



SPECIAL

ONU N'EDÉ:

THE NEXT ATTAH IGALA

**EXCLUSIVE WITH
ILIYASU ABDU**



**DR.
USMAN
OGBO**
FIRST 100
DAYS IN OFFICE
JUSTIFIES
BELLO'S CHOICE

**SHUAIB
ABUBAKAR
AUDU**
TOUCHING
LIVES AT THE
GRASSROOTS



CELEBRATE • INSPIRE • CHALLENGE



On behalf of myself and all the staff of Rock Global Investment Network London, I would like to celebrate the legacy and life of our Father, His Royal Majesty, Agabaidu, Dr. Michael Idakwo Ameh Oboni II, Attah Igala.

You were an epitome of Fatherhood, Leadership and Courage. This is demonstrated by your vision and love for your Kingdom. The victories and reclamation won on our behalf will remain indelible in our hearts.

We are consoled by the fact that the source is the same and from this fountain of wisdom, dignity and honour, another Attah will arise to lead us, the sons and daughters of the great Igala Kingdom. Continue your hunting expedition, Agabaidu!

Long live the Attah.
Long live Igala Kingdom.
Long live Kogi State and long live The Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Dr. Sam Omale,
President/CEO
Rock Global Investment
Network, London

FACE OF INKPI ỌMA UFEDO ATA



Full Name
David Ojochegbe Victoria

Native Town
Adupi-Emoriko, Olamaboro LGA

Occupation
Student/Entrepreneur

Favourite Igala Food
Oje Abacha and Obo Egwa

Like(s)
History and Tourism

Dislike(s)
Gossiping and cheating

Igala Heroine/Role Model(s)
Princess Inikpi

Dream(s) for Igaland
For our lost glory to be restored

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FIRST 100 DAYS IN
OFFICE JUSTIFIES
BELLO'S CHOICE**

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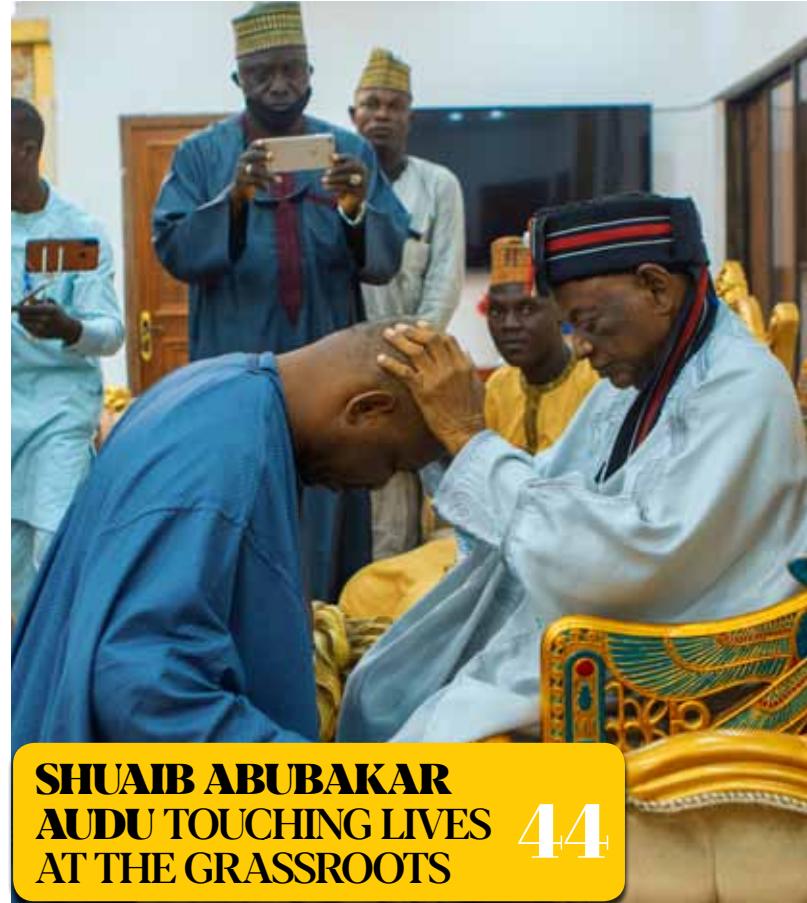


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ARISE IGALA GRASSROOT SENSITIZATION INITIATIVE (CAC/IT/NO 94508)

VISION

To inspire a generational change that will give birth to a new breed of Igala people in the face of globalization thereby changing perspectives on selves as we consciously bring out the beauty in our people

MISSION

To be (and remain) the most informative, educative, entertaining, challenging, inspiring and authentic source of information on the past and current issues of Igala Kingdom and her people as the authoritative voice and image maker of Igala race via publications and media activities.

MANDATE

Our mandate is to Celebrate, Inspire and Challenge Igala sons and daughters at home and abroad into positive ventures for the benefit of mankind.

HRM, DR. IDAKWO AMEH OBONI II, JP **ATA IGALA**

Agabaidu, Ata Igala and Chairman, Kogi State Council of Chiefs.

“

"Igala is a great kingdom, no doubt. Our sons and daughters are successful in every sphere of our national endeavour, but we need to do more. Let me remind you at this juncture that there's acute hunger, poverty, unemployment and mass illiteracy in Igaland, an indication that someone somewhere has failed to make sacrifice. Sacrificial leadership places Igala kingdom above self, political party, religion and other personal interests; it places service above self."

”



The quotation above is part of His Majesty's Message at the 2nd Annual ARISE IGALA Leadership Awards/Lectures 2015 at Sheraton Hotel & Tower, Abuja on Saturday, May 23, 2015.

THROW BACK

OUR JUKUN BROTHERS LEADING THE WAY OUT
FROM AIDOKANYA'S RESIDENCE IN LOKOJA
HEADING FOR UGWOLAWO TO COMMENCE THE
TRADITIONAL RITES OF ASCENDING THE THRONE
OF ATTAH IGALA IN MARCH, 2013



HRM, Agabaidu, Dr. Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II (as Aidokanya at the time) restored the dignity of Igala culture which seemed to have been going into extinction before his ascension to the revered throne of Attah Igala. Our Jukun brothers led the way and were on ground in all the process of the traditional rites.



ONOJA J. OKPANACHI

PUBLISHER/CHIEF EDITOR

WE CAN BE GREAT AGAIN ONLY IF...

Greatness does not just occur. It's worked for consciously with commitment to plans and true dedication to realizing such plans. So, planning is fundamental in achieving greatness. And, to plan as a people, unity is key. Therefore, we must be united against all odds.

In recent times what we see in our dear land, Igala Kingdom is greatness on the sides of individuals while collective greatness as a people keep dwindling as we perpetually dwell so much on our past exploits. Sadly, when we talk and boast about these exploits (of the past) the reality that confronts us today doesn't seem to collaborate those facts being reeled out – they seem very opposite. But shamelessly, many would even settle for those past achievements and wouldn't want to make efforts to stabilize, reconnect and then move on as the world is fast moving towards higher destinations.

Tell me of what benefits are they to you of your knowledge of the "victories" over Benin, Jukun and others and you are today (backward) where you are; That you loaned other native authorities in the past and today you are not maintaining a single account and cannot even raise fund for communal projects (quickly) when the need arises? Please, tell me how great you are today when you cannot speak with one voice on both local and national issues? Can you proudly tell me of the leadership structure in the land today without all the known bickering? Tell me how ready are we to fix what our many problems are just like other nations who were also badly affected by the colonial manipulations to stay divided but realized and pulled through to emerge again as one united people?

The truth remains that we have many great Igala personalities but we are failing to pull through together to become a strong people. And, our problems are regional (the Dekina, Ankpa and Idah divisions/agendas) - Blame this first major on the colonialists but they have since left us. The next is religious (we can choose to shy away from this salient destroyer but it will keep confronting us if we don't address it) – Blame this on fanatics but patriotism

can actually save us from this if we so wish. The next is our crude ego where the elites always think it should be them and no one else – Blame this on lack of exposure and unwillingness to grow beyond self. If we can as individuals begin to fix these, then we can begin the journey to greatness again.

