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**Dr. Amarachi Oriaku Taking
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Turn Your Idle Land into a Generational Asset: How Diaspora Nigerians Can Turn One Plot into ₦300,000 a Year

Stop Renting Your Land for ₦30,000. Start Earning ₦300,000 Per Plot.

Across Abia State and much of southeastern Nigeria, many diaspora landowners unknowingly allow their valuable land to be rented out to local farmers for as little as ₦30,000 per plot for two years of cassava cultivation.

While this may seem convenient, it significantly undervalues the land's true earning potential. By converting that same plot into an oil palm plantation, landowners can generate ₦200,000–₦300,000 annually per plot once the plantation matures. Instead of treating land as a passive asset, diaspora investors can transform it into a long-term income-producing agricultural investment.

The Hidden Cost of Renting Out Land

Many diaspora property owners face three major risks when land is left idle or casually leased:

1. Extremely Low Financial Returns

Cassava farmers typically pay ₦30,000 for a two-year lease, meaning the landowner earns only about ₦15,000 per year per plot.

2. Land Encroachment Risks

Unmonitored land often becomes vulnerable to several risks, including boundary disputes, illegal resale by relatives, quiet encroachment by neighbors, and the gradual loss of property rights. *When land is left unattended for long periods, others, including closer relatives, may take advantage of the owner's absence.* By the time the rightful owner discovers the problem, reclaiming the land can be extremely difficult and costly.

3. No Long-Term Wealth Creation

Temporary farming leases do not build any asset value. After the season ends, the land returns to being idle again.

Why Oil Palm Plantation is a Smarter Strategy

Oil palm is one of the most profitable perennial crops in West Africa.

A well-managed plantation can produce revenue for over 25 years from the same trees.

Continued on Page 3

Services Include:

Land Preparation. The process begins with proper land preparation, including clearing, professional surveying, and a well-planned plantation layout to optimize the land for long-term productivity.

Seedling Procurement. To ensure strong, healthy trees with high production potential, premium oil palm seedlings are sourced directly from MerComf's nurseries in Aba and Umuahia.

Plantation Establishment. Experienced agricultural professionals handle the planting process, including proper spacing, fertilization, and routine maintenance to ensure optimal growth and productivity. Project Manager Izuchukwu Ogbonna, BSc, an agricultural economist with extensive experience in agribusiness development, farm management, and investment strategy, leads operations.

Ongoing Management. After establishment, the plantation continues to be professionally managed through regular monitoring, harvesting, and coordination of produce sales.

This turnkey system allows diaspora investors to own and benefit from profitable plantations without needing to live locally or worry about transparency and accountability issues from relatives.

Two Choices for Diaspora Landowners:**Option 1: Continue the Traditional Approach**

Continue renting your land to relatives for ₦30,000 every two years. In many cases, the money never reaches your bank account because relatives often have personal issues that take priority. Meanwhile, the land remains largely idle, lying fallow for another two years or more.

Option 2: Build a Productive Plantation

Transform that same land into a productive oil palm plantation capable of generating ₦200,000–₦300,000 per plot each year. With professional plantation management, all revenue is paid directly into your designated bank account. *This option turns your land into a reliable income-generating asset and builds lasting generational wealth, beginning as early as the third year.*

Why Choose MerComf?

"At MerComf, we are redefining agriculture as a vehicle for wealth creation, food security, and national development," said the company's CEO, Alozie Ogbonna, PhD. "Our model is built to empower both local farmers and global investors with scalable, sustainable, and profitable agribusiness solutions."

For farmers, homeowners, and diaspora investors alike, the message is clear: the future of wealth creation may be growing right in the soil.

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Uyo Chapter of Waka Community International Foundation. Do you agree with what they said at the end of the video

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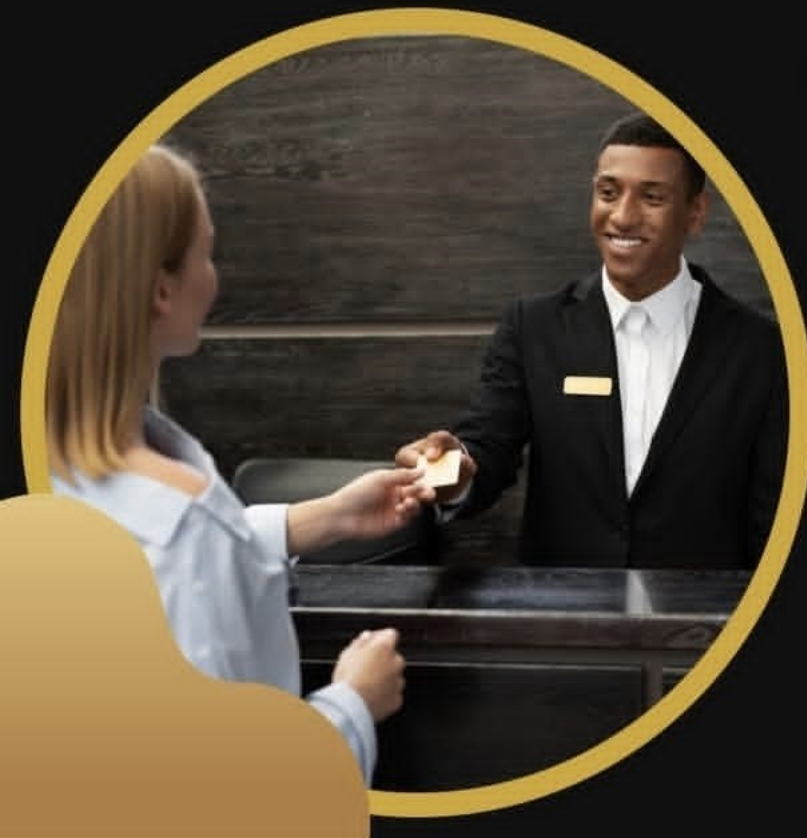
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Ms Ijeoma Barnett Moves to North Carolina!



