



12TH CONFERENCE

H O L D I N G

NOVEMBER 26-28, 2021

T H E M E :

**“SECURITY, CULTURE AND THE
FUTURE OF URHOBOT NATION”**

DATES AND VENUES:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2021, 10:00AM-5:00PM

Venue: Urhobo Cultural Centre, Uvwiamuge, Agbarho, Delta State
Plenary Conference and Proceedings: Opening Ceremony, Symposium,
Panel Discussions, Launching of UHS Book:
The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021, 10:00AM-4:00PM

Venue: Ovie of Udu Palace Hall, Otor-Udu
Symposium, Lecture, Laying of wreaths on the graves of selected
heroes in Udu kingdom

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2021, 10:00AM-4:00PM

Urhobo Historical Society Thanksgiving Day
Venue: Okobaro of Ughievwen Palace (open field), Otughievwen
Laying of wreaths on the graves of selected heroes in
Ughievwen kingdom.
Ecumenical Church Thanksgiving Service



ISHAKA HOTEL

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PROFESSOR
PETER PALMER EKEH
(1937-2020)

Founding President, Urhobo Historical Society

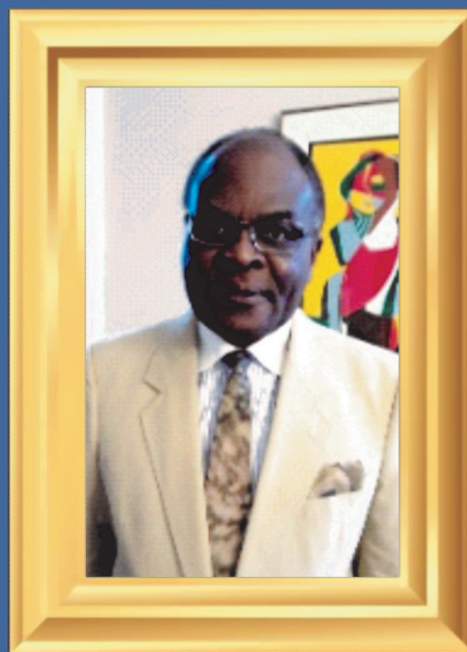
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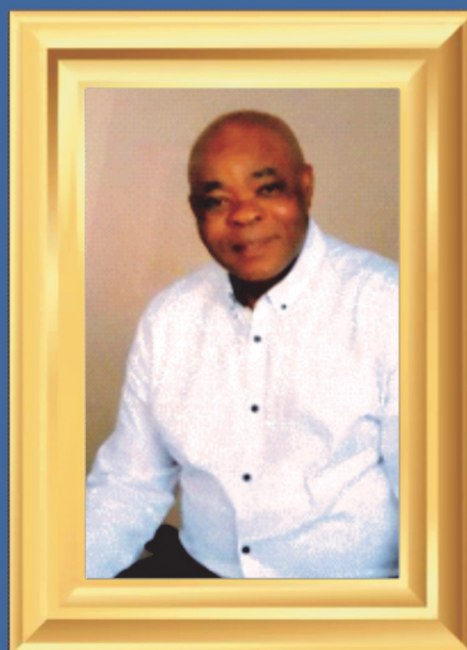
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Ughievwen kingdom

ABOUT URHOB0 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We began our operations twenty-two years ago when 25 Urhobo men and women gathered at LaGuardia Marriot Hotel, Queens, New York City, on August 28, 1999. We vowed at that inaugural meeting of Urhobo Historical Society that the aim of our new organization shall be "serving Urhobo History and Culture." Our promised agenda of programs included (a) a website (which became waado.org), (b) annual Conferences, and (c) publications. With a few modifications, we have steered Urhobo Historical Society along its original path as conceived in 1999.

There has been one major unexpected turn of events in the fortunes of Urhobo Historical Society. At its formation in August 1999, we had expected that Urhobo Historical Society would be a diaspora-based organization that would serve Urhobo interests from across the Atlantic – as scores of other worthy Urhobo organizations do from America. Accordingly, we held our first two Annual Conferences in 2000 and 2001 in North America. However, we were persuaded to come to the United Kingdom for our next two Annual Conferences in 2002 and 2003.

To our pleasant surprise, these two UHS Conferences held in London in 2002 and 2003 were dominated by Urhobo leaders and intellectuals from Urhoboland and Nigeria. The list of those who came is formidable: Chief Senator David Dafinone; Olorogun Senator Felix Ibru; Governor Chief James Ibori and a team of more than fifteen Commissioners and officials; Deacon G. O. Onosode; Chief Daniel Obiomah & Mrs. L. O. Obiomah; Chief Johnson M. Barovbe; Chief Godwin Ogbetuo; Chief Love Ojakovo; etc. The intellectual team that came to the London Conferences was equally powerful: Professor F. M. A. Ukoli; Professor David Okpako; Professor Bruce Onobrakpeya; Professor Sam Eriwo; Professor M. Y. Nabofa; Professor Rose Aziza; etc.

A direct result of such a powerful presence from the Urhobo homeland at our London Conferences was strong persuasion on Urhobo Historical Society to bring home its Conferences to Urhoboland. At the 2003 London Conference, Olorogun Felix Ibru and Chief Johnson Barovbe pleaded with UHS leaders that the message and mission of the organization needed to be directly delivered at home in Urhoboland. Moreover, we were promised help with our operations in Urhoboland. Unexpectedly, Olorogun Moses Taiga sent UHS a handsome monetary donation.

Urhobo Historical Society responded positively by staging its first Conference in Urhoboland in 2004 with a new design. Since 2004, we have held a total of eight UHS Conferences in Urhoboland. While the beginning days of these

Conferences -- routinely held at PTI Conference Centre in Effurun -- are devoted to intellectual and academic presentation on Urhobo history and culture as well as the launching of the Society's book publications, the last day of each Conference is designated as UHS Thanksgiving Day. That last day of the Conference, which is usually a Sunday, is set aside as the occasion when we thank God for Urhobo culture and for UHS's migration of its operations to the Urhobo Homeland. It is a day of practicum when we visit designated Urhobo towns and whole Urhobo clans to learn about their history and culture and to pay tributes to their heroes by laying wreaths at their grave sites and by recalling their deeds and achievements. Since 2009, beginning with the presidency of Olorogun Felix Ibru, the President-General of Urhobo Progress Union has presided over this solemn undertaking by Urhobo Historical Society.

