



95TH
CELEBRATION **GENERAL ASSEMBLY +**
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

THEME:

**OKPE IDENTITY:
TOWARDS THE SOCIO-POLITICAL
RENAISSANCE OF THE OKPE NATION**

THURSDAY 15TH MAY - FRIDAY 16TH MAY, 2025
OKPE HOUSE, 65 MOSHALASHI STREET, OBALENDE, LAGOS



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National Anthem

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all,
Are proud to serve our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honoured,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request:
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

National Pladge

I pledge to Nigeria, my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity and uphold her honour and
glory So help me, God.

OKPE NATION ANTHEM



1.

E, Okpe ghi-n'a gbanu-e 'nio, e
Ami rheri, izede r'e-ni onya re ovbo be phru-rhe-e,
Em' Okpẹ n'egodi-o, ba egodi-o 'vbo vrẹ rh'ukpe-e;
Uruemu esiri r' esẹame-ivbori,
olẹ rhe 'm Okpẹ nya rh' obaro ne
Use owian-ọ 'rhọ rhe ne, are gba mọ ne koko wia ye,
E, mi ne ru oro te ri mẹ, n' otore Okpẹ nọ nya rh' obaro,
Okpẹ n'ugo, ug' ọfo hine n' obobaro nọ y'ame na nya.

2.

E, Orodje- Okpẹ okaro n'o e,
Ọn-odidi, nighe, ọpha ọrhọ ru-amua, amua no kumie.
Unu owhu eghwede odumẹ, otore-Okpẹ ok'obaro hine.
Ọvbiroro vbi ro simi amua,
akpo na ephia ah'ẹ rhomo rien,
Umogu ọk'obaro ne, erhomo Okpe ovbo rhọ bẹ nẹ;
Ọvbiroro Okpẹ ok'obaro, no bo baro nọ yẹ ame na nya.
Okpe n'ugo, ug- ọfo hine, n'obobaro nọ y'ame na nya.

About the OKPE UNION



President General
Prof. Igho Natufe

General Secretary,
Akpederin K.Ehensiri Esq

Deputy President General 1
(South-West Region)
Engr. Francis O. Redemi

Deputy President General 2
(Northern Region)
Omamurhomu Ayaraja

Deputy President General 3
(Home Region)
Dr Lucky Akpere

Deputy President General 4
(Eastern Region)
Bernard Adibor

National Legal Adviser
Barr. Emmanuel Erakpotobor

The Okpe Union, established on May 16, 1930, in Lagos by visionary young Okpe nationalists, is Nigeria's oldest registered ethnic nationality organization. Officially incorporated in 1934 under the Land (Perpetual Succession) Ordinance of 1924, it evolved from the Okpe-Uvwie Dance Group into a formidable socio-cultural and political institution.

From its humble beginnings, the Union has grown significantly in size, influence, and global reach, now comprising branches and members across Nigeria, Europe, North America, Asia, and the Middle East. Operating through branch and regional structures, its headquarters remains in Lagos.

A cornerstone achievement of the Union was the historic restoration of the Okpe Monarchy in 1945, culminating in the coronation of HRM Ezeji II after nearly 200 years. This laid the foundation for modern Okpe kingship under HRMs Orhorho I and Orhue I (the reigning monarch since 2006).

As a not-for-profit, membership-based body open to all Okpe indigenes, the Union continues to promote unity, protect cultural heritage, and assert the distinct identity of the Okpe Nation within Delta State and Nigeria at large.

Our Core Values

- Unity – Promoting a strong, inclusive Okpe identity globally.
- Heritage – Safeguarding Okpe history, culture, and traditions.
- Integrity – Practicing transparency and accountability.
- Progress – Advancing socio-economic and political development.
- Global Citizenship – Positioning Okpe in global ethnic discourse.

Our Vision

To be a globally respected ethnic organization championing the unity, progress, and unique identity of the Okpe Nation.

Our Mission

To mobilize and empower Okpe indigenes by fostering cultural pride, civic engagement, educational advancement, economic opportunity, and the protection of Okpe's distinct heritage and autonomy.

Working Towards Connecting All Okpe
Sons And Daughters Around The World





HIS EXCELLENCY

Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR

PRESIDENT, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE
ARMED FORCES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA





HIS EXCELLENCY
Rt. Hon. (Elder) Sheriff F.O Oborewori
Governor of Delta State





HIS EXCELLENCY
Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu
Governor of Lagos State





Hon. Sen. (Okakuro) Ede Dafinone,
SENATOR REPRESENTING DELTA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT





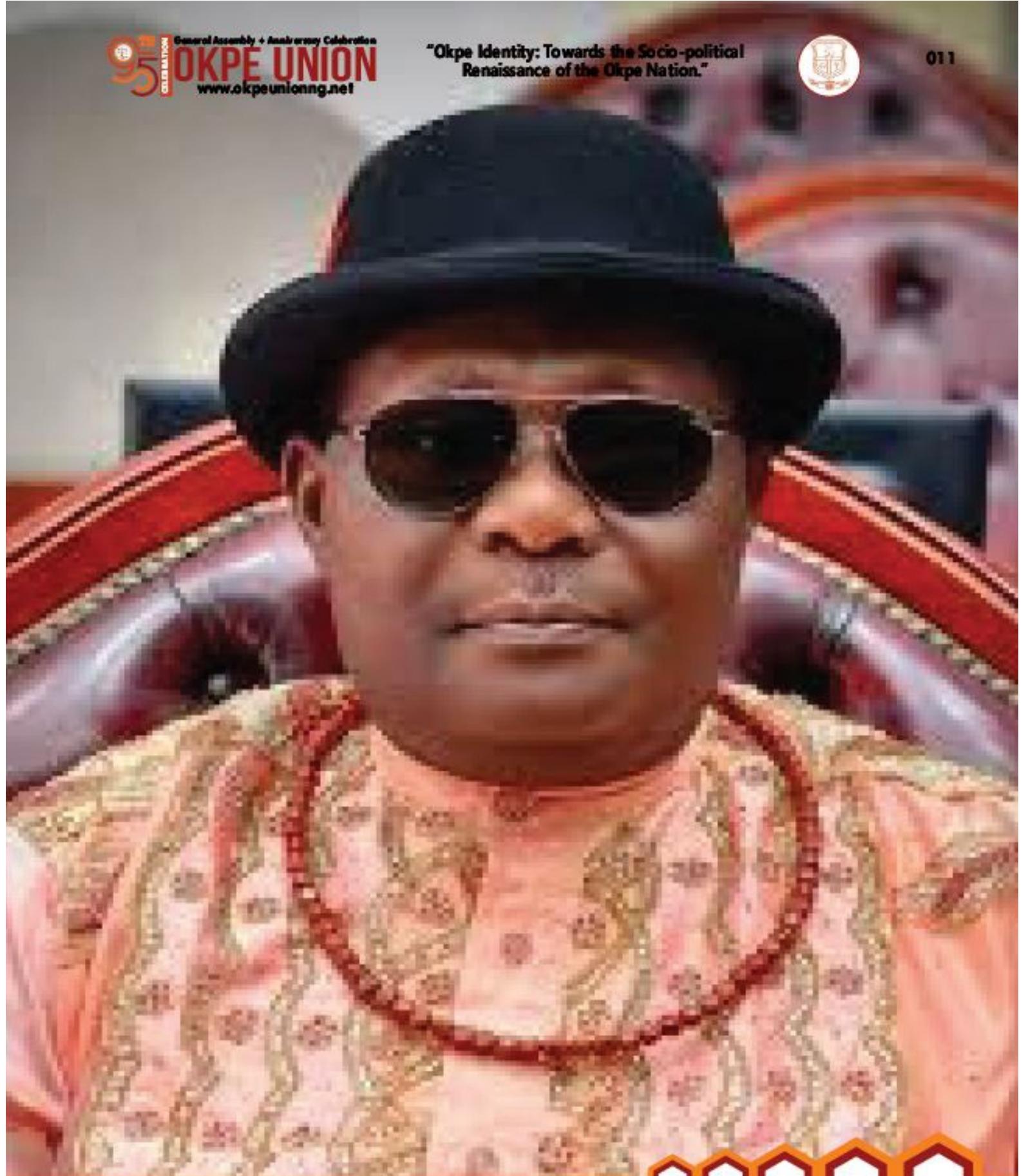
Hon. Benjamin Etanebene,
MEMBER REPRESENTING OSU FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY





Hon. Perkins Umukoro,
MEMBER, DELTA STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY SAPELE
STATE CONSTITUENCY





Hon. James Augoye

MEMBER DELTA STATE, HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
OKPE STATE CONSTITUENCY





HRM ORHUE 1 CFR, mni
ORODJE OF OKPE KINGDOM





Prof. O. Igho Natufe
PRESIDENT GENERAL, OKPE UNION (WORLDWIDE)





Omamurhomu Ayaruja

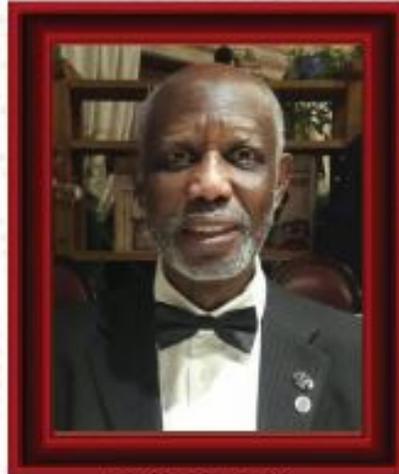
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 Deputy President General 1 (South-West Region)



Prof. Igbo Natufe
 President General



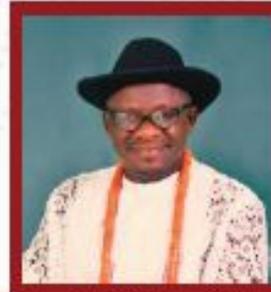
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 General Secretary



Patience Ediri Ikokeyo
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Patrick O. Akpoter
 PDS, Okpe Union



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Branches

- 1) Okpe Union Lagos Mereje Branch, Lagos
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- 3) Okpe Union Lagos Ugolo Branch, Lagos
- 4) Okpe Union Lagos Esezi Branch, Lagos
- 5) Okpe Union Ikorodu Branch, Lagos
- 6) Okpe Union Abeokuta Branch, Ogun
- 7) Okpe Union Orerokpe Town Branch, Delta
- 8) Okpe Union Ibadan Branch, Oyo
- 9) Okpe Union Badagry Branch, Lagos
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- 12) Okpe Union Jos Branch, Plateau
- 13) Okpe Union Kaduna Branch, Kaduna
- 14) Okpe Union Bayelsa Branch, Bayelsa
- 15) Okpe Union Sapele LGA Branch
- 16) Okpe Union Okpe LGA Branch, Delta
- 17) Okpe Union Ilesa Branch, Osun
- 18) Okpe Union Ibodi Branch, Osun
- 19) Okpe Union Osu Branch, Osun
- 20) Okpe Union, Suleja Branch, Niger
- 21) Okpe Union, Sapele LGA Branch, Delta
- 22) Okpe Union, Asaba Branch, Delta
- 23) Okpe Union, Kano Branch, Kano
- 24) Okpe Union, Maiduguri Branch, Borno
- 25) Okpe Union, Awka Branch, Anambra
- 26) Okpe Union, Enugu Branch, Enugu
- 27) Okpe Union Warri Branch

Affiliates

- 1) Orhorhomu Okpe Ladies Association, Lagos
- 2) Orhorhomu Okpe Ladies Association, Delta
- 3) Egwono Okpe Women Association, Lagos
- 4) Okpe Ladies Association, Lagos
- 5) Influence Ladies Association, Lagos
- 6) Usherumu Okpe Social Club, Ikorodu
- 7) Ejokpedo Social Club, Ikorodu
- 8) Eyerenkugbe Social Club, Badagry
- 9) Erukugbe Social Club, Lagos
- 10) Okpe Union Youth Wing, Lagos
- 11) Okpe Union Youth Wing Sapele
- 12) Okpe Union Youth Wing Warri
- 13) National Association of Okpe Students (NAOS)