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*She came with a very big bag of goodies. Don't miss yours!
Charlotte Welcomes Ms Ijeoma Barnett!
Let the good times roll!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*



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What's Really Better?

Since I agree that “Better structure means better results” I read a blog post with that title this morning. The author talked about adjusting roles in a big company – was this needed? could it be part time? I would call this tinkering. Tinkering is satisfying. Sometimes tinkering is useful. However, often it is destructive. Because it is very possible to tinker with one corner of a business to make it “more efficient” and have the unintended consequence of making the purpose of the whole thing harder to accomplish. An example of this is a movie theater where the manager was told to cut costs. The most expensive cost is personnel, so the hours on the concession stand were reduced to cut costs. However, most of the money of the theater is made from concessions, and those happen during those hours that were cut. So, the movie theater cut costs and lost money. Tinkering. In technical fields like software consulting this can look like letting go the highly skilled people and bringing in juniors because the seniors “cost too much.” And losing the person who gets the hardest projects over the finish line, in time and under budget.

If you are facing difficult decisions, start with the fundamentals of who you serve, how, and why they pick you. And having an outsider like me around to make sure tinkering doesn't accidentally cut the concession stand hours can be wise. The post [What's really better?](#) first appeared on [Amanda Gustafson Consulting](#).



Amanda Gustafson

GRADUATED 2026



Ikenna - MA in Clinical Psychology, NC Central University
Chidi - Doctor of Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill

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Carving away what doesn't belong

- “When are you going to stop doing break/fix work?”
 “Good question.”
 In a recent strategic planning session, my client has run an IT service company for over 8 years. We were working towards getting him service contract clients that would bring in thousands per month. Stopping to fix someone's laptop for \$100 has a big opportunity cost. He decided to commit to:
 - not taking on any more break/fix clients,
 - * finding people he could feel good about referring the work to.

I also suggested raising his break/fix prices so that he is no longer attractive for that service. When I work with clients, we clarify the picture of the future they want.

To hit his revenue and work hours goals, it becomes obvious what goes and what stays.

“I created a vision of David in my mind and simply carved away everything that was not David.”

— Michelangelo

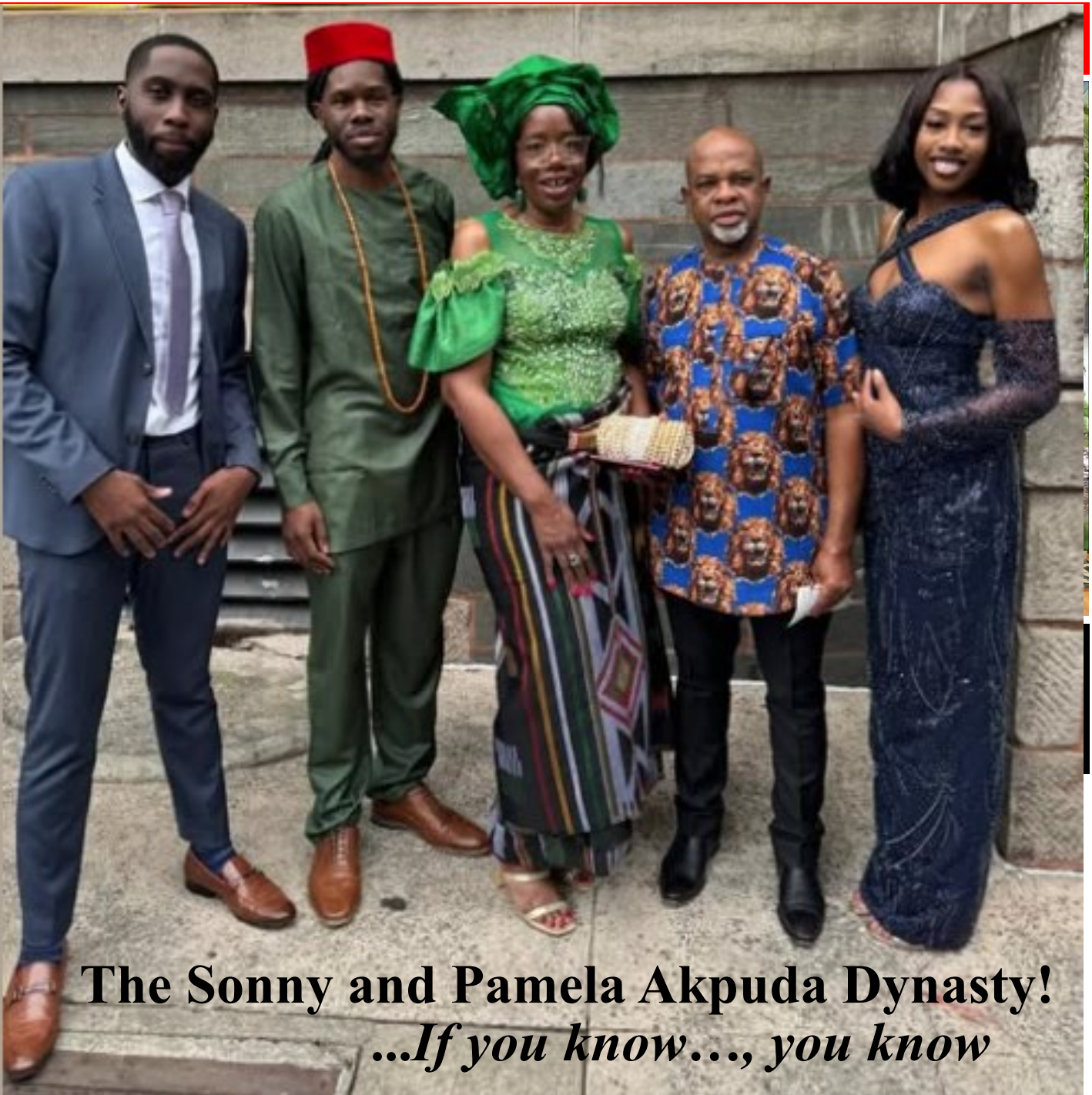
Anyone can do a little math and point out inefficiencies.

