

IDA NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF IGARRA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Maiden/Special Edition Vol. 1 No1.



Group photo at inauguration ceremony

ABOUT THIS EDITION

This is the maiden edition of the Newsletter. It is heavily loaded and will introduce the IDA, its aims and objectives, the journey so far and some milestones. We discuss the work of the IDA Sustainable Development Programme Planning Committee, appeal for membership and payment of dues.

The News and Events Section is quite exciting. We cover the IDA Inauguration Ceremony, the Adeche Momoh University Verification Visit by NUC, the Congratulatory Visit by IDA to the newly elected Akoko Edo Local Government Chairman, Bar. Tajudeen Alade Suleiman and the newly enthroned Bishop Ebenezer Omeiza Saiki. Also covered is the programme held in remembrance of Dr. Patrick Amune by his family and visit to the Manager of BEDC. Pictures of these events are also splashed on the pages.

We feature interesting articles that educate, inform.

Dr. Dele O. Yaya,
Editor-in Chief
October, 2023

ETUNO PLEDGE

Maa juvo kurachi Ki Anuno nvi
Etuno, Irekura oni Oshomoshi si ireyeani
Dosio tuebeba ini akakana irekura boo
Maa ze kinm vamisa, onimvasi
Ireshani tuebeba funi izim tuo ani
Oshomoshi yim ukata
Onim vasi misa ye Etuno
Dimrazafo
Ki seni Etuno me mi
Oshomoshi zamka beri aza enesi oninovi
Etuno anvi irekura ami
Iniubani Oshomoshi Oiza-oiza
Enworo
Onovavi yi Anetuno boo
Ammi

ETUNO ANTHEM

Etunoami: Etunoami
Etunoawu
Etunoawu
Etunoeyiboo
Etunoeyiboo
Anavodavuvobe
Diyasiotuebeba Boo, Irekura
Onoshomoshi Sireyeani
Dosiotuebeba
Ini Akakanirekura Boo

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ADVERTISING RATES:

For goodwill message/ advert on the newsletter, the slots are:

1. Backcover (full page) 20,000
 2. Inside back cover 15,000
 3. Full page (inside) 10,000
 4. Centre-spread 25,000
 5. Half page 5,000
- Monthly subscription monthly 1,000
Yearly subscription 10,000

THE IDA NEWSLETTER

The IDA Newsletter is an official channel of communication of the Igarra Development Association. The Association, which is a non-political, non-governmental organisation is set up to promote the peace, unity, growth and development of Igarra town. The Newsletter will supplement the vibrant IDA WhatsApp Platform and social media handles.

The Newsletter will serve majorly to inform IDA members in particular and the public in general of IDA vision, mission, plans, programmes, current issues and activities. It will get people to be more interested in IDA with a view to becoming more active members. It will report, document and keep records of past events and announce oncoming ones. It will showcase donors and contributors to IDA development programmes, publicise accomplishments and celebrations of members and advertise products, services, projects and programmes as requested.

The IDA Newsletter will be a medium that will share new knowledge, create awareness around current issues in Igarra, mould public opinion, promote ethical re-orientation, build consensus around issues affecting the people. It will serve to receive feedback on burning issues. It is hoped that it will eventually help to transform the IDA from its social media presence to having a formidable physical presence in Igarra and other towns and cities.

In short, the IDA Newsletter will inform, entertain, educate and enlighten.

The frequency of publication will be determined by various factors. We will start with publishing this newsletter on IDA WhatsApp platform, post the PDF format to friends and well-wishers, and distribute print copies by hand delivery. Sponsorship is needed to sustain this publication. We solicit your support.

IDA ELECTS NEW EXCO

To ensure a smooth transition from the pioneer Executive to a new one, a three-man IDA Electoral Committee, made up of Prof Musa Momoh as Chairman, Bar. Mrs. Dupe Obaro as member and Charles Damisa as Secretary, was set up. Using the approved Electoral Guidelines, the election was successfully conducted on 25th July, 2023. The following were declared unanimously elected:

1. Dr. Dele O. Yaya - President
2. Dr. Mrs. Cynthia Gregg - Vice President
3. Mr. Bankole Babaiwa - General Secretary
4. Mr. Ayode Longe - Financial Secretary
5. Mr. Kelvin Oseh - Treasurer
6. Bar. Steve Dania - Legal Officer
7. Mr. Shuru E. Okomayin - Publicity Secretary.