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7. Mrs. R. Turtoe	Member
8. Mr. F. Kolagbodi	Member
9. Mr. P. Tiveruahor	Member
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11. Mr. F. E Redemi	Member
12. Mr. A. Ogbar	Member
13. Mrs V. Ofomala	Member
14. Mr. B. Akpobasa	Member
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HISTORY OF OKPE KINGDOM

A CONCISE HISTORY OF THE OKPE NATION

Introduction

The origins and development of the Okpe Nation, nestled within the western Niger Delta, evoke both fascination and scholarly debate. While interpretations vary, abroad consensus among historians identifies Prince Igboze — a royal scion of Benin — as the progenitor of the Okpe lineage. Yet, the question persists: does the true genesis of the Okpe Nation begin with Igboze' departure from Benin or with the epochal emergence of his grandsons—rinces Orhue, Orhorho, Ebreke, and Esezi—ho laid the foundations of the Okpe Kingdom? This pivotal enquiry invites further contemplation of the pre- existing populations and sociopolitical configurations of the region prior to their arrival.

Migration from Benin and Ethno-historical Foundations

Documentary and oral traditions alike point to three principal migratory waves from the Benin Kingdom into the Delta Central axis during the epoch of the Ogiso and early Oba dynasties. The earliest of these movements occurred under Oba Oranmiyan (circa 1170–200 AD), fostering the initial Urhobo settlements in Ughelli. A subsequent wave, during the reign of Oba Ogbeka (1370–400 AD), facilitated the settlement of what is now Abraka.

The Okpe migratory odyssey, however, transpired much later—nder the illustrious reign of Oba Ozolua (1481–504 AD), famed as *Ozolua n'barnoi*, the "conqueror of many lands". Around 1550 AD, Prince Igboze, one of Ozolua' sons, undertook a voluntary exile from Benin. He journeyed southeastward, ultimately establishing himself within the central reaches of present-day Delta State. His son, Prince Okpe, would later sire four sons—rhue, Orhorho, Ebreke, and Esezi—hose movements and settlements across regions such as Olomu, Okperikpere (Okpe-Isoko), and Ozoro. The four princely brothers - Orhue, Orhorho, Ebreke, and Esezi -finally settled and established a unified monarchy at Orerokpe, christened Okpe Kingdom. Today, Orerokpe stands as the historic and administrative heart of the Okpe Kingdom.

It is essential to underscore that the Okpe polity emerged as a sovereign ethno-political entity, not as a sub-division of any other ethnic nationality. This autonomy, both genealogical and cultural, stands in stark to the colonial British colonial tendency to conflate Okpe identity with that of the Urhobo— distortion that continues to provoke scholarly scrutiny (cf. *British Colonial Policy and the Okpe Nation*).

Intersections with Itsekiri and Pre-Okpe Settlement

Okpe history shares notable intersections with that of the Itsekiri. A key figure in this parallel narrative is Prince Iginua (Ginuwa), son of Oba Olua (1473–480AD) and nephew of Oba Ozolua. As documented in Edo and Itsekiri traditions, Iginua was compelled to flee the Benin palace amid internecine power struggles. His voyage—ia canoe—rom Benin through Sapele to the Ethiope River corridor predates Igboze' migration by several decades.

William A. Moore' *History of Itsekiri* (1936) notes that long before the arrival of Iginua, the areas around Sapele and the lower Ethiope had already been inhabited by the Ijaw, Mahin, and groups then generically labeled "obos" by Europeans— term that ambiguously encompassed Urhobo, Okpe, and Isoko communities. This evidence challenges any reductionist view that positions the Okpe Kingdom as a late comer or junior off shoot within the region. The historiographical ambiguity introduced by colonial misclassification is presently being redressed through the



scholarly initiatives and archival pursuits of the Okpe Union.

Genealogical Integrity and Nationhood

The Okpe people are uniquely defined by their common descent from one or more of the four ancestral ruling houses —rhue, Orhorho, Evbreke, and Esezi. This shared lineage, undergirded by a cohesive language, cultural mores, and governance structures, affirms Okpe' status as a distinct nationality within Nigeria' ethno-cultural mosaic. With a land mass of approximately 1,014.3 square kilometers, Okpe is more extensive than several sovereign European microstates, including Andorra, Malta, and Liechtenstein.

In an extraordinary act of political foresight, the eldest prince, Orhue, declined to ascend the throne, recognizing the divisive temperaments of his brothers (Orhorho and Evbreke) and deferring kingship to the youngest, Esezi. Thus, in a display of proto-democratic values rare in monarchical histories, Esezi I became the first Orodje (king) of Okpe, inaugurating a rotational and consensual system of rulership.

The Long Interregnum and the Triumph of Restoration

The reign of Esezi I ended abruptly in 1779 (1770 –1779), reportedly the result of a revolt against his perceived despotism. His assassination plunged the kingdom into a 166-year interregnum, during which no monarch was enthroned. Remarkably, the Okpe Kingdom did not fragment; instead, the *Udogun Okpe*—governing council of elders—reserved the kingdom' internal cohesion and maintained its administrative functions.

The 20th century witnessed a rekindled desire for monarchical restoration, championed by the Okpe Union, which was formally established in 1930. Though there was an initial resistance from some quarters—concerned that kingship might invite a return to tyranny— these fears gradually gave way to a unifying consensus. By 1942, the path was cleared for the re-establishment of the monarchy, and in 1945, a new Orodje was installed, symbolizing the resilience and continuity of Okpe statehood. Prince John Deveno Mebitaghan from the Esezi Ruling House assumed the throne as Esezi II (1945 –1966); followed by Prince Domingo Eyinyere of the Orhorho Ruling House who was crown as Orhorho I (1972 –2004), and was succeeded by Prince Major General Felix Mujakperuo (RTD) of the Orhue Ruling House, as Orhue I (2006 –present).