Isn't it a painful thing to see how successful Igala people are in their various fields of endeavours as individuals but when it comes to communal issues they become dwarfs because everyone feels he/she should either be the leader or he/she cannot play in "that league"? And, doing this, we have lost so many grounds both at the local and national levels. Should there be a call today for common ground on national issues as it affects Igala nation, who will speak for us that we all will agree?

This is the right time to wake up. Let's start first by rallying round the **Attah Igala Institution** and from there begin the reconstruction of a new Igala Kingdom. We have lots to catch up with and the earlier we start, the better for us.

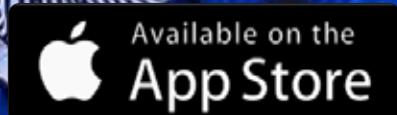
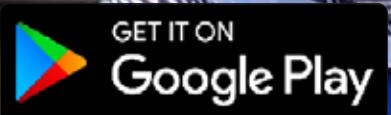
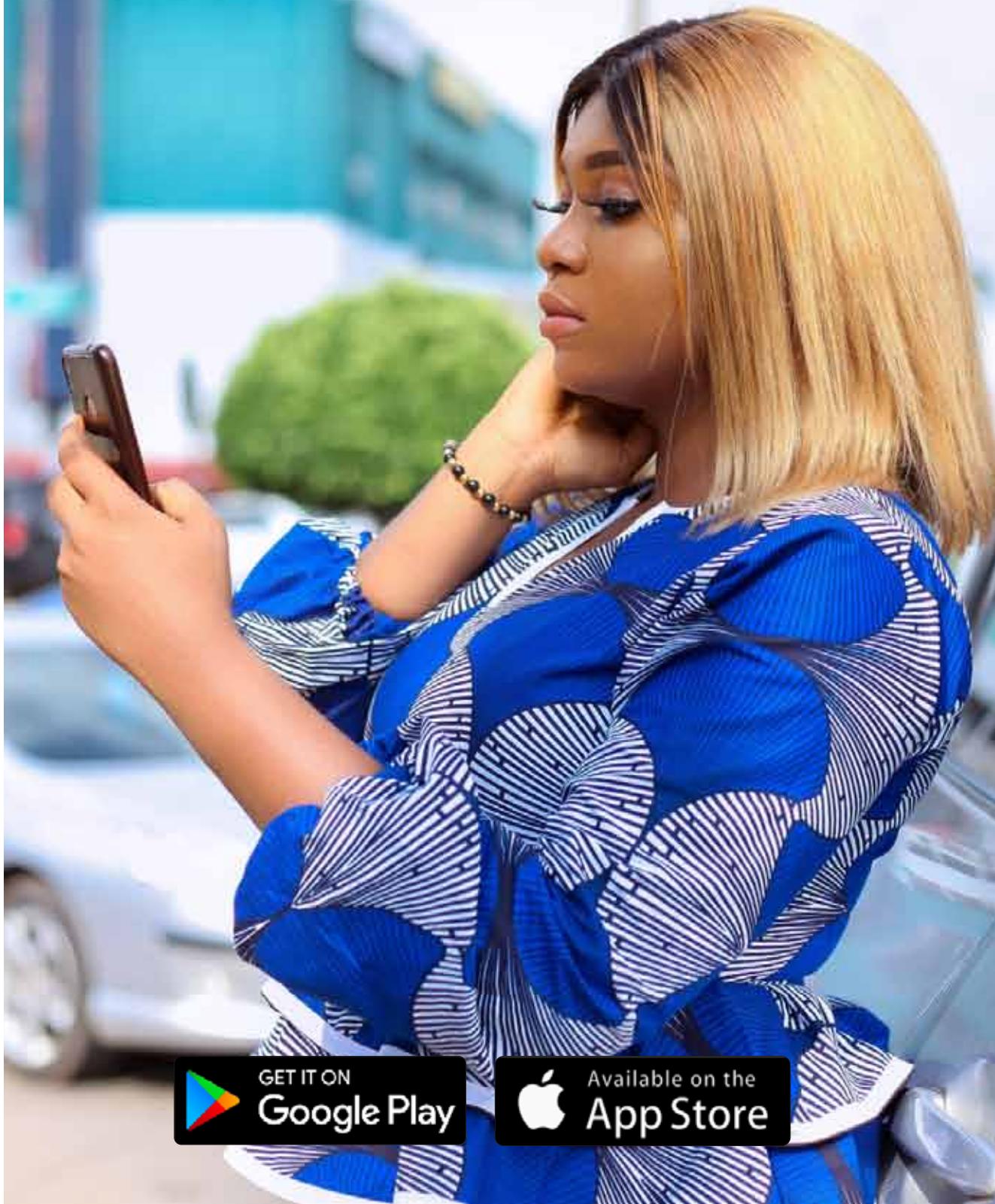
I cannot conclude this very note without mentioning some facts here - those we have had wars with in the past were actually our brothers and the brotherly quarrels were settled over 500 years ago and so, why still logged in there? Get inspired and challenged to start networking to build a great **Kwararafa** again. It will interest you to know that the last edition of our magazine, ISSUE 59 was 70% financed by one of our Jukun brothers. Again, this edition in your hand is a result of financing from our Jukun and South-South brothers.

Interestingly too, they have shown more interest in the establishment of the **ARISE IGALA Television** than (we) the Igala People because of the brotherhood, true love and the sincerity with which they see the vision clearly with us and so are ready to invest. Please, note this for tomorrow sake as we journey to be great again.

Arise!

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ONU N'EDE: **THE NEXT ATTAH IGALA**

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH
ILIYASU ABDU

Iliyasu Abdu is one of the very successful Igala Chaps who is well knowledgeable about some of the basics of Igala Culture and deeply concern about the future of the Igala Kingdom and her people all over the world in this digital era as the world has truly metamorphosed into a global village.

Easy going but deeply meticulous. The humility personified Iliyasu Abdu

is no doubt an exposed personality. As a thorough bred business manager he has nurtured some business concerns to very high reputable levels. Some of his businesses are Dan Maikarfi Investment Nig. Limited, Dan Maikarfi Construction Company Limited and Integrated Parking Services Ltd.

Iliyasu Abdu is the first indigenous Engineer to Build an Air Traffic Control Tower that meets International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standard. The Pioneer of privately led Commercial On/Street Parking Management System in Abuja

An emerging leader, Iliyasu Abdu, the Ahmadu Bello University trained Civil Engineer is living the university's slogan of "naturally ahead" as he is achieving outstanding results in his field of endeavours. And, interestingly too is his deep knowledge of Igala Culture and concern for the people, Kogi State, Nigeria and Africa at large as he is of the strong opinion that our cultural values should form major part of our leadership system. He is a native of Adupi-Emoriko, Ogugu, Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State.

In this interview, he speaks boldly on the way forward about the next Attah Igala and encourage all hands to be on deck to move the Kingdom forward.

Enjoy:

AIM: The making of Attah Igala is a very long process as some feels it should be cut short in view of modernization. What's your take on this?

First, what's modernization? A very long definition you will get but let me come straight. People who think in that direction are not knowledgeable about cultures world over. What makes you an Igala man today is your culture; language, how you do things et al. So, the moment you go off, it means you are no longer Igala. The process in the making of Attah Igala is what makes the throne unique. And, the modernization can equally come in our own way, on our own terms and not being influenced by any particular power or cultures that make you feel yours is inferior. What this means is that we have the responsibility to tell our stories to the world in good light by ourselves. If we

leave that responsibility to outsiders, they will do it their own way.

So, process is key. It shows we are organized and that brings about harmony in our dealings. This no doubt one of the major reasons why when it comes to the Attah Igala throne, the struggles are always internal; not what every comer can just jump into because we have structures that take care of that.