THE IDA CONSTITUTION

The Igarra Development Association (IDA) is an association duly registered in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act [2020](#). It has a Constitution that governs its operations. The Constitution is currently under review. Membership is being expanded to accommodate non-indigenes especially spouses and those that

have contributed greatly to the development of Igarra town. The Constitution stipulates the aims and objectives of the Association, membership requirements, the Executive Committee members and functions, the Board of Trustees, types and conduct of meetings, source of income, disbursement and application of funds, election of executive committee members, etc.

The new Constitution has provision for the following additional positions: Assistant Secretary, Chief Whip/Provost Marshal and Welfare Officer. Elections into these offices will be conducted in due course.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote development in Igarra.
2. To promote unity among all Igarra indigenes.
3. To engage in social and community work.
4. To collaborate with other developmental associations, institutions and government agencies.
5. To promote educational development.
6. To form solid, non-partisan networking platform to galvanize all Igarra indigenes at home and in diaspora.
7. To periodically recognize deserving indigenes with awards and honours.
8. To annually organise and fund empowerment programmes.
9. To pursue in the interest of Igarra people, any other related programmes geared towards the realization of all its aims and objectives.

THE IDA FROM INCEPTION

The Igarra Development Association was founded in 2016 with the goal of addressing concerns about the near total absence of government presence in Igarra in particular and Akoko Edo Local Government Area in general. There was an obvious need for an intervention fund to cater for critical areas in the Igarra community. It was agreed by the founding fathers that members pay N1,000 monthly, that is N12,000 annual dues to be supplemented with free-will donations from members and friends of the Association worldwide. The founders envisaged that if 1,000 people can come together and each pay N12,000 annually, that will be N12 million which could be used to address an identified issue.

Achievements

In its seven years of existence, the Association has done so much, including:

1. Donation of 15KVA generating set to the Igarra General Hospital
2. Got NYSC Medical Health Professionals (including Doctors and Pharmacists) to supplement the staffing at the General Hospital.
3. In partnership with the Rotary Club of Palm Grove Lagos and JadRock Foundation the IDA organized a free eye test and surgery for the inhabitants of Igarra and gave about 1,000 eye glasses to

those that needed them.

4. Donated a multi-million Naira anaesthetic equipment to the Igarra General Hospital to aid in minor surgical operations.
5. An Ambulance was also donated to the General Hospital.

We cannot overstate the immense contributions of donors and contributors in cash and in kind to the great achievements recorded. We are most grateful.

In addition to the above, the pioneer Executive Committee led by Azebani Mike Ukana registered and incorporated the Association, inaugurated it, held two Annual General Meetings, furnished the Doctors Residence and furnished the IDA office.

It is no mean achievement that the Igarra Development Association which began as an idea of a few patriotic Igarra indigenes has today become the one and only association that has brought all sons and daughters of Igarra, at home and in diaspora under one roof.

Credit for the achievements recorded above must be given to the pioneer Executive and board of Trustees.

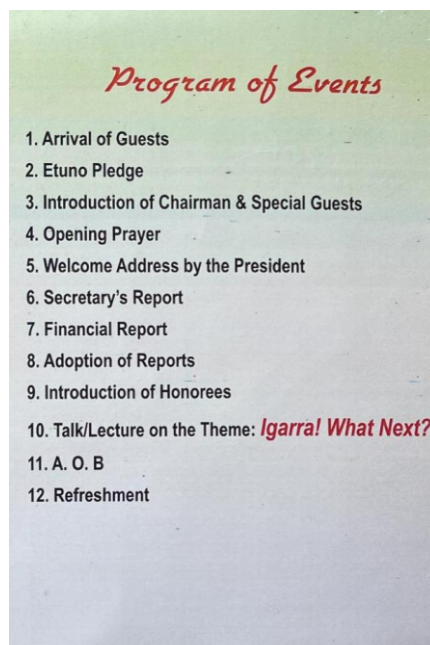
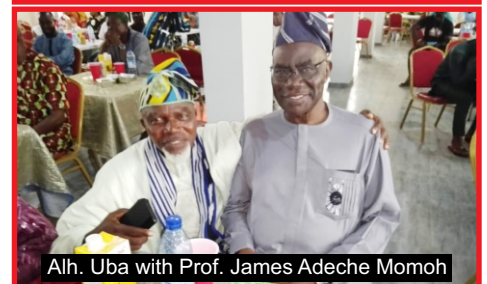
THE PIONEER EXECUTIVE (2016-

2023)

1. Azebani Mike Ukana - President
2. Dr. Bar. Mariam Omewun Ibrahim - Vice President
3. Kamilu Omokide - Treasurer
4. Siaka Nasiru - Financial Secretary
5. Kole Jagun - Publicity/Media
6. Monday Orisaremi - Auditor
7. Alh. Abdulsalam Uba Ajayi - Administrator

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. Azebani Mike Ukana,
2. Bar. Philip Amune,
3. Chief Charles Lawani,
4. Joe Adumaza Sanni,
5. Prof. Bamidele Sanni,
6. Prof John Akerele,
7. Dele Yaya and
8. Alh Abdulsalam Uba Ajayi.



THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Swearing-in

At a very impressive ceremony held on 20th August, 2023 at the Events Centre of Dabom Hotel, Igarra the pioneer Executive handed over its baton to the new Executive when the new Executive Committee was duly sworn in by Lady Bar. Dupe Ojo, former Permanent Secretary in the Edo State Civil Service for a three-year tenure. Very many distinguished and illustrious sons and daughters of Igarra graced the occasion. The Chairman of the occasion, Azebani Chris M. Adamaigbo was ably represented by Azebani Mike Okomayin. Other prominent personalities in attendance included: Bar. P. S. Egre, Lady Bar. Dupe Ojo, Prof.

incoming Executive a very successful tenure.

Handing over speech

In his handing over speech, the outgoing IDA Chairman, Azebani Mike Ukana traced the history of the Association noting that it was set up as a child of necessity. He highlighted the achievements of the IDA during his 7-year tenure and commended the team work he enjoyed.

Transition committee report

In her report, the Transition Committee Chairperson. Dr. Mrs Cynthia Gregg thanked God for making the occasion possible. She

President commended the outgoing IDA Executive "for pioneering the IDA and running the association for seven years seamlessly inspite of the very many challenges they had to surmount". He noted the great excitement, goodwill and very high expectations that greeted the election of the incoming Executive on 27th July, 2023 when the results were announced.

He assured the audience that the confidence and unanimous acceptance of this new Executive is not misplaced and will not be abused. He listed some of the achievements already made between 27th July and 20th August,



James Adeche Momoh, Chief E. K. Musa, Chief Folorunsho Dania, Dr. Mrs Maryam Omewun Ibrahim, Segun Moses, Kola Adeloye, Chief and Chief Mrs Folorunsho Ajayi, Dr. Charles Jagun and Mr Edi Lawani, amongst other very important personalities. Many more persons were able to participate virtually as the ceremony was also transmitted online via zoom.

The chairman's address

The Chairman at the Ceremony welcomed members and expressed joy at the history making occasion. He commended the outgoing Executive for establishing the Association and wished the

explained that the handing over report of the outgoing IDA President is expected to contain the documents listed in the Committee's Terms of Reference. The handing over of financial and other statutory documents is in progress and shall be completed between the pioneer Financial Secretary and the new Financial Secretary, she said. A major achievement of the Transition Committee was the successful organisation of the ceremony which was adjudged to be very well packaged.

Acceptance speech

Dr. Dele Yaya, the new IDA

2023 and reassured members that the new Executive will make development its primary focus.

The Opening Prayer was led by Apostle Pita Onaivi after which the IDA Anthem and Pledge were taken. The profile of each member of the new IDA Executive was read before they were sworn in. The Sustainable Development Programme Committee under the Chairmanship of Elder P. K. Moses was inaugurated. After the Vote of Thanks, the Closing Prayer was given by Alh. Uba Ajayi. A group photograph was taken and refreshments served. It was a day to remember.

IDA DIARY OF EVENTS: 27TH JULY TO 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

