



THE URHOBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
... serving Urhobo history and culture.

14TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
& GENERAL MEETING

THEME:
THE URHOBO ETHNIC
NATIONALITY IN NIGERIA:
PAST, PRESENT
AND THE FUTURE

DATE:

FRI. JULY 24, 2026
4:00PM - 9:00PM



SAT. JULY 25, 2026
9:00AM - 9:00PM

VENUE:

DELTA HOTELS BY
MARRIOTT, 1 BROADWAY,
BEXLEYHEATH,
LONDON Da6 7JZ.
UNITED KINGDOM.

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Anthems

NIGERIA

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

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour'd,
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.

URHOB

Ko ko ko Ọgbare
Urhobo eeh orere r' Ivie sa
Ko ko ko Ọgbare
Urhobo eeh orere r' Ivie sa

Ko ko ko Ọgbare
Urhobo eeh orere r' Ivie sa
Obo R'urhobo je vwe na
Asọfa je vwe ọtiọ ye-eh

Ẹdẹfa me ch'akpo
Urhobo me wan rhe
Urhobo eeh, Orere r'Ivie sa
Arioma-a!

UNITED KINGDOM

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!

Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the King!

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter his enemies,
And make them fall:
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix:
God save us all.

Thy choicest gifts in store,
On him be pleased to pour;
Long may he reign:
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King!



KING CHARLES III

KING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



SEN. BOLA AHMED TINUBU (GCFR)
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



SIR KEIR STARMER

PRIME MINISTER OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



SIR SADIQ AMAN KHAN

MAYOR OF LONDON



RT. HON. ELDER SHERIFF OBOREVVORI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, DELTA STATE



PROFESSOR PETER PALMER EKEH (1937–2020)

UHS FOUNDING PRESIDENT



OLOROGUN DR. ARUEGODORE OYIBORHORO

**PRESIDENT, URHOBO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**ARUEGODORE
OYIBORHORO**
President



**ISAAC O.
JAMES MOWOE**
Vice President

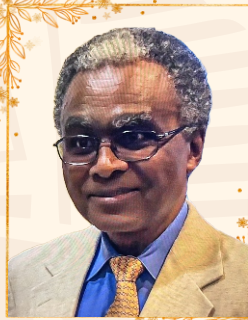


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UFUOMA SCOTT



ESIRI ESIN

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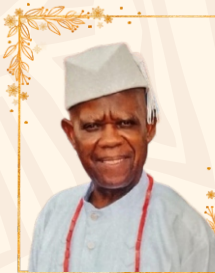


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MR. EKOHWO OROGUN



PASTOR SHADIE OKPAKO



MRS ROSE EDMIJEKE



MRS QUEEN IKREKREGOR



MEJERO UWEJEYAH



PA GEORGE IKIRIGBE



**HRM, SIMPSON OBRUCHE
THE ODION R'ODE OF UWHERU,**

ROYAL FATHER OF THE DAY



OLOROGUN (DR.) MOSES O. TAIGA

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION

PROFILE OF AWARDEES

Professor Ajovi Scott-Emuakpor

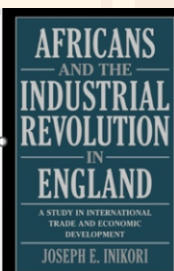
Ezekiel N. Igbo Science Award



Professor Scott-Emuakpor, M.D., Ph.D. is a medical educator and physician. Professor of Pediatrics and Human Development, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, USA. Previously Professor of Child Health, University of Benin, Director of the Institute of Child Health, University of Benin, Director of Clinical Services and Training, University of Benin Teaching Hospital and Acting Chief Medical Director, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City. Senior Lecturer at University of Ibadan. He has trained many generation of Nigerians and Urhobo scientists and medical doctors. A long-serving member of the EMC of the UHS. He has made significant contributions to understanding Urhobo history, science, and healthcare delivery in Urhoboland. He hails from Ewreni.

Professor Joseph Inikori

M.G Ejiafe Education Service award



He obtained his PhD in history in 1973. After brief stint at the University of Ibadan, he moved to Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria where he rose to the position of professor of history and chair of the History Department. He was a visiting fellow at the London School of Economics (1974–1975) and won the John Cadbury Fellowship at the University of Birmingham (1980). In 1989, he became a professor of history and associate director of the Frederick Douglass Institute (1989–1998) at the University of Rochester in New York, where he also served as director of graduate studies, in which capacity he was pivotal in the creation of the doctoral program in global history. He has made invaluable contributions to the literature on quantifying the slave trade and other economic aspects of the slave trade, particularly its market structure, profit levels, hazards, and financial relationships. More than thirty years of scholarship on the transatlantic slave trade culminated in the publication of Africans and the Industrial Revolution in England: A Study in International Trade and Economic Development (2002). Professor Inikori is a long-serving member of the EMC of the UHS and has made significant contributions to understanding and teaching of Urhobo history and culture, and community development in Urhoboland. He hails from Eku.

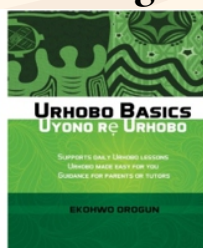
Olorogun Mrs Grace Emonigho Aghoghovbia **Alice Obahor Outstanding Urhobo Women Award**



A distinguished healthcare executive, public servant, community leader, and philanthropist with extensive experience in domiciliary care services, safeguarding leadership, workforce development, and social impact delivery in the United Kingdom and Nigeria. Her career spans healthcare management, governance, and public service, including senior advisory roles at state government level in Nigeria. She is the founder of the Graceful Ruby Heart Foundation dedicated to improving

the lives of vulnerable children and indigent women in Ughelli South LGA in Delta State and through which she has been providing financial support, skills training, and empowerment programmes for indigent women to promote economic independence and self-sufficiency. It supports vulnerable children with educational assistance, school supplies, and access to learning opportunities, facilitating healthcare outreach initiatives and wellness programmes for underserved communities, and offering mentorship, counselling, and advocacy for women facing social and economic hardship, and promoting community resilience and grassroots development through targeted intervention programmes. In recognition of her humanitarian and community contributions, she was recently awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the Delta State University, Abraka. She hails from Olomu.

Mr Ekohwo Orogun **Distinguished Urhobo Young People Award**



Born in the UK and lived briefly in Nigeria, and he is an example of the few young Urhobos to speak, write and teach Urhobo language as if he was born and bred in Urhoboland. He has published a book on teaching Urhobo language available on Amazon for a worldwide audience. He is one of the Urhobo language teachers in London and is

very active in Urhobo matters and associations in the UK. He is currently UPU UK National Secretary, formerly the Financial Secretary, currently the UHS UK Treasurer/Financial Secretary, Secretary of Agbon Kingdom, UK, Secretary of Ovu Union UK. He is an active member of the 14th UHS Conference Planning Committee (UK Team). He hails from Ovu in Ethiope East LGA.

HRM Simpson Obruche, The Odion R'ode of Uwheru **UHS Life-Time Service Award**



HRM Simpson S. Obruche has long served the Urhobo nation and the Urhobo Historical Society. He was the principal host of the third UHS Conference which was the first to be held in London, United Kingdom in 2002. For several years, he was the coordinator of all UHS activities in the United Kingdom and Belgium before his return home and installation as Odion R'Ode (King) of Uwheru Kingdom in 2022. He remains a patron, a life member, and a very active supporter of the Urhobo Historical Society. For this and so much more, the UHS is exceptionally grateful to his Majesty. He hails from Uwheru.