British Colonial Policy and the Marginalization of the Okpe Nation

The colonial enterprise in Nigeria was marked by administrative expediency rather than ethnographic accuracy. In the process of consolidating diverse populations into manageable units, the British colonial government frequently misclassified and fused distinct ethnic nationalities. One of the most consequential distortions arising from this approach was the classification of the Okpe people as a "clan" under the Urhobo ethnic group — designation that was neither linguistically, culturally, nor historically accurate. This misclassification, born of ignorance or indifference, has had enduring implications for the political and cultural identity of the Okpe Nation.

The noted British anthropologist, R.E. Bradbury, in his seminal work *The Benin Kingdom and the Edo- Speaking Peoples of South-Western Nigeria* (1970), offered a rare critique of this administrative misjudgment. In evaluating the British policy of grouping the Okpe with the Urhobo, Bradbury observed that such a classification was based less on ethno-linguistic or cultural proximity and more on geographical contiguity and colonial convenience. He conclusively noted that "kpe is ... closer to the Edo of the Benin Kingdom than are the Urhobo dialects proper" (p. 128). During the 1930s, the colonial administration dubbed the Okpe "estern Urhobo" and the Isoko as "astern Urhobo," effectively erasing distinct ethnic identities beneath a colonial umbrella.

The consequences of this imposed identity were profound. The fusion of the Okpe into the Urhobo





administrative category facilitated the erosion of their distinct history, language, and traditional institutions. Over time, this colonial construct ossified into an assumed truth, uncritically accepted by both external observers and, regrettably, internalized by many within the Okpe population itself. The Nigerian state, inheriting the colonial administrative architecture, perpetuated this falsity. The Isoko, through sustained advocacy and historical assertion, successfully regained official recognition as a distinct ethnic group. The Okpe, however, continue to navigate the arduous path of decolonizing their identity.

Resilience in the Face of Erasure: The Enduring Unity of the Okpe

Despite political setbacks and periods of internal disruption, the Okpe have historically maintained a remarkable cohesion. This enduring unity is encapsulated in the maxim: "Okpe Agbamuen"—the unity of Okpe is stronger than an elephant. This foundational strength has proven instrumental in safeguarding the people's identity and advancing their collective aspirations.

A pivotal milestone in this journey was the formation of the Okpe Union on May 16, 1930, in Lagos. As the oldest ethnic-based organization in present-day Delta State and one of the earliest in Nigeria, the Okpe Union emerged as the institutional custodian of Okpe nationalism. Among its foremost achievements was the successful campaign for the restoration of the Okpe monarchy, culminating in the coronation of HRM Ezezi II as Orodje of Okpe on January 1, 1945. The monarchy, structured around the four historic ruling houses—rhue, Orhorho, Ebreke, and Ezezi—as revitalized as a symbol of unity and legitimacy. The enthronement of a prince from the Ezezi House followed ancient ritual demands, particularly the appeasement necessitated by the fateful reign of Ezezi I.

Nonetheless, the full realization of Okpe self-determination remains a work in progress. The quest for recognition as a distinct ethnic nationality is actively pursued by the Okpe Union and allied Okpe organizations, who have engaged in sustained public education and formal appeals to government bodies.

The Contestation of Historical Narratives

At the heart of the Okpe struggle lies a fundamental contest between two historical paradigms:

1. **The Okpe as a Distinct Ethnic Nationality:** This school of thought asserts the Okpe's autonomous historical development, language, and cultural traditions, distinguishing them clearly from the Urhobo. Leading voices in this camp include Rev. Dr. Charles E. Osume (*The Okpe People*, 2006 1st Edition; 2nd Edition 2022), HRM Orhue I (*Tradition and Governance in the Okpe Kingdom*, 2007), O. Igho Natufe (*Spearheading Okpe Leadership in Delta State*, 2012), and O. Igho Natufe (*Spearheading Okpe Leadership in Delta State*, 2012), and Kingsley E. Akpederin (*Okpe Identity and Development in the 21st Century*, 2017).
2. **The Okpe as a Clan within the Urhobo Ethnic Framework:** Promulgated by scholars such as Onigu Otite (*Autonomy and Dependence: The Urhobo Kingdom of Okpe in Modern Nigeria*, 1973) and Joseph Asagba (*The Untold Story of a Nigerian Royal Family*, 2005), this perspective maintains the colonial position, often ignoring pre-colonial historical and linguistic evidence.

The reigning monarch of the Okpe Kingdom, HRM Orhue I, has offered an authoritative rebuttal to the latter position. In his keynote address at the 3rd Annual Convention of the Okpe Union of North America (2007), he declared unequivocally:

"kpe is a unique ethnic nationality. It has distinctive roots in ancient history, tradition, culture, customs and language...ur people are rooted in migration from the Benin Kingdom...nd Okpe





history, language, tradition, and culture are closer to those of Bini."

On the issue of territorial distortion, he further emphasized:

"Although the Okpe Kingdom covers the two local government areas of Sapele and Okpe, our people and communities are located in towns and villages presently and wrongly included in some neighbouring LGAs, for example, Ohorhe in Uvwie LGA."

Debunking the Myth of Okpe Subordination

The argument that Okpe' assertion of ethnic distinctiveness undermines Urhobo unity rests on a flawed premise: that Okpe identity is subsumed within Urhobo. This assumption not only disregards historical realities but also contravenes the broader principle of self-definition among ethnic groups in Nigeria and globally. The Isoko and Urhobo, once co-classified under the colonial "rhobo" identity, have successfully established mutual recognition as separate entities. There is no compelling reason why Okpe and Urhobo cannot coexist similarly.

Moreover, Okpe' linguistic and cultural distinctiveness is empirically verifiable. The Okpe language, while influenced by regional interactions, contains unique idioms and ancestral expressions—uch as "mizume"—that convey spiritual and communal identity unknown in Urhobo linguistic traditions. Additionally, the centralized monarchical structure of Okpe, shared only by the Itsekiri in Delta State, further underlines its singular socio-cultural and political organization.

The common narrative that Prince Okpe and his four sons founded the entire Okpe territory also invites scholarly scrutiny. It is improbable that the vast expanse of Okpeland—over 1,014 square kilometers—was devoid of inhabitants. More plausibly, the four princely brothers established Okpe Kingdom over pre-existing populations, integrating their language and traditions. Such a dynamic is consistent with the migratory histories of several Edoid groups.

Echoes of a Shared Ancestry: The Two Okpe Kingdoms

A fascinating dimension of Okpe identity is its manifestation beyond Delta State. In Akoko-Edo, Edo State, lies another Okpe Chieftdom—an ancient kingdom established by a son of Oba Ozolua of Benin. The present-day Olokpe of Okpe traces his lineage to Benin, underscoring a shared ancestral connection with Prince Okpe of Delta Okpe.

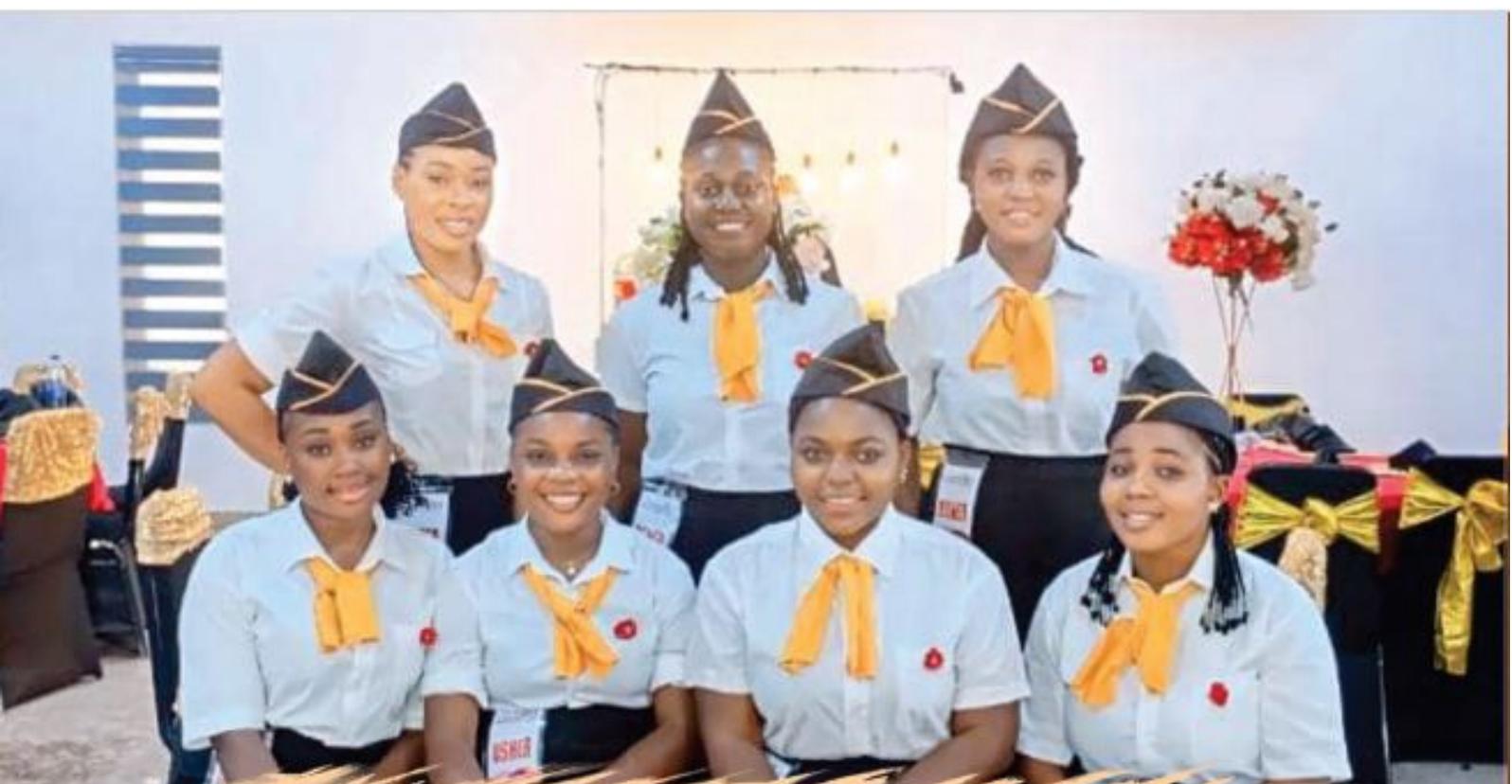
According to oral traditions and corroborative genealogical records, Prince Okpe was born in the Akoko-Edo Okpe Chieftdom and was a nephew of its founding monarch. His father, Prince Igboze, was also the brother of Prince Eze of Aboh. While Aboh and Okpe share Edoid linguistic roots, their languages developed in distinct cultural milieus, further affirming the independence of Okpe's linguistic evolution.

Conclusion: Reclaiming the Authentic Voice of Okpe History

The story of the Okpe people is one of resilience in the face of administrative misrepresentation and cultural marginalization. Yet, the evidence of their distinct historical, linguistic, and political heritage is abundant and compelling. In an era when decolonization of identity is a global imperative, it is both a moral and historical duty to affirm the Okpe as an independent ethnic nationality with deep roots in Benin civilization.

The path to recognition is not merely a quest for nomenclature but a retrieval of Okpe of dignity, history, and the right to self-determination. The Okpe Nation, with its vibrant institutions, ancient traditions, and unified spirit, must be acknowledged as a sovereign entity in the mosaic of Nigerian nationalities.





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PROGRAM OF EVENT

DAY 01 ONE THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025 Annual General Assembly

- 10am** Consideration & Appointment of BOT
- 2pm** Election of New Officials by Delegates
- 2.30pm** Swearing-in of Elected Officials
- 3.10 pm** Acceptance speech by the President General of Okpe Union
- 5pm** Consideration & Amendment of Okpe Union Constitution
- 5.40pm** Chairman closing remarks.....

DAY 02 TWO THURSDAY 16th MAY 2025 95TH CELEBRATION

- 9.am** Arrival of Okpe Union Officials, Delegates & Association
- 9.30 am** Arrival of invited Guests
- 9.45am** Introduction of MC
- 10.am** Dignitaries invited to High Table
- 10.30 am** National Anthem
- 10.35 am** Okpe Nation Anthem
- 10.40 am** Opening prayer.....
- 10.45am** Traditional welcome of Guests.
- 11am** Light refreshments/ music
- 12 noon** Welcome address by the Chief Host --DPG1
- 12.10pm** Opening speech by The Chairman of the Occasion --
- 12.30 pm** Guests Speaker - Topic- Prof Evans Igho Akpo
- 1.35 pm** Music! Music! Music!
- 1.45pm** Address by the President General of the Okpe Union
- 2.46 pm** Refreshments/ light music
- 3.30 pm** Goodwill message
- 4pm** Dance Dance Dance
- 5pm** Vote of thanks by Chairman National Planning Committee
- 5.10pm** Closing prayers by -
Music & entertainment continues



Keynote **SPEAKER'S** Bio



Dr. Evans AKPO is the Associate Dean of Humanities & Leadership and Associate Professor at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, where he leads the Doctorate in Strategic Leadership program. He teaches a variety of leadership and education courses and also serves as adjunct faculty in the School of Education at Webster University.

Before joining Wayland, Dr. Akpo served as the Dean of Graduate, Professional, and Online Programs at Warner Pacific University in Portland, Oregon. A passionate educator and scholar, he is the author of *Are the Students Learning: Igniting Student Learning* and a regular presenter at academic conferences, including the Society of Philosophy and History of Education (SOPHE) since 2021. His research and presentations focus on leadership, pedagogy, and strategies that support student success.

Dr. Akpo was born in Orerokpe, Delta State, Nigeria, and traces his heritage to the Ezezi house of Odjedi. He is married to Dr. Jennifer Akpo (née Ebireni) from Egborode, and together they share a strong commitment to education and community leadership.

He holds both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in International Relations from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned a Doctorate in Executive Educational Leadership from Houston Christian University (formerly Houston Baptist University). His global academic journey includes time studying in the United Kingdom and teaching in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Beyond academia, Dr. Akpo is actively involved in cultural and community initiatives. He currently serves as the General Secretary of Okpe Union North America, reflecting his deep commitment to preserving and promoting Okpe heritage and unity.



Synopsis OF SPEECH

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR OKPE NATION: SHAPING A FUTURE-READY COMMUNITY .

This keynote address, delivered at the 95th Anniversary of the Okpe Union, Lagos, Nigeria, centres on the vital necessity of transformative leadership to cultivate a future-ready Okpe Nation.

The speaker initiates the address by acknowledging and honoring the past and present leadership of the Okpe Union, while also recognizing the deep-rooted historical and cultural heritage of the Okpe people.

The speech then transitions to identifying the contemporary challenges and latent opportunities confronting the nation within an increasingly interconnected global landscape, underscoring the pressing need for proactive and forward-thinking change. At its core, the address delineates key principles of transformative leadership tailored to the Okpe context.

These principles encompass the importance of visionary leadership firmly anchored in core Okpe values, the imperative of empowering collaboration and fostering collective action across all segments of the community, the cultivation of innovation and adaptability to navigate evolving circumstances, and the unwavering commitment to ethical leadership and accountability to ensure sustainable progress.

Furthermore, the speech elaborates on crucial areas demanding transformative action. These include strategic investments in education and the development of human capital, the promotion of economic empowerment and entrepreneurial initiatives, the strengthening of cultural preservation and promotion in a modern world, the fostering of sustainable development and responsible environmental stewardship, and the enhancement of governance structures and essential community infrastructure.

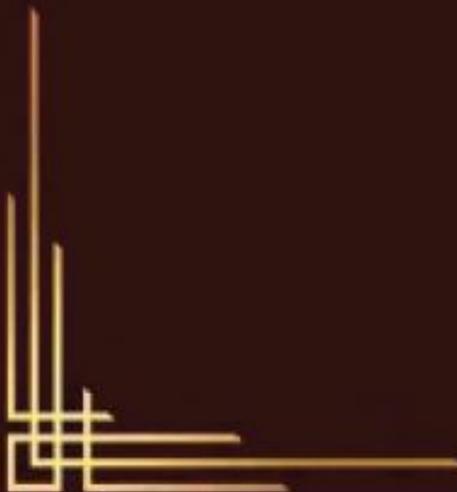
The address also highlights the indispensable roles of various stakeholders in this transformative journey. It emphasizes the critical need to engage and empower the youth as the transformative leaders of tomorrow, underscores the significant contributions of women in driving positive change, and recognizes the valuable potential of the Okpe diaspora in contributing their skills, knowledge, and resources.

The speech culminates in a powerful call to action, inspiring a sense of collective responsibility and unwavering commitment from all Okpe people to actively embrace the journey of transformation under the guidance of effective and visionary leadership.

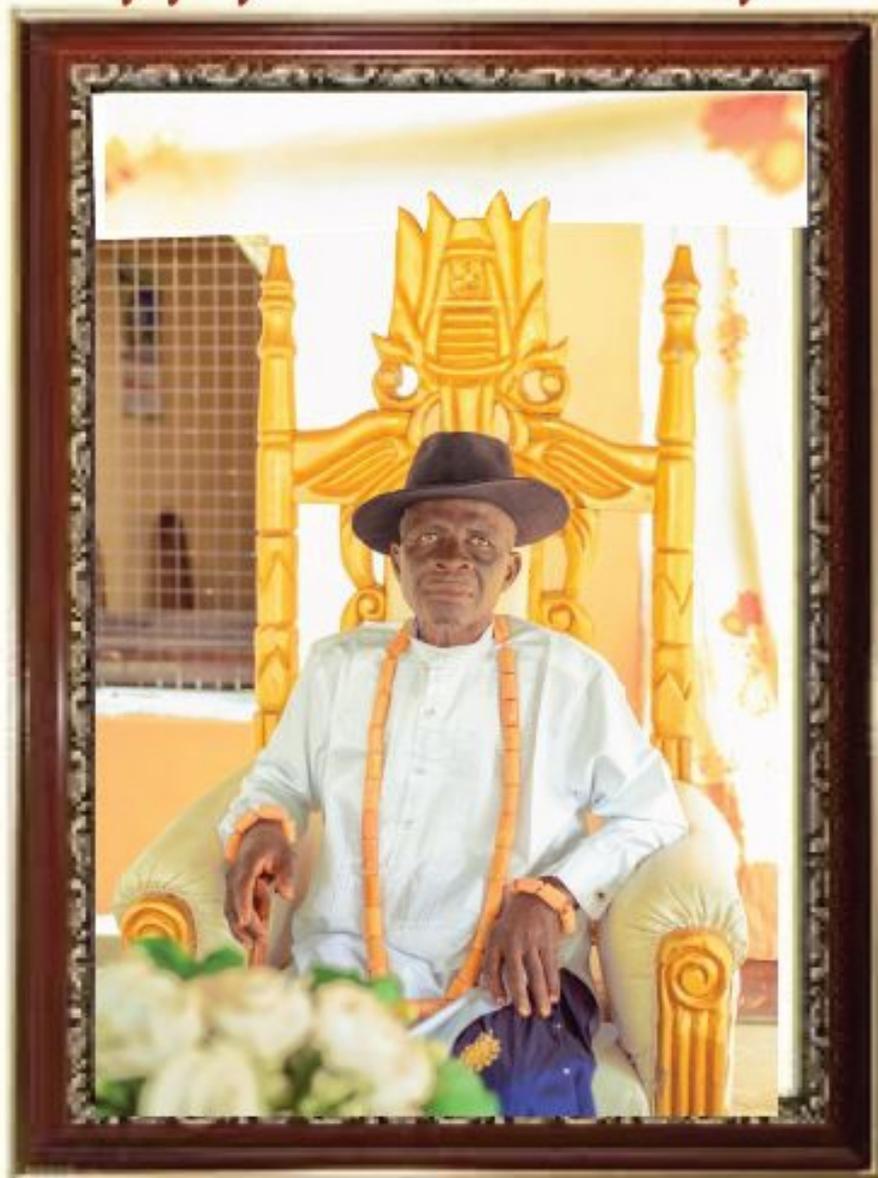
Prof. Evans Igho Akpo

Asst. Dean of The School of Humanities and Leadership,
lead of the Doctorate in Strategic Leadership Program,
Wayland Baptist University, Plainview, TX. USA

GOOD WILL MESSAGES...



Happy Anniversary!!!

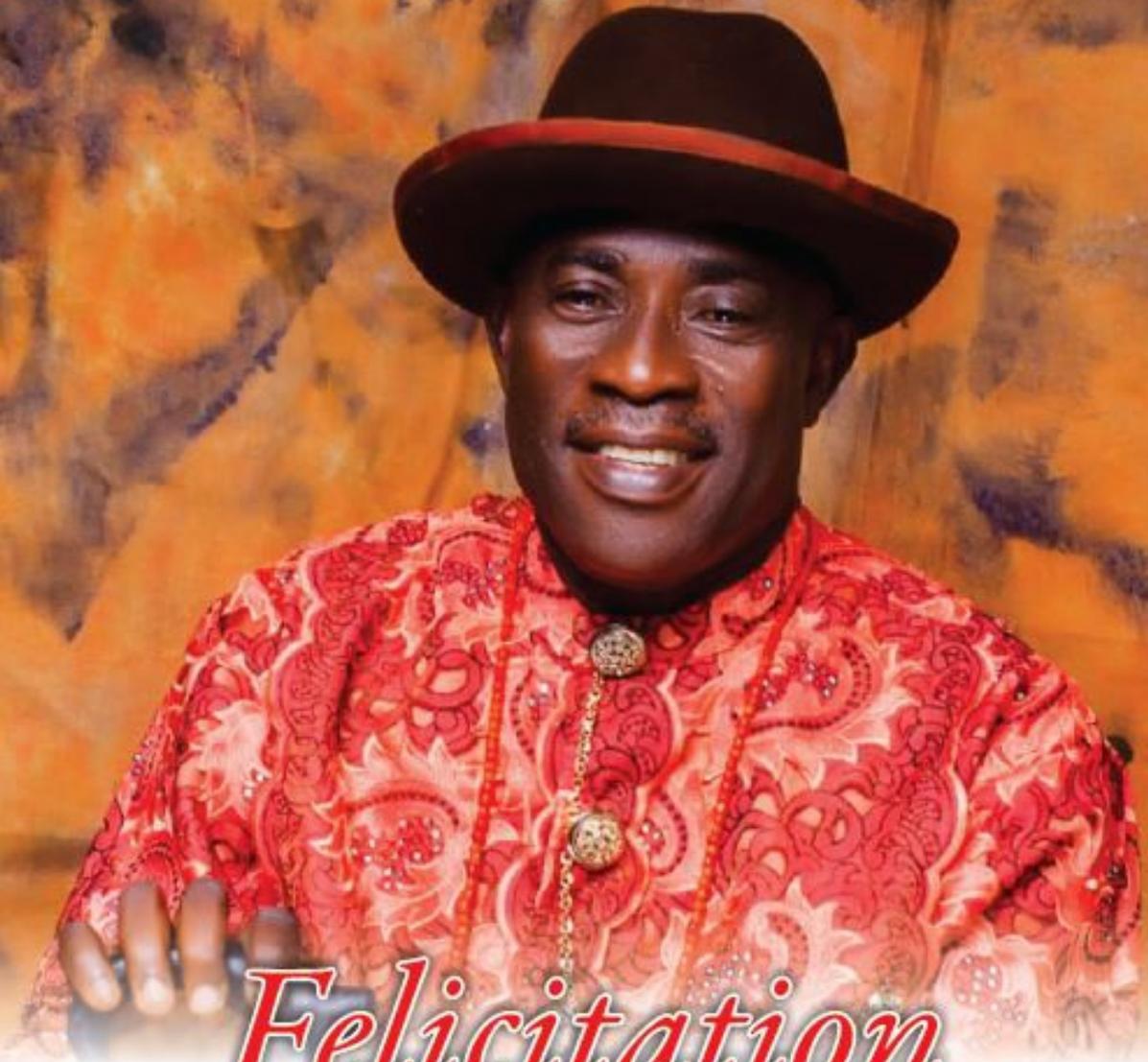


On this momentous occasion of the 95th Anniversary of the founding of the Okpe Union,

I, PA. OVWILE OMOGHWIGHO GODWIN,
the Okpako'Amua (Most Eldest Man)

of Otoramua-Elume Community, my family and the entire community join our voice with countless sons and daughters of the Okpe Nation at home and in diaspora, in heartfelt celebration and thanksgiving.

Congratulations
and Happy  Anniversary
OKPE UNION!



Felicitations

On behalf of the Okpe Union Southwest Region, I extend heartfelt Felicitations and best wishes to our esteemed
President General,

Prof. Igho Natufe,

the National Executive Council, and all members of the Okpe Union both at home and in the diaspora, on the occasion of a successful General Assembly, **NEC ELECTIONS, AND THE GRAND CELEBRATION OF THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY** of our noble Union.

The remarkable planning and execution of these historic events are a testament to the enduring legacy, strength, and unity of the Okpe people. As a region, we are proud to be part of this landmark celebration and remain committed to supporting the collective vision of promoting peace, development, and a stronger identity for the Okpe Nation.

May this new chapter in the life of the Union usher in greater achievements, deeper collaboration, and the realization of our shared aspirations.

Congratulations
and Happy  Anniversary
OKPE UNION!

Engr. F. O. Redemi
Deputy President General 1
Okpe Union Southwest Region





CONGRATULATORY *Message*

In the spirit of unity and pride, I bring greetings and warm commendations from the Okpe Union Northern Region to the

President General,
Prof. Igho Natufe,

the National Executive Council, and all members of the Okpe Union worldwide on the resounding success of the recently concluded General Assembly, the smooth conduct of the NEC Elections, and the splendid celebration marking 95 years of our Union's distinguished existence.

This milestone occasion reflects the enduring spirit and collective will of the Okpe people to preserve our rich heritage while advancing the noble aspirations of our Nation. The Northern Region stands in solidarity with the broader Union, committed to the shared vision of progress, unity, and the upliftment of the Okpe identity across generations and regions.

May this historic juncture inspire continued excellence, purposeful leadership, and fruitful engagement across all arms of the Union.

Congratulations
and Happy  Anniversary
OKPE UNION!

Mr. O. Ayaruja
Deputy President General 2
Okpe Union Northern Region



Felicitations



With a deep sense of honour and solidarity, I extend heartfelt felicitations on behalf of the Okpe Union Midwest/Home Region to the

**President General,
Prof. Igho Natufe,**

the National Executive Council, and all members of the Okpe Union across the globe, on the outstanding success of the recently concluded General Assembly, the seamless conduct of the NEC Elections, and the grand celebration of the Union's 95th Anniversary.

This remarkable occasion stands as a proud testament to the resilience, vision, and shared commitment of the Okpe people to the preservation of our cultural heritage and the advancement of our collective destiny. The Midwest/Home Region remains steadfast in its allegiance to the Union's noble ideals and fully aligned with the pursuit of unity, purpose-driven leadership, and the strengthening of Okpe identity in every sphere.

As we reflect on this significant chapter in our Union's journey, may it serve as a beacon for greater achievements, deeper cohesion, and renewed purpose in the years ahead.

Dr. Lucky Akpere
Deputy President General 3
Okpe Union Midwest/Home Region



Congratulatory

My family and I wish to congratulate the

President General,

Prof. Igho Natufe,

the National Executive Council, and all members of the Okpe Union Worldwide for a very successful General Assembly, NEC Elections, and the 95th Anniversary Celebration.

This milestone reflects the resilience, unity, and progressive spirit of the Okpe people. We are deeply inspired by the commitment to preserving our heritage, fostering development, and advancing the cause of the Okpe Nation. May this renewed mandate usher in a new era of purposeful leadership, strategic collaboration, and impactful outcomes for our collective good.

Mr. Patrick Akpotor

Immediate Past President General



Congratulatory

My family and I wish to congratulate the

President General,

Prof. Igho Natufe,

the National Executive Council, and all members of the Okpe Union Worldwide for a very successful General Assembly, NEC Elections, and the 95th Anniversary Celebration.

This ground breaking achievement reflects the strength, unity, and shared commitment of the Okpe people to protecting our heritage and moving our Nation forward.

The Eastern Region stands firmly in support of the Union's vision and remains dedicated to building a stronger, united, and vibrant Okpe identity. May this renewed mandate usher in a new era of purposeful leadership, strategic collaboration, and impactful outcomes for our collective good.

Mr. O. Ayaruja

Deputy President General Northern Region



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Appreciation

With Grateful Hearts...

As we mark the 95th Anniversary of the Okpe Union, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have journeyed with us, our elders, members, supporters, and partners in progress. Your unwavering commitment, generous contributions, and active participation have made this celebration a resounding success.

We honor the vision of our founding fathers and the enduring legacy of unity, service, and identity they passed on to us. May the spirit of Okpe pride and purpose continue to inspire generations to come.

Thank you for standing with us.

**Okpe ool Agbamu eni
Long live the Okpe Nation.**

**95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY +
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**