S/ N	DATE	ACTIVITY
1.	Tues. 27 th July 2023	IDA Election Result announced
2.	Tues. 27 th July 2023	Whatsapp platform for the Incoming IDA Executive set up
3.	Mon. 31 st July 2023	Maiden Virtual Meeting of the incoming IDA Executive held
4.	Wed. 2 nd Aug., 2023	Joint platform for the Incoming and Outgoing IDA Executives set up
5.	Wed. 2 nd Aug. 2023	Joint Virtual Meeting of the Incoming and Outgoing IDA Executive Committee held.
6.	Wed. 2 nd Aug. 2023	7-member IDA Transition Committee set up to midwife the smooth take-off of the new Executive under the leadership of the new Vice President, Dr. Mrs. Cynthia Greg.
7.	Wed. 2 nd Aug. 2023	61-Member IDA Sustainable Development Programme Planning (SDPP) Committee under the leadership of Mr. P. K. Moses set up.
8.	Sat. 12 th Aug. 2023	40-member IDA Consultative Committee made up of elders and persons with requisite experience and expertise set up.
9.	Wed. 16 th Aug. 2023	IDA represented at Akoko Edo Forum's Economic & Investment Summit held at Dabom Hotel, Igarra. I
10.	Sun. 20 th Aug., 2023	Inauguration, Handing Over, Swearing In Ceremony of New IDA Executive held at the Events Centre, Dabom Hotel, Igarra.
11.	Sun. 20 th Aug., 2023	Maiden Face to Face Meeting of New IDA Executive
12.	Mon. 21 st to Wed. 23 rd Aug., 2023	2 nd Verification Visit to the Proposed James Adeche University, Igarra by the National Universities Commission- IDA represented.
13.	Sun. 27 th Aug., 2023	Consecration of Bishop Ebenezer Omeiza Saiki at Ikeja, Lagos. IDA was well represented.
14.	Tue. 29 th Aug., 2023	Enthronement of Bishop Ebenezer Omeiza Saiki at St James' Church, Igarra. IDA was well represented.
15.	Wed. 30 th Aug. 2023	IDA Legal Officer Presents the Reviewed IDA Constitution on IDA WhatsApp Platform for Critiquing
16.	Mon. 4 th Sept, 2023	The 10 Sub Committees of IDA SDPPC take off
17.	Wed. 13 th Sept., 2023	Updated List and Report on Payment by IDA Annual Dues Paying Members and Donors From Inception to 30 th August, 2023
18.	Sat. 19 th Sept. 2023	September 2023 Monthly Virtual Meeting of the IDA Executive
19.	Sun. 24 th Sept., 2023	IDA Membership Documentation and Validation Exercise Commence
20.	Tues. 26 th Sept. 2023	Congratulatory Visit by IDA Delegation to the Newly Elected Executive Chairman, Akoko Edo Local Government, Bar. Tajudeen Alade Suleiman.
21.	Tues. 26 th Sept. 2023	Enquiry Visit to the Igarra Branch Manager of BEDC Electricity PLC by IDA Delegation
22.	Wed. 27 th Sept. 2023	Congratulatory Visit by IDA Delegation to the Newly Enthroned Bishop of Akoko Edo Anglican Diocese, Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Omeiza Saiki.
23.	Wed. 27 th Sept. 2023	IDA Represented at the 1 -Year Memorial Anniversary Programme in Remembrance of Late Dr. Patrick Ametu Amune featuring Free Dental and Medical Services and Gifts to School Children
24.	Sat. 30 th Sept. 2023	Release of Names of IDA Members that had so far responded to the Online Membership Documentation As At 1pm.

2 0 2 4 - 2 0 3 0 I D A DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Article 3, Sections 1 to 11 of the IDA Constitution say that the IDA was set up to promote development in Igarra. To achieve this and have the Igarra we want, we need clearly stated development goals and objectives, blueprints, roadmaps, templates and strategic implementation plans. To this end,

a 61-Member Sustainable Development Programme Planning Committee was set up under the leadership of Mr. P. K. Moses.

The Committee is to brainstorm and identify the challenges facing Igarra, recommend solutions to the identified problems, develop detailed implementation action plan that will guide the IDA

intervention even beyond the tenure of this Executive. The Committee is to produce a seven-year (2024-2030) Development Plan. This is going to guide the new EXCO in its work. To ensure more specialised and detailed work, the Main Committee is broken into ten sub-committees with Chairpersons, Vice and Secretaries.

SCENES FROM IREPA/ABA 2023



BHI DIRECTOR OFFERS PALLIATIVE REPAIRS ON AUCHI-IGARRA ROAD.

AERIAL VIEW OF IGARRA



IGARRA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Membership Registration

IDA Membership Registration

Please fill out this form to document and validate your membership of Igarra Development Association (IDA).

IDA members join others to condole the family of Late Odonkoro, Igarra hunter who died on active service.

**IWE QNINI
(OTOOWO QWQWA)**



**ETUNO
NEW TESTAMENT**



ÓRÜPÉZÁ: The Beauty and Power Our Rainbow.

Órúpá is a rope. Ézá is bean. Órúpézá means the “bean rope”. The bean plant naturally intertwines itself with plants in its space.

Órúpézá is a binding element. It generates bonding and creates strength from its fusion.

Órúpézá is like the rainbow that derives its beauty from the organic combination of its individual colours, as it dominates its surrounding.

Etunoland is Órúpézá.

The individual families of Etuno people are so intricately intertwined, over the generations, through marriages and social coexistence, such denying or disregarding the Órúpézá foundations in the sociology of Etunoland, amounts to living a lie, willful self-destruction or both.