Chief Anthony O. Oghoghorie **UHS Distinguished Service Award**



He attended St. Malachy's Grammar School, Sapele, then Ilesha Grammar School for his HSC, and earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and a master's in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Currently resides in the State of California State in the United States. He is a successful businessman with interests in medical transportation, import/export, and other ventures, and he is the CEO of the Oghoghorie Foundation through which he has provided extensive humanitarian and philanthropic support in Urhoboland, including sponsoring 17 students in higher institutions, building a 200-bed hostel at St. Malachy's Grammar School, Sapele, rehabilitating the IT Department at St. Kevin's Grammar School, Kokori, and supporting projects at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Erhoike, partnering with St. Anthony Mary Claret Orphanage to provide food, clothing, and support to less privileged children. He continues to impact lives in Urhoboland through education and community development. He hails from Kokori.

ABOUT UHS

In 1998, a group of intellectuals and academics, sons and daughters of the Urhobo Nation assembled in New York City, the United States, under the aegis of the Urhobo National Forum for a seminar to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Chief Mukoro Mowoe. It was on that occasion that the late Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh introduced the inspired idea of an Urhobo organization dedicated to the defense and the promotion of the history and the culture of the Urhobo people, and to the protection of their interests. The resulting Organization, founded and launched on that day, is The Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) and, in the intervening years, UHS has done precisely as its founders intended, and it has done so brilliantly and with courage. Our wish and our hope are that this Urhobo Organization will continue as it has to promote and protect, without fear or favour the history, the culture and the interests of the Urhobo people for all time, and that all Urhobos and those who wish them well, will join in support of the noble crusade on which it is embarked, with the blessings of God and our ancestors.

The mission of the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) is to serve and promote Urhobo history and culture. With a population of approximately five million people, Urhobo is arguably the largest ethnic nationality in Nigeria's Western Niger Delta region. Its history and culture are intertwined with those of its ethnic neighbors in this region. In serving Urhobo history and culture, therefore, UHS's efforts include studying and analyzing Urhobo's relationships with its neighbors, as well as the environmental problems of the Niger Delta region.

The Urhobo people have a distinct history, language, and culture which need to be studied, documented, and preserved. Relative to other larger ethnic nationalities in Nigeria, such as the Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, and Fulani, Urhobo history and culture have not

received the needed attention and support from the federal and state governments. The responsibility for studying, documenting, and preserving Urhobo history and culture rests on the efforts of individuals and groups like the UHS. The activities of UHS include but are not limited to the following:

1. Hosting of two websites (<https://www.waad.org/> and <https://urhobodigitalibrarymuseum.com> to promote Urhobo history and culture.
2. Organising Annual Conferences and General Meetings for presentation and discussion of papers and research work on Urhobo history and culture, and review of UHS activities and policy issues affecting the Urhobo people. The conferences bring together intellectuals and scholars, both Urhobos and non-Urhobos, who are interested in advancing the study of Urhobo history and culture. So far, thirteen annual conferences and general meetings have been done as follows:

Conference Dates		Venue/Location
First	November 3-5, 2000	Niagara Falls, Canada
Second	November 2-4, 2001	Parsippany, New Jersey, USA
Third	November 1-3, 2002	Goldsmith College of London University, London, England
Fourth	October 31 – Nov 2, 2003	Goldsmith College of London University, London, England
Fifth	October 29-31, 2004	PTI Effurun & Agharha-Otor, Delta State, Nigeria
Sixth	October 20-23, 2005	PTI Effurun & Sapele, Delta State, Nigeria
Seventh	November 3-5, 2006	PTI Effurun & Agbarho, Delta State, Nigeria
Eight	November 26-29, 2009	PTI Effurun & Ovu, Delta State, Nigeria
Ninth	November 12-16, 2014	PTI Effurun & Olomu, Delta State, Nigeria
Tenth	November 20-22, 2015	PTI Effurun & Ewreni Delta State, Nigeria
Eleventh	May 18-20, 2018	PTI Effurun, Orogun, Agbarha, Ughele & Ogor, Delta State Nigeria
Twelfth	November 26-28, 2021	Urhobo Cultural Centre, Uvwiamuge, Otor-Udu and Otughievwen, Delta State, Nigeria
Thirteenth	July 26 -27, 2024	New York University Stern School of Business

Now, in 2026, the Urhobo Historical Society returns to London, where we held two successful conferences in 2002 and 2003.

3. Providing and disseminating information on Urhobo history and culture as well as other issues and developments in Urhoboland through its publications. Some of the books that have been published by the UHS include:
 - Warri City and British Colonial Rule in the Western Niger Delta. UHS Monograph #1, Edited by P. Ekeh, (2004)
 - Studies in Urhobo Culture. UHS Monograph #2, Edited by P. Ekeh (2005)
 - History of the Urhobo People of the Niger Delta. UHS Monograph #3 Edited by P. Ekeh (2006)
 - T.E.A. Salubi: Witness to British Colonial Rule in Urhoboland and Nigeria. UHS Monograph #4 Edited by P. Ekeh (2008)
 - Olomu and Development of Urhoboland and the Western Niger Delta. UHS Monograph #5, Edited by P. Ekeh, O. Edevbie and P. Ishaka (2012)
 - The Urhobo People of Udu and Ughievwen, UHS Monograph #6, Edited by O. Edevbie (2022)
4. Issuing position papers and offering advice on policies and critical issues affecting the Urhobo people. Examples include Towards Formulating an Urhobo Agenda (2005) and "Why Urhobo Historical Society is Opposed to Delta State Government's Attempt to Control Urhobo Culture and Create "Kingdoms" in Urhoboland. (2008).
5. Publishing an electronic Quarterly Newsletter/Magazine with recent and upcoming events and activities of UHS and other recent events/activities affecting the Urhobo people. UHS also hosts the UHS OPEN FORUM WhatsApp Platform for information sharing and discussions by members.
6. Holding seminars and training sessions at UHS Headquarters at Okpara Inland, Delta State, Nigeria.
7. Assist in managing private Scholarship Funds/Programs established by its members, such as the Chief Mukoro Mowoe Research Fellowship and the Olorogun James Amudiaga & Mrs Rhoda Mowoe Scholarship Funds, the Peter Ekeh Memorial Scholarship program, and the Jormom Egi Scholarship fund.

UHS's current operations are funded through contributions by members of its Editorial and Management Committee (EMC) and Board of Trustees of its Endowment Fund, membership dues, sales of its publications, donations and sponsorship by friends of UHS.