As we approach the second decade of Urhobo Historical Society's existence in 2019 and as the Society plans a new phase of serving Urhobo history and culture, two developments are noteworthy. First, in 2014, the Editorial and Management Committee of UHS, which is the Society's governing body, decided to establish a funding agency titled as Urhobo Historical Society Endowment Fund. Its design safeguards all monies raised by this agency by investing them and managing the investments through a Board of Trustees made up of independent Urhobo men and women. While it has taken a while for the UHS Endowment Fund to take off, it is pleasing to report that its Board of Trustees has now been set up. Its Chairman is Olorogun Moses Taiga; Olorogun Miller Uloho is its Deputy Chairman; Chief Simeon Ohwofa is the Secretary of the Board; while the Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Oghenejode Abaka is its Treasurer. The UHS Endowment Fund's stellar Board of Trustees is made up of Urhobo men and women who have achieved a great deal in diverse fields. We look forward to the Board's operations to help UHS and similar other Urhobo bodies in the funding they need in order to engage in productive programs of serving and enhancing Urhobo history and culture.

The second major development in recent UHS's history is that Urhobo Historical Society has acquired new Headquarters in the Urhobo hinterland at Okpara Inland. The Headquarters' main building is a large bungalow of about ten rooms, with enough space for a Library and a Conference Room. It has a spacious corridor for the display of pictures of Urhobo heroes. Furthermore, it has ample grounds for future developments. At the present time, the UHS Headquarters and its facilities are served by a small staff of three. It has a library that is underdeveloped. We plan to bring in a librarian who will develop this Library and its adjoining internet facilities. Our hope is that it will acquire all books published on Urhobo.

We are happy to report that the 2021 UHS Conference is being organized from the UHS Headquarters at Okpara inland.

UHS's Appeal and Quest for Members and Sponsors

Urhobo Historical Society appeals for the involvement of Urhobo people in the development of Urhobo Historical Society in two clear ways. First, we ask that you become fee-paying Members of Urhobo Historical Society. In that way, patriotic Urhobo men and women will contribute to the welfare and development of their fellow Urhobo men and women. Secondly, we appeal to those who are able to do so to sponsor our various programs. In particular, the Headquarters of Urhobo Historical Society need development funding through generous sponsorship.

Meanwhile, we wish you all a good and profitable experience in Urhobo history and culture from the 2021 UHS Conference.

BOOK FAIR

UHS displays its book publications at its Conferences. This year we will feature our latest book publication: *The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen* edited by Engr. Andrew Onoawarie Edevbie. In addition, copies of the following previous UHS book publications are available for purchase:

- (a) *Warri City & British Colonial Rule in Western Niger Delta*, edited by Peter Ekeh
- (b) *History of the Urhobo People of Niger Delta*, edited by Peter Ekeh
- (c) *T. E. A. Salubi: Witness to British Colonial Rule in Urhoboland & Nigeria*, edited by Peter Ekeh
- (d) *Olomu and Development of Urhoboland & Western Niger Delta. Ancient and Modern Versions*, edited by Peter Ekeh, Onoawarie Edevbie and Peter Ishaka.

These books are also available at UHS Headquarters: No. 3 Ekeh Street, Okpara Inland, Delta State. The headquarters opens Mondays – Fridays, 8:00am – 4:00pm.

Telephone Enquiries: 07060647530, 07037982410

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Programme Of Event For Day 1

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2021

1. Opening Prayer
2. Anthems (National Anthem and Urhobo Anthem)
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Presentation of Kolanuts
5. Chairman's Opening Remark
6. Welcome Address
7. Music Interlude
8. Keynote Speech
9. Udje Performance
10. Book Launch
11. Panel Discussions
12. Vote of Thanks
13. Closing Prayer

DAY 1

Opening Ceremonies of Plenary Sessions of UHS 2021 Conference

Venue: Urhobo Cultural Centre, Uvwiamuge, Agbarho

Date and Time: Friday, November 26, 2021, 10:00am-5:00pm

Chairman:

Chief Simeon Ohwofa

Special Guesst of Honour:

Olorogun (Dr.) Moses O. Taiga

President General,

Urhobo Progress Union, Worldwide

Guest of Honour:

Rev. (Hon.) Francis E. Waive

Chief Host:

Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro

President, Urhobo Historical Society

Session I

Keynote Speech: "Security, Culture and
the Future of Urhobo Nation"

Keynote Speaker:

HRM Rtd. Air Vice Marshal Lucky Ararile

Ovie of Umiaghwa-Avwraka

Session II

Panel Discussion:

"The Role of Traditional Rulers in the Security of Urhoboland"

Chairman:

HRM Dr. Richard L. Ogbon, OGONI-OGHORO, I, JP, RDN,

Royal Canon, OON, The Ohworode of Olomu Kingdom and Chairman,
Ukoko R' Ivie R' Urhobo Nation

Discussants:

Dr. Davis Efeurhobo, Department of Political Science, University of Delta, Agbor

Dr. (Mrs.) Julie Akpotor, Department of Sociology Psychology, DELSU, Abraka

Session III

Book Launch:

The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen

Launchers:

Dr. Mrs. Cecilia Ibru

Mr. Patrick Origho

Olorogun (Barr.) Kenneth Gbagi

Olorogun (Sir) Richard Odibo

Barr. Peter Mrakpor

Mr. Zik Gbemre

Hon. Chief Henry Sakpra

Olorogun Vincent Oyibode

Hon. Rueben Izeze

Chief Vincent Essi Idesoh

Dr. Richard Kofi

Olorogun Francis Okumagba

Chief Bernard Okumagba

UHS 2021 CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING ADDRESS

Protocol:

I am delighted and honoured that I chair this year's opening ceremony of the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) Conference. I thank the Editorial and Management Committee (EMC) of the UHS for giving me this opportunity. My association with UHS dates back to 2006, thanks to Chief Johnson Modika Barovbe and Prof. Peter Palmer Ekeh. At the conference of that year, I was invited as Chief launcher of the Urhobo National Calendar authored by Late Dr. Michael Nabofa, my kinsman from Uwheru. In 2018, I was nominated to be the secretary of Urhobo History Society Endowment Fund, whose primary responsibilities are to fund UHS research and development projects in Urhoboland. The UHS has emerged as a bulwark of Urhobo history and culture. To this end, the Society has been most beneficial to the Urhobo people. The UHS has been quite dynamic in its engagement with our history. Its dynamism has earned it a place on the internet and mainstreamed Urhobo lore, history and culture into the global knowledge highway. Thus, Urhobo history and culture, that was some twenty-five years ago an unknown subject, has become an exciting domain for scholars to mine information about indigenous knowledge systems that continue to propel humanity in its ever forward sojourn.

I must at this point pay glowing tributes to the founders of the UHS for their untiring efforts in putting Urhobo affairs on the global knowledge map. I must, in particular, doff my hat and salute the redoubtable scholar, Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh, whose ennobling vision and daring dream engendered the treasurable phenomenon of Urhobo History Society on August 28, 1999. It is a testimony to the enduring quality of his dream, sustainable vision and tenacity of purpose that the UHS have survived him. That we are here today congregating at a UHS conference elicits a well-deserved tribute for Professor Ekeh. I am aware that he configured the focus of this year's conference before he took a bow and bade the world farewell. It is in the light of this that I dedicate this speech which has been tagged opening remarks to him. I also wish to commend and congratulate the current EMC being headed by Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro for making sure that the UHS light is aglow and that the Society continues to wax stronger.

One of UHS objectives states: "To protect our culture, we must learn to write our own history – history of our towns and villages; The biographies of our heroes at all levels; and the history of our culture". In furtherance of the above proposition, this year's conference which is the 12th organized by the UHS has its focus on the twin kingdoms of Udu and Ughievwen, two kingdoms with a rich and variegated repertoire of indigenous knowledge systems. The conference will enjoy a tripod hosting beginning from here in Uvwiamuge, then at Otor-Udu and later at Otujeremi. Beyond the launching of the book, *The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen*, the conference will also examine salient concerns as they affect Urhoboland and her people. Such topics as Security, Culture and the Future of Urhobo Nation", "The Role of Traditional Rulers in the Security of Urhoboland", "Agriculture and Food Security in Urhoboland", "Promoting Fish Production in Urhoboland" and "Promoting Quality Education in

Urhoboland” will feature as part of UHS avowed commitment to ensuring a stable, peaceful and prosperous future for the Urhobo nation and her people. A stellar number of guest speakers and discussants have been assembled to do justice to the topics. Wreaths are also going to be laid at the gravesites of selected heroes and heroines in Udu and Ughievwen kingdoms. The climax of the conference will be the ecumenical thanksgiving at Otujeremi on Sunday 28th November.

This year, UHS has also deliberately set out to groom our young ones to develop an abiding interest in our history. I must say that this is a very strategic move. Without getting our youths involved in our history and culture, all that we struggle for today will be jeopardized in future. I therefore commend UHS for being forward looking in stimulating the interest of our children in our history and culture. I also thank and commend the schools and students who have come to be part of today's opening ceremony.

I congratulate the families whose patriarchs and matriarchs will be honoured in the course of this conference. Let this honour motivate and inspire the living to be more committed to Urhobo ideals and the realization of everything good for the Urhobo nation. The labours of our forebears will never be in vain.

I enjoin us all and all Urhobo wherever they are to be committed to Urhobo ideals and matters. We have no other original identity other than Urhobo. We must therefore join hands in taking Urhobo to greater heights. Let us promote, protect and cultivate Urhobo history and culture. That is the only way we can remain relevant in the global scheme of things. Despite the upheavals assailing Nigeria and by extension the Urhobo ethnic nationality, this is a moment of celebration for the Urhobo nation. Our endearing and enduring socio-cultural organization, the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU), is ninety years at the moment and drums are already being rolled out in celebration. The UHS has provided the intellectual muscle to support Urhobo cultural nationalism of the UPU.

Finally, I once again commend UHS for ensuring that we congregate here today to celebrate Urhobo history and culture. When we celebrate, we appreciate and do more. When we do more, we grow. We must, therefore do more. We must teach our culture to the young ones.

I thank all those who contributed to the making of this conference.

I thank you all.

God bless you.

God bless Urhobo Nation.

God bless Delta State.

God bless Nigeria.

Chief Simeon Akpovwoghokohwo Ohwofa,
26th November 2021

**Welcome Address by Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro, President of
Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the Occasion of the 12th
Conference on this day November 26, 2021 at Urhobo House,
Uvwiamuge, Agbarho, Delta State.**

It is my pleasure and special privilege to welcome you all, the President-General of Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) Worldwide, Olorogun (Dr.) Moses Taiga, our Royal Fathers, Iloroguns, Ekakuros, respected Chiefs, and distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I want to thank HRM, Air Vice Marshal (Rtd) Lucky Ararile for accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote address.

I thank Chief Simeon Ohwofa a key supporter and organizer of UHS activities here at home, for accepting our invitation to serve as Chairman of this occasion. Also, I want to welcome members of Urhobo Social Club, Lagos; Urhobo Leadership Forum, Abuja; Atamu Social Club, Lagos; Urhobo Solidarity Club, Port Harcourt; Urhobo Renaissance Society represented here; our school children; and our Urhobo people and friends in the Diaspora, and those who are connecting to us via Zoom from Canada, the United States of America and Europe.

We Have Come a Long Way

In 1998, the Urhobo National Forum, USA was formed by a group of us from New York and Minnesota, including John Harry Ofurhie, Michael Akpobome Egi, and myself.

We immediately organized a lecture, which later became an annual event, at LaGuardia Airport Hotel in Queens, New York to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the passing away of an icon of the Urhobo people, the legendary Chief Mukoro Mowoe. Little did we know then that Mukoro Mowoe was going to give us his modern-day version, in the person of Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh, the founding President of Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) in the year that followed.