Órúpézá is the broom that sweeps better, as a bunch. Órúpéza is the

missing link in the life and survival of a lone traveler that must confront a journey's challenges alone.

Órúpézá is the power of a people United unconditionally, in love and peace, for progress. Órúpézá is the conscious coalition of a people of a common heritage and shared ancestry against the threats of divisiveness, hate, deceit, anger, retrogression and stagnation.

Órúpézá is panacea for development, growth, sustenance and love.

Órúpézá is life, in its innocence and beauty.

Órúpézá is the way forward.

Órúpézá is Etunoland's divine gift, our reality and our inestimable future.

Órúpézá is Etunoland, its people, purpose and our Destiny. Órúpézá is the answer.

-Edi Lawani



AKOKO-EDO ECONOMIC AND INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The Akoko-Edo Economic and Investment Summit is aimed at promoting local content for global consumption and sustainable development. The second in the series of a seven year strategic plan, the theme for this year's Summit was “Towards Economic Growth and Development”. The Summit held at Dabom Hotel, Igarra on 16th August, 2023 with Alh Kadiri Nasiru as Chairman.

The Summit partnered with Edo Jobs training arm to provide Agribusiness training for youths and women. This training saw youths and women coming from Ososo, Ojah, Damgbala, Okpe, Enwan and Igarra. In the course of the training, participants were opened to the many business opportunities that lies not just in Agriculture but in their environment. The training lasted for three days and ended with participants visiting an

ultra-modern greenhouse farm in Igarra. About eighty youths and women participated in the training.

The Summit climaxed on Wednesday with the Investment Summit proper which featured paper presentations, exhibition of some solid minerals and cultural display from the Ojah cultural troupe.

Papers were presented by Hon. Prince Dele Obaitan, Dr. Steve Ekundayo, Dr. Victor Ekun and Dr. Fakunle, all of them drawing attention to the many investment opportunities in Akoko-Edo and how/why we must maximize what we have for our development.

The Summit urged the miners to commit to more Community Social Responsibility (CSR) and called for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) for all mining activities.

-By Olisa Moses

DIGITAL LITERACY

In today's rapidly evolving world, digital literacy is no longer a luxury;

it's a necessity. Digital literacy refers to the ability to use digital technologies effectively and responsibly. It's about understanding how to navigate the digital landscape, from using smartphones and computers to accessing online information and participating in the digital economy.

How can digital literacy help us?

Digital literacy empowers us to:

Stay Informed: It allows us to access a wealth of information, news, and resources online, helping us make informed decisions and stay updated on global events. We get to know of job or business opportunities available online.

Connect with Others: Digital literacy enables us to connect with family, friends, and communities worldwide, fostering collaboration and social engagement. Examples are the social media platforms like

cont'd on page 11

IDA SDPP Sub Committees and Their Chairmen

The Sub Committees have very high calibre of committed members under the following Chairmen:

S/N	Sub Committee	Chairman
1.	Security	Bar. Steve Dania
2.	Peace, Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation	Azebani Mike Ukana
3.	Health Care, Women Affairs and Family Life	Dr. Kayode Obende
4.	Education and Vocational Development	Olusheun Ekuoye
5.	Culture, Tourism, Recreation, Youth, Sports and Ethical Re-Orientations	Edi Lawani
6.	Community Mobilisation, Partnerships, Collaborations, and External Relations with Government (MDAs), NGOs, Community Institutions and Diaspora	Dayo Omoogun
7.	Resource Mobilisation and Financial Management	Charles Bayo Sanni
8.	Infrastructure and Environment: Roads, Housing, Works, Energy, Water, Sanitation, and Beautification	Engr. Femi Mathews
9.	Economy, Agriculture and Rural Development	Monday Orisaremi
10.	ICT, Science, Technology, Research and Development	Kole Jagun

The Report of the Sub Committees will be submitted before the end of the month. Thereafter, the comprehensive Igarra Development Plan will be produced and released.

Adeche Momoh University, Igarra: NUC Pays 2nd Verification Visit

The Proposed Adeche Momoh University, Igarra played host to the National Universities Commission from Mon. 21st to Wed. 23rd August, 2023. The NUC came on a 2nd Verification visit to the University. The Team interacted with the University's Planning and Implementation Committee, Board of Trustees and Consultants and went on inspection of the campus facilities. They also reviewed the Strategic Documents of the university. They were happy about the progress made.