ORDER OF EVENTS

Agenda/Program Outline

DAY 1, FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

04:00pm: Registration & Welcome Reception
05:30pm: General Meeting
07:00pm: Dinner at a Nigerian/African Restaurant

DAY 2, SATURDAY JULY 25, 2025

09:00am: Registration & Coffee/Tea

10:00am – 12:00 pm: OPENING CEREMONY

- Opening Prayer
- Anthems (British, Nigeria and Urhobo Anthems)
- Introduction of Guests by the MC/Otota of the Day, Olorogun Henry Obovu.
- UHS President's Welcome Address: Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro
- Chairman's Address: Olorogun (Dr.) Moses Oghenerume Taiga
- Goodwill Message by HRM Simpson Obruche, the Odion R'Ode of Uwheru Kingdom, Urhoboland and Other Special Guests of Honour
- Music Interlude
- Keynote Address: Chief Simeon Ohwofa, UHS Nigeria Operations Coordinator
- Presentation and Launching of a new UHS Book "Warri Crises: Colonial Roots and Post-Colonial Conflicts" (2026)

12:00 pm – 12.30 pm: Coffee Break & Mini-Exhibition/Video Show of Urhobo History and Culture

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm: PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION I

1. Urhobo in the Diaspora (UK)– History, Challenges and Contributions to the homeland, by Olorogun Nyerhovwo Ughwujabo
2. Urhobo in the Diaspora (North America) – History, Challenges and Contributions to the homeland, by Dr Aruegodore Oyiborhoro
3. The Urhobo in the Politics of Nigeria, by Rt Hon (Revd) Francis Ejiroghene Waive (MHR)

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm: LUNCH BREAK (Lunch Packs/Finger lunch)

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm: PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION II

4. Towards Urhobo Vision 2025 and Action Plan– Dr. Emmanuel Ojameruaye, Secretary/Treasurer, UHS
5. The Political Evolution of the Urhobo Ethnic Nationality: Governance, Strategic Adaptation, and the Administration of Governor Sherriff – Innocent Ojefia, Executive Assistant on Communications to the Governor of Delta State.
6. Towards Urhobo Leadership: A Radical Approach – Pastor Shadie Okpako & Mr. Ekohwo Orogun, UHS-UK

4:00 pm – 5:30 pm: PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION III

7. Why Our Children Are No Longer Speaking Urhobo Language: A Personal Experience – Dr. John Ejiafe, UHS-EMC member
8. Urhobo Arts Presentation – Olorogun Akpomiemie, Urhobo Artist, London
9. From Heritage to Prosperity: A Strategic Framework for the Socio-Economic Transformation of the Urhobo Nation – Ochuko Dafiaghor, Chairperson, UPU- Aberdeen, UK

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm ONLINE PAPER PRESENTATION SESSION IV – VIA ZOOM

10. Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in Urhoboland: Key Issues and Strategies for Optimizing Benefits for Host Communities – Zik Gbemre, Coordinator, Niger Delta Peace Coalition (Via Zoom)
11. Urhobo in the Digital Age: Opportunities and Challenges – Felix O. Abijoroh, Doctoral Student, Department of History and International Studies, Delta State University, Abraka. (Via Zoom)
12. A Sociolinguistic Study of Urhobo Vanishing Tongue in the 21st Century, Overare Benjamin Akpovona, Master's Student, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Delta State University, Abraka. (Via Zoom)
13. Towards an Economic Philosophy for the Urhobo Nation by Emmanuel Ogheneochuko Arodovwe (Via Zoom)

6:30 pm – 7:00 pm: BREAK

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm: GALA NIGHT & CLOSING CEREMONY

- 2026 UHS Awards
- Dinner
- Re-launch of UHS Endowment Fund
- Launch of new Warri Book continues
- Cultural Display and Dance
- Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks

ZOOM links for online/virtual participants

Friday, July 24, 2026 – 2026 UHS Conference and General Meeting Day 1

Time: Jul 24, 2026, 04:00 PM – 8:00 PM London Time (3:00 PM – 7:00 PM GMT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82973647712?pwd=q9fC9mO7QuyB9qWbyfM0vmfKrN7aQz.1>

Meeting chat link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/82973647712>

Meeting ID: 829 7364 7712

Passcode: 874611

Saturday, July 25, 2026: 2026 UHS Conference and General Meeting – Day 2

Time: Jul 25, 2026 09:00 AM – 9:00 PM London Time (8:00 AM – 8:00 PM GMT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87171128761?pwd=6aEaaUka7klzpkPoiMNVG4EiYScwDs.1>

Meeting chat link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/87171128761>

Meeting ID: 871 7112 8761

Passcode: 046984



Welcome Address by Chairperson Organising Committee

Distinguished dignitaries, esteemed scholars and presenters, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is with great joy and a deep sense of honour that I warmly welcome you all to the 14th Conference of the Urhobo Historical Society, taking place here at the Delta Hotels by Marriott, 1 Broadway, Bexleyheath, London, United Kingdom, on the 24th and 25th day of July 2026.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to every one of you who has travelled from across the globe to be part of this important gathering. Your presence is a testament to your commitment to scholarship, cultural preservation, and the advancement of the Urhobo people. We are especially honoured to welcome our distinguished dignitaries, respected traditional leaders, seasoned academics, and passionate presenters. Your wealth of knowledge and diverse perspectives will undoubtedly enrich our discussions and deepen our understanding of the subject before us.

The theme of this year's conference, "The Urhobo Ethnic Nationality in Nigeria: Past, Present, and Future," is both timely and profound. It calls us to reflect on our rich heritage, critically examine our current realities, and thoughtfully envision a future that preserves our identity while embracing progress and global relevance.

As we engage in insightful presentations, discussions, and cultural exchanges over the next two days, I encourage us all to participate actively, share knowledge freely, and build meaningful connections that will extend beyond this conference. Let us also take pride in the legacy of the Urhobo people—our resilience, our traditions, and our contributions to national and global development. This conference serves not only as a platform for academic discourse but also as a unifying force that strengthens our collective identity.

In closing, I sincerely thank all members of the Organising Committee for their dedication and hard work in bringing this event to fruition. I also appreciate the President of Urhobo Historical Society, Dr A. Oyiborhoro, our sponsors, partners, and volunteers whose support has been invaluable.

Once again, welcome to London, welcome to this great gathering, and I wish you all a productive, engaging, and memorable conference.

Thank you, and God bless.

Mrs. Julie Riesa



President's Address

Our Royal Highnesses, distinguished guests, members of the Urhobo Historical Society, our beloved sons and daughters of Urhobo, and friends of the Urhobo Nation gathered here in London: I bring you warm greetings and deep appreciation as we convene for the 14th Conference of the Urhobo Historical Society.

This gathering is more than an academic event. It is a homecoming. It is remembering who we are, where we come from, and what we must preserve for generations yet unborn. I stand before you as a son of Okpara Waterside in Ethiopie East Local Government Area who has spent the past forty years living in the United States of America and have travelled across North America, and many parts of the world. Those forty years have shown me what is possible when a people carry their identity with confidence into the wider world, and they have deepened my conviction that our history is our greatest inheritance. The heart of this address is simple: the future of the Urhobo people depends on our willingness and ability to document and preserve our history, strengthen our identity and unity, invest in our people and preserve our culture.

Since a group of Urhobo intellectuals gathered in New York City in 1998 to establish the Urhobo Historical Society, it has stood as the intellectual backbone of Urhobo identity. Its work ensures that our history, our stories, our migrations, our kingdoms, our struggles, and our triumphs are not lost to time or overshadowed by louder narratives. From its operational offices at Okpara Inland in Urhoboland, North America and the United Kingdom, the Society continues the mission our founders set for the organization: to promote and protect, without fear or favour, the history, culture, and interests of the Urhobo people.

Today, in London, a global city where cultures converge, we are reminded that a people without historical consciousness becomes invisible in the world's memory. This conference is our refusal to be invisible.