It was following the Mukoro Mowoe Lecture in 1998 that UHS was inaugurated on August 28, 1999. As Peter Ekeh put it, in the rationale for inaugurating UHS, "If you do not write your people's history, others will. If they do, you may not recognize it. If you do recognize it, you may not like it".

Peter Ekeh's primary objective for UHS was to "Serve Urhobo History

and Culture,” by documenting the simple lives that the ordinary people lived in their neighborhoods, the history of our towns and villages, the survival of our language, system of justice, protection against internal and external enemies, our traditional religion, festivals, and all facets of our lives.

In serving Urhobo History and Culture, UHS adopted three platforms to achieve its objectives. First, was to create, develop and maintain an award-winning website, www.waado.org as well as www.urhobodigitallibrary.com.

Second, was through publication of Monographs focusing on various aspects of Urhobo history and culture; and third, by organizing annual Conferences where matters of interests to the Urhobo people would be discussed and appraised.

In the 22 years of its existence, the Urhobo Historical Society has held steadfastly with great dedication, and commitment to its vision and mission to serve the Urhobo Nation.

Five books have been published:

Olomu and Development of Urhoboland & Western Niger Delta (2014);

T.E.A. Salubi: Witness to British Colonial Rule in Urhoboland and Western Niger Delta (2012);

History of the Urhobo People of the Niger Delta (2006);

Studies in Urhobo Culture (2005); and

Warri City & British Colonial Rule in Western Niger Delta (2002).

The latest book, *The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen* (2021) is being launched today, November 26, 2021.

Two websites, (www.waado.org) and www.urhobodigitallibrary.com are currently in operation. Urhobo Historical Society continues to cherish the tireless efforts and dedication of Professor Peter Ekeh to the study and documentation of Urhobo history and culture.

Please allow me to use this rare privilege to remember and pay homage to other intellectuals and professionals who have recently passed on to glory, and who demonstrated enthusiasm and strongly supported in one way or the other the vision of Peter Ekeh's Urhobo Historical Society.

I am referring here to Professors: Onigu Otite, David Okpako, Rt. Rev. Sam. Erivwo, Senator David Dafinone, Deacon Gamaliel Onosode, Chief

Johnson Ukueku, Chief Daniel Obioma and Dr. Peter Obakponovwe.

I humbly crave your indulgence to please rise up to observe a minute of silence in honour of these heroes of the Urhobo Nation. May their souls rest in perfect peace, Amen.

The first four conferences of the Urhobo Historical Society were held abroad. The first one took place at Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, from November 3-5, 2000. Senator Dafinone, apart from giving the first keynote address, provided UHS with much needed start-up funds which became handy during the early years of the organization.

The second conference took place at Parsippany, New Jersey, USA, from November 2-4, 2001, before moving the third and fourth conferences to London, UK from November 1-3, 2002, and October 31-November 2, 2003 respectively. There was a strong representation from home at these conferences.

At the urging of Chief Johnson Barovbe and others, subsequent conferences thereafter were to be held in Urhoboland in order to expose our people to the ideals of UHS and to encourage a greater participation.

At the beginning, some of our people were unsure about the mission and role of the Urhobo Historical Society in Urhoboland. A boycott of our conferences was actually organized and implemented, but fortunately, turned out to be unsuccessful. UHS remembers and will always value the support and participation by HRM Orodje r'Okpe, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Felix Mujakperuo who defied the boycott in an unexpectedly uncondusive conference atmosphere at that time.

After a couple of conferences in the Homeland, it was decided in 2014 to move the operations of the Society from the United States to Urhoboland, although the Editorial and Management Committee (EMC) members still reside in the United States. Professor Ekeh gladly donated his personal property at Okpara Inland to serve as the headquarters of UHS. The property includes space for a library, a conference room, a computer centre, reading cubicles, and bedrooms for the comfort of researchers who are on extended stay at Okpara Inland. The office now maintains staff members who coordinate the affairs of the organization

here at home. Indeed, considering the amount of work yet to be done, more hands and efforts are required to adequately meet the challenges. We are very welcoming to volunteers and patriots who wish to contribute their knowledge, skills and finances to fostering our vision at Urhobo Historical Society.

About the Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen

Why have we gathered this year? Whom are we celebrating?

This 12th conference is celebrating the uniqueness of the Udu and Ughievwen peoples and their very robust contribution to Urhobo advancement. Udu and Ughievwen share so much in common to justify a collective study of the two subcultures as we have done.

The Udu and Ughievwen have a contiguous land mass and share common similarities in their culture and traditions. This is why some of us from Agbon and other Urhobo subcultures, for instance, find it difficult to differentiate dialects of Udu and Ughievwen.

But more significantly, three aspects of Udu and Ughievwen uniqueness stand out. First, Udu and Ughievwen pass easily as immensely skilled, enterprising and business minded Urhobo people. There is the legendary "Ekakpamre Market," which served Urhobo well. We are proud of the many successful Southern Urhobo entrepreneurs such as the Odibos, TJ Sokohs, PB Djebahs, and J.K.B. Gbemres who emerged from Udu and Ughievwen. J.K.B. Gbemre was said to be the designer of the then-popular "butterfly wrapper" which was distributed all over West Africa in those days. The wrapper, for which he had the sole patent, was produced for him in the UK, and imported directly to his Warri Main market warehouse. Distributors came from Lagos, Onitsha, Ibadan and Ghana to buy the material. These are some of the kind of legacies that we cannot forget.

Udu and Ughievwen are skilful and innovative people, and have contributed immeasurably and largely to the economy of the Urhobo Nation. The production of ogogoro (our own brand of gin) is almost exclusive to the Udu and Ughievwen people. Okwagbe and Ujevuwu are presently the ground zero of this enterprise. The gin produced from these areas are exported to every nook and corner of Nigeria.