But some inefficiencies are essential to the work of art.

If you aren't focused on the vision, it is easy to carve off the wrong bits.

For those who know they need to pivot. But they don't want to lose the core of what makes them special to their clients.

I'm around. Reply to this and tell me what's up. The post [Carving away what doesn't belong](#) first appeared on [Amanda Gustafson Consulting](#).



The Sonny and Pamela Akpuda Dynasty! *...If you know..., you know*

Chief Sonny Akpuda is one of the earliest Nigerians to settle in the Raleigh, North Carolina area. He has welcomed and celebrated new arrivals over the years. Sonny has provided business, social, and philanthropic services to members of his community and has been duly acknowledged by all Nigerians. Sonny Akpuda is very well-known in the area. If a Nigerian coming from out-of-state arrives the Raleigh-Durham International Airport asks the first Nigerian he or she meets, "Do you know Sonny Akpuda?" Chances are the person will know Sonny Akpuda. His wife, Lady Pam Akpuda is a noiseless mover and shaker among Nigerian women in the community. If you are a Nigerian woman in Raleigh, NC, you definitely know Lady Pam Akpuda. She is in the Human Services space and makes huge impact in the Sorority space. This is to their continued success!!!

Reflections from the Diaspora Director: Inside Two Presidential Campaigns in Nigeria's Defining Elections *(By Prof. Charles Orbih)*

This eyewitness account is by Professor Charles Orbih, who served as Diaspora Director for Professor Moghalu's Campaign during the 2019 and 2023 election cycles. *We despair, but we are not discouraged. We are hopeful that the day will come when the people will choose the right leadership for the country.*

It was the summer of 2018 when I got a call from Dr. Ify Smart. "Charlie, I want to introduce you to somebody," she said. "I know you'll like his philosophy on Nigeria." That's how I met Ms. Doris Udensi, one of Professor Kingsley Moghalu's political managers. Through her, we set up a Zoom meeting with the Professor. Back then, Zoom was mostly a niche tool for corporate meetings, barely known to the general public. Yet, about fifteen of us scattered across the United States huddled around our computers and phones to listen to Professor Kingsley Moghalu, fondly known as PKM. Dialing in from somewhere in the South East of Nigeria, he promised to stay on the line for about thirty minutes. An hour and a half later, over 80% of the people on that call were convinced: this was the man they wanted as Nigeria's President.

He faced a formidable lineup of political heavyweights, including incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Moghalu didn't win the 2019 election, but for many in the Nigerian Diaspora, he embodied the kind of leader who

could make the country and the continent proud. After the 2019 elections, when PKM left the Young Progressive Party (YPP) to launch his "To Build A Nation" (TBAN) movement, a wave of young people and supporters of his vision followed him. This advocacy group hit the ground running and played a major role in pushing for changes to the Electoral Act, bringing crucial input from PKM and his supporters.

By the time the 2023 election cycle rolled around, many in the Diaspora who had backed him in 2018 and 2019 joined with new supporters to form the Friends of Moghalu Movement (FOM). They genuinely believed Kingsley had a shot at becoming the next President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Naturally, there were internal debates about how best to position his run, especially since there was no incumbent this time and he was no longer a political unknown. But when he announced he was running under the African Democratic Congress (ADC), it was a pragmatic nod to the political realities of the time. His Diaspora supporters were thrilled, given the ADC's standing in previous elections. What wasn't so clear to us back then was how quickly the face of the "Third Force" movement would change. The ADC was set to sponsor PKM, provided he won the primary.

2019 Elections - Warm Up for 2023

Looking at the field of candidates in that election cycle, Professor Kingsley Chiedu Moghalu had the most impressive resume.

Nobody else came close. He was a political economist, a Professor in Practice at Tufts University, a former United Nations diplomat, and a former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The 2019 elections felt like a real opportunity for a younger, fresher generation of politicians, including Omoyele Sowore, Fela Durotoye, Tope Fasua, and Moghalu, to team up and push out the old guard. That didn't happen, though, and Moghalu ended up running on the YPP ticket.

That 2018 Zoom call truly sparked an awakening among the Nigerian Diaspora. For the first time, they felt they had a real political voice. His campaign leaned heavily on his book, Build, Innovate and Grow (BIG), a message that resonated deeply with young people, technocrats, and Nigerians living abroad. He even secured endorsements from heavy-hitters like Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka and the Emir of Kano, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi (Kingsley's former boss at the CBN). Still, the election results fell short of expectations. In the wake of the election outcome, PKM announced he was leaving the YPP to form To Build A Nation (TBAN).

TBAN, Electoral Reform, and Diaspora Voting

Running on the YPP platform in 2019 was a massive learning curve for all of us supporting PKM. We learned some hard lessons about how smaller parties operate in Nigeria.

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Reflections from the Diaspora Director: Inside Two Presidential Campaigns in Nigeria's Defining Elections *(By Prof. Charles Orbih)*

Continued from Page 10

After that, we shifted gears to make sure TBAN could advocate strategically by teaming up with other civil society groups. That teamwork eventually helped push through the Electoral Act 2022, which President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law. But while the new legislation was supposed to make elections more transparent, the reality of the 2023 Presidential elections told a different story.

To strengthen TBAN USA, PKM appointed Professor Adenike Grange, a former Health Minister in President Yar'Adua's administration, and Dr. Julius Kpaduwa, a veteran Healthcare Practitioner in California and President of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas, as Patrons of TBAN USA. These steady hands contributed immensely to TBAN USA's fundraising efforts. Their presence in our virtual meetings had a calming effect during a very difficult and challenging time for the Campaign.