It is also an occasion of legacy. At this conference we launch our latest book, the "The Warri Crises: Colonial Roots and Post-Colonial Conflicts", the eighth monograph of the Society, continuing the scholarly tradition

established by our founding President, the late Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh. We remember him, and we also remember Professor Omokore Mudiaga Odje, Professor Francis Odemerho, and Chief Peter Obukowho Essi, departed members of our Editorial and Management Committee whose labors made this Society what it is.

Urhobo History as a living force that shapes:

- Our language, one of the richest and most expressive in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
- Our governance traditions, from the age-grade systems to the revered *ovie* institutions
- Our economic ingenuity, from the palm oil trade networks of the pre-colonial era to modern enterprise
- Our artistic heritage, expressed through dance, folklore, and craftsmanship

Each of these is a pillar of identity. Each requires deliberate preservation.

A Cry to the International Community: Justice for the Okuama Community

The Urhobo community of Okuama in Delta State, Nigeria, continues to suffer grave injustice following the tragic events of March 2024. What began as a communal land dispute escalated into a devastating humanitarian crisis after a unit of the Nigerian Army, without invitation, embarked on what they described as a “peace mission,” a role ordinarily reserved for the Nigerian Police in a civilian democracy. During this “intervention”, some soldiers lost their lives. In response, the Nigerian military carried out a sweeping and brutal reprisal against the civilian population of Okuama. The town was razed to the ground. Homes, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, including school buildings, were destroyed. Families fled for safety, and many remain displaced with little to no government assistance. Children have been left without classrooms, and without the basic support needed to continue their education.

Compounding this tragedy, several community leaders who were not involved in the death of the soldiers were arrested and detained without arraignment or trial.

The people of Okuama are crying out for justice. Their community has been destroyed, their leaders imprisoned without trial, and their children left without schools. Yet the Nigerian government has offered little support, and accountability for the military's actions remains absent.

We call on the international community—human rights organizations, global leaders, and all advocates of justice—to pay urgent attention to the suffering of Okuama. Silence enables impunity. The detained community leaders must be released, and the displaced families must receive the support they desperately need.

The people of Okuama deserve justice, dignity, and the restoration of their community.

Challenges We Must Confront

We cannot ignore the pressures facing our heritage:

- Urbanization and globalization threaten indigenous languages
- Political and economic tensions distort historical narratives, as the recurring Warri crises remind us
- Generational gaps widen as younger Urhobos drift from cultural knowledge
- Digital misinformation erodes authentic storytelling

These challenges are real, but they are not insurmountable. The answer to distorted narratives is documented truth. That is the work of the Urhobo Historical Society, and the new Warri book we present at this conference is our latest answer.

A Call to Action

To secure our future, we must act with clarity and unity:

- Strengthen Urhobo scholarship by supporting research, publications, and academic programs
- Digitize our archives so our history is preserved and accessible globally
- Promote Urhobo language learning through schools, apps, and community programs
- Engage the Urhobo diaspora to build global networks of cultural advocacy
- Invest in our cultural institutions, including this Society and its headquarters at Okpara Inland, so they can protect our traditions and intellectual heritage

These are not abstract goals. They are urgent responsibilities.

The Role of the Diaspora

Here in London, we stand among Urhobos whose journeys have carried them far from home. Yet distance has not diminished identity. I know this from my own journey. Four decades in America taught me that the Diaspora is not an audience to our story; it is an author of it. The Diaspora

remains one of our greatest strengths:

- You preserve culture in foreign lands
- You amplify Urhobo voices globally
- You build bridges of knowledge, investment, and innovation

Your role is indispensable. This very Society was born in the Diaspora, in New York, before it returned home to Okpara Inland in Urhoboland. What we build abroad strengthens what we protect at home.

Honoring Our Elders and Scholars

We owe profound gratitude to the historians, linguists, anthropologists, and cultural custodians who have dedicated their lives to documenting Urhobo civilization. Their work ensures that our children inherit truth, not erasure. Let us celebrate them. Let us support them. Let us follow their example.

A Vision for the Future

I envision an Urhobo nation where:

- Our language thrives in homes and classrooms
- Our history is taught with pride
- Our youth embrace their identity with confidence
- Our cultural institutions stand strong
- Our global community remains united in purpose

This vision is achievable if we choose to make it so.

Closing Reflection

As we begin this 14th conference, let us remember: History is not merely what happened. It is what we choose to preserve. And today, we chose preservation. We choose identity. We chose Urhobo.

May this conference inspire deeper scholarship, stronger unity, and renewed commitment to the heritage that binds us.

Thank you, and may the Urhobo nation continue to rise.

Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro

President, Urhobo Historical Society.



Profile Of Keynote Speaker

CHIEF SIMEON AKPOVWOGHOKOHWO OHWOFA

Businessman, Community Leader and Patriot

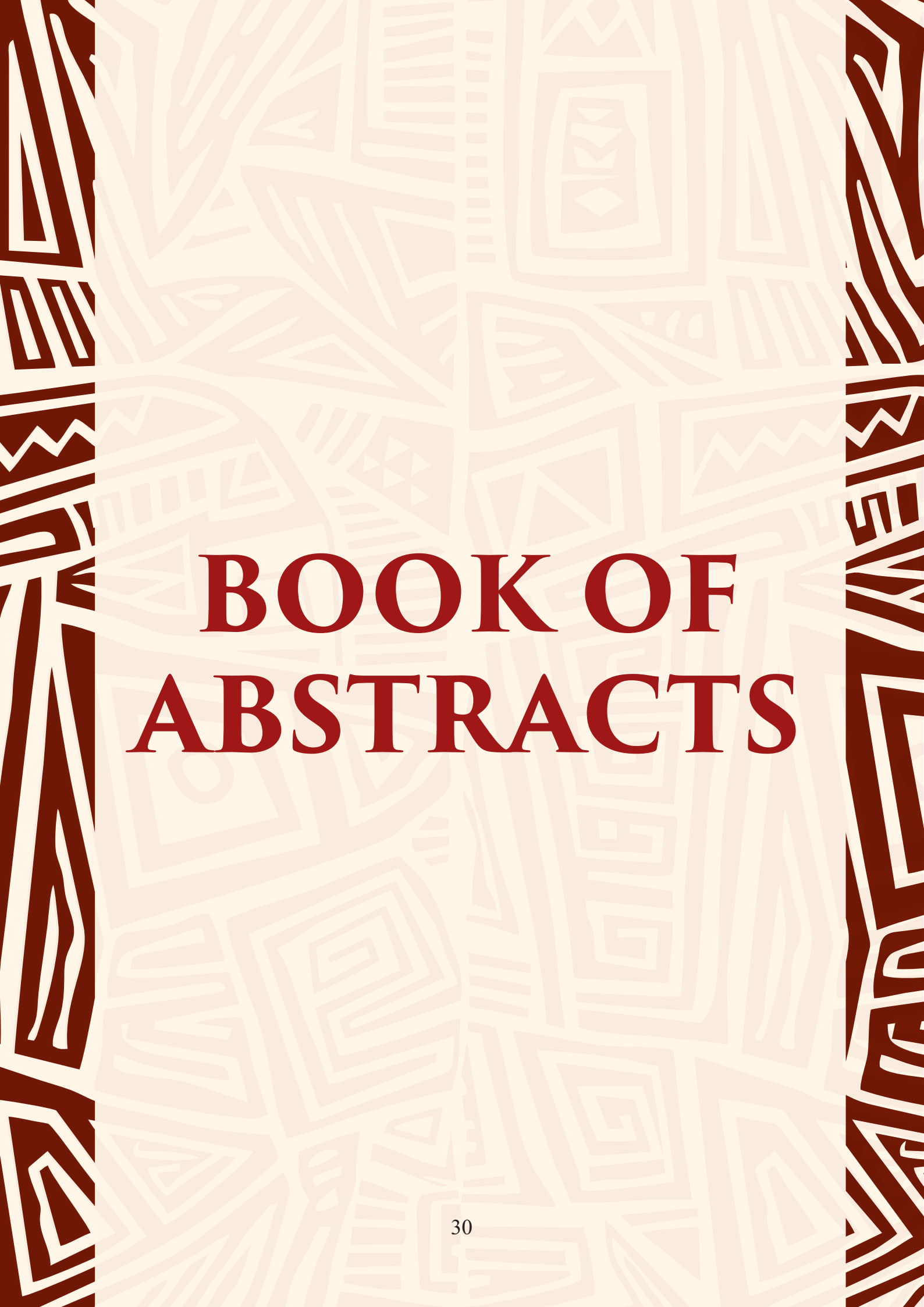
Chief Ohwofa is an exceptional Urhobo patriot with vast knowledge of Urhobo history, culture, and development. A highly regarded and respected professional, businessman, community leader, Urhobo patriot and gentleman par excellence, he has made significant contributions to Urhoboland and to the larger Nigerian community.

