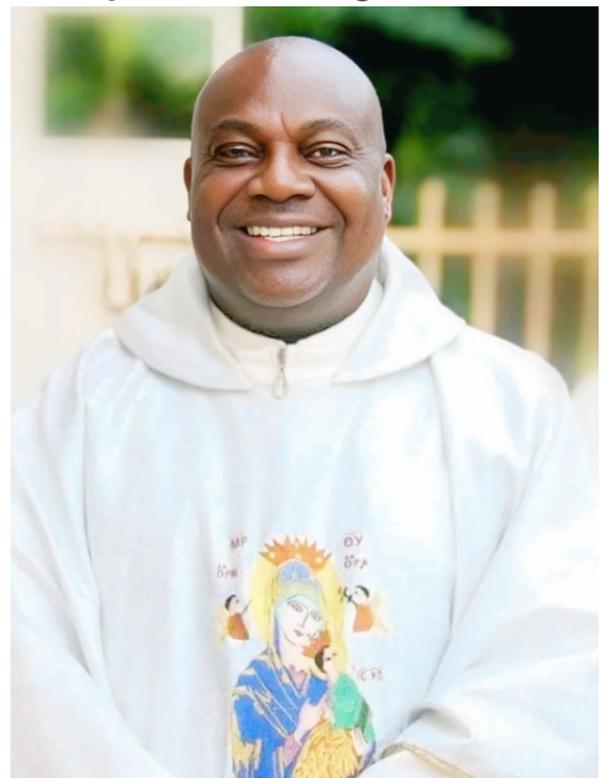
New Year Message: Kabadi Urges Youths to Embrace Meaningful Ventures ¹⁴



Crossover Night Blows Hot as Baba Fire Reveals 2026 Prophecies ¹⁵



Very Rev. Fr. Stephen Chukwuma Slumps, Dies During Mass ^{3&5}



LANDS FOR SALE

* A Parcel of Land Measuring 100 by 100 (2 plots) on a street directly opposite the University of Delta, Faculty of Law, Owa - Oyibu: N25 Million (Negotiable)

* A Parcel of Land Measuring 80 by 175 (1 and Half plots) on a street directly opposite the University of Delta, Faculty of Law, Owa - Oyibu: : N20 Million (Negotiable)

* A Parcel of Land Measuring 50 by 100 (1 plot), Owanta: N20 Million (Negotiable)

For inspection and processing call - 08052703466 , 08034163531

JOB OPPORTUNITY

A Hotel Manager/Sales Girl is urgently needed at Ozoma Guest House, Ekwuoma, along Lagos/Asaba Express Road.

For more information, please call 08036997371.