In attendance at the campus inspection visit included: Prof. James Adeche Momoh, the proprietor, Bar. P. S. Egre, Bar. Ahmed Tijani Ibrahim, Azebani Mike Ukana, Dr. Mrs. Mariam Omewun Ibrahim, P. K. Moses, Dele Yaya and other distinguished personalities.

The 35 Hectares University Campus will be offering courses in Computing and Engineering, Science, Law, Arts, Management and Social Sciences.

IDA MEMBERSHIP

IDA Existing Members' Validation

The current IDA membership is undergoing validation. The General Secretary has shared on the platform the link to a simple online Membership Form to be completed by everyone on the Platform. The link <https://forms.gle/qcKRZHdj8msm7PMf6>. Existing members are to follow this link to fill out the IDA online membership documentation form. Please note that only real existing members on the platform will be validated subsequently. The exercise will take place over a period of two weeks, starting from September 25th, 2023 to October 10th, 2023. Members who do not participate in this documentation and validation exercise by October 10th, 2023 will be deemed to be non-existent and removed from our WhatsApp platform.

Membership Drive

The IDA Constitution has provision for three categories of Membership: Full, Honorary and Spouse Membership. The target of the founding fathers of IDA was that we have a minimum of 1,000 members. Today we have 321 persons on the IDA WhatsApp Platform some of whom cannot be said to be members. We are embarking on massive membership drive. New members are welcome. Existing members are hereby requested to invite their spouse, children, relations, friends and well wishers to join the IDA.

Financial Membership.

No Association, especially one that focuses on development, can succeed without a committed, financially up to date membership. Indeed, the founding fathers envisaged a well-funded Association based on timely payment of annual dues, generous donations and contribution by development oriented and patriotic members. Unfortunately, in the 7-year history of the Association, we could have done better. *Continued on page 9*

"I'm Proud of IDA" says Newly Enthroned Bishop Saiki

The newly enthroned Bishop of Anglican Diocese of Akoko Edo, Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Omeiza Saiki has expressed his appreciation to the IDA for sending a delegation to pay him a congratulatory visit on 27th September, 2023. He recalled the stringent conditions required to be enthroned a Bishop and confessed that his selection and enthronement was an act of God. He said he is therefore prepared to serve God and the people wholeheartedly. The Bishop explained that "the Anglican church is Episcopally led and Synodically governed". He appreciated IDA for the visit and pledged support in all ramifications and maintained that he is a proud member of the IDA and would support the Executive in its developmental efforts. He then invited the IDA to the forthcoming

Synod scheduled for 22nd and 23rd October, 2023.

The IDA President noted that his enthronement as Bishop on 29th August, 2023 was not only a testament to his unwavering faith in God and dedication to his duties but also a source of pride for the Igarra community in particular and Akoko Edo in general. The President then drew the attention of the Bishop to social and moral problems facing Akoko Edo such as Yahoo plus, examination "miracle centres", insecurity, drug addiction, sexual immorality, drunkenness, etc. He noted "the deep rooted disunity, mistrust, and bitterness in our society" and urged him to lead the Church to intervene through prayers, fasting, sermons, counselling, crusades, etc. He said:

"It will be to your credit and to the greatest glory of God if the needed conflict resolution and reconciliation can take place in your time as the Bishop of Akoko Edo Diocese". He then assured the Bishop that the IDA is very willing to partner with the Church under his leadership in the area of Christian Social Responsibility.

Venerable Izirien formally introduced the Bishop and himself while the vote of thanks and closing prayers were said by the Venerable T. I. Olatunde - the Church Administrator.

The IDA President's entourage included: Elder P. K. Moses, Eunice Obajaja, Bar. Steve Dania, Mrs. Funmilayo Ade-Ife and Shuru Okomayin.



IDA delegation with Bishop and Wife after enthronement



IDA delegation with Bishop and Wife after Consecration service in Lagos.



IDA congratulatory visit to the Bishop.



Venue of the enthronement service.



List of Annual Dues Paying Members to be Published

The first challenge faced by the new IDA leadership was to prepare the List of IDA Annual Dues Paying Members and Donors. It is to the glory of God, that this list was produced and a report written and released on IDA WhatsApp Platform on 13th September, 2023. Cognisant of the fact that majority of us were defaulters, the Executive decided to give every member the chance of

paying up before the end of October, 2023. On 1st November, 2023, the updated members payment list will be published. We are counting on the high sense of responsibility and commitment of members. We have to be sincere in determining our level of indebtedness. Thereafter, those financially up to date will be migrated to a new IDA Platform. Please treat as urgent.



ETUNO VORUPEZA AVINEBE



Executive Chairman of Akoko Edo LGA to Partner with IDA

The newly elected Chairman of Akoko Edo Local Government Area, Bar. Tajudeen Alade Suleiman has promised to partner with the Igarra Development Association. The Chairman made this promise when a delegation of IDA paid him a congratulatory visit on his success at the Local Government Elections held on 2nd September, 2023. The Chairman expressed his appreciation of the great work the IDA was doing and said he looked forward to a fruitful relationship with the Association. He reassured the visitors that he had always yearned for the opportunity to serve the people of Akoko Edo and would not let this great chance slip. He committed to giving security its well-deserved priority explaining that a combined security force is currently combing the bushes on a daily basis and this had reduced the

rate of kidnappings. He said he was open to ideas that will help move the Local Government forward.



In his Address, the IDA President, Dr Dele Yaya noted the great outpouring of congratulatory messages at the IDA WhatsApp platform when he was declared

winner. He noted that this was not only because he was an IDA Member, but also an indication that members believed that his tenure will bring about a positive turn around especially in the areas of security, infrastructure and providing an enabling environment for development. The President urged the Chairman and his team to hit the ground running as a three-year tenure was such a short time. The President also mentioned the setting up of the Sustainable Development Programme Planning Committee to draw up a seven-year (2024-2030) Development Plan for Igarra.

Members of the IDA delegation on the visit included Elder P. K. Moses, Eunice Obajaja, Bar. Steve Dania, Kelvin Oseh and Shuru Okomayin. The visit took place on 26th September 2023.

Enquiry Visit to BEDC Igarra Branch Office

The epileptic supply of electricity has been of great concern to residents of Igarra. This prompted a visit to the BEDC Branch Office Igarra. The Branch Manager, Mr. Agbada Imoudu welcomed the IDA Team. The Team expressed concern about the poor electricity situation in the Igarra community and wanted to know where it could assist.

The Manager explained the effort he and his staff had put in to ensure that the community had power supply. He applauded the Igarra youths for giving a helping hand whenever the need arose. He explained that Igarra gets its power supply from Okene and passes through several sub-stations in Ogori/Magogo, Imeri, Ibillo, Uneme Nekhua. Whenever there was any

fault along the route, he pointed out, Igarra suffers. Moreover, he claimed, Igarra consumers had backlog of unsettled bills and had very poor attitude to payment of electricity bills. He appealed for a general sensitization and enlightenment for the community to pay their bills and do same to the office not on the streets to the staff that come with ladder to disconnect.

The IDA Team explained that the Estimated Billing Method gave room to unrealistic accumulated debts, pointing

out that power outage for most days in the month discourages prompt payment of bill, saying if the BEDC can supply Pre-Paid Meters and ensure regular power supply, payment of bills will be prompt. The Team assured the Manager that it will embark on sensitization of the public while hoping that power supply will improve.



Late Dr. Patrick Amune Remembered in Grand Style

The family of Dr. Patrick Ametu Amune launched the Dr. Patrick Amune Memorial Foundation on 27th September, 2023. The Anniversary Programme of activities included; Memorial Mass at St. John's Catholic Church, Igarra; Free Dental and Medical Services to members of the community; and Distribution of school materials to school children. The event held at his Ubani Dental Clinic, Igarra. It was a colorful event. The turn out was massive.

After introducing the members of his delegation, the IDA President, Dr. Dele Yaya applauded the family for the initiative of a foundation in the memory of their late father and encouraged more of similar initiatives in the community. He commended the family for remembering their father by giving back to the community, a life he lived while he was alive. Dr. Patrick Amune was a highly innovative, experienced and respected

dental surgeon and community leader before his death on 27th September, 2022.

Present at the occasion was the former First Lady of Akoko Edo LGA Mrs C. M. Amune, Retired Principal Emeritus Revd Okuo, NTA Uzairue media crew and a host of others. The President was accompanied by Elder P. K. Moses, Eunice Obajaja, Bar. Steve Dania, Mrs. Funmilayo Ade-Ife and Shuru Okomayin.



P. K. Moses, Barr. Steve Dania & IDA President in a chat.



Mrs. C. M. Amune presents materials to school children



Cross section of school children at the event



Free medical service at the event.



Late Dr. P. A. Amune's grand daughter presents to a beneficiary.



Late Dr. P. A. Amune's wife and attendees

(cont'd from page 7)

WhatsApp, Facebook. Instagram, etc.)

Learn and Grow: Online courses and educational platforms offer opportunities for personal and professional development, regardless of location.

Participate in the Economy: Many jobs and business opportunities today rely on digital skills, making digital literacy essential for economic participation.