Chief Ohwofa belongs to an emerging generation of young Urhobo entrepreneurs who are committed to improving the welfare of their communities while also working on policies and programmes to address pan-Urhobo and national issues. After serving as Head of the Feed Industries Department in Roche Nigeria Limited for many years, he resigned in 1995 to establish a chain of businesses. These include O.M. Simmons Nigeria limited and Nutivitas Limited, both of which provide services in animal nutrition. He also has interests in Food Processing, Oil & Gas, and Banking, including serving on the Board of Directors of DavuDami Microfinance Bank. He is the president of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science and the Chair of its Governing Board. He also serves as the Vice-President of Junior Chambers (Jaycees); as Acting President of the Nigerian Society of Animal Auctioneers; and as a Trustee of Feed Industries Practitioners of Nigeria. He is a former member of the Implementation Committee of the Federal Government Alternative Feed Formation, and a Fellow of the Animal Science Association of Nigeria and the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Biochemistry and Nutrition from the University of Ibadan, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Benin, a diploma in Marketing from the Institute of Marketing, London, and an OMP Certificate from the Lagos Business School.

A true Urhobo patriot, Chief Ohwofa has leveraged his position and influence in business to help tackle several issues of interest to the Urhobo people. For example, he has created the Origine Ohwofa Foundation that has awarded scholarships to over 75 deserving youths from Uwheru community. As an active member of the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU), he sits on the UPU Council of Representatives, and the UPU Committee that regulates the affairs of Urhobo College, Effurun. He has also served as the President of Urhobo Social Club, an organization of entrepreneurs of Urhobo indigenes in Lagos, Nigeria. In more recent time, in his appreciation of the need to record and document Urhobo history and culture, he has accepted to serve as the Secretary of the Trustees of the Urhobo Historical Society as well as its National Coordinator in Nigeria.

In recognition of his varied and multiple contributions towards the progress of the Urhobo Nation, he was honoured with the Distinguished Service Award of UHS at its 2024 Conference in New York, the United States of America.

The background of the page is a complex, repeating geometric pattern. It features a variety of shapes including triangles, squares, and rectangles, some of which are nested or overlapping. The pattern is rendered in a light beige or cream color against a dark red background. The overall effect is a dense, textured, and somewhat tribal or indigenous aesthetic.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

TOWARDS URHOBO VISION 2050 AND ACTION PLAN

By Dr. Emmanuel Ojameruaye, Secretary/Treasurer, Urhobo Historical Society

The Bible says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18). This is largely true for organizations and nations. As one of the largest ethnic nationalities in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, made up of competing ethnic nationalities, the Urhobo nation needs to have a Vision Statement and an Action Plan to actualize the vision, in order to ensure rapid development and modernization of Urhoboland, and to occupy a pride of place in the federation. The objective of this paper is to propose a draft Urhobo Vision 2050 Statement and Action Plan for consideration, further refinement and integration with other efforts, and implementation by Urhobo leadership – the UPU, Urhobo Council of Traditional Rulers, Local Government Councils, and political and business leaders. The proposed Vision and Action Plan document builds on the "Aims and Objectives" expressed in the 1965 UPU Constitution, UHS's document "Towards Formulating an Urhobo Agenda" (2005), and the Urhobo Foundation's Urhobo Nation Regional Development Plan (2023) and Masterplan (2025). It borrows also from the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched in 2015, and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 launched in 2016.

The proposed Urhobo 2050 Vision Statement is: "By the year 2050, Urhoboland will be united, strong, peaceful, respected, and will be among the top five most sustainably developed ethnic nationality territory in Nigeria; and Urhobo nation will have good relationships with other ethnic groups, and a vibrant and progressive culture." The Vision is anchored on four "pillars" – Unity, Strength and Respect; Peace and Security; Sustainable Development; and Vibrant and Progressive Culture – and 30 strategic objectives under the four pillars. Work is ongoing to complete the Action Plan which includes the key tasks to achieve each of the 30 strategic objectives, the timeline for each task, the responsible parties, required resources and performance indicators. Examples of sub action plans for two strategic objectives are presented in this paper. The paper also proposes Core Values to guide the behavior of the Urhobo people as we seek to achieve the proposed vision statement, an implementation strategy, and critical success factors for the actualization of the vision and plan. The plan concludes with a dream and hope that if Urhobo leadership can refine and integrated the proposed vision and plan with those of the Urhobo Foundation and implement it

faithfully, then by year 2050, Urhobo people will be strongly united, Urhoboland will enjoy peace; less than ten percent of the people in Urhoboland will live in multi-dimensional poverty; the Urhobo nation will be well respected all over Nigeria and beyond; Urhoboland will be among the most sustainably developed territory in Nigeria, and our culture will be vibrant and be the envy of other ethnic nationalities in Nigeria.

THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF THE URHOBOLAND ETHNIC NATIONALITY: GOVERNANCE, STRATEGIC ADAPTATION, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNOR SHERIFF

By Mr. Innocent Ojefia, Governor's Office, Delta State Government, Asaba, Delta State

The political evolution of the Urhobo ethnic nationality offers an important case study of how minority nationalities can achieve influence, representation, and developmental relevance within Nigeria's federal system. From pre-colonial republican traditions to contemporary democratic governance, the Urhobo people have sustained political relevance through effective institutions, strategic leadership, and collective organization. This paper examines the evolution of Urhobo political engagement, highlighting the role of the Urhobo Progress Union (UPU), contributions to national political development, and contemporary governance under Governor Sheriff Oborevwori. It argues that the Urhobo ethnic nationality experience demonstrates how minority nationalities can secure influence and development through institutional resilience, coalition-building, and strategic adaptation. The paper concludes that contemporary developments in Delta State under Governor Sheriff Oborevwori represent the latest phase of a long tradition of Urhobo participation in governance, coalition-building, and nation-building within Nigeria's federal system.