One glaring omission in the Electoral Act was Diaspora Voting. Even though the Diaspora is famous for sending money back home, the Nigerian Diaspora's voice is rarely heard in government policy debates and decisions. According to the World Bank, remittance inflows totaled around \$19.5 billion in 2023, making Nigeria one of the top recipients in Sub-Saharan Africa. Yet, they still can't vote unless they physically return to Nigeria. PKM promised to fix this if elected. His supporters were constantly debating policy changes on social media and Clubhouse.

That initial Zoom call proved the Diaspora was more than ready to get involved in homeland politics.

ADC and The High Hopes for the 2023 Elections

Given what we went through in 2019 and the big victory with the Electoral Act, expectations for Moghalu's 2023 run were sky-high. When we met PKM, he had a small team of trusted campaign staff with Mr. Jide Akintude (Spokesperson) and Barrister Shettima Danazumi (Personal Assistant) at the helm of the national campaign. Doris acted as the Campaign Advisor. Mr. Ochi Ogbuaku Jr., a very meticulous and professional designer, served as the Graphic Artist.

With Buhari finishing his second term, the lack of an incumbent made PKM and his supporters feel like it was finally time to unleash this new movement. TBAN was already set up to act as a solid campaign platform. As we geared up for the campaign, there was a strong belief that a "Third Force" was the only real way to unseat the APC and PDP. You'd regularly see Seun from Channels TV bringing Moghalu on to break down pressing issues around the economy, leadership, and governance. Moghalu almost became his go-to guy for breaking news on these issues.

As 2023 drew closer, the political atmosphere was electric. While negotiations were underway to build this Third Force and turn TBAN into a viable platform, PKM announced that he was joining the African Democratic Congress (ADC), led by Chief Ralph Okey Nwosu. That kicked off a wild,

unforgettable chapter in our experience with small parties and Nigerian politics.

The ADC had positioned itself as the credible alternative to the two big parties. While Moghalu was building serious momentum both at home and abroad, bringing fresh eyes to Nigerian politics, the political shock of our lives appeared to be brewing behind the scenes between Ralph Nwosu and Dumebi Kachikwu, among others. While Chief Nwosu openly discussed a consensus candidate, he seemed to be pursuing a non-transparent approach to "selecting" a presidential candidate for the party.

Most of PKM's supporters thought Chukwuka Monye would be his only real competition. But on that fateful day in Abeokuta, we watched in absolute shock, horror, and disbelief as Dumebi was declared the winner of the ADC primaries. It was a sham display of unbelievable proportions. Words couldn't even describe it. How in the world could Moghalu lose the ADC primaries to a Johnny-come-lately to the party? Something wasn't quite right. Nobody predicted that Moghalu would lose to Dumebi in a free and fair election. We were stunned and completely disappointed. Following the outcomes of the primaries, a massive resignation from the party followed. The majority of the new members of the ADC joined because of PKM; almost 90% of the members from the Diaspora were loyalists to Kingsley Moghalu.

[To Be Continued]

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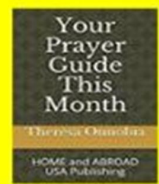
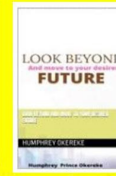
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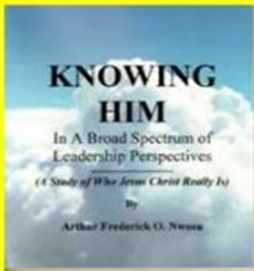
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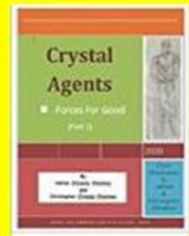
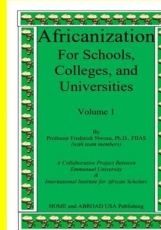
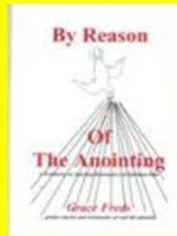
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The Case for Technical Leadership: Why Engr. Dr. Christopher Ndubuisi Okonkwo is the Strategic Choice for Enugu 2027

As the 2027 gubernatorial cycle approaches, Enugu State stands at a critical developmental crossroads. The demand for a leader who transcends traditional populist rhetoric in favor of technocratic precision and administrative integrity has never been more urgent. The candidacy of Engr. Dr. Christopher Ndubuisi Okonkwo presents a unique proposition for the state—a synthesis of high-level industrial expertise, proven labor diplomacy, and a strategic commitment to the state's established political harmony.

Below are the foundational pillars that position Dr. Okonkwo as the preeminent choice for the Lion Building.

1. Technocratic Mastery and Power Sector Reform: At a time when energy sufficiency is the bedrock of industrialization,

Dr. Okonkwo's profile is unmatched. Serving as the longest-tenured General Manager in Nigeria's power sector (2013–2024), he possesses a granular understanding of the infrastructure required to power a modern economy.

Industrial Catalyst: His 32-year career in the power sector equips him with the technical "know-how" to solve Enugu's persistent electricity and water challenges—elements essential for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Negotiation Pedigree: As a former President General of the Senior Staff Association of Electricity and Allied Companies (SSAEAC), his ability to navigate complex stakeholder interests is proven. He is a leader who understands how to balance worker welfare with corporate and state productivity.

2. Preservation of the "Triangular Equilibrium"

Enugu State's political stability has historically relied on a delicate "triangular equilibrium" of power-sharing across its senatorial4 zones. Dr. Okonkwo represents the most viable path to maintaining this harmony while ensuring governance does not stagnate.

The Single-Term Commitment: In a rare display of political altruism, Dr. Okonkwo is uniquely positioned to serve a single four-year term.

This commitment ensures that the rotational zoning arrangement remains intact, preventing the political friction that often accompanies second-term bids.

Focus Over Friction: By removing the distraction of a re-election campaign, Dr. Okonkwo can dedicate 100% of his tenure to aggressive development, making him the "Transition Architect" Enugu needs to reset its governance standards.

