



ISSN: 2141-7423 | ISSUE 45
NIG. N1000 | USA \$10.00 | UK 5.00
JULY-AUGUST, 2018



BU-FA 2018

**IGALA HOUSE: REASONS
FOR CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA'S EFFORTS**

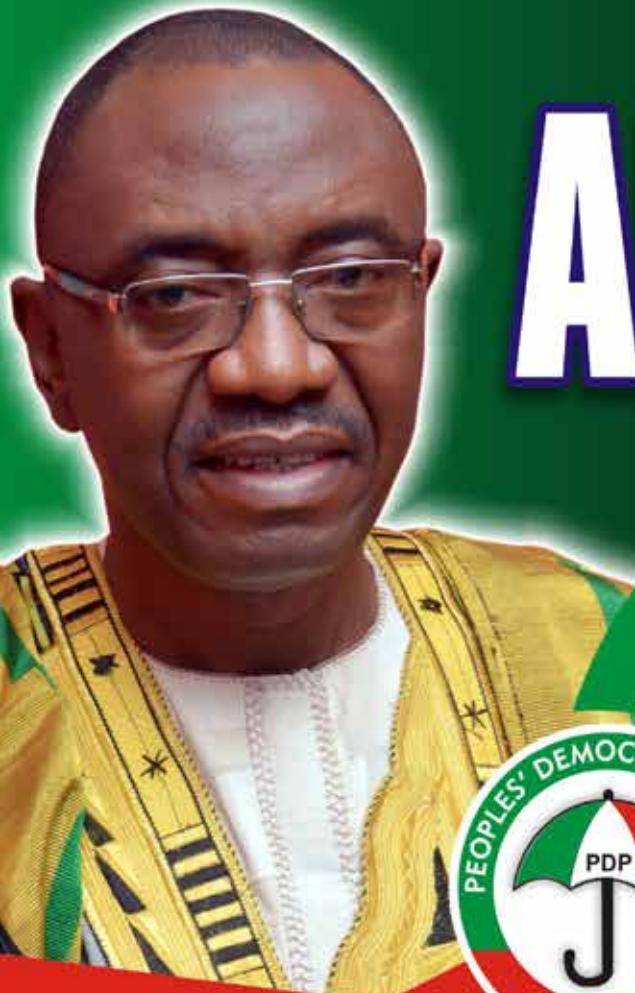
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
CHIEF OGWU J. ONOJA, SAN IS REVIVING
THE DYING IGALA SPIRIT**



OCHO FESTIVAL

THE HUNTING FESTIVAL OF UNITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

CELEBRATE • INSPIRE • CHALLENGE



ARIDA 2019



- VIROLOGIST
- RESEARCHER
- ENTREPRENEUR
- DEVELOPMENT WORKER
- PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST

*Let's take back our
Federal Constituency*

Dr. Ali Onoja, Ph.D **VOTE**

**AS MEMBER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTING ANKPA/OMALA/OLAMABORO,
FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY, KOGI STATE**



HIV/AIDS RESEARCH AMONG ARTISANS IN OMALA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (2010)



DR. ALI ONOJA WITH FOUNDATION STAFF OF FATHER THERESA MOTHER TERESA CLINIC



DR. ALI ONOJA AT THE SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR HEALTH RESPONSE TO HIV/AIDS IN NIGERIA, SPONSORED BY UNAIDS (2008)



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AT MALIJOCHI IDP CAMP, AFRICA, SPONSORED BY UNEP (2008)



DR. ALI ONOJA WITH TEAM OF MISSIONARIES THAT BAOT HIZ CENTRAL OSAKA (2007)



DR. ALI ONOJA WITH HER EXCELLENCY, VALERIE DZABE BRAHIMI, CHIEF OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF HUMANITARIAN AND AFRICAN HEALTH OFFICE AT OSAKA IN JAPAN (2011)



BENEFICIATION OF OMALA FEDERAL GRANT FINANCIALS AT OMALA GUTHI SPONSORED BY THE WORLD BANK



COLLABORATION ON HIV/AIDS RESEARCH AT ABOKWELA GENERAL HOSPITAL, AKWAIBEA (2005)

FACE OF INIKPI

OMA UFEDO ATA



FULL NAME:
Patience Ojonugwa
Egwaba

NATIVE TOWN:
Odeke, Ibaji LG

CURRENT RESIDENCE
FCT, Abuja

OCCUPATION:
Student/Model

FAVOURITE IGALA FOOD:
Oje oskapa kpai obo-egwa

LIKES:
Recreation, new discovery, transparency

DISLIKES:
unfaithfulness,
unnecessary stress

IGALA ROLE MODEL:
Stephen Achemba and
Inikpi

DREAM FOR IGALALAND:
That the Igala people will think more of themselves and strive to have better social relations and nation building enthusiasm.

PHONE NUMBER:
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ONOJA RUTH OJONE (MRS.) The Senior Vice President, Onoja Dreams Network Limited

CONGRATULATION TO THE FAMILY OF
PROFESSOR M.S. ABDULKADIR
THE VICE CHANCELLOR, KOGI STATE UNIVERSITY, ANYIGBA

The daughter of Professor Mohammed Sanni Abdulkadir, the Vice Chancellor of Kogi State University, Anyigba, Dr. Rahilat Lami Abdulkadir was joined with her lovely husband, Mr. Umar Olayinka Yusuf in Kano on Saturday, July 28, 2018.

The wedding Fatiha between Dr. Rahilat Lami Abdulkadir and Mr. Umar Olayinka Yusuf was at Bayero University Old Campus Mosque Kano. The engagement which took place a day before was at Meena Event Center, Lounge Road, Kano and Reception followed at the glamorous Afficent Event Centre, Sultan Road, Kano.

The wedding attracted lots of dignitaries who graced the occasion - On the list are the Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Professor Stephen Ocheni and wife; Her Excellency, Hajiya Halima Wada; Alhaji Umaru Abdulkadir; Representative of Her Excellency, Barrister (Mrs) Amina Bello; Chief Ogah representing the Deputy Governor of Kogi State, Elder Simeon Achuba; Ohiogba of Mozum representing His Royal Majesty the Attah of Igala; Justice Hussein Baba Yusuf; AIG Abdul Salami Iyaji; Alhaji Usman Kansilla; Sarkin Karaye, Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Abubakar 11; Chief Amina Osage from Detroit USA; Professor Adam Ahmed, Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of Council, KSU; Dr and Mrs Abubakar Adama; Principal Officers and Staff from KSU; Vice Chancellor, Bayero University, Kano Professor Yahuza Bello; Alhaji Ahmadu; Professor Sunday Atawodi; Professor Emily Alemika; Senator Abdul Abubakar; Justine Yunusa Musa; Members of Igala Elite Forum, Kano; Alhaji Razak Oketekpe; Provost College of Education, Ankpa; Alhaji Yakubu Akor; Alhaji Dauda Sani; Imam Salman; Professor Yakubu Azare; Professor Ibraheem Khaleel Abdussalam.

Also, colleagues from History Department, and other units and departments, Bayero University, Kano; Mrs Umaru representing the Commissioner of Education, Science and Technology, Kogi State; Representatives from Dekina led by Alhaji Musa Masco; Dekina Town Union members among many others. The event was indeed a memorable one.



The Bride, Dr. Rahilat Lami Abdulkadir



The Couple



Some diginitaries, family and friends with the couple

At the engagement; Prof. Mohammed Sanni Abdulkadir and lovely wife, Hajiya Aishatu Abdulkadir



At the reception after the wedding fatiha; Prof. Mohammed Sanni Abdulkadir and lovely wife, Hajiya Aishatu Abdulkadir

L-R; Prof. M.S. Abdulkadir and the Honorable Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Prof. Stephen Ikanni Ocheni



The Couple



L-R; Prof. M.S. Abdulkadir and HRH, Ohiogba of Mozum Kingdom



The Beautiful Bride



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IN ARISE IGALA MAGAZINE (ISSN: 2141-7423)

Published by ONOJA DREAMS NETWORK LIMITED(RC 868974)

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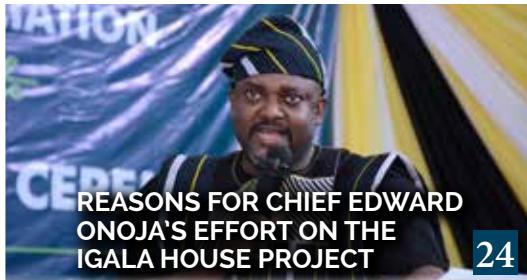
OCHO FESTIVAL

THE HUNTING FESTIVAL OF UNITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

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PRODUCTION

ARISE IGALA MAGAZINE (ISSN: 2141-7423) is published by ONOJA DREAMS NETWORK LIMITED (RC
868974),

ABUJA: C29, MIB Plaza, First Avenue, Gwarinpa, F.C.T. | LOKOJA: C/O NUJ Press Centre, Lokoja.

+234 (0)803 698 0602, (0)805 663 0751, (0)803 968 1501

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VISION MISSION

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

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.



“

“Many years ago, the colonialist, having realised how powerful we were, imposed alien culture on us and decimated our rich and colourful culture. These colonialists are since gone. We cannot continue to blame them for our woes and failures. Let us begin to rebuild what the colonialists have destroyed. Let us not allow our land to degenerate further, culturally. It is now time to restore all that have been stolen, and to erect the collapsed walls and the dilapidated cultural edifices.

We must wake up to our responsibilities, individually and collectively”.

”

The quotation above is part of His Royal Majesty's Message to the 5th Edition of the Prestigious ARISE IGALA Leadership Awards & Lectures 2018 at the Ladi Kwali Hall, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja on Saturday, May 26, 2018.

Throw Back



THE MAKING OF ATA IGALA - MARCH, 2013

The day Agabaidu, Dr. Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II (then as AIDOKANYA) starts the traditional journey to UGWOLAWO for the commencement of the cultural rites of ascending the throne of ATA IGALA. He was led by our JUKUN brothers sent by **HRM, AKU UKA** from WUKARI reliving history



ONOJA J. OKPANACHI
PUBLISHER/CHIEF EDITOR

Surely, posterity will define us all

Truth today, truth always.

If it suits us yesterday and it was right then and suddenly, today, it feels very wrong because it doesn't suit us anymore still doesn't change the truth but just a proof that it's you who has changed either for good or bad. And, this is how we know if we are right or wrong but again accepting the reality is another truth that determines who is matured, honest and human in all ramifications. It's at a point like this that one engages his conscience in a very long argument of being guilty or not, finding all reasons just to suppress his own conscience - man!

Often, when we use the word "posterity" I wonder if we really understand it the way it is in the real sense. Our actions and the usage make me wonder even more as they make the meaning of the that word sounds like it's a thing that will eventually or somehow happen on its own in the future forgetting that it's the sum total of our own actions today that will be made plain for the future generations to judge - seeing clearly what we have left behind.

Yes, everyday of our lives is being recorded either we like it or not and as time tic-tac away the future will come to show how we have truly lived. Time will expose the consistencies and inconsistencies in our living - our total belief systems will be made plain - who we truly are in actions (not as we claim) will be made manifest and this is how some emerge in life as heroes,

celebrities, legends and icons while others will be everything opposite of their claims as time is a great revealer of the true nature of man.

So, what then should be the case as posterity will surely define us all?

Character, Character, Character... Character is what makes man. When all fail, including talents, contacts et al, check very well, its character (not the absence of talents or contacts) that would have led to the failure. Character is the real man. It's not what we pretend to be that make us but our character. So, if character makes man and man will surely be defined by posterity then we must therefore check our characters and query ourselves if our characters can carry us to our desired destinations. Our genuine answers will determine either we make changes or honed those characters for good.

Therefore, as we approach another political term and lots are already happening, may our engagements be genuine as we claim on the outside - may our love for the people and the land not be terminal - may our characters as expressed on the outside be same as on our inside - may posterity judge us right when the time comes because after all the hustles and bustles of life, we shall only return naked; we are leaving this world with nothing of all our belongings - bear this last line in mind.

Arise!

Politics of Defection and Nigeria's Democracy

Nigeria's democracy is about nineteen (19) years old. By Nigerian standard, a child of that age is qualified to vote, and if all things work in his favour, he should be a university student and in some rare cases, he can even be a graduate. However, at nineteen, the Nigerian democracy still walks around like a vagabond with no sense of direction.

One characteristic of our brand of democracy is that it is anchored on a colourless ideology. The political actors are more concerned about how to grab power than what to do with it. Lots of people are scheming and manoeuvring for power ascendancy but are never prepared for the responsibility that comes with power. But what is power without responsibility?

In recent time, there is no development in the political space that has exposed the phenomenal directionless of our democracy than the political party defections among political gladiators. Although democracy respects individual right to choose their political affiliations, when such right is expressed without known ideological consideration, then it is not out of place for right-thinking individuals to question or subject such right to public scrutiny.

As the 2019 elections are drawing closer, politicians are hatching their strategies by divorcing old brides, courting new suitors and reconciling with estranged partners, all with the sole aim of grabbing power. Although defection would help build strong opposition that would create a balance in the country's democracy by checking the excesses of the ruling party at any time, it should be noted that since the present defections are not driven by any known fundamental ideological consideration, there is a tendency that the opposition would still crumble in no distant time especially if the motive is not achieved. Even after the struggle, the opposition could still crumble, as the bond among political actors is not sustainable outside ideology.

Even though party defections are parts and parcels of democracy, ordinary Nigerians should not be oblivious of the fact that the current political actors are not defecting because of their genuine love for Nigerians. When the country was plunged into recession, no defections were witnessed. When fuel subsidy was "removed", with its intended and unintended consequences, no political actor defected. Also, there were no defections when children of the rich were clandestinely recruited to occupy sumptuous offices in the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Politicians themselves are the direct beneficiaries of defections, not ordinary Nigerians.

Political parties are indispensable components of a functional democracy. However, parties are primarily designed to function as an ideological movement. Thus, membership of a political party shouldn't be determined by the party's victory or defeat, but the founding ideologies of such party which define its mode of operation. However, party membership in Nigeria is about which party is winning and which one is losing. For instance, in 2015, several PDP heavyweights had pulled out of the party to form a faction which they called the New PDP (nPDP). They would all later use the division as an excuse for their defection into the then newly formed All Progressives Congress (APC). Many people believed that the movement was instrumental to APC winning the general election few months later. Today, it was first Reformed APC (rAPC) and now, mass defections as it happened in 2015. Would what befell PDP in 2015 befall APC in 2019? While tomorrow is full of uncertainties, clock is ticking away and it's ticking fast!! Let us rise to our responsibilities.

ARISE!!!

Nathan Oguche Emmanuel
Founding Managing Editor/Editor-At-Large
GSM: +234(0)703424249



OCHO FESTIVAL:

THE FESTIVAL OF HUNTING FOR UNITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

IGALA kingdom today is a typical example of how people can come together, live and make progress as one entity irrespective of their backgrounds. And, one of the historical cultural festivals that exemplifies that is OCHO. In the past before the abrupt interruption of the festival, people of Igala decent travel from far and near returning home for the festival as it helps in reinforcing our unity as a people who have agreed to live together in the land.

Today, Igala kingdom is on the path to great unity again as OCHO has been revived after over six decades of its ungodly ban by then colonial powers but thanks to the current administration of Kogi State Government who listened to the appeal of His Royal Majesty, Agabaidu Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II, Ata Igala and unbanned it. So, OCHO is back and the first (since its revival) was celebrated on Saturday, May 19, 2018 and it was great

memories brought back to life. OCHO will be a very great rallying point for the unity of Igala people and subsequent editions will grant the people quality opportunity to tap very well into all its good potentials.

With OCHO, genuine efforts will be made to bring all sons and daughters of the land to one common platform where interest of the land and her people will be on the front burner. It will be a modern way of harnessing our resources, contacts and knowledge while relying on the relevance and values of our culture as guides to build lasting peace thereby giving way to development in all fronts.

OCHO is back and it will do us good.

PHOTO CREDIT OttahGab Voice & Sounds



His Royal Majesty Attah Igala doing the Unity Hunting (Ocho)



CPC Chairman, Senator Ahmadu A. Ali, arrives at the venue of the Ocho at a place known as the airodrome, east of Idah town (8)

Attah after performing the Ocho by shooting the animal on target to signify a successful festival and blessings to the Igala nation



Etemahi Igalamela, HRH Abel Etuh and others at the OCHO ground



Royal Band performing to the admiration of the crowd at the OCHO ground



L-R: Senator Dr. Ahmadu A. Ali, The Ochada Attah Igala and Prof. Seidu Onailo Mohammed, Oga Attah Igala





Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN and the Alhaji Adama, the Secretary, Igala Area Traditional Council at OCHO



Some participants posing for shots with Senator Dr. Ahmadu A. Ali and Prof. Seidu Onailo Mohammed at OCHO



Senator Dr. Ahmadu A. Ali, the Ochada Attah with HRM, Attah Igala, Dr Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II at the OCHO as the later prepares for the HUNTING



Some executives of Igala Heritage Foundation led by their BOT Chairman, Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN pays homage to Ata Igala, Agabaidu before the HUNTING



L-R: Dr. Ottah Gabriel Alhassan, HRH, Ohiogba Mozum and Onoja J. Okpanachi



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN (l) exchanging pleasantries with some royal fathers

Igala legendary singer, Joseph Abu, performing



Guests paying homage to the Attah at the Ocho venue just before the hunting



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN at the event with the arrow and bow, ready for the occasion



L-R; Senator Dr. Ahmadu A. Ali, the Ochada Attah Igala and Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN, Agenyi Attah Igala at OCHO



Some participants at OCHO with Prince Ocholi Ameh (m) and Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN



A tourist taking shot of Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN at OCHO













. Chief Edward David Onoja, the chief of staff to the Executive Governor of Kogi State, he., Alhaji Yahaya Bello

HRH. Ogohi-Onu Anyigba breaking the kolanut

REASONS FOR CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA'S EFFORT ON THE IGALA HOUSE PROJECT

THE Igala Kingdom has suffered set back socio-culturally for many years now given the lack of definitive leadership of an umbrella body to direct and lead where and when necessary. Suddenly, claims and counter claims of which organization is the "umbrella" to stand and speak for the kingdom in times of need became a major challenge. And, unfortunately, instead of coming together (genuinely) to fix the challenges the situation degenerated to a very big blame game that one wonders if people are being paid or rewarded to pull down fellow brothers as they act on unguarded.

The situation however came to the climax last year (2017) and it was obvious that the only way to go then is to sit and fix the problem - this eventually led to the revival of the dying Igala Cultural and Development Association (ICDA) - ICDA is the oldest (of many Igala rooted organizations) in view of the modern Igala history and so, new board and executives were constituted with the royal blessings of His Royal Majesty, Dr. Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II, Agabaidu, Ata Igala and Chairman, Kogi State Council of Traditional Rulers.

Moving forward, the executives of the renewed ICDA, largely young men, swung

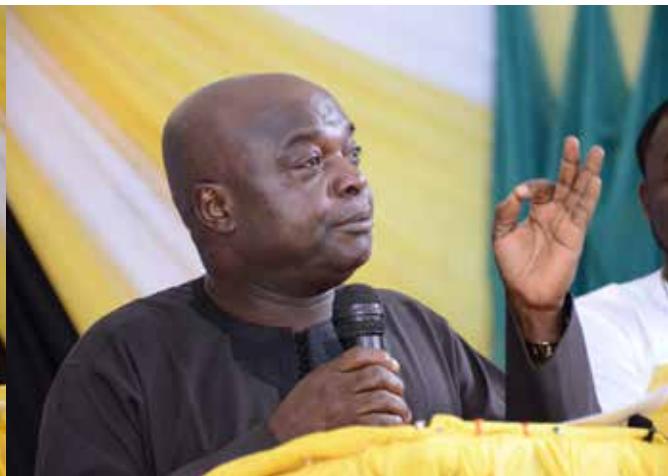
into action so to relaunch the ICDA's mission and to once again win the hearts of Igala people home and abroad. They kicked off with the ER'OLI CULTURAL CARNIVAL which was a good platform to bring our agricultural products (fruits based) to global market as they bring our farmers, buyers and other stakeholders together in a relax mood to chat the way forward.

Next, the new executives decided to visit the abandoned Igala House Project which was primarily designed to be a meeting point for the people in the economic hub of Igala Kingdom, Anyigba but has remained a mere historical site and unfortunately, a dumping site where all manner of dirts hipped. A call was made for the cleaning and visitations followed for the revival of the project and then came Dr. Moses Alidu Abu who led a prayer team there to pray and prophesy on the site. Thereafter, he (Dr. Moses) paid for the clearing of the site for a facelift as a start. The executives not resting at that point began to call for supports to revive the the Igala House hence, the fundraising event that brought Chief Edward Onoja into the current picture of the project.

Honourable Edward Onoja is the Chief of Staff to the Executive Governor of Kogi State and a son of Igala Kingdom who got



Hon. Tom Zekeri, representative of the Hon. Minister of State, Labour & Employment at the fundraising event



Prof. Sam Egwu, the guest speaker at the event

involved in the project when ICDA's Executives approached him for support. His involvement at a very high level at a point raised so many questions in the public even to the point of suspicion politically. Public opinion on one hand faults the manner which the ICDA Team went about the publicity before picking a date and eventually, every other details on the paper shows Chief Edward Onoja's control even as Alhaji Jibrin Isah (Echocho) who was just tipped (then) to run for Kogi East Senatorial office was made to Chair the fundraising - this moves of ICDA Team was largely why many illustrious sons and daughters of Igala Kingdom according to public opinion didn't turn up as they would have for fear of being turned into a "political rally".

To some, nothing is wrong with Chief Edward Onoja championing the cause using his contacts to bring to fruition the dream of the Igala House Project given the opportunity at his disposal today. People on this side of the argument are of the strong opinion that if through him funds can be raised to actualise that project then is an achievement for him and he would be remembered for that. And, for his politicking about the project, they also believed that it's normal for him to do so being a politician as he can only call and trust his allies to help him achieve his dreams for the Igala House Project.

Since the fundraising on Sunday, May 27, 2018, some of the pledges have been remitted and the foundation stone laying ceremony has been performed by Agabaidu, Dr. Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II, Ata Igala and construction already in progress.



Chief Edward Onoja surrounded by loyalists while making his commitment to the igala house project



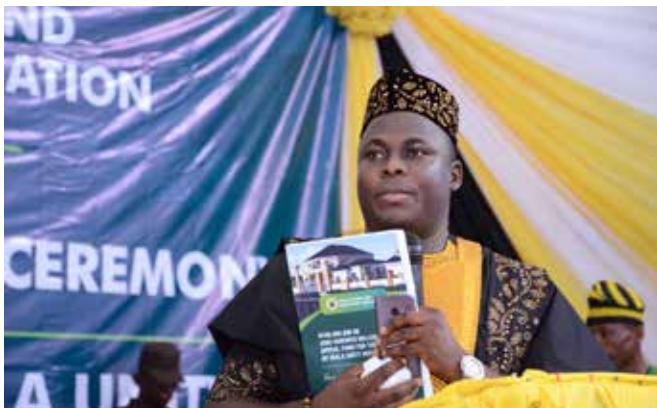
Prof. Mohammed Sanni Abdulkadir, the Vice Chancellor, Kogi State University, Anyigba



Hon. Hassan Baiwa, Member Representing Okura Constituency In Kogi State House Of Assembly



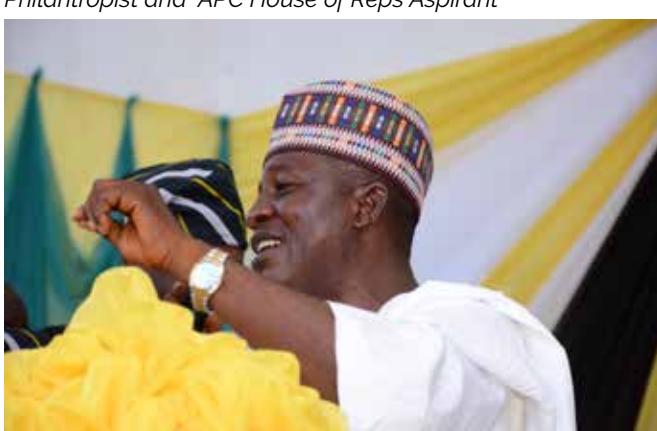
Alhaji Jibrin Isah (Echocho), Former PDP Guber candidate and now APC Kogi East Senatorial Aspirant



Amb. Friday Ojima Michael, Engineer, Inventor, Philanthropist and APC House of Reps Aspirant



Alhaji Linco Ocheje



Hon. Ibrahim Halims, APC House Of Reps Aspirant



Hon. David Zachariah, Businessman, Philanthropist and APC House of Reps Aspirant



Hon. Kolawole Mathew, Speaker Of Kogi State House Of Assembly

Alhaji Sadiq Abubakar, National President Of Icda (Middle-Standing) And Others Fixing Things At The Event.



Hon. Emmanuel Ojodunwene Isah And Crowd Appreciating The Support For The Igala House Project

ECHOCHO AND ADOJI SENATORIAL BID– A WIN-WIN REALITY

By ABDULLAHI O HARUNA HARUSPICE

FOR KOGI East, something good is in the offing, a flicking shine of light beckons as two illustrious sons of the soil are bringing forth themselves in service of father land. Alhaji Jibrin Isa Echocho is vying for the Kogi East senatorial slot, so also is Dr Victor Alewo Adoji, two brilliant wallpapers of Igala land. For the first time, Igala land is caught in the pleasurable dilemma of electing two worthy candidates to represent them on the hallowed chamber of the National Assembly. The people are torn between two marketable products; either way the pendulum swings, it is a win-win reality. It is going to be a case of no victor no vanquish.

In comparative strides, the two candidates share equal template of capacity. Coming from the domain of banking experience, the duo have in their kitties rich volume of prudent management experience. Measuring intellectualism, Victor is as brilliant as Echocho – with traced records of academic excellence in their dossier, the two contenders are overwhelmingly kitted with rich intellectual expansiveness.

Two folks with intimate link to their roots and ‘frontliners’ in the promotion of the igala identity run shoulder to shoulder in the profile of who is at home with the igala

project. Measuring who is more at home with the igala ideology amongst the duo is stretching elasticity to boundless limits. Echocho and Adoji are two ambassadors of the igala renaissance with emulating records of personal investments in the sustenance of Añé Igala. No cultural calls made without the involvement of our references – overtime, they have become doubtless icons of the Igala nation.

Igala sons and daughters became key players in the banking sector no thanks to the personal mentoring of Echocho and Adoji. The two literally brought banking to igala land by domesticating opportunities and prospects. These are remarkable traces of greatness; a philosophy anchored by ‘Jè bu geène jè mantra.

Two clean, urbane, and refined gentlemen running for the Kogi East Senatorial seat is a flicker of hope for Kogi state and by extension Nigeria, they are bringing to the race civility, ideas and marketable wares against past perennial template of ill-prepared usurpers. For Kogi East, it is a dawn of a pleasurable prospect. Wherever the pendulum swings, it is a plus and never a loss. Party identity won’t count here neither would unsolicited individual endorsements matter, the two personalities are sellable candidates for voters

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BU-FA 2018

It was a great joy for the royal family of Ogohi Ejule, HRH, Alhaji Prince Akwu A. Obaje as their lovely beautiful daughter, Fatima Omanibe Akwu Obaje was given out in marriage to her husband, Sylvester Onyebuchi Egbuche at Amanata's Compound, Ukwaja, Idah Local Government Area of Kogi State on Saturday, June 17, 2018.

The marriage ceremony was very colourful and was graced by many family members, friends and associates. The bride's colleagues from Zenith Bank Plc. (Lokoja Branch) were on ground in their number to support one of their very own.

Here are some of the beautiful moments captured by Birthright Photos, the official photographer of the event.

PHOTO CREDIT: Birthright Photo







The bride accompanied by her friends as she's out for the traditional round of greetings



Some of the colleagues of the bride on the front row

The groom, Buchi being showered with blessings

The groom greets some of the royal fathers at their marriage ceremony



Fatima takes the bowl of kolanuts as an acceptance of her lovely husband, Buchi



The bride, Fatima with some of her friends



The bride, Fatima with some of her friends as sets out



The couples with family members



The couple cut the cake showing their unity and doing things together



And, he feeds his lovely wife as a perfect gentle man

REDEFINING KOGI LEGISLATIVE HOUSE

GRACE
2019

An all INCLUSIVE,
TRANSPARENT,
VIBRANT &
PROACTIVE
Representation
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Chief Ogwu James Onoja, SAN is reviving the dying Igala spirit

THE PEOPLE of great Igala Kingdom has a very long history of communal efforts towards development of their area and their people as well. For the people, it's just natural to unite for the good of the land from their smaller units up to the larger scale; community levels and the entire kingdom as a whole.

Communal effort which has been more like a culture to the Igala man unfortunately is fading away, giving room to individualism where people now concentrate only on themselves and their immediate families and sometimes their extended families (when they care). This ugly development in recent times is one of the primary reasons our economic and even political charts are going downward, very negatively. Areas where we were known in the past as VERY STRONG, we are today, VERY WEAK and so on.

However, hope comes when individuals begin to realize that we must go back to embrace that 'old culture' that has brought us good in the past and can still do today. A good example of such is the effort of Chief Ogwu James Onoja, SAN; the Agenyi Attah Igala (Okoolo!!!) in rehabilitating the Ofante-Emonoja-Ogugu Road. Funding the project directly from his purse for the good of the communities and motorists is a very good way to go. The positive economic implications of this effort are numerous and the most important of it all is that the financier/mobilizer is not involved in this for any political (office seeking) reasons. For him, it's an appreciation to God Almighty for giving him the ability to and to also encourage the revival of the dying communal spirit of our people. In his speech which we have presented here unedited, you can feel him from his inner heart as expressed therein.



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN heading for the flag off accompanied by some community leaders and some executives of Igala heritage foundation

On his way, being stopped and hugged by the old as they prayed for him

AN ADDRESS BY CHIEF OGWU JAMES ONOJA, SAN (AGENYI ATTA IGALA) ON THE OCCASION OF THE FLAG--OFF OF THE REHABILITATION OF EMENEGA-- EMONOJA--ODOGOMU--EJULE--OFANTE IN UNYI--OGUGU DISTRICT ON SATURDAY 23RD JUNE, 2018.

Courtesies:

I WANT to begin this address by expressing my total gratitude to God Almighty for reasons too numerous to mention, but permit me to note that this year, to the glory of God Almighty, I attained the golden age of Fifty (50 years).

It is therefore a great privilege and immense gratitude to God that I stand before you today on the occasion of the Flag--off of the Rehabilitation of Emenega-- Emonoja--Odogomu--Ejule--Ofante in Unyi--Ogugu District of Olamaboro Local Government Area, Kogi State.

This road which cuts across five (5) communities leading to Unyi--Ogugu, the ancestral home of the Ogugu people also connects us with Ubollo--Afor in Enugu State.
As the Lord empowers us we shall at the right time extend to the Unyi--Ogugu.

The importance of good road as catalyst for rural development cannot be over emphasized.



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN beign welcomed with great joy some of the community women

Warmly received to the flag off point in Ofante - Ogugu



Analysing some of the challenges and proposing likely solutions on the spot



This road is of very high economic importance as it enables these communities to transport their farm produce to the market while it facilitates easy movement in the pursuit of their daily activities. It therefore remains vital to the socio-economic well being of our people.

Unfortunately, the present deplorable condition of the road occasioned by neglect and complete abandonment by successive administrations over the years has made movement very difficult for the communities. Consequently, long hours are spent on a very short distance, the wear and tear on vehicles is enormous, while transport fare remain very high. There is no doubt, the deplorable state of this road has brought untold hardship on these communities and made living an agony for our people.

Distinguished dignitaries, your Royal Highness, my decision to intervene in the rehabilitation of this road is not in any way a show of wealth, but a demonstration of concern in solidarity with the silent majority of our people who are faced with difficult living conditions occasioned by the deplorable state of the road.

It is intended to ameliorate the plight of our rural dwellers and it is in further consummation of my resolve to continue to give back to my community and humanity at large. My journey to life fulfilment as a lawyer and Senior Advocate began in this quiet and hard working community.

My greatest fulfillment has remained using the legal profession to advance the cause of justice for the oppressed and the less privileged in the society.

What I am doing today is not out of political propagandism but a demonstration of my love and



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN making his speech before the flag off of the road project



National President of Ogugu Development Union (ODU), Hon. Enemona Anyebe responding and appreciating the efforts of Chief Ogwu J. Onoja

Elder appreciating the efforts and love by their son, chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN as he encourages everyone to support their community

passion for this noble community because as an original village man who is always at home I personally feel their pains.

Over the years, in my modest attempt to re--write the history of this community, I have followed the footsteps of our other community leaders by initiating a few programmes designed to create opportunities for empowerment and to positively mobilize our promising young ones to actualize their potentials.

Towards this end, with all sense of modesty, I founded the Ofante All Stars Football Club and the Unyi--Ogugu Football Tournament, an annual Football tournament among the villages in this district with various prizes.

I am also Co-- Founder with Dr. S.P.O. Akogu of the Ofante Foundation for Academic and Development Associate (OFO--ADA), sponsors of Annual Speech and Prize giving day of the Ofante Community High School, to encourage academic excellence, healthy competition and financial support to indigent students.

I am the President, Sharonrose African Child Foundation, a Non--Governmental Organization dedicated to empowering Widows and Children in Nigeria, among other philanthropic activities.

Recently, I initiated Deacon Job and Mrs. Omada Onoja Foundation with a Ten (10) Million Naira Scholarship grant for less privileged students from this community.

We await the constitution of the Committee to commence award of scholarships in the next academic session.

May I appeal to all the youths and well meaning individuals in this Community, the Igala Nation and



Leadership of Igala heritage foundation thanking Chief Ogwu J. Onoja as he called on all Igala sons and daughters to wake up to challenges

Comr. Austine Okai calling on Igala people all over the world to support their communities and Igala projects



About to officially flag off the project



Chief Ogwu J. Onoja, SAN flagging off the road project

Kogi State as a whole that we can only be recognized at home if we are involved in the development of our home.

We can only achieve honour at home if we have left a mark of honour at home, and we can only truly prosper, if our intentions reckon with the prosperity of our people.
Therefore, let us work together, think together, explore together and achieve together, to the benefit of our people.

I enjoin all the wailers that it is time to vacate Facebook and other social media and come to the villages and our roots to begin a revolution that will galvanize our people to pursue their dreams within their innate abilities.

It is high time to live a life of reality instead of waiting for government and others to spoon feed us. All of us cannot be in government. It time to eschew political prodigality and thuggery for positive contribution to our community.

It is time to pursue self help as against self destruction.

Distinguished dignitaries, permit me to note that there is poverty and under development in our rural communities.

Towards this end, we have an obligation to rise--up to give support to our people in whatever way possible of merely crying like in Shakespeare's Hamlet that "something is rotten in the State of Denmark".

It is our duty to rise--up to this challenge in order not to be on the wrong side of history.



The youths appreciates his (chief ogwu's) efforts





See how bad the road was

It can be really bad

May I at this point call on Government at all levels to devise concrete development plan for the rural areas. An integrated approach to rural development focusing on the provision of critical infrastructures such as road, water and electricity will go a long way in boosting the development of our rural communities.

Our Local Government as agents of grassroot development should be at the forefront of the battle to tackle rural under development through consistent investment in the economy of the rural areas since their mandate is to bring development closer to the people.

Unfortunately, our Local Governments exist only to pay salaries, even in salaries, they are in arrears of several months of percentage payments and in some cases nonpayment at all as a result of dwindling allocation occasioned by negative politics.

Your Royal Highnesses, distinguished dignitaries, here comes the real challenge, the challenge of improving the living condition and well being of our people as the development of our communities can no longer be left to Government alone.

In every society, it takes a few privileged individuals to cleanse the tears of the teeming majority and re--write the history of their societies.

In this community and Local Government Area, we are blessed with such individuals, men and women of achievements and substance whose wealth and opulence are monumental. May I use this medium to call on such individuals to channel part of their resources and make contributions to the development of our rural communities because that is what we need at the moment to reduce hunger, poverty and under development in our land.

With the Flag--off of the rehabilitation of this road today, we have opened a new chapter in the



Community members out and appreciating the kind gesture of their son for the good of the community

The negative impact of this bad road cost motorists lots in repairs of their damaged vehicles always



And, the work commenced immediately after the flag off

development of this community and altered the narratives of this road in our time.

I urge the Contractors handling the rehabilitation, to work according to specifications and create proper channels to ensure erosion control as we are in the rainy season.

You must work towards, timely completion of the rehabilitation work and be informed that this community will not tolerate sub-- standard job.

I remain very proud of the overwhelming support of our people and on my part I will continue to do my best to uphold your confidence.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for taking time out to be part of this event. I appreciate the warm reception you have always accorded me.

At this point, it is now my very great pleasure to Flag--off the Rehabilitation of Emenega--Emonoja--Odogomu--Ejule--Ofante road for the use and benefit of the members of this community.

I must not forget to thank all the Executive and members of the Igala Heritage Foundation (IHF), Igala Cultural Development Association (ICDA), Ojuju Agbadufu, Ofante Community Self Help Association (OCSHA), Ogugu District Union (ODU) and all other Igala Socio--Cultural Organizations for always standing by me and my family all the time.

To God be the Glory.

Thank you for coming.

CHIEF OGWU JAMES ONOJA, SAN

The Agenyi Attah of Igala Kingdom.



With good people supporting always, these bad roads can be managed and someday totally give ways to good roads

Really, if you care you will act like chief ogwu j. Onoja, san to help out on a bad road like this one



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THIS IS TRULY IBEYOJO FOR ARC. STEPHEN MAKOJI EJIGA

SATURDAY, June 30, 2018 was a beautiful day God's word was made manifest in the lives of Stephen Makoji Ejiga and his lovely wife, Blessing Ibeajo Stephen (nee Emaikwu). Testimonies from family and friends tell how the duo are a true match for each other given their separate lives before coming together as one. Surely, one reaps what he/she sows in life, hence God gave His beautiful daughter, Ibeajo to His son, Makoji for his kind heart and positive approach to life.

After fulfilling all traditional rites on Friday, June 29, 2018 at the bride's family compound at Egume in Dekina Local Government Area of Kogi State, the couple were joined in holy

matrimony the following day at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in the same town. The church mass was officiated under the watch of Very Revd. Fr. Jerome Ojile.

Family, friends, associates and well wishers turned out en masse to honour the couple as they celebrate their union and the reception was glamorous and well conducted by the number one in the game, Elder Dr. Gabriel Alhassan Ottah, The Head of Department, Mass Communication, Kogi State University, Anyigba to the very satisfaction of all parties.

Enjoy some of the pictures.



Members of Igala Leadership Forum, Lokoja at the traditional marriage of their own, Arc. Stephen Makoji Ejiga



Members of Igala Leadership Forum, Lokoja at the traditional marriage of their own, Arc. Stephen Makoji Ejiga



Members of Igala Leadership Forum, Lokoja at the traditional marriage of their own, Arc. Stephen Makoji Ejiga



The beautiful bride, Ibeojo dancing out with joy





The bride's mother, right in the middle of the crowd, dancing and jubilating



The bride coming out the last time to perform the last, key ceremony in the public before being handed over to her loving husband



The bride being showered with money



The bride greets her parents, filled with joy, they shower blessings on her



The bride, Ibeojo (middle) with her friends on the mat



The groom, Arc. Stephen (middle) with his friends on the mat



Ibeajo receive the kolanuts from the groom's family through the marriage mediator, Onoja J. Okpanachi (left) for presentation to her family



Ibeajo presents one of the bowls of the kolanuts to the head of her father's family, Air Comr. Raymond Emaikwu (rtd.)



Ibeajo presents one of the bowls of the kolanuts to the head of her mother's family, Chief Samuel Isah Ocheja



All well done, Onoja J. Okpanachi receives the bride from Air Comr. Raymond Emaikwu



Onoja J. Okpanachi presents the bride to the head of the groom's family, Elder Ben Ejiga



Elder Ben Ejiga presents the bride to her husband



Finaly...



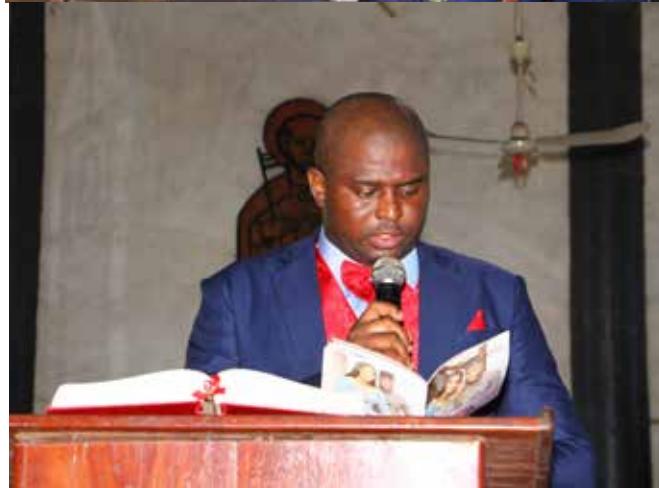
Okay, go ahead...



The couple are set to march into the church as Fr. Felix Emaikwu leads the prayer



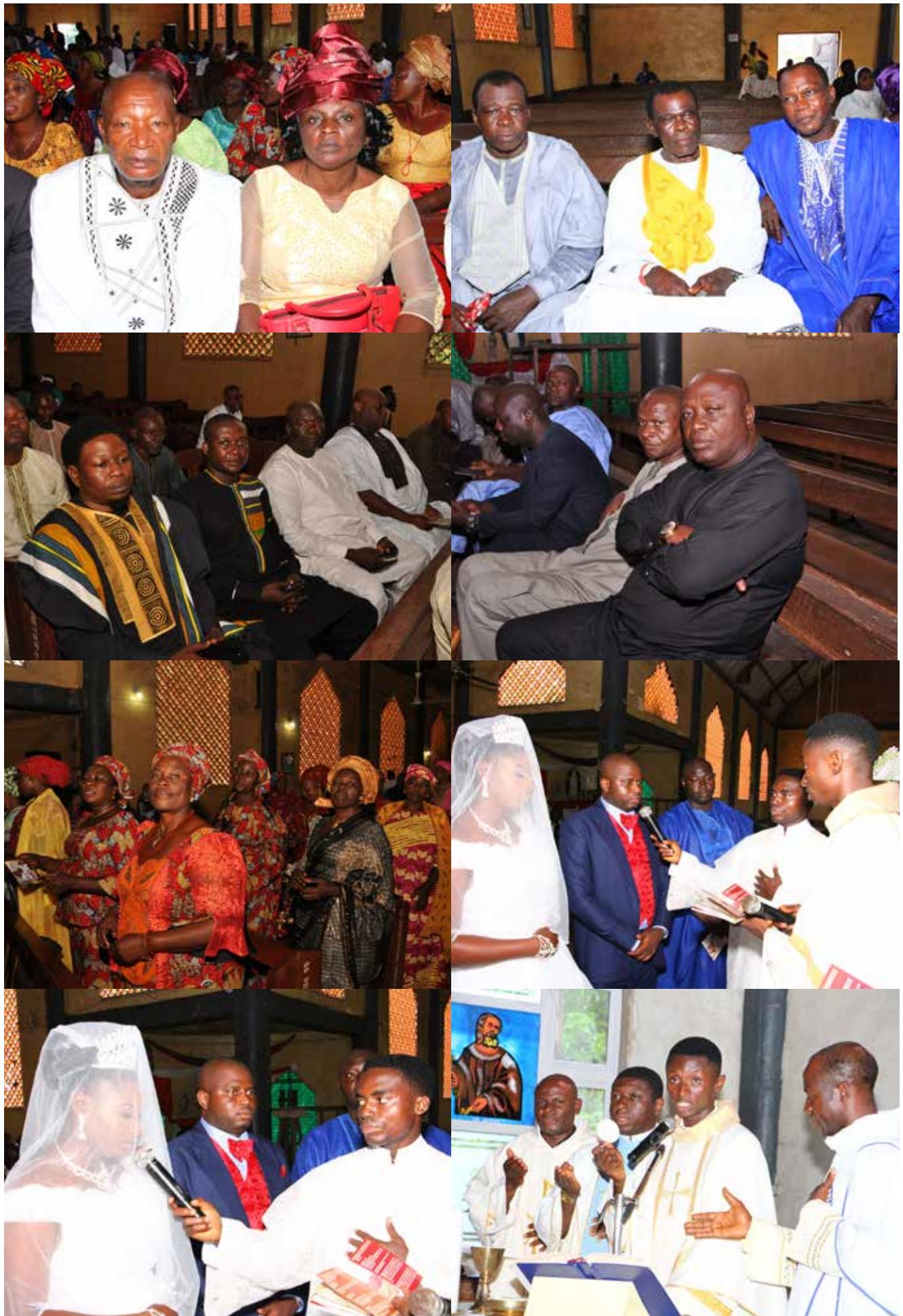
Here they come for the blessings



The gromm taking the first reading



The groom taking the second reading

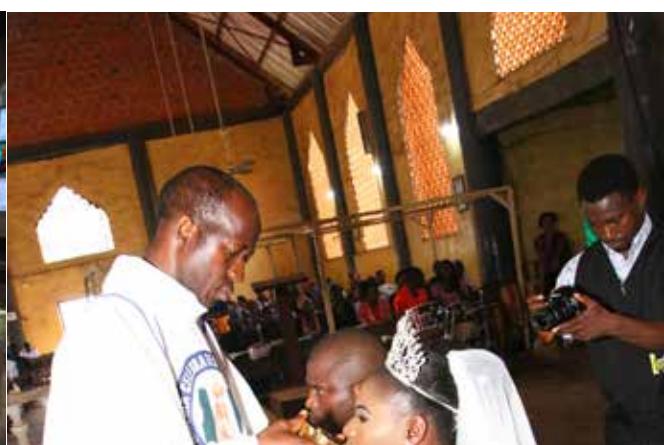




Arc. Stephen putting that ring on his bride's hand



Stephen, you may kiss your bride





Ibeajo putting the ring on her love's hand



And, they made it



Amb. Isaac Onuh congratulating Arc. Stephen



Onoja J. Pkpanachi congratulating Arc. Stephen, his brother and good friend



Mrs. Onoja Ruth Ojone congratulating her friend, Ibeajo



The couple with Mr. & Mrs. Udale, The Sponsors



The couple with the bride's mother on the right and the groom's mother on the left.















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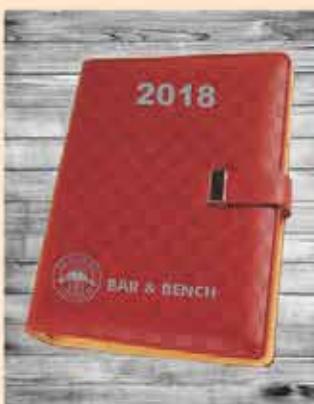
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