Stay Safe: Understanding online security and privacy helps protect us from online scams, and frauds.

-By James Oyanna

IGARRA UNDERGROUND WATER

Igarra is underlain by what in Geology we call the basement rocks that consist of igneous and metamorphic rocks. These rocks are

widespread in Nigeria, covering most parts of South West, North Central, including the Federal Capital City, Abuja, and some areas of the North East. Groundwater in these rocks exists in pockets and is highly localized. This is the reason why we employ electrical resistivity methods to unveil these discrete groundwater bodies for boreholes. When compared with sedimentary rocks, the yields of the boreholes in these rocks are not as promising because of limited storage capacity. However, they have been found to be able to sustain small water schemes, especially households, as in Igarra.

Groundwater is mostly preferred for its affordability, availability at the point of need, good quality at source or point of development, and natural protection from

anthropogenic and climatic influences. It is an erroneous impression that its massive development can lead to earthquakes. Igarra is not a seismic zone. Whoever wants a borehole in his or her property should please proceed with the necessary action and access potable water for whatever purposes. Whoever has a borehole or desires one soon should get a sample analysed in an accredited laboratory to simply ascertain its potability or otherwise.

Generally, groundwater in Igarra is of good quality and can be dependable for all uses. However, isolated cases of high iron content, soap wasting virtue, offensive odour, ceaseless turbidity, colouration, etc do occur.

-By Dr. Omogbemi O. Yaya

IGARRA SKILLS ACQUISITION CENTRE

The Igarra Skills Acquisition Centre was established by Edo state Government under the recommendation of **Honorable. Jemitola** the then Commissioner for Women Affairs in the year 2008 to train intending entrepreneurs in the following areas:-

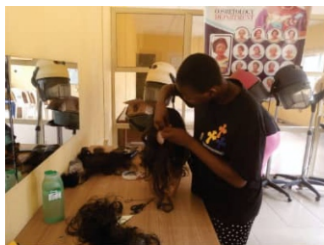
1. Hair Dressing , Cosmetology and Bead Making
2. Computer and Secretarial Studies
3. Tiles Fixing
4. Traditional Cloth Weaving
5. Catering and Hospitality Management
6. Fashion Design

The intention of the government is to train the youths to acquire skills in the above named areas so as to find a place in Nigerian industries, to contribute to poverty eradication, and also serve as a veritable way to fight against human trafficking and other social vices.

The Skills Centre is designed in such a way that each aforementioned Skills is acquired under six months, certificates and starter packs are given to graduated trainees to start up their businesses. Properly trained artisans will be competent to be self employed and employ others also. These trades are strengthened with staff, equipment and tools, instructional materials, training and a conducive learning environment.

Since 2008 till date the Centre has trained well over 1000 people in the various skills and a good

number of them are self employed today in Igarra and other places. Out of all the trainees about 200 were empowered by the State Government on the maiden graduation ceremony. Since then, no empowerment has been done. We have well over 800 or more to



example, we have just 5 computer systems that are working and sometimes we have up to 20-30 trainees with just these computer systems. We need starter kits in the following Departments: Hairdressing, Cosmetology and Bead Making; Tiles Fixing; Traditional Cloth Weaving; Catering and Hospitality Management; and Fashion Design. Note that starter kits are the items that are used for practicals during the training so it varies from department to department.

Power supply is not a challenge at all because a member of Igarra Development Association single handedly put in place a

solar system that supplies light 24/7.

Edo State Skills Acquisition Centre requires adequate and regular funding so as to be able to achieve the aims of the scheme. Adequate and regular funding that takes care of the day to day running of the Centre, the starter kits for practical and the empowerment packs for trainees of the various departments.

be empowered.

CHALLENGES

In the State, the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Issues is directly in charge of the Skills Centre. Funding has been very inconsistent. Instructors' stipends are not paid for 3-6 months and this affects their motivation and dedication.

Another major challenge is that most of the equipment are not enough and some are obsolete. For

EDO STATE SKILLS ACQUISITION CENTRE.
Igarra, Akoko-Edo L.G.A
Vocational Training

Announces

Computer Basics
 Fashion Designing
 Catering & Hotel Management
 Hair Dressing
 Tilling
 Traditional Cloth weaving

Other Training Areas Includes:

3D Wall Paint
Wall Paper Installation

Barbing
Auto Gele
Shoe making

Videography & Photography

For more info: Call: 08032918619
 Pick up forms, fill and submit to the Centre manager @ Old Rest House Igarra, Akoko-Edo, Edo State