Udu and Ughievwen people have also demonstrated courage and leadership in the past. Oshue Ogbiyerin of Orhunwhorun was the first to successfully organize and execute the first Lord Lugard's post-

amalgamation anti-tax revolt in Nigeria in 1927. This was long before the Aba tax riots which occurred much later (thanks to Chief Jefia Notoma, the PG of Udu, who provided this information).

The Udu people are also among pioneers of Western education in Urhoboland. Ezekiel Igbo of Ohwrode was one of those sponsored by the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU) to study at Cambridge University, England, United Kingdom. He returned in 1949 to assume the position of first Vice Principal of Urhobo College, Effurun, making him the second Urhobo university graduate after McNeil Ejaife.

Two landmark projects – the Udu Bridge (1976) and Delta Steel Company (1980) not only hastened the urbanization of Udu and Ughievwen communities, but also brought a huge transformation of infrastructure and expansion of the economy of Urhoboland. The dual expressway that stretches from the Steel Plant in Ovwian Aladja to the NPA, Warri, is one of the developments that the Delta Steel Company (DSC) helped to produce. One of the heroes being honoured at this conference is Late Senator Fred Brume. UHS and indeed all Urhobo people salute Senator Brume for the opportunities that his administration afforded to Urhobo youths and people at the Delta Steel Company.

The now-internationally recognized Udje song-poetry is a major contribution of Udu and Ughievwen to the advancement of Urhobo culture. Profs. J.P. Clark (who is maternally Ughievwen from Erhuwaren, David Okpako, G.G. Darah and Tanure Ojaide have helped to draw global attention to the richness and profundity of the Udje song-poetry.

UHS celebrates this accomplishment of our forebears such as Oloya of Iwhrekan, Gbogidi and Memerume of Edjophe, Kpeha of Otor-Owahwa, Yembra of Ubogo who created this music genre. We also commend the scholars who have brought this heritage to global consciousness. The depths of thoughts of the Udje poems are now being compared to Shakespeare's writings and romantic poetry of 18th century Europe. The book that will be launched at this event is a rich and comprehensive collection of these many contributions of the Udu and Ughievwen subcultures to Urhobo advancement.

UHS Endowment Fund

Urhobo Historical Society's source of funding from its inception has been through annual dues by its members, the annual levies paid by donations

by each member of the Editorial and Management Committee (EMC), and free-will donations from individuals and socio-cultural organizations who share our passion for Urhobo advancement.

To support these sources of funding and in order to meet the huge financial cost of running the organization, UHS, under the leadership of Professor Peter Ekeh, created the Endowment Fund which was launched in 2014, and chaired by Olorogun Moses Taiga. Among the objectives of the Fund is to “raise and invest capital monies on behalf of Urhobo Historical Society, manage the yields of such investments, allocate funds for projects which will, within the parameters of the mission of UHS, bring development to Urhoboland”.

We hope to take full advantage of this wonderful initiative which was so ably led by our founding president to pursue investments in agriculture, the media, education etc. UHS will be able to, in the process, create jobs and generate dividends for Urhobo investors in these projects.

Let me sincerely thank HRM Ararile for accepting our invitation to deliver the keynote speech in this year's conference. His presence has added a royal grandeur to this occasion. We are also grateful to all the Urhobo organizations across the country which are represented here today, and to the various monarchs who accepted and honoured our invitation.

I must now thank Olorogun Moses Taiga for his exceptionally generous financial support of UHS. I think it is fair to state that from the day, many years ago when the goals and objectives of UHS became clear to him, Olorogun Moses Taiga's support has been steadfast, unwavering and invaluable. He has been our champion and our patron. We salute him.

Let me happily urge everyone to enjoy every moment today with us as we promise to make your stay and participation a worthwhile and a rewarding experience.

Thank you.

Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro
President, Urhobo Historical Society.

Programme of Events For Day 2

Programme of Event For Day 2,

Friday November 26, 2021

1. Opening Prayer
2. Anthems (National Anthem and Urhobo Anthem)
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Presentation of Kolanuts
5. Chairman's Opening Speech
6. Music Interlude
7. Symposium
8. Udje Performance
9. Lecture
10. Vote of Thanks
11. Closing Prayer
12. Laying of Wreaths on the Graves
of Selected Heroes in Udu Kingdom

DAY 2

Symposium, Lecture, Laying of wreaths
Venue: Ovie of Udu Palace Hall, Otor-Udu

Date and Time:
Saturday, November 27, 2021, 10:00am-4:00pm

Chairman:
Engr. Michael Orugbo

Royal Father of Honour:
HRM Owhorhu I

Barr. Emmanuel Delekpe (JP)
The Ovie of Udu Kingdom

Special Guest of Honour:
Olorogun (Dr.) Moses O. Taiga
President-General
Urhobo Progress Union, Worldwide

Guest of Honour:
Chief Jonathan Esin, President
Urhobo Leadership Forum, Abuja

Chief Host:
High Chief Godwin Jefia Notoma
President General, Udu Kingdom

Session IV **Symposium**

Moderator: Prof. Lucky Jomata Igben

A. "Agriculture and Food Security in Urhoboland"

Guest Speaker: Prof. Malachy Akoroda

B. "Promoting Fish Production in Urhoboland"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Solomon Ovie

Session V

Lecture: "Promoting Quality Education in Urhoboland"

Chairperson: Prof. Mrs. Cecilia Okobiah

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Emperor Kpagban

Dean, Faculty of Education, DELSU, Abraka

Session VI

Laying of wreaths on the graves of:

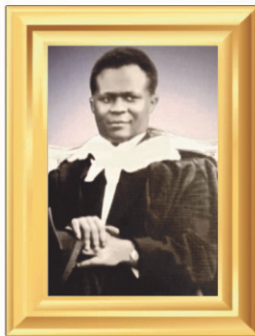
- i.Mr. Ezekiel Igbo
- ii.Senator Fred Brume
- iii.Chief Wilson Odibo
- iv.Chief Barr. Edward Sido
- v.Chief Thomas Jaku Sokoh
- vi.Chief Onoetiyi Dede
- vii.Chief Oshue Ogbiyerin

UDU HEROES



Chief Oshue Ogbiyerin
(1861 – 1938)

An early leader of the Urhobo people, Chief Oshue Ogbiyerin is fondly remembered for his patriotism, intelligence and leadership amply demonstrated when he led a successful revolt against unfair imposition of tax in old Warri Province (comprising Ijaw, Isoko, Itsekiri, Ukwani and Urhoboareas) in 1927.