Keywords: Urhobo, governance, federalism, minority politics, Delta State, political adaptation.

URHOBOLAND KINGDOMS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

By Abujoroh O. Felix, Doctoral Student, Department of History and International Studies, Delta State University, Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria

The Urhobo kingdoms, situated in Nigeria's Niger Delta region, are undergoing a significant transformation with the advent of digital technologies. This paradigm shift

presents a plethora of opportunities for the kingdoms, including the potential for e-commerce and tourism, which can not only promote their rich cultural heritage but also generate revenue and stimulate economic growth. The adoption of digital governance can enhance transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, leading to improved decision-making and more effective management of resources. Moreover, digital archives can play a crucial role in preserving Urhobo history, traditions, and languages, ensuring their transmission to future generations. Digital skills training can also create jobs and stimulate entrepreneurship, empowering the youth and contributing to the overall development of the region. This paper examines the opportunities and challenges of digitalization in Urhobo kingdoms, highlighting the potential for economic growth, cultural preservation, and improved governance. Through the analysis of primary and secondary sources, the study reveals that whilst digitalization presents numerous benefits, there are challenges to surmount. Some of these challenges include the resistance of traditional institutions to change, limited access to digital infrastructure and manpower skills, cyber threats, globalization, and a host of other obstacles. Addressing these challenges will require strategic planning, investment in digital infrastructure, and capacity building to ensure that the Urhobo kingdoms can harness the full potential of digitalization and achieve sustainable development. Additionally, collaboration with international organizations and local stakeholders will be essential in driving this digital transformation forward,

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF URHOBO VANISHING TONGUE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By Overare Benjamin Akpovona Master's Student, Department of Languages and Linguistics, Delta State University Abraka

Language remains one of the strongest tool of ethnic identity and political consciousness among African peoples. Among the Urhobo people of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, language has historically functioned not merely as a medium of communication but also as a symbol of collective identity, political mobilization, and cultural continuity. This paper examines the relationship between Urhobo ethnolinguistic consciousness and political participation in Nigerian politics. It explores how the preservation and promotion of the Urhobo language have shaped political awareness, ethnic solidarity, minority struggles, and demands for representation within Nigeria's federal structure. The paper argues that the decline of

indigenous language usage among younger generations poses a serious threat to Urhobo political identity and long-term sociocultural relevance. Drawing from sociolinguistic theory, ethnolinguistic identity theory, and historical analysis, the study highlights the role of language in political participation, electoral mobilization, leadership formation, and minority advocacy in the Niger Delta. The paper concludes that revitalizing the Urhobo language is not merely a cultural project but also a political necessity for sustaining Urhobo relevance in contemporary Nigerian politics

THE URHOB IN THE POLITICS OF NIGERIA

By Rt Hon (Revd) Francis Ejiroghene Waive (MHR)

Politics in Nigeria refers to the competitive, highly decentralized, and often volatile process through which state power is won, acquired, retained, and utilized across a complex, multi-ethnic federal republic.

The system operates on a three-tier democratic framework encompassing the Federal Government, 36 states, the Federal Capital Territory, and 774 local government areas.

We the Urhobo people, are primarily concentrated in Delta State. We are a major socio-political force in the Niger Delta and Nigeria.

As one of the largest ethnic groups in the country, we played a defining role in the creation of the former Mid-West Region. We hold significant political sway over 9 of Delta State's 25 Local Government Areas with presence in a 10th LGA. Our vast human and mineral resources ought to benefit us in the scheme of things in the Nigerian polity. How are we faring as a group in the Nigerian State in terms of sharing the national cake, in terms of infrastructure development in our homeland, and placement of our people in positions of authority? How have we fared in the enhancement of living standards of our people particularly youths, women and children in Urhoboland?

Our inability to achieve the creation of a true Delta State with its capital in Urhoboland is a major setback in this dispensation and speaks volumes about our political involvement in the Nigerian federation.

To discuss our place in today's Nigerian politics it is important to take a look at the performance of our fore-bears in the colonial and post colonial times.

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN URHOBOLAND: KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES FOR OPTIMIZING BENEFITS FOR HOST COMMUNITIES

Chief Zik Gbemre, Community Leader, Iwhrekan, Ughelli South LGA, Delta State —
Coordinator, Niger Delta Peace Coalition

Urhoboland sits above one of the most productive petroleum-bearing formations in West Africa hosting the Utorogu gas complex the largest non-associated gas hub in Nigeria alongside a dense network of oil and gas fields and downstream infrastructure spanning Ughelli North, Ughelli South, Ethiope East, Ethiope West, Udu, Uvwie and Okpe local government areas. Despite six decades of continuous exploration and production and the enormous revenue this activity has generated for the Federal Government, multinational operators and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, the lived reality of host communities remains one of environmental exposure, infrastructural neglect and contested benefit-sharing. This paper, presented from the vantage point of a serving community leader in one of Urhoboland's most productive host communities, examines the scale of oil and gas activity across Urhoboland, interrogates the structural and governance issues that continue to limit local benefit, and proposes a strategy for converting Urhoboland's hydrocarbon endowment into durable community development anchored on the Host Community Development Trust framework introduced by the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021.

“Agbarho” and “Aguariavwodo” as Adaptable Thought Processes for Urhobo Economic Advancement

Emmanuel Ogheneochuko Arodovwe

This paper argues that the twin concepts of “Agbarho” and “Aguariavwodo” are suitable ideologies to serve as foundation for a distinct, sustainable and progressive economic programme for the Urhobo nation. “Agbarho” connotes the idea of cooperation, consensus and inclusivity, whereas “Aguariavwodo” connotes dialogic engagements, consultation and communality. These related concepts are not imported but integral to the cultural ways and character trait of the Urhobo people having developed socio-historically from ancient antiquity. These ideas are neither distinctly capitalist nor socialist, but incorporate positive aspects of both. With increasing pressure for indigenous solutions to local problems, the paper contends that Urhobo economic salvation may well lie in the people's adoption and adaptations of these ideologies to contemporary economic problems and programmes.

Key words: Agbarho, Aguariavwodo, communality, Urhobo

From Heritage to Prosperity: A Strategic Framework for the Socio-Economic Transformation of the Urhobo Nation

Ochuko Dafiaghor

The Urhobo people possess a distinguished history, rich cultural heritage, and an enduring legacy of contributions to Nigeria's political, economic, educational, and intellectual development. Yet, despite these strengths, the Urhobo nation faces persistent challenges, including youth unemployment, environmental degradation, cultural erosion, leadership fragmentation, and limited economic diversification. While preserving Urhobo history and culture remains essential, the demands of the twenty-first century call for a strategic framework that transforms this rich heritage into a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development.

This paper argues that the future prosperity of the Urhobo nation depends on integrating its historical values and cultural identity with visionary leadership, innovation, education, entrepreneurship, and institutional collaboration. Drawing lessons from the Urhobo past, assessing present realities, and anticipating future opportunities, the paper proposes a Urhobo Vision 2050 Framework centred on human capital development, diaspora engagement, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and inclusive economic growth. It further advocates stronger partnerships among traditional institutions, government, academia, the private sector, and the global Urhobo diaspora to create lasting prosperity for future generations.

