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JULY-AUGUST, 2020

IGALA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: Only Remembered By Your Works

KOGI MINISTRY OF EDUCATION: Ebira And Igala Language Curricula - Speedy Action Needed



CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN IGALALAND

CELEBRATE • INSPIRE • CHALLENGE



THE ROYAL COMMENDATION

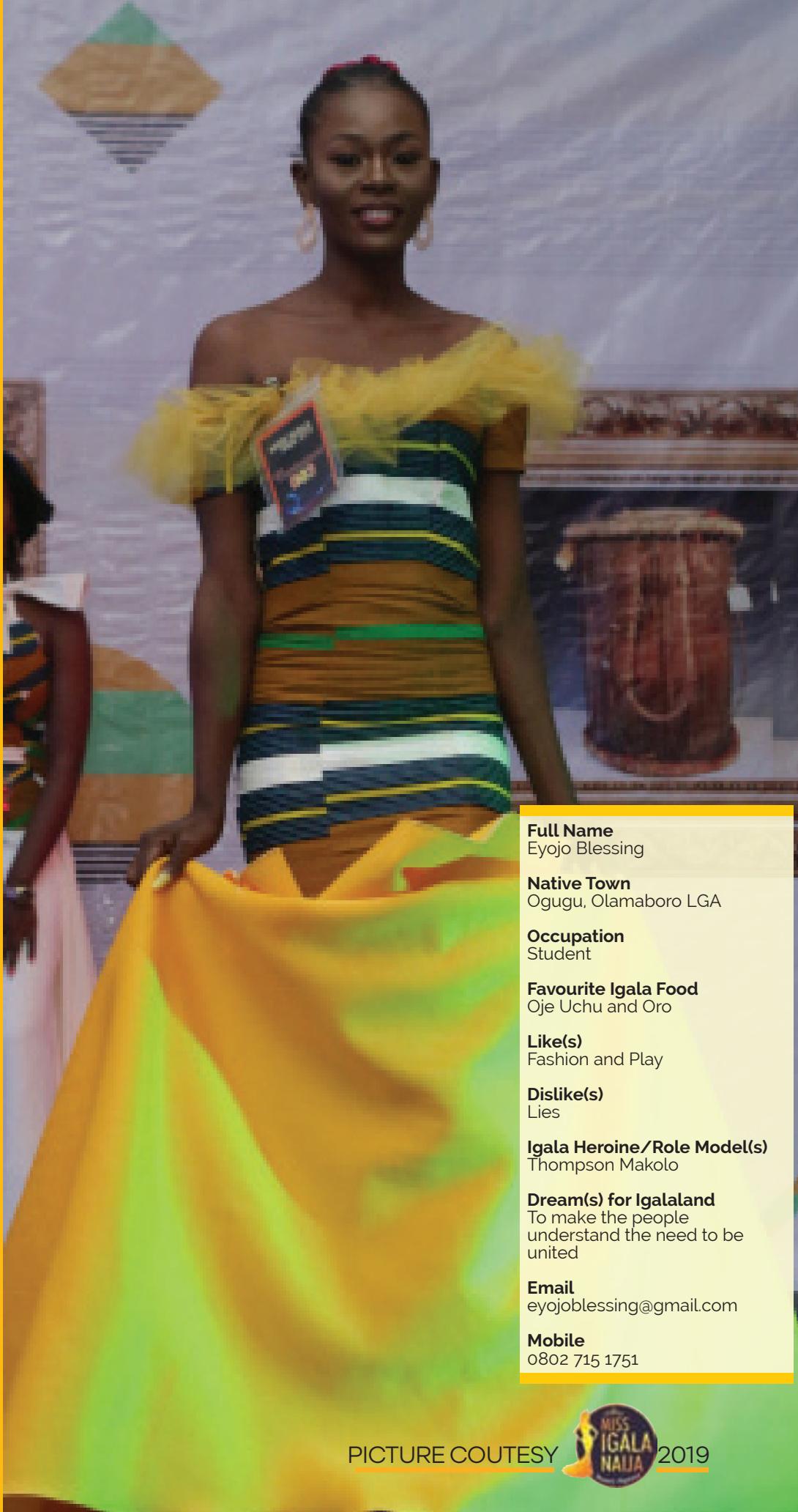
**"Today, I withhold not my gratitude to the management of
ARISE IGALA for leading the way in this revolutionary
renaissance resulting in the promotion of our cultural
values and heritage - our music, films, literatures et al
are taking their place of pride thereby triggering the
restoration of our lost glory"**



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

FACE OF INKPI ỌMA UFEDO ATA

FACE OF INKPI



Full Name
Eyojo Blessing

Native Town
Ogugu, Olamaboro LGA

Occupation
Student

Favourite Igala Food
Oje Uchu and Oro

Like(s)
Fashion and Play

Dislike(s)
Lies

Igala Heroine/Role Model(s)
Thompson Makolo

Dream(s) for Igaland
To make the people understand the need to be united

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

EXPLORING POST-COVID 19 ECONOMY, RECOVERY, LEGISLATIONS AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY THROUGH THE GENDER LENS

The Africa Women Conference held the first edition of its *Exploring Growth Opportunities Series* on the 7th of June 2020. The series is meant to address various challenges faced by African Women as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first edition was themed: **Exploring Post -Covid 19 Economy, Recovery, Legislations and Social Advocacy through the Gender Lens** and panellists were drawn from different African countries:

The key-note address was delivered by Dr. Ramatu Tijani Aliyu, Hon. Minister of State FCT Nigeria and President, Council for African Political Parties. The meeting was chaired by the AWC Executive Committee Chairperson, Haj. Mairo Maryam Aminu Tambuwal, Founder MMAWT Legacy Initiative and First Lady Sokoto State Nigeria.

Lead discussants included: Madam MacDella Cooper also known as “*Liberia’s Angel*”, philanthropist, politician and Leader at the Movement for One Liberia, who has also been nominated Vice Chairperson of the AWC Executive Committee. Ms. Karima Rhanem, the President of the International Centre for Diplomacy, Morocco. Dr. Amina Aminu Doroyi a renowned Public Health Specialist from Nigeria, Queen Eteme an International voice coach, President of the African Women’s Consultative and Reflective Platform (CERFA). Dorothy Njamenze a Gender Advocate and Humanitarian. Mrs. Diallo Kama Sakiliba,

the Vice President Pan-African Women’s Organization (PAWO). The session was Moderated by Ms. Rakiya Ibrahim Atta a Gender Advocate and Nollywood Veteran.

After a robust 2 hours’ discussion on the above theme the following actionable points were noted:

- Women’s Rights advocacy must continue to be at the forefront of our collective actions. We must make efforts to educate women at the grassroots of their rights as provided for by the constitution of each country, while also advocating for stronger laws to protect the rights of women and girls.
- Incidences of Gender Based Violence, especially rape have increased since the beginning of the lockdown necessitated by the COVID-19 Pandemic and it has become necessary to treat it as a matter of International Emergency.
- Women groups in Africa must also prioritise advocacy for the provision of digital infrastructure and policies to help the African women in rural and urban communities get online education and transact their businesses online.
- Ensure continued support for the few women holding public offices across Africa in order to ensure they effectively

EXPLORING GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES SERIES



- carry out their mandates and positively impact other women.
- African women must continue to create synergies to amplify the call for the protection of Women's Rights.
 - Getting a robust data base of vulnerable women to engage them during counselling, supporting them financially, medically, morally and psychologically.
 - The women and girl child must be equipped to face life challenges now and in the future.
 - We must collectively demand for stiffer punishments for perpetrators of Gender Based Violence including calling for the medical castration of men who Rape women and tubal ligation of women who abuse men and boys.
 - Continuously call for establishment of support mechanisms for victims of sexual assaults and abuse.
 - Social integration and empowerment of Africans women who have been incarcerated or have served various prison sentences for a long period.
 - Advocating for more scientific researches and make availability of research grants to carryout robust research on public health and creation of medical equipment.
 - Advocating for more delivery care kits and anti natal care as the rate of pregnant women during the lock down is expected to be high.
 - Building a resilience health system through the gender lens as women make up a high demographic of population in Africa.
 - The presence of women in decision making platform to represent the women and girl child.
 - Create some more sustainable public-private partnerships after Covid-19 to support the health and welfare of women at the grassroots.
 - Advocate WASH programs for community who do not have access to portable water.
 - Robust Economic policies to support SME, women projects and create a business models that can survive after Covid 19 as the women are the back one of every society.
- As we continue to have these conversations it is my hope and aspiration that each one of us will use our various platforms to advocate for a better deal for all African women irrespective of their tribe or social class.
- Please join us once again as we hold the second edition in the series by signing up [here](#) (insert link for registration).
- I look forward to hearing about the good work you do in your communities.
- Warm Regards,

Dr. Jumai Ahmadu
Co-Convenor



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OSIKOYA
Former Comm. of Education, Science & Technology, Kogi State

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CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN IGALALAND

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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.