AIM: When you received the news of Attah Igala going on hunting expedition, what was your reaction?

Shocking. Painful. Very painful and as well as embarrassing in a way because of the manner the news broke. It was very embarrassing as many of our people took to social media to publish the info without regards to our culture. There are codes, there are appropriate channels and above



all the right timing to even make it public. We are losing some of the very basics to "modernization" – the technologies we have today are to help us to be better people and not the other way. Not just on this matter but generally on how many people live their lives today and gradually all facets of our lives are affected negatively in many ways.

Do you see the rates at which marriages are breaking today? The levels of

atrocities in our societies today is very alarming. All these are becoming more common because people have deviated from the essence of the technologies going in the wrong directions; no more privacy, secrecy is almost disappearing. People have become too loose.

You see, even in United Kingdom today, should Her Majesty passed on, there are codes with which the message will be



delivered. There are signs you will see to indicate that. The message will not just be released like every other one. This is even in the face of technologies and advancement in spheres of life. So, keeping to essence of culture keep the sanctity of our throne.

In Igala Kingdom, when you of codes or slogans like "Odogo mu bu", "Ode le t'oko ode" etc. it means His Majesty

has gone hunting and the top of the Odogo will be turned upside down. All these will send the message out in a coded way and the people will keep it to themselves or at most circulate the information amongst themselves until the right persons authorized makes it public at an appropriate time. However, what this has shown is that we need more of cultural orientation; we should begin to educate our children, the younger ones



more on our cultural values. It will help them all round to stand out with high positive morals even as the world is witnessing aggressive moral decadence.

AIM: *Going Forward, what kind of Igala Kingdom do you wish to see?*

Sincerely, the point we are now we need to go beyond wishing to taking certain actions that can guarantee the kind of future we want. Recent developments have shown clearly that we have many challenges to deal with and to begin in the right direction, we need to first be a united people irrespective of religious and political divides. One thing I have noticed is that we hold to our political differences for too long even after elections. We don't align in good times to tap into opportunities for the good of our people. Tapping into available opportunities doesn't mean leaving your party for another but aligning to support the leaders on board for the development of your people.

And, for Igala Kingdom in particular, the Attahship is very critical to us. It gives serious direction through quality leadership for the advancement of Igala Kingdom.

AIM: *So, what do you have to say about the next Attah Igala?*

Sincerely, the next Attah Igala should be a young man to be able to carry on

from where the Attah who has gone on hunting expedition stops. You need a young Attah to be able to cope and sustain the tempo where HRM, Dr. Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni has brought us. He (Ameh Oboni II) was able to push through purely by grace and very strong passion for the development of the kingdom.

AIM: But, you know how structured the making of Attah Igala

Yes, I know we have established procedures and this what should even help us well. See, our founding fathers have seriously simplified things for us in the making of Attah Igala. Today, we all know there are Four Ruling Houses and the ascendancy rotational system is something that can be figured without manipulation and when manipulated it's obvious because the people know how it works.

From all analysis, it is in the open that the AJU AMEACHOR are to produce the next Attah Igala. So, the family should present their best young man to the IGALAMELA KINGMAKERS. Simple. They must have a young vibrant man because the task ahead is very heavy and the one to carry

on must be strong, focused and with good leadership traits.

AIM: Must the next Attah Igala be a young man because of the reasons you have just given?

No. But let me give some shocking truth. Ameh Oboni the Great was in his 30s when he came on board. Stories of his exploits were endless because of the energy, vision and focus he was able to maintain. Being young naturally gives room for speed because the strength is there. We need speed in Igala Kingdom today. Many things to be done. So, a young man would be far better for the us as a people. Look carefully around us and you see the trend in the making of monarch in recent times. See Ile Ife, Benin and many others in the Western parts of the country.

AIM: In carrying on these "heavy tasks" ahead, do you think only the Attah Igala can do it.

No. In the first instance, it shouldn't be only His Majesty. All that the people need from Agabaidu is to provide the right leadership and you will see how the people will cue behind him. Honestly, it's





a very big shame on all of us if we cannot come together to restore our glory as a people. In the past, the Attah Igala like other paramount rulers have both the political and economic powers resting on them but things have so changed since the interruption of the colonialists in our traditional systems. So, we must rally round the Attah Igala to rebuild our dear kingdom and restore its glory.

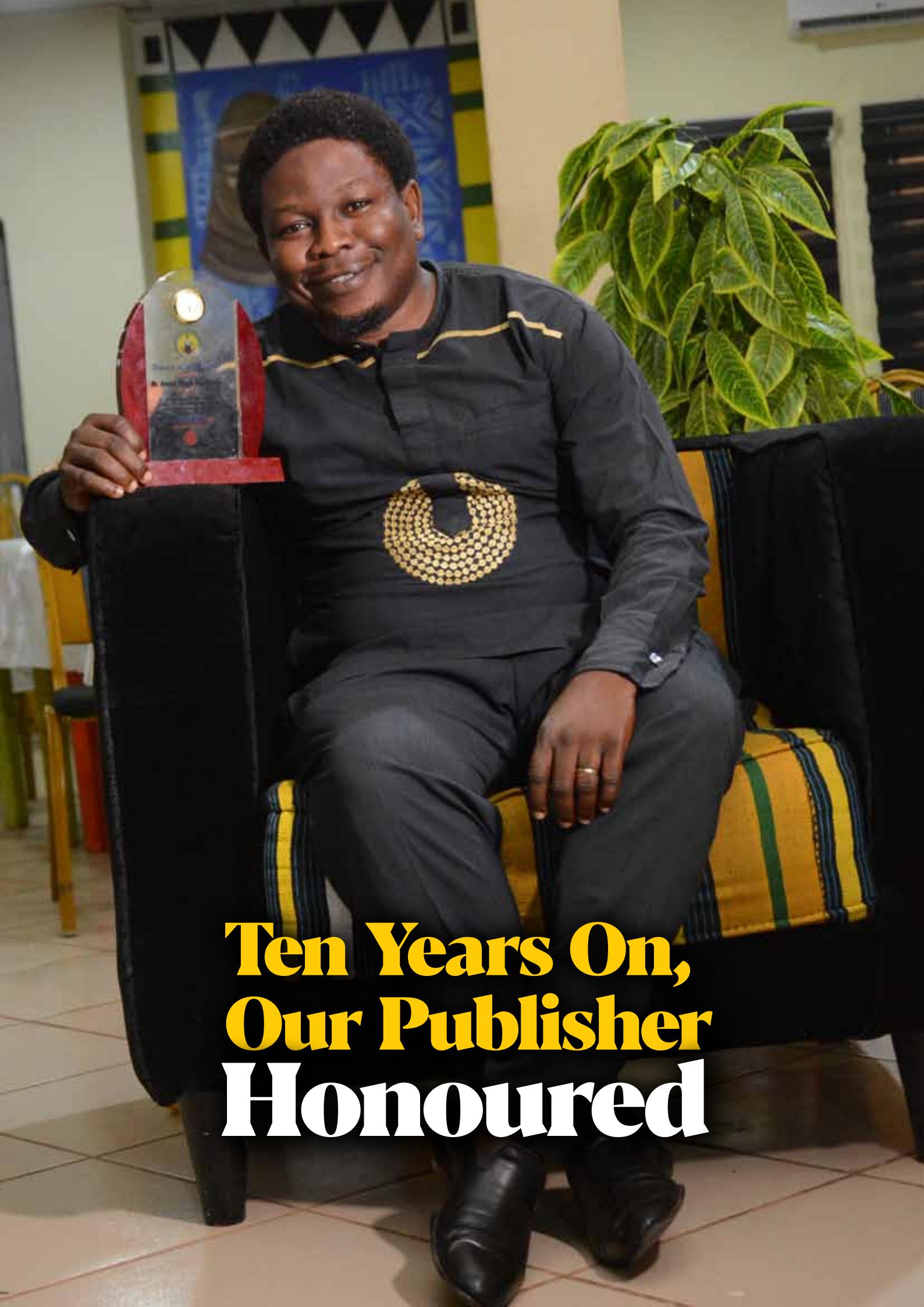
In fact, to successfully rally round the next Attah Igala, I implore the AJU AMEACHOR to lay the foundation by looking out for their very best young man. Am so particular about being young so that the connection, networking and coordination can be done with ease and this can be achieved easily with a youngman who is focused with good leadership quality and I am sure the family

can present us one.