By bridging historical scholarship with strategic foresight, this paper offers a practical roadmap for repositioning the Urhobo nation within an increasingly competitive global environment. It contends that meaningful progress does not diminish heritage; rather, it enriches and sustains it. A people whose history is matched by continuous social, economic, and intellectual advancement leave behind a heritage that future generations can celebrate with pride. Ultimately, the paper demonstrates that the greatest tribute to Urhobo history is not merely to preserve it, but to build upon it, ensuring that the Urhobo legacy remains both meaningful and a source of enduring pride for generations to come.

Towards Effective Urhobo Leadership: A Democratic and Radical Approach Rooted in Transformative, Historical, Socio-Cultural, and Demographic Dynamics

By Pastor Shadie Okpako, Chairman, UHS UK & Belgium
and Ekohwo Orogun, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, UHS UK & Belgium

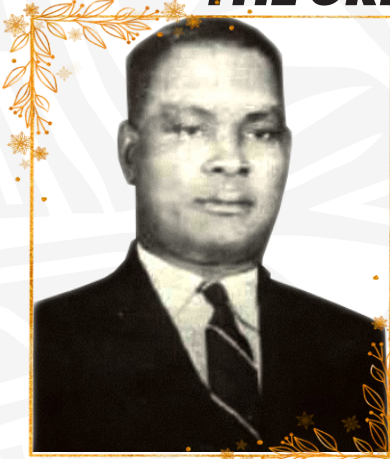
Leadership remains one of the most critical determinants of social transformation, cultural preservation, political stability, and economic advancement among ethnic nationalities in Nigeria. The Urhobo Nation, one of the largest ethnic groups in the Niger Delta region, possesses a rich historical heritage, vibrant socio-cultural traditions, and significant demographic strength. Despite these advantages, the Urhobo people continue to face challenges associated with political fragmentation, youth disengagement, economic underdevelopment, cultural erosion, and inadequate strategic leadership. This paper examines the historical evolution of Urhobo leadership and advocates for a democratic and transformative leadership framework rooted in the historical consciousness, socio-cultural values, and demographic realities of the Urhobo Nation.

Using historical analysis, socio-political evaluation, and cultural interpretation, the paper explores traditional governance systems, colonial and post-colonial leadership transitions, and the impact of modern democratic structures on Urhobo identity and development. The study argues that effective Urhobo leadership in the twenty-first century must transcend personality politics, sectionalism, and elite domination by embracing inclusiveness, youth empowerment, gender participation, cultural renaissance, and strategic socio-economic planning. The paper further proposes a radical yet constructive leadership model that integrates traditional wisdom with modern democratic principles to reposition the Urhobo Nation for sustainable development and greater relevance within Nigeria and the global diaspora. It dwells much on the Creation of A Supreme Traditional Ruler: “Ovie R'Ode” – (Not Ovie R'Ivie already attributed to the Almighty God). The paper concludes that transformational leadership, cultural unity, intellectual mobilization, and intergenerational collaboration are essential for the future progress of the Urhobo people.

Keywords: Urhobo leadership, democracy, transformation, socio-cultural development, Niger Delta, ethnicity, governance, demographics, “Ovie R'Ode”, Supreme King.

GOODWILL MESSAGES & ADVERTS

THE FAMILY OF CHIEF MUKORO MOWOE *Salutes & Congratulates* **THE URHOB HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



In 1998, a group of intellectuals and academics, sons and daughters of the Urhobo Nation all, assembled in New York City, the United States, under the aegis of the Urhobo National Forum for a seminar to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Chief Mukoro Mowoe. It was on that occasion that the late Professor Peter Palmer Ekeh introduced the inspired idea of an Urhobo organization dedicated to the defense and the promotion of the history and the culture of the Urhobo people, and to the protection of their interests. The resulting Organization, founded and launched on that day, is The Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) and, in the intervening years, UHS has done precisely as its founders intended, and it has done so brilliantly and with courage.

Our wish and our hope are that this Urhobo Organization will continue as it has to promote and protect, without fear or favour the history, the culture and the interests of the Urhobo people for all time, and that all Urhobos and those who wish them well, will join in support of the noble crusade on which it is embarked, with the blessings of God and our ancestors.

The family of Chief Mukoro Mowoe salutes and congratulates the Editorial and Management Committee (EMC – the Board of Directors) and the membership of the Urhobo Historical Society for its brilliant and courageous service on behalf of the Urhobo people, and prays for its continued success as it meets on July 24 and 25, 2026, in London, England, the United Kingdom, on the occasion of its Fourteenth International Conference.

Very best wishes and godspeed.

Pa. Alfred O. Mowoe,
Head of the Family of Chief Mukoro Mowoe

Scott-Emuakpor Family of EVWRENI, Delta State Goodwill Message to the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS)



On behalf of all admirers of scholarship, truth, justice, and the rich heritage of the Urhobo people, I extend warmest congratulations and heartfelt goodwill to the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the occasion of its 14th Conference taking place in London on July 24 & 25, 2026.

For nearly three decades, the Urhobo Historical Society has stood as a beacon of intellectual excellence, courage, and unwavering commitment to the preservation and advancement of Urhobo history and culture. Since its founding 28 years ago, UHS has brought together distinguished scholars, professionals, and patriots dedicated to ensuring that the story of the Urhobo people is documented accurately, objectively, and comprehensively for present and future generations. The Society's contributions have gone beyond chronicling historical events. Through painstaking research, thoughtful analysis, and rigorous scholarship, UHS has courageously examined the triumphs, challenges, controversies, and defining moments that have shaped the Urhobo nation. In doing so, it has enriched public understanding of our collective past and strengthened the cultural identity of our people. Your work has not only preserved our history but has also given voice to the aspirations, concerns, and dignity of the Urhobo people.

May the next chapter of the UHS be marked by even greater accomplishments, deeper scholarship, broader influence, and renewed commitment to truth, justice, cultural preservation, and the advancement of the Urhobo nation. May your celebration in London be memorable, your deliberations fruitful, and your vision for the future ever brighter.

Long live the Urhobo Historical Society! Long live the Urhobo Nation!

Madam Okiemute Scott-Emuakpor, for the Family

Kent, United Kingdom



**As the Urhobo Historical Society convenes its 14th conference, I
send heartfelt goodwill
to all attendees. This moment is more than a meeting
it is a reaffirmation of identity, memory, and legacy.
May the conversations held here strengthen our pride in who we
are and illuminate the path for future generations.
DR. & DR. MRS. ARUEGODORE OYIBORHORO**



**Dr Emmanuel & Josephine Ojameruaye congratulate the
Members of the Urhobo Historical Society on the 14th
Conference & General Meeting of the Society at the Delta
Hotels by Marriott, London, UK, July 24-25, 2026**

**Long Live UHS
Long Live the Urhobo Nation**



Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the 14th Conference of the Urhobo Historical Society. This conference is a beautiful reminder that our history lives through our shared stories and collective efforts. May our time together be filled with meaningful connections and lasting impact.

Chief & Mrs Simeon Ohwofa



I proudly extend goodwill to the Urhobo Historical Society on its 14th conference. In an increasingly globalized world, efforts like yours ensure that indigenous histories are not lost but amplified. May this conference elevate Urhobo heritage to new heights on the global stage.