Mr. Ezekiel Igbo
(1916 – 1956)

Highly cerebral and a talented teacher in the sciences, Mr. Ezekiel Igbo was the second Urhobo graduate. He was sponsored on scholarship by the Urhobo Progress Union to Cambridge University, graduating in 1948. He returned to become the first vice principal of the then newly established Urhobo College from 1949 – 1956.



Chief Barr. Edward Gbagbake Sido
(1914 – 2006)

Chief Sido's life was distinguished for his leadership and zeal for education and community advancement. He was President-General of Ovwian community from 1981-1987, and Otota of Udu Kingdom from 1987-1994. Chief Sido was instrumental to the establishment of the Delta Steel Company (DSC) at Ovwian and also the Niger Benue Transport Company Limited (NBTC) at Ovwian. Chief Sido was also in the forefront in the creation of the Udu Local Government Council. He was the chairman of Udu Council of Chiefs which was responsible for the appointment of the Ovie of Udu. He was a member of Udu Traditional Council and also the Vice Chairman to the Ovie.



Senator Fred Brume
(1942 – 2011)

As General Manager and Chief Executive officer of the Delta Steel Company, Brume had an impeccable record of achievement. He holds the record of being the highest employer of Urhobo people in history. He was Chairman, Senate Committee on the Niger Delta from

1999 to 2003 and was instrumental to the establishment of the NDDC and the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).

**Chief Wilson Tchohwora Odibo
(1917 – 2001)**



A merchant-nationalist, and Urhobo patriot, W. T. Odibo was an International businessman who used his good relations with Gen. Samuel Ogbemudia to attract massive development to Udu and Urhobo land. He was President General of Udu for 27 years, during which he oversaw the completion of the Udu Bridge, the establishment of the Delta Steel Company and the construction of the Udu Road from Ekakpamre to Ovwian. He was also instrumental to the establishment of the Udu monarchy in 1994.



**Chief Thomas Jaku Sokoh
(1912 – 1995)**

Chief T. J. Sokoh is fondly remembered as a peace lover and high patriot of his beloved Udu and Urhobo people. He was a successful business merchant who used his wealth to promote the advancement of the larger society. He was instrumental to the creation of Udu Local Government Council, the construction of Udu Bridge and the recognition and installation of the Ovie of Udu Kingdom as Udu'Ovo.



**Damrere Onoetiye Dede
(1930-2004)**

Engr. Dede used his office as Director of Iron and Steel Division in the Federal Ministry of Industries to influence the siting of the Delta Steel Complex in Ovwian, Aladja. The complex along with a new bridge connecting the Udu mainland to the Warri metropolis opened the Udu area to a host of social and commercial activities, which led to a transformation that was hardly envisaged in years past.

Program of Events for Day 3

Programme of Event for Day 3,

Friday November 26, 2021

1. Laying of Wreaths on the Graves of
Selected Heroes in Ughievwen Kingdom
2. Thanksgiving Service
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Presentation of Kolanuts
5. Chairman's Opening Speech
6. Music Interlude
7. Udje Performance
8. Vote of Thanks
9. Closing Prayer

DAY 3

UHS THANKSGIVING DAY

Venue:

Okobaro of Ughievwen Palace (open field), Otughievwen

Date: Sunday, November 28, 2021,

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Chairman:

Olorogun (Barr.) Clement Djebah

Royal Father of Honour:

HRM Dr. Matthew Ediri Egbi (JP). FOD, AMNSE, Owahwa II
The Okobaro of Ughievwen Kingdom.

Guest of Honour:

Olorogun (Dr.) Moses O. Taiga, President General
Urhobo Progress Union, Worldwide

Chief Host:

Olorogun Barr. Maj. Gen. Peter Unuode KSM
President General, Ughievwen Kingdom

SESSION VII
LAYING OF WREATHS ON THE GRAVES OF SELECTED HEROES
IN UGHIEVWEN KINGDOM

UGHIEVWEN HEROES



Sir Philip Bivese Djebah
(1925 – 2021)

Sir P. B. Djebah's life was defined by his business acumen, dedication to the Catholic faith and love for humanity. A foremost Ughievwen businessman and iconic leader of Okwagbe community, he is remembered for his legacies of enterprise, spirituality and generosity.



Pa Shakarho Udi
(1880 – 1988)

Udi Shakarho was a man of exceptional integrity, patriotism to Urhobo advancement and hospitality. Chairman of UPU, Benin branch, from inception till his death, he provided free accommodation to Urhobo people travelling through Benin.



HRH. Charles Eyagbologha Ugen
(1889 – 1978)

Businessman, spiritual leader and the first Okobaro of Ughievwen, Ugen left a legacy of high patriotism, astute leadership and commitment to the development of culture and traditional institutions in Ughievwen. He was *Odede Eboh* (Chief priest) and *Odede Igbu Eshowwin*. HRH C. E. Ugen reigned from 1964 – 1978. He was also *okpako orere* of Otughievwen from 1970 – 1978.



Prof. David Tinakpoevwan Okpako
(1937 – 2020)

Accomplished scientist, educator, historian and folklorist, Prof. David Okpako is honoured for his contributions in the field of pharmacology and

medicine. He is also remembered for leveraging on his knowledge of Urhobo traditions and culture to improve the understanding of emotional distress as a fundamental cause of various illnesses. UHS and indeed Ughievwen will remember Prof. Okpako for the patriotic achievement of retrieving and recording for posterity a number of udje songs composed by his late brother Kpeha, now contained in his famous book: *Kpeha's Songs*.



**Chief Andrew Botuaruariemu Fole
(1930 – 2010)**

Chief Fole's greatness lies in his humility, sincerity, politeness and benevolence. He founded the Owahwa Improvement Union, Warri in 1965 with him as chairman. Through his efforts and those of other members of the Union, the Owahwa Secondary School was founded in 1985. He alongside late Mr. Moses Igbelode and Chief J. O. Omoni paid the salaries of teachers until government take-over of the school in the 90s. Chief Fole left an indelible mark in Ughievwen kingdom and his immediate Otor-Owahwa community.



