

FOREWORD BY PROF. PAT. UTOMI



NZUKO UMUNNA (NU) CHRONICLES

A COMPENDIUM OF NZUKO UMUNNA HISTORY
AND INTERVENTIONS IN THE FIRST SIX (6) YEARS
OF ITS EXISTENCE, 2017 - 2023, AND
THE WAY FORWARD.

ONYEDIKA H. ADIBE

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DEDICATION

To
Almighty God
maka
Odinma Ndi Igbo na AlaIgbo

SPECIAL THANKS TO NZUKO UMUNNA CHRONICLES COMMITTEE

- Prof. Chika Moore.-----Chairman.
- Prof. Francis Emeka Ezeonu.
- Mr. Joe Attueyi.
- Dr. Ngozi Odumuko.
- Dr. Uju Agomoh.
- Dr. Paschal O. Mbanefo.
- Mr. Greg Muonyililio.
- Mr. Obioma Okoye.
- Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe.-----Secretary.

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FOREWORD

THE COURAGE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

It seemed like it came out of the blues. Before many could say Jack, Nzuko Umunna had come from birth to becoming a, if not, the Central meeting place for setting leadership direction in Igboland.

Many are still trying to put their finger on how it all happened. How did this group of unknown young people set the tone and offer the compass for a challenged Igbo race in a trying time in the history of Ndigbo and Alaigbo.

Having been there in the Delivery Room as the Labor pains brought forth Nzuko Umunna advanced, I could note the main characteristics that shaped their character and drove performance to outcomes.

The key for me was the courage to solve problems. Human society is complex, values diverge, and leadership talent varies. In this age of what Adrain Wooldridge brilliantly describes as one of “the Aristocracy of Talent” in which merit shaped the modern world, there are those who are Tribesmen or idiots, who dominate our world and strive to push citizens over the cliff, so problems abound, and it takes courage to face those problems.

Nzuko Umunna showed the courage to look some of those problems in the face. From organizing a global network of

Igbo talent to look such problems like the incarceration of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu in the face, bringing Nigeria to Enugu for Handshake Across the Niger and the celebration of 50 years of the end of the Civil War, NU blazed a trail because of the courage to seek solutions to problems.

When you seek to solve problems one of the challenges that tend to manifest is that you can be blinded by personal experience created prisms through which we view and interpret reality. One must therefore open oneself to the speaking of a few inconvenient truths.

One of such is that the politics of the South East is atrocious. Too many mercantile actors. The politics is more transactive than service driven. How we got there and how to move forward is really the business of this volume. The book tells the story of the nascent season of NU with gusto. Still, it left much out. Guess it's kind of filling as life is always a work in progress.

As I wish well the new leadership of NU, I pray we deal formally with this challenge. Michael Okpara epitomized what many of our Governors today are not. The time is now.

Patrick Okedinachi Utomi

Chairman Board of Trustees

Nzuko Umunna

PREFACE

As a young lecturer who was focused on youth development, I was a staff adviser or patron or both to many student groups and other youth groups even outside the university. In such a position, one naturally developed the sixth sense for discerning leadership qualities/potentials in the people one was dealing with. I guess that was how I was convinced that one Ngozi Odumuko, then a first year student in my department, possessed amazing leadership qualities/potentials. So the interaction began and I was soon introduced to his circle of friends Ekene Muonyililo, Obioma Okoye, Paschal Mbanefo. Shortly, it was time for elections to get a new Executive Council for the local chapter of the Nigeria Federation of Catholic Students (NFCS) and, purely out of courtesy, these guys informed me that they were contesting. I encouraged them. But when Ngozi told me that he was going for the office of the President, I felt that was very daring. I asked him if he felt he had achieved the level of popularity that will enable him contest successfully for the position; he laughed and said that he would try. I encouraged him; not that I gave him much of a chance to win (normally, it was 3rd and 4th year students who had spent at least two years building up their popularity that contested for the position of president) but it would be part of the learning process. The surprise was that he not only won with a landslide but his entire line-up came through. That was a feat!

But the amazing thing is beyond the winning; they embarked on a number of ambitious projects and introduced radical but positive changes in the governance architecture of the local NFCS. Their insistence on accountability pitched them against some powerful interests, and even at some point threatened their graduation, but they remained resolute. It is often said that the reward for a work well done is more work. So, hardly had they served out their one year tenure in the local branch when they became national leaders with Ngozi becoming the National President. This paved the way for them to interact with others in the international scene so that they became notable players in the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) and many others. The salient point, however, in all these is that at whichever level they found themselves, they made indelible marks, they left diamond footprints. Very noteworthy is the fact that despite these galore of achievements and attainments they remained teachable, educable and humble.

I consider this a fitting opening for the preface to this Chronicles because it gives us a good view into the character of the initiators of this group Nzuko Umunna; they are young men blessed with a keen sense of vision, mission and delivery pathway. These they have amply brought into Nzuko Umunna.

Within these six years of its existence, NU has deliberately and strategically positioned itself as an effective bridge builder, audacious intervention agent, a forward projecting Think Tank. The various programmes and interventions; the visit to Nnamdi Kanu at Kuje Prison, the Handshakes

(across the Niger and across Nigeria), the Never Again conferences, the visits to the Governors of the SE, the Igboezue Retreat (that was botched) and its lofty dream of a South East Economic Union, the various structured platform debates like the Quo Vadis Debate, the Igbodum Database project, the Greater Nigeria Conference, and the various critical interventions often carried through by Committees set up to handle those specific issues, etc have the combined effect of positioning NU as a trusted and much sought after Igbo Think Tank.

As we thank God for the enablement and thump our chests for the galore of achievements, we must note that the work to be done has only been scratched at the surface – we do not yet have a South-East Economic Union, South East Investment Platform, South East Action Plan (for education, healthcare, agriculture, industrialization, entertainment and hospitality, and so on), etc as necessary steps to AlaIgbo Economic Union, AlaIgbo Investment Platform, AlaIgbo Action Plan, etc. So, it is still very far from uhuru!

Therefore, with profound trust in God and stubborn hope in our souls, we look forward with great optimism to the next six years and beyond. The vision of a truly vibrant AlaIgbo (whether in the milieu of Nigeria or as a separate entity) is too alluring to be abandoned!

Prof. Chika Moore

Ag. President, Nzuko Umunna

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

According to Melody Beattie, “Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow”. It is vital to thank and show appreciation to those who have been supporting and working with Nzuko Umunna in all ramifications. First, we thank Almighty God for his enabling graces within these six years of existence. We equally thank God for gifting our Founder Dr. Ngozi Odumuko with the divine inspiration of forming this organization. May God continue to bless our Founder.

Our gratitude goes to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees(BOT) of Nzuko Umunna Prof. Pat. Utomi, the pioneer members, present and former members of executives, committee members and the general body of Nzuko Umunna for all the sacrifices they have made to ensure Nzuko Umunna continue to grow in leaps and bounds. “To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven”(Johannes Gaertner). Nzuko Umunna appreciates each and everyone of you.

“No one who achieves success does so without the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude”(Alfred North Whitehead). Also, Marcus Tullius Cicero once said, “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues but the parent of all others”. In the course of the various heavylifting projects and interventions, Nzuko

Umunna did not work in isolation. Therefore, we thank the leadership of Ohaneze Ndigbo, South East Governors Forum, Afenifere, Southern and Middle Belt Forum, PANDEF, Religious and Traditional Institutions, the media, to mention but a few. We specially thank Pa Ayo Adebajo, Chief Edwin K. Clark, Dr. Pogu Bitrus, etc.

We must not fail to specially thank Dr. Ngozi Odumuko, Prof. Pat. Utomi, Prof. Chika Moore, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, Executive Governor of Enugu State His Excellency Chief Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi(Gburugburu), Dr. Paschal Mbanefo, Mr. Gregory Muonyililo, Mr. Obioma Okoye and the entire members of Nzuko Umunna for all the support and confidence reposed on the organization. We are optimistic that Nzuko Umunna will continue to grow from strength to strength and continue to lead from the front. May God continue to bless Alaigbo and NdiIgbo.

CHAPTER

1

INTRODUCTION

It was John Ruskin (February 8, 1819- January 1900) Vocal English Critic of Arts, Philosopher and Social Thinker, who said, *Great nations write their autobiographies in three manuscripts: The book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their acts.* Borrowing a leaf from John Ruskin, one can say in our own case that a novel association like Nzuko Umunna should write their chronicles in three manuscripts: The book of their deeds, the book of their words and the book of their acts.

The deeds of Nzuko Umunna are longlasting, the words of Nzuko Umunna are reverberating and the acts of Nzuko Umunna are glaring for all to see. Given the plethora of deeds, words and acts performed by Nzuko Umunna within these six years of existence, one will not be in a hurry to find



The History Makers

From left to right- Dr. Paschal Mbanefo,
Mr. Obioma Okoye, Dr. Ngozi Odumuko
and Mr. Greg. Muonyililo

a suitable name for this book.

This book, which is part of the succession plan of Nzuko Umunna, is geared towards telling the Nzuko Umunna story, stating her vision, mission, roles, interventions, regrets, achievements and way forward towards a strong and institutionalized Nzuko Umunna. Over the years and in such a short period like six years of the existence of Nzuko Umunna, NdiIgbo and Nigerians have witnessed various heavy lifting roles and interventions done by Nzuko Umunna. It will be out of place, actually a disservice to society and humanity, that such tasking but uplifting works rendered selflessly by Nzuko Umunna are not aptly captured in a book for record purposes, history and for posterity.

The choice of naming this book, *Nzuko Umunna Chronicles* is apt. The etymology and history of the word, Chronicle is properly captured in the Merriam Webster's Dictionary¹. According to the dictionary, the word Chronicle was first used as a noun in a narrative sense in the 14th century and was used as a verb in the 15th century. Chronicle has its etymological roots from Middle English Cronycle, borrowed from Anglo-French *Cronike*, *Chronicle* (-le perhiph by assimilation to words with the suffix- “icle”, as article), borrowed from latin *Chronicus*, meaning, the *book of annals*, borrowed from Greek(ta) *Chronika*, haichronika, the plural form of, *Chronika* of time, *temporal*, *in order by time*.

Interestingly, Merriam Websters Dictionary defined,

¹ Merriam Webster's Dictionary (online edition sourced on December 15, 2020).

*Chronicle as a historical account of events arranged in order of time usually without analysis or interpretation*². According to Wikipedia, *Chronicle is a historical account of facts and events arranged in chronological order, as a timeline*.³

Looking closely into the definition of the word Chronicle by Wikipedia, two words remain outstanding. The two key words are facts and events. Facts are sacred and it amounts to a futile exercise, an *actus futulus*, to engage in any venture that is bereft of facts. Little wonder a Latin maxim, often used in the legal profession reads, *contra factum non datur argumentum* (there is no argument against facts). Facts must be kept straight and untainted. In writing a history or telling a story about an organization or even an individual, the facts in the story must be clearly spelt out. Facts simply validate and authenticate the story or point of argument. Coming to events, every individual or group in the course of existence will witness series of events. Some of these events may be good, some worthy of note, some nothing to write home about, some laced with mixed feelings, etc.

Evidently, the major preoccupation of a book of this nature is to capture the full accounts of the association called Nzuko Umunna. Such account will feature items like history and formation, core values, vision and mission, executive summary of projects, interventions and roles played by the association, few photo speak that captures historic moments in the life of Nzuko Umunna, a robust recommendation on the way forward and perhaps an addendum. Having executed

² Merriam Websters Dictionary (Online version) sourced on 9th December, 2021 at about 1;20am

³ Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.com, sourced on 9th December 2020 at about 1:55am.

a litany of projects, intervened in various issues and provided leadership and sense of direction in numerous sensitive matters, it is trite to note that not all reports and projects may find their way inside the book or get a detailed summary. To get the full gist and idea behind various unique heavy lifting interventions and projects which have become the selling point of Nzuko Umunna, one may need to visit the Nzuko Umunna Secretariat for the certified true copies (CTCs) of the various committee reports and interventions.

Finally, this book is made up of Seven Chapters. Seven is regarded in science, culture and religion as a complete number. This means that Nzuko Umunna is progressing and marching towards completeness. The birthing of Nzuko Umunna was divine. It came as an inspiration and has grown in leaps and bounds. Nzuko Umunna is six years old.

It is vital to note that these six years of its existence were in laying proper foundation, giving positive direction, building strong networks, building integrity, building bridges across the Niger, Nigeria and the Globe, enthroning justice and fighting against injustice, providing technical support, peace building, creating strategies, serving as a think tank and providing a platform for robust brainstorming by Ndi Igbo professionals with a view to proffering practical and practicable solutions to the issues concerning the well being, success, progress, security, peace, and development of Ndi Igbo and Alaigbo.



WIYA Advisers, WIYA members and participants at maiden WIYA summit held in Awka in 2008.



L-R Fr. Dom. Igwe, Engr. Titus Ani, Amarachi Obasi, Mrs Chirota Egbogah, H.E. Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife, H.E. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Ngozi J. Odumuko , Amb. Ralph Uwechue, Prof. Pat. Utomi, Obioma Okoye. Picture taken after Enugu WIYA Summit in 2009.

CHAPTER

2

BRIEF HISTORY AND FORMATION

According to Jonathan Swift, Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others. It takes men and women of vision to create an idea, an organization, start a novel business, invent a new product, begin a new process, to mention but a few. The good book reminds us that, Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18). The issue with vision, at times, is that not everyone who sees the invisible will be able to translate the vision into reality. This is because many times, the ideas we receive as inspiration may look impossible, daunting and challenging. How to navigate through the daunting beginnings to create and build what will be appreciated and savoured by others and be of service to the society is a big question and a puzzle for many visioners.

Little wonder why not all people who are gifted with birthing ideas see to their fruition. Some are discouraged ab initio because they see the vision as rather daunting and impossible to realize, some start off the realization process but are discouraged to abandon the visions and ideas along the line by the challenges, some opine that as vision bearers it is not their call to suffer the rigour of breathing life to their visions and so never start on the execution path, and some others are held bound by the combined effects of lethargy, procrastination and pessimism. Historically, it is only a few visioners that are gifted with the strength, persistence, perseverance, optimism, endurance, drive, doggedness, determination, courage and consistency to weather the storm of birthing, building and growing a vision or idea to fruition.

Evidently, every generation of human race has its share of great men and women, filled with great visions and ideas. It is from these packs of illustrious men and women that the lubricant needed to oil the wheel of development and progress of humanity flows. It is these few individuals that create what serves the rest of humanity. They are the men and women in the arena.”¹

According to Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States of America, *It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doers of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood; who*

¹Henry Onyedika Adibe (2013). Preface to the Book, *Who is Who in Anambra State* (First Edition published by Rex, Charles & Patrick Publishers, sourced on 21/12/2022.

strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievements and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly so that his place shall never be with those timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

THE GENESIS OF THE GENESIS

Beginning is the most difficult part of every job or work. Hence, the Igbo have these aphorism *sejira (ejighi)ututu ama njoafia (abia)*(one does not discern a bad market day in the morning); *uratoba (towa) uto, ekwobe (ekwowe) yaekwo* (deep sleep calls forth snoring). What this means is that in every enterprise, there is the beginning blues; a moment of hardwork (physical, mental, even spiritual), sacrifice, suspense, challenges, etc; a moment when the vision or idea seems scary and even daunting. When, however, the vision or idea stands on all fours and begins to crystallize into a concrete form (through the drive, doggedness and perseverance of the visioner), it becomes a thing of beauty; admirable, attractive, enjoyable; something to be identified with. This is the case with Nzuko Umunna which is presently standing as a bridge builder and about the most sought after Think Tank in AlaIgbo.

The genesis of what we see today as Nzuko Umunna did not start on a sudden flight. There was a process, an evolution and some sort of metamorphosis that birthed the present Nzuko Umunna. Going down memory lane, the desire to provide a global audience and platform started about fifteen years ago when the then young Ngozi Odumuko and his



Prof. Pat. Utomi discussing with H.E. Dr. Alex Ekwueme GCON while Ngozi Odumuko, Obioma Okoye and Greg. Muoyillilio looks on. Picture taken at WIYA Summit Lagos 2010.



Ngozi Odumuko presenting rundown of WIYA Lagos 2010 program to Prof. Pat. Utomi and H.E. Dr. Alex Ekwueme GCON while Paschal Mbanefo, Obioma Okoye, Greg. Muoyillilio and Amarachi Obasi looks on.

Cross section of participants at Enugu WIVA Summit in 2009.





Prof. Pat. Utomi and young leaders from all geopolitical zones in Nigeria after a crucial meeting in Kaduna in 2010.

team as undergraduates served as national leaders of the Nigeria Federation of Catholic Students (NFCS) and international leaders of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) with headquarters in Paris, France. These set of young promising Igbo Catholic students, with Ngozi as their leader, represented Nigeria in many International Conferences where they intentionally addressed the world on the position of and the situation in Nigeria on critical matters especially matters of politics and religion. With their various contributions, the IMCS gathering was enriched and they became players in the international scene. It is noteworthy that their dynamic young minds were encouraged and challenged to seek to be more rather than to have more, to make a positive change in the society, by Prof. Chika Moore (Staff Adviser/Patron, NFCS) and Prof. Emeka Ezeonu. Close to their graduation, it dawned on the early visioner Ngozi Odumuko that the platform which the Catholic students' forum provided was grossly inadequate to address the myriads of challenges facing NdiIgbo and the Nigerian youths in general. Bad governance, tribalism, nepotism and corruption was growing day by day, values system was degenerating and the get-rich-quick syndrome was gaining traction among the youths. There was, therefore, the urgent need to create a platform that will be suitable for addressing these issues.

After series of meetings and brainstorming, Ngozi Odumuko and his team gave birth to the World Igbo Youth Assembly (WIYA). The founding members of WIYA were Ngozi J. Odumuko, Paschal Obinna Mbanefo, Greg Ekene Muonyililo, Obioma Okoye, Bede Okoye, Kingsley Ikebudu,

to mention but a few. The World Igbo Youth Assembly (WIYA) was formed to create a platform and a tool which the youths will use to constructively engage the leaders in all strata of leadership and governance, Public and Private sector. The Board of Trustees/Advisory Board included Prof. Patrick Okedinachi Utomi, Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah, Dr. Dozie Ikedife, Prof. Pita Ejiofor, Prof. Chika Moore, to mention but a few. The first WIYA conference was held in 2007 in Awka, Anambra State. Prior to the conference, Ngozi Odumuko and his team paid a courtesy call to the then Executive Governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Obi, who was highly and visibly excited about the birth of such organization and pledged the support of his administration to the World Igbo Youth Assembly (WIYA).

The first conference had in attendance dignitaries from all walks of life including Engr. Ajulu Uzodike (Chairman Cutix Cable Plc). Prof. Patrick Utomi, Dr. Dozie Ikedife, Chief Maja Umeh, Prof. Pita Ejiofor (Former Vice Chancellor Unizik), Prof. Chika Moore, to mention but a few.

The second conference was held at the Universal Hotel, Independence Layout Enugu in the year 2008. The event had in attendance His Excellency Chief Emeka Anyaoku as chairman, Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife, Prof. Pat. Utomi, Amb Ralph Uwechue, Dr. Dozie Ikedife, to mention but a few. The 3rd WIYA Conference was held in Lagos State at the NIIA on May 7th, 2010 with the theme, “The Labours of Our Heroes Past Shall Never Be in Vain.” The event was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Alex I. Ekwueme GCON (Former Vice President of Nigeria) and had in attendance

former heads of state, General Yakubu Gowon, General Muhammadu Buhari, Ms. Onyeka Onwenu, Prof. Pat. Utomi, Prof. Anya O. Anya, youth leaders from the North, South West, South South and Middle Belt.

The 4th WIYA Conference was held in November- 2010 at the Musa Yaradua Center, Abuja with the former chief justice of Nigeria, Justice Muhammad Uwais as Chairman, General IBN Haruna (the then Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum ACF), Prof. Pat Utomi, Amb. Ralph Uwechue (the then Ohanaeze Ndigbo President General) and a host of others. Generally, the WIYA Conference created a platform for Nigerian youths to interface with the likes of General Olusegun Obasanjo (Former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria), Hon. Justice Muhammed Uwais (Former Chief Justice of Nigeria), Dr. Alex Ekwueme GCON (Former Vice President of Nigeria, General Muhammadu Buhari (Former Head of State and presently President Federal Republic of Nigeria), Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife (first Civilian Executive Governor of Anambra State), Amb. Ralph Uwechue (Former Nigerian Ambassador and former President-General of Ohanaze Ndigbo), Mallam Nasir EL Rufai (former Honourable Minister of FCT and current Executive Governor of Kaduna State), His Eminence Sanusi Lamido Sanusi (former Governor Central Bank of Nigeria) Dr. Christopher Kolade (Renowned Entrepreneur), Chief Emeka Anyaoku CFR, GCVO, (Former Commonwealth Secretary General), Dr. Dozie Ikedife OON (Former President General Ohanaeze Ndigbo), General Yakubu Gowon (former Head of State), Prof. Pat Utomi, General TY Danjuma, Dr Fredrick

Fasehun, Chief Ayo Adebajo, Prof. Wole Soyinka, Chief Reuben Fasoranti, Chief Olu Falae, Prof. Anya O. Anya, Amb Godknows Igali, Chief Edwin Clark and others too numerous to mention.

One of the major achievements of the World Igbo Youth Assembly (WIYA) is the fact that a National Integrated Platform was birthed with leaders like Dr Chris Ekiyor, Alhaji Shetima Yerima, Dr. Hilary Olumese, Engr. Abdul Ogah, Dr Fredrick Faseun, Mr Obioma Okoye, Dr. Paschal Mbanefo, Mr Gregory Muonyililo, Ngozi Odumuko, Mr Wasiu Olayinka, Zukhi Nasir EL Rufai, and Mr Abiye Kuromiema. WIYA served as a bridge builder between Ndi Igbo and others, between the old brigade of leaders and emerging young leaders, between Nigerian youths and the global youths. Through WIYA, a lot of synergies were formed among interest groups and the ever present mutual suspicion between Ndi Igbo and other parts of Nigeria was heavily addressed.

With the tremendous success recorded by World Igbo Youth Assembly (WIYA), one would have felt that the organization will continue to be the vehicle of transformation and change in AlaIgbo and for NdiIgbo and others. Notwithstanding the feats of WIYA, the visionary Ngozi Odumuko was not satisfied. He felt WIYA was doing fine but was very limited in scope compared to his vision and desires for AlaIgbo. WIYA was totally youth driven with minimal, if any, input from the older generations. There was, therefore, the need for a body that will bring both the older and younger professionals in AlaIgbo together in one house. Such an organization would

provide a veritable platform for proffering strategic solutions to the myriad problems facing NdiIgbo.

It takes a strategic visionary to not only identify a vacuum in leadership but also take the critical steps towards filling such a vacuum. It takes the ensemble of a dreamer, a visionary and an optimist (meshed in one) to successfully ride the stormy sea that lies between conceiving such a group and actually having it in place. Injecting a breath of life into an idea requires time, patience, perseverance, tact, humility, persistence, tolerance, courage, consistency and, of course, funding. This is why anyone who desires instant gratification cannot be a good builder; anything built by such a person comes shallow, does not stand the test of time and is easily seen for what it is.

Conversely, when strategic visionaries build, they build for posterity; they build structures that last; they plant trees whose shade and fruits they may not enjoy; they build with patience and determination starting from a solid foundation that can support an amazing superstructure. As a strategic visionary, Ngozi Odumuko received the inspiration to start an organization that will serve as an intellectual warehouse for NdiIgbo and provide solutions to the myriads of challenges militating against our unity, peace and progress.

Our people say that ofu (otu) onyeadighi agba izu (one person cannot hold a discussion) and ofu (otu) osiadighiemeofia (ohia) (a tree does not make a forest). Ngozi Odumuko, therefore, brought together a set of young progressives to brainstorm on this new direction of creating a platform that will be a true bridge builder for NdiIgbo.

THE BIRTH OF NZUKO U MUNNA

The urge and desire to give birth to Nzuko Umunna began as part of Dr. Ngozi Odumuko's New Year resolution and agenda setting for the year 2017. The first meeting was held on the 14th day of January, 2017. The meeting had in attendance the following: Ngozi Odumuko, who chaired the meeting as the vision bearer, Mr. Paschal Mbanefo, Mr. Gregory Muonyililo and Mr. Obioma Okoye.

Rising from a fruitful and successful inaugural meeting, these young quartert professionals brimming with patriotic zeal and burning with incessant fervor conferred with their mentors and teachers for guidance, advice, and sense of direction. Some of the eminent personalities they consulted include: (1) Prof. Chika Moore -- who would later serve as Deputy Coordinator, Vice President, Acting President and an Ex Officio; (2) Prof. Emeka Ezeonu -- who would later serve as a member of the Executive Council, and Vice President (3) Prof. Pat.O. Utomi -- who would subsequently become the Chairman, Board of Trustees (BOT) of Nzuko Umunna.

One takeaway from this consultation which these young founders of Nzuko Umunna did is the role mentors, role models and personal heroes play in one's life. Presently, the value system in Nigeria has totally collapsed and Nigerian youths now see some dubious characters who flaunt illicit wealth on social media as role models. Recently, our own Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (CAN) in one of her Ted talks said, "Nigerian youths are starved of role models". This is highly pathetic. Another good point to note is that

immediately after consulting with the trio of Prof. Chika Moore, Prof Emeka Ezeonu and Prof. Pat Utomi, they all keyed in, and became members of Nzuko Umunna.

Interestingly, Nzuko Umunna was borne out of the burning desire of these young professionals to create a platform where everyone is free to contribute to the development and progress of AlaIgbo, to create a bridge builder organization that will mend fences where needed, help us to better understand and appreciate ourselves and our neighbours, and weld AlaIgbo into one indivisible and united entity. The name Nzuko Umunna was chosen to reflect the type of organization envisioned. The progenitors of Nzuko Umunna were desirous of creating an intellectual warehouse where solutions to challenges bedeviling our lives and existence are provided and a platform that serves as a voice in the wilderness, a wake-up team for NdiIgbo, a think tank for AlaIgbo and a resourceful organization that will always support the growth and development of NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo.

In the spirit of Igwebuiké (unity is strength), the founders of Nzuko Umunna opened the organization for resourceful NdiIgbo to join and contribute their own quota for the good of AlaIgbo. Among the first pioneer resourceful NdiIgbo to join Nzuko Umunna include:

1. Mr. Tony Nnadi
2. Chief NniaNwodo
3. Chief (now Senator) Dr. Ifeanyi Ubah
4. Rev Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
5. Dr. Sam Amadi

6. Dr. Austin Nweze
7. Prof. Barth Nnaji
8. Chief Patrick Chidolue
9. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
10. Barr. Benedict Ezeagu
11. Mrs. Ifeoma Chidolue Aleke
12. Dr. Chris Asoluka
13. Dr. Udentia O. Udentia
14. Mr. Ferdinand Agu
15. Mr. Innocent Chukwuma
16. Dr. Law Mefor
17. Mr. Oblong Nnadi
18. Mr. Emma Onyilofor
19. Dr. Eke Eke
20. Prof. Ilochi Okafor, SAN
21. Mrs. Ndidi Nwuneli
22. Mr. Reginald Ihejiahi
23. Mr. Emeka Onwuka
24. Barr. Ike C Ibe
25. Mr. Jasper Njoku
26. Mr. Chidi Omeje
27. Prof. Chukwuma Soludo
28. Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe
29. Mr. Collins Ugwu
30. Prof. Chidi Odinkalu
31. Chief Emeka Ugwu-Oju
32. Rev. Fr. Jude Chukwuneke
33. Mr. Chris O. Maduka
34. Mr. Ositadinma Agu
35. Chief Aloysius Ihezic
36. Okobo Paul Onyia

37. Mr. Clem Aguiyi
38. Dr. Chibuzo Oguoma
39. M.O. Igwe
40. Mr. Uchenna Mmadu
41. Barr. Chiadi Chidume
42. Dr. Nzeribe Ihekwaba
43. Dr. Bede Okoye
44. Amb. Obi Adim
45. Timothy Ofoegbu
46. Chief Mascot Kalu
47. Mr. Ifeanacho Okoye
48. Senator Orji Uzo Kalu
49. Rev. Fr. Dominic Igwe
50. Mrs. Ozioma Izuora
51. Prof. MOE Ene

Thereafter more pragmatic resourceful NdiIgbo have continued to join and Nzuko Umunna has continued to grow from strength to strength.

It is vital to note that Nzuko Umunna was duly registered as incorporated Trustees under Part C. of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (as amended). The members of the board of the Trustees (BOT) include; Prof. Pat. Utomi (Chairman), Dr. Ngozi Odumuko, Mr. Greg Muonyilio, etc. The beautiful Nzuko Umunna logo was designed by Mr. Chris O. Maduka and donated for the use of the organization. The logo embodies the roles and duties Nzuko Umunna is divinely endowed to play for NdiIgbo, AlaIgbo, Nigeria and globally. Within her six years of existence, Nzuko Umunna has carved a niche for herself. The organization even though still under

construction has done a litany of works, interventions and projects that shall continue to resonate with and sound in the hearts of many NdiIgbo. One expects that moving forward; Nzuko Umunna shall be fully entrenched and become a strong voice to reckon with globally.

The pioneer Nzuko Umunna Executive Council includes:

1. Dr. Ngozi J. Odumuko- Coordinator/Founder
2. Prof. Chika Moore - Deputy Coordinator
3. Dr. Paschal O. Mbanefo – Secretary
4. Mr. Obioma Okoye – Financial Secretary
5. Mr. Gregory Muonyililo – Treasurer
6. Prof. Emeka Ezeonu
7. Mrs. Ifeoma Chidolue Aleke

CHAPTER 3

AIMS, CORE VALUES, MISSION AND VISION

Every organization, even individual, must have a vision which generates a mission that propels their actions and guides their activities. Prior to setting up an organization, these concepts must be well spelt out to avoid chasing shadows, duplicating efforts, cherry picking, working at cross purposes, wasting effort and resources on unorganized and uncoordinated activities and inefficient role plays. When an organization starts with these proper foundations of defining who they are and the role they are to play, it is no doubt that such organization will be properly guided and will grow from strength to strength.

Prior to the establishment of Nzuko Umunna, the vision bearer Ngozi Odumuko together with his team sat down and

created the aims, objectives, core values, mission statement and vision of Nzuko Umunna. It is an aphorism that the reward for a job well done is more jobs. Over the last six years, Nzuko Umunna, being a dynamic and progressive organization, has had to take on more roles and to respond to duty calls by way of providing direction and/or critical intervention even in areas that were not initially in purview. Whether Nzuko Umunna has achieved or sustained her core values is left for posterity to judge.

The first aim of Nzuko Umunna is to become a *uniting group for the Igbo professionals both at home and in the diaspora*.¹ In this area, one may say that Nzuko Umunna has done well. One unique thing with Nzuko Umunna and which has become a source of envy and even jealousy towards Nzuko Umunna is that the Nzuko Umunna as an organization *houses and provides shelter to* leaders of many organizations, even organizations that have been in existence before the birth of Nzuko Umunna.

For example, in Nzuko Umunna, you will see the leaders of Ohanaeze NdiIgbo, Association of South East Town Unions (ASETU), World Igbo Congress (WIC), Igbo Board of Deputies, AlaIgbo Development Foundation (ADF), to mention but a few.

In Nzuko Umunna, leaders of other organizations take pride to serve and play critical roles in her activities. In order

¹Nzuko Umunna Constitution Article one, 2017, sourced at about 4:15am on December 4, 2022.

to get the accurate number of Igbo professionals in Nigeria and in the Diaspora and to effectively organize them for the purpose of developing AlaIgbo, Nzuko Umunna in the year 2020 established the Nzuko Umunna Igbodum Database Committee. This Committee produced the Igbodum online Database for all Igbo Professionals. The Database is already gaining traction and will soon be a treasure trove that will earnestly help in improving AlaIgbo.

The second objective of establishing Nzuko Umunna is to *create an efficient platform that will bridge the gap in cooperation and partnership between the various Igbo groups*. Over the years, one of the problems militating against NdiIgbo, especially Igbo groups, is lack of cooperation, lack of partnerships, mutual suspicion, envy, jealousy, unnecessary competition, conflicting duplication of efforts, etc. Nzuko Umunna came up with the mandate of bridging the gap in communication, bringing everyone to the table of dialogue, settling critical disputes between individuals and groups, collaborating with other Igbo groups in organizing events and setting agenda for NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo. To the glory of God, one would boldly say that Nzuko Umunna has done well in this area. These interventions by Nzuko Umunna have helped in dousing the tension in AlaIgbo and reducing the unnecessary fight for supremacy or superiority between one Igbo group and another.

Recently, almost every Igbo group now devotes more energy in promoting AlaIgbo than in internal rivalry or fight against another group. To this end, it is trite to say that Nzuko Umunna has succeeded in redirecting the energy of many

Igbo groups to be more productive and geared towards peace and development in AlaIgbo.

The third is to be a *bridge builder that would ensure that NdiIgbo maintain a mutual and strong economic and political relationship with our regional allies*. To the eternal credit of Nzuko Umunna, Ndi Igbo had the memorable and historic, *Handshake Across the Niger* (HATN) and *Handshake Across Nigeria* (HAN), two projects that enabled Igbo leaders to interface with other regions, forge mutual understanding, create new pathways and establish viable working relationships.

Buoyed by the spectacular success of the *Handshake Across the Niger*, the following ambitious and hugely successful initiatives were undertaken, *Handshake Across Nigeria*, The Never Again Conference, The Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC), to mention but a few. All these heavy lifting projects embarked by Nzuko Umunna are bearing succulent fruits. For example, in over 60 years of Nigeria's independence, this is the first time, Nigerians are rooting for competence and merit in the kind of leader they desire to vote for in the 2023 Presidential election. Whether Nigerians succeed in this historic quest will be determined by the level of political consciousness of the followers and their ability to resist vote buying, rigging, bribery and corruption.

The fourth objective is to *be a platform that harnesses our abundant human resources in research and development for actionable economic, political and socio cultural plans for AlaIgbo and NdiIgbo*. From the beginning of the establishment of Nzuko Umunna, the urge to develop AlaIgbo has been pervading.

Through various committees, Nzuko Umunna has been able to produce wonderful working documents, powerful reports, research, and interventions that cut across political, cultural, socio-cultural, economic, agricultural, governmental structures, reducing cost of governance in AlaIgbo, providing a synergy template for all groups in AlaIgbo. In chapter four, we shall see a summary of some of these wonderful reports which speak volumes to the quality of Igbo professionals in Nzuko Umunna.

The last of the objectives of Nzuko Umunna is to *mobilize the requisite human, material and institutional resources to implement the set-out plans and strategies*. This is one area Nzuko Umunna has done well but not to the point of excellence. To set the record straight, Nzuko Umunna has achieved a lot of amazing and historic feats, even some that had been deemed impossible. However, when one goes through the very rich and resourceful reports submitted by various Nzuko Umunna committees, one will notice that there are so many very ambitious but realizable recommendations still in the cooler of inactivity, perhaps held by the force of inertia and begging for implementation. It is worthy to note that a good number of those recommendations which Nzuko Umunna could implement on her own are getting the needed actions and results. However, many recommendations which require the actions of the leaders in government, and some other Igbo leaders have not received the much-needed implementation attention. This is not a failure or weakness on the part of Nzuko Umunna; it is, unfortunately, a yawning weakness on the part of the Igbo leaders who have failed, refused, or neglected to accord these hugely beneficial

action plans suggested by Nzuko Umunna in their various reports and interventions any meaningful attention. This failure of implementing reforms is not just because the document emanated from Nzuko Umunna, it has been an age long practice of government in Nigeria. For example, State Governments in Nigeria sometimes set up committees, fund them and provide logistics; they submit their reports to the Executive Governor, and that will be the end of the committee. Some committees maybe lucky to “earn” a government whitepaper and then it ends there. No implementation. A classical example is the various EndSars Committees established by various States that have been abandoned. It is the hope of every onye Igbo that in no distant time, reports and ideas such as the ones generated by Nzuko Umunna should be implemented by the necessary and relevant authorities.

Moving to the area of Core values; they are, “the principles that you consider to be most important, and which affect all aspects of what you do”.⁴ A company's core values are the root values and beliefs which form the basis on which the organization and its employees operate. They ultimately serve as the “guiding light that steers the company's attitude and behaviours towards others”⁵

Core values are a necessity for both individuals and organizations. However, creating core values for oneself or an organization is one thing while ensuring due compliance with the core values is another. It is important to always

⁴ Longman Business Dictionary, Online version, sourced at www.idoconline.com sourced at about 10:23am, on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

⁵ Forbes.com, sourced at www.forbes.com, online version, at about 11:40am, on Tuesday, December 13, 2022.

ensure strict adherence to your core values.

The first core value of Nzuko Umunna is *to selflessly carry the burden of every Onye Igbo and Alaigbo*. This in essence means to show love and care to every Onye Igbo. This also means that the life of every Onye Igbo matters notwithstanding the creed, status, village, town, or state. Simply put, injury to one Onye Igbo is injury to Nzuko Umunna. On the other side, the achievement of every Onye Igbo is a blessing to Alaigbo which Nzuko Umunna is bound to champion and celebrate. In the course of delivery on her mandate, Nzuko Umunna has at various times intervened and supported indigent young men and women, old men and women too. Even the young inventors and young people doing extra ordinary things are often gifted with tokens and encouraged by members of Nzuko Umunna. The truth is that we as Ndi Igbo shall rise by lifting others in the spirit of “*Akuruo ulo*”, “*Igwebuike*”, “*Onyeaghananwanneya*”, “*Bumibuniibuanyidanda*”, “*Nwannedinma*”, “*Nku di namban'egherembanri*” and other beautiful ethos and core values that sustained our forebearers.

The second core value is *to enthrone peace, justice, good governance, and progress in Alaigbo*. Presently, Alaigbo and Ndiigbo are in search of peace, justice, good governance and progress. Though the method taken by various groups in search for a brighter and greater Alaigbo are different, the truth remains that every good Nwafo Igbo will not bring injustice, war, bad governance and retrogression to his or her community. It is also good to note that there are maladjusted bad eggs that create confusion in order to gain relevance. Nzuko Umunna in ensuring it delivers on this core values has most times led

from the front by engineering projects that will restore peace, enthrone justice, deliver good governance and bring progress to Ndi Igbo and AlaIgbo. Little wonder, the motto of Nzuko Umunna is, “Ya gazie ka AlaIgbo dimma”. Peace brings development. This is what Nzuko Umunna has been preaching over the years. NdiIgbo must first ensure that a peaceful homeland is the priority of all and sundry before seeking other things. Ndi Igbo must seek first the kingdom of peace, and every other thing shall be added unto Alaigbo. For example, NdiIgbo must rise to the occasion and speak with one voice to condemn the current insecurity and wanton killings ravaging parts of Alaigbo whether occasioned entirely by foreigners or some of our children are complicit. This is because no investor would like to invest in an area ravaged by chaos, insecurity and wanton carnage.

Generally, NdiIgbo are peace loving and hospitable people. Even where they live outside AlaIgbo, NdiIgbo have shown a deep sense of peace and a highly admired zeal for developing any area they find themselves in. These good values are core to the Igbo person. The recent issue of some non-state actors visiting mayhem and wanton carnage, creating deep crises, in AlaIgbo is alien to Igbo culture. Nzuko Umunna must be commended for the many background heavy lifting interventions the organization has done in stemming and reducing the menace of insecurity in the South East. Note must be taken that the issue of insecurity is a global challenge. In Nigeria, insecurity is everywhere and every region. The government and the people must therefore join hands to tackle this issue headlong.

The third core value is to be a platform *that ensures accountability*. Nzuko Umunna believes that our leaders owe us accountability and stewardship. Starting from Nzuko Umunna Leadership, every committee or executive member must always in the discharge of his or her role be guided by the principle of public accountability. Often, the executive and members of Nzuko Umunna call out those elected to serve us in government to show accountability. Sometimes, this act leads to misunderstanding and some feeling that Nzuko Umunna is becoming the “Police of accountability”. Many of these government leaders feel Nzuko Umunna is overstepping her boundaries. However, note must be taken that there are some of these leaders that see reason with Nzuko Umunna and even proceed to cooperate with the organization by stating the side of the government and rendering proper account of stewardship.

The friction that from time to time seems to rear its ugly head between those in government and Nzuko Umunna is caused by the fact that for many decades, leaders were not held accountable. Some people even deify and worship leaders in government. This made many of them to see themselves as people above corrections or reproach. For Nzuko Umunna, leadership is a trust and a call to serve. Therefore, leaders must be ready to be held accountable or be always ready to give account of stewardship. Nzuko Umunna over the years has provided a platform for leaders in government to directly listen to the yearnings and desires of the followers. This, Nzuko Umunna has done over the years without fear or favour.

The fourth core value of Nzuko Umunna is to be a *Think Tank and a warehouse of Igbo intellectuals*. A peep into the reports, interventions and various projects carried out by Nzuko Umunna will properly convince one that Nzuko Umunna is really a rare Think Tank and a coming together of Igbo intellectuals. Each passing day, every keen member of Nzuko Umunna must learn one or two things through the various discussions going on the Nzuko Umunna platform. Nzuko Umunna is alive on the issue of providing technical support to our leaders and the led pro bono. Nzuko Umunna is already serving as a think tank and working assiduously to be properly recognised by NdiIgbo to carry out these acts of thinking outside the box, diplomatic acts of bridge building, and executing projects that place NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo on a vintage and vantage position to bargain, to be mutually respected and to be rightfully granted presence in that table of dialogue and sharing of dividends of democracy as metameres, equal shareholders in the enterprise Nigeria.

The last but not the least of the Nzuko Umunna core values is to serve as *a voice for the voiceless and a platform where freedom is guaranteed*. Nzuko Umunna has, through various interventions, promoted the voice of the seemingly voiceless in Alaigbo. These acts have been felt in Ebonyi State when some indigenes were internally displaced as a result of the new Ebonyi State Airport under construction, in Enugu State where markets were closed down as a result of the expansion of the International Airport, in Enugu again where some youths were killed by some over zealous security operatives, in Abia State when heaps of dirt/refuse in Aba became unbearable, in Anambra when some groups

and none state actors threatened the democratic structure and championed no election in Anambra, to mention but a few. Within Nzuko Umunna platform, just like in a typical Umunna gathering in AlaIgbo, everyone no matter your status is allowed to air his or her opinion without fear or favour. Offensive words are totally condemned when used and the Nzuko Umunna Disciplinary Committee serves as a watch dog, issuing warnings and sanctions where necessary. This is because freedom as we all know is never absolute; the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. One's freedom ends where another person's right begins. Therefore, mutual respect and honour must be ensured when one is holding his or her opinion. While divergent and even opposing views are encouraged (for robust interaction), they are to be canvassed with proper decorum; showing condescension to, debasing, disparaging or maligning another person's view(s) is not allowed. This is in line with the republican democratic tenets that define the Igbo; we zealously cherish and uphold them with a view to transferring them to the future generations of NdiIgbo.



Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across the Niger Committee courtesy visit to the Executive Governor of Imo State H.E. Owelle Rochas Okorocha. In no particular order: H.E. Owelle Rochas Okorocha, Dr. (now Senator) Ifeanyi Ubah, Amb. Humphrey Ojiako, Amb. Ozo Nwobu, Obioma Okoye, Mrs Pearl Ijeoma Okoro, Bede Okoye, Izuchukwu Adichie and others.



Courtesy visit to H.E. Mr. Peter Obi (then Executive Governor of Anambra State) in 2008 by WIYA Executives led by Ngozi Odumuko, Paschal Mbanefo, Obioma Okoye, Greg. Muonyililio and others.



Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across the Niger Committee courtesy visit to the Executive Governor of Enugu State H.E. Chief Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi. In no particular order: H.E. Chief Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, Dr. (now Senator) Ifeanyi Ubah, Obioma Okoye, Charles Ogbu, Mrs Bibiana Okereafor, Ken Onyekaoonu and Izuchukwu Adichie.



Nzuko Umunna Meeting with Gov. Hope to invite him for their Handshake Across Nigeria 2 event



CHAPTER

4

AT A GLANCE

In this chapter, attempt is made to highlight and summarise the key reports of some major committees set up by Nzuko Umunna. These reports have, in some cases, engineered powerful movements that have brought NdiIgbo indescribable joy and progress. For example, the Nzuko Umunna Bridge Builders Committee gave birth to the famous Handshake Across the Niger, a project which was widely welcomed by the South West Leaders and roundly appreciated by NdiIgbo.

Within a short period of six years of its existence, Nzuko Umunna has come up with a plethora of projects, committee reports, interventions and heavy lifting done in the interest of Alaigbo. It would be impractical to seek to publish the full reports of all the activities and intervention

projects Nzuko Umunna has embarked on these short six years. Therefore, only executive summaries of the key reports/findings of some major committees will be presented here. The detailed and comprehensive reports of all the activities and interventions are available at the Nzuko Umunna secretariat and may soon be available online via the Nzuko Umunna website; researchers, historians, administrators, various cadres of leaders, etc will find it a treasure trove.

Before we proceed, here are the list of committee and intervention projects we selected:

1. Nzuko Umunna Bridge Builders Committee.
2. Nzuko Umunna Committee on Economic Development of Alaigbo.
3. Nzuko Umunna Presentation recommended key strategic priorities for Abia State, Anambra State, Ebonyi State, Enugu State and Imo State.
4. Nzuko Umunna Political Committee Report.
5. Nzuko Umunna Socio cultural Reorientation Committee Report.
6. Nzuko Umunna Restructuring E- Debate.
7. Nzuko Umunna Narrative Committee.
8. Handshake Across Nigeria Committee.
9. Nzuko Umunna Ndigbo Database Committee report.
10. Nzuko Umunna International Outreach Committee.
11. Nzuko Umunna Legal Committee.
12. Nzuko Umunna Legal Defense Fund.
13. Nzuko Umunna Strategy Committee Report.
14. Nzuko Umunna USA Sub Committee.
15. Nzuko Umunna Structure Review Committee.

16. Nzuko Umunna 50 years Biafra Remembrance Never Again Conference 1&2
17. Nzuko Umunna Akanu Ibiam International Airport Rehabilitation Intervention Committee.
18. Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team for the Release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.
19. Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team for the Resolution of the Conflict between Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and the President-General Ohanaeze NdiIgbo Chief Nnia Nwodo.
20. Nzuko Umunna Tell our Story Committee.
21. Nzuko Umunna Committee report on Reconciliation Between Chief Chekwas Okorie and Chief Victor Umeh.
22. Nzuko Umunna Delegation to the Expanded South East Governors Forum Meeting on the Rehabilitation of Enugu Airport.
23. Nzuko Umunna Airport Rehabilitation Intervention.
24. Nzuko Umunna Igboezue Leadership Retreat Planning Committee.
25. Nzuko Umunna Quo Vadis Committee Report on Igbo Position -- Self Determination, Restructuring and Presidency Project.
26. Nzuko Umunna Delegation on Igbo Position Organized by Ohanaeze NdiIgbo in 2018.
27. Nzuko Umunna Report on Post End Sars Committee that Halted the Destruction of Property of NdiIgbo Across Nigeria.
28. Nzuko Umunna Fund Mobilization Team for the Funding of an Igbo First class Law Graduate from Obafemi Awolowo University into Nigeria Law School.

29. Nzuko Umunna Legal Defense Team Against the Killing of Igbo Youths at Emene, Enugu State in 2020.
30. Nzuko Umunna Representative Report on the visit of the South East Leaders to President Buhari on the issue of releasing funds for the completion of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport October 14, 2019.
31. Nzuko Umunna Independent Investigation Panel Report on the Breach of trust between IPOB and Chief Nnia Nwodo President-General Ohanaeze NdiIgbo.
32. Nzuko Umunna Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC) Committee.
33. Nzuko Umunna Political Action Committee (PAC) for the 2023 election.
34. Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team for the calling off of election Boycott of the Anambra 2021 Gubernatorial Elections.
35. Nzuko Umunna Investigation Team on the level of Dirt/Refuse in Aba, Abia State.
36. Nzuko Umunna Investigation Team on the Present Condition of the Displaced Persons in Ebonyi State as a result of Ebonyi State Airport Land Acquisition.
37. Nzuko Umunna Situation Room Committee.
38. Nzuko Umunna Town Hall Meeting for Ohanaeze Ndigbo Presidential Candidates.
39. Nzuko Umunna PVC Mobilization and Collection Committee.
40. Nzuko Umunna Committee Report on the Position of Ndigbo on the Review of the 1999 Constitution

NZUKO UMUNNA BRIDGE BUILDERS COMMITTEE

Interestingly, one of the major areas Nzuko Umunna scored a hatrick is in the area of building bridges of friendship, oneness, unity of purpose and being united in achieving a common goal. Majority of the works embarked on by Nzuko Umunna are aimed at achieving peace, progress, and common good of the common man. Nzuko Umunna believes that the bridges of oneness accelerate development, pull down age long barriers of mutual suspicion, quicken the speed of progress and strengthen the wheel of equity, equality, justice, peace and unity.

The Nzuko Umunna Bridge Builders Committee had the following terms of reference: To restore confidence, engineer cooperation and promote unity of purpose and activities in AlaIgbo and between NdiIgbo and other groups in the following areas: Building internal local bridges, building bridges with our immediate neighbours in the South South, Media bridges, Bridges across the nation and international bridges with civil societies. The Committee held series of online meetings and a first physical meeting on Sunday 4th day of June 2017. The Committee recognized that for Nzuko Umunna to build local (internal) bridges, the organization should concentrate on the following:

- (a) Building a consensus on goals, aspirations, and methodologies of reaching them.
- (b) Unifying the various Igbo organizations under one umbrella.
- © Encouraging the various Igbo organizations to flourish but to buy into (a) above.

The Committee, after due consideration of their terms of reference, recommended as follows:

1. Nzuko Umunna should vigorously and speedily drive the process of building consensus on goals, aspirations and strategies among Igbo groups; Therefore, Nzuko Umunna should take on, without hesitation, the role of a bridge builder in AlaIgbo.
2. To properly position itself as a notable and trustworthy Think Tank, Nzuko Umunna should focus on providing strategic and ideas-driven solutions to critical problems confronting NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo.
3. Nzuko Umunna should vigorously pursue consultations with Ohanaeze NdiIgbo and other groups.
4. Nzuko Umunna should drive the process of building the much needed new cordial relationship with our neighbours especially in the major areas of interest.
5. NdiIgbo should tell their stories highlighting especially the Igbo entrepreneurial spirits, hospitality, integrity, and so on.
6. Nzuko Umunna should facilitate the commencement of the building of bridges of friendship across the country and international community.
7. Nzuko Umunna should provide platform for constant South East/South South Youth dialogue and interaction.
8. Nzuko Umunna should liaise with our elected representatives on the area of collaborative efforts with elected representatives from other regions especially on matters like restructuring, etc.
9. Nzuko Umunna should advise the President General of

Ohanaeze Ndigbo to embark on regular media visits to and interviews with both local and international media outlets.

NZUKO UMUNNA COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALAIGBO

Economic Development of Alaigbo is a topic that has gained traction and currency in recent times. The think home philosophy entails that every Onye Igbo must always remember that East or West Home is the best. To develop our community and make our home worth it, we must think beyond gigantic and well appointed personal edifices. It is great to have those, but community development entails much more. The concept of the Think Home Philosophy or “AkuRuo Ulo” means that every Onye Igbo must endeavour to establish a branch or even the headquarters of his or her business or organization in AlaIgbo; what may be termed the “Nnewi model”. It entails that a percentage of one's wealth or proceeds from one's talent ad skills must be utilized in promoting the home environment through employment opportunities and sundry for one's people.

In its desire to contribute meaningfully to the economic development of Alaigbo, Nzuko Umunna created a Committee on Economic Development of Alaigbo on 30th day of January 2017. The Nzuko Umunna Agenda Committee whilst listing the terms of reference for this Committee noted that, “contributions should focus on developing a cascade, a tessellation, of executable action plans that will lead to the holistic development of Alaigbo”. Thus, the Committee was invited to brainstorm and come

up with practical solutions to or action plans on:

1. How do we emplace a robust economic martial plan for AlaIgbo?.
2. How do we put forth an economic blueprint that will enable AlaIgbo achieve greater economic cohesion and integration?.
3. Promotion of the inherent entrepreneurial spirit or drive in us; particularly in the youths.
4. Development and sustenance of the startup potentials in our people.
5. Plan for sustainability and sufficiency in efficient food production and related industries.
6. Plan for getting on the technology (information) super highway.
7. Strategy for growing and sustaining agro-allied and related industries.
8. Strategy for growing and sustaining a robust tourism and hospitality industry.
9. Strategy for growing and sustaining the alternative (green) energy sources (going solar and beyond) industry in tandem with the development in the advanced economies.”⁶

The Committee presented their report in three parts. The first part was the explanatory note. The second was the main report. The third part of the report consisted of annexures which included the sources and other reference materials that served as veritable tools in the course of preparing the report.

The Committee noted that there have been various

⁶Terms of reference by Nzuko Umunna Agenda Committee to committee on Economic Development of AlaIgbo. Sourced from Nzuko Umunna Archive on November 25, 2022 at about 4:15pm

economic agenda produced by various Igbo groups such as SENEK, SENDEF, Aka Ikenga, ADF, to mention but a few. The Committee was impressed with these economic blue prints and therefore felt that AlaIgbo would have been better if these documents had been implemented or at least married into one and endorsed by the South East Governors as a joint working document. In its wisdom, therefore, the Committee saw no need embarking on a duplication of agenda or birthing a new economic blue print. Thus, it focused its attention on ways of harnessing all these wonderful economic blue prints and fusing them into one functional document. The Committee then came up with the idea of an Inter Governmental Coordinating Agency (IGCA), to be adopted by the five South East Governments and Ohanaeze NdiIgbo, and which will be the body that will drive the foundation, the trade offs and consensus building needed for a comprehensive, realistic and actionable blue print. It is through the agency that the State Governments and People of the Zone will take full ownership of the agenda for the economic development of AlaIgbo. Without this or a similar mechanism, all attempts or prescriptions for rapid development of Alaigbo will remain largely academic, if not a mirage.⁷

The structure of the *Inter Governmental Coordinating Agency* (IGCA) provided roles to be played by governments, Ohanaeze NdiIgbo, various Chambers of commerce and other groups. The IGCA was designed to be properly composed. For example, the Commissioner for Economic

⁷ Nzuko Umunna *Economic Development of Alaigbo report*, page 1 of 20 (unpublished report).

Planning in each State in the South East will be a member; Ohanaeze NdiIgbo will nominate some members into the IGCA too. Generally, the structure, the duties and roles, and the tenure of members of the IGCA were clearly spelt out. To help the work of the Inter Governmental Coordinating Agency (IGCA), the Committee designed A Development Agenda for the South East (DASE) 2060. The idea of DASE is to design a 50 year development plan for the South East the implementation of which the IGCA will drive with full participation of critical stakeholders from the conception plan, the compilation of the initial drafts and the production of the final documents. This kind of collaboration, it was felt, will guarantee ownership by the critical stakeholders and provide the needed enabling environment for the smooth takeoff and running.

The Committee further designed the South East Business Council (SEBC) which is to serve as a coordination centre for South East businesses where any prospective investor can obtain accurate and relevant information about the type of business of interest including tax holidays and available funding options.

The Committee harped on the need for the South East Governors to team up for regional projects like ports, railway, security, etc. While recognizing the various efforts of the economic team of each State to fashion out a functional economic environment in the State, the Committee felt that there is a compelling need to have a South East Economic platform owned by the State governments and Ohanaeze NdiIgbo together with Think Tanks like Nzuko Umunna

and others. This will greatly facilitate seamless regional development and security, and more effective regional bargain.

To back up their research and report, the Committee attached annexure of sources and reference materials because “It is hoped that the annexures will enhance the authoritative referral capacity of Nzuko Umunna as a robust assemblage of professionals dedicated to the advancement of the Igbo Nation”⁸.

NZUKO UMUNNA PRESENTATION ON RECOMMENDED STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR ABIA, ANAMBERRA, EBONYI, ENUGU AND IMO STATES

Setting the right priorities for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bringing dividends of democracy to the citizen is a task every elected leader must undertake in the course of leadership. The basic essence of governance is the welfare and protection of the lives and property of the citizens. Any Leader who cannot guarantee the welfare and protection of his people has failed as a leader. The most honourable thing for such a Leader is to tender his resignation letter.

Owing to long years of maladministration, misgovernance, corrupt leadership and lack of proper governance ethics, anyone coming into governance position is faced with a plethora of issues stridently begging for attention and resources to achieve optimum performance. To make an

⁸ *Draft Report of the Nzuko Umunna Economic Development of Alaigbo, Pg2 of 20 (unpublished report).*

appreciable impact, such a leader must create a scale of preference or prioritize the projects into a cascade of a short term, medium term and long term framework. Even the developed economies factor the short, medium and long term framework in economic planning and development. Proper prioritizing paves the way for effective and robust implementation.

Nzuko Umunna as a think tank unanimously agreed to assist the five South-East Governors in their onerous task of governing the people. To achieve this, Nzuko Umunna designed key strategic projects that will not only be beneficial to the government and people of the South-East but will also serve as enablers of other needful projects. The leadership of Nzuko Umunna raised a strong and high caliber delegation to the Executive Governors of Abia State His Excellency Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu, Anambra State His Excellency Dr. Willie M. Obiano, Ebonyi State His Excellency Engr. Dave Umahi, Enugu State His Excellency Rt Hon. Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi and Imo State His Excellency Rt. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha.

The aim of the visit was to formally interact with the Executive Governors in the South-East, share the vision and mission of Nzuko Umunna, ask for areas Nzuko Umunna can be of assistance to the government and most importantly present a copy of the Nzuko Umunna Key strategic priorities.

Instructively, the aim of presenting the Nzuko Umunna key strategic priorities is not to compel the various State

Governments to adopt the working document as a commandment cast on a stone. The aim is to create a working relationship between Nzuko Umunna and the various state Governments. This working relationship shall be in terms of providing ideas, technical support, strategic retreat and partnership that works for the greater good of NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo.

Meanwhile, the four recommended strategic points or areas of strategic priorities are: Infrastructural improvements (roads, electricity, water supply etc), Economic Development and Investment, Security and Justice and finally efficiency in administration. To drive home these wonderful priorities, Nzuko Umunna suggested ways of getting the job done which include but not limited to the following: Concentration on few strategic projects that has multiplier effect and huge impact, creating a workable synergy, promoting South East regional integration, constant peer review, strengthening areas of comparative advantage, need for constant evaluation and assessment, introduction of incentive, efficient monetary system, to mention but a few. The Nzuko Umunna Strategic Key Priorities noted the need for South East Governors to always identify areas they can co-operate and pool resources for the greater development of AlaIgbo. Typical of such an area of interest is Joint South-East Security Taskforce, Intelligence network, infrastructure and technology development, Joint alternative energy source and championing the Think Home Philosophy. For instance, as the Federal Government foot drags on the issue of a rail connection for the region, the Governors of the South East

can pull their resources together to start such long needed project. The Governors can even open the construction of a railway to investors under Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) or Public Private Partnership (PPP). The good news is that many successful Igbo entrepreneurs and investors are rearing to go with such projects. A key infrastructure like a railway helps in quickening the growth of business and development of an area.

Interestingly, one good takeaway from the visits to each of the South-East Governors is that they all admitted that they need this kind of intellectual exchange often. Some of the Executive Governors talked about mutual suspicion which exists amongst them and which, most times, prevents the achievement of a common goal and a united front. They generally commended Nzuko Umunna for the roles they have played and continued to play for NdiIgbo. The Executive Governors assured Nzuko Umunna of their continued support in any interventions they hope to play on behalf of NdiIgbo. Note must be taken that there were situations Nzuko Umunna had to go hard on each of the Executive Governors. The visits created opportunities for clarity and explanations. Nzuko Umunna made it clear to the Executive Governors that it is politically neutral, it is not an “errand boy” or “front” or “voice” of any leader, and its goal, its *raison d'être*, is to ensure peace and progress of Alaigbo.

NZUKO UMONNA POLITICAL COMMITTEE

By nature, the human being is a political animal. Politics shape the day to day activities of government and economy.

An aphorism has it that every politics is local. It therefore behoves every group of people to get their politics right within the milieu and context of their situation; this enables them to have the needed bargaining power. Politics is all about alignment and realignment, bridge building, consensus building, negotiation, and renegotiation, reaching out and canvassing for support, etc ideally with the aim of protecting and maximizing defined group and collective interests (In many cases, however, we see individual interests – which should ideally be matrixed in the collective interests – taking the front seat.). Politics is a game of strategies requiring pragmatic positioning, give and take, and lobbying to make an effective headway in putting forward a group's interest to take the prime seat of attention. Globally, power is not given, it is taken. A person or group that needs power must seek for political power and relevance and win the minds of the electorate. Sentiments do not take people to the seat of power. People, who desire political power must be ready to work for political power, win political power and retain political power.

As a think tank that proffers solution to the various issues militating against NdiIgbó, Nzuko Umunna thought of a political template that will be acceptable to every onyeigbo. This thought was given “life” with the creation of the Nzuko Umunna Political Committee. The Committee was asked to: Study the current political trends especially as they impact on NdiIgbó and AlaIgbó, suggest ways of strengthening the governance architecture of Igboland, proffer strategies for the active participation of NdiIgbó in national and transnational partisan politicking, examine the impact of our

rather poor engagement with Igbo cultural values, norms, ethos, ideologies, and social engineering on our political participation regionally and nationally.⁹

Mindful of the task given to it, the Committee fleshed out their terms of reference thus:

1. Do a comprehensive analysis of the current political and social situation in Nigeria and identify important trends that should drive and/or influence forward looking policy actions for NdiIgbo.
2. Examine in detail the various restructuring propositions and advice on the best steps forward for NdiIgbo in the near term.
3. Deriving from 2 above, determine the governance architecture and protocols NdiIgbo should seek to emplace in any emerging structural arrangement with a view to creating strong institutions.
4. Examine the issue of robust engagement in partisan politics by NdiIgbo. Should we go for a regional (Igbo dominated and controlled) political parties or should we go for broad based national political parties?. What key parameters should determine which political party that gets the support of NdiIgbo and what are our bargaining strengths and bragging rights in such a situation?¹⁰.
5. Identify those mannerisms and behavioural patterns, the deportment, of NdiIgbo that tend to demarket and those that tend to promote Igbo interests.
6. Develop Strategies for social re-engineering of AlaIgbo

⁹Terms of Reference Created by Nzuko Umunna Agenda Committee for the Nzuko Umunna Political Committee

¹⁰Enlarged Terms of Reference by Nzuko Umunna Political Committee (Unpublished report)

for the purpose of building the egalitarian society of our dreams.

7. Identify marketable ideologies or frames for creating a mass movement, mass appeal and mass buy-in for the achievement of identified goals/objectives of Igboland.
8. Develop a frame of political visions and consequential missions for NdiIgbo in the near, medium and long terms.
9. Develop alternative scenarios or “what if” scenarios that will guide our efforts toward our desired destinations.
10. Determine how to disseminate critical ideas arising from the work of Nzuko Umunna to a broad spectrum of our people for relevant application.

With the above expanded terms of reference, the Committee brainstormed, held series of meetings, and thereafter made numerous recommendations which include:

1. The existential threat to NdiIgbo first highlights the need for an intelligence network that will always collect relevant intelligence that will help in protecting the lives and property of NdiIgbo all over the country and in the diaspora to forestall the situation where NdiIgbo become sacrificial lambs whenever violent conflict erupts.
2. There is the need to establish and run an elaborate and very well organized Igbo Think Tank that will create Igbo information systems and be in a position to execute actionable plans. The Think Tank needs to run a full time staff.
3. Since NdiIgbo are known for Njepu (migrant nature)

and become successful in whatever host community they find themselves, it is important to conduct a study on how we can co-exist harmoniously in such communities without sticking out as sure butts for jealousy, hatred and dark envy (maybe through in-your-face flaunting of enterprise and success) and thus routinely becoming the victims of any violence in those communities. For instance, a policy/practice could be developed whereby NdiIgbo in any community come together to engage in social responsibility projects that will endear them to the local community.

4. Ohanaeze NdiIgbo needs to support all pressure groups against the nefarious activities of Fulani herdsmen in demanding that nomadic grazing be stopped forthwith and replaced with ranching which is a globally accepted way of trading in animals.
5. NdiIgbo should be consistent in and supportive of the views of progressive Nigerians agitating for a restructured Nigeria.
6. Setting up a realistic agenda for NdiIgbo with actionable points, measurable outcomes and timelines should be a major challenge for Ohanaeze NdiIgbo and all its affiliate Igbo groups.
7. While there are many good reasons for and against Biafra, agitating for it should only be a last ditch option if the restructuring proposition fails.
8. A committee needs to be set up to integrate the work of Nzuko Umunna Economic Development of Alaigbo Committee, the SENEK document, Alaigbo Development Foundation (ADF) initiatives, presentation made at the Enugu State Oganiru

Investment Summit, the ideas of the League of Anambra Professionals (LAP) and the development plans of all South East State Governments to distill ideas that can be used for a strategy document for South East Economic Integration.

9. There is the need for massive public enlightenment about credible electoral process in AlaIgbo and the power of the vote. Nzuko Umunna needs to work with Ohanaeze NdiIgbo to mount the desired public enlightenment campaigns.
10. The choice as to which party NdiIgbo should join in a Presidential system should be left to the individual. We should nevertheless aim to be strategic in the major national parties.
11. Mobilize the church and town unions to re-orientate our youths towards imbibing better cultural values.¹¹

The Nzuko Umunna Political Committee submitted their report on the 30th day of March 2017. What strikes clearly here is that the recommendations of the Nzuko Umunna Political Committee is still vital, germane and needs full implementation by all the relevant authorities or groups mentioned in the committee report. The full report of the Nzuko Umunna Political Committee is available through the Nzuko Umunna Secretariat.

NZUKO UMUNNA SOCIOCULTURAL REORIENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Concerned about the decline in our socio-cultural ethos,

¹¹*Nzuko Umunna Political Committee recommendation (unpublished report)*

norms and value system, Nzuko Umunna decided to set up a committee that will suggest ways of improving our acceptance of and compliance with core Igbo ethics, norms and values. To set up this committee, there was need to critically pick out NdiIgbo from diverse fields of life and experiences who can weave old and fresh ideas into an intriguing but actionable mosaic.

If there is any issue NdiIgbo needed to tackle, it is the issue of socio-cultural re-orientation of NdiIgbo especially the younger generation. The incidence of low male enrolment in schools, get-rich-quick syndrome and hard substance abuse is on the rise among the Igbo youths. Presently, young boys and girls within the age of 15 and 20 years are no longer interested in education or even patient enough to learn a new skill or trade, or serve as an apprentice and get settled after some years. The highly cherished “*igbaboi*” Igbo apprenticeship system is dying. The current fad is that a 15 year old boy is focused on how to visit a *dibia* to procure the infamous *okeite* or use his manhood or another person, even a parent or sibling, for money rituals and he will become super rich overnight. Even our traditional administrative system is being bastardised; chieftaincy titles are no longer conferred to celebrate worthy achievements and contributions to society, they are now for sale to the highest bidder!. The sacrosanctity of the blood ad relationships is no longer respected. The rate of value disconnect not just among our youths but even among the elders is extremely disturbing. Traditional stools are now subjects of deep crises in our communities. Traditional titles have lost their respect and values because even people who openly commit *nso-ani*

in their quest for wealth are regaled with these titles because of their ill-gotten wealth. The need to provide actionable solutions to this ugly trend was why Nzuko Umunna created this Committee.

Immediately the Committee was established, they embarked on a holistic and well thought out plan that will assist AlaIgbo in rebuilding the socio cultural value system of NdiIgbo. The Committee began by creating a vision, mission and strategic objectives. These roadmaps were to serve as pointers in the course of their work.

The Committee sought ways of reinvigorating the much cherished Igbo ethos, norms and values; how to make these resonate with the younger generations, how to properly situate these values in the milieu of this digital age. The Committee was persuaded that a good starting point is the family because we need these values to be inculcated in the younger generation from onset, from babyhood. The Committee therefore suggested a proper definition of Igboness; what does being onye Igbo, nwaafor Igbo, entail. Those driving principles and ethos of *onyeaghananwanneya, o nuruubenwanneagbakwalaoso, ibuanyidanda, anyukooamirionu o gbaaufufu, eziafa ka ego, aka ajaajanaebuteonummanummanu, nwaezeadiefunamba, isiatonamba, akuruo ulo, umunna nwezuoku, so mu adina*, etc that gingered the Igbo society and enabled them achieve great feats in all endeavours of life need to be reawakened and even reinvented; they need to be brought prominently and alluringly into the digital age. Thus, the Committee suggested a mosaic of action plans cutting across the

educational curriculum and content, entertainment and literature, socio-economy and socio-politics. For instance, the Nollywood would be encouraged and partnered with to feature contents that promote these values as the fad; the literature will feature contents that also promote these values as what define *onye Igbo*. Language is a key aspect of culture. Therefore any socio-cultural re-orientation or revitalization programme that does not give prominence to language cannot record much success. Thus, re-awakening interest in and promotion of Igbo Language is key. The Committee therefore suggested ways of encouraging families to communicate in the Igbo language as part of their routine, to make our children appreciate, speak and write the Igbo language. Some of the ways to achieve this include: (i) awarding full scholarship to any *onye Igbo* pursuing a course of study in Igbo Language and Culture in our tertiary institutions, (ii) endowing chairs in any Department of Igbo Language and Culture and generally encouraging research and scholarship on Igbo studies, (iii) creating funds that support the production and readership of well written Igbo literature cutting across all educational and entertainment levels. Further more, there should be series of well planned and targeted events and projects geared towards value change and re-orientation. The series of event and projects could be found in the Nzuko Umunna socio cultural re-orientation Committee report. Some other concepts which the committee raised are as follows: Using the education institutions, media, the family, community/traditional institution and religious body to entrench the training and capacity building and sensitization of Ndi Igbo, making traditional institutions more responsive, respectable and

honourable and monitoring the implementation and impact of actions taken under these initiatives.¹²

One striking point about the committee is the way and manner they approached the task and terms of reference assigned to them. The committee must have made tremendous research and intelligence gathering before drafting their report. The committee did justice to the onerous task entrusted to their care and conducted thorough diagnosis and finally prescribed the needed strategies for tackling head on the socio-cultural re-orientation of NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo.

NZUKO UMUNNA QUO VADIS (RESTRUCTURING, SELF DETERMINATION AND IGBO PRESIDENCY) E-DEBATE

When the discussion for *restructuring* became a burning issue of discuss in Nigeria, Nzuko Umunna was not left out; many were in support and many others were not in support of the call for restructuring of Nigeria. Typical of such a gathering of professionals and intellectuals, there were many shades of opinion on what should be the position and pursuit of NdiIgbo in the Nigerian milieu. To bring harmony into what was beginning to look like a cacophony, the NU Leadership decided to institute an Igbo Quo Vadis Debate. *Quo Vadis* is Latin for *where are you going to?*

Proponents of restructuring were of the view that too much power is vested on the centre and there was the need to

¹²*Recommendation of the Nzuko Umunna Socio-cultural and Reorientation Committee (unpublished report).*

unbundle the present unwieldy federal system of governance. Aside that, the proponents of restructuring also believed that restructuring will engender true federalism, positive competition, sense of belonging, growth in economy and equal participation.

Another school of thought was of the opinion that the *marriage* of 1914 that fused different ethnic nationalities into one country called Nigeria was done in error and solely for the selfish administrative cum economic interests of the colonial masters; therefore, Nigeria stood on a faulty foundation. This school of thought felt that restructuring is not the solution because when the foundation is faulty, no amount of repairs or tinkering will make the house stand; the house needs to be pulled down. For members of this school of thought, the *marriage* of 1914 has expired; the solution lies in self determination -- allowing the various constituents to go their separate ways; groups that desire and agree can aggregate and form an entity based on their agreed terms and conditions.

A third school of thought believes that the major problem is the marginalization of NdiIgbo (real and imagined) in the Nigerian milieu and therefore, a sure pathway for full integration is Igbo Presidency, a Nigerian president of Igbo extraction, to assuage the feeling of alienation, marginalization and not being wanted or trusted in the Nigerian milieu. For this school of thought, producing a Nigerian president of Igbo extraction is the needed basic panacea and should therefore be the focus of all agitations by any Igbo pressure group.

Nzuko Umunna, as a proactive and responsible Think Tank, was convinced that there was the need to hold an e-debate on the burning issues of restructuring, Presidency, and self determination; to exhaustively query each of these propositions and thus be in a position to properly articulate and provide a workable direction. The e-debate was designed to give members ample opportunity to properly engage, air their views and objectively critique or query any views put forward for or against the topic of the debate.

Interestingly, the robust discussions threw up a fourth school of thought; those who saw relevance and value in each of these propositions and would rather try to weave all into a well sequenced mosaic instead of an either-or stand.

Ostensibly, the discussants agreed that *restructuring, qua restructuring, is and should be an ongoing global and multi-dimensional occurrence.*¹³ The first political restructuring that altered the natural evolutionary and developmental trajectories of ethnic nationalities occurred in 1914. Since then there has been a series of constitutional conferences aimed at restructuring the governance architecture and administrative systems have been held. Therefore, since Nigeria is an artificial human creation, not a natural geography, restructuring (in various shades and levels) has to be a fact of our lives. That there is an operational constitution does not vitiate the need for restructuring. Building democratic citizenship out of a just constitutional order should be the aim of any restructuring.¹⁴

¹³Report of the Nzuko Umunna Restructuring Self Determination and Igbo Presidency E-Debate. Pg – and pg (unpublished report).

Proponents of restructuring argue that given the venturesome nature of NdiIgbo; how we easily migrate to other places and establish thriving businesses and high value investments in those places, a well restructured Nigeria is more in the interest of NdiIgbo. Igbo investment is scattered all over Nigeria; *it is a known fact that more NdiIgbo, over 12 million of them, live in various parts of the country other than their ancestral home in the South East and South South zones.*¹⁵ Thus, a properly restructured Nigeria along the lines of true federalism will enable the much needed level and larger playing ground as equal stakeholders for them.

NdiIgbo, given their republican background, have always been worried about the over centralization of power in the Nigerian setting. Hence, the devolution and decentralization of power as encapsulated in the Aburi Accord of 1967 resonated with them.

Thus, the key drivers or fuellers of the call for restructuring can be identified as the following challenges:

- Lack of balance, equality and equity in the partitioning and structuring of the territory.
- The marginalization of Igbo in appointments, allocation of government institutions, resources and services in the South East.
- Unwieldy governance architecture; the confusing federation arrangement and over centralization of power.
- Lingered and unhealed issue of Biafra, restructuring.

It was further argued that the self determination route was not a constitutional straightforward one; it has to be contrived and sourced from international laws and protocols making it more tortuous. Further, pursuing self determination as a unilateral Igbo project could lead to isolation which is not a good strategy. On the other hand, a Nigerian president of Igbo extraction – though quite achievable – is not a guaranteed panacea because a scoundrel of an Igbo person may well be foisted as one and we would end up in a sorrier state. Thus, proper restructuring of the polity is a surer pursuit. *Self determination should be used as a bargaining tool to bring about proper restructuring* and a dialectical possibility but not pursued as a transcendental imperative.

In conclusion, the various views could be harmonized into the following: restructuring, properly appreciated, subsumes the other two especially if one views restructuring as a straight line starting from the where we are now and ending in self-determination; points on this line represent extents and levels of restructuring which include presidency of Igbo extraction, federating at the six geo-political zones level, fiscal federalism, devolution of powers, etc. The more strategic approach for NdiIgbo would be *to articulate the minimal level and extent of restructuring acceptable to us and then push for restructuring well beyond this point using self determination as a bargaining tool*. It was therefore agreed that the minimal level of restructuring acceptable to us must have the following:

- federating units shall be the six geo-political zones and a governance structure reflecting same with each zone being free to exploit its natural and sundry resources and pay tax to the center.

- state and local government creation and sustenance shall be the responsibility of the federating units
- true fiscal federalism.
- devolution of powers to the units.
- two or more units can agree to go into closer cooperation in trade, economy, etc.

One critical takeaway from this *quo vadis* debate is the idea of internal restructuring within NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo. Thus, the following points were unanimously agreed on as providing the more prominent *quo vadis* for NdiIgbo:

1. Integrated development of AlaIgbo should be vigorously pursued.
2. Credible leadership in AlaIgbo is crucial.
3. Strong Coordination in the articulation & implementation of the Igbo agenda.
4. Generation of strong research and intelligence unit.
5. Massive Sensitization on development and supporting development of AlaIgbo.
6. Continued Advocacy on restructuring in Nigeria.
7. Peace, Unity and Establishment of a unified front for South East geopolitical zone and, be extension, AlaIgbo.
8. Establishment of Igbo Powered Ndigbo Intervention team.¹⁴

The debates were held in February and October 2017 and the agreed position as captured above was presented on the 14th of March 2018 to the Leadership of Ohanaeze

¹⁴*Nzuko Umunna Igbo Quo Vadis E- Debate, page 3 (unpublished report).*

NdiIgbo to assist in the articulation of the position of NdiIgbo on Restructuring.

NZUKO UMUNNA NEW NARRATIVE COMMITTEE

It is a fact that if you do not tell your story another person will do it for you; and the person may tell it in a manner you won't appreciate because such a person may not be fully seized of the facts and nuances of what transpired. Therefore, the proper narrative of NdiIgbo should be done by NdiIgbo; allowing others to tell our story for us is a very dangerous way to go. Willy nilly, they will begin to dictate what our thought patterns, ethics and values, way of live, reaction to issues, interaction with our neighbours, our socio-politics, etc should be shaped and couched!. Over the years, many views and belief systems, that were merely contrived through creative imaginations or even outright mischief, have been projected to be the way NdiIgbo live and interact with one another or their neighbours and many of these portrayals are wrong.

Evidently, most of these stories and belief systems that have now been mainstreamed were creatively woven by minds that hate NdiIgbo, are envious of the Igbo entrepreneurial spirit, bent on mischief, etc or misled by some of the above and planted in the mainstream media, books, journals, to mention but a few. The aim of such work is to create hatred for NdiIgbo, blackmail the entire Igbo race, sow seed of acrimony among NdiIgbo, create mutual suspicion between NdiIgbo and their neighbours, demarket the Igbo brand and generally destroy any goodwill (social, political, economic,

religious, etc) of NdiIgbo. This very negative mainstreaming has the effect of NdiIgbo being the victims, blame takers and brunt bearers of any public uprising even when they are very remote from the actual cause of the public angst.

Our venturesome disposition finds expression in our njepu spirit; the average Igbo person believes in seeking out new opportunities and settling wherever this opportunity presents, thus we are very migratory. As a natural wealth creator, the average Igbo person is literally able to discern diamond where many see only rubbish. They believe that *ebeonye bi ka o naawachi*, meaning that wherever you live and ply your trade has become your home and you are duty bound to be a development agent in such a place. This is like an ethos to NdiIgbo. Thus, the onye Igbo who came into a community yesterday as a hapless stranger may by tomorrow be the go-to person for the supply of a much needed item and take front seat in organizing communal self-help projects. Hateful and mischievous minds will now weave a negative narrative of his greed and hunger for power. The can do and self sufficiency spirit of the average onye Igbo is portrayed as vaulting ambition and arrogance while the ability to laugh at vicissitudes is seen as boastfulness and boisterousness.

One African proverb says that *until the story of the hunt is told by the lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunters*.¹⁵ This is because the story of the hunt is being told by the hunter alone. Not being privy to what transpired in the forest, we

¹⁵ African Proverb "Until the story of the hunt is told by the lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter". This proverb is often written in various form and has no definite author.

are at the mercy of the hunters who regale us with what they want us to hear, we have not been gifted with the pleasure of hearing the other side of the story which will guarantee balance, fair hearing and the age long legal principal of *audi alteram partem*¹⁶ (hear or listen to the other side). This kind of situation is what our own revered author, storyteller and conversationalist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie called the danger of a *single story*.¹⁷

Owing to the numerous false stories and narrative about NdiIgbo, Nzuko Umunna set up the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Committee in 2017 with the mandate to raise ideas that will propel positive and true narratives about Ndi Igbo, their strength, their feats, their gifts, blessings and human frailty. The first physical meeting of the committee was held on Sunday 25th June 2017 at Ideas Centre, Mwanza Close of Abionyi Street Abuja Wuse 1, Abuja.

The Committee was given the following terms of reference:

1. Proffer ways to change the ugly narratives that are being peddled against NdiIgbo.
2. Identify the negative narratives and stereotypes against NdiIgbo.
3. Streamline the kind of narratives about NdiIgbo that should be promoted.
4. Determine strategies and approaches for disseminating the new narratives.

¹⁶ *Audi alteram partem* is a principal of fair hearing that ensures both parties in a dispute are given equal opportunity before the court.

¹⁷ Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in a TED talk dwelt on the dangers of a single story and how harmful and sentimental it is for one to access a person race or country by what you have read from another person without questioning or putting into scrutiny or hearing from the said person.

5. Provide a robust and workable template, timeline and road map for disseminating the new narrative.

The Committee began by identifying the negative narratives and stereotypes against Ndi Igbo. These include *The Igbo love Money, The Igbo hate themselves, The Igbo are selfish, The Igbo are rude, The Igbo are unaccommodating*, to mention but a few. The Committee noted that these narratives have taken root over time and have been promoted as aphorisms. Thus, for Ndi Igbo to shoot down such stereotype, there is the need to trace the source of these statements, analyse them and counter them with a well researched write-ups.

The Committee thus came up with a shopping list of the kind of narratives about Ndi Igbo and Ala Igbo that should be intentionally promoted and mainstreamed; they include

- The Igbo are the foremost nationalists in Nigeria.
- Ndi Igbo are interested in Justice, Fairness and equity.
- Ndi Igbo respect and insist on standards built on merit.
- The civil war was not a Biafra war but a Nigeria-Biafra war.
- The first Nigerian coup was not an Igbo Coup.

The Committee then proceeded to provide proper strategy and roadmap towards the actualization of the findings of the committee. To do this and achieve results, the committee felt the urgency of now and shared specifically roles to each member. some of these roles included: develop Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Series, establishment of Nzuko Umunna Narrative Committee Quick response team, provide sensitization, capacity building and other relevant

support, establish Nzuko Umunna New Narratives Creative Arts Sub Committee, establish the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Social Media Sub Committee, Establish the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Mainstream Media Sub Committee, establish the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Graphics, establish the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Mainstream Media Sub Committee, recommending mechanism to promote good environment for the new narratives to thrive within the Nzuko Umunna General platforms, Instituting platforms for disseminating/mainstreaming the new narratives amongst civil society organizations and development partners, establish the Nzuko Umunna Diaspora Sub Committee and Institute the Nzuko Umunna New Narrative Intelligence Team”¹⁸. These above mentioned roles were shared to each member of the committee. The committee member agreed that due to the nature of the terms of reference of the committee, there was need to co-opt more people as member of the committee. Few names were suggested and co-opted into the committee.

NZUKO UMUNNA HANSHAKE ACROSS THE NIGER HISTORIC EVENT

Part of the recommendations of the Nzuko Umunna Bridge Builders Committee was the need for Ndi Igbo to make alliances and friends with our neighbours, with the South, with Nigeria and with the global powers. This recommendation finds its footing in the Igbo saying, *OfuOsisiadighiemeofia* (a trees does not make a forest). For

¹⁸Nzuko Umunna New Narratives Committee Report, Page 2, page 3, (unpublished report).

NdiIgbo to be heard, for NdiIgbo to achieve their God given political position, NdiIgbo must reach out to others and form political alliances and alignment.

The leadership of Nzuko Umunna recognized the fact that implementation of reports/recommendations is one of the greatest problems we have in Nigeria. Many beautiful recommendations of some federal and state committees have been left gathering dusts on shelves. Today, we cry about the non-implementation of the Oputa Panel, Justice Niki Tobi Political Reform Conference, 2014 Constitutional Conference Reports, to mention but a few.

With the aim to create and build a new Alaigbo and by extension a new Nigeria, Africa, etc, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna under Ngozi J. Odumuko agreed that no recommendation by any Committee will be left unattended to. Immediately after the submission of the Report of the Nzuko Umunna Bridge Builders Committee, the Leadership of Nzuko Umunna announced the activation of the Handshake Across the Niger (HATN) Committee and provided them with the necessary terms of reference.

The Handshake Across the Niger event was borne out of the need to heal the wounds of the past, recreate the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the Yoruba and NdiIgbo, especially in the light of the scientifically established fact by the Global DNA study that we share a common origin, and celebrate the eternal bond of esprit de corps between General Aguiyi Ironsi and Lt. Col. Adekunle Fajuyi; a bond which even at the point of risking his life was

as solid as the rock of Gibraltar, end the era of mutual suspicion, and create room for mutual cooperation and finally build alliance that will make both regions speak with one voice.

The Nzuko Umunna Internal Committee later collapsed her structure into a joint central planning committee peopled by Yoruba and Igbo illustrious sons and daughters. The planning of this historic event had the blessings of the leadership of Ohanaeze NdiIgbo led by Chief Nnia Nwodo and Afenifere led by Prof. Banji Akintoye. Infact, Prof. Banji Akintoye was the leader of the Joint Igbo/Yoruba Planning Committee and Pastor Joe Attueyi was the Secretary. Other members of the Joint Planning Committee include: Prof. Pat. Utomi, Prof. Akinyemi Onigbinde, Mr. Yinka Odumakin and Dr. Ngozi Odumuko. Members of the Local Organising Committee of Handshake Across the Niger included: Pastor Joe Attueyi, Chief Ifeanyi Uba, Mr. Chris Maduka, Chiadi Chidume, Dr. Mrs. Uju Agomoh, Eugene O. Okonkwo, Chigozie Udogu, Dr. Sam Amadi, Ekene Muonyililio, Senator Iroegbu, Amb. Adichie Izuchukwu, Obioma Okoye, Emeka Nwadioke, Engr. Titus Ani, Ken Onyekaonwu, Ifeanyi Metu, Ifeoma F. Aleke, Bede Okoye, Olu Onyimadu, Prince Justice Faloye, Charles Ogbu, Prof. Chika Moore, Chief Mrs. Bola Doherty MFR, Paschal Obinna Mbanefo, Jude Ndukwe, Mrs Ijeoma P. Okoro, Senator Chris Anyanwu, Dr. Law Mefor, Mr. Chidi Omeje, Amb. Ozo Nwobu, Amb. Humphrey Orjiaka, Amb. Chudi Okafor, Mr. Emeka Nwadioke.

The Historic Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across the Niger

(HATN) event was held on the 11th day of January, 2018 at the Base Exclusive Lounge, Independence Layout, Enugu. Notably, both the Obi of Onitsha HRM. Obi Alfred Nnaemeka Achebe (Agbogidi) and the Ooni of Ife HRM. Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (Ojaja II) served as Royal Fathers of the day. It was historical as prominent Yoruba leaders, in solidarity with South South and Middle Belt Forum (including Southern Kaduna) leaders converged in Enugu the Eastern Capital to speak with one voice and celebrate the brotherhood the two ethnic nations share. The Handshake Across the Nigeria event destroyed and shattered the imaginary walls of mutual suspicion, cynicism, hatred, negative tribal sentiments and the likes. On a good note, the HATN introduced and ushered in mutual respect, cooperation, socio-cultural and political alliance, a renewed hope, new understanding, and the political will to take a united stand for restructuring, equity, justice, fairness and equal participation in Nigeria.

One of the first fruits/spin-offs of the Handshake Across the Niger event was the gathering of the Southern and Middle Belt leaders in Makurdi Benue State, Nigeria where they declared support for the good people of Middle Belt and agreed to harmoniously work and cooperate together in a search for a unified and equitable Nigeria where peace and justice shall reign. Several other related gatherings have held in the wake of the Makurdi declaration.

Of a truth, the Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across the Niger (HATN) event gave birth to the unity of purpose which we can see among leading ethnic associations like

Ohanaeze NdiIgbo, Afenifere, PANDEF, Southern and Middle Belt Forum, to mention but a few. Today, the leading candidate of Labour Party, Mr. Peter Obi CON, is a beneficiary of this HATN seed planted in 2018. It is the expected desire that this HATN seed shall continue to bear fruit and realize for all Nigerians full restructuring, justice, peace, equity, fairness, security, to mention a few.

NZUKO UMUNNA HANDSHAKE ACROSS NIGERIA EVENT

Nzuko Umunna as the authentic bridge builder has always believed that together we can build a strong, virile, robust and efficient country that will be beneficial to all. Nzuko Umunna believes that every group needs to work on the area of their comparative advantage and as often as possible meet with other groups for peer reviews and comparison of notes. This will inject new ideas and create new areas of cooperation, integration and new frontiers of excellence.

Prepared to ensure that the gains of the Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across the Niger (HATN) is sustained, aware of the need to reach out to the rest of the Nigeria ethnic nationalities in the drive to create a formidable alliance, and desirous of seeing a Nigeria rooted firmly on equity and justice, Nzuko Umunna proceeded to organize a new level of handshake, the Handshake Across Nigeria with the theme: *Nigeria Beyond Oil*. Given the magnitude of the project this time around, Nzuko Umunna reached out to reputable organizations that could be co-hosts of the project. On a good note, Aka Ikenga under the leadership of Chief Charles Odunukwe and the Core Federalist under the

leadership of Mr. Yinka Odumakin joyfully accepted to be partners in progress and co-hosts of the Handshake Across Nigeria (HAN) event.

The Handshake Across Nigeria (HAN) summit was driven by three major objectives, to wit:

1. Bringing together the various thought leaders of the component regions of Nigeria to articulate progressive ideas that could foster national unity and development as we approach the 2019 elections.
2. Creating an opportunity for civil societies, regional leaders and indeed the Nigerian citizens to constructively interrogate the Presidential Candidates of the various political parties on their plans, programs and policies as we approach 2019 elections.
3. To comprehensively discuss the structure of Nigeria with the various political parties and their candidates as this undeniably has been in the front burner of our national discuss over the years.¹⁹

Underlying these three objectives stated supra are the consolidation on the gains of Handshake Across the Niger, continuing to raise the tempo for proper restructuring, putting the case for a Nigeria President of Igbo extraction into national discuss, institutionalizing justice, equity and fairness. Notable organizations that attended the meeting included: Core Federalists, Aka Ikenga, Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Pandef, Middle Belt Forum and Northern Elders Forum.

¹⁹*Nzuko Umunna Handshake Across Nigeria Official Invitation letter to the United States Consulate, page 1 & 2 (official letter) sourced on 18th December 2022, at about 4:03pm.*

Participants at the meeting subscribed to what was described as the Article of Faith (AoF) signed by various representatives of various organizations. The AoF was geared towards the promotion of peace, unity and progress of Nigeria. The article of faith re-echoed the desire for a better Nigeria devoid of ethnic, tribal, religious, linguistic or political discrimination. The article of faith captured the facts that all human being are born equal with equal rights and equal opportunities.

The participants of the Handshake Across Nigeria Conference 1 unanimously agreed to:

1. Ensure that each federating units have unfettered Constitutional powers to institute laws and legal framework that will enable them raise internal generated revenue (IGR), easily enforce laws, transform the civil service and to reduce the power conferred on the federal government in the exclusive list to only matters of defense, finance, national planning, currency regulation, central bank, foreign affairs and home affairs.

One of the greatest takeaways of this conference was that the representatives of the various organizations agreed in one accord to throw their weight, full support and assistance to any government or leader that will subscribe to the full implementation of restructuring within the first three months after swearing-in into the office.

The Committee members for the event included: Dr. Austin Nweze, Prof. Maurice Iwu, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe, Mr. Bede Okoye, Engr. Chinedu Titus Ani, Mr. Chris Maduka,

Dr. Uju Agomoh, Barr. Ebere Ifendu, Prof. Greg Ibe, Mr. Moritz Abazie, Barr. Okey Akobundu, Chief Charles Odunukwe, Mr. Senator Iroegbu, Barr. Emeka Nwadike, Chief Evaristus Ozonweke, Mr. Gregory Muonyililio, Mr. Obiora Okoye. The Committee planned extensively for the event. The Noble laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka was to lead the debate on Nigeria Beyond Oil.

The Handshake Across Nigeria (HATN) event was held on the 19th of November 2018, at the Shell Hall of the Muson Center, Lagos, Nigeria. Top dignitaries who played significant roles at the event included: Chief Ayo Adebajo, Senator Ike Nwachukwu, Dr. Pogu Bitrus, Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, Chief Nnia Nwodo, Mr. Yinka Odumakin, to mention but a few. One major highlight of the summit is that the summit produced, “An Article of Faith” a document signed by representatives of all parts of the country. Article of faith thus became one of the binding documents for all Presidential Aspirants/Candidate in the 2019 Presidential elections.

NZUKO UMUNNA NDIGBO DATABASE COMMITTEE REPORT

NdiIgbo are itinerant by nature and as such are scattered all over the world. There is hardly any significant community one will go to without meeting at least one Igbo person there. The spirit of *njepu, njenjeoripu-ije* has many NdiIgbo moving out of their zones to other places where they establish and make their marks there. In almost all professions and endeavours, we have NdiIgbo both at home and in the diaspora excelling and making their marks.

The critical question becomes how to harness these plethora of individual and group successes, these amazing human and sundry resources, into an NdiIgbo resource and translate them into a communal blessing for Ndiigbo and AlaIgbo. This consideration propelled the Nzuko Umunna leadership to set up the Nzuko Umunna NdiIgbo Database Committee on December 21, 2020. The Committee was charged with the following terms of reference:

1. Construct a database of Medical experts, Academic Scholars, IT Professionals and other professionals based in the Diaspora.
2. Contact various Igbo Organization heads in the Diaspora to help raise the database.
3. Raise the database to accommodate all disciplines.
4. Construct a plan that will show how this database can be used to transform Alaigbo through the setting up of projects like Medical Infrastructures, IT hubs and boot camps and educational programs/facilities.
5. Raise and submit database on or before 28th February 2021.²⁰

The Committee had its inaugural meeting on December 27, 2020. The meeting gave the members the opportunity to critically review the terms of reference, create a pathway and roadmap towards achieving the aim and objective for establishing the committee. At the end of the meeting, the committee streamlined their approach thus:

1. The database will be digital and not paper or manual

²⁰*Nzuko Umunna Igbo Database Committee, page 2 of 9, (unpublished report).*

system.

2. The database will be searchable and hosted online.
3. It will be accessible through a website distinct from Nzuko Umunna website.
4. The database will be owned by NdiIgbo but managed and maintained by Nzuko Umunna.
5. Other Igbo organizations should be involved in the management of the database to engender a sense of involvement and acceptability.
6. The database will include individuals, businesses and organizations.
7. While the database will be hosted by a hosting service in the United States of America (USA), the operating base of the database for legal and other issues will be Enugu, Enugu State Nigeria which is the headquarters of Nzuko Umunna.²¹

Having streamlined their approach, the committee proceeded into full scale creation of the database. To create a database, many precautions are bound to be taken otherwise hackers will mess up the efforts of the creations and designers. The committee brainstormed on how to gather the necessary information for the database, how to store the gathered information, how to gain the confidence of the people whose information will be stored in the database, who will be authorized to have direct access to all the information in the database, and how to ward off hackers and infiltrators from hacking or having undue access to the database. The committee in the course of the design of the

²¹Nzuko Umunna Database Committee Report, page 4 of 9, (unpublished).

database answered these pertinent questions. For ease of work and to ensure the database is ready before the deadline, the committee created various sub-committees including website and security Sub-Committee, Database Sub-Committee, Legal and Communications Sub Committees, to mention but a few. These sub committees provided a kind of division of labour for the members of the committee. The committee was faced with what domain name they will give to the database, after much deliberations, the name, “Igbodum” was chosen.

NZUKO UMUNNA INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Prepared to make use of all available resources to serve, to promote, protect and develop Alaigbo, the Nzuko Umunna leadership created the, Nzuko Umunna International Outreach Committee. The Committee was set up in the year 2021.

The committee proceeded to work immediately with the terms of reference like identifying areas where Ndiigbo in Diaspora can be of service to Alaigbo, list the methods of service, how do we galvanise the Igbo Community in diaspora to speak with one voice against marginalization of NdiIgbo, identify areas ndi Igbo can utilize to gain the support of the international bodies with regards to injustice against NdiIgbo and marginalization of Ndi Igbo by the Federal Government, to mention but a few.

The committee noted that for Ndi Igbo to have headway in

International outreach, we shall look at three ways of doing so. The three ways are: Preemptive measures, proactive measures and reactionary measures.²²

However, the committee added that these three ways must be followed based on short term and long term plans. The committee further explained what it means by preemptive, measures, proactive measures and reactionary measures.

The Committee provided in a nutshell methods of achieving the three ways. For the reactionary measures for example, the committee suggested that the ingredients that will make up this measure must be a mix of the preemptive and proactive measures.

On a general note, the committee suggested that there is need for adhoc Campaigns in all the International Outreach and engagement. The committee also suggested that adequate planning be put in place before proceeding on any task be it an agenda for the development of Alaigbo, agenda for the protection of Alaigbo, agenda for reaching out to powerful Ndiigbo in diaspora, to mention but a few.

Due to the sensitivity of the report, it will be extremely unwise to proceed to full explanation or summary of the report. One thinks that the basics of the report are suitable. For anyone interested in further reading or research, the reader or researcher may reach out to the Nzuko Umunna Secretariat. The Committee submitted its report on the 5th day of June, 2021.

²²*Nzuko Umunna International Outreach Committee Report, page 1 of 2, (unpublished report).*

NZUKO UMUNNA LEGAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Nzuko Umunna is a well structured organization. For effective functioning and achievement of common goals, Nzuko Umunna created numerous committees that shall cater for the needs of Ndi Igbo and Alaigbo whenever the need arises. The need to have these standing committees became necessary that it will be counter productive to be reactive when a situation arises. The best form of approach is to either be preemptive or be proactive. When those two fails, then reactionary measures can be taken.

Mindful of all these, Nzuko Umunna leadership created the Nzuko Umunna legal committee with the following terms of reference; to serve as the legal advisers of Nzuko Umunna, to serve as a ready legal team that Nzuko Umunna will brief to handle all legal matters including litigation, identify area Ndiigbo are being unfairly treated and proffer legal options, continuously draw the mind of Nzuko Umunna to any matter concerning any onye Igbo, Ndi Igbo or Alaigbo that may require legal actions and seeking redress in court, to mention but a few.

The committee met several times, expanded the terms of reference, listed the modus operandi for achieving results, and made some suggestions. The committee submitted its report on the 5th of June, 2021.

NZUKO UMUNNA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Having created the Nzuko Umunna legal Committee, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna recognized the fact that there

was need to create a legal defense fund. Litigation involves fund which ranges from payments of filling fees, payment of legal fee, consultation, to mention but a few. Another vital issue is the fact that issues that needed legal action may come up at anytime. Issues do not give notice before it happens. It is a known maxim in law that “delay defeats equity”²³. To avoid any delay that may occasion miscarriage of justice, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna legal defense fund as a central fund that can be assessed any time by the Nzuko Umunna Legal Committee.

The core aim of the Nzuko Umunna legal defense fund committee is to continuously raise fund for the free flow of all legal actions instituted by Nzuko Umunna. The Committee began a massive and robust fund raising activity in 2020. Through the ingenuity and creativity of the committee, funds were raised for the activities of the Nzuko Umunna Legal Committee.

Evidently within the same year of creation in 2020, this Nzuko Umunna legal defense fund played a good part when the leadership of Nzuko Umunna briefed the Nzuko Umunna legal defense team on the killing of Igbo youths at Emene, Enugu State, by members of the security operatives. The Committee rallied members of Nzuko Umunna to raise millions of naira that was needed for the prosecution of this matter. Though the story of the Nzuko Umunna legal defense team on Enugu massacre will come up later, it is proper to give credit to the Nzuko Umunna leadership and

²³*Delay defeats equity” is one of the powerful maxims in law of equity. It is a wake up call to a party to always act timeously in any matter.*

members and most especially to give kudos to the Nzuko Umunna Legal Defense Fund Committee for working tirelessly and courageously to raise the humongous fund needed in prosecuting the matter.

NZUKO UMUNNA STRATEGY COMMITTEE REPORT

A strategy is a general plan or set of plans intended to achieve something, especially over a long period.²⁴ Every organization worth its value normally create time to retreat, discuss the way out and set up a strategy for achieving the aspirations, desires and goals of the organization. Nothing can take the place of planning and strategy in the life of individual or a group. It is during a strategy session that the plans, aims, objectives and hopes are birthed and strengthened to achieve the desired goal. Much wonder, it is said often that, “he who fails to plan, plan to fail”²⁵.

Abreast of the role strategy plays in the life of an organization and concerned that Ndi Igbo need a robust strategy plan, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna Strategy Committee. The Committee guided by a series of mission to produce a first class strategy document began by asking pertinent questions like: where do we see Alaigbo in 2030?, What should Nzuko Umunna be doing to make that vision a reality?, etc.²⁶

To provide answer to these questions, the committee raised future likely issues or situations in Alaigbo and Nigeria. For

²⁴ www.collinsdictionary.com sourced at about 10:11am on 21/12/2022.

²⁵ *A saying, he who fails to plan, plans to fail*, Research could not point out a particular person as the originator of the saying.

²⁶ *Nzuko Umunna Strategy Committee Report, pag 1 of 2, (Unpublished report.)*

example, many Nigerians and even world leaders are afraid that Nigeria will collapse. Infact, it was heavily rumoured that Nigeria will break up in 2015. Fast forward to 2023 and beyond, one may be surprise that Nigeria may exist for more years without disintegration.

Similarly, restructuring is one of the key issues on the table, what if in the years to come, we finally achieve restructuring, how will Nigeria outlook be seen when such is achieved. The other future analysis about Nigeria is about self determination and one may imagine when in the coming years, Nigerians from all ethnic nationalities decides to leave Nigeria, can one safely predict that some ethnic nationalities will be more prepared to hit the ground running than others. On the side of peeping into the future for Alaigbo, the Committee recognized that even to this moment, Ndi Igbo are being marginalized and it may be possible that this marginalization may continue or even increase. One area again is thinking about Ndi Igbo as a people who have value and strength to provide and protect themselves in any circumstances. The last is whether or not the Igbo man can survive any break out of diseases, famine or war in Nigeria as presently constituted.

The Committee critically examined all the challenges and futuristic prognostication and made some sensitive strategic suggestions which can be seen in their reports. The highlight of the committee's suggestions and recommendations is that they created the strategic plan into short term, medium term and long term plans. In order to ensure that the recommendations are achievable, the committee suggested

the appropriate organization, or body that should take charge of each suggestion. The committee submitted its report on May 22, 2021.

NZUKO UMUNNA UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN (USA) SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

The role Ndi Igbo in Diaspora play in the affairs of Alaigbo can never be underestimated. Be it Ndi Igbo living outside Alaigbo in various States in Nigeria or Ndi Igbo living in various countries in Africa, Europe, America, to mention but a few. No serious nation plays with the need to get the diaspora intimated or involved in the scheme of things. Today, India enjoys the highest Diaspora remittance of about \$70 billion USD because of the sensitive way they handle issues of Indians in diaspora.²⁷ Apart from the diaspora remittance, citizens of any country or ethnic nationalities play critical role in supporting good governance, education, infrastructural, social development, and security of their native land.

Bringing it home to Alaigbo, Ndi Igbo have a saying that “Nku dinamba, n'egherembanri” (the firewood existing in a community serves the community in preparing the food of the community). One thing to note is that Igbo proverbs are filled with rich philosophical and moral meanings. The firewood here is generic and symbolic. It can be human and material resources found in the community.

Over the years Ndi Igbo in Diaspora have pioneered and led numerous projects, works and interventions that are of great

²⁷ www.worldbank.org sourced January 20, 2022 at about 8.45am

benefit to Alaigbo. Most towns in Alaigbo do not play with their town union branches like Lagos Branch, Onitsha Branch, Kano Branch, Portharcourt Branch, Aba Branch, United States of America (USA) Branch, United Kingdom Branch, to mention but a few. These branches have made laudable interventions to various communities in Alaigbo.

In the spirit of acknowledging the importance of Ndi Igbo in the United States of America, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna United States of America (USA) Sub-Committee. The Committee was directed to raise areas Ndi Igbo in diaspora not just only in USA can be of great benefit to Alaigbo. The Committee raised a two page report wherein they highlighted the sensitive areas that Ndi Igbo in Diaspora can be utilized for the advancement, peace, security and development of Alaigbo. Apart from the sensitive security issues the committee mentioned, the committee suggested about Igbo USA database that can help to actually capture Ndi Igbo in all fields of human endeavour in the USA and provide a huge resources for synergy and role play.

The committee also discussed about laying short, medium and long term plan that can guide whatever actions and strategy Ndi Igbo may take. The committee suggested that numerous Igbo organizations need to work together and not working in competition against one another. Telling the Igbo story in the United States was also a major contribution of the committee. Also, the committee suggested that there is need to promote our culture particularly our Igbo language. Generally, one good point to note is that the committee did

not just list things or suggestions to be done; they equally provided mouth watering actionable solutions that can be implemented for the greater good of Ndi Igbo, Alaigbo, Nigeria and humanity. The committee submitted its report on August 17, 2017.

NZUKO UMNUNNA STRUCTURE REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Every organization determines the kind of structure they want. Through the structure, one can clearly see the nature, scope, roles, duties and responsibilities of the organization. From inception of Nzuko Umunna, a structure of leadership and followership model was initiated and adopted. This structure under the leadership of Dr. Ngozi Odumuko achieved notable feats and contributed immensely towards the growth and development of Alaigbo. Nzuko Umunna, an organisation that commenced with a few individuals grew from strength to strength. Today, Nzuko Umunna can boast of about over two hundred members with many resourceful Igbo people seeking to be registered as members.

As an organization that desires to grow beyond leaps and bounds, Nzuko Umunna often undergoes self assessment and peer review mechanism. The leadership believes that every point in time, the organization must self introspect, assess and see if the dreams of the founding fathers is alive in our time, if the aims and objectives are pursued and if there is room or urgency for improvement.

Mindful of these thoughts and with deep desire to ease the

work of the incoming leadership, Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna Structure Review Committee. The committee was tasked with the following terms of reference:

1. Define the scope of our engagements in line with our goal and mission.
2. Suggest a workable and sustainable structure for Nzuko Umunna through comparative study of the merits and demerits of the structures of existing organizations.
3. Review the constitution to reflect the proposed organizational structure.
4. Work in liaison with Nzuko Umunna leadership to come up with a transition template”²⁸.

The committee proceeded to work with the speed of light. It will be apt to quote copiously the approach/methodology the committee adopted to wit:

- Call for written submissions
- Series of consultations.
- Desk Review/Documents analysis.
- Survey of feed backs from some members of the Nzuko Umunna Whatsapp group. Survey forms were designed and circulated to members. The following were the key questions members were asked:
- What are the things you like about Nzuko Umunna or will like to be sustained in Nzuko Umunna and why?.
- What are the things you do not like about Nzuko Umunna or you will like improved regarding Nzuko Umunna and why?
- Type of organization you suggest, the scope and types

²⁸ Nzuko Umunna Structure Review Committee Report, page 1, 1.1, (unpublished report), 2021.

- of activities you recommend that Nzuko Umunna should be engaged in or implementing and why?.
- What type of structure do you recommend should have or run on and why?.
 - Any other comments or recommendations”²⁹.

The aim of presenting the approach/methodology the committee adopted is to portray to the reader that the committee did a thorough and commendable job that deserved to be commended by all and sundry.

The committee processed all the terms of reference together with the feedback and document analysis in ensuring all areas were covered.

In defining the scope of Nzuko Umunna interaction, the committee unanimously agreed that the Nzuko Umunna is already performing creditably in its mandate, aim, objectives and mission. However the committee recommended that Nzuko Umunna can expand their scope of activities especially in the area of advocating for genuine leaders, demanding the basic infrastructural development from the various tiers of government in the South East, championing the call for regional integration in the South East, encouraging mutual understanding among Igbo groups, promoting our Igbo core values system, serving as bridge builder, ensuring strict adherence in decent communications among Nzuko Umunna members in the platform, avoiding anything that will make Nzuko Umunna to be partisan in view or thoughts or action, to mention but a few.

²⁹ *Nzuko Umunna Structure Review Committee Report, page 3, 1.2, (unpublished).*

In the area of providing a sustainable structure, the committee first and foremost visited the Nzuko Umunna existing legal framework, the Company and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) and other extant laws governing the establishment and running of an organization in the mold of Nzuko Umunna. The Committee also consulted the various recommendations made by members of Nzuko Umunna. Based on these backgrounds, the Committee critically looked at the leadership structure and aligned it according to the necessary provisions and patterns obtainable in other organizations. For example, the office of the Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator was replaced with the office of the President and Vice President. The committee looked at the composition of the membership structure. The committee agreed without prejudice to the constitution that there shall be financial and nominal members.

Nzuko Umunna according to the Strategy Committee was to be structured in this way: The Board of Trustees (BOT), the Executive Council and the General Assembly. Each arm was given its role, rights, duties and responsibilities. The committee suggested about the establishment of Nzuko Umunna Secretariat under the leadership of a Programme Director and other members of the staff. The committee suggested that there shall be standing committee like Finance Committee, Strategy Committee, Membership Committee, Welfare Committees including Adhoc Committees and others. Also, the committee recommended that Nzuko Umunna should have an Advisory Council. They also suggested that a team of monitors/provosts be

appointed for the Nzuko Umunna Whatsapp platform with mandate to ensure that members interact and communicate with each other without fear of cyber bullying, intimidation, insults, threats, to mention but a few. The report of the committee was submitted on February, 2021.

NZUKO UMUNNA 50 YEARS BIAFRA REMEMBRANCE NEVER AGAIN CONFERENCE (FIRST AND SECONDEDITION)

The Nigeria Biafra Civil War ended on the 13th of January 1970. At the end of the Civil war, the then Head of State General Yakubu Gowon declared, “No Victor, no vanquished”. He further spoke about the three Rs (Reconciliation, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction). Many actors and non actors during the war have spoken and written on, for or against the two divides (Nigeria–Biafra). Views and opinion have been countered by other views.

One thing remain constant, there was a Nigeria-Biafra war from 1967-1970. The war have come and gone but the war of accepting Ndi Igbo fully back in the scheme of things is still raging on. The war of inequality, injustice, marginalization, nepotism, tribalism, tribal sentiments, religion, corruption and others are still weighing Nigeria down. These issues were the cause of the war over five decades ago yet the issues have remained unabated. Five decades after, Nigeria is still wallowing in corruption, ethnic clashes, religious crisis, to mention but a few. The question is does it mean that we did not learn anything from the unfortunate Nigeria-Biafra war?. Countries after undergoing such civil war take out time to understudy the

remote and immediate causes of the war and proffer solutions on the best way to weld the country together. Not Nigeria. Even at the point of this work, Nigeria is faced with crisis that is gradually threatening her survival as a country.

As a Think Tank and progressive bridge builder, Nzuko Umunna leadership together with the members agreed to organize the 50 years Biafra remembrance Never Again Conference. The aim of the Conference was to consolidate on the gains of the Handshake Across the Niger (HATN) Conference held in 2018, organize a national discussion on Nigerian restructuring as a way out, Tell our story of the Nigeria-Biafra War, keep a date with history by remembering the past, create a new path way for the future and jointly proclaim that never again shall our people be subjected to war, bad governance, corruption, to mention but a few.

As a progressive organization, Nzuko Umunna reached out to Ndigbo Lagos under the leadership of Major General Obi Umahi for collaboration. Also some other organizations were contacted to participate in the event. However, the event was fully funded by Nzuko Umunna.

The event was held on the 13th January 2020 at AGIP Recital Hall, The Muson Centre with the theme, “Nigeria Civil War: 50 years After”. Prior to the event, there was Jummat Prayer on the 10th of January, 2020 at Central Mosque, Lagos followed by Church Thanksgiving at Divine Mercy Catholic Church Lekki, Lagos on Sunday 12 January 2020.

The event was attended by prominent Nigerians including

Prof. Wole Soyinka, Prof. Yima Sen, Ms. Onyeka Onwenu, Dr. Olisa Agbakoba SAN, Mr. Akin Osuntokun, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, Commordore Ebitu Ukiwe (rtd), Afenifere President Chief Ayo Adebajo, Ohaneze President General Chief Nnia Nwodo, etc. Royal Fathers of the day included His Royal Majesty Igwe Nnaemeka Achebe (Obi of Onitsha), His Eminence Alhaji Saad Abubakar III (Sultan of Sokoto), His Imperial Majesty Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (Ooni of Ife), His Royal Highness Muhammadu Sanusi II (Emir of Kano), His Royal Majesty Prof. James Ayatse (Tor of Tiv), His Royal Majesty Ogiame Ikwenwoli (Olu of Warri) and His Royal Highness Oba RilwanAkiolu (Oba of Lagos). The Conference was chaired by the highly respected Prof. Anya O. Anya.

The event was organized to be a year long event, starting with the First Never Again Conference in January 13, 2020 and culminating in the Second Never Again Conference in January 13, 2021.

As expected, both events opened new areas of conversation for Nigeria. For example, some of those who felt that the Nigeria-Baifra Civil war should not be discussed are now feeling the need to discuss the war and to join the call for reintroduction of the study of history in our schools.

Again, some of those who are afraid to discuss Nigeria have seen that the best thing Nigerians can do is to have unbiased and nonsentimental discussion about Nigeria with a view to finding the best available option that will make Nigeria great again.

Kudos should be given to the Nzuka Umunna 50 years Biafra Remembrance Never Again Conference Committee led by Prof. Pat. Utomi with the following members: Dr. Austin Nweze, Mr. Sylvester Elema SAN, Dr. Alex Otti, Barr. Emeka Nwadioke, Mr. Gregory Muonyililio, Mr. Obioma Okoye, Chief Chuma Igwe, Major General Obi Umahi, Senator Chris Anyanwu and Prof. Chika Moore.

NZUKO UMUNNA AKANU IBIAM REHABILITATION AIRPORT INTERVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

At the time Akanu Ibiyam International Airport Enugu was closed for rehabilitation, Ndi Igbo became worried, talking to themselves, bemoaning their fate and agitated that the only International Airport in South East was closed for rehabilitation for months. At the Nzuko Umunna platform, the issue was the same. Many Ndi Igbo were very worried and saddened about the closure of the Airport with no specific date for reopening.

Feeling the pulse of the people, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna under Dr. Ngozi Odumuko created the Nzuko Umunna AkanuIbiyam International Airport Rehabilitation Intervention Committee. The Committee was given the following terms of reference:

1. To interface with relevant government agencies in ensuring that the rehabilitation works is delivered well and on time.
2. To rally critical stakeholders to offer the necessary support to the contractors.
3. To monitor and report the extent of the rehabilitation

work within some chosen time intervals.

4. To ensure the needed community support and cooperation with the contractors for easy and efficient discharge of the rehabilitation work.

The committee guided by the terms of reference began an intensive and comprehensive interface between all relevant agencies and also sought collaboration with other well meaning Ndi Igbo both in Nigeria and in diaspora. The committee equally communicated all gray areas to leadership of Nzuko Umunna for prompt action. The committee also made vital observations and the on the ground assessment of the true situation of the ongoing rehabilitation at the AkanuIbiam International Airport Enugu.

NZUKO UMUNNA DELEGATION TO THE EXPANDED SOUTH EAST GOVERNORS MEETING ON THE REHABILITATION OF THE AKANU IBIAM INTERNETIONAL AIRPORT ENUGU.

Sequel to the creation of the Nzuko Umunna Akanu Ibiam International Airport Rehabilitation Committee and the various observations flowing from the interface, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna under Dr. Ngozi Odumuko held an intensive strategic executive meeting with the issue of rehabilitation as the only agenda for discussion. The executive studied the turn of events, the place and role of the Airport in the South East, Nigeria. The hardship and loss of revenue to both public and private individuals who earn duly income as result of the activities in the Airport was also considered. Most importantly, the Nzuko Umunna

leadership also watched with keen interest the utterances and countenance of the Honourable Minister of Aviation Alhaji Hadi Sirika and observed that the rehabilitation of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport may drag for years if more proactive measures are not taken. The executives concluded on a numbers of strategic plans that will help in ensuring that the rehabilitation work is up and running and that a time frame be given and seen to be implemented.

First, the Nzuko Umunna leadership did a strategic letter to the Chairman of the South East Governors Forum, His Excellency Engr. Dave Umahi (Executive Governor of Ebonyi State) requesting that Nzuko Umunna be given formal approval to engage the Honourable Minister of Aviation and the South East Governors Forum on the issues surrounding the rehabilitation of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport Enugu.

This strategic letter perhaps, prompted the South East Governors to host the, “Expanded South East Governors Forum Meeting on the rehabilitation of Akanu Ibiam International Airport, Enugu”. The Chairman of the South East Governors Forum, His Excellency Engr. Dave Umahi specially invited Nzuko Umunna to the meeting and gave Nzuko Umunna opportunity to make a presentation based on the findings so far by the Nzuko Umunna leadership, Nzuko Umunna Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Airport and members of Nzuko Umunna. From the Committee, Nzuko Umunna leadership sent a high powered delegation to the expanded South East Governors Forum Meeting. At the meeting, the representative of Nzuko

Umunna delivered a thorough presentation on the current situation of the ongoing rehabilitation work at the Airport and proposed a proactive, diplomatic but professional approach towards the project. Based on the foregoing, Nzuko Umunna was unanimously endorsed by the South East Governors to chair the Joint Rehabilitation Committee set up by the South East Governors Forum. Thus, Engr. Chris Okoye who serves as the Chairman of Nzuko Umunna Committee on the Rehabilitation of the Akanu Ibiam International Airport was appointed the Chairman of the South East Joint Rehabilitation Committee. Nzuko Umunna continued to track the progress of the rehabilitation. The Honourable Minister Hadi Sirika worked in collaboration with the Joint Rehabilitation Committee and the rehabilitation was completed at the agreed timeline.

NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE RELEASE OF MAZI NNAMDI KANU

Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was first arrested in Lagos on 14 October, 2015 by the Federal government. His arrest led to various series of unprecedented peaceful protest in the old Eastern Region. After this protest, one could ask what next?. Recall that Nzuko Umunna was formally established on the 14th of January 2017. After observing the way and manner the arrest of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu (MNK) was done and the need to step in as a voice that will champion the release of MNK, the then Nzuko Umunna Leadership under Dr. Ngozi Odumuko created the Nzuko Umunna Intervention team for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. Historically, this was the first project and intervention Nzuko Umunna embarked on immediately after its formation. The aim of

establishing the intervention team was to reduce the already tensed situation in the South East, restore peace, and open the discussion on the strategy to adopt for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

The Intervention team met, deliberated through the aims of the team or properly put the terms of reference, adopted the mode of operation necessary and agreed on a suitable date to visit Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. Among the chief plan was to proceed from Kuje Prison where Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was kept on custody to a designated venue where the team will address an international press conference calling on the Federal Government to unconditionally release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and other prisoners of conscience.

On the 28th of February 2017, the team met with Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The private meeting was successful as Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and the team exchanged ideas especially on the need to secure his release.

As arranged, the team moved over to the designated venue and held a well attended international press conference calling on the Federal Government to release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

Evidently, this unique and bold outing by Nzuko Umunna Intervention team for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu opened the door for the plethora of voices especially the once afraid political elites, to come out boldly and demand for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

After the visit and the historic international press conference, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna continued and sustained the tempo through strategic back room efforts, interfacing with major Nigeria political elites and sustaining the media struggle for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. At this point, the rallying point was the Senator Ike Ekweremadu who was then the Deputy Senate President. Senator Ike Ekweremadu informed the leadership and members of Nzuko Umunna that the entire South East Senate Caucus of the National Assembly are fully committed and resolved to explore all possible legal and political channels that will guarantee the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

Interestingly, after so much pressure, negotiations and agreement, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was granted bail by the Federal High Court. Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe who was the leader of the South East Senate Caucus agreed to be one of the Sureties for the bail and subsequent release of Mazi Nnamdi. The bold step for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu which was kick started by Nzuko Umunna brought to the fore the need for a think tank of Nzuko Umunna mold and nature in Alaigbo. This bold and historic gesture/intervention opened the eyes of many Nigerians especially Igbo Leaders. Nzuko Umunna style of strategic engagement created a new narrative and way of thinking among Ndi Igbo. As a grateful heart, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu after his release reached out to Nzuko Umunna and appreciated the role Nzuko Umunna played by creating a working synergy with others in facilitating his release.

Meanwhile, it is worthy to mention the names of those bold and fearless members of Nzuko Umunna that served as the members of Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. They include: Prof. Chukwuma C. Soludo (Chairman), Prof. Pat Utomi, Chief Dr. Ifeanyi Ubah, Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe, Mr. Innocent Chukwuma, Dr. Sam Amadi, Dr. Udentia O. Udentia, Dr. Law Mefor, Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu, Mr. Ferdinand Agu, Rev. Fr. Jude Chukwuneke, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, Mr. Andy Wabali, Mr. Tony Nnadi and Mr. Emeka Ugwu-Oju.

NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BETWEEN MAZI NNAMDI KANU AND PRESIDENT GENERAL OF OHANAEZE NDIIGBO CHIEF NNIA NWODO

After the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna in its continued role as the bridge builder recognized the fact that the time was ripe to reconcile and unite all Igbo elites, bring them under one table and encourage them to speak with one voice especially on issues concerning NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo. After the release of MNK there was a level of misunderstanding between the then President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo, Chief Nnia Nwodo and Mazi Nnamdi Kanu the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Recall that the role Nzuko Umunna played during the call for the release of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was well appreciated by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and IPOB. Infact, the leadership of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) developed a high sense

of trust and reposed deep confidence on Nzuko Umunna as a trusted, tested and credible bridge builder.

A mutual date 3rd of June, 2017 was agreed for these two Igbo greats to meet and reconcile their differences. Mazi Nnamdi Kanu was to travel from Abia State to meet Chief Nnia Nwodo in his residence in Enugu State. On that faithful day, 3rd of June, 2017, the two Igbo greats met in Enugu as agreed. However, after the visit, the President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo called the leadership of Nzuko Umunna to complain that another conflict arose at the meeting. Upon contacting the leadership of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), they opined that the issue bothered on trust because a meeting between IPOB and Ohaneze Ndigbo which was agreed to be a private meeting had in attendance foreign persons unknown to IPOB.

Whilst the Leadership of Nzuko Umunna was engaging both leadership of IPOB and Ohaneze Ndigbo to resolve the crisis, IPOB announced that as part of its strategy to ensure referendum, that there will be no election in Alaigbo again starting with the 2017 Anambra Governorship election. To counter this directive, the President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo upon invitation by Chief Willie Obiano the then Anambra State Governor who was seeking a second term, came to Anambra State where he addressed the Anambra State House of Assembly and announced a countermand order that election must hold in Anambra State.

These two directives created much media sensation, and comments. The conflict Nzuko Umunna desired to nip to

the bud escalated beyond measure. Not deterred by the situation, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna sent separate advance team to hold talks with Chief Nnia Nwodo and another team made up of the duo of Rev. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke and Barr. Chiadi Chidume to discuss with Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. Having secured the understanding of these two Igbo giants, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created a Peace Committee led by the Former Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Prof. Ilochi Okafor SAN, to reconcile these two Igbo sons. The Peace Committee met with each of them separately and secured their confirmation and agreement to a peace deal billed to hold and be hosted at the Palace of His Royal Majesty (HRM) Igwe Lawrence Agubuzu. The arrangement was for all parties and their delegation to arrive Enugu on the 14th of September 2017 for the historic peace deal/accord. Unfortunately, few days to this meeting date the leadership of IPOB informed the leadership of Nzuko Umunna that the home of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu in Afara Ukwu, Ibeku, Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria was invaded by the military men on the 12th of September, 2017 and that Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's home is under siege by the military men. This unfortunate incident of the invasion of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu's home marked the end of the peace deal though Nzuko Umunna had to activate the peace deal once again in years to come.

MEMBERS OF THE PEACE COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Ilochi Okafor SAN
2. Prof. Pat Utomi
3. Dr. Chris Asoluka

4. Lady Onyeka Onwenu
5. Mr. Charles Ogbu
6. Mr. Obioma Okoye
7. Rev. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
8. Dr. Law Mefor

NZUKO UMUNNA TELL OUR STORY COMMITTEE

Information and dissemination of information is one of the major way people can control the media and create the narrative they want. What kind of information do you have?. Will it improve the situation of things or worsen it? Who controls the spread of that information?. What is fake news?. Can you be comfortable with anyone or your competitor creating your story?. These and many more questions need answers.

Disturbed by the fact that the only news or story the major newspapers and Television stations disseminate about Ndi Igbo are mostly stories that paint Ndi Igbo in a bad light, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the, “Nzuko Umunna Tell Our Story Committee”. The committee was charged with the following terms of reference.

1. To develop beautiful stories/narratives that brings to limelight the strengths of our people.
2. To stimulate constructive/reparative media engagement on some negative media stories about our people.
3. To encourage publication of stories that highlights our cultural, political and economic activities.

4. To create channels that would ensure we get adequate media coverage in both print and digital media.
5. To encourage and mobilize investment in media through engagement with stakeholders and potential private sector investors.

The committee held series of discussions to ensure the best recommendation was presented to Nzuko Umunna. The committee listed the strengths of Ndi Igbo, created strategy for tackling negative news or story about Ndi Igbo, to mention but a few. In order to encourage publication that promote our culture, political and economic activities, the committee called for synergy between all media influencers in the new media, and conventional media. The committee created a template that will attract investors or lure uninterested potential investors to invest in the media.

Aware that the media shapes people's thought process, ideas, opinion, way of life, the committee suggested that Ndi Igbo must invest in the media. Such investment will enable Ndi Igbo to easily tell our story, promote the beauty of Alaigbo, provide a narrative that truly depicts onye Igbo as a hardworking, resourceful, intelligent, respectful and hospitable human being. Through such investment, the world will hear Ndi Igbo direct, understands the Igbo people easier and create a platform that will bring influx of investors in Alaigbo.

As a pacesetter and an organization that believes in action, the committee discussed about the possibility of establishing an online news channel that will help to tell the

Igbo story while handling all news/information. It was agreed that such online news channel is highly needed and its establishment will be timely at this period many fake news and wrong information are peddled against Ndi Igbo.

The committee suggested the name of the online news channel and mode of operation. This Committee birthed the Nzuko Umunna owned, “Achara News”. The committee must be commended for making wonderful recommendations and leading from the front by recommending and building an online news channel for Ndi Igbo.

NZUKO UMUNNA COMMITTEE REPORT ON RECONCILIATION BETWEEN CHIEF CHEKWAS OKORIE AND CHIEF VICTOR UMEH

Politics they say is a game of interest. People align and realign for the purpose of interest. Most times, the interest is personal. Some other times, the interest is for justice, peace, equity and the interest of the common man. Democracy provides a veritable tool and field for politicking. However, most times, some politicians abuse the privilege of democracy by dishing out half truth, blackmailing one another, using offensive words against opponents and raising huge propaganda that are geared towards tarnishing the image of opponents.

For example, in Nigeria, politics is not for the faint hearted, you must be strong and courageous to stand the “bully's

pulpit” of criticism, half truth, character assassination, to mention but a few.

Considering the fact that Chief Chekwes Okorie and Senator Victor Umeh are two Igbo greats, aware that the continued open confrontation between these Igbo patriots as a result of the issues they had in the protracted leadership crisis of All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) will continue to de-market Ndi Igbo, knowing fully well that the reconciliation of these two Igbo giants will create a good political atmosphere in Alaigbo, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna initiated the peace deal between Chief Chekwes Okorie and Senator Victor Umeh in the year 2018. The leadership of Nzuko Umunna believed at that time that such reconciliation will usher in the quest for a united political front that will ensure a fair deal and negotiation for Ndi Igbo at the center.

After rigorous deliberations and meetings, Chief Chekwes Okorie and Senator Victor Umeh agreed to sheathe the political sword, jettison all public confrontations and commit themselves to a lasting peace for the benefits of Alaigbo. The peace accord was brokered on 23rd of August 2018. The Nzuko Umunna Committee on Reconciliation between Chief Chekwes Okories and Senator Victor Umeh must be commended for their diplomatic skills, negotiation, mediation and arbitration abilities. Chief Chekwes Okorie and Senator Victor Umeh must be commended for letting go, forgiving and embracing one another in the overall interest of Ndi Igbo. It must be noted that more of these reconciliatory moves are needed in Alaigbo. This is because forgiveness heals both parties, heals the land and enthrones



Cross section of participants at Never Again Conference



Chief Nnia Nwodo addressing the audience at Handshake Across Nigeria 1



Senator Ike Nwachukwu, Prof. Wole Soyinka, Chief Nnia Nwodo and other dignitaries at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Prof. Kingsley Moghalu at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Prof. Wole Soyinka delivering his Keynote Address at Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Pa Ayo Adebajo at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Senator Ike Nwachukwu with a guest at Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Dr. Ngozi Odumuko addressing the audience at Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Cross section of dignitaries at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1



Dr. Uju Agomoh, Dr. Ngozi Odumuko, Senator Ike Nwachukwu and a guest at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Chief Nnia Nwodo(then President General Ohaneze Ndilgbo exchanging pleasantries with Prof. Kingsley Moghalu (former Deputy Governor CBN).



HRH. Alhaji Dalhatu(Representative of the former Emir of Kano



Cross section of participants at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.



Cross section of students at the Handshake Across Nigeria 1.

peace which attracts progress and development. Moving forward, one is optimistic that Nzuko Umunna will champion more reconciliatory moves between individuals, communities, towns and groups.

NZUKO UMUNNA IGBOEZUE LEADERSHIP RETREAT PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Part of the gains of the Nzuko Umunna delegation to each of the five South East Governors was a common stand that NdiIgbo needs to gather, discuss and chart a new economic, political and development course as a people. Each of the five Executive Governors approved the request by Nzuko Umunna to organize this historic meeting that will bring the South East Regional Integration and open new frontiers of excellence. Having gotten the nod of the each of the five South East Governors, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna engaged all the institutional leaders, top Igbo organizations starting from Ohaneze NdiIgbo the apex Igbo socio cultural organization.

Significantly, a committee was created for this epoch making retreat. The committee set out to work with one goal, that is, to organize a top notch Igbo retreat that will chart a new course for South East Economic Development Agenda. For event of this kind, the committee and the leadership of Nzuko Umunna were at liberty to choose a State that will host the event. The event may be rotated among the Five South East States as the years progress. For the Maiden Edition, the Executive Governor of Ebonyi State Engr. Dave Umahi was approached that Nzuko Umunna is desirous of having the maiden event birth in Ebonyi State.

At that time, three reasons made Governor Umahi the best host for the event. One is because Governor Dave Umahi has performed tremendously in terms of infrastructural development and there was need for other States in the South East to visit and compare notes on that aspect of governance. Secondly, Governor Dave Umahi is the Chairman of the South East Governors Forum. Charity and mutual respect demands that he is given the right of first refusal of the hosting right to such historic event. Thirdly, there was this urge to forge a formidable unity among Ndi Igbo with the Ebonyi retreat and the proposed Ebonyi Declaration that will follow suit at the end of the Igboezue retreat.

Fortunately the Governor of Ebonyi State Chief Dave Umahi accepted to host the event. The committee scheduled the event to hold from 22nd November 2019 to 23rd November 2019. Planning was on top gear, letters and invitation cards were being dispatched; roles were being assigned and robust security architecture was being put in place for a hitch free event.

Unfortunately, conflict of interest existing between the Governors and Ohaneze NdiIgbo leadership at that time scuttled the event and the leadership of Nzuko Umunna resolved to discontinue with the event.

Meanwhile at the time the event was cancelled, huge financial expenses and commitments have been made, time and efforts spent already. All these time, money and efforts invested to ensure the success of the event was reduced to a

mere waste. This incident created a huge hole and punctured the already emerging Igbo unity front. Issues like this come with plethora of lessons to be learnt by all and sundry. May Ndi Igbo never again sacrifice an event with honest intention under the altar of conflict of interest. The committee for the Igboezue event was the worst hit with regards to the cancellation of the event. Some of them selflessly left their base and relocated to Abakiliki Ebonyi State Capital to ensure the smooth preparation of the event. Therefore, the committee deserves to be commended for weathering the storm throughout the back and forth approach.

NZUKO UMUNNA REPORT OF THE POST END SARS COMMITTEE TO HALT DESTRUCTION OF IGBO LIVES AND PROPERTIES OF NDIIGBO ACROSS NIGERIA

The historic Endsars protest embarked by Nigerians remained one of the foremost awakening and test running of the power of the people in a democracy. Recall that various security operatives especially the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) were allegedly abusing the rights and privilege of Nigerians prior to this event. Therefore, it came to a melting point that almost every Nigerian youth who dressed well with a good phone or laptop is seen as a suspect and arrested. Arresting a suspect is not the issue. The issue as alleged was arresting a suspect, beating up a suspect, requesting a humongous amount of money as bail of an innocent youth and sometimes gruesome murder of such promising youth. Allegedly, these SARS operatives can enter a premise and start shooting sporadically and kill as many

people as they desire.

To end this ugly and dastardly act, the Nigeria youths began online agitation against the SARS operatives. This followed with physical protest in almost all the States in the South West, South East, South South and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja. Initially the Federal government thought it was just a one-day event. When it continued for days, the Federal Government allegedly activated the anti EndSARS protest but it did not get traction. Then some hoodlums were allegedly hired by the Federal Government to disperse the Nigerian Youth with sticks and machete but the surging number of Nigerian Youths over powered the hoodlums. The youths arrested some of the hoodlums and handed them over to the police. The last straw that broke the camel's back was the introduction of the military with the alleged shooting of the innocent Nigerian protesters holding the Nigerian flag.

This ugly incident threw up some total destruction of properties, burning of government properties, looting of shops, malls, to mention but a few. In fact, the hallowed palace of the Oba of Lagos HRM. Oba Rilwanu Akiolu was desecrated, looted and destroyed. Amidst these happenings, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu made a broadcast through the IPOB radio broadcasts. His broadcast was misconstrued in two angles. First, it was mischievously interpreted that it was the Igbos who are protesting under the command of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. Secondly, he was quoted out of context by implying that Mazi Nnamdi Kanu instructed Ndi Igbo to destroy properties in Lagos.

Whilst this issue was going on, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna moved swiftly to douse the tension and any negative effect such narrative may cause Ndi Igbo and their properties scattered all over the country. As a point of first approach, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna set up a committee that interfaced with Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and encouraged him to clarify his last broadcast which has been distorted and taken out of context. Interestingly, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu accepted the suggestion and did a special clarification broadcast of what he said in his previous broadcast. With this achieved, the Committee together with the leadership of Nzuko Umunna organized a well broadcasted live session attended by prominent Nigerians from all walks of life including Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The live session was used to make proper clarification and to draw the mind of Nigerians and the international community that Ndi Igbo are peacemakers, peace builders and agents of development wherever they reside or find themselves.

Therefore, it will be unthinkable, foolish and counterproductive for an ethnic nationality like Ndi Igbo who are itinerant by nature, to think of destroying any place or part of this country. The live broadcast session condemned the peddlers of fake news and condemned the actions of the Federal Government in the way and manner the EndSARS protest was handled. The take away from this intervention is that the move doused the already tensed situation in Nigeria, deescalated the issues at hand which was already heading to total breakdown of law and order and finally proved the fact that with proper strategic engagement, issues of this nature can be nipped in the bud

to forestall damages and destruction of lives and properties. Another unique take away is that many prominent Nigerians who spoke at the live broadcast boldly exonerated Ndi Igbo from any blames with a strong resolve that the days of using Ndi Igbo as scapegoats for any national issue is over.

NZUKO UMUNNA FUND MOBILIZATION INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE FUNDING OF AN INDIGENT IGBO FIRST CLASS LAW GRADUATE OF OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU) ILE-IFE IN THE NIGERIA LAW SCHOOL

Protecting Igbo interest as one of the core mandate of Nzuko Umunna is not only said in words, it is exhibited in action. Nzuko Umunna believes that Alaigbo would be better if the necessary economic development agenda in the South East Nigeria is pursued religiously. To do that, it requires provisions of jobs, rehabilitation of schools, provision of infrastructural development and social amenities. The most important of all of these is equipping and educating the human resources that will be incharge of all these provisions when made available by the government. It was our own Zik of Africa Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe who said, “in vain do we build, if we do not build the man”³¹. This means that if we build macadamized bridges and gigantic edifice without building the human beings that will make use of these projects, the project will turn out a waste as a result of lack of basic understanding of the need for such project,

³¹ *Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe was the first President of Nigeria 1960-66. He was a nationalist and international figure until his death in 1996.*

wear and tear due to neglect caused by ignorance, and total waste of humongous financial resources that would have been directed to achieve another purpose.

In the spirit of building the man, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna received a report that one onye Igbo by name Vincent Ibekwe who graduated with first class in Law from Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife has been shortlisted to attend the Nigeria Law School. The said Mr. Vincent Ibekwe is indigent and cannot afford to pay the school fees and bank roll himself in the Nigeria Law School.

Pained by this situation, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna set up a fund mobilization intervention team to raise fund for the training of Mr. Vincent Ibekwe at the Nigeria Law School. The team reached out to members of Nzuko Umunna who donated generously in support of the fund drive. Thereafter, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna offered a full scholarship to Mr. Vincent Ibekwe to attend the 2020/2021 session of the Nigeria Law School. At the Nigeria Law School, Mr. Vincent Ibekwe was among the 7% of Students that bagged Second Class (Upper Division). He was called to Bar as a Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in July, 2021. After his graduation, he wrote a letter of appreciation thanking the leadership and entire members of Nzuko Umunna for their financial support towards the success of his law school program.

NZUKO UMUNNA REPRESENTATIVES REPORT ON THE VISIT OF THE SOUTH EAST LEADERS TO PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI ON THE ISSUE OF RELEASING OF FUNDS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE AKANU IBIAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

Having gotten the Federal Ministry of Aviation to expedite action on the rehabilitation of the Akanu Ibiyam International Airport Enugu, the South East Governors in conjunction with the Joint Committee on Rehabilitation reasoned that it will be appropriate to visit the President with regards to drawing his mind on the importance of the Akanu Ibiyam International Airport Enugu and the request for the release of all necessary funds that will be needed for the completion of the rehabilitation in record time.

The South East Governors Forum then selected some eminent personalities that will accompany them to the visit. They called on Nzuko Umunna to send in representative for the visit to Mr. President on 14th of October, 2019. The visit to the President gave the South East leaders the opportunity to inform Mr. President on the project and requested his approval for the release of all funds that will ensure the completion of the project. President Buhari thanked the South East leaders for the visit and gave directives that all funds necessary for the completion of the rehabilitation of Akanu Ibiyam International Airport Enugu be released without further delay.

The visit yielded positive results, the pace of work was increased and the rehabilitation completed in record time.

NZUKO UMNUNNA GREATER NIGERIA CONFERENCE (GNC)

Recall that in years back, Nzuko Umunna activated the first ever Handshake Across the Nigeria (HATN) Conference, Handshake Across Nigeria (HATN) Summit, and so many other similar conference. The aim is to continue to provide a conversation avenue where Nigerians can discuss the issue of restructuring, marginalization, injustice, lack of equal participation, issues of corruption, Igbo presidency, to mention but a few. It is worthy to note that each conference or summit organized so far by Nzuko Umunna achieved tremendous success and applause by all and sundry. One thing that stands Nzuko Umunna out is that Nzuko acts strategically and proactively. Once an idea that will be beneficial to Alaigbo and Ndi Igbo comes out, Nzuko Umunna ensures such idea is developed from infancy to full implementation. Nzuko Umunna is a platform filled with resourceful men and women. Much wonder, the level of excellence in delivery of projects is always top notch.

Meanwhile, after the 2019 General elections in Nigeria, it was easily said that the next President of Nigeria must come from the Southern part of Nigeria. This is because President Muhammadu Buhari is currently serving his second term and he is a Northerner. In the Southern Nigeria, there are three zones namely the South West, South South, and South East. Since the return of democracy in 1999, South West has produced Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as President and the current Vice President Prof. Yemi Osibanjo. South South have produced Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan as President. South East is the only region/zone that is yet to produce a

President or Vice President since 1999. After the 2019 elections, justice demands that in 2023 elections, Ndi Igbo in the South East must be supported by Nigerians and friends of Nigerians to win the Presidential election.

To achieve this, Ndi Igbo needed to reach out to all and sundry, Ndi Igbo needed to make friends with their neighbours and other zones in Nigeria, Ndi Igbo needed to negotiate, speak out and strategically engage Nigerians on why Igbo Presidency is justice served and delivered.

On its own, Nzuko Umunna designed a project driver for this task and named it Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC). The Committee was set up and given a one goal terms of reference, that is, to galvanize Nigerians and use the Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC) to demand and push that the Presidency be zoned to South East by all political parties. The committee commenced work, pulled resources together, interfaced with promoters of restructuring, justice and equity in Nigeria and organized a historic event that ushered a rise in tempo for the push of South East Presidency.

The event was held at the International Conference Center, Abuja of April 25th 2022 and the event was attended by almost all the South East Presidential Aspirants including Senator Anyim Pius Ayim, Senator Chris Ngige, Senator Rochas Okorocha, Mr. Peter Obi, Dr. Nwachukwu Anakwenze, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, Chief Dave Umahi (Executive Governor of Ebonyi State), to mention but a few.

Friends of Ndi Igbo that graced the Conference included Chief Ayo Adebajo, Dr. Pogu Bitrus, Chief Edwin Clark, Amb. George Obiozor and other leaders of the Southern and Middle Belt Leaders Forum. Major highlight of the conference included the powerful speech by the President of Afenifere Pa Ayo Adebajo who boldly told Nigerians that justice demands that the next President of Nigeria should come from South East, Nigeria. There were speeches of goodwill and support from leaders from other parts of Nigeria which geared towards the same belief that South East deserves to produce the next President of Nigeria in 2023.

Remarkably, the echoes from the conference introduced the issue of zoning the Presidency to the South East. For example, in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which have zoning enshrined in their constitution, the issue of zoning became the major issue for discussion. Infact, prior to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential Primary, a Committee was set up by the Party to discuss and make recommendations on the issue of zoning. Unfortunately, after much politicking, the PDP Presidential Primary was thrown open to all party members. In the ruling All Progressive Congress (APC), some members of the party argued that the Presidential flag of the party be given to South East. In some other parties, the argument was the same. All over the media, the demand of the South East was the major part of discussion. The Presidential Primaries of all political parties came and gone. The rest is history.

However, one thing is certain, the Greater Nigeria

Conference (GNC) and other previous summits like Handshake Across the Niger and Nigeria opened up the space for discussion of the zoning of the President to South East zone. Today, a great Igbo Son Mr. Peter Obi is flying the promising flag of the Labour Party (LP) as the Presidential Candidate. He enjoys the support of a large chunk of Nigerians especially Nigerian youths. Today, Mr. Peter Obi enjoys the support of the Afenifere under the leadership of Chief Pa Ayo Adebajo. Infact, Afenifere have endorsed him as the Presidential Candidate of their choice.

This fruit of historic endorsement by Afenifere was cultivated by Nzuko Umunna years back when the partnership deal with Afenifere was struck through the Handshake Across the Niger (HATN) and sustained through various collaboration between Afenifere, Nzuko Umunna and other groups.

NZUKO UMUNNA POLITICAL ACTION (PAC) COMMITTEE FOR THE 2023 ELECTION

Concerned about the 2023 General Election and the need for Ndi Igbo to get the best negotiation and political outing, the Executive Council of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna Political Action Committee (PAC) for the 2023 election. The committee was given the following terms of reference:

1. The Nzuko Umunna Political Action Committee (PAC) is expected to project possible political scenario with reference to the 2023 general elections.
2. The Nzuko Umunna PAC is expected to consider various response options and advise the Nzuko Umunna family through the Nzuko Umunna Executive

- Council the possible steps to take in the overall interest and welfare of Ndi Igbo in the milieu of Nigeria.
3. The Nzuko Umunna PAC is expected to be guided in its recommendations by evidence based analysis of review, collate and present fact based analysis for each projected scenario.
 4. The Nzuko Umunna PAC is expected to submit its preliminary report to the Executive Council on or before 1st of October, 2022.
 5. The Nzuko Umunna PAC is expected to advise the Nzuko Umunna family through the Executive Council on steps to take in building a pan Nigeria regional coalition in safeguarding the Igbo interest and to reassure our neighbours of unity, peace, progress and development.
 6. The Nzuko Umunna PAC is free to adopt any other agenda that may be consistent with the task set up for this purpose.³²

This committee is chaired by Chief Osita Chidoka, (Ike Obosi). The Committee like every other committee set up the leadership of Nzuko Umunna works and fires from all cylinder to get the expected remit of the terms of reference. The Political Action Committee for the 2023 election has an ongoing mandate which can only be completed after the 2023 General elections in March, 2023. The Committee is interfacing with the leadership of Nzuko Umunna.

³² *Nzuko Umunna Political Action Committee Terms of Reference, page 1 (unpublished).*

NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE CALLING OFF OF ELECTION BOYCOTT OF THE ANAMBRA 2021 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

Recall the Anambra State is the first State in Nigeria to have a staggered or simply put, a separate Governorship election. Recall that in 2017 during the second term bid of the then Executive Governor of Anambra State Chief Willie M. Obiano, there was a strong agitation on Referendum or no election by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB). In 2017, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna played a historic role in dousing the tension created by the referendum or no election stand of IPOB.

Fast forward to 2021, Anambra Governorship election, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) issued once again a referendum or no election announcement. Prior to the IPOB announcement, Anambra State was already under siege by the notorious Unknown Gun Men (UGM). Infact, the UGM have occupied about Seven Local Government Areas in Anambra South Senatorial Zone. Many prominent people have been kidnapped and burning of Government properties took place most especially in those seven Local Government Areas (LGAs).

Evidently, the insecurity level was high in Anambra State. People were afraid whether the 2021 Governorship election will ever hold because Politicians were even afraid to attend rallies and campaigns.

Understanding the heavy implication of not conducting

Anambra Governorship election in 2021, the Executive Council of Nzuko Umunna swung into action by raising an intervention team. First and foremost, they reached out to the leadership of IPOB High Command, explained the issues at stake, exchanged views together and agreed to work together to address the issue. Having gotten the IPOB leadership ready to discuss, Nzuko Umunna intervention team facilitated a strategic meeting attended by South East Traditional Rulers, South East religious leaders and the leadership of IPOB. The meeting was fruitful and successful. The Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team facilitated what came to be called the Joint Body of South East Council of Traditional Rulers and the Representatives of Igbo Archbishops and Bishops. This joint body sat several times and issued press release calling on Ndi Anambra to come out en-masse to vote during the 2021 Governorship election. The Joint body as facilitated by Nzuko Umunna Intervention Team also held meetings with the top hierarchy of IPOB wherein they agreed that Anambra 2021 Governorship election must hold. The election was held in November 2021 and it was adjudged one of the most transparent, free, fair and credible election held in Nigeria.

NZUKO UMUNNA ELECTION SITUATION ROOM COMMITTEE REPORT.

Known for being proactive in character and action, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna Election Situation Room. The Committee was given the following terms of reference:

1. To sensitize our people on the need for deliberate and

- active political participation.
2. To propagate some of the qualities that voters could use as indicators by understudying the electoral context.
 3. To monitor the activities of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies and political parties pre and during election in ensuring that democratic processes are strictly followed.
 4. To reach out to stakeholders and ensure that adequate logistics and materials are made available in a timely manner to voters.
 5. To monitor the actual result collation from polling units all the way to declaration.
 6. To prepare a post election report that could highlight areas of possible improvement in future elections.³³

The Committee began on a good note by identifying areas that are for short term, medium term and long term approach. For example issue like monitoring the activities of INEC, security agencies and political parties is a continuum and will last till the end of the election. The situation room has gotten the necessary data that will help in monitoring the elections in real time.

Since the work of the committee is still ongoing, kudos should be given to them on the ones they have done. It is expected that the committee will follow the campaign judiciously, monitor the process of the distribution of Permanent Voters Card (PVC), monitor the distribution of election materials, monitor the flow of the election

³³ *Nzuko Umunna Election Situation Room document (unpublished copy).*

especially the actual live result of each polling unit in Nigeria and provide a post election report that will be well detailed and full of recommendations. It is trite to note that this report may not be available before this work hits the press due to time constraints and schedule for publication. However, any interested reader/researcher can visit the Nzuko Umunna secretariat for further reading and research.

NZUKO UMUNNA TOWN HALL MEETING FOR OHANAEZE NDIGBO 2021 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Participatory right of followers is one of the good things about democracy. This is because it gives the people the opportunity to meet with their incoming leaders, assess them, interrogate their aim/objectives, listen to the explanations, ask them questions on vital issues and hear their replies. It also affords the incoming leaders the opportunity to closely interface with the followers, hear their demands, fears, challenges and provide answer and deliberate steps to be used in delivering the dividends of democracy and leadership.

Filled with the desire to create such synergy between the “oha” (the people) and the “Eze” (the leaders), the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna committee for the Town Hall Meeting for Ohaneze Ndigbo 2021 Presidential Candidates. Upon creation of this committee, there was mixed feelings and divergent opinions. First, many hailed the idea as historic and timely and anticipated the days for the town hall meeting. Some saw the Town Hall meeting as a work that would have been done by

Ohaneze Ndigbo. Following this inflow of opinion, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna explained to all and sundry that the Town Hall meeting is an interactive session that is not mandatory for any Presidential Candidate. The leadership also pointed out that the aim of the town hall meeting is to create a platform and meeting venue where the people can interact with the President General Candidates of Ohaneze Ndigbo and that such interaction can help the delegates to the Ohaneze election form opinion about who to vote for on the election day.

The Nzuko Umunna Town Hall Meeting for the President General Candidates of Ohaneze Ndigbo was held on 12th December, 2020. The President-General (PG) Candidates that attended the Town Hall Meeting included: Dr. Chris Asoluka, Chief Goddy Uwazurike, Dr. Joe Nworgu, Prof. Osuagwu, to mention but a few. Each Candidate was given a specific time/schedule for the Town Hall Meeting. Questions asked to the Candidates bothers mainly on Security, Economic Integration and Development, Issue of Agitation, Restructuring, Promotion of Culture and Igbo Language, Igbo Presidency, to mention but a few. The candidate, answered to the best of their knowledge and what they will do differently when elected the President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo.

NZUKO UMUNNA PERMANENT VOTERS CARD (PVC) MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE

Following the outrage and issues surrounding the registration and collection of Permanent Voters Card (PVC), the Leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the

Nzuko Umunna PVC Mobilization Committee. The committee was charged with:

1. Understudy the issues, and complaints raised by the electorates.
2. Contact the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with hope of hearing from INEC their own side of the issue.
3. Suggest ways that will ensure that all Nigerians of voting age are allowed to register and collect their Permanent Voters Card (PVC).
4. Advise the leadership of Nzuko Umunna on possible actions that could be taken to ensure no one is disenfranchised by INEC.
5. Liaise with other organizations and key stakeholders to address any issue pertaining to the PVC and other electoral matters.³⁴

The committee mindful of the timing limits of each activity in the electoral calendar commenced work immediately. Meetings and serious deliberation were held. The committee understands that their role continues till the end of election in 2023 and therefore there was need to plan their role in stages. The committee held meetings with stakeholders in the electoral project, community leaders like Association of South East Town Union (ASETU) and other opinion leaders.

During the call for the extension deadline of the registration of voters, the committee issued press release and joint

³⁴ *Terms of Reference for Nzuko Umunna PVC Mobilization Committee page 1, (unpublished).*

communiqué. The committee wrote letters to both Local and International bodies like Embassies, European Union (EU), to mention but a few. The motive behind the letter was to draw the mind of both local and International organizations on the actions of INEC. The committee recently secured funding from an International group of Nigerians called the Medics. The funding was for specified number of projects.

Since the time frame for the committee to work is ongoing, it is expected that the committee will cover many grounds and perform creditably. The report of the committee will be available after the February and March 2023 General elections.

NZUKO UMUNNA INVESTIGATION TEAM ON THE LEVEL OF DIRT/REFUSE IN ABA, ABIA STATE.

Dirt/dumping of refuse causes environmental and health hazards. Citizens living and doing business in such dirty area inhale daily these agelong mounds of refuse/dirt thereby causing untold health challenges to them. Sometime in 2020, the issue of impassable road filled with mountains of debris, dirt, gutters littered with refuse/dirt and streets covered by with dirt in Aba was raised at the Nzuko Umunna platform. Members were of the view that the issue of Aba is becoming a total embarrassment to every onye Igbo especially those who know or could remember the golden days of “Enyimba City”, as Aba was/ is fondly called. As the discussion was ongoing, some members raised the issue that most of the pictures displayed did not reflect the true position of things

with regards to the deplorable condition of roads and dirt in Aba. For these group of people, the situation is being over hyped.

To provide leadership, guidance and direction, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna Investigation Team on the level of Dirt/Refuse in Aba. The two man team of Charles Ogbu and Eugene Ikoro were mandated to do an on the spot assessment and evaluation of the situation of things in Aba. Both of them were mandated to provide video and picture evidence to back up their assessment trip.

The two man investigation team did a fantastic job by visiting the areas of interest and uploading the necessary videos and pictures. The general verdict was that the situation was even fatal and worrisome than imagined. Members expressed anger and sadness over the level of deterioration and decay which Aba was reduced to by the Abia State Government.

At this point, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe pleaded with members to be patient that he is already discussing the matter with Abia State Governor Dr. Okezie Ikpeazu. Senator Abaribe asked the Nzuko Umunna to give him about one month to revert to the Nzuko Umunna on the level of interventions done. Members of Nzuko Umunna family thanked him for his intervention. The leadership of Nzuko Umunna equally thanked him for his intervention and also suggested that he should promptly follow up his discussion with the Abia State Governor and that Nzuko Umunna will keep a tab on the issue until it is resolved.

NZUKO UMUNNA INVESTIGATION TEAM ON THE PRESENT CONDITION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN EBONYI STATE AS A RESULT OF EBONYI STATE GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION OF COMMUNITY LANDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AIRPORT.

The need to heartken to the cry of the people is embedded in Igbo values, ethos, ethics and way of life. Injury to one is injury to all is an age long saying that has its own different version in Igbo land. Ndi Igbo respect and care for one another. When in need, the community seeks out ways to assist an indigent member of the society. Ndi Igbo will say, “Onuruubenwanneagbanaoso” (May you not run or show indifference when you hear the cry of a brother/neighbours).

It happened that sometime in 2019; national newspapers carried the issue of some displaced indigenes of Ezza North Local Government Area in Ebonyi State. The news which had its social media version carried gory pictures and an unhealthy environment where these displaced Ndi Ebonyi were staying, a sort of Internally Displaced Persons Camp (IDPC).

The issue was brought to Nzuko Umunna platform for deliberations. Many issues came up about the displaced Ndi Ebonyi. Some members informed the Nzuko Umunna family that these people were chased out of their ancestral home because the government of Ebonyi State wants to use the area for the construction of Airport. Some members claimed that these people were displaced as a result of inter community clashes. Some others said that these people were

displaced as a result of the menace of the Fulani herdsmen in their area.

Based on the conflicting information, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna set up the Nzuko Umunna Investigation Team on the Present condition of displaced Persons in Ebonyi State. The team was tasked to conduct on the spot visit and assessment of the area in question, ascertain the remote and immediate cause of the displacement, interface with government and other stakeholders to hear their own side of the story, ascertain the level of challenges the displaced persons face, and make recommendations that will help in solving the situation.

The team immediately swung into action. They visited the communities affected in Ezza North Local Government Area in Ebonyi State and interacted with the displaced persons. From the information the team gathered from some of the displaced persons who agreed to talk to them, it was the government that sent them away from their ancestral land. They complained of lack of good water, inability to locate the market and hospital easily, unhealthy environment, to mention but a few.

The displaced persons complained of government's insincerity and lack of attention to their plight and pleaded that they should be assisted. The team met with some government representative who affirmed that the people were really told to vacate the area by the Government of Ebonyi State. The representative of the Government of Ebonyi State added that the State Government wrote

severally to them informing them of the intention of the government to use the area for the construction of Airport and that the indigenes who complied with the directions of government were duly compensated. The team confronted the representative of government with the information that many of the displaced persons claimed that there was nothing like compensation. The representative of Ebonyi State Government replied that those who complained may be those who did not comply with the government directives.

The team together with the leadership of Nzuko Umunna engaged the Government of Ebonyi State further. The Government after much deliberation agreed to conduct assessment of the situation and to commence another round of compensation for the displaced persons.

NZUKO UMUNNA INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL REPORT ON THE BREACH OF TRUST BETWEEN IPOB AND CHIEF NNIA NWODO (PRESIDENT-GENERAL OHANEZE NDIIGBO)

Sequel to the call by members of Nzuko Umunna for an independent investigation panel to be set up and properly investigate the remote and immediate cause of the allegations of breach of trust made by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) against the leadership of Ohaneze Ndigbo, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna set up a four person independent investigation panel with the following terms of reference:

1. To find out why the Special Adviser to Nnia Nwodo

- released such press statement on behalf of Ohaneze Ndigbo.
2. To find out if the press statement was released with the approval/consent of the President General of Ohaneze Ndigbo, Chief Nnia Nwodo.
 3. To Interface with IPOB representatives at the meeting to know if they agreed that press statement be released after the meeting.
 4. Recommend damage control and de-escalation process on this matter.³⁵

The panel sat on Saturday 8th of August 2020 and delegated some members of the panel to interface with Chief Attamah (Special Adviser to PG. Nnia Nwodo) and IPOB represented by Mr. Aloy Ejimakor and Mr. Ben Maduka Madu. On 11th day of August, 2020, the panel reconvened to look into the findings and matters arising from the interface. On the side of Ohaneze Ndigbo, Chief Attamah accepted he actually sent out a press release. He was remorseful and apologizes for the damage the press release must have caused IPOB and NdiIgbo in general. He claimed that his aim of sending out the press release was to portray that Ohanaze NdiIgbo and IPOB are now on the same page. When Chief Attamah was asked by the Panel whether he obtained the authorization of the PG Nnia Nwodo before sending out the release, he said that he could not have issued such a press release without the knowledge of his principal but he takes full responsibility for the press release and apologized to the IPOB delegation.

Mr. Ben Maduka Madu while narrating IPOB side of the

³⁵ *Report of Nzuako Umunna Independent Investigation on the breach of Trust between IPOB and Chief NniaNwodo (President General Ohaneze Ndigbo) page 1, (unpublished report).*

story said that it was even Ohaneze leadership that instructed that there should be no press release on the meeting from either parties. He said that Ohaneze NdiIgbo leadership betrayed their trust and further added that though they see Ohaneze as the apex Igbo leadership organization, Ohaneze NdiIgbo must also understand that there is division of labour. He added that despite the betrayal, they are still open and ready for discussion but they would want to be assured that such mutual agreements would be duly respected and upheld. Barr. Alloy Ejimakor on his own added that they can only meet with Ohaneze NdiIgbo again if the meeting is convened by Nzuko Umunna and that such meeting shall be attended by the likes of Chief Mbazulike Amechi and some Bishops.

The Panel found out that notwithstanding the issues of breach of trust, both parties agreed and appreciate the fact that no single organization can save or protect Alaigbo, thus, an inclusion approach (the Igwebuiké formular) is preferable. The Panel recommended that the leadership of Nzuko Umunna should convey to IPOB the regrets of Chief Attamah and his promise to be better guided in future engagements. Also, that the leadership of Nzuko Umunna should convey to Ohaneze NdiIgbo the feeling of betrayal by IPOB with the press release. It is worthy to note that both Ohaneze NdiIgbo represented by Chief Attamah and Indigenous People of Biafra represent by Mr. Ben Maduka Madu expressed unreserved appreciation to Nzuko Umunna for their timely intervention and promised to make themselves available for further engagements. The Panel submitted their report on 15th of August, 2020.

NZUKO UMUNNA LEGAL DEFENSE TEAM AGAINST THE KILLING OF IGBO YOUTHS BY SECURITY OPERATIVES IN EMENE ENUGU IN 2020

Sometime in 2020, some unarmed Igbo youths in Emene Enugu had their lives cut short by security operatives. This dastardly act and sad event threw many families into shock, sorrow and mourning. Many people asked, “Is it now a crime to be Igbo?” “Why should the lives of Ndi Igbo be terminated by security operatives at every slightest opportunity?”. People were worried that if this act is not challenged, it may snow ball into full scale killings and murder of Ndi Igbo.

Filled with the pain of losing the lives of able bodied Igbo youths in the hands of security operatives that ought to protect them, the entire Nzuko Umunna resolved that this action must be challenged. The leadership of Nzuko Umunna therefore set up the Nzuko Umunna legal defense team against the killing of Igbo youths by security operatives in Emene Enugu State.

The team secured a judgment of the court directing the State Government to set up judicial panel of enquiry on the matter.

HANDSHAKE ACROSS NIGERIA II

The 2023 general election will go down in history as one election that witnessed charged vitriolic, spiteful, hurtful and venomous statements against ndi Igbo. It was a general election that portrayed the fact that we still have a long way to

go as Nigerians. These abnormal political statements stirred emotions and rose tempers from all sides of the divide. Another angle the ugly incident exposed is the fact that, if for example, you think it is only ndi Igbo that will be affected when the situation arises, you may be surprised that your facial expression and looks may give you out as onye Igbo. It happened that many non Igbo were meted with ethnic profiling as Igbo people just because they look like Igbos.

This is a lesson for all Nigerians. The lesson is that we must stand up against all forms of primordial sentiments, ethnicism, tribalism, nepotism, and all other social vices that have kept Nigeria lagging behind. Another lesson for us is that people are getting wiser day by day. Nigerians are beginning to understand that ndi Igbo are not the cause of their problem, poverty or hardship. The cause of bad economy and bad governance is bribery, corruption, wrong leadership recruitment, nepotism, and ethnic bias, to mention but a few. While corrupt leaders flew their usual ethnic and religious kite, the electorates rejected that and insisted that the 2023 general elections must be on competence, merit and capacity to deliver the dividends of democracy to Nigerians.

As a proactive organization, Nzuko Umunna taught it wise and appropriate to activate the Handshake Across Nigeria II. Recall that NU organized Handshake Across the Niger(Enugu 2018) and Handshake Across Nigeria I(Lagos 2019). The Handshake Across Nigeria II will be held alongside with the formal handover of the incoming Executives of Nzuko Umunna. The aim of the Handshake

Across Nigeria II includes:

- To strategically reach out to Nigerians especially leaders in all the geo-political zones in Nigeria with a view to discuss on issues that often make other parts of Nigeria hate ndi Igbo.
- To honour and celebrate Nigerian leaders who stood up against injustice and spoke on behalf of ndi Igbo before, during and after the election.
- To critically discuss nation-building and what it entails.
- To forge a robust South East Regional Integration template.
- To create an opportunity for vital dialogue between the outgoing South East leaders and the incoming South East leaders.
- To use the medium to announce to the global community that ndi Igbo are not in enmity or at war with any part of Nigeria and to reiterate that ndi Igbo are peace-builders who develop any community they find themselves and therefore deserve mutual love and respect from their host communities.

Interestingly, the event is slated to hold on the 28th day of April, 2023 in Enugu, Nigeria. Members of the Committee for the event include:

- Nze Ozichukwu Chukwu—Chairman
- Dr Kachi Nwoga—Secretary
- Senator Enyi Abaribe
- Iyom Josephine Anenih
- Senator Victor Umeh
- Ogbueshi Delly Ajufo
- Mr. Charles Ogbu

- Mr. Bede Okoye
- Mr. Magnus Eze
- Lady Pearl Ijeoma Okoro
- Lady Ebere Ifendu
- Mr. Senator Iroegbu
- Pastor Joe Attueyi
- Rev Fr. Mathias Udeonu
- Mr. Gideon Adikwuru
- Mr. Emeka Diwe
- Hon. Chibudom Nwuche,
- Prof. Maurice Iwu
- Mr. Chris Maduka
- Mr. Collins Ugwu
- Mr. Everest Ozonweke
- Mr. Emeka Nwadioke
- Mr. Nnanna Udeh

CHAPTER

5

SYNERGY THAT WORKS

When association or group breaks into session or committee stage, the aim is to achieve more and to create a template for discussion, adoption and a working document for the General assembly. Committee or project or intervention session are used to critically analyse the area of interest or terms of reference, provide an avenue for robust argument, streamline views of contributors, distill the various scope of work given to the committee/team, finetune or broaden the terms of reference and produce a report for the larger association of public as the case may be.

In Nzuko Umunna, it is worthy to note that there has been plethora of activities. These activities can be grouped in three parts: (a) Events/Summit/Conference (b) Intervention/Heavylifting efforts (c) Committee

stage/Committee reports. Aware of the vital nature and tremendous impact of committees, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna in 2017 created various committees. Each committee was given terms of reference, a timeline to work and submit a workable and actionable report. In creating the committee, the Leadership of Nzuko Umunna was mindful of putting the square peg in a round hole. The Chairman and members of the committee were selected based on their specialty, expertise and area of interest. This criterion was also adopted when creating Intervention Team or Conference Committee members.

Apart from these activities, note must be taken that the Nzuko Umunna General Assembly Platform is a huge gathering where a lot of ideas are hatched and fertilized. Members deliberate on recent happenings and situations in Alaigbo, Nigeria and global stage. For example, whenever there is a pressing issue raised by members, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna will put the issue to a debate, when there is need for further action, members will be called to make a motion. For the motion to succeed, another member will second the motion. Sometimes, the motion will be properly redrafted before it is moved. Once another member seconds the motion, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna may set up a Committee, an investigative panel or a fact finding team as the case may arise. This committee will sit and submit report to the General Assembly.

Another way of creating synergy and partnership that works is by putting a matter to voting before an action will be taken by the leadership and members. Nzuko Umunna in all its

deals and engagement believes in the principles of rule of law, democracy, equality, mutual respect, equal participation, freedom of expression, fairness, justice, to mention but a few. Evidently, within these six years under review, Nzuko Umunna has produced wonderful working documents and has done series of heaveylifting and summits that have promoted Alaigbo and NdiIgbo. The synergy that works within the Nzuko Umunna is one of shared values, trust, commitment and collaboration. The kind of energy members of each committee, intervention and project teams exudes is one that need to be replicated in many organizations and offices in government.

For historical and record purposes it is germane to produce a record of all committees, interventions and projects together with full list of members. The aim is to thank the members of these committee/teams for their sacrifices and contributions, to inform them that history is taking record of their valuable contributions, to celebrate all they have done and to inform them that their labours are not in vain. Below are the committees, investigative panels, intervention teams, event teams and fact finding teams of Nzuko Umunna within the years under review.

1. NZUKO UMUNNA BRIDGE BUILDERS

1. Amb. Umunna H. Orjiako- Chairman
2. Amb. Ndubuisi Amaku
3. Amb. Chudi Okafor, MON
4. Amb. Ozo Nwobu
5. Mr. Jude Ndukwe
6. Dr. Sam Amadi

2. NZUKO UMUNNA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Chukwuma Soludo
2. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo
3. Chief Patrick Chidolue
4. Mr. Jerome Okolo
5. Mr. Iheanacho Okoye
6. Mrs. Ndidi Nwuneli
7. Prof. Barth Nnaji
8. Dr. Austin Nweze
9. Mr. Akolo Onyi
10. Mr Chidi Okpaluba
11. Mr. Chigozie Udeogu
12. Mr. Chika Okorofofor
13. Mr. Chukwuma Onyema
14. Dr. Udentia O. Udentia
15. Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe
16. Fr. Dominic Agu
17. Mr. Innocent Chukwuma
18. Mr. Jay Orji
19. Mr. Innocent Isichei
20. Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu
21. Mr. Reggie Iyizoba
22. Dr. Sam Amadi
23. Hon. Uche Onyeagocha
24. Mr. Uzo Nwagwu
25. Mr. Sylvanus Ebeigwe
26. Mr. Ferdinand Agu
27. Mr. Reginald Ihejiahi

3. NZUKO UMUNNA NARRATIVE COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Sam Amadi
2. Mr. Jude Ndukwe
3. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
4. Mr. Chidi Omeje
5. Dr. Uju Agomoh
6. Mr. Charles Ogbu
7. Viola Okolie
8. Dr. Law Mefor
9. Lady Onyeka Onwenu

4. NZUKO UMUNNA POLITICAL COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Pat Utomi-Chairman
2. Mr. Obioma Okoye
3. Rev. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
4. Mr. Paul Okoye
5. Chief Chekwes Okorie
6. Ifeoma Chidolue Aleke
7. Dr. Joe Nwaorgu
8. Mr. Jasper Njoku
9. Kalu Onuma
10. Chief Clem Ayu
11. Mr. Ikechukwu Onyia
12. Onyii Nwagbara
13. H.E. Dr. Orji Uzor Kalu
14. H.E. Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife
15. Mr. Collins Ugwu
16. Prof. Emeka Emeyonu
17. Chibuzor Oguoma
18. Emeka Onwuka

19. Prof. Ilochi Okafor, SAN
20. Dr. Austin Nweze
21. Mr. Emma Onyilofor
22. Chief Charles Odunukwe

5. NZUKO UMUNNA QUO VADIS DEBATE

Rapportour Team

1. Dr. Uju Agomoh
2. Prof. Emma Emeyonu
3. Ifeanacho Okoye
4. Innocent Isichei
5. Chidimma Obianodo
6. Obioma Okoye
7. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo

PARTICIPANTS

1. Mr. Tony Nnadi
2. Prof. Chidi Odinkalu
3. Prof. Chika Moore
4. Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu
5. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
6. Mr. Jay Orji
7. Godwin Ukaegbu
8. Prof. Udentia O. Udentia
9. Mr. Ifeanacho Okoye
10. Chief Dubem Onyia
11. Hon. Ike C. Ibe
12. Mr. Okobo Paul Onyia
13. Mr. Chidi Okpalauba
14. Hon. CID Maduabum
15. Esoha Onuoha

16. Amb. Ozo Jerome Okolo
17. Mr. Osita Agu
18. Jude Ilo
19. Mr. Emma Onyilofor
20. Dr. Ifeanyi Ubah
21. Obi Adim Humphrey

MODERATORS

1. Prof. Emeka Ezeonu
2. Amb. Umunna Orjiakor
3. Mr. Dickson Iroegbu

6. NZUKO UMUNNA SOCIO CULTURAL COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Chika Moore- Chairman
2. Mr. M.O. Ene
3. HRM. Igwe Agubuzu
4. Fr. Jude Chukwuneke
5. Mr. Emeka Ugwu Orji
6. Mr. Ekene Muonyililo
7. Mr. Dickson Iroegbu
8. Dr. Ifeanyi Uba
9. Mr. Chiadi Chidume
10. Mr. Chidimma Obianodo
11. Mr. Uchenna Madu
12. Mr. Bede Okoye
13. Prof. Greg Ibe
14. Mr. Tony Nnadi
15. Mr. Emeka Obasi
16. Hon. Ike C. Ibe
17. Mr. Esona Onuoha

18. Chief Rommy Ezeonwuka
19. Amb. Obi Adim
20. Prof. Uzodinma Nwala
21. Mr. Timothy Ofoegbu
22. Victor Atta
23. Innocent Chukwuma
24. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
25. Fr. Dominic Igwe
26. Dr. Uju Agomoh

7. NZUKO UMUNNA RESTRUCTURING/SELF DETERMINATION AND IGBO PRESIDENCY E- DEBATE

MODERATORS

1. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
2. Olu Onyimadu
3. Chimezie Udechukwu

LEAD DISCUSSANTS

1. Dr. Sam Amadi
2. Amb. Umunna Orjiako
3. Amb. Ozo Nwobu
4. Prof. Udentia O. Udentia

8. NZUKO UMUNNA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) SUB COMMITTEE

1. Prof. Emmanuel Emeyonu – Chairman
2. Prof. M.O.E Eneh
3. Mr. Jasper Njoku
4. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko
5. Roberto Amadieube Mbama

6. Dr. Nzeribe Ihekweba –Secretary

9 **NZUKO UMUNNA IGBODUM DATABASE COMMITTEE**

1. Engr. Ben Ezenta – Chairman
2. Mr. Innocent Ofoma –Secretary
3. Hon. Emeka Agbo
4. Mazi Obi Okoli
5. Chief Benjamin Chike Allision
6. Chief Amadieube Mbama
7. Chief Tony Okpara
8. Ijioma Eze-Adenka
9. Jonny Nosike
10. Chief Tony Okpara
11. Barr. Chuba Obi- Okauro
12. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko

10. **NZUKO UMUNNA COMMITTEE ON THE REHABILITATION OF AKANU IBIAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

1. Engr. Chris Okoye
2. Archbishop Christopher Edeh
3. Major General Obi Umahi
4. Dr. Gabriel Inya-Agha
5. Mr. Charles Ogbu
6. Mr. Paschal Mbanefo
7. Mr. Innocent Chukwuma
8. Mr. Chinenye MbaUzoukwu
9. Hon. CID Maduabum
10. Mr. Ben Akabueze
11. Mr. Obioma Okoye

12. Dr. Uju Agomoh
13. Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe

11. NZUKO UMUNNA DELEGATION TO THE EXPANDED SOUTH EAST GOVERNORS FORUM MEETING FOR THE REHABILITATION OF AKANU IBIAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

1. Archbishop Christopher Edeh
2. Iyom Josphine Anenih
3. Engr. Chris Okoye
4. Major General Abel Obi Umahi
5. Mr. Charles Ogbu

12. NZUKO UMUNNA IGBOEZUE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP RETREAT COMMITTEE

1. Chief Gary Enwo Igariwey- Chairman
2. Archbishop Christopher Edeh
3. Engr. Chris Okoye
4. Senator Stella Adaeze Oduah
5. Hon. Nkeiru Onyejeocha
6. Chief Patrick Chidolue
7. Amb. Eddie Onuoha
8. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
9. Mrs. Golda Obi
10. Mr. Bede Okoye
11. Dr. Uju Agomoh
12. Rev. Fr. John Manafa
13. Dr. Kachi Nwoga
14. Barr. Ebere Ifendu

15. Prof. Pat Utomi
16. Mr. Emeka Onwuka
17. Senator Chris Anyanwu
18. Iyom Josephine Anenih
19. Mr. Orlando Nweze
20. Dr. Abraham Nwankwo
21. Dr. Austin Nweze
22. Nze Ozichukwu Chukwu
23. Prof. Chika Moore
24. Henry Onyedika Adibe

**13. NZUKO UMUNNA
DELEGATION/PRESENTATION
COMMITTEE ON IGBO POSITION
ORGANIZED BY OHANEZE NDIGBO IN
2018**

1. Senator Chris Anyanwu
2. Prof. Chika Moore
3. Dr. Uju Agomoh
4. Mr. Obioma Okoye

**14. NZUKO UMUNNA 50 YEARS BIAFRA
REMEMBRANCE NEVER AGAIN
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

1ST CONFERENCE

1. Prof. Pat Utomi
2. Dr. Austin Nweze
3. Chief Sylvester Elema, SAN
4. Dr. Alex Otti
5. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
6. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio

7. Chief Chuma Igwe
8. Major General Obi Umahi

SECOND CONFERENCE

1. Prof. Pat. Utomi
2. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
3. Dr. Austin Nweze
4. Senator Chris Anyanwu
5. Prof. Chika Moore
6. Mr. Obioma Okoye
7. Mr. Greg Muonyililio

15. NZUKO UMUNNA TELL OUR STORY COMMITTEE

1. Senator Chris Anyanwu – Chairman
2. Dr. Nzeribe Ihekwaba
3. Pastor Joe Attueyi
4. Mr. Chris Maduka
5. Mr. Osita Agu
6. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
7. Mr. Charles Ogbu
8. Chief Jude Ndukwe
9. Dr. Uju Agomoh
10. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
11. Mr. Chidi Omeje
12. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
13. Dr. Sam Amadi
14. Mr. Dickson Iroegbu
15. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo

**16. NZUKO UMUNNA HANDSHAKE ACROSS
NIGERIA COMMITTEE**

1. Dr. Austin Nweze
2. Prof. Maurice Iwu
3. Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe
4. Mr. Bede Okoye
5. Engr. Chiendu Titus Ani
6. Mr. Chris Maduka
7. Dr. Uju Agomoh
8. Barr. Ebere Ifendu
9. Prof. Gregory Ibe
10. Mr. Moritz Abazie
11. Barr. Okey Akobundu
12. Chief Charles Odunukwe
13. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
14. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
15. Chief Evaristus Ozonweke
16. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
17. Mr. Obioma Okoye

**17. NZUKO UMUNNA RECONCILITATION
COMMITTEE BETWEEN CHIEF CHEKWAS
OKORIE AND SENATOR VICTOR UMEH**

1. Chief Patrick Chidolue
2. Senator Enyinna Abaribe
3. Rev. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
4. Barr. Ozioma Izuora
5. Prof. Chidi Osuagwu

18. NZUKO UMUNNA STRATEGY COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Udenta O. Udenta
2. Dr. Law Mefor
3. Mr. Obasi Kalu
4. Rev. Fr. Henry Okeke, Ph.D
5. Dr. Sam Amadi
6. Mr. Paschal Mbanefo
7. Mr. Ferdinand Agu
8. Mr. Jasper Njoku
9. Prof. Emmanuel Emeyonu
10. Dr. Uju Agomoh
11. Dr. Chibuzor Oguoma
12. Prof. Chika Moore
13. Barr. Ozioma/Izuora
14. Mr. Joe Atteyi
15. Chief Clement Aguiyi
16. Mr. Chris Maduka
17. Mr. Jerome Okolo
18. Mr. Emma Onyilofor
19. Mr. Ernest Ndukwe
20. Mr. Chido Onumah
21. Mr. Innocent Chukwuma
22. Barr. Ebere Ifendu
23. Mr. Goddy Ukaegbu
24. Hon. CID Maduabum
25. Engr. Ani Titus
26. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
27. Mr. Paul Nwabuikwu
28. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
29. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
30. Dr. Kalu Idika Kalu

31. Chief Aloysius Ihezue
32. Okobo Paul Onyia
33. Mr. Jasper Njoku
34. Mr. Kalu Ireke Onuma
35. Mr. Clem Aguiyi
36. Mr. Ikechukwu Onyia
37. Prof. Oyi Nwagbara
38. H.E. Senator Orji Uzor Kalu
39. H.E. Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife
40. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
41. Emeka Onwuka
42. Prof. Ilochi Okafor, SAN
43. Dr. Austin Nweze

**19. NZUKO UMUNNA HANDSHAKE ACROSS
THE NIGER (HATN) COMMITTEE**

1. Pastor Joy Attueyi
2. Chief Dr. Ifeanyi Ubah
3. Mr. Chris Maduka
4. Mr. Osita Agu
5. Mr. Jude Ndukwe
6. Amb. Humphrey Orjiako
7. Amb. Ozo Nwobu
8. Amb. Chudi Okafor
9. Senator Chris Anyanwu
10. Dr. Sam Amadi
11. Mr. Ifeanyi Metu
12. Mr. Obioma Okoye
13. Mr. Charles Ogbu
14. Mrs. Pearl Ijeoma Okoro
15. Mr. Bede Okoye

16. Engr. Titus Chinedu Ani
17. Dr. Uju Agomoh
18. Mr. Eugene Ikoro
19. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
20. Dr. Law Mefor
21. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
22. Prof. Chika Moore
23. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
24. Mr. Ken Onyekaonwu
25. Mr. Chidi Omeje
26. Barr. Chiadi Chidume
27. Mr. Chigozie Udeogu
28. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke

20. NZUKO UMUNNA PEACE INTERVENTION TEAM THAT ATTEMPTED TO BROKER THE PEACE DEAL BETWEEN MAZI NNAMDI KANU AND CHIEF NNIA NWODO

1. Prof. Ilochi Okafor, SAN (Chairman)
2. Prof. Pat Utomi
3. Dr. Chris Asoluka
4. Lady Onyeka Onwenu
5. Mr. Charles Ogbu
6. Dr. Law Mefor
7. Dr. Uju Agomoh
8. Mr. Obioma Okoye
9. Mr. Eric Eyiuche
10. Rev. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
11. Barr. Chiadi Chidume

21. NZUKO UMUNNA POST ENDSARS COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko
2. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
3. Chief Chuma Igwe
4. Chief Magnus Eze
5. Mazi Tochukwu Ezeoke
6. Mazi Obi Okoli

22. NZUKO UMUNNA MOBILIZATION TEAM FOR THE FUNDING/SCHOLARSHIP TO MR. KAOSISO VINCENT IBEKWE AT THE NIGERIA LAW SCHOOL

1. Pastor Joe Attueyi
2. Mr. Obioma Okoye
3. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
4. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu

23. NZUKO UMUNNA LEGAL DEFENSE TEAM AGAINST THE KILLING OF IGBO YOUTHS BY SECURITY OPERATIVES AT EMENE, ENUGU STATE

1. Dr. Sam Amadi
2. Barr. Austin Okeke
3. Dr. Uju Agomoh
4. Barr. Ozioma Izuora
5. Barr. Ogechi Ogu

24. NZUKO UMUNNA DELEGATION WITH SOUTHEAST LEADERS ON A VISIT TO PRESIDENT BUHARI FOR RELEASE OF

**FUNDS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF
THE AKANU IBIAM INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT ENUGU**

1. Chief Patrick Chidolue
2. Archbishop Christopher Ekeh
3. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
4. Dr. Sam Amadi
5. Major General Obi Umahi

**25. NZUKO UMUNNA GREATER NIGERIA
CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. H.E. Dr. Okwesilize Nwodo
2. Senator Victor Umeh
3. Prof. Chinedu Nebo
4. Amb. Chudi Okafor
5. Barr. Ejiofor Onwuaso
6. Dame May Ikokwu
7. Mr. Chris Maduka
8. Chief Patrick Chidolue
9. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
10. Mr. Emeka Orjih
11. Pharm Gabriel Inya-Agha
12. Mrs. Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
13. Dr. Sam Amadi
14. Barr. Okey Akobundu
15. Iyom Josphine Anenih
16. Nze Ozichukwu Chukwu
17. Mr. Ferdinand Agu
18. Barr. Austin Okeke
19. Mazi Tochukwu Ezeoke
20. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio

21. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
22. Prof. Chika Moore
23. Mr. Joe Attueyi
24. Dr. Austin Nweze
25. Dr. Joe Abah
26. Mr. Henry Shield
27. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo
28. Mrs Golda Obi
29. Mr. Wily Eya
30. Mr. Clifford Ndujihe
31. Mrs. Joe Nwokoma
32. Mr. Obioma Okoye
33. Mrs. Ebele Enemchukwu
34. Mr. Ike Abonyi
35. Mr. Moritz Abazie
36. Dr. Udentia O. Udentia
37. Senator Chris Anyanwu
38. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko

26. NZUKO UMUNNA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR 2023 ELECTION

1. Chief Osita Chidoka
2. Barr. Efurum Nwapa-Obua
3. Mr. Joy Atteyi
4. Dr. Austin Nweze
5. Barr. Izu Osuigwe
6. Dr. Sam Amadi
7. Prof. Maurice Iwu
8. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo
9. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
10. Mr. Emeka Orji

27. NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE RELEASE OF MAZI NNAMDI KANU AND HIS COLLEAGUES

1. Prof. Chukwuma Soludo- Chairman
2. Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe
3. Prof. Pat Utomi
4. Dr. Udentia O. Udentia
5. Chief Ferdinand Agu
6. Dr. Sam Amadi
7. Mr. Tony Nnadi
8. Dr. Law Mefor
9. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu

28. NZUKO UMUNNA INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION PANEL FOR THE BREACH OF TRUST BETWEEN IPOB AND CHIEF NNIANWODO

1. Prof. Emmanuel Emeyonu
2. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe- Secretary
3. Prof. Chika Moore
4. Rev. Fr. Barr. Henry Okeke

29. NZUKO UMUNNA DELEGATION TO GOVERNOR DAVE UMAