

Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberchukwu Oji Is Installed







The Climate Change Conference – Perspectives & Scenes

NATIONAL Ambassador

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“Uplift the people, project the nation”

September 2024
Special Anniversary Edition

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IGBO'S SEASON OF FESTIVITIES



- **THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT**
- **ADA AND OGBODIYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND SCHEME**



ABIA STATE

DUE PROCESS & PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BUREAU

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- Company's contact address.
- Certi
- Memorandum/Articles of Association.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance and VAT Registration.
- Evidence of PENCOM Compliance.
- Evidence of ITF Compliance.
- Evidence of SCUML Compliance.
- Sworn Af
- Bank Reference Capability.
- Audit Account Report (2 years).
- Company Pro Key Personnel Resume, Professional Practicing License.
- List of Completed and Ongoing Similar Projects.
- List of Construction Equipment.
- Tax Clearance Certi
- TIN/ABSSIN.
- Evidence of Previous Work Done (e.g., Signed Contract).
- One File Jacket.

Revised Contract Value Registration:

CLASS	Contract Value Threshold	Registration Fees
A	N500,000,001.00 & above	N600,000.00
B	N300,000,001.00 - N500,000,000.00	N300,000.00
C	N100,000,001.00 - N300,000,000.00	N250,000.00
D	N50,000,001.00 - N100 000,000.00	N200,000.00
E	N10,000,001.00 - N50,000,000.00	N150,000.00
F	N1,000,000.00 - N10,000,000.00	N100,000.00



Government House, Umuahia, Abia State

www.abiastate.gov.ng

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Contents

Editorial Board **3**

Abia @ 33
Celebrating A Session Of Renewed Hope **4**

Igbo's
Season Of Festivities **5**

The Climate Change Conference
- Perspectives & Scenes **6**

The Glitz And Glamour Of
Udumeze Ohafia's Eternment **9**

Ada And Ogbodiya Scholarship
Fund Scheme **22**

Aro's Celebrate As
Engr Eberechukwu Oji
Is Installed The 9th Eze Aro. 23 **25**

Fashion Tips **31**



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Forum

With

Jones Nnanna Ike



ABIA @ 33

CELEBRATING A SESSION OF RENEWED HOPE

On August 27 2024, Abians once again had good reason to thank God for the creation of the State; the reason being what many writers now regard as the session of renewed hope which the citizens are presently enjoying under the leadership of the Dr. Alex Chioma stewardship.

The untold may not understand the reason for dubbing the period a session of renewed hope hence a short resort to its abbreviated history in other to clear the doubt. Abia State which was created on August 27 1991 by the government of General Ibrahim Babaginda passed through two main phases before the ascendancy of Dr. Alex Chioma Otti on 29th May 2023.

The first phase was under various military dictatorships that spanned the period 1991-1991, only interrupted by a brief period of civilian rule headed by Dr. Ogonnaya (1992-1993). The various military Governors that rules the state included Frank Ajobena, an Airforce officer who was the first and barely in office for about four months 28 August 1991-January 2, 1991.

Other military leaders who held sway were Col. Ike Nwosu (Dec. 9, 1994 to Sept.14, 1994), Navy Commander Temi Ejor (14th Sept. 1994 to 22nd Aug. 1996), Col. Moses Fasanya (22nd August 1996-August 1998), Col. Anthony Obi (August 1998 to 29th May 1999).

The long period of military rule in the state was characterized by a great deal of arbitrariness, lack of accountability and poor infrastructural development, hence the State was not in any way given the head start it needed to achieve appropriate developmental strides.

If there was a dampening of hope as a result of military dictatorships that ruled the state, it was hoped that such anomaly will be corrected with the ushering in of civilian democracies which started in May 29th, 1991.

However, such hope soon waned into doom with increased practice of democracy. The second wave of civilian rulers who ascended the throne from 1999 to 2023 did not do much to improve on the performance of their military predecessors. The Government of Orji Uzor Kalu (1999-2007), Chief T. A. Orji (2007-2015), Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu (2015-2023) did not do much to dismantle the bad governance structure established by the various military interreguns that ruled the state from its beginning until the ushering in of civil democracy in 1999.

The prospects of Abia State as an oil producing state were filtered away because of greed and avarice. The Civil service was the worst hit as it was bastardized, and made very inefficient with all its rules governing its operations turned upside down. The Local Government Council were not

spared by the gre

ed y state official s who used the instru mentality of the joint allocatio n commi ttee to

o t the resources of autonomous council authorities in their brazen disregard for decency.

The political class in Abia operated as mercenaries in their own land. They became pompous, majestic, uncontrollable, meretricious and full of pertidy while the masses yelled for a change of the status quo. Aba, the main commercial nerve centre of the South East seems to have been worst hit by the bad governance structure that was an ascent as its physical infrastructure collapsed and crime became rife.

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Abia that inherited the best master plan as well as the status as the most planned city in Southern Nigeria soon acquired the status of the least developed city in Southern Nigeria. Umuahia its capital counterpart acquired its own unique status as a glorified village.

The crises of governance in Abia state reached its nadir during the regime of Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu (2015-2023). The period of his reign has been succinctly dubbed the dark or locust years of Abia history because of the absolute descent into mediocrity that held sway within the period. As in all historical epochs, since historical movement have always been a straightforward movement, the contradictions inherent in the bad governance system in the state had inated a movement that prouted up and geared towards its overthrow. From about 2013-14, this movement emerged from amongst the most educated, conscientious and professional class ably led by the brilliant economist and banker, Dr. Alex Otti. It was the titanic struggle to dismantle the bad governance structure in the state which emerged victorious in the February 2023 general elections that ushered in the leader of the group Dr. Alex Chioma Otti as the e Governor of Abia State on May 29th 2023.