**Chief Patrick Djowah Phiwotor
(1897 – 1975)**

Chief Djowah's life exemplifies the moral of selfless commitment to community development and advancement of one's people. From being Otota of Uhurie-sub clan in 1938, he rose quickly to become Otota of Ughievwen. Chief Djowah introduced far-reaching innovations to farming in Ughievwen and Urhoboland, being one of the foundation members of the Urhobo Co-operative Union of Farmers with headquarters in Sapele. Djowah was a dedicated Christian of the Catholic faith and in politics, he was a member of the then Central Urhobo District Council where he distinguished himself as a worthy representative of the people.



**HRH (Dr) Gordon Akoforo Dafiaghor
(1921-1994)**

HRH (Dr) Gordon Akoforo Dafiaghor rose from grass to grace by defying all odds to become the second UK trained lawyer in Ughievwen in 1965. He was made President General of Ughievwen Union in 1974. Through dedicated service he was appointed the *Unuevworo* (*Ototarode*) of Ughievwen by HRH J. O. Dase, the then Okobaro of Ughievwen whom he later succeeded.

Session VIII

UHS Ecumencial Thanksgiving Service

Venue:

Okobaro of Ughievwen Palace (open field), Otughievwen

Time: 1:00pm

Officiating Priests:

Very Rev. Fr. Dr. Abaka Oghenejode

Rev. Ven. Oghomena D. Edjere

OUR SPONSORS

We are grateful to the following groups and individuals who made donations towards this 2021 Conference.

Thank you for your generosity.

Agbonride of Nigeria (USA), Inc.

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Omamode Ladies Association, New York

Royal Udu-Ughievwen Association, New York

Urhobo Congress, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut

Urhobo Renaissance Society

Urhobo Social Club, Lagos

Chief Johnson Barovbe

Chief Patrick Ideh

Chief Peter Essi

Chief Simeon Ohwofa

Dr. Abel Dafiaghor

Dr. Bernard Rerri

Dr. Faith Mowoe

Dr. Isaac Mowoe

Dr. Mrs. Cecilia Ibru

Mr. Clement Ojevwe

Mr. Edirin Erhiaganoma

Mr. Michael Egi

Mr. Robert Eyubeh

Olorogun (Dr.) Moses O. Taiga

Olorogun Miller Obrik Uloho

Prof. Ajovi Scott-Emuakpor

Prof. Joseph Inikori

Prof. Vremudia Diejomoah

Rt. Hon. Chief Sheriff Oborevwori

Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh's family



We, the entire families of **MORHEN** and **FOLE** of Otor-Owahwa in Ughievwen Kingdom rejoice with the President and members of the URHOBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY on your 2021 Conference. We are particularly elated at the honour bestowed on our son and father, Late **CHIEF ANDREW OBOTUARERIEMU FOLE** among others. We wish you a peaceful and successful conference here in Udu and Ughievwen Kingdoms.

Once again, congratulations!

Signed:

Mr. Sunny Fole

For Morhen and Fole families.



On behalf of the staff and management of Emma-Dee Hotels and Resorts, Usiefrun (1st Ultra-modern Hotel in Ughelli South Local Government Area) we felicitate with UHS and UPU on the occasion of honouring our father, Late **Hon. High Chief Patrick Djowah** as one of the heroes in Ughievwen.

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Signed:
Olorogun Dr. Emmanuel Djowah,
Chairman, Emma Dee Hotel and Resorts



We the families of **Late Chief Edward Gbagbeki Sido** happily felicitate with the Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of your 2021 Conference. We pray the Almighty God grant you the wisdom to continue to place the Urhobo Nation in the forefront of our country Nigeria.

Continue to work for the upliftment of the Urhobo Nation.

Long live Urhobo Historical Society!
Long live Urhobo Progress Union!
Long live Udu and Ughievwen Kingdoms!
Long live Nigeria!

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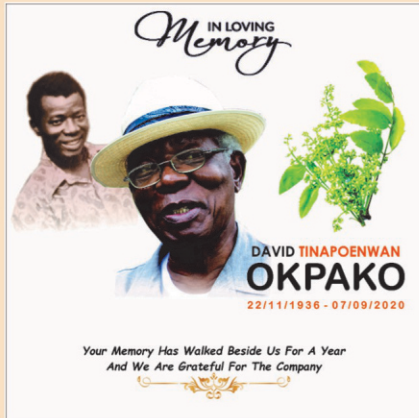
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The Management and Staff of JOTECH COMMUNICATION VENTURE, felicitate with the President and members of Urhobo Historical Society on their 2021 Conference. We are particularly elated at the honour bestowed on our uncles, Late Prof. David Okpako and Chief Andrew Fole both of Otor-Owahwa in Ughievwen Kingdom.

We wish you a peaceful and successful conference here in Udu and Ughievwen.



Signed:
EDIJALA JOSEPH,
CEO,
Jotech Communication Venture



On behalf of the Ogbiyerin family of Orhuwhorun, I heartily felicitate with the President and Members of Urhobo Historical Society on the auspicious occasion of their 2021 Conference which focuses on Udu and Ughievwen people of Urhobo. We appreciate their recognition of our great Patriarch, Chief Oshue Ogbiyerin. We pray for God's grace and strength upon the organization.
Cheers!!!

Signed:
Hon. Clement R. Oshue, JP

IN LOVING
Memory



DAVID TINAPOENWAN
OKPAKO

22/11/1936 - 07/09/2020

*Your Memory Has Walked Beside Us For A Year
And We Are Grateful For The Company*



We the entire families of **Djebru** and **Okpako** of Otor-Owahwa in Ughievwen Kingdom rejoice with the President and Members of Urhobo Historical Society on your 2021 UHS Conference and Honouring Ughievwen Heroes. We are particularly elated on the honour bestowed on our son, Late Prof. David Tinakpoevwan Okpako among others. We wish you a peaceful and successful conference here in Udu and Ughievwen Kingdoms.