3. Administrative Integrity and Anti-Corruption

Dr. Okonkwo's approach to campaign financing sets a new precedent for transparency in Nigerian optics. By opting for a transparent, public-facing funding model, he is distancing his candidacy from the "godfatherism" and illegitimate wealth that often compromise a governor's independence.

Public Accountability: His pledge to publish expenditure details reflects a "Minimum Integrity" standard that is sorely needed to restore public trust in state institutions.

Merit-Based Governance: Having ended his public service meritoriously, he is not seeking office for personal enrichment but as a "good man" stepping forward to ensure that the society no longer suffers under the aloofness of the competent.

(Continued on Page 25)

Music Elders Forum



We were members of different bands.

In several instances, we met each other in bands as bandmates.

Some of us shared big stages at big events where our different bands took the stage and performed.

We often called ourselves soldiers and called non-musicians civilians.

We had fun.

We found time to play soccer, chess, cards, billiards, pool, etc.

We were often far away from home; had homes anywhere we went.

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Two Power Sisters *in Minneapolis Minnesota*



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and
Olivia
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My name is Treasure Peremine Wosowei. I am 14 years old and currently a 9th grade student at Hopkins High School, Minnesota, USA.

As the semester slowly comes to an end, I have demonstrated steady academic growth, particularly in all my subjects. Personally, I still have things to improve about myself and my studies, but I successfully achieved "A's" in all my 9th grade courses, which include main courses like Algebra 1, Language and Literature 9, Earth Science and World History 9. I maintained an "A" in elective courses like Ceramics 1&2, French 2 and Photography & Web Design. My ability to excel across a diverse range of subjects like Algebra and Earth science to classes such as Photography & Web design shows how committed I am to my studies and my willingness to improve in life challenges.

My name is Olivia peremine wosowei I am 13 years old I am a student of Hopkins west junior high school, Minnesota. I am a student in 7th grade who consistently demonstrates exceptional academic achievement within the rigorous framework of the International Baccalaureate programme. Achieving predominantly 6s and 7s across subjects reflects not only my strong intellectual ability, but also my high level of discipline, analytical thinking, and academic maturity. I approach complex material with confidence and curiosity, producing work that is thoughtful, well-structured, and insightful.

Beyond academic performance, I also demonstrate resilience, integrity, and a genuine commitment to learning. I balance the challenges of the IB programme with professionalism and consistency, serving as a positive example to my peers. I sustained a record of high achievement that indicates my strong potential for success in higher education and in future academic pursuits.



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Engineering

Engineering is not road and bridge construction. It is not fabricating metal to create pillars and embankments or all such things. Engineering is simply ‘solving problems’. Those of us who have no academic engineering background might be engineers without knowing it. The more you think of yourself as a problem solver, the better you get at what you do. When we think along those lines, academically and professionally trained engineers will benefit from our mindset. This is because when they pick up their aspects of tasks, they will notice that we already did our ‘civilian’ aspects with the right mindset. In fact, when God created the world, HE said “*Be fruitful, and multiply*, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea.” We cannot subdue and dominate the earth without working as engineers.

My brother studied engineering: chemical engineering, metallurgy and material science technology, electronic engineering—one person. My sister studied Mathematics. My nephew here in this country is an engineer. My other nephew overseas is an engineer. My two sons are both engineers. I was able to see the meaning of engineering in reality. I can now claim to understand the underlying concept of bridge-building, road construction, ship building, aircraft and automobile manufacturing. I now know what they are all doing. They are all solving problems. They did not set out to just build or manufacture these things. They noticed a problem—a gap in life and living. They decided to fill that gap. My engineer-brother becomes my ‘free-of-charge’ problem solver. He still does not know that he has that as a role. One

day, I asked one of my sons, “what exactly is engineering?” He said, “Daddy, engineering is simply solving problems.” I asked, “Is that it?” He said, “Just that, Daddy.” So, I asked his siblings, nephews, and uncle who are engineers... “Are you trying to say that they are merely solving problems?” He said, “Yes, Daddy. Just ask them their specific tasks as engineers. If you don’t see problem-solving in their responses, then, ask them, ‘What is the purpose of those tasks you are performing’, and see what they will tell you.” I began to understand that I too am an engineer! I did not enroll in an engineering program, neither did I take an engineering elective course. I see myself solving problems all day long. Sooner than later, I wittingly / unwittingly had my spillover of engineering mojo to the professional environment where, believe it or not, I said

to my colleagues at work that I wanted to re-engineer some of our processes. I listened for a response. Nobody questioned my comment. Nobody queried my usage of the word ‘re-engineer’. In fact, the Vice President of our operations was in the meeting. Now I am sitting between my subordinates and top leadership. Since nobody raised an eyebrow I was expecting a buzz from top leadership to ‘wonder’ what I meant by ‘re-engineer’. I did not see any such interaction or communication. Rather, I got commendations for thinking with an engineering mindset. I have since been viewing my tasks and activities from the engineering standpoint. Let’s focus on solving problems that we come across on the road of life—at home, at work, in the neighborhood, in our social circles, or anywhere along the way to the benefit of humanity.



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Old Vs. New Generation Living ...How They Lived...

At a family gathering, a young man asked his parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents:

“But how did you live before?”

- * Without television
- * Without Wi-Fi
- * Without technology
- * Without the Internet
- * Without computers
- * Without drones
- * Without bitcoins
- * Without mobile phones
- * Without Facebook
- * Without Twitter
- * Without YouTube
- * Without WhatsApp
- * Without Messenger
- * Without Instagram

Then the grandfather spoke and replied:

“You know, my dear grandson...

Exactly the way your generation lives today...

- * Without prayer
- * Without respect
- * Without values
- * Without personality
- * Without a sense of duty
- * Without inwardness
- * Without character
- * Without flavor
- * Without ideals
- * Without self-love
- * Without humanity
- * Without humility
- * Without virtues
- * Without honor
- * Without purpose
- Without that little something
- * Without essence
- * Without direction

- Without identity — because many don’t even know whether they are male or female.