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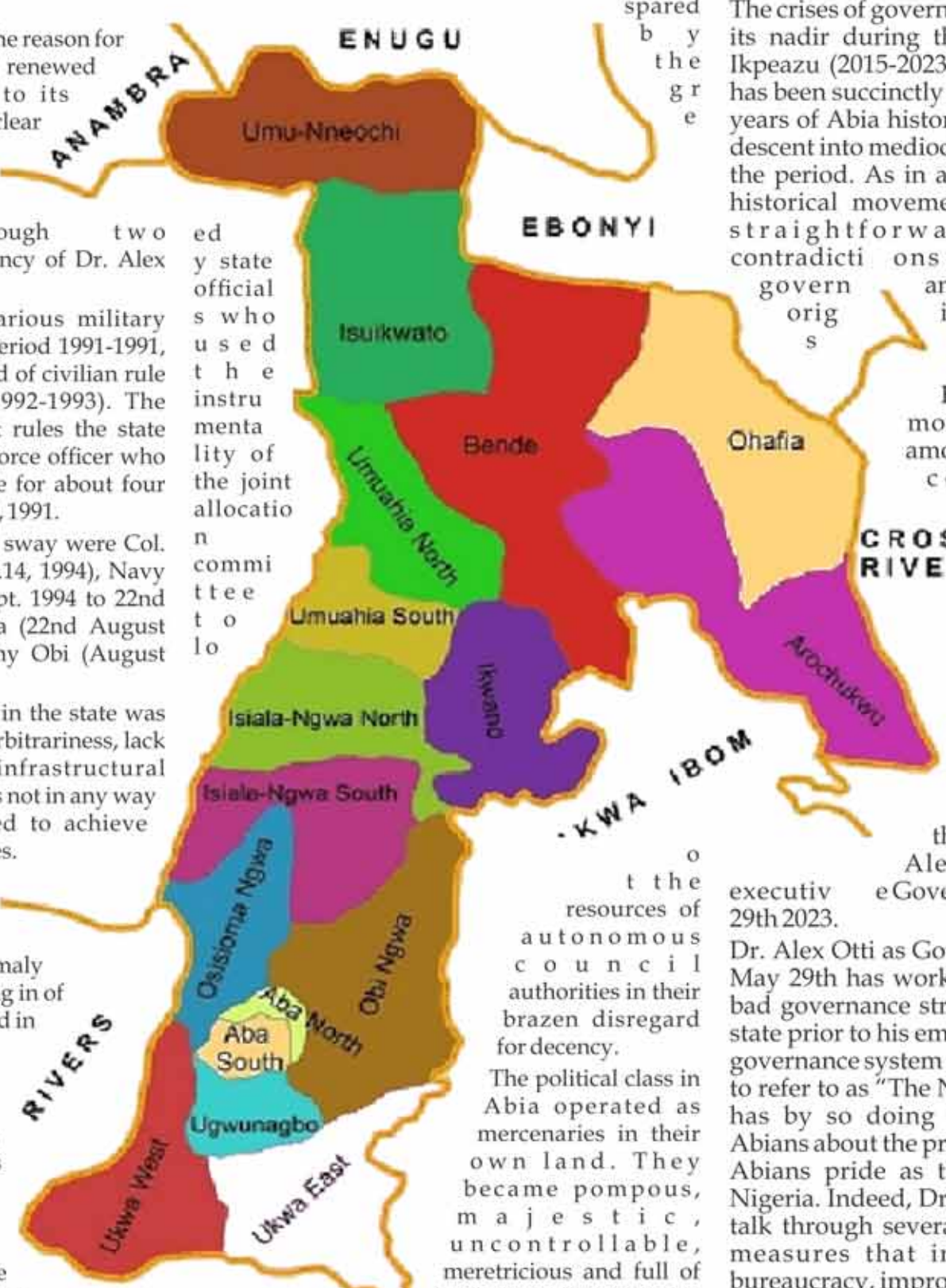
Dr. Alex Otti as Governor and his team since May 29th has worked hard to dismantle the bad governance structure that existed in the state prior to his emergence in place of a good governance system which some writers prefer to refer to as "The New Abia". Governor Otti has by so doing restored hope amongst Abians about the prospect of their State which Abians pride as the number one state in Nigeria. Indeed, Dr. Alex Otti has walked his talk through several practical governmental measures that includes reform of the bureaucracy, improvements in road and rural infrastructure, educational systems, health care, industrialization amongst many others. Several pundits regard current Abia as the fastest developing state in Nigeria.

Abia @ 33 has indeed come at a time of renewed hope, hence all the accolades.

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Lead Story

IGBO'S SEASON OF FESTIVITIES

By: Jones Nnanna Ike

One of the most commonly quoted verses in the Holy Bible is Ecclesiastes Chapter verse 1-2 which categorizes the season thus "To Everything, there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.

2. a time to born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

This divine principle seems to have been followed up by all Cultures both locally as well as the global community.

Ancient Igbo's evolved seasons that were unique to them which is broadly divided into two parts - a season of planting, hard work and a season of harvest (or the season of plenty). The season of hard work and planting starts from January or February and ends in August.

The season of plenty which in other words is the Igbo new year is usually ushered in by the New Yam Festival.

Chinua Achebe in his classic Novel "Things Fall Apart" gave a lot of insights and details on the celebration of the New Yam Festival in Traditional Igbo societies using a mythical Umuofia as an example. According to him "The Feast of the New Yam was held every year before the harvest time began, to honour the earth goddess and the ancestral spirits of the clan".

New yams could not be eaten until some had first been offered to those powers. Men and women, young and old looked forward to the New Yam festival because it began the season of plenty - "The New Year". In modern times the Igbos now give thanks to the Christian God instead of the heathen gods during their new yam festivals.

Inspite of being grafted with various other ethno-cultural groupings into one political sovereignty known as Nigeria which many opine has not worked as well as it should for its different sub political units, the Igbo's have increasingly held tenaciously to their culture & traditions.

Infact the Igbos being a very migrant group are remarkable for the close attachment to their culture wherever they are found.

It is the same way that the Igbo New Year with its varieties of New Yam Festivals (Iri Ji) is now celebrated all over the world, be it in Beijing China or New York, Cape Town South Africa, Abuja or Lagos- Nigeria etc.

The Iri-ji or New Yam Festival is increasingly defining the Igbos as a distinct ethno-Cultural Group.

Chinua Achebe in the same "Things Fall Apart" gave insights and graphic details on how traditional Igbo societies celebrated the festival thus "men and women, young and old looked forward to the New yam festival because it began the season of plenty- the new year.

On the last night before the festival, yams of the old were all disposed of by those who still had them.

The new year must begin with tasty fresh yams and not the shriveled and fibrous crop of the previous year.

All cooking-pots, Calabashes and wooden bowls were thoroughly washed especially the wooden mantra in which yam was pounded. Yam Fufu and vegetable soup was the chief food in the celebration. So much of it was cooked that

no matter how heavily the family ate how many ends

no matter how heavily the family ate how many ends



and invitations invited neighboring there was

huge quantity of food left over at the end of the day. The story was always told of a wealthy man who set before his guests a mound of fufu so high that those who sat on one side could not see what was happening on the other side and it was not until late in the evening that one of them saw for the time his in-law who had arrived during the course of the meal and had fallen on the opposite side. It was only then that they exchanged greeting and shook hands over what was left of food.

rel they from villages, always a

The New Yam Festival was thus an occasion for joy through-out Umuofia"

In the modern era and amongst Igbo communities, throughout the world, the modern Igbo's like their ancient counterparts in Achebe's fabled Umuofia, the new yam festival or Iriji festival which ushers in the traditional new year has continued to be a period of joy. It has continued to be a period when social life in most Igbo communities is at its most relaxed form. like their ancient predecessors affluent or wealthy Igbo families now throw elaborate parties where friends and relatives are invited over to celebrate the new yam festival.

Amongst the Igbo Speaking States of Abia, Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Delta, Imo and Rivers States, the new yam festival dominate the cultural landscape. However, there are slight variations in the form and content the festivals are conducted especially amongst the masquerade forms. In the Anambra/Delta/Enugu

cultural landscape, the Ijele masquerade is the nnuoku mmanwu as it predominates the cultural landscape while in Abia especially amongst the ancient warrior communities of the Old Bende area, the Ekpe masquerade, the war dance and the various ekpo masquerades dominate the cultural landscape.

Another very important commonality amongst the different cultural groups that celebrate the new yam festival is that burial ceremonies are generally outlawed during the festive period.

Infact the festive period is remarkable for not only the availability of large quantity of food that is available within households but also for the songs,

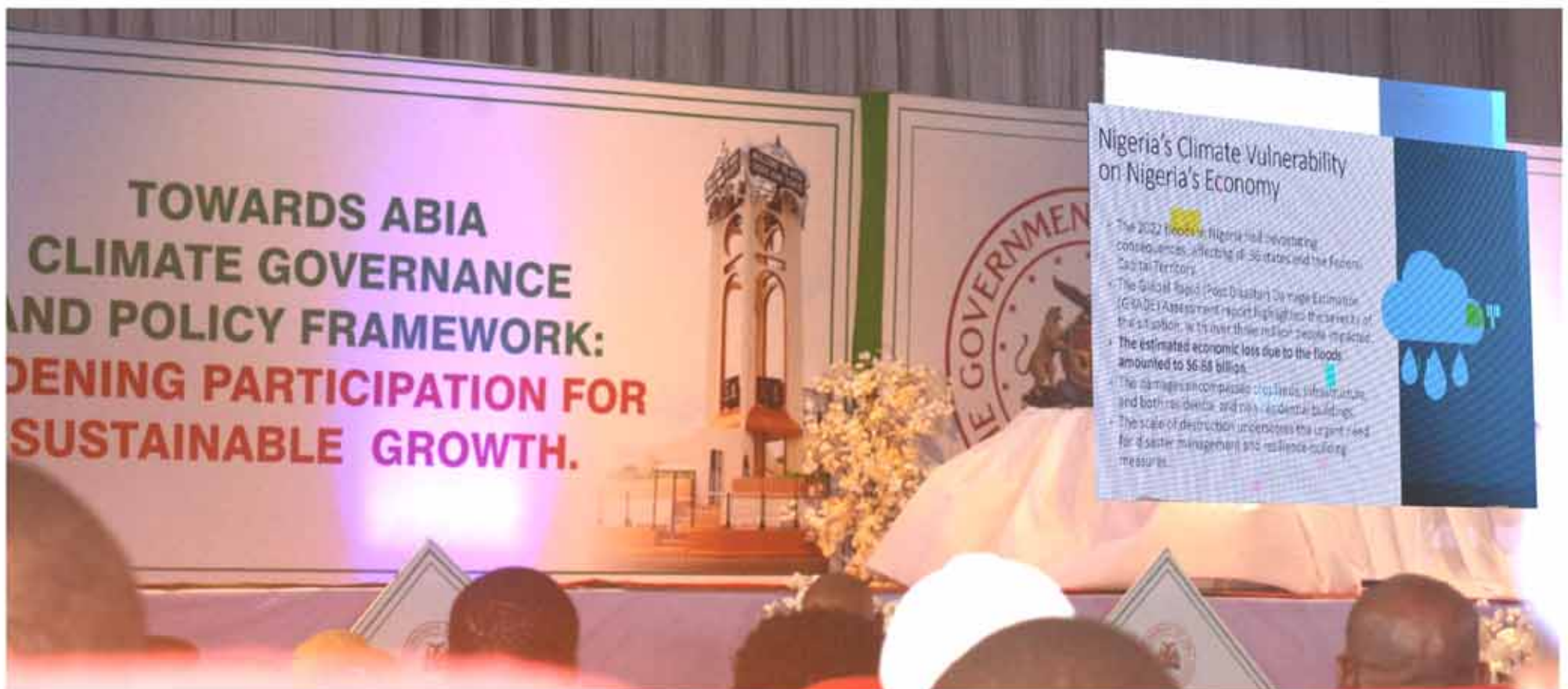
the dances, the laughters and happiness that characterize social life within the period in the celebrating communities.

The 2024 version of the New Yam Festival which started around the August has seen several Igbo communities both at home and in the diaspora engulfed in an orgy of festivities. This year's version of the festival has so far been celebrated with a lot more energy, creativity and resources thereby putting smiles on the faces of millions of people.

So far the New yam festival has continued to remain an ancient festival that has continued to be celebrated with a lot more energy and creativity by millions of Igbo's both in Nigeria and in the diaspora.

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN ABIA

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN ABIA – PERSPECTIVES & SCENES



By Charles Ogbonnaya

The issue of Climate change, its devastating consequences and mitigation plans was brought nearer home in Abia during a 2-day organized by the Ministry of Environment which held at the International Conference Centre Umuahia. The Conference had the theme "Towards Abia State Policy Framework; Widening Participation For Sustainable Growth".

It was a most successful conferences as different experts on climate change, opinion leaders, government officials, youth leaders, farmers, traders and business people and voluntary organization were for the first time brought together in a novel approach towards understanding the devastating consequences of climate change and the mitigation actions that humans could undertake to lessen the impact or even down the change.

The State Commissioner For Environment in his address during the Conference had stated that the Government of Gov. Otti has not only demonstrated a strong political will to deal with Climate Change by robustly funding the budget of the Department of Climate Change but has ensured that the state is fully represented at all national activities addressing environmental issues.

Mr. Ogonna, who espoused and expounded the theme of the event "Towards Abia Policy Framework: Widening Participation For Sustainable Growth" said that the stakeholders engagement was primarily aimed at drawing

in relevant stakeholders to support Abia State in generating activities to address climate change, appraise vulnerability factors and priorities mitigation and adaptation approaches for the state as well as establish effective partnerships that will enable the state develop structures and policy frameworks to achieve sustainable and climate resilient development.

In his own good will message, the member representing Ohafia South State Constituency and House Committee Chairman on Environment, Hon. Kalu Nwoke assured that the House will remain partners in progress and would continue to make laws that will bring positive changes to the state.

Series of paper presentations and good will messages were made by eminent scholars and other stakeholders.

In the Keynote address, the Executive Governor of Abia State Dr. Alex Otti who was represented by the Deputy Governor Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu said that his administration stepped up supervising activities around the state water bodies in other to stem the tide of pollution and also mitigate threats arising from the activities of economic adventurers. Governor Otti also announced that the forest reserves in the state are now better managed as his administration is poised to expanding the layers of environmental buffers around. Gov Otti also stated that his administration made substantial provisions to finance climate actions in the 2024 fiscal year.

In his own words "Recall that one of the earliest decision we took on assumption of office was the setting up of a Climate Change Department with the State Ministry of Environment to coordinate our response to changes in the climate conditions as they affect our local communities. I am glad that the department hit the ground running almost immediately, mobilizing community leaders and other stakeholders to rise to the demand of mitigating the impact of climate change in the state" continuing he said that "As most people know, every plan and program we have for the future is dependent on our ability to preserve our natural environment. This involves the development of a new template through relevant institutional structures to manage how we interact with nature in our day to day activities as farmers, manufacturers, traders or regular domestic and industrial energy consumers.

The Governor also disclosed that he has directed the Commissioner for Power and Public Utilities to engage with the management of the Abia State University to develop an alternative energy framework to address the perennial power problems in the school's systems while also revealing that the state is developing a robust policy framework for off grid energy solutions to support economic and social activities especially in the rural areas.

In all, the conference was adjudged a huge success by most of the major stakeholders that attended

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN ABIA



Abia State Deputy Gov. HE. Engr Ikechukwu Emetu Delivering The Keynote Address



The Hon Commissioner For Environment Mr, Philomen Ogbonna (M) Flanked By Other Participants



L_R D/G Engr. Emetu, Mr Philomen Ogbonna & Prof Joel Ogbonna.



The GM/ASEPA, Mazi Ogbonna Okereke Delivering His Speech.



The Deputy Gov. HE. Engr Ikechukwu Emetu Flanked By Other Top Government Officials In A Group Photograph



Mr Philomen Ogbonna, Prof Joel Ogbonna And Mazi Ogbonna Okereke



Mr Philomen Ogbonna, Flanked By Participants



L_R Deputy Gov. HE. Engr Ikechukwu Emetu In A Chat With The Commissioner For Environment Mr Philomen Ogbonna



Cross - Section Of Participants At The Conference

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN ABIA



The Deputy Gov Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu Flanked By Top Govt Functionaries



R-L Mr Philomen Ogbonna, Flanked by Other Participants



Mazi Okereke and Hon Jones Ike

Cultural Entertainment At The Conference



Mr Philomen Ogbonna, Flanked By Delegations From Abia Newspapers, Hon Jones Ike And Blessing Anienwe



Cross Section Of Participants At The Conference

THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF EZIE OHAMOHA PROF. EMMANUEL IMAGA ENTERMENT

Story By: Chales Ogbonna



Commendation Service Procession



It was a carnival and a gathering of who is who from all corners of the globe as the paramount ruler and Ebiri of Elu Ohafia, Chairman of Ohafia Monarchs and Udumeze of Ohafia Ancient kingdom, Ezie Ohamoha Prof. Emmanuel Imaga, journeyed to eternity.

The personalities who turned out en masse to pay their last respect to His Royal Paramountcy during the colourful funeral service included: The Deputy Governor of Abia State H.E. Engr Ikechukwu Emetu who represented his principal Governor Alex Otti, the immediate past Deputy Governor of Abia State, Sir, Ude Oko Chukwu, Member representing Arochukwu/Ohafia federal constituency, Hon, Ibe Okwara Osonwa, Prince Benjamin Apugo, Ochiagha Ibeku, Majority Leader, ABHA, Hon Uchenna Okoro, member representing Ohafia South state Constituency, Hon Kalu Mba Nwoke, Former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Chief Uche Ihediwa (SAN) and Chief Etigwe Uwa (SAN), Prince Kalu Ikpemiri, the General Manager, Abia Newspapers and Publishing

Corporation, Chief Jones Ike, Top Bureaucrats, Captains of Industry and many others.

Speaking during the Service in honour of the deceased at Presbyterian Cathedral, Ohafia Central Elu Ohafia in ohafia LGA of Abia State, Governor Alex Otti, described him as a most respected traditional ruler, an elder statesman, a veteran leader, a seasoned academic and a custodian of the sacred traditional institution.

According to him, Ezie Prof Emmanuel Imaga was a Traditional Ruler of great repute, who was full of determination, courage and hard work, and during his lifetime ensued his community remained peaceful and in unity.

THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT

Dr. Otti represented by his Deputy, Engr Ikechukwu Emetu, thanked God for the fulfilled life the deceased lived, which birthed the carnival in Ohafia, with the Sons and Daughters of the community trooping out en masse to pay their last respect to their paramount ruler.

Speaking also, the member representing Arochukwu/ Ohafia Federal constituency, Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa, who appreciated the positive impact created in his immediate community and Communities in Ohafia, said his dedication to the wellbeing and progress of the people of Ohafia was unwavering and his legacy will continue to inspire the people.

Interacting with our reporter, the immediate past deputy governor of Abia state, Rt. Hon. Ude Oko Chukwu, appreciated the deceased's administrative prowess and the genuine care and concern he had for the wellbeing of the people of Ohafia.

He urged the bereaved family and Ohafia community to be consoled in the fact that the Udumeze lived a life filled with positive impartation and service to humanity.

Reading the deceased biography on behalf of the family, her daughter, Princess Mrs. Oluchi Imaga Ogbusua, described her late father as a man who would sacrifice his comfort for the welfare of others.

Earlier in his homily captioned, "The Teacher Called Death" with text drawn from the Bible books of Psalm chapter 90 verse 12; and Job chapter 14 verses 1 to 5, the Minister in charge of Isiama parish and Past Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, Most Rev. Uma Onwunta, pointed out that life is a school and all of us are students, disclosed that one teacher every human no matter the level of education is called death.

The Minister who warned against the unnecessary struggles for worldly things, strife, hatred and unhealthy competition reminded the gathering of the judgement and life after death, hence the need for all to live a life that is devoid of blamelessness.

The burial of the foremost monarch in Ohafia had all the imprints of a Carnival as the organisers ensured an orderly display of cultural displays by various cultural troupes presented by all the villages of Ohafia as well as the neighbouring clans of Abam, Nkporo, Abiriba, Edda, Arochukwu, Ututu, Ihechiowa, Ibeku etc.

It is equally good to add that Ohafia people and their friends, attired in their beautiful native costumes came out en masse to bid the departed Monarch a most befitting farewell.



Ohafia War Dance



Motorcade



Akpan Ohafia

THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT



The Traditional Council of Ibeku



Pouring Libation By Exieogo Mba Odo Okereke



Abu Ali



Dibia Okon Ohafia



Itodo Ohafia



Dibia Okon Ohafia



Joined by the Deputy Gov. HE. Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu



Dibia Okon Ohafia



Abam Onyerubi



Royal Reception at Ibeku Ancient Kingdom



THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT



Uhumeze's 1st Son On Parade



Deputy Gov. Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu Mourning With Other Family Members



Udumeze's Daughter Mourning With Her Dad's Portrait



A Cross Section Of The Council Chiefs



A Cross Section Of The Council Of Chiefs On Parade



The Royal Parade



The Women Folk Were Not Left Out



A Cross Section Of Chiefs On Parade

THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT



Udumeze of Ohafia - Lying in state in his Royal Palace



Traditional Council of Chiefs



Udumeze of Ohafia - received at Achichi Ohafia



Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-Omereooha of Ohafia



Udumeze Of Ohafia - Received By Member Of His Cabinet

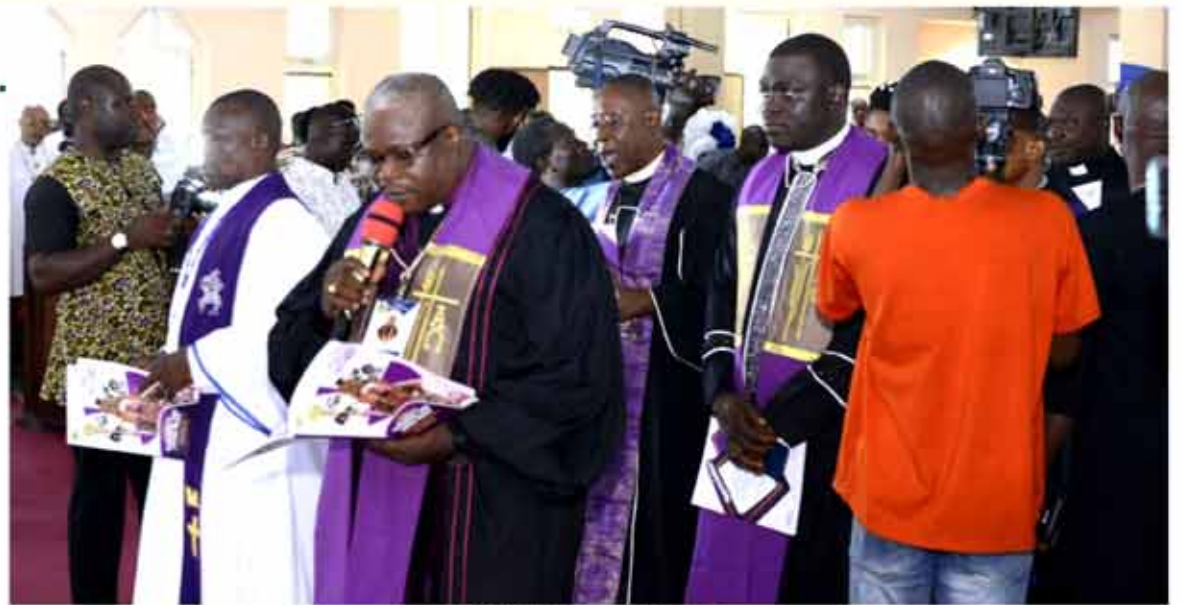


Family Members Of Udumeze Of Ohafia -

THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT



COMMENDATION SERVICE AT THE ST PETERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ELU OHAFIA



Officiating Ministers



Rev Dr. Uma Ukpai



THE COMMENDATION SERVICE



Prince Samson Ume Imaga, First Son



Princess Ije Imaga Udonsi First Daughter



THE COMMENDATION SERVICE



Hon Jones Nnanna Ike -Hon Uchenna Okoro, Hon Ibe Osonwa Okwara and the Deputy Gov, HE. Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu



Ugoeze Ola Ume Imaga Wife Of Udumeze Of Ohafia & Family Members



Prince Chukwuma Kalu Udonsi



The Deputy Gov. HE. Engr. Ikechukwu Emetu



Hon Ibe Okwara Member Representing Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency



Representative of the Board of Trustee, Board of Administration and Member of Utono Obolo



Members Of Ohafia School Of Thought



Prince Samson Ume Imaga, First Son of Udumeze of Ohafia and the bereaved family



THANKS GIVING SERVICE & SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE BEREAVED ROYAL FAMILY



Chief B.B Apugo (c) & Comrade Ceekay Igara



THE GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF UDUMEZE OHAFIA'S ETERNMENT



Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-Omereooha of Ohafia (R) and Chief Sampson Anaga (L)



Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-Omereooha of Ohafia (L) and Chief B.B Apugo(R)



Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-Omereooha Of Ohafia, Col Ezichi And Chief Fab Uche



Eld. Bar Uma Ntima, Secretary Of The Burial Committee , Capt. Frank Ntima, Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-omereooha Of Ohafia And Chief Sunday Onuka Kalu



Members of the Bereaved Royal Family



Members of the Bereaved Royal Family



Chief Prince Kalu Ikpemini-Omereooha Of Ohafia, The Burial Committee Chairman



His Royal Paramountcy Ezie Ohamoha Prof E.U.L Imaga Ebiri Of Elu & The Udumaeze Of Ohafia Led To Final Rest

TRADITIONAL FUNERAL ACTIVITIES BY VARIOUS GROUPS



MEMBERS OF THE BURIAL COMMITTEE



Ada And Ogbodiya Scholarship Fund Scheme

ADA AND OGBODIYA SCHOLARSHIP FUND SCHEME SHOWERS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO FEMALE RECIPIENTS



By: Ndubueze Ngozi

The Ada and Ogbodiya Scholarship Program (AOSP) recently showered female recipients with scholarship and bursary awards.

The Scheme was initiated by the Secretary to the State Government Prof. Kenneth Kalu in honour of his late mother Elder Mrs Ada Kalu (1947-2009) and Aunt Madam Ogbodiya Peter (1931-2004) who were both devout Christians and Community leaders during their time.

The Objective of the program is to provide financial grants to support female students from Atan Abam who demonstrate excellence in character and learning. Other criterias for qualification into the scheme include the following;

1. Have graduated from a secondary school and must have obtained at least credit passes in 5 subjects or more.
2. Write and pass a written test to be administered by the AOSP.
3. Be successful at an oral interview, following success at the written exam.
4. Have received admission letter from any public university in Nigeria (State or Federal university), for any program leading to the award of a degree. Those who are pursuing diploma or pre-degree programs are not eligible.
5. Must obtain two references - an academic reference and a character reference. Reference letters must be sought from persons who are competent to comment on the candidate's academic abilities and strength of character.
6. Be a native of Atan Abam in Arochukwu LGA, Abia State.

Some of the beneficiary female students

S/No	Name of Candidate	Institution	Remarks/Award
1.	Iheanacho Chinaenye Ogbu	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	Ada & Ogbodiya Scholar - Full scholarship
2.	Onuoha, Hannah Matthew	University of Uyo	Ada & Ogbodiya Scholar - Full scholarship
3.	Okoro, Oluomachi Goodness	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
4.	Ukpe, Mary Kalu	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
5.	Ireh Kalu, Grace Chinonso	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
6.	Dike, Nneoma Paulinus	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
7.	Onwuka, Amarachi Augustina	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
8.	Augustine, Precious Mary	Alex Ekwueme Federal University	Bursary award
9.	Onuoha, Hannah Ukariwe	University of Calabar	Bursary award

includes:

In his keynote while addressing the beneficiaries during the PYPAN Emphasis Sunday held at the Presbyterian church of Nigeria, St. Andrews Parish Atan Abam, Arochukwu LGA, the initiator of the scholarship scheme Prof. Kenneth Kalu congratulated the beneficiaries for meeting the criteria for selection which according to him is merit based.

He maintained that the essence of the programme is to provide financial grants to support female students who demonstrate excellence in character and learning and to spur the students to study hard and excel in their academic pursuit and become better citizens of the country. He said that the scholarship will take care of the tuition and other living expenses of the beneficiaries while they pursue academic program in the university.

Prof Kalu assured that the bursary cash award of one hundred thousand naira each will be given yearly to the beneficiaries until they graduate and advised them to take their studies seriously

In his remarks the Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Due process, Dr. Oluebube Chukwu lauded the Prof Kalu and his wife, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Kalu for the gesture, which he described as a welcome development and solicited for its

sustenance, while urging the beneficiaries to make good use of the opportunity.

Also speaking at the event, the Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Records and Documentation, Mr Collins Ndukwe who identified scholarship fund scheme as an avenue of reaching out to the indigent students in the society to attain the zenith of their academic pursuit, commended the Secretary to the State Government for the feat while calling on well-meaning Abians to emulate the gesture.

In his contribution, the General Manager, Abia Newspapers and Publishing Corporation, Hon. Jones Ike, described the initiative as one in the right direction and appreciated Prof Kenneth Kalu for giving back to the society through training the girl child, pointing out that when a girl child is trained, the society progresses.

Also contributing, a native of Abam and businessman Chief Paul Awa, thanked the Prof Kalu for the kind gesture which he described as a life time investment while advising the awardees to be focused on their studies for them to excel.

In his own remark earlier, the Rector Abia State Polytechnic Aba, Dr. Okoro Kalu enumerated the criteria for the selection to include being a female indigene of the community, passing of the written and oral test among others.

In his sermon during the church service, Mr Okorie Kalu enjoined youths to stand firm in God despite the challenges surrounding them for victory.

In their separate responses the beneficiaries of the scholarship scheme Onuoha Hannah from university of Uyo and Iheanacho Chinenye appreciated the SSG and wife, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Kalu for investing in their future, adding that they will not betray the confidence reposed in the them

The event which featured presentation of the bursary cash award to the beneficiaries by the wife of the SSG, Mrs Ifeyinwa Kalu attracted the presence of the commissioner for tertiary Education, Prof. Eme Uche Eme and stakeholders from Atan Abam Arochukwu LGA.

Ada And Ogbodiya Scholarship Fund Scheme



L_R The SSG Abia State, Prof Kenneth Kalu with wife, son Flanked by other top Govt Officials



The officiating Minister Delivering his sermon



The Chior in the church



Prof Ken Kalu Making his entrant into the church



Pro Ken Kalu with family and other top Govt officials



Prof Kalu, Wife & Son



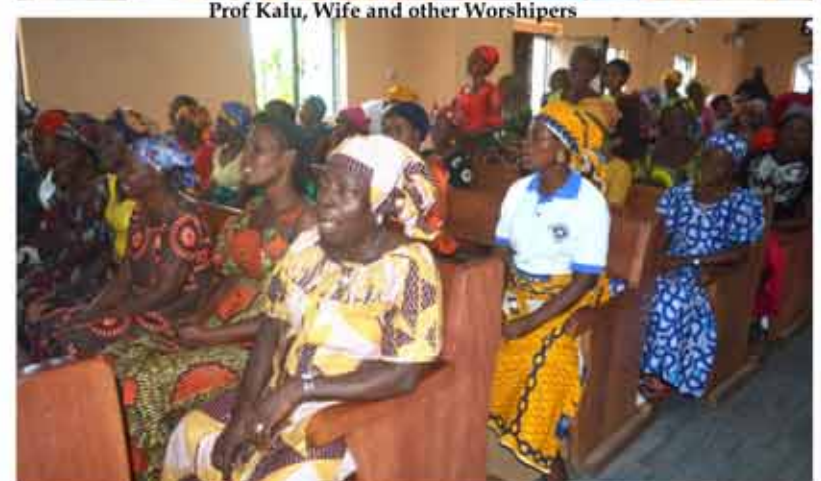
Dr. Oluebube Chukwu, The SSA to The Government on Due Process & Public Procurement



Prof Kalu, Wife and other Worshipers



A cross section of worshippers



Cross Section of Female worshippers



Ada And Ogbodiya Scholarship Fund Scheme



Prof Ken Kalu & Hon Jones Ike



Dr. Oluebube Chukwu, Chief Paul Iro Awa (Ikoro) and Hon Jones Nnanna Ike



Chief Paul Iro Awa (Ikoro) in a chat with the SSA Prof Ken Kalu



L-r Prof Uche Eme Uche The Hon Comm For Tertiary Education And Dr Chris Okoro The Rector Of Abia State Polytechnic Aba



Hon Lukeman Ukara Dr. Chris Okoro, Hon Jones Ike and others in a Close Chat



L-R Prof Uche Eme Uche & Mrs Ifeyinwa Kalu



A cross Section of Beneficiaries of the Scholarship Scheme



Prof Uche Eme Uche and Dr Oluebube Chukwu



L, R Hon Jones Ike, Mrs Ifeyinwa Kalu & Professor Uche Eme Uche



Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed

Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed The 9th Eze Aro.

By: Okereke Kate



It was celebration galore, as the 9th Eze Aro of Arochukwu Ancient kingdom was coronated

The coronation ceremony of His Eminence Engr Eberechukwu Oji, witnessed huge participation, as people came from far and near to witness the epoch-making event.

The week long traditional event commenced with an interdenominational service which was presided over by Rev Dr. Uma Ukpai, who during his sermon, expressed joy that the land of Aro would blossom under the 9th Eze Aro, Eze Eberechukwu Oji.

A Lecture series was held same

day in which the Lead Presenter, Dr Orji Ogbonnayaba Orji, the Executive Secretary/CEO of Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), dealt extensively on the Aro Leadership, it's challenges and crowing achievements. Essentially Ogbonnaya's paper which had the theme, Eze Aro, Tradition, Digital Age & Challenges of Convergence was a well-researched and intelligently presented paper that dealt extensively on the thorny question of Traditional leadership in Nigeria and the quest for modern development.

The preceding activities on Friday, the 26th of July 2024, left Arochukwu kingdom agog with celebrations, coronating the emergence of cultural dances by the 19 villages that make up the Ancient Aro kingdom, which later came to a climax with a dinner party.

Indeed, the land of Aro has never witnessed it this good, getting over 90% participation from the sons and daughters of Aro kingdom.

The excitement and lavished celebration were pointers that the Arochukwu kingdom selected

rightly for the first time, a community lover, development driven and unique personality to be the traditional head of the Aro stool, as well as the Ekpe Aro.

It is interesting to state that the Ekpe Aro is the highest traditional authority in Arochukwu, where the Eze Aro is the head and number one citizen of the Ekpe.

The highpoint of the event was the coronation rites of the king, held at the Arochukwu Event Centre, which witnessed top government officials, including the Governor of Abia State, Dr Alex Otti,

Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed

representatives of the presidency, as well as, other States, leaders and Members of the Abia State House of Assembly, high ranking traditional rulers across the length and breadth of Nigeria, clergymen including representatives of the General Overseer, The Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pst Enoch Adeboye, Arochukwu sons and daughters including those in the diaspora, all gathered to witness the epoch making event.

In his speech, the Executive Governor of Abia State, Dr Alex Otti, began by acknowledging God for choosing a traditional head for Aro kingdom. He said God does not make mistakes and that fact became evident in the choice of the 9th traditional head of the Aro kingdom.

According to the Governor, it is the will of God, that Eze Eberechukwu Oji, sits on the stool to reposition Arochukwu for the better and that was further exemplified by the huge participation and joy that filled the hearts of the majority.

He acknowledged that there may be few persons who might not be in tandem with the selection, but stated that they have no interest with those who are not happy.

"Any society that cannot make its leadership is a cursed society.

"Power comes from God not man and He makes all things beautiful in His time.

"I use what happened in Arochukwu as a case study and i recommend it to other societies. Gone are the days where people use the worst in place of the best".

The Governor disclosed that Arochukwu people made the best choice. "The Eze Aro the 9th, is the best in his class. A leader that will invest in his community, rather than stealing and most importantly, a leader that shows the light", he said. Dr Alex emphasized on the need for leaders that have second address to be elected, according to him, such leaders already have a profession that generates income for them, therefore, would not be dipping hands into public funds to better themselves.

"That is the case of the new Eze Aro. He has a profession, he will not dip his hand into community funds but will contribute his resources for the development of Arochukwu".

The Abia State Governor, however, wished and prayed God to grant him the needed wisdom to rule well.

Giving his coronation celebration speech, captioned, "History Beckons: A Brighter Future Begins In Aro Kingdom", Eze Dr Eberechukwu Oji, disclosed that his installation marks a significant milestone in the history of the renowned Aro Kingdom.

Giving a brief of how the journey started, he said, earlier this year, he was officially crowned and handed the staff of office for the exalted royal throne in Arochukwu ancient kingdom and today the activities are being climaxed with to celebrate the coronation in full expression.



Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed

"I am deeply grateful to God Almighty and everyone who made this possible. The Eze Aro throne has been a symbol of our collective strength, unity, and cherished traditions.

"The recent contestation for the throne were not merely trials of ambition but tests of our resolve and today, I extend my hand in brotherhood to all princes of our dear kingdom, for in unity lies our true power. Our elders say, "Gidi gidi bu ugwu eze", unity is strength.

"Unity and wisdom have preserved our ancient kingdom through the centuries. It was unity and resilience that helped the Arochukwu Kingdom survived the British invasion of 1901 and continued to thrive till today. Now, more than ever, we need that unity of purpose to reinforce our commitment to our kingdom's legacy. The path to reclaiming our lost opportunities and rekindling progress demands a foundation built upon trust, understanding and harmony.

He stated that their kingdom's strength lies in the bonds that tie them together as one indomitable force, pledging not to be a ruler, but as a servant-leader, devoted to the prosperity and well-being of every individual within the Aro kingdom.

"I commit to fostering an environment where every voice is heard, every dream is nurtured and every member of our society finds their place in the sun.

"With humility, magnanimity, and selflessness, I vow to bridge the divides that have hindered our progress. I promise to lead with the fear of God and respect for everyone.

"I am committed to bringing utmost dignity and attract the highest respect to the throne of Eze Aro, commanding national estimation and recognition as a first-class monarchy. Indeed, I was privileged to be part of the inaugural meeting of the Southern Nigeria Traditional Rulers Council, held in Abuja recently. Going forward, I will continue to engage in regional and national efforts that align with my agenda of elevating the Aro Kingdom to new heights of glory and development by putting God first, upholding our age-long cultural identity, and abiding by our kingdom motto: Ako Bu Ije.

"As history beckons us, the imperative of an Aro Renaissance, challenges us to reclaim our heritage and forge a path to a stronger, more prosperous future. Our kingdom, once the beacon of Igbo civilization, must rise again to

its rightful place of prominence. I pledge to lead this Renaissance with steadfast dedication, harnessing the strength, resilience, and ingenuity of our people.

"Together, we will revive our cultural heritage, enhance our educational institutions, and promote economic initiatives that will restore the enviable glory of Arochukwu. This coronation is not just a celebration of our rich traditions but also a bold statement of our collective bigger vision. We aspire to see the full development and integration of the entire Igbo nation within the Nigerian federation. Our unity and progress are inextricably linked to the broader aspirations of the Igbo people".

The Aro head added that by fostering collaboration and mutual support across the Eastern Nigeria land, we can unlock the potential that lies within every Igbo community. "Our shared history, values, and ambitions must guide us towards a future where the Igbo nation stands tall, contributing significantly to the Nigerian federation's growth and prosperity".

He, however, made a respectful call to the Nigerian federal authorities, for a genuine embrace of true federalism, adding that marginalization and exclusion must give way to inclusion, fairness and justice.

"The Igbo people, with their remarkable contributions and rich cultural heritage, deserve a central place at the heart of our nation's development. Let us build a Nigeria where every ethnic group, including the Igbo, can thrive and contribute to a truly united, progressive, and sustainable nationhood, thereby fostering a peaceful environment, where every citizen feels a sense of belonging".

Meanwhile, the Eze Aro used the opportunity to lend his voice to the concerted calls on the nation's President Bola Tinubu, for the release of an Igbo son, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, from his prolonged detention, pointing that his release, already sanctioned by court injunctions, is overdue and will be in the interest of promoting peace and justice in Nigeria.

"Umu Aro, as I lead and serve from this revered throne, I call upon all sons and daughters of Arochukwu, to join hands with me. I cannot do it alone. I will need the wise counsel of our elders and the support of everyone to write a new chapter in our history", he appealed.



Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed

He further thanked God who has guided him all through his life's journey, expressing gratitude to his amazing parents, his grandfather, the iconic Eze Kanu Oji, from whom he stated learned the golden rule of leadership,

The Eze Aro also appreciated the Okennachi kindred and the kingmakers, for their show of wisdom and guidance, the royal family at Oror, Utughugwu, Bianco, Amaja, Ibom Isii, Ezeagwu n' Okwaragwu, for their outstanding support.

He rendered unreserved appreciation to the Abia State Government, other government representatives and all spiritual leaders and associates for their prayers and support.

"Most of all, I appreciate the various planning committees for hosting a successful events and to all Umu Aro from the kingdom and those in the diaspora for making this event a historic one to remember. The Eze Aro belongs to you all. We are all kings wherever we find ourselves. Together, we can achieve great things. May the grace of God be with us, may the spirits of our forefathers guide us, may the wisdom of our elders enlighten us and may our unity be the torch that illuminates our path to greatness, understanding and support", he concludes.

In an interview with guests at the event, the Lord Mayor from Aro Ndizuogu in Imo State, Dr Innocent Ezunwa, expressed happiness over the enthronement of the Eze Aro, urging him not to derail, but strive to lead the people in the right direction.