AIM: *What will be your general message to the entire Igala nation at this point?*

To the Igala nation, I want to say we are on a restoration mission and the resetting should start from you as an individual. We have done so many wrong things thinking of only selves. Selfishness can take us anywhere. We should learn that already. We need each other now than ever. Let that old love we have for each other return in full. Let the definition of our brotherhood not be along party lines or religion based.

With love and unity, we can be very great again. And, I pray sincerely that the next Attah become our major rallying point as it were.



**Ten Years On,
Our Publisher
Honoured**



For his passion and dedication to change the narrative about the Igala Kingdom and to also see to a new Igala people through his publication, ARISE IGALA Magazine, Onoja J. Okpanachi has truly distinguished himself as one selfless Igala son who has been contributing immensely to the revival of Igala Cultural Awareness. He set out on a mission to celebrate, inspire and challenge the people into positive ventures for the benefit of mankind and that he has been doing against all odds since 2010.

Today, ARISE IGALA Magazine is the only periodical of and about Igala People and has been adjudged by many as the most professional and consistent in the entire Kogi State both in editorial and print quality. Onoja is strategically leading the ARISE IGALA Team into broadcasting, film and music productions so as to push in deep those messages that will eventually result in reorientation and behavioural change amongst the people home and abroad.

In view of all these, the leadership of Igala Cultural and Development Association (ICDA) decided to honour him with the title of Eka'a of Igala Kingdom; an Officer of Igala Kingdom (OIK). Below is a brief profile of our dear Publisher:



ONOJA JAMES OKPANACHI

(Eka'a of Igala Kingdom, OIK)

Onoja James Okpanachi is an independent-minded, dynamic, meticulous fellow with a deep sense of creativity and touch of originality. He believes strongly in building the nation by contributing strategically from community based and special interest levels.

A graduate of French Language from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, he gathered experience from various outfits in the world of media and entertainment in Lagos, Kaduna and Abuja. Driven by the passion to contribute his quota, he launched his first culture and tourism based magazine, ***Beauty from Badagry*** in 2008 which received the blessings of His Royal Majesty, De Wheno Aholu Menu Toyi I, the Oba Akran of Badagry and His Excellency, Babatunde Raji Fashola (then Executive Governor of Lagos State).

Onoja J. Okpanachi is the Founder and Publisher of ***ARISE IGALA Magazine***, a socio-cultural bi-monthly magazine which he has been publishing since 2010 on the

platform of his company, **Onoja Dreams Network Limited**. The magazine is today the most outstanding, purposeful and consistent in the entire Igala Kingdom and Kogi state at large covering vital issues at home and outside as it serves as a great means of celebrating, inspiring and challenging the people into positive ventures for the benefit of mankind.

Passionate about proffering solutions to the leadership challenge in the country, Onoja delved into annual leadership awards and lectures since 2014 using the ARISE IGALA Magazine platform hence the name ARISE IGALA LEADERSHIP AWARDS & LECTURES. The primary objective of this is to "Sail Through Culture to National Unity, Peace and Development" as leadership issues are raised, discussed and appreciated for the good of all. With the vision to up the game and spread the message to audience across the globe, Onoja led the ARISE IGALA Team through the legal procedures of obtaining



L-R; HE, CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA (DEPUTY GOV. OF KOGI STATE), ONOJA J. OKPANACHI AND DR. ALIDU MOSES ABU (CONVENER, IGALA NATIONAL PRAYER CONFERENCE)

a Television License thereby becoming the first known to own such approval for an Igala Television from the Nigeria Broadcasting Commission (NBC) home and abroad. And, soon, ARISE IGALA Television will be live as the team are progressively working on the next phase.

So determined to keep improving, he has since completed his Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Journalism from the International Institute of Journalism, Abuja (Lokoja Study Centre) and also engaged in some other post-graduate studies.



ONOJA
WITH HON.
DAVID IDRIS
ZACHARIAS,
REP, IDAH-
IBAJI-OFU-
IGALAMELA-
ODOLU
FEDERAL
CONSTITUENCY,
NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY



ONOJA WITH OCHOLI YUSUF OKPANACHI (DON PABLO), BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST

On a national scale, he has structured a platform through which the project of national reorientation will be executed massively towards achieving a behavioural change amongst the people while focusing largely on youths and leaders of Nigeria. The platform is **Development Journalism**

Initiative for Nation Building, a Non-Governmental Organization.

Onoja J. Okpanachi is married to a wonderful lady, Mrs. Onoja Ruth Ojone and their union is blessed with lovely children.



ONOJA
WITH HON.
ABDULLAHI
IBRAHIM ALI
HALIMS, REP.,
ANKPA-OMALA-
OLAMABORO
FEDERAL
CONSTITUENCY,
NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY



JOHN JIBO IDAKWOJI

Author, An Igala-English lexicon
(A Bilingual Dictionary of Igala Language)

John Jíbò Ídákwoji hails from Ànyìgbá in Central Igálaland but was born in **ÙTÙ ÒJÓKOGBÈ** area of Ùgwlawó District, OFU LGA in the year of June 15, 1950. He is a Multi Linguist, prolific Playwright, Actor, Author of many works, Lexicographer, Lecturer/Researcher and a Diplomat.

Looking back through the clock of time, one cannot but to review the achievement of this great enigma from life in Education and Services. He had his pre-school education at Ófákága Àmúnà Ègwúmè between 1956 and 1958. From 1958 to 1961; the young Idákwoji was enrolled at the St. Martin's Junior Primary School, Ejule, currently in Òfù Local Government Area.

In 1964, he went to the **St. Joseph's Senior Primary School, Anyigba**, where he obtained his First School Leaving Certificate and after which he proceeded to **Our Lady of Schools Teachers College, Anyigba** from (Jan. 1968 - Dec 1972) for his Teachers Grade II Certificate.

His first primary Assignment to his nation and indeed to Igala land started in November, 1965 when he was employed by the **Catholic Mission, Anyigba**, to assist a **French Canadian Holy Ghost Father, Right Reverend Father Gerard Bouthillette, on the Igala Dictionary manuscript**. This was to further inspire him to start his career in Igala writing, having learnt the right

pronunciations and syllabic terms.

He was also to have his advanced Teachers College, Kano in 1975 where he read Education in English/Christian Religious Knowledge for the award of Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE) where he received Best English Student Award at in 1978. Jibo had his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme at the Government Secondary School, Ganye, Gongola State (now Adamawa State), 1978/1979.

He later taught English and English Literature briefly at the Ochájà Boys Secondary School, Ochájà in 1979 and at the Bassà Nge Anglican Grammar School (BNAGS), Gbolóko (in 1979 to early 1980). He went back to the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria that same year to read Education/Language Arts and obtained his Bachelor of Education degree in that course in the Second Class Upper Division in 1982. In August of 1982, he took up a Federal Civil Service appointment in Lagos as an Administrative Officer Grade VIII.

He worked in several Federal Ministries and Extra-Ministerial Departments, which included the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Works and Housing, National Boundary Commission, Solid Minerals Development; Communication, Transport, Defence and the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the

Federation from where he retired on the rank of Deputy Director in June, 2012.

AWARDS:

John Jibò Idákwóji, has during his service to the nation earned for himself the appellation of '**The man with the golden pen**'. The crowning glory of his career as a Federal Civil Servant was the historic articulation of a Federal Executive Council Memorandum, in 2002, which, upon approval, led to the delivery of the *Global System for Mobile (GSM) Telephony* in Nigeria for the very first time.

He has also been saddled with the following assignments which he implemented and executed to the best of his ability during his service year.

- (i) The Special Military Tribunal (SMT) for the Recovery of Public Property, Enugu Zone, in 1984;
- (ii) Secretariat of Justice Okuribido Panel on all Contracts Awarded in the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing Between 1979 and 1983;
- (iii) Communique-Drafting duties performed during all the international meetings he attended, some of which are listed below.

He was a member of the Editorial Board of: ***The Helmsmen***, a Federal Ministry of Transport publication on the Ministry's History and the Profiles of all the Federal Ministers and Ministers of State that have served it since its inception in 1952.

As a diplomat, he has been engaged in quite a number of international duty tours to at least fourteen countries of the world, which included: United Kingdom, Kenya, United States of America, Ethiopia, France, Cameroon, Mexico, Chad, Turkey, Equatorial Guinea, Switzerland, Malaysia, South Korea and indeed South Africa.

PUBLICATIONS:

1. Editor, *Iroko Magazine*, Our Lady of Schools Teachers College, Anyigba

(1972).

2. Editor, *The Eagle Magazine*, Students Union of the ATC/ABU, Kano (1975 – 1978).
3. Author, *Learners Pictorial Igala-English Word-Book*, Kigala Publishing and Productions Limited, 1992; Reprinted 1993.
4. As a lexicographer, he published two life-time books, namely:
 - (a) ***An Igala-English Word-Book*** (1992; Reprinted 1993).
 - (b) ***An Igala-English Lexicon: A Bilingual Dictionary of Igala Language, History, Culture and Priest-Kings***, published by Partridge Publishing Singapore, February, 2015. (The book, which took him a total of 33 years of conscientious research, is available worldwide in ten online bookstores, including Amazon.com, E-Bay.com, Barnes & Noble.com, etc.).

As a researcher and intellectual of high prestige, he has also empowered himself through series of Courses While in Service. These includes: Data Processing and Analysis, Council Memorandum Writing, Leadership Challenges for Quality Service Delivery and; Computer Applications and Management Information System.

In 2018, he started an online blog, titled: **Kigala-Online**, via the link: **kigalaonline.wordpress.com** – a site exclusively dedicated to instructions in Igala language, culture history and heritage. He runs a consultancy outfit under the name: **Aardvark Specialised Services Limited**, which offers services such as high-profile writing and editing for public and private sector interests.

loves Reading, Creative Writing, Music, Watching Soccer. John Jibò Idákwóji is married to Mrs. Ásàna Patricia Idákwóji with four boys, who are now men in their own right.



HE, ALHAJI
YAHAYA
ADOZA BELLO,
GOVERNOR
OF KOGI
STATE

DR. SALISU OGBO USMAN

FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE JUSTIFIES BELLO'S CHOICE

Onoja J. Okpanachi

In a sane clime, quest for development knows no tribal or religious barriers or divides but capacity based on knowledge and skills. Development naturally draws people of different backgrounds and affiliations together; it brings them to the same table because it's about a common goal for the good of all concerned.

Just few months ago Kogi State Polytechnic experienced a change of guard that "shocked" many people – such shock is not unusual in Kogi State though as almost every occurrence or decision taken in the state are always laced with political undertone and the very unfortunate side of this "political undertone" is powered by tribal sentiments and in some instances, religious too. It's in this view that many attacked the person of His Excellency, Governor Yahaya Bello of bringing on board an Igala man instead of his tribesman to head the state tertiary institution, Kogi State

Polytechnic, Lokoja. This criticism was so heavy to the point that if one listens to some critics of the governor on this decision, a conclusion would easily be drawn tagging him a "sell-out" to his people as they feel that he (The Governor) should be filling in his tribesmen (Ebiras) at the helms of affairs in the state. This is however the unfortunate reality in our dear state today. It will take true development to begin to change this ugly orientation.

Today, in just 100 Days (as at Thursday, July 16, 2020) in charge of Kogi State Polytechnic, Dr. Salisu Ogbo Usman's "magical" achievements have dramatically changed these varying negative opinions on who should be the head of the institution from tribal focus to capacity; his achievements have brought such a developmental change to Kogi Poly to the extent that tribal apologists now are confessing that headship



KOGI STATE POLYTECHNIC, LOKOJA

should be based on capacity and leadership skills as against their initial myopic considerations.

The display of quality leadership by Dr. Salisu Ogbo Usman is a clear justification of the choice made by Governor Yahaya Bello to bring him on board as the Acting Rector of Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja. He has demonstrated such leadership quality that has really exposed and challenged many others that dwelling on excuses shows their own inabilities or lack of creativity to perform in their tasks. Dr. Ogbo's outstanding performance has set a standard and going into the future, leadership performance in the institution will be measured by his achievements and the time frame of delivery.



The Rectors' achievements can be viewed or categorised into four (4) major areas; Conducive Learning/ Working Environment, Security, Health and Sports. And, for the staff and management of the institution, it's a new dawn for them and they are now inspired to do more as they are being provided the right leadership. Below is a list of his achievements so far as many are still coming.



DR. SALISU USMAN OGBO, THE RECTOR, KOGI STATE POLYTECHNIC

INFRASTRUCTURES

1. Construction of modern security house.
2. Rebuilding of the broken fences.
3. Provision of drainage system in front of Korea Institute and the 2nd gate to control erosion.
4. Landscaping and campus beautification.
5. Provision of Railing from the entrance gate to the campus for security, campus beautification and against environmental degradation.
6. Remodelling, Renovation and Conversion of the old library to a standard medical centre.
7. Floor overlay and complete renovation of the 500-seat lecture theatre.
8. Complete maintenance and renovation of LTA and LTB.
9. Renovation of Wood Workshop.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Construction and Furnishing of Academic/ Administrative Staff Office Block.
- Construction and Furnishing of Studios and Exhibition Halls for School of Art, Design and Printing.



PHARM. ASUKU, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE GOV. OF KOGI STATE



DR. Usman Ogbo With Haj. Halima Alfa



DR Usman Ogbo Rubbing Minds With The PRO Of The Polytechnic



- Construction and Furnishing of Classrooms, Studios and Offices for School of Environmental Technology.
- Construction of 200-Seat Capacity Twin Lecture Theatre.
- Construction and Furnishing of Laboratory and Workshop Building for School of Applied Sciences.
- Construction and Furnishing of School of Sciences.
- Procurement and Installation of Furniture and Water Storage Facilities for School of Sciences.
- Landscaping.
- Provision of 15 laptops.

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Restoration of internet facility on campus after 5 years.
- E-Learning
- Production of maiden edition of the Annual Report.
- Review of students' information Handbook
- Provision of new statement of result template with additional security features against falsification.

ADMINISTRATION

- Collective decision approach via committee system, (so far, almost 30 committees have been constituted and results turned in and implementation within 3months)
- Reorganization and Total overhauling of the registry staff via comprehensive posting.
- Setting up and establishment of Directorates and units within 3 months:
Legal Unit
Directorate of Servicom
Directorate of Advancement, Support and Linkages.
Directorate of Information Technology Resource Centre.
Directorate of Sports
- Strict Implementation of the special audit report by cutting down overhead cost in favour of capital expenditure.
- Blocking of leakages e.g reduction of ₦ 2,500 by DTHRIX to ₦ 1,500 same service delivery, same content.
- Enforcement of Discipline and giving everyone sense of belonging against the hitherto ethnic bias and giving everyone sense of discipline.
- Encouraging and utilization of internal experts for optimal result and self-development.
- Provision of maiden Kogi State Polytechnic Bulletin.

- Striking gender balance and equal opportunities for all irrespective of tribe, gender and ethnic lining.
- Changing from 3-shift model to 2-shift model service at the security unit as a model or template for others to emulate.
- Town and Gown relationship with Royal Fathers, first of its kind.

STAFF WELFARE

1. Paid Inherited 2-months' salary of casual and contract staff.
2. Paid over 4million naira inherited electricity bill thereby creating almost 24hours of power supply on campus.
3. Paid over Nine (9) million naira inherited School of Management Studies Part-time evening class allowances to staff.
4. Paid over Two (2) million naira inherited, School of Applied Science evening class allowance to Staff.
5. Paid over Four (4) million inherited post-utme allowance.
6. Conducive office atmosphere especially those in the security unit.



OUR CURRENT EFFORT AHEAD OF OUR SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE

1. Negotiation for completion of the stalled students hostel renovation project through public private partnership.
2. Payment of arrears of promotion of staff from 2016-2019 for which proposal has been submitted to the government.
3. E-Governance, Restoration of JAMB CBT Centre on Campus.
4. Establishment of school of Agricultural Technology at Itakpe.
5. Preparation for the resumption of students.
6. Stringent measures against arbitrary and exploitative forcing of students to buy textbooks.
7. ICT Driven Admission.

STUDENT WELFARE

- Approved over two (2) million naira for the Student Union Government (SUG) to buy vehicles to run their administration.
- Financial support to NAKOSS Administration.
- Zero tolerance for Insecurity, Cult and Cult Related Activities by demolishing the suspected base of the cultist on the campus and environs.



HE, The Deputy Governor Of Kogi State



Hon. Speaker, Kogi State House Of Assembly



Hon. Deputy Speaker, Kogi State House Of Assembly (R)



The Vibrant Rector, Dr. Usman Ogbo On The Move





HEALTH



SECURITY



BEAUTIFICATION





THE WEDDING CEREMONY OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, ONU IGALA KARU/JIKWOI AND OGA ATTAH IGALA

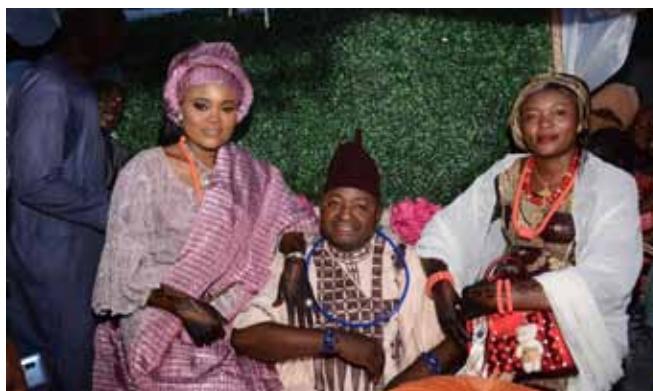
ALHAJI ABDULSAMAD T. MUSA AND MALAMA ZUWERA SANI

The life we live is an investment. We get in return whatever we put into it. Such was the return on investment for His Royal Highness, Alhaji Abdulsamad T. Musa, Onu Igala Karu/Jikwoi and his lovely wife when they were joined together in marriage according to traditional and Islamic rites on 28th and 29th of August respectively.

The ceremonies took place respectively at Alhaji Tenimu's Compound, No. 20, Lagos Street, Ankpa and No 1, Taiwo Road, Ankpa all in Ankpa Local

Government Area of Kogi State with massive turn out of people and high profile personalities both from the home front and Abuja to honour them as the groom, Alhaji Abdulsamad is constantly in the act of showing great love and dedication to the service of his people and all activities that concern them. He has shown commitment hence the kind of love he receives.

The ARISE IGALA Team was on ground and here are some of the moments captured for your viewing pleasure.







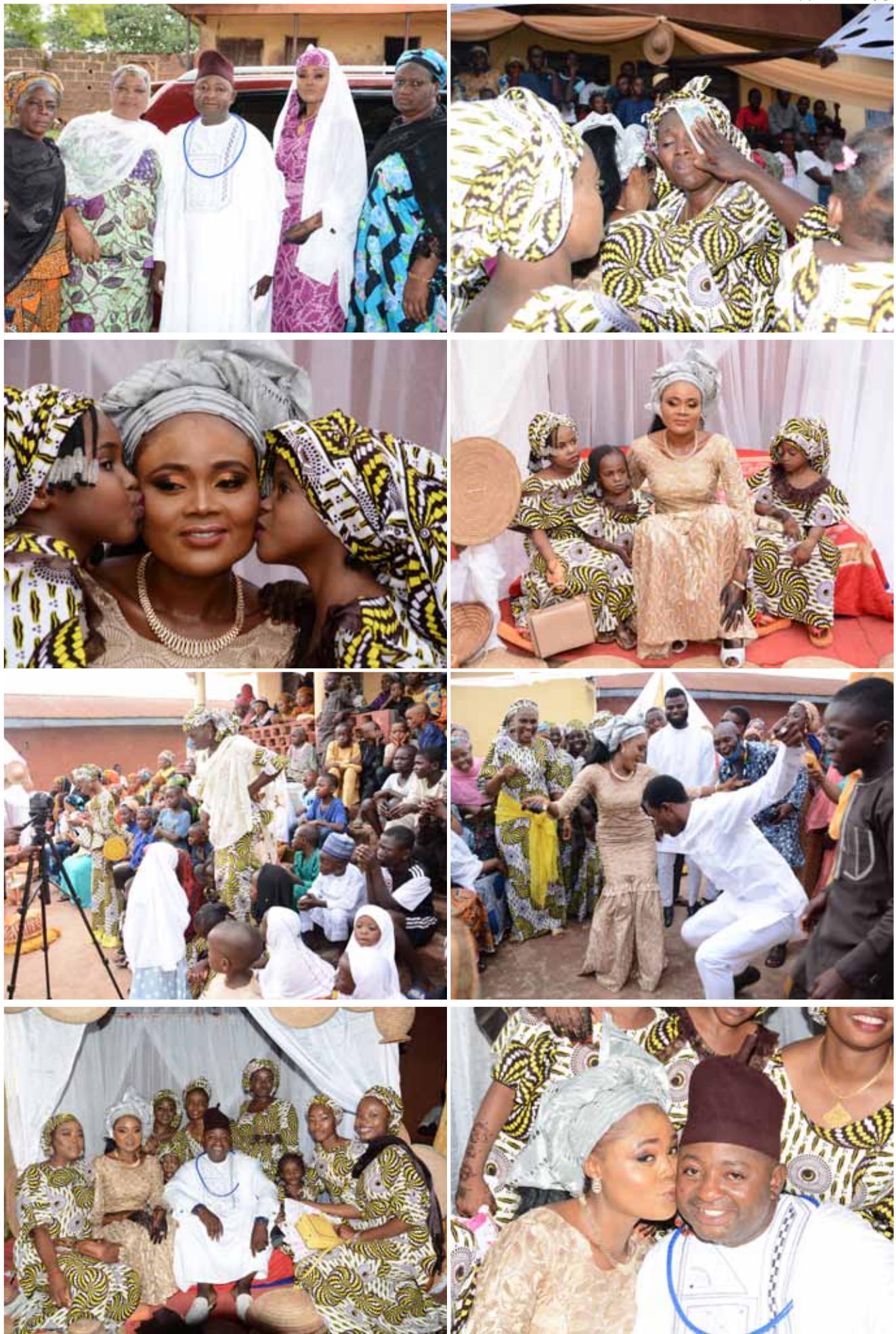






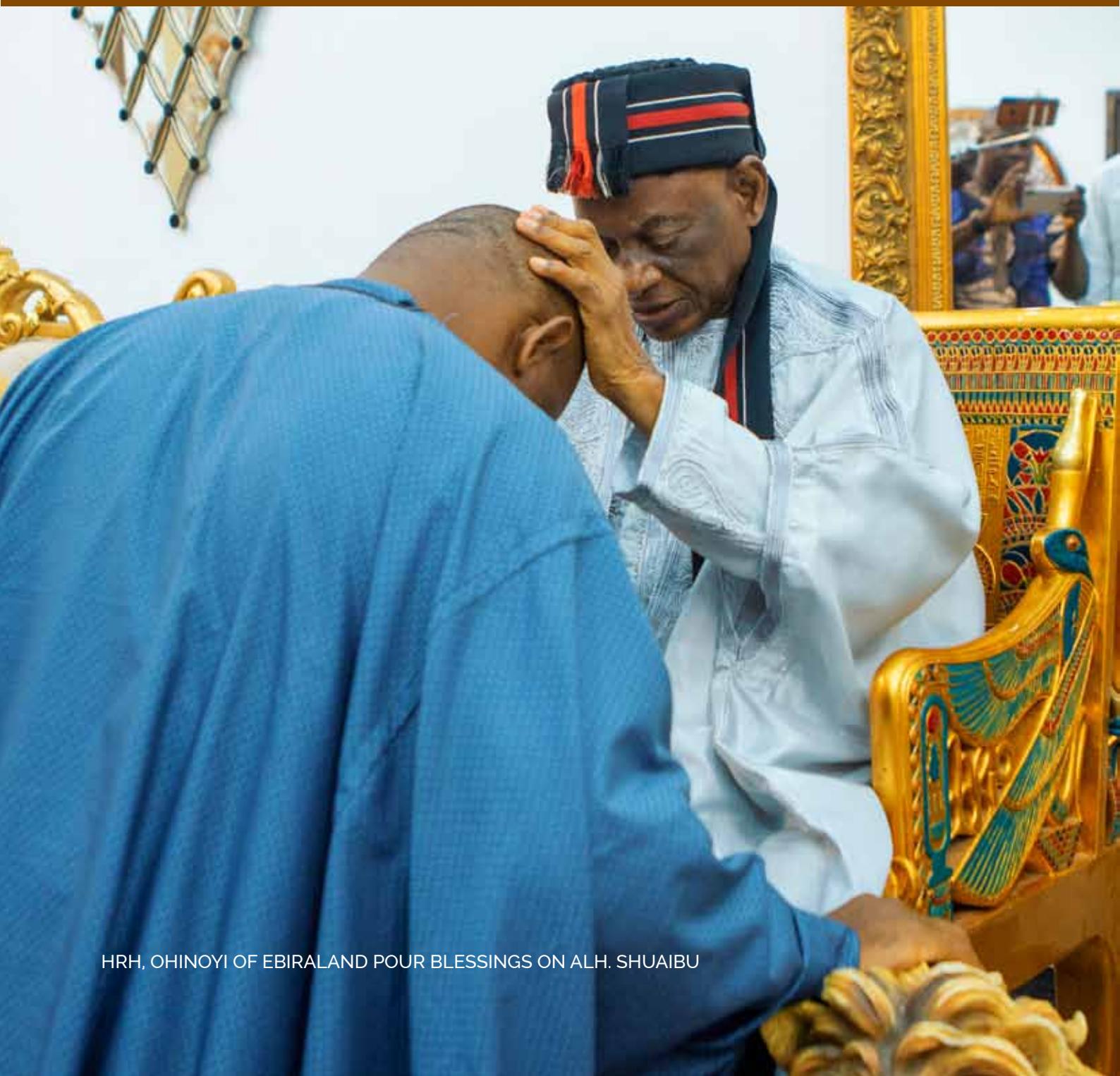
WEDDING





ALHAJI SHUAIBU ABUBAKAR AUDU

TOUCHING LIVES AT THE GRASSROOTS



HRH, OHINOYI OF EBIRALAND POUR BLESSINGS ON ALH. SHUAIBU

Alhaji Shuaibu Abubakar Audu is an Executive Director at Stanbic IBTC, the leading Investment Banking Group in Nigeria and West Africa. Stanbic IBTC is part of the Standard Bank Group, which is the biggest and largest bank in Africa in terms of assets and profitability. Standard Bank Group is an international bank that operates in 20 African countries including Nigeria through Stanbic IBTC and has over 20,000 staff members. Stanbic IBTC is responsible for hosting one of the largest gathering of foreign investors in Nigeria through the Investors Conference held annually. Stanbic IBTC Bank is also one of the Banks that processes the largest inflows of Foreign Direct Investments

into Nigeria. Therefore, Alhaji Audu is very versed and seasoned at hosting and discussing with investors that channel Foreign Direct Investments into Nigeria.

Alhaji Audu holds a Master's degree from the University of Oxford, UK. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Economics from University of Leicester, UK and an MSc. in International Securities, Investment & Banking from the ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading, UK. He attended Secondary School at both Igbinedion Education Centre, Benin City, Edo State and Command Secondary School, Kaduna State.



Alhaji Audu has close to 20 years extensive Investment Banking experience in Treasury/Global Markets, Venture Capital, Proprietary and Principal Investments; and Investment Management expertise in both the pension and non-pension businesses of Stanbic IBTC. He used to be the Head of the Investment Management division of the Company where he was responsible for formulating and executing investment strategies for the

several portfolios managed by Stanbic IBTC. He was also the pioneer Head of Investment Management at Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers Limited. As an Executive Director in Stanbic IBTC, Alhaji Audu currently oversees the Investment Management and Proprietary and Principal Investments' portfolios of the Company. He is also a Director of multiple subsidiaries within the Stanbic IBTC Group and has broad experience across the Group.

This young and visionary executive after a very diligent research and consultations, has designed a special means of giving back to his people through his SHUAIB ABUBAKAR AUDU FOUNDATION (SAU Foundation). This act of giving back is unlike the regulars which stay far from the people and then decide what to give them as they deemed important but instead, they went down to the grassroots, finding out what the people truly need and as such, the SAU Foundation kicked off the first phase of its community service with provision of 21 boreholes to selected communities across the 21 Local Government Areas in Kogi State.

So, on Monday, August 17, 2020, the young Alhaji Shauib Abubakar Audu on arriving Lokoja received a heroic reception with many carrying placards,

inviting him for a gubernatorial race but he quickly addressed that as he let the people to know that his mission is clear – charity, community service, giving back and politics is far from it but if God says through the people it will be a different thing but until then, he pleaded that people should support him in delivering clean potable water to the various identified communities across the 21 Local Government Areas of Kogi State.

On Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 10:43am the journey to handing over of some of the motorized boreholes commenced from Lokoja and the first call was made at the palace of HRH, Ohinoyi of Ebiraland. He (Alhaji Shauib) arrived at the Ohinoyi Palace at 1:00pm and their private meeting ended at 1:39pm in his inner chamber after which the royal father, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim blessed him as



HRH, OHINOYI OF EBIRALAND PRAYS FOR HIM AGAIN, OUTSIDE



WITH HRH, OHINOYI OF EBIRALAND, ALH. ADO IBRAHIM

a father would bless a very good child. From the Ohinoyi Palace, he proceeded to Palace of Ohi of Adavi. Arriving there at 2:01pm, HRH, Alhaji Mohammed Ireyi Bello received him and equally blessed him after appreciating his good works. Then he left for the commissioning of the Motorized Borehole situated at Enesi District of Nagazi-Uvete in Adavi Local Government Area.

After the commissioning at Nagazi-Uvete at 2:55pm, Alhaji Shuaib and his team proceeded to the palace of Obaro of Kabba same day. Arriving at the Obaro of Kabba palace at 3:43pm, the palace led by the Oba welcomed him and blessed him for his good works. From the palace he moved to where the Motorized borehole was situated in Odolu Community, Kabba. The Owe Youth Association received him in a

very organized manner at 4:16pm and after various presentation of cultural performances and speech, the motorized borehole was commissioned at 4:45pm and from there he moved the palace of the Oba of Odolu for a royal blessing and from there returned to Prince Abubakar Audu's GRA Residence in Lokoja at 6:30pm.

Alhaji Shuaib Abubakar Audu from the Day One trip showed he is a very good manager of time and people. The same managerial skill (in time and people) he demonstrated while he visited Ogbonicha in Ofu Local Government Area (his home town) and Emewe Efopa in Dekina Local Government Area where he also commissioned motorized boreholes on Thursday, August 20, 2020 and Friday, August 21, 2020 respectively.



WITH HRH, OHINOYI OF EBIRALAND, ALH. ADO IBRAHIM



WITH HRH, OHINOYI OF EBIRALAND, ALH. ADO IBRAHIM



HON. DAVID IDRIS ZACHARIAS

(Ugbono of Igala Kingdom, CIK)

Honourable Member Representing Idah/Ibaji/Ofu/Igalamela/Odolu Federal Constituency, House of Representative, National Assembly



HON. DAVID IDRIS ZACHARIAS LIFTING UP HIS AWARD OF HONOUR

In the Holy Scriptures of the Christian faith, Jesus made it very clear that "he who wants to lead others must be ready to serve". He did this when he first washes the feet of the twelve. People who grow with this scriptural injunction and mentality have often shown passion, empathy and sympathy in meeting the needs of others, especially the vulnerable and less privileged. One of such scriptural students is Hon. David Idris Zacharias. For him politics in every face should be about the people. Politics in its nature is a sacred venture which allows people of conscience do the

will of God through the instrumentality of governance by way of using God's provision to affect humanity positively. One of such persons who has keyed into the biblical injunction of using leadership position to be a blessing to others is Honorable David Idris Zacharias, the member representing Idah, Ibaji, Igalamela/ Odolu and Ofu at the House of Representatives.

Hon. David Idris Zacharias fondly called "Sente", National by others, was born into the humble community of Ejule, Igalogba District in Ofu Local Government Area



of Kogi State on the 27th December, 1972. As peasant as his parents were, they still had the orientation that western education was imperative to the formation of their children; hence he was enrolled for his primary education at the St. Martins Primary School, Ejule from 1978 to 1983.

Hon. David Idris Zacharias through hard work was able to save enough and proceeded to Community Secondary School, Ejule, Aloji Community Secondary and finally community secondary school, Alla-Ejima all between 1989 - 1994 where he obtained his Senior Secondary



School Certificate. Burning with great desire, enthusiasm, and passion with high competitive spirit to acquire more knowledge, Zacharias sort for admission while working and gained same at the University of Abuja, Abuja where he bagged a Bachelors of Science, (B.Sc)

in Sociology through rigorous learning process.

His political journey started in 2011 with the Peoples' Democratic Party, PDP and in 2014, he contested for the position of House Representatives under the umbrella

party, but was not successful at the primaries. He was still resolute that the people wanted him; hence, he joined the All Progressives Congress and came out successful both at the primaries and the general elections. Before this time, Zacharias was under the political tutelage of our late political hero, Prince Abubakar Audu where he served, ran several political errands, learnt the act of service and was properly tutored what it means to hold political office especially in Igala land.

He was at some point the MD/CEO, Eden Multibiz Project Limited, an African Property Firm which has delivered several quality homes to many Nigerians, private and cooperative organizations. He was also a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Maina Court Facility Management Services Limited and Dazach Ventures.

His passion for humanity, the down trodden, less privilege, orphans, widows, physically challenged, specially gifted persons and the vulnerable is legendary. His call to become a positive helper to these sets of people led him to answering the call of God some years back which gave birth to his charity foundation- DAVID ZACHARIAS FOUNDATION, a non-governmental cum non-profit humanitarian organization that is out to salvage the pitiable but deplorable living conditions of the socially and economically disadvantaged persons in the society. He is still serving as President and founder of the David Zacharias Foundation, an NGO with thousands of people been empowered in various ways.

Hon. David Idris Zacharias is a member of the House Committees on: Information and National Orientation; Appropriation; Ecological fund Defence; Industry; Internally disposed Persons, IDP; Local Content; Internal security; Vice Chairman 2020 Appropriation subcommittee on Agriculture, Water Resources, Collages and Service institutions, Public petition and



Treaties, protocol and agreements.

A Bill for an act for the establishment of Federal Collage of Education, Technical to be domiciled in Alloma, Ofu local government has passed first reading awaiting the second reading. Also, a Bill for an act to establish the Federal Eye Center at Ogbonicha for the prevention, treatment and cure of eye defects and disease and to establish academic board that would take charge of the center's academic affair.

Of all the political office holders currently serving from Kogi state, David Zacharias was the first to flag off his constituency programme in 2020 where hundreds of constituents were empowered in various vocational schemes running into millions. His prompt and timely intervention gave him a new name by the Deputy Governor



of Kogi State, His Excellency, Chief Edward Onoja as "Pace setter". Godly politician". He awarded scholarship to children of physically challenged person across private and government owned institutions in Idah federal constituency. Empowered market women across some markets in the constituency running into millions of naira through random donation of starter-cash to informal traders. Dogged boreholes within one year in office to ease water challenges at Ejule, Ibaji, Idah and Igalamela/Odolu local governments. Currently, eighty (80) constituents are undergoing vocational training in various choiced areas across and outside the constituency with a view to establishing them upon completion of their training.

The style with which he uses to communicate his visions for his

constituency clearly shows creativity, empathy, charity and consistency. His quality of problem solving especially that which has to do with the downtrodden, vulnerable and less privileged is ingenious.

Zacharias can be said to be charitable to a fault. If you ask him why, be sure of this response from him "My Destiny is to care for others and doing as the spirit directs". Just like the renowned clergyman, Bishop David Abioye said, "Servant hood is helping others to rise. If you don't raise others, you will soon be erased". In order to remain relevant in his legislative assignment for the constituents, Hon David Idris Zacharias has resolved to live for the people and ensure that their challenges are brought to the fore for national attention.

OCHOLI YUSUF OKPANACHI

(DON PABLO)
BUSINESSMAN AND PHILANTHROPIST



OCHOLI YUSUF OKPANACHI -DON PABLO WITH HIS IGALA MERIT AWARD AS
RECOGNITION FOR HIS GROWING CONTRIBUTIONS

Ocholi Yusuf Okpanachi (Don Pablo) has demonstrated good heart towards community development and people's upliftment. This goes to show that he is a grateful soul to God Almighty who has blessed him with whatever he has today being a child who rose through the very lows of life with many challenges confronting him while growing up.

His story remained such a touching one but he is rewriting everything now with his good heart in appreciation to the Almighty One who enabled him to escape the pang of poverty. His willingness to see others grow to become successful is unimaginable. He is of the strong opinion that anyone with determination can be successful if given the chance and enabling environment. He is a testament and he is not holding back to support wherever he can.

It is in view of this mindset that he has been practically involved in supporting communities with projects ranging from road constructions to basic home needs like foods, water and toiletries amongst many others. He has a well-structured platform through which he runs the annual **Face**





of Success Beauty Pageant.

Through the beauty pageant, talents are discovered and provided with basic supports including salaries for one year so to enable them embark on Social, Charity and Community services within the period of their reigns. His foundation, **Wave of Success Foundation** is gradually becoming a household name that's distinguishing itself in support for young talents.

To encourage him and equally inspire many other young Igala Chaps all over the world, The Igala Cultural and Development Association (ICDA) honoured him with a title as UGBONO OF IGALA KINGDOM in the order of Commander of Igala Kingdom (CIK) on August 1, 2020 at Igala Unity House, Anyigba, Kogi State.







"By the year 2045 and beyond, we see a very strong Igala nation that will be playing major roles in Nigeria economically and politically.

We are the **VISION**
Building Our **FUTURE**.

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are taking their place of pride thereby triggering the
restoration of our lost glory"**

**AGABAIDU (DR) IDAKWO AMEH OBONI II, D Sc, JP
Attah Igala**



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