Once again, congratulations!

Signed:
Djebru and Okpako families



The **Odibo** family of Egini, Udu Local Government Area of Delta State heartily felicitate with the Urhobo Historical Society on this occasion of their 2021 Conference specially put together to celebrate different aspect of Urhobo History and Culture with special focus on Udu and Ughievwen.

We are pleased to be associated with your noble visions and goals for Urhobo nation. Keep the flag flying!
Congratulations!!!

Signed:

**For: Odibo Family
High Chief Sam Odibo JP,
Otota of Udu Kingdom**



On behalf of the Djowah family of Urhiephron, we heartily congratulate the Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of their 2021 Conference. We are particularly grateful for the recognition given to our Patriarch, Chief Patrick Djowah Phiwotor by this reputable society. May God richly bless you all.

Signed:

Olorogun Dr. Emmanuel Djowah



Chief Joseph Djowah





On behalf of the family of **Shakarho Udi** of Ekakpamre in Ughievwen, I heartily congratulate the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the occasion of their 2021 Conference. The organization's dedication and commitment to its objective of "*serving Urhobo history and culture*" is highly commendable. I appreciate the recognition given my father, Pa Udi Shakarho for his service to Urhobo people in his time.

Keep up the good work!

Signed:
Justice Jonathan E. Shakarho (Rtd.)



On behalf of the Sokoh family of Ovwian Community in Udu Kingdom, we heartily rejoice with the President and Members of Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the occasion of their 12th Conference.

We are grateful for the recognition given to our father, Chief Thomas Jaku Sokoh. We wish you success in your endeavours.
Cheers!

Signed:

For the children: Mrs. Mary Momodu & Mr. Osakpo Sokoh
For the family: High Chief Steve Sokoh



The families of P. B. Djebah heartily rejoice with the President and Members of Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of their 12th Conference and for the recognition accorded our father, Chief P. B. Djebah. We wish the society success in its laudable mission of serving Urhobo history and culture.

Congratulations!

Signed:
Chief Barr. Clement Djebah



Hon. Chief Victoria Jowah, Vice Chairman, Ughelli South LGA, Delta State on behalf of her late husband, Hon. F. A. Jowah, children and Ughelli South LGA felicitate with Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of her 12th Conference.



Captain P. E. Jowah on behalf of himself and late Hon. Francis Jowah and family felicitate with Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of her 12th Conference.

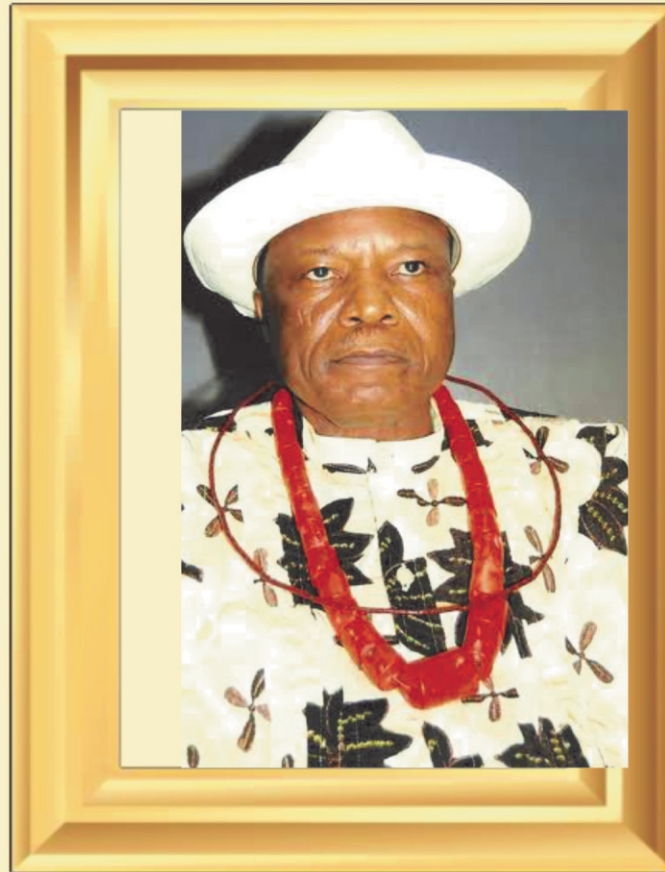


Urhobo Historical Society has established itself as a foremost organization of Urhobo in documentation and preservation of our history. I am glad to identify with her noble goals and objectives. I am especially grateful for the honour accorded my late father. HRH Gordon Afokoro Dafiaghor. I wish you good success in your continued commitment to Urhobo advancement.

Signed:
Dr. Abel Dafiaghor



Csp RTD Sir and Lady David Osharevemu Okoro & family felicitate with Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of her 12th Conference.



The families of **Late Senator Fred Brume** congratulate the President and Members of Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of their 2021 Conference.

Your commitment to the documentation and advancement of Urhobo History and Culture is worthy of commendation. We thank you for the recognition and honour you gave to our late father during this conference

Kindly accept our hearty felicitations.

Signed:

Wife: Elizabeth Brume

For Children:

Blessing Brume Ataguba
Ofovwe Aig Imokhuede
Joshua Brume

For Family:

Elegbete Moses Odibo
Sir Francis Orogun
Pa Shevire Arakhegbe

Appreciation

The Urhobo Historical Society (UHS)
express its gratitude to all those who supported this
event one way or the other.
We wish you journey mercies home.



I thank **Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh** for a life devoted to the service of his beloved Urhobo People. I congratulate him for his brilliant vision which led him to invite a group of Urhobo sons and daughters to form the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) - a group dedicated to the promotion and defence of the interests of the Urhobo People. Following in his selfless example, I want to strongly urge ***all Urhobos and all friends of the Urhobos to be generous in providing moral and financial support to UHS as it pursues its goals.***

My kind wishes are with the President and members of the organization on this occasion of her 12th Conference.
Urhobo Wadoo!!!

Courtesy: Dr. Faith Okeoghene Mowoe

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