Dr Innocent Ezunwa, also called on the Aro kingdom to follow their king and love him, as kings are made and not chosen. "Come together and support him for the better lot of the people".

Also, an Arochukwu son, Hon God-Answer Kalu and the Eze elect of Obuohia Ndoki, Ukwa East Local Government Area of Abia State, Chief Ugochukwu Ndubuisi, described the new Eze Aro as a humble, industrious and unique personality, expressing confidence that he would bring the needed development in Aro land through his reign.

They, however, prayed to God to grant him a long life on the throne.



Aro's Celebrate As Engr Eberechukwu Oji Is Installed



Ghana Jollof Rice

Fashion tips
 with
Sandra Chibuike
 sandychybyke1@gmail.com

Rice is a staple in the diet of many cultures. It can be prepared in so many ways. One of them is Jollof rice. A delicious flavor packed dish, made with a well-seasoned tomato base stew.

In this edition, we will look at how to prepare Ghana Jollof rice; this is one of the tastiest Jollof rice and very easy to prepare.

Ingredients

- 4 cups of rice
- 1 kilo of chicken
- vegetable oil
- 15 large tomatoes
- 4 large onions
- 6 cloves of garlic and ginger
- 6 medium size fresh Scotch bonnet peppers
- 2 sachet tomatoes paste
- 10 medium size carrot
- 10 medium size green peas
- 2 medium green peppers
- Bay leaves,
- 5 seasoning cubes
- salt to taste / chicken seasoning

Cooking Instructions:

- 1 Wash your tomatoes, pepper garlic, ginger and 2 onions, put in a blender blend till it's smooth. put in a pot and cook till the water dries off.
- 2 Prepare your chicken by washing it with water. put in a pot, add salt and 2 seasoning cubes. blend 1 onion, ginger, garlic and scotch bonnet peppers add to the chicken, add your chicken

seasoning, stir very well, steam for about 5mins. Then add a cup of water and cook for 5mins to get more broth.

3 Wash and slice your green peas, carrots, green bell peppers and set aside.

4 Slice the remaining onion and set aside.

put a pot on fire

pour in your vegetable oil

pour in your sliced onion, stir for 30 seconds or till fragrant,

pour in your tomato paste and stir for 4 minutes,

pour in your cooked tomato mix and stir, then allow to simmer for about 5minutes .

5 When the steamed chicken is ready, strain out the stock.

6 You can fry the chicken with vegetable oil or air-fry till it's golden brown.

7 Add the chicken stock to the stew, add the seasoning cubes, pour a cup of water, a little salt, stir and allow it to cook for 5 minutes.

8 Wash and put rice in a clean pot

add water and cook for 6minutes

drain water from the rice.

9 Add the rice little by little to the boiling stew and stir, taste for salt, add a little if need be, add the dried bay leaves,

reduce the heat to medium.

Cover the pot and allow the rice to steam.

10 Check to see if the rice is almost done, then add your diced vegetables (carrots, green peas, green bell peppers) and stir. Leave for 2 minutes and turn off the heat.

Your Ghana jollof rice is ready
 serve with any drink of your choice.



SOME OF THE FASHION MISTAKES ANY GENTLEMAN SHOULD NOT MAKE:

Fashion tips
with
Sandra Chibuike
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Looking good is not only about buying or making new clothes. It encompasses everything about your appearance; from clothing to accessories, down to your footwear, even your carriage. When you understand the essence of looking good, you will pay a little more attention to every detail of your fashion.

Firstly, you need to get rid of the outdated trends, novelty clothing items and even habits that repel instead of attract people.

Clothes that are strictly functional or overly flamboyant are not considered stylish.

Sometimes, It is difficult to spot a fashion mistake when everybody sees it and adopts it as a trend.

In this edition, I will be talking about some of the mistakes every gentleman with a good sense of fashion, should avoid.

TOO MUCH FRAGRANCE:

I want to state that fragrance should be discovered, never announced. That means, your fragrance should not be too strong, such that before you enter a room, your fragrance has announced you. Too much fragrance is not only a turn-off, it can also cause migraines and allergic reactions. Any man who has a poor sense of smell, will become desensitized to their

everyday cologne. As a result, they end up using too much and announcing their presence with a strong scent. Learn to wear the right amount of cologne and also know the right places to apply it.

Selectively spray once on your wrists, at the back of your ears and the chest region, while holding the bottle 10 inches away from your

body.

Subtlety is the key to impressing, while using generous amounts of cologne reeks of "Show off".

Whether you are using a strong perfume or a mild one, the number of sprays does not change. A mild scent evaporates quicker. Find the proper balance and your scent will draw people closer rather than repel them.



BODY ODOR



BODY ODOR: The smell is by showering more unpleasant smell emitted than once a day. Any Man by a person's body. This with a body odor should smell is caused by bacteria, use a strong deodorant and when it is multiplied as a body spray. And avoid result of sweat. This can be very repulsive.

Most of the time, people who have body odor are desensitized to it. One of the ways to avoid body odor or maintain a good they are.

LARGE AND BOLD LOGOS ON CLOTHING:



Any clothing that displays Your clothes should, to an brand logos is only meant extent describe your for advertising and not personality and lifestyle.

everyday wear. I am not saying you should It is weird to wear a branded not wear designer clothes shirt as your normal outfit with visible branding on for work, church, date or for them, all I am saying is, the shopping. You are not a branding should not walking billboard and distract attention from the should not advertise for a clothes. Let it be minimal. company that doesn't pay The key word is "keep it you for it. You do not have simple." You do not need to buy designer clothes just the very busy logos on your to show off the branding. fancy shirts.

SQUARE TOE SHOES:

An extreme shoe shape that was the rage in the 90's. Nothing screams late 90s more than the chunky-soled, squared-toe dress shoes. Avoid making your feet look stubby or like flippers and switch to more refined curved toe shoes.



STUDED BELTS

A studded leather belt is not going to make you look any younger. Outside a watch or tie, men have very few accessories to class up and show their personality. So a plain leather belt looks more mature on a gentleman who wants to look fashionable and classy.



UNTUCKED DRESS SHIRT:

untucking your dress shirts does not mean going casual in today's fashion. You may as well wear a T-shirt. There is a reason why dress shirts are long. They are meant to be tucked in. If you want a more casual look, wear a button down shirt.



In summary, your good fashion can be marred by other salient areas of your body, if taken for granted. Endeavor to take care of the areas of the body that are visible in order to maintain a clean and adorable outlook.

FOOD PARTICLES BETWEEN YOUR TEETH:



This may sound funny floss after meal, do not and out of place, but it just run your tongue is an unattractive and round your teeth, or unappealing sight. A rinse only. Use a floss well dressed or toothpick to pick out gentleman who has food particles that may food particles lodged have stuck in-between between his teeth, can your teeth. This also be an ugly sight to helps to maintain a behold. Ensure you fresh breath.



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