Mrs. Julie Riesa



It is with great honor that I convey my goodwill to the Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of its 14th Conference. This distinguished gathering reflects a steadfast commitment to safeguarding the narratives, values, and traditions that define the Urhobo people. May this event be crowned with insight, unity, and enduring impact.

BARR. UFUOMA AUGUSTINA SCOTT



Congratulations!!!

Barrister Mrs. Elizabeth Oddiri and family congratulate the President, Chief Dr. Aruegodore Oyiborhoro and the entire members of Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the occasion of Urhobo Historical Society's 14th Conference and General Meeting taking place at Bexleyheath, London, UK, July 24-25, 2026.

Long live UHS!

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!

Urhobo Ovuovuo!!!



Congratulations!!!

As you convene for the 2026 Conference in London, our family sends goodwill and congratulations. My late husband, Chief Peter Obukowho Essi was a proud member of UHS and Editorial and Management Committee (EMC), very passionate about documenting and promoting Urhobo history. He would be honored to see the Society gathering globally to uphold our heritage. Wishing you a successful and inspiring conference.

**CHIEF OCHUKO OBUKOWHO ESSI,
IN MEMORY OF CHIEF PETER OBUKOWHO ESSI**



Olorogun Blessing and Olorogun Dr. (Mrs.) Louisa U. Oyoyo Ukochovwera enthusiastically congratulates the Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of its 14th International Conference and General Meeting, which brings together scholars, historians and community leaders dedicated to preserving and promoting Urhobo history, culture and heritage.



***Chief Do-Good & Chief Mrs. Bridget Efe-Nogo JP
extend their best wishes to the President, Chief Dr.
Aruegodore Oyiborhoro and the entire members of
Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of the 14th
Conference and General Meeting of the society
taking place July 24-25, 2026 at Bexleyheath,
London, UK.
Urhobo wadooo!***



On behalf of my family and the entire people of Ughelli North Ughelli South Udu Federal Constituency who I am privileged to represent in our Country's House of Representatives, I congratulate the Urhobo Historical Society on our 14th Conference. Here's wishing us a very successful outing.

Signed
Rt. Hon (Rev) Francis Ejiroghene Waive (MHR)
Chairman House Committee on Rules Business



Mr. Charles Owasa, the President of Urhobo Congress, USA Inc and his wife Mrs. Juliet Owasa felicitates with the Urhobo Historical Society on its 14th Conference 2026, holding in the United Kingdom.



Olorogun Freeborn Adegbor and family in USA
congratulates Olorogun Dr. Aruegodore
Oyiborhoro and the entire UHS family as they
celebrate the 14th Conference in the United
Kingdom, July 24 – 25th 2026.

Signed:

Olorogun Freeborn Adegbor, the Isiorovoghor of
the Great Idjerhe Kingdom



*Mr. & Mrs. Alex Ughwanogho congratulate
Chief (Dr) Aruegodore Oyiborhoro
(President) and the entire members of Urhobo
Historical Society on the occasion of our 14th
Conference and meeting in London.
Long live UHS!
Long live the Urhobo nation!*



***The Executive and Members of Agbonride of Nigeria, USA
are proud to identify with Urhobo Historical Society
on the auspicious occasion of their 14th international
Conference holding at Bexleyheath, London, UK.
Congratulations!!!***



Chief Samuel Ogaga (President, Urhobo Progress Union, America) and Mrs. Ejiro Sam-Ogaga congratulates the Urhobo Historical Society and the entire leadership on the 14th conference holding in London, United Kingdom.

Urhobo Wadoo!



***Dr. & Mrs. Fred Okotie congratulate Chief (Dr)
Aruegodore Oyiborhoro (President) and the
entire members of Urhobo Historical Society
on the occasion of our 14th Annual Conference
and meeting in London.***

Long live UHS!

Long live the Urhobo nation!



*Dr. & Mrs. John Ejaife and family
congratulates Olorogun Dr. Aruegodore
Oyiborhoro and the entire UHS family as
they celebrate the 14th Conference in the
United Kingdom, July 24 - 25th.*



Felicitation

Warm congratulations to the Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of its 14th Conference. May this gathering foster meaningful dialogue, deepen our appreciation of Urhobo history and cultural heritage, and inspire renewed commitment to preserving our rich legacy for future generations. I wish all participants a successful, engaging, and memorable conference.

Chief Dr. Ovuefe Efeotor & High Chief Dr. Mrs. Becky Efeotor

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The Management of Gemrook Laboratories extend their well wishes to the members of Urhobo Historical Society on the occasion of their 14th Annual Conference and General Meeting in London, UK. Long Live UHS! Long Live the Urhobo Nation!

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**THE URHOBO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

14TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & GENERAL MEETING

Appreciation

THE URHOBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY (UHS) expresses its gratitude to all those who have supported this event in one way or another. Special thanks go to High Chief Dr. Mrs. Rebecca Efeotor, our major Sponsor, who graciously covered half the cost of conference venue.

We also thank the following groups and individuals who made significant contributions to the conference.

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49. Mr Frank Oghenerhuohwo
50. Mrs Edith Akpowowo

Wish also thank all those who paid for Goodwill Messages and Adverts in this Brochure. We wish all participants a safe return to their homes.



Senator Ede Dafinone

DELTA CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Chairman Senate Committee on Federal Character and Inter-Governmental Affairs
Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Legislative Compliance

11th May, 2026

GOODWILL MESSAGE TO THE URHOB0 HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR 14TH CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING

It is with great pleasure and a profound sense of pride that I extend my warmest felicitations to the leadership and members of the Urhobo Historical Society (UHS) on the occasion of your 14th Conference and General Meeting.

I must commend the Society for its sustained commitment to preserving, documenting, and promoting the rich history, identity, intellectual heritage, and collective aspirations of the Urhobo people. Over the years, the UHS has distinguished itself as an important platform for scholarship, cultural reflection, and thoughtful engagement on issues affecting the progress and future of our people.

The theme of this year's conference, *"The Urhobo Ethnic Nationality in Nigeria: Past, Present and Future,"* is both timely and deeply significant. These conversations are essential, not only for preserving our heritage but also for strengthening our collective vision and ensuring that future generations inherit a stronger, more united, and more prosperous Urhobo nation.

As a proud son of Urhobo land, I remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote education, intellectual engagement, cultural preservation, youth development, and the advancement of our people within the broader Nigerian project.

I congratulate the organisers, participants, scholars, and distinguished guests gathered for this important conference and wish you all fruitful deliberations and a successful meeting.

Urhobo Wado!

Senator Ede Dafinone

Suite 0.10, Senate Building, National Assembly Three Arms Zone, Abuja-Nigeria

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We wish to extend our warmest goodwill to you all on the occasion of the 14th Conference of the Urhobo Historical Society.

At a time when the world faces rapid transformations and complex challenges, your commitment to rigorous research, documentation is commendable.

People that forget their history lose their identity, and it is through the tireless efforts of Urhobo Historical Society that our heritage remains alive, vibrant, and instructive.

Kudos to the leadership of the Urhobo Historical Society for organizing this conference. To all the conferees, paper presenters, and participants, I wish you deeply enriching discussions, stimulating engagements, and a highly successful conference.

May the deliberations of this assembly inspire new perspectives and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of knowledge and national development.

Please accept our highest regards and best wishes for a memorable event.

Goodie M. Ibru. OONDS (Hon)
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