“

The hallmark of our royal sovereignty will be that of an eminent father, purposed to produce a principled and prosperous people. The people will play their rightful roles locally, nationally and globally. We will try to deal with the challenges at the local level and make our contributions at the wider levels by actively engaging our people on what is for the public good. We will need to care for the children – spiritually and materially, to restore family and societal values and appropriate ethics ...we call for renewed love and general forgiveness amongst our people, as an unforgiving community will not make progress.”

”



The quotation above is part of His Royal Majesty's Speech at the Third Anniversary of his ascension to the throne of his forefathers as Ata Igala in March, 2016 at Idah, Kogi State.

THROW BACK

ONLY REMEMBERED
BY WHAT YOU HAVE DONE



"Any ethnic group that relies on political advantage through numbers and population size for its long-term progress is in for a rude shock sooner or later...The ethnic group...will soon find itself naked whenever the group is stripped bare of its political advantage...The first law therefore of our social progress as an ethnic group is education, the second law is education, and the third law is education".

Professor F.S Idachaba, founder of Igala Education Foundation (r) and HRM, Dr. Michael Idakwo Ameh Oboni II, Ata Igala during the 13th Igala Education Summit



ONOJA J. OKPANACHI
PUBLISHER/CHIEF EDITOR

IGALA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: THE SPARK TWENTY (20) YEARS AFTER

The Igala Education Foundation was established in the year 2000 by Prof. Francis Sulemanu Idachaba and has since then been steadfast in the pursuant of its set objectives – the annual Igala Education Summit, a platform by the foundation where issues concerning education in Igaland are raised, discussed and solutions proffer holds every December of the year. At this annual event, First Class graduates of Igala extraction are identified, verified and honoured with scholarship so to encourage them in their academic journey and by extension, encourage others to be more diligent too.

Ordinarily, given the time since the Igala Education Foundation was established and the purpose for which it was designed, it is expected that by now it would have become a great rallying point for all Igala sons and daughter who are genuinely concerned about the development of the land by giving their maximum support in all ramifications but, the opposite is what manifest; the percentage of Igala sons and daughters who are always following up to ensure the success of this foundation and its activities is far less than what it should be and as a result, the impact is not as it should have been. Unfortunately, a particular set of people have carried the burden of the project on them and they keep pushing against all odds to see to its success year in, year out. Such burden could be overwhelming and in the face of this, instead of getting a pat on the back for the push, they sometimes get lashed by some ungrateful characters who can only analyse, critique but do nothing themselves to add to the success of the work at the foundation.

For ARISE IGALA Magazine, since we came on board 10 years ago, we have been following and reporting activities of the foundation and so, we know the story of the struggle very well. On this note, we want to say a very big thank you to all who have kept the dream of the foundation alive. And, to the founder, Prof. F.S. Idachaba, we say may his gentle soul continue to rest in peace – amen!

Now, to all the Igala elites – traditional leaders, politicians,

successful businessmen, academics, public officers, career men and women et al, we must begin to think of another way, a different approach to our challenges. We must begin to network as our individualism is negatively on the rise and killing us to the roots. We are increasingly becoming very successful as individuals but as a people, community, we are nowhere in the ratings – of all the years our men have been at the helms of affairs in Kogi State what is the rate of development in our land? Not just in the state affairs, in other offices too – private or public? Even those who have tried to influence employments for our people, a critical look at it will prove to you that they encourage more of quantity than quality; those that may never attain their level in that particular office before the end of their time and as such, we hardly have replacements for our people in higher offices once occupied by our men. In summary, we must be very strategic in our plans and executions and one major thing that can help us is going beyond individualism.

So, back to the 2019 edition of the Igala Education Summit where His Excellency, Chief Edward David Onoja, Deputy Governor of Kogi State led others to donate fifteen million naira (N15,000,000) to the foundation and awardees brings about a spark to the foundation's efforts so far. This donation saw to it that the recipients this time take home N500,000 each (26 of them) against the usual N70,000 which an awardee receive in the past. This donation and team work calls for sustenance. It is wrong and will forever be if we assumed that such support should only come from the political angle and/or we feel they should do so because they occupy political offices today – let me ask, are they the first to occupy such offices in the land? So, it's purely about the heart to give and support and we all can do this either as politicians or not only if we can do away with individualism and focus more on communal efforts for the development of our dear land. We can do it. We can sustain the tempo. The bar has been raised, let's not let it down.

Arise!

A NATION THAT CARES...

Although natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, as well as the ecosystem, are classified as important components of the wealth of a nation, no nation develops to enviable level on account of mineral deposits. The wealth of a nation lies in people's heads rather than in the soil. That Nigeria is rich in soil but the people are poor is an affirmation to the above truth.

Professor Paul Omojo Omaji, Vice-Chancellor Emeritus, Salem University and the current Vice-Chancellor of Admiralty University of Nigeria, made similar submission in a paper titled "**Education in Igaland Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow: The Leadership Dimension**" which he presented during the 17th Igala Education Summit where he quoted President Muhammadu Buhari thus: "We cannot progress beyond the level and standard of our education... It is those who acquire the most qualitative education, equipped with requisite skills and training, empowered with practical knowhow that are *leading* the rest"

He went further thus: "... Education is our launch-pad to a more successful, more productive and more prosperous future... One of the primary roles of education is to build and sustain individual and society's development. It renews and improves the economic, social, political and cultural aspects of any nation... It is a human right that creates a safe, healthy and prosperous society...Indeed, education is paramount and necessary requirement for all-round development..."

Prof. Francis Sulemanu Idachaba, out of genuine love he had for Igaland, established the Igala Education Foundation. Today, The Foundation has become a household name, promoting academic excellence through awards, giving hope to the hopeless, and serving as a viable platform through which the challenges confronting education are discussed while proffering plausible solutions. Prof. Idachaba cared!!

As part of our recognition of the strategic role of education in the development of Igaland, this edition is dedicated to education. If you genuinely care about your nation, you should care about its education, for the prosperity, development and the wealth of a nation depends on the extent of its investment in education. As an illustrious son or daughter, you should care.

Professor F.S Idachaba cared about education by establishing the Igala Education Foundation. Since Prof. Idachaba handed over the mantle of leadership to Chief Arc GY Aduku, OON, the latter has been giving the right leadership direction. Prof. J.I Omada, the Executive Director of the Foundation on his part, has been preserving the ethos of the Foundation by ensuring that the Foundation remains focused despite the current realities. And just recently, Chief Edward Onoja, Kogi State Deputy Governor generously donated the sum of N15m to the twenty-six (26) recipients of the 2019 Igala Education Foundation Award of Academic Excellence who made first-class from different tertiary institutions in Nigeria. If you sincerely care about Igaland, you can as well join other well-meaning sons and daughters to support the Igala Education Foundation. Yes, it our collective responsibility to preserve this laudable legacy. We should all care!!

A-R-I-S-E I-G-A-L-A

Nathan Oguche Emmanuel



CHIEF EDWARD ONOJA AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN IGALALAND

IGALA EDUCATION FOUNDATION PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP



EDWARD ONOJA AND EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION IN IGALALAND

Abdullahi O. Haruna (Haruspice)

A silent revolution is brewing in Kogi State. Chief Edward Onoja, the Deputy Governor of the state is going round, harvesting young people and preparing them for greatness. He started first by integrating young people into political governance, after four years, he has shifted the paradigm, this time to the educational sector.

Recently, Chief Edward Onoja mobilised a whopping N15m for the twenty-six (26) recipients of the 2019 Igala Education Foundation Award of Academic Excellence who made first-class from different tertiary institutions in Nigeria. These brainboxes who hail from Kogi East area of the state are being sponsored into full academic voyage by this human resource teacher. What a subliminal

revolutionary human capital stride you would ask?

The event, which took place at Idrinana Hotels, Lokoja was not just an opportunity to hand over the mouth-watering cheques to the Awardees, it was an opportunity to inspire, challenge and encourage the young ones to hold unto the garb of hard work, excellence and resilience.

As a leader, Chief Edward extolled the Founder of the Foundation, late Prof. Francis Idachaba whom he described as a lover of education, for initiating the scholarship programme in year 2000, saying it was a right choice that had been yielding tangible results since then.

Edward told the crowd at the event that he was not just giving out cash, but was sowing a seed which with time, will sprout and bring forth fruits



Hon. David Idris Zachariah (Idah Federal Constituency of Kogi State, House of Reps, National Assembly)

that will not only be beneficial to Igaland but Kogi, Nigeria and the world.

He therefore likened the laudable efforts of the Founder to seed sowing. "In life, you need to sow seed to reap harvest that generations will benefit from. I urge us all to continue to sow good seed, because nature have a way of paying us back; there is power in seed sowing" Onoja said.

Edward is not just a motivator, he has become a mentor to the young folks who were hitherto placed on the backseat of civilization. He therefore urged the recipients of the Award to always put in their best in their future endeavours "so that others coming behind can also be encouraged to try their best"

"I want to believe that some of you will be global players in your different fields. I encourage you to pursue your dreams," he advised.

He promised to continue to support the Igala Education Foundation and other laudable programmes that are geared towards improving the quality of education in Igaland and Kogi state, as according to him, only through education could people be liberated from shackles of poverty and underdevelopment.

In a similar development, the youth poacher demonstrated his capacity building stride when he came in rescue of a stagnated First Class Petroleum Engineering graduate of the Igbinedion University, Okada by awarding him scholarship to Masters Level. Mr Babatunde Samuel Aina, who hails from Kogi State almost dropped out of the University following the unfortunate demise of his father in 2015 when he was in the second year of his academic.

Nothing liberates a society like brewing human capital resources, and Chief Edward Onoja is on that scouting mission, the outcome, of course, will be a liberated and prosperous society. The greatest investment and legacy you can make is in people and Kogi's Deputy Governor dubbed a Human Capital Developer isn't only providing governance but building youth and by extension building the Nation.

It is hoped that others, gifted with the privilege of opportunities will emulate Chief Edward Onoja and begin to invest in young people. When citizens take up mentoring responsibility like this, the society is better off as communal orientation becomes the ethos of reference.

“ What is most important in life is to sow seeds preparatory for harvest season”

—Chief Edward David Onoja, CIK
Olimene Attah Igala,
Deputy Governor, Kogi State
Federal Republic of Nigeria



LIST OF THE 2019 RECIPIENTS (IGALA EDUCATION FOUNDATION)

S/NO	NAME	INSTITUTION ATTENDED	COURSE	YEAR OF GRADUATION	L.G.A.
	Joseph Moses Musa	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi	B.Tech (Hons), Chemistry Education	2018	Olamaboro
	Adegbe Samson	University of Ilorin	B.Sc Physiology	2018	Idah
	Ochedi Matthew Ameh	Federal University of Agric., Makurdi	Agric Econ and Extension	2018	Igalamela-Odolu
	Dominic Iko-ojo	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Business Administration	2019	Dekina
	Adamu Oseni	Federal University, Lokoja	B.Sc Economics	2019	Olamaboro
	Hassan Nasiru	Federal University, Lokoja	B.Sc Economics	2019	Ankpa
	Abuh Faith	Federal Polytechnic, Idah	ND/HND Urban and Regional Planning	2018	Olamaboro
	Itodo Helen Ojochenemi	University of Ibadan	B.Ed Teacher Education/Chemistry/ Biology	2018	Olamaboro
	Omaga Sumaila	University of Ibadan	B.Sc Petroleum Engineering	2019	Idah
	Emmanuel Onuh Gabriel	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Biochemistry	2019	Olamaboro
	John Silas	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Physics	2019	Dekina
	Akor Samuel Eneajo	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Biochemistry	2019	Olamaboro
	Akoji Solomon Eneaja	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Accounting	2019	Idah
	Abah Queen Sarah	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Food Science/Technology	2019	Olamaboro
	Oguche Fidelis	University of Jos	Bachelor of Law	2018	Olamaboro
	Akor Benjamin	Federal University of Technology, Minna	B.Engineering, Chemical Engineering	2018	Idah
	Uloko Emmanuel Arome	Federal University of Technology, Minna	B.Engineering, Chemical Engineering	2018	Olamaboro
	Idakwoji Abdulhameed	Afe Babalola University	B.Engineering, Chemical Engineering	2019	Omala
	Alhassan Jeremiah	Federal University, Lokoja	B.Sc Geology	2019	Omala
	Muhammed Rashidatu	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Home Science (Nutrition and Dietetics)	2019	Dekina
	Onoja Isaiah	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	B.Sc Nursing Sciences	2018	Olamaboro
	Abubakar Ojonugwa Temitope	University of Ibadan	B.Sc Microbiology	2019	Ankpa
	Joseph Andrew Ojo	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Business Administration	2019	Olamaboro
	Itodo Emmanuel Ugbedeojoh	Kogi State University, Anyigba	B.Sc Geography	2019	Olamaboro
	Isaac Ameh Abraham	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	B.Tech (Hons), Chemistry Education	2019	Ankpa
	Daniel Adejoh Obetule	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	B.Engineering, Chemical Engineering	2019	Dekina





HE, Chief Edward Onoja Speaking



Prof. J. I. Omada, Executive Director, Igala Education Foundation Addressing The Audience



HE, Chief Edward David Onoja Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



Hon. David Idris Zachariah Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



Hon. David Idris Zachariah Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



Hon. Halims (Ankpa Federal Constituency) Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



Hon. Ahmed Mohammed (Deputy Speaker, Kogi State House Assembly) Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



OCHOLI YUSUF OKPANACHI (DON PABLO) PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP TO A RECIPIENT, FIRST CLASS GRADUATE



HE, Chief Edward David Onoja, Deputy Governor Of Kogi State



Dignitaries Up For The National Anthem



Some Of The Dinitaries At The Event



Hon. Idachaba (Comm., Culture & Tourism, Kogi State) Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate



Hon. Emmanuel Idenyi (Perm. Sec. Kogi Min. Of Education) Presents Scholarship To A Recipient, First Class Graduate

" Edward told the crowd at the event that he was not just giving out cash, but was sowing seed which with time, will sprout and bring forth fruits that will not only be beneficial to Igalaland but Kogi, Nigeria and the world"



EBIRA AND IGALA LANGUAGE CURRICULA PROJECT: SPEEDY ACTION NEEDED NOW

JOHN JIBO IDAKWOJI

A Language Artist, Igala-English Teacher/Translator, Editor, Author, Administrator and Lexicographer of repute.

It is no longer news that some school subjects, including History, Hygiene, Civic and Vernacular, were excised from the Nigerian Educational Curriculum in the mid-1970s. At the time, only Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa languages were exempted, allowed to be offered at West African Examinations Council (WAEC) level. Since then, the country's indigenous languages have been relegated to the backwaters of social relevance. As a result, the ill-advised policy, over the years, alienated the masses of young native language speakers nationwide from their ancestral languages and the cultures that they epitomize.

When, in March, 2019, Hon. Mrs. Rosemary Ojochenemi Osikoya, the previous Kogi State Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, signalled her intention to revive the study of Igala and Ebira mother tongues in schools in the state, I felt a resurgence of hope in the development of Igala language literacy, which has been on the decline for over three decades. She had posted a message on the Internet requesting authors who had written books on Ígálá and Ébirà languages to contact her office with proof of such publications. That is where our paths crossed. In response to the advertorial, I submitted a copy of my book, *An Igala-English Lexicon: A Bilingual Dictionary of Igala Language, History, Culture and Priest-Kings*, published by Partridge Publishing Singapore (2014), as requested. She had also informed me of her intention to set up a committee to develop a curriculum each for Ígálá and Ébirà languages and requested

for my input. Appreciating her for the extraordinary thought of Igala language revival, I gladly accepted her request and vowed to contribute my modest quota when called upon.

That opportunity presented itself on 15th April, 2019, when the Honourable Commissioner set up a 9-man *Committee of Experts on the Incorporation of Igala and Ebira into the Kogi State Educational Curriculum* under the chairmanship of Mr. Friday Ikani, Dean, School of Languages, College of Education, Ankpa. The Committee was charged with the following Terms of Reference:

- (i) To reach out to authors of available instructional books/booklets published on Ebira and Igala languages and to collect copies for initial use in the state's Primary and Junior Secondary schools in due course;
- (ii) To translate the existing text of the *Yorùbá Language Curriculum* into English and, later, to Igala and Ebira respectively;
- (iii) To hold periodic meetings towards ascertaining the conformity or otherwise of the translated texts to the linguistic standards adopted by the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) for the two languages; and
- (iv) To adopt the translated texts as the ultimate *Drafts of Ebira and*



Ebira people (Archival/Internet Picture)

Igala Language Curricula before submitting same to the Honourable Commissioner for onward transmission to the NERDC, the approving federal authority.

The members assembled in Lokoja a week later to hold an inauguration meeting aimed at drawing up a *Modus Operandi* for carrying out their assignment. At that meeting, it was learned that a *Draft Ebira Language Curriculum* existed and that it was produced in 2009 by a *Technical Committee on Ebira Curriculum Development* chaired by Professor M. J. Shuaibu, an EFA Consultant. Other members were Dr. John R. Adive, a Linguistic Consultant, Vice Chairman; Rev. S. S. Ariba, Translator; Alhaji S.S. Salami (PEN) and Dr. Godwin Oyibo, Secretary. Information on the said draft Ebira language curriculum was later confirmed by the Committee, Mr. Friday Ikani, who met with some Ebira linguists and intellectuals linked to the project.

With half of its assignment so unexpectedly done for it, the Committee concentrated on having to develop a curriculum for Igala language, like bringing out order from chaos. The arduous task took months of grueling work to accomplish. The Committee had adopted a copy of the *Yoruba Language Curriculum* and hired some Yoruba lecturers

at the College of Education, Ankpa to translate the entire volume into English language. As they were translating, batches of the translated forms were mailed electronically to me in Abuja for translation to Igala language. This ceaseless activity continued till the month of August when it was finally completed. Another meeting was held immediately after to enable the other members to make informed input, where necessary.

The fared draft of the Igala text, alongside its Ebira counterpart, was later submitted to the Honourable Commissioner, who, in turn, transmitted the documents, under the Ministry's flying seal, to the NERDC. The Council responded to the Ministry's submission vide a covering letter, dated Monday, 9th December, 2019, forwarding a report in which, among other thing, it laid out some requisite procedures that the Kogi State Government must follow before approval could be obtained for the adoption of the two curricula to instruction in schools.

Going forward, it is expected that the NERDC, the Ministry and Curriculum consider the technicalities involved and also to jointly carry out the following activities, namely:

- (i) "Public sensitization on the curricula towards securing popular acceptability

- for them at the grassroots, state and federal levels;
- (ii) development and revision of the curricula at the Basic (Primary and JSS) levels through a critical review;
 - (iii) the development of a *Teacher's Guide* for each of the curricula;
 - (iv) publication/printing of the Teachers' Guides; and
 - (v) the training of teachers on the use of the curricula and Teachers' Guides."

The date set for the completion of the above-mentioned activities the month of February, 2020, implying that the project is about six months behind schedule.

The Government of Kogi State is hereby urged to expedite action on the curriculum project. By so doing, it would be removing one major obstacle that has inhibited the growth and development of local languages in the state. In addition, it would be ensuring that the younger generations of the communities where these languages are spoken the legal instrument they require to learn to speak, read and write their respective mother

tongues, while boosting the cultures that each promotes and enlivens.

The State is also reminded that, in addition to Igala and Ebira, other ancestral languages in the state are also queuing up for the similar authorisation being sought for Igala and Ebira languages, which, it is presumed, are being implemented as two pilot projects in language and cultural development. Government's goodwill is, therefore, highly solicited in this direction; it is being called upon to declare that bold and decisive steps would be taken towards meeting the demands of the endangered local languages by immediately putting them out for study in its schools and for research in tertiary institutions in and outside the state and match the declaration with efforts at its fruition. It is only then that the endangered languages would be assured of continuity when the lingering threat to their existence would have been nipped in the bud. It is only then too that their seamless transmission to the next generations of native speakers would be guaranteed for the greater good of society.



Igala children on traditional attire (Archival/Internet Picture)

SPECIAL INTERVIEW



ROSEMARY OJOCHENEMI **OSIKOYA**

Former Comm. of Education, Science & Technology, Kogi State

C an we meet you Hon.?

My name is Rosemary Ojochenemi Osikoya, I am from Ileke Emonoja in Ogugu District of Olamaboro LGA. I am a multi-skilled professional, born September 1976 in Kaduna State and married with children.

How was your journey into politics like?

Academically I hold a Master Degree in Political Science (International Relations. & Strategic Studies, University of Jos) and I was privilege to serve in Kogi State political office from March 2016 to December 2019. Within with period I held 3 different portfolios- Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment, Sanitation & Emergency Management (March-May 2016), Commissioner for Environment & Natural Resources (June 2016-December 2017) and Commissioner for Education, Science & Technology (January 2018 - December 2019). Primarily I am a technocrat. Though I have always advocated for good governance and result based political leadership, as regards partisan politics, I was not a card carrying member of any political party until 2018 when I became a card carrying member of APC. I participated actively in February and November 2019 elections in Kogi State at grassroots and other levels- particularly in voters' education, mobilization and community engagements etc.

You served in two separate ministries, what were the lessons and experiences for you and others out there?

2016-2019 were baseline years for the Government of Governor Yahaya Bello being in charge of 2 different sectors was an enlightening and instructive experience.

We appraised the sectors when I resumed office and identified keys issues and gaps. The Governor Yahaya Bello Government had a roadmap document called the New Direction Blueprint which stipulated expected outcomes for the tenure. This made baseline sector review possible. We engaged critical stakeholders at both Federal, State and LGA levels and we identified the key issues which were basically the same in both sectors- gaps in legal, policy, institutional and governance framework, stakeholders' management shortfalls, funding challenges and disconnect from/ poor relationship with Federal, peer States, etc. resulting in poor/ limited linkages of cooperation, intra-sector cooperation was also limited.

My previous work environments provided me relevant technical experience which I brought to practice- as SA Admin to the Chairman/CEO of Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Dr. Sam Amadi I backstopped for the Chairman/CEO in all Administrative issues and was privileged to work in a result, performance focused work environment. I was trained both locally, internationally and in the job on principles of effective regulation, PPP, result based & performance management, communications and stakeholders' management etc. these skills became very useful because the major thrust of work at that stage was to address the gaps and midwife an era where public accountability, result based performance and good governance would prevail. Doing that with funding deficit meant that I discharge the functions of 'management consultant' as part of my job. My background in Project Management (PGD Project Management, University of Wales) was very helpful also. The challenges required urgent attention especially given decades of neglect, workload was intense and demanding, the sacrifice was worthwhile and I am thankful we made significant progress in all set targets. In the State Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources we conducted effective sensitization and advocacy on environmental sanitation, reviewed existing KGSSWMB law, developed new law, developed the first ever Kogi State Forestry Bill (passed in to law the State Assembly), strengthened Forest conservation practice by recruitment of 100 Forest Guards as first step in strengthening human capital deficit in the sector, engaged all sector stakeholders effectively - State full participation at First National Council in Environment with presentation of State Memos, engaged NEWMAP effectively to refocus on expanded State priorities which included increasing Project sites from 5 to 8 and expanding intervention scopes, forged new collaborations with EHORECON, National Parks Services and Forestry Research Institute, which led to Enforcement of the EHOs mandatory licensing as condition to practice- for the first time in the State EHOs in the MENR & Boards got practice license, NPS & FRIN trained 100 Forest Guards recruited for Forest conservation- another feat, FRIN planted trees in 20 hectares of State Forest reserve in Dekina LGA, enforced and sustained monthly environmental sanitation which held every last Saturday of the month as State in KGSSWMB law, we held town hall meeting across

all constituencies in the State with traditional rulers and stakeholder groups to discuss environmental issues and new law process etc.

What were your contributions in Ministry of Education being your last post in Kogi State?

My tenure as Commissioner for Education, Science & Technology commenced with bilateral meetings with the 2 Federal Ministries and heads of State Institutions. The State mini-summit of education held in January 2018 and provided platform for a mid-tenure review of Government performance, and baseline study for my tenure. The outcome of that summit informed our focus on State priorities for 2018 & 2019. I feel fulfilled that despite funding constraints, we achieved all the technical and managerial possible achievements.

At Ministerial level we strengthened cooperation within the sector as much as was possible and as regards the State's external relations, we changed the poor narrative and negative perception of Kogi State especially between the Ministry and Federal & development partners.

Sadly, as at 2018 Kogi education sector was not receiving any direct support from any development partner, the institutional framework was confused and both power/ work responsibilities were discharged by only and few, most State were ignorant of extant policies and there were no copies at State level, MOEST was in disconnect from FME and other Federal sector agencies, though budgetary release was a perennial challenge, the budget heads were also ancient and do not provide for achieving the current goals. State exam processes were poor and outsourced with no records, human capital development was non-existent, the most focus seem to be on formal education and at secondary level, arts and humanities- non-formal education and science & technical education were neglected etc.

Within January 2018 and December 2019, Kogi participated in all National events and made presentations on State specific challenges and needs, initiated productive bilateral engagements with NERDC, MNEC, NBTE, National Library Board which yielded the following: Development of draft curriculum for Igala & Ebira languages currently with NERDC; MNEC donated equipment for the establishment of State own vocational centre (before my tenure there was no State owned vocational skills centre, however Lokoja LGA had as centre which the State utilizes), the review of State

ANFE commenced- MNEC provided the MOEST with copies of ANFE laws of other States; NBTE conducted resource inspection for the State's 4 technical colleges, none of which was listed in national directory due to non-accreditation (First/ last accreditation of 2002 elapsed in 2007). The National Library approved the establishment of a branch of National Library in the State. As section of the State Library was provided as temporary accommodation. State officers were appointed following further engagements, National Library agreed to renovate the temporary accommodation hence postponement of proposed 2019 inauguration date.

The MOEST conducted annual school census in 2018 and 2019, received Unicef support in 2019 and became listed for Unicef support, breaking the jinx of "No development partner support for education", perennial issues of 'illegal schools' was addressed through policy which was discussed, draft copy was issued by the MOEST and all unapproved schools were identified and marked by October 2019, State examination processes were streamlined to ensure accountability, transparency and process integrity, Quality Assurance was strengthened and properly positioned. Capacity building was facilitated in various sector issues and Federal Agencies (NTI, NERDC, NPC, FME) partnered & facilitated there ensuring both quality and cost effectiveness which same time strengthening partnership & exposing State officers to their external peers; Kogi State education budget content was reviewed in 2019 budget to provide funding for quality Assurance functions, provisions of curriculums, textbooks and equipment, etc. Process for State provision of curriculum, textbooks and writing materials for public schools commenced. This was approved not concluded due to delayed budgetary release till end of my tenure. Functional State EMIS was established in 2018 with State resources and the State hosted the 2nd NEMIS in 2018 which helped expose officials to their peers.

The icing on the performance cake was the establishment of Federal Science Technical College Ogugu. Kogi was one of the 17 states that have no Federal Technical College. MOEST got approval of the State Executive Council for the reclassification of 17 schools to become State Science & Technical Colleges, one each in the 17 LGA that have not GTC, and also approve MOEST to pursue strengthening of Science & technical education and collaborations which was part of

identified priorities in 2018. This became key focus of MOEST bilateral engagements in 2018 & 2019. I am thankful to God in happenenings during my tenure as Commissioner for Education, Science & Technology.

Good, you ventured into the Ebira and Igala Language Curricular, how far did you go before you left the office?

NERDC has the statutory responsibility to develope curriculum. The first bilateral engagement of the State with NERDC happened during my tenure when I paid courtesy visit to the ES, NERDC in 2018. With NERDC approval We set up a committee headed by Dr. Friday Ikani, Dean Linguistics of COE Ankpa and the committee worked tirelessly and developed the draft Igala Language curriculum. They also uncovered Igbira curriculum developed by PTF or such body in the past. These were forwarded to NERDC which further requested Kogi State to provide and stipulated fund to conclude the process. That was detailed in my handover notes for further action by my successor in office.

But of what value can this be to the people and the state?

The National Policy on Education provides that basic Education instruction be conducted in the Child's mother tongue. You will observe that many Nigerian languages have been developed into formal languages of instruction and that has contributed to increased literacy in such State.



The prowess of Kogi West in Education can be related to the availability of Yoruba Language curriculum, and the relative backwardness of Kogi East also can be related to the lack of Igala language curriculum. The connection between literacy and poverty has been established. Completing the development of Igala and Ebira Language curriculum will have great impact in addressed the currently high illiteracy in the State and also contribute to better livelihoods of the people and longevity because lifelong learning will be encouraged in and literate population.

- Now, at this stage what do you think should be done to complete the Ebira and Igala Language Curricular Project.

The State Government was required to pay about Fifteen Million Naira (N15,000,000) on or so to the NERDC. This was included by MOEST in the draft 2020 budget. I have not personally followed up yet so not very sure of the Status.

Igala and Ebira languages are spoken beyond the borders of current Kogi State. It however falls to the State to demonstrate leadership in this project because the traditional head of the Igala nation is seated in Idah as it could be said that the traditional head of Igbirra nation is seated in Okene.

It is important that the curriculum project be prioritized by all stakeholders. It should interest the traditional rulers and community groups and they should take personal responsibility for driving the process because Language is a key component of culture. I felt sad that only the academicians showed excitement and interest when were commenced the process and even this far.

So, is it only government that can/should fund this project (particularly the required amount needed now) or interested group(s) can come on board?

Language for instruction is a key responsibility of the MOEST because this is an education policy matter they have responsibility to ensure and implement at State level. Education is in the concurrent list you will recall.

The role of other stakeholders cannot be over emphasized. The State ministry of culture & Tourism was represented in the curriculum development committee in set up. Like I mentioned earlier, key stakeholders like traditional rulers and community groups are beneficiaries.



While government has primary responsibility to provide and fund quality education, it is not an exclusive responsibility. The 63rd National Council in Education held in 2018 dwelt in funding challenges and the key resolution was to encourage stakeholders' groups to invest in education at all level. Well-meaning groups and individuals can support government by funding the remaining activities. Such should formally engage the State MOEST/NERDC.

As regards Igala Language such collaborative platforms like Igala Education Foundation, Igala Cultural Development Association (ICDA), ARISE IGALA Grassroot Sensitization Initiative etc. can drive the process and could have interested individuals

What's your advice on education today given the current realities that confront the world with digitization, artificial intelligence et al.?

Nigeria claimed global prominence in illiteracy in 2018 when the World Bank report identified Nigeria as having the highest number of out of school children- between 12-14 million children, depending in the account you read. Kogi State

bears more than its share of that burden and sadly Kogi East is district with the most burden. The issues are many as are the contributing circumstances to the reinforcing cycles of illiteracy and poverty.

More worrisome is the report that about two-thirds of Nigeria's population is made up of youths that are averagely 30years old. Poor education, poorly skilled young people spells economic doom for every people.

Looking at Kogi State, while Kogi West are reputably well educated/schooled, Kogi Central has carved and niche in technical and vocational skills. The prowess of Kogi East is educated elites in 'diaspora' - the villages have poorly educated peasant farmers in the average. There is urgent need to look inward and change that narrative.

Functional and practical technical and vocational education and training is well implemented has great potential to address youth illiteracy and unemployment. The FME has provided the policy framework for this- MNEC's new policy in mass literacy, NBTE NSQF etc. I commenced the process of adapting these at State level and I am hopeful my successor will continue and conclude. I hold the view that there is urgent need for sub-state entities to commenced practical appraisal of Education performance indicators- what structures are available in learning environment? Are they conducive? availability of curriculums, instructional materials for both learners and teachers, teachers' motivation etc.? Everyone seem to think money is the challenge but in my experience, the major challenge is that stakeholder are oblivious of the key issues and often disconnected. Education sector need more advocates, champions, self-motivated and cooperating supporters at all levels.

Your final words again on the urgency and importance for the Ebira and Igala Language Curricular.

Let's move from mere talk, hopes and dreams to 'means and ways'. After all is and, let us individually and collectively ensure that more is done than was and. Let us solve the problems and go out of our ways to make the world better for others, let us give others wings to fly and make our communities the pride of place for strangers to want to visit.



IGALA EDUCATION FOUNDATION: WHERE EXCELLENCE MEETS REWARDS

Nathan Oguche Emmanuel, Ph.D

Any ethnic group that relies on political advantage through numbers and population size for its long-term progress is in for a rude shock sooner or later...The ethnic group...will soon find itself naked whenever the group is stripped bare of its political advantage...The first law therefore of our social progress as an ethnic group is education, the second law is education, and the third law is education. - Prof. F.S Idachaba (2002).

It has been widely acknowledged by scholars, politicians, policy makers, educational planners, the clergy, and humanity generally that education is the greatest legacy any person, group or community can hope to bequeath to its citizens. This is in recognition of the fact that no nation or society can hope to develop beyond the level of education of its people.

One of such individuals who believed in the efficacy of education as a tool for human capital development was the late erudite scholar, philanthropist, and a cypress among pliant shrubs, Professor Francis Sulemanu Idachaba, NNOM, OFR, D.Sc, FAAAE.

Historically, between 1940s and 1960s, the then Igala Native Authority (precursor to the Kogi East Senatorial District) provided benevolent scholarship to Igala/Bassa students in Dekina Middle/Junior Secondary School, Provincial Secondary School, Okene (now Abdulazeez Memorial College - AMCO). Many Igala icons today, benefited from such generosity.

Having benefitted from different scholarships, including that of Igala Native Authority, the Northern Nigeria Government and the Rockefeller Foundation, and having been exposed to the concept of human capital pioneered by Professor T.W Schultz, Economics Nobel Laureate at the University of Chicago during his Postgraduate studies in the late 1960s where the role of education as the central weapon for poverty reduction was espoused, Prof. Idachaba was poised and stimulated to create a new orientation among the Igala people through quality education.

Prof. Idachaba was particularly pained and concerned about the deplorable conditions of education in Igaland – the mass failure in national examinations laced with the inglorious examination malpractices and the wide gender disparity in girl education with girls scoring far



*Chairman of the Igala Education Foundation,
Chief Arc GY Aduku OON*

below boys in national examinations. It was in the bold attempt to redress this state of affairs and to position Igaland on the pedestal of excellence that Professor Idachaba in 2001 founded the Igala Education Foundation. He felt that there was a need to create a platform to transform the mind-set of the Igala from relying on the false and illusory security of temporary advantages from political numerical superiority in Kogi to a mind-set that realizes that the surest salvation for the individual and group out of poverty, illiteracy and isolation is education.

Today, the Igala Education Foundation which is chaired by a renowned architect, a humanist, an

elder statesman, Elder Chief. G.Y Aduku, OON, has become a household name and through the Igala Education Summit, the Foundation has provided a platform for all stakeholders to exchange ideas and experiences on the constraints, opportunities and solutions to the education challenges through participatory approach where students, parents, guardians, government, employers and civil society groups engaged in consultative interactions. Since its inception, the Foundation has held uninterrupted annual education summits, and has provided scholarship awards to deserving Igala sons and daughters at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The Foundation is poised to sustain this legacy bequeathed by its founder – Professor Francis Sulemanu Idachaba.

Professor F.S Idachaba: Still A Cypress among Pliant Shrubs

Professor Francis Sulemanu Idachaba, NNOM, D.Sc., OFR was a distinguished Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Ibadan, a feat he achieved at the age of 38 years. He was the pioneer Vice Chancellor of University of Agriculture, Makurdi, for eight (8) years (1988-95) and was also the Vice Chancellor of Kogi State University from 2005 to 2008.

To occupy these vantage positions, he did not just come from the blues as he had garnered vast experiences both at home (Nigeria) and in the international arena. He was a scholar of international repute and was consultant to different International organizations including African Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) Maastricht, The Netherlands, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Bank, United Nations, University Tokyo World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER), Helsinki and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, among others.

Prof. Idachaba was one of the few "Nigerian citizens who have contributed outstandingly to national development". In 2011, he was conferred with the prestigious Nigerian National Order of Merit (NNOM) by President Goodluck Jonathan, the highest honour that Nigeria can bestow on its citizen for academic excellence and outstanding intellectual achievements.

In 2000, he was conferred with the National Honour of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) by President Olusegun Obasanjo. He has carried out numerous national assignments including Pioneer Chairman, National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA), Member, Presidential Advisory Committee (PAC), the Presidency, 1985-93, Elder Statesman, National Political Reform Conference (2005), Vision 2010

Committee, Member, Governing Council of several federal universities and Member, Governing Boards of several federal and state government parastatals (1975-2010), among others.

Prof. Idachaba was a philanthropist to the core and out of his magnanimity founded the Igala Education Foundation (IEF) after his seven years stint with the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), The Hague, The Netherlands, where he rose to the position of Deputy Director General. On his return to Nigeria, he set up the Igala Education Foundation to give back to the society out of what God has blessed him with. Professor Francis Idachaba is also the founder of the F.S. Idachaba Foundation for Research and Scholarship, a research foundation that focuses on capacity building of young researchers and scholars to transform the society. He was conferred with the D.Sc. (*Honoris Causa*), University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, in 2004 and was elected Fellow, African Association of Agricultural Economists in 2010. Indeed, he was and still a cypress among pliant shrubs.

Funding of the Igala Education Foundation

The funding of the Igala Education Foundation comes from illustrious sons and daughters of Igala extraction. The funds are basically in three categories:

The Igala Education Foundation Trust Fund: A central element of the Founder's strategy for the sustainable funding of the Foundation was his decision to establish an Igala Education Foundation Trust Fund made of donations from distinguished Igala sons of N1 million and above each. The Trust Fund is invested long term in a portfolio of blue chips equities on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. While the equity portfolio of the Foundation remains invested for the long term subject to the preservation of capital value, the dividend income from the stock market investments provides the funds for the annual public recognition and rewards in the form of cash grants and prizes for outstanding academic excellence at all levels of education.

Stabilization Fund

Operational Fund: Any donation that is less than a million naira goes to the operational fund which is used to fund all the operational expenses of the Igala Education Foundation, especially the Annual Education Summits.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Question: What is the difference between the Igala Education Foundation and the Igala Education Summit?

Answer: The Igala Education Foundation is the organizer of Igala Education Summits. While the Foundation is the umbrella organization, the Summit is an avenue through which issues that border on education are discussed and solutions proffered, a sensitization tool where all stakeholders in the educational sector are gathered to discuss the teething problems confronting the educational sector in Igaland and how such problems can be tackled.

Does the Igala Education Foundation give scholarships to needy students?

At the moment, the Igala Education Foundation does not give scholarship to needy students but the Foundation promotes academic excellence by rewarding exceptional individuals who have displayed academic excellence in all academic fields and at all levels.

Why can't the Igala Education Foundation build model schools in Igaland?

The mandate of the Igala Education Foundation is not to build model schools in Igaland but the Foundation can act as a catalyst through which such schools can be built.

What can the Igala Education Foundation do about examination malpractice in Kogi State?

The Igala Education Foundation has always been a vocal voice in the campaign against examination malpractices. The Foundation does this through its annual Summit.

Who Can Benefit from the Foundation Awards?

Presently, the Igala Education Foundation provides cash awards to first class graduates from any recognised university across the world, as well as graduates from Polytechnics who made Distinctions at both National Diploma (ND) and Higher National Diploma (HND) levels. This particular award for these two categories of graduates commenced in 2004 and 2006, respectively. The Awards of Academic Excellence are always given to deserving Igala sons and daughters during the annual Igala Education Summit which usually takes place in December.

Nathan is the Secretary of the Igala Education Foundation, academic staff of the Department of Mass Communication, Kogi State University, Anyigba and Founding Managing Editor, ARISE IGALA magazine.



Bar. Jimoh Sharubutu member Board of Trustee Igala Education Foundation during on the Summits



Idakwoji during the 2015 Summit



Representatives of Igala USA, Prof. Zekeri and Mrs Bridget Abuh

For enquiries on how to support the Foundation and other sundry issues, call:
Prof. Joseph I. Omada, the Executive Director of the Foundation on **08034505553**
Dr. Nathan Oguche Emmanuel, the Foundation Secretary on **08039681501**



2015 Summit



Dr Sam Onuh, Dr Emmanuel Onucheyo and Prof J I Omada



Dr Y I Abubakar Idu former Registrar of Kogi State University during the 15th Igala Education Summit



Chief G.Y. Aduku receiving copies of the curriculum of Igala Language from Mr. Francis Atidoga at the 15th summit



Alh Suleiman Ibrahim during the 2015 Igala Education Summit

DR. SALISU OGBO USMAN'S 100 DAYS OF MAGIC AT THE HELMS OF AFFAIRS IN KOGI STATE POLYTECHNIC: A JUSTIFICATION FOR GOVERNOR YAHAYA 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 Poly.

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 and only genuine development can 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 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 inability 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 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.

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.
- 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

RATION

- 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.

SECURITY



HEALTH



SPORT



CONDUCTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



OLAMABORO PUBLIC LIBRARY

NOW OPEN FOR USE



On the 6th of June 2020, Olamaboro Public Library was commissioned. The first phase of the project was the Ogugu Centre Library. The Okpo and Imane Libraries are scheduled to be opened as soon as possible. The event was graced by the paramount ruler of the local government, HRH, Chief Ujah Simeon, the Ejeh of Olamaboro who was the face of the event alongside other Royal Fathers, dignitaries and clerics.

The objective of this intervention is to make as many books as possible available to residents of the local government through these 3 strategically located public Libraries in Olamaboro with each centre having a minimum of one thousand books. However, at the time of opening the Ogugu Centre's, over 500 books cutting across biographies, academics, past questions, journals,

motivation/inspirational, self-help, novels et al were already stocked into the catalogues.

The project was sponsored Through crowdfunding campaigns and public support especially through donation of books and finance.

Students and interested persons can now have access to a wide range of books (hard copies and e-books) to keep dust off their brains.

In a speech presented by the Royal Father of the day, "a man who does not read has no advantage over a man who cannot read. I hereby enjoin all residents of Ogugu, old and young to leverage on this initiative to build capacity. Personally, I'm a consumer of information and I read at least two books in a week, although the demands of the palace are gradually changing that, but I encourage

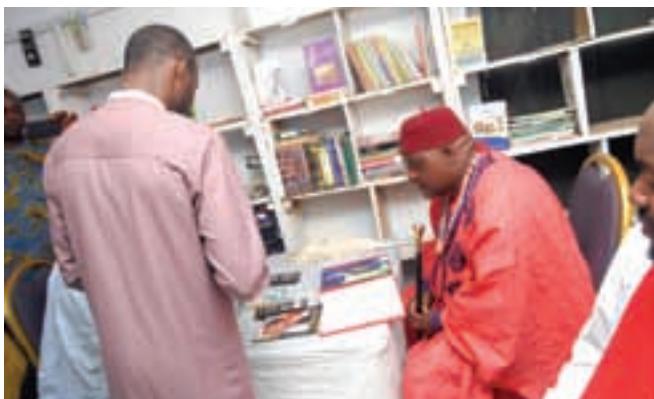
everyone to patronize this historic initiative.

In a remark by the project initiator, Ujah Martins, the illiterate of the 21st century is not the man on wheelchair but the man without knowledge. He knows neither how to rule nor when he's being ruled out. Though he lives in a free country, he's colonized by the people who know more than him. Knowledge therefore is the difference between a man's present Status and his desired destination.

Upon the opening of the first phase in Ogugu,

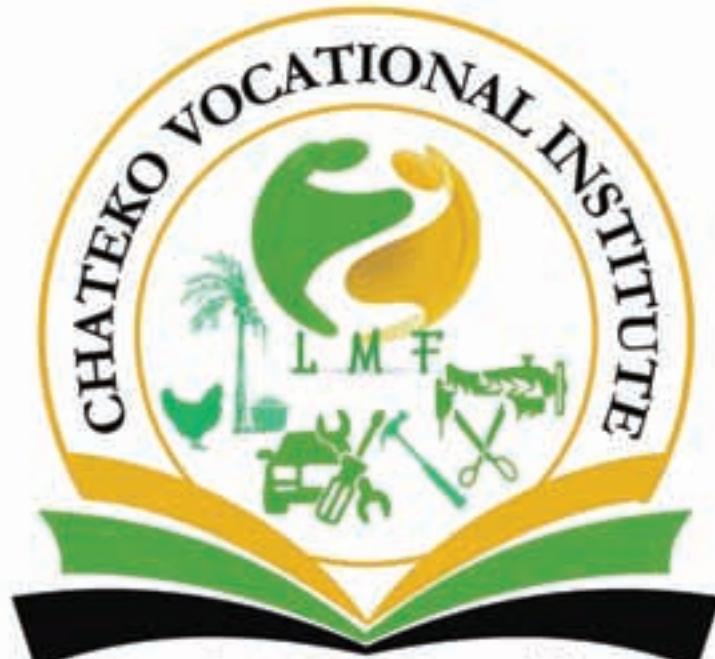
youths from across the state have begun to signify interest in replicating the idea in their various areas across Kogi state. Hopefully, this will erupt into a movement where more chains of micro libraries will begin to spring up across Kogi and Nigeria in the near future.

This project is made possible through the relentlessness of a formidable team of young scholars; Ujah Martins, Okeme Kelvin Abraham, Adejo Friday and Ujah Jacob



LADI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

CHATEKO VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE



*...Raising Impactful,
Productive & Skillful People*

About LMF.

- a. Ladi Memorial Foundation (LMF) is a registered non-profit, non-governmental organization focused on deploying range of activities and programmes to support individuals and communities achieve improved means of livelihoods and sustainable development through awareness and practical, functional vocational skills acquisition. LMF commenced operations in 2017 in Olamaboro LGA of Kogi East and following the observed need for sustainable interventions, established Chateko Vocational Institute (CVI) in Kogi state which currently has 2 functional and well equipped vocational training centers- Chateko Vocational Institute (CVI) Olamaboro LGA which commenced trainings in August 2018 and Chateko Vocational Institute (CVI) Lokoja which was established in April 2019 and provides a range of practical and functional Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) activities, targeted sensitization and advocacy programmes and community support initiatives.
- b. **VISION:** To raise generations of creative, impactful, innovative, productive, skillful and talented people.
- c. **MISSION**
- i. **Provide** technical and vocational training to equip a critical mass irrespective of sex, class, gender and social backgrounds- with practical skills for entrepreneurship and lifelong employability.
- ii. **Reduce** the burden of out of school young adults and attendant brain drain from local communities by **Equipping and Connecting** individuals, groups and communities to employment opportunities.
- iii. **Facilitate** platforms for artisans, out of school youths, local entrepreneurs & interested individuals/ groups to attain basic literacy goals while acquiring certification in technical, vocational education and training (TVET).
- iv. **Build** the self-esteem, self-worth, ethics, work values, confidence and leadership skills of young persons to enable them optimize potentials.
- v. **Initiate and Sustain** avenues for mentorship, internship and apprenticeship to entrepreneurs, students and graduates.
- vi. **Promote** technology transfers and **Create** opportunities for industrial attachments, internship programmes and networking.
- vii. **Provide** access to professional career and academic guidance and counseling.
- viii. **Promote** the culture of community service and social work through volunteerism and social responsibility projects.
- ix. **Sensitize and advocate literacy, Technical, Vocational Education and training as sustainable individual and community livelihood improvement and development strategy.**



Group picture with dignitaries at Flag off of Literacy Project Aug 2019

Contact Addresses:

- a. **Registered Address:** 1 Usman Magawata Close, Trademore Estate, Lugbe, Abuja.
- b. **Lokoja Permanent Address:** LMF Building, Opposite Commissioners' Quarters, Assembly Quarters Road, Gadumo, Lokoja, Kogi State. Tel: (234) 8114037975. (234) 8077231665
- c. **Olamaboro LGA Address:** Beside St. Agatha Catholic Church, Ileke Emonoja Ojuwo, Ogugu District, Olamaboro LGA; Tel:(234) 80114082813; 8077231665
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Deputy Governor Inspecting Literacy Materials donated for literacy & continuing Education

Statement of the Problem. The North central States including Kogi State are affected by the burden of skills and education gap especially for youth and the girl child- affected by various abuses, early marriage & social vices. Studies have made connections between literacy, income levels, sexual abuses, security and social vices.

- The need for expanded stakeholders contribution to reducing Nigeria's burden of youth unemployment and school dropout describe to be reportedly high, which Northern Nigeria reportedly bears the most of this burden has been emphasized. Technical and vocational education was identified as a sustainable strategy to addressing these problems and the need to scale up acquisition of practical vocational skills was identified. The reality however is limited access.
- Functional vocational skills centers and workshops are found to be limited in most States and rural communities and LGAs have no access at all. Availability of technical & vocational Skills instructors and instructional materials was observed to be a major constraint, worse for rural, off-grid communities, which bears the most burden. The programs and activities of LMF are tailored to address

these challenges and more.

- Most beneficiaries of literacy and vocational skills programs are indigent and live below poverty lines and unable to afford the cost of trainings. The LMF has thus far relied on funds generated from members and individuals. This funding is unable to cope with the post COVID-19 realities and current cost burden hence the need for fund raising sustain current efforts, provide specialized equipment required for people with disability and to expand current workshops. The need to expand partnership and collaboration frameworks, increased funding through grant/ donation from spirited individuals, groups, Government, corporate organizations and Development partners etc to support the trainees and charitable projects of the LMF have been established.

Vocational Training Facilities Permanent Structures.

The Foundation completed the construction of 2 blocks of vocational Skills workshop complete with facilities for Instructors' offices and residence, stores and studio room in both urban and rural centers in Kogi State which provides for literacy classes, and functional practical vocational skills acquisition in various



HE, Dept. Gov., Presents LMF Garment Making Kits To Participant At The Summer Vocational Camp, Ileke

trade courses. Trainees accommodation facilities are provided in the rural center and one meal daily provided as incentive. LMF permanent site in Lokoja has capacity to train over 150 trainees per time.

- a. **Rural Training Centre.** The LMF completed the construction of a block of 2 vocational Skills workshop with a teacher's office, stores

and Instructors' studio room in LMF CVI Ileke Emonja centre in August 2019 which provides for literacy classes, garment making and Catering Craft trainings for indigent communities. From February 2020 LMF provides free boarding facilities and feeding are available for third session of trainees from



distant rural communities at this center.

- b. **Urban Training Centre.** LMF urban vocational skills centre is the Foundation's Permanent building which comprises of a block of 2 equipped workshops (garment making and catering craft workshops), one classroom,

teachers' office, stores, 2 studio rooms to provide for day care center and admin office) and public toilet facilities. The foundation has dedicated centre for animal husbandry and farming.

Registrations: LMF is registered with: the



Corporate Affairs Commission (registration number: 123865), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Kogi State Adult & Non-formal Education Agency (ANFE), National Business, Technical Examination Board ((NABTEB), Centre Number: 23198), Federal Ministry of Budget and

National Planning, Kogi State Internal Revenue Service (KGIRS), Kogi State Ministries of Education and Women Affairs and Social Development, as well as Lokoja and Olamaboro LGAs. The Federal Ministry of Education has issued 'No Objection' to CAC for the registration of Chateko Vocational Institute.



Source of Funds. source of funding of the Non-Governmental Organization (Ladi Memorial Foundation) is through the following:

- a. **Donations:** from friends, community groups, stakeholder



Hon. Mrs. Rosemary Ojochenemi Osikoya Recipient Of Igala Women Of Substance Award At Transcorp Hilton, Abuja

- groups and organizations etc.
- b. **Grants.** From Donors, Development Partners, government organizations etc
 - c. **Support.** From philanthropic individuals and organizations.
 - d. **Endowments.** Proceeds from sale of hand crafts and produce/products made by trainees/ members of the LMF, from programmes, outreaches and activities/ production units of the LMF etc.
 - e. **Contributions.** From members of the Board of Trustees and members of LMF
 - f. For Partnership, trainees sponsorship, community project support, grants, donations, sponsorship etc: **Bank:** First Bank Plc; **Account Name:** Ladi Memorial Foundation; **Account Number:** 2034031001.

LMF Programmes and Activities. The activities of the Foundation includes:

- a. **Community outreach vocational programs** for community groups- women, youth and child, where functional short term practical vocational skills and crafts are taught i.e. baking, catering crafts, hat making, bag making etc over 250

persons have been trained thus far at such training.

- b. **Adult Literacy Programmes.** Piloted in August 2019, over 60 women are enrolled for the adult literacy programme in Ileke Emonoja community of Ogugu, Olamaboro LGA. Requests have been received from over 500 women in other communities but pending due to funding gaps.

c. **Medium and long term Vocational skills**

Training. instruction for 6-months garment making commenced in August 2018 in Ileke Emonoja Study Centre in Olamaboro LGA of Kogi State and all pioneer trainees were offered full scholarships and instruction for all trade courses was provided by qualified skills instructors. The inaugural graduation for 16 pioneer scholarship trainees took place in March 2019. A second set completed training in December 2019 in both Lokoja and Ileke Centre and await graduation. The fourth set of trainees are due to complete training in March 2020; 5th session scheduled to commence in April 2020.

d. **Schools support Programmes.**

- i. **Primary schools support.** The pioneer focal school, LGEA Primary School Ileke Emonoja



President NOGALSS Comrade Noah Emmanuel addressing women at the flag off of LMF Literacy project 2019



LMF Sponsored Rural Primary school children day outreacy May 29, 2019

received various support from the LMF which include: provision of NCE Teachers whose salaries are paid by the LMF, provision of uniforms and school bags to over 103 pupils (sewn by trainees of CVI), provision of sandals and learning aides-complete sets of textbooks for Primary 1-6 with workbooks & teachers' guides, charts, etc.

ii. Secondary school students are provided

functional practical vocational education after formal school hours at the CVI workshops.

iii. Library and crafts center. LMF library provides access to books for many children whose parents cannot afford to buy textbooks. Teachers and adult learners are also able to access instructional materials at the centers.

iv. Literacy & extra mural classes are run by the centres for both children and young adult who



Rural Women enrolled for Literacy class August 2019

have no prior education, have dropped out of school or have learning difficulties. These are conducted as evening lessons, holiday lessons or extra mural classes.

- e. **Community Health Education and medical outreaches.** Following series of individual medical care support to community members, the Foundation's pioneer medical outreach was conducted between October – November 2019 in partnership with CEF, volunteer medical personnel, Political figures and H-Medix Pharmacy Abuja. Over 5 rural communities of Ogugu Ward 1 took place between October 16 and November 14, 2019 namely Emagaba, Ileke Emonoja, Adum, Anyigba Ogugu, Emachadu and Ikem communities. Volunteer medical personnel- doctors, nurses and support staff participated. Over 1,000 indigent community members benefited and children in over 4 public schools were dewormed during the

exercise.

- f. **Teenage/ under-aged Mothers Support:** This programme developed from majority of rural trainees being under-aged mothers, school dropouts and without means of livelihood. Focused attention is provided counseling, vocational training, continuing education and rehabilitation. The Case of Aisha Salisu who was relocated to MOMs Orphanage with her 6 months old baby after about 2 months hospitalization and treatment at FMC Lokoja for breast infection & surgery paid for by LMF. Sadly after about 6 months she insisted on leaving with her 1 year old baby to the unknown, was handed over to State social welfare services by LMF & MOMs Orphanage and was sadly returned back to her community by the Social Welfare office and ran away again. Many under-aged mothers are school dropouts, victims of sexual & emotional abuse, vulnerable



and indigent members of their communities.

- g. **Welfare & Incentives for Vocational Skills Trainees.** LMF has also provided livelihood support for indigent members of various communities as well as granted scholarships, medical assistance and advanced support for small businesses to trainees. In view of the reasons for drop out observed in December 2019, accommodation and feeding is proposed for the February 2020 batch of Trainees in Ogugu training centre.
- h. **Capacity Building of Teachers.** Training of teachers in rural schools was facilitated in 2019 in partnership with NTI and CEF. About 34 teachers were trained at LMF Ileke campus, Ogugu, Olamaboro LGA of Kogi State etc.
- i. **Adolescents Summer Vocational Camp.** This was piloted in July 2019 in Felele Lokoja and Ileke Emona. About 40 secondary school

students on holiday were trained for 2 weeks in garment making and catering craft. 2020 summer camp is being planned. The pilot project has been further expanded into the LMF Young Entrepreneurs Project (YEP) of the LMF.

- j. **Sensitization and Advocacy.** LMF has conducted various successful sensitization campaigns which includes:
- i. **Sensitization and advocacy on return of out of school children to school in Ileke Emona Community.** From 15 children enrolled in the LGEA school in 2018, following various LMF intervention, the enrollment figure rose to about 120 in 2019.
- ii. **Sensitization on the Right of women to be heard and participate in election processes.** LMF organized women voters education session for the November 2016 elections in Kogi State and consequently elections were

peaceful in the areas of operations of the LMF.

- iii. **Sensitization and advocacy on youth and adult acquisition of practical and functional vocational and technical skills.** LMF has organized targeted awareness campaigns to various community groups and well placed individuals at various levels to advocate community members involvement, ownership and support for practical and functional TVET. As at March 2020 LMF has trained about 600 people in various vocational trade subjects and facilitated many young people enrollment in formal institutions of learning at various levels.
- k. **Production Unit of the Institute.** In line with the

Education Policy, Chateko Vocational Institute functions as production unit and vocational incubation centre which engages trainees and artisans to produce various garments (uniforms, male and female garments etc) and bag products on demand, the proceed of which supports participants livelihood. Some project include APWEN funded production of 450 uniforms for pupils of LGEA primary school Ofugo, Ankpa LGA, production of uniforms for Rhema Academy Lokoja and Nursing students uniform for School of Nursing Ochadamu, Kogi State. Others include production of facemasks, souvenir bags for events etc.

Date	Type of training	Location	Total Trained	Sponsor
Aug 2018	Community Outreach	Ileke Emonoja Ogugu, Olamaboro LGA	198	LMF
Sep 2018-March 2019	Garment making (6months)	CVI Ileke Emonoja	16	LMF
Jun-Dec 2019	Garment Making (6months), Hat making	CVI Lokoja and CVI Ileke Emonoja	16	LMF, others
July 2019	Adolescents Vocational Summer Camp	Felele and CVI Lokoja	40	LMF
Aug-Dec 2019	Adult Basic Literacy	Ileke Emonoja Ogugu, Olamaboro LGA	68	LMF
Oct-Dec 2019	Garment making & Catering Crafts	CVI Lokoja	105	YESSO
Jan-Date	In-schools student support (GDSS Adankolo, Lokoja students)	CVI Lokoja	6	LMF
Feb 2020	Garment making (6 months), catering Crafts	Lokoja (24) Ileke Emonoja (15)	39	LMF, YESSO, others
March 2020	Women Skills for Empowerment Outreach workshop	Emagaba II Community Ogugu	80	LMF

Trade Course for the 2020 Calendar:

- a. Garment Making Trade Courses: male garment making, Female Garment making, hat making crafts, bag making and needle crafts etc.
- b. Catering Craft Trade courses: Cake Baking & Sugar Craft, Food preparation, Bread and Pastries crafts, Food and drinks service etc

- c. Agricultural Trade Courses: Fish farming, animal husbandry (sheep & Goat), poultry, Vegetables and crop farming.

- 10. **Members of the Board of Trustees:** Review of LMF BOT is ongoing and the Registration of CVI with CAC as Limited by Guarantee Company is also ongoing.



HRH Chief Nana Abu Ali during a visit to children Literacy session at LMF CVI Ileke, September 2019



LMF Schools Support-2019 Children's Day Outreach LGEA Ileke



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2010 - 2020



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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

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SHERATON HOTEL & TOWERS, ABUJA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2020