We, who were born between 1920 and 1975, are blessed, and our lives are living proof:

After school, we first did our homework, then we went out to play!

We played with real friends — not with virtual friends on the Internet.

We often made our own toys and were happy with them.

Our parents were not wealthy, but they gave us and taught us love — not material or worldly values.

We had no cell phones, no computers, no DVDs, no PlayStations, no Xboxes, no video games, no Internet...

but we had real friends. Our relatives lived nearby, which made family moments possible.

Maybe we only appear in black-and-white photos, but the memories are colorful and alive.

We are a UNIQUE and WISER GENERATION, because we are the LAST to have listened to our parents...

and the FIRST who have had to listen to our children.

We are a LIMITED EDITION!

Enjoy, appreciate and

learn from yesterday.

Share this message.

“THE ELDERS”

* “We were born in the 40s, 50s and 60s.”

* “We grew up in the 50s, 60s and 70s.”

* “We went to school in the 60s, 70s and 80s.”

* “We fell in love in the 70s, 80s and 90s.”

* “We got married and discovered the world in the 70s, 80s and 90s.”

* “We started our lives in the 80s and 90s.”

* “We found our stability in the 2000s.”

* “We grew wiser in the 2010s.”

- “And we are still here — in 2026.”

As children we wore short pants, then long trousers, Oxfords, bermudas, and many other things.

We survived polio, meningitis, H1N1 flu and now COVID-19.

Yes, we have endured many trials, but what an extraordinary life we have had!

You can call us “survivors.”

People born into the world of the 1950s, who experienced an analog childhood and a digital adulthood.

We have lived through EIGHT decades...

TWO centuries...

TWO millennia...

From operator-assisted long-distance calls to video calls around the world.

From vinyl records to streaming.

From handwritten letters to emails and WhatsApp. From radio football commentaries to black-and-white TV, then to HD.

We used to go to the video rental store — today we watch Netflix.

We witnessed the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks — and today we carry gigabytes and megabytes in our pockets — on a phone or a tablet.

We’re a bit of the “I’ve seen-it-all” type.

Our generation lived and saw more than any other —

in every dimension of life. We are the generation that truly adapted to the world.

A big round of applause to all members of such a special generation, who will remain UNIQUE forever.

A beautiful, very true message that I received from a friend.

I hope you’ll take the time to read it and then share it...

...or you will push it aside —

and you’ll see that you will never share it!

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Always united

Always brothers

Always friends

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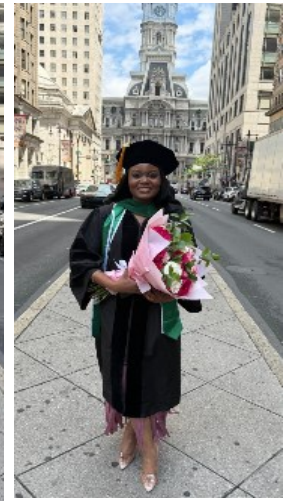
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The Case for Technical Leadership: Why Engr. Dr. Christopher Ndubuisi Okonkwo is the Strategic Choice for Enugu 2027

(Continued from Page 14)

4. A Vision of Radical Transformation

Dr. Okonkwo's candidacy is built on the premise that four years is sufficient time to enact "performance-driven" change if led by a sound mind and a disciplined hand.

Beyond the Facade: He offers a critique of the current status quo that is rooted in data and lived experience, promising to replace "projected performance" with tangible, systemic improvements in the lives of the 260 wards across the 17 LGAs.

The Political Will: Transformation requires the courage to dismantle inefficient systems. As a lead technocrat who managed the transition of the power sector from public to private ownership, Dr. Okonkwo possesses the "political will" to reform Enugu's civil service and economic policies without fear or favor.

Conclusion

Engr. Dr. Christopher Ndubuisi Okonkwo is not merely an aspirant; he is a strategic necessity. For the people of Enugu, his candidacy represents a shift from "politics as usual" to governance as a science. By bridging the gap between technical expertise and the socio-political realities of the state, Dr. Okonkwo stands as the most sophisticated choice to lead Enugu into a new era of prosperity and equilibrium.



From the Nigerian Diaspora to Solar Leadership: The Story of Christopher Onwuasoanya and AWPS Renewable Energy

By CAMPUSToday Contributor

For many Nigerians in the United States, the story of returning home is often discussed as a dream, a retirement plan, or a distant possibility. For **Christopher Onwuasoanya**, popularly known as **Dr. Solar**, it became a mission.

Christopher is no stranger to the Nigerian community in America. During his years in the United States, he was actively connected to the Nigerian diaspora community and was a member of the **Ngwa National Association USA**, where he built relationships with fellow Nigerians committed to culture, community, and development.

Years later, after returning to Nigeria, Christopher has become one of the voices pushing a practical solution to one of the country's most persistent challenges: unreliable electricity.

Today, he is the founder of **AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd**, a Nigerian renewable energy company focused on premium solar and battery storage solutions for homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and institutions. The company is known for its high-quality installations, long-term support philosophy, and its strong positioning as the **"Home of the 10-Year Warranty."**

A Return Home with Purpose

Christopher's journey has taken him across continents. Born in London, raised in Nigeria, educated and professionally developed across different countries, he spent 37 years living in the United States before returning to Nigeria.

His time in America shaped his expectations around systems, service, planning, and accountability. Those values now influence the way he runs AWPS Renewable Energy.

Rather than viewing solar as simply a product to sell, Christopher approaches energy as a strategic investment. Many Nigerian families and businesses spend millions of naira every year on diesel, generator maintenance, unstable grid power, and equipment damage. His message is straightforward: money being burned on diesel can be redirected into a properly designed energy asset.

Building AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd

Founded 12 years ago, **AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd** has grown into a trusted solar company serving high-net-worth individuals, businesses, schools, hospitals, supermarkets, hospitality companies, and institutions across Nigeria.

The company has built a reputation for engineering led design. AWPS studies real-world energy usage, load patterns, battery requirements, phase imbalance, peak demand, and customer behavior before recommending a system. This approach is especially important in Nigeria, where many solar systems fail because they are designed from guesswork rather than proper analysis.

AWPS is associated with premium technologies such as **Sigenenergy SigenStor** and **SigenStac**, an advanced energy storage platform that combines inverter, battery storage, energy management, and smart monitoring. Christopher has been an advocate for moving Nigeria's solar market away from improvised installations and toward safer, smarter, professionally supported systems.

The Dr. Solar Platform

Christopher is also building public awareness through his **Dr. Solar** platform, where he educates Nigerians about the true cost of diesel, poor power quality, generator dependence, and the importance of proper solar design.

His message is practical and direct. He speaks to business owners, homeowners, schools, hospitals, and diaspora Nigerians who are tired of funding diesel dependency without building a lasting solution.

For him, Nigeria's power crisis is not just a technical issue. It affects productivity, education, healthcare, comfort, safety, and economic growth.

A Story for the Diaspora

Christopher's story is especially meaningful for Nigerians in the diaspora because it shows what can happen when international experience is brought back home with discipline and purpose.

Many Nigerians abroad build homes, support family businesses, or invest in property and enterprises in Nigeria. But too often, power is treated as an afterthought. Christopher's position is that energy should be part of the core investment plan.

A poorly designed power system becomes another problem. A properly designed solar and battery system protects assets, reduces dependence on diesel, and gives families and businesses greater control over their environment.

Raising the Standard

AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd.'s promise as the **Home of the 10-Year Warranty**

reflects Christopher's broader ambition: to raise the standard of Nigeria's solar industry.

In a market where customers have often experienced weak installations, poor after-sales support, and vendors who disappear after collecting payment, AWPS emphasizes accountability. The company's view is that the installation is not the end of the relationship. It is the beginning of long-term service.

That philosophy matters now more than ever. With diesel prices, electricity tariffs, and grid instability placing pressure on Nigerian households and businesses, the move toward solar is no longer only about convenience. It is about survival, competitiveness, and energy independence.

Powering Nigeria Differently

From his days as a VP President of Investments at JP Morgan in the United States to the renewable energy sector in Nigeria, Christopher Onwuasoanya's journey is one of return, reinvention, and impact.

Through **AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd** and the **Dr. Solar** platform, he is helping Nigerians rethink electricity not as a monthly frustration, but as a strategic asset.

His story is a reminder that diaspora experience can become more than nostalgia. It can become infrastructure. It can become enterprise. It can become national contribution.

And in Christopher's case, it has become a mission to help Nigerians power their homes, businesses, and institutions differently.

Since returning to Nigeria, I have focused my work on solving one of the country's biggest practical problems: reliable power. I founded AWPS Renewable Energy Ltd to provide premium solar and battery storage solutions for homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and institutions. We are known as the Home of the 10-Year Warranty, and our mission is to help Nigerians move away from diesel dependency toward properly designed, professionally supported solar energy systems.



Dr. Solar...
Chris
Onwuasoanya

Advocacy in Action: Save Nigeria Group USA Takes the Fight Against Terrorism to Capitol Hill

****WASHINGTON, D.C.**** — As part of its ongoing mission to secure United States government intervention and combat terrorism in Nigeria, the ****Save Nigeria Group USA****, led by **President Stephen Osemwegie**, participated in a pivotal U.S. Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill.

Organized by the ****International Committee on Nigeria (ICON)**** and the ****Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)****, the briefing served as a powerful forum uniting survivors of Islamist terrorism, U.S. congressional leaders, and civil society organizations. Together, attendees issued an urgent, collective call to end the targeted persecution of Christians and ongoing attacks on innocent civilians in Nigeria.

High-Profile Engagements for Religious Freedom

During the briefing, Mr. Osemwegie and his delegation engaged with prominent legal, political, and human rights figures dedicated to global religious liberty.

Key meetings included discussions with: **The Honorable Leo Tyrelle**, U.S. Attorney appointed to lead the Antisemitism initiative at the Department of Justice;

Political Earthquake as Dr. Chris Okonkwo Crushes Rivals in NDC Governorship Primaries

In what many party faithful and political observers have described as a political earthquake, Dr. Chris Okonkwo has emerged victorious in the NDC Governorship Primaries after securing a commanding win across the local government areas against other aspirants.

The atmosphere across the state immediately turned electric as news of his victory spread through Nkanu West, where he secured more than 800 votes against his closest rival Chinyaka Ohaa to Nsukka, Igbo-Etiti, and several other local government areas where jubilant supporters celebrated what is now being regarded as one of the most dominant performances in the party's recent political history.

Reports from the primaries indicate that Dr. Okonkwo swept through 13 out of the 17 local government areas in the state, establishing an overwhelming lead that left little doubt about the strength of his grassroots support and political influence across the state.

Although Chinyaka Ohaa emerged as his closest rival in the contest, the margin and momentum enjoyed by Dr. Okonkwo throughout the exercise reportedly placed him firmly ahead as results continued to arrive from different local governments.

Observers say the outcome of the primaries reflects the growing

confidence of party delegates and stakeholders in Dr. Okonkwo's leadership style, political experience, and vision for the future of the state. His strong performance in Nsukka and other major political blocs further reinforced perceptions that his candidacy enjoys widespread acceptance among the people.

Supporters who thronged celebration grounds described the victory as a "clear mandate for transformation," insisting that the massive support recorded during the primaries signals a strong movement ahead of the governorship election. For many within the party, the emergence of Dr. Chris Okonkwo represents more than just a primary victory; it is seen as the rise of a formidable political force capable of reshaping the state's political landscape.

As the celebrations continue, political attention now shifts toward the governorship election, where supporters believe Dr. Okonkwo carries not only momentum, but also the statewide appeal needed to lead the NDC into a major electoral victory. NDC national is expected to confirm this formally?



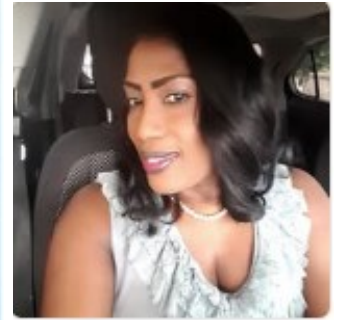
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11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20.**

**We thought, by now, we would have gotten over your transition.
Oh! No!!! We still have tears in our eyes.**



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Obi of Onitsha Kingship

® Ejiifo Umegbogu sets the record straight...

SETTING THE RECORDS STRAIGHT. The Obi of Onitsha predates the government. It is the only traditional institution in the south East that was not established by the government, rather, it was Obi of Onitsha that helped establish the colonial government. Similar traditional institutions that are at par with Obi of Onitsha based on this premise include, Ooni of Ife, Alaafin of Oyo, Obong of Calabar, Oba of Benin, Attah of Igala and Shehu of Borno.

The Onitsha monarchy has been in existence for about four hundred years before the advent of governmental authority, when other Igbo enclaves were still practicing gerontocratic kindred systems in different fiefdoms, as such, the obi of Onitsha is not subjected under government authority. Therefore, should ordinarily and permanently be at the helm of affairs of traditional rulers in the South East region of Nigeria.

The historical fact here is that, representatives of British government headed by Queen Victoria came to the east of the Niger and met an already well established system of monarchical government, that is similar and equally powerful like theirs, and headed by then, Obi Akazue. A series of agreements for mutual cooperation were signed between the king of Onitsha and the representative of the Queen of England, on October 12, 1863, 9th October, 1884, etc.

Following the signing of the treaty between the two equal powers/kings, the British monarchy bestowed on the Onitsha traditional stool, the highest honour of COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (CBE).

In British military history and tradition, a CBE is a Royal Military Charter, like a Power of Attorney from British monarch which gave authority to the bearer to exercise military authority within his area of influence, in this case, the south east region. Hence, obi of Onitsha has the powers to command a contingent of British army, on behalf of the Queen/king of England. That was why a contingent of the British Army, Police and Navy, known as the Royal Niger Frontier Force, was stationed at Onitsha under the royal command of the Obi of Onitsha, headed by a British Lieutenant.

Upon attaining independence, the title of CBE was changed to COMMANDER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, CFR, which every Obi of Onitsha bears till today.

Based on the foregoing historical facts, the Obi of Onitsha is the only traditional ruler in the South East that doesn't bear the government Certificate of Recognition. As such, anyone who occupied that stool is not under the whims and caprices of civil authority, for it is evident that the royal stool of Onitsha was already civilised before the establishment of civil authority. This explains why the governor of Anambra cannot withdraw recognition of the obi of Onitsha, because there was no government recognition ab initio.

Logically, just as you cannot give what you do not have, it follows conversely, that you cannot remove what you did not give. Obi of Onitsha is the only traditional ruler in the South East who cannot be dethroned by a governor.

Suffice the foregoing, any occupant of the royal stool of Onitsha is not under the government of the day, because the royal dynasty of Eze Chima was not conquered by the British government, which would have brought it under the British colonial administration that ultimately established the current Nigerian government. Some other ancient traditional stools like Oba of Benin, Alaafin of Oyo, Emir of Zaria etc were at different times subjected under the conquest and subjugation of the British government. Afterwards, a form of political kingship was re-established, subject to colonial edicts/laws.

Few traditional institutions that survived this British onslaught and therefore weren't conquered or instituted by the government include Obi of Onitsha, Attah of Igala, Obong of Calabar, Shehu of Borno. Only this set of first class kings were originally allowed to bear the acronym...HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, they are considered at par with His Majesty, the King of England, having entered into bilateral treaties of equal parties. (But these days every chief of an autonomous community arrogates to himself the title of HRM). This is in contradistinction with others like Sultan of Sokoto, Emir of Kano, Oba of Lagos etc who were all political creations

which the colonial government created for their economic and administrative convenience of indirect rule system. That is why they could be removed/dethrone by government.

Note that all other traditional chiefs in Anambra State and south east as a whole were created by the 1976 chieftaincy Edict of the East Central State, led by Dr Ukpabi Asika as the then Governor/Administrator.

The only probable exception to this rule of recognition is Eze Nri.

Eze Nri is fundamentally a spiritual leader, attending to the supernatural needs of any community that seek it, like igbu-ichi (facial scarification), ikpu-Alu (appeasement of the gods), Isa-ile Ozo (Oath of uprightness by a new Ozo initiate), igba-ndu (Oath of allegiance or fidelity). Eze Nri dispatches his team of medicine men or priests known as Dibia, Adama, and Akanri to administer spiritual assistance to persons or communities, based on request. His role in igbo cosmology was without specific socioeconomic, political, military and administrative influence or role in Igboland. Eze Nri was only a Personification of Divinity. Same with Ooni of Ife. Hence, the role of spiritual leaders like these, are basically apolitical, therefore, do not require political certification by the government.

It is therefore an obvious fact of history, that Onitsha traditional stool is clothed with both Sociopolitical influence as "Lord Temporal" (Obi Agbogidi) and divine influence as "Lord Spiritual" (Eze/Igwe Onicha).

This double role is a rare gift of nature which unfortunately, the current governor of Anambra State, Professor Chukwuma Soludo failed to understand the peculiar historical circumstances why Obi of Onitsha is not a Primus interparis in the Anambra State Traditional Rulers Council, whose leadership amongst the traditional chiefs in the state should not be rotational, as if they are equals, which they are not.

® Ejiifo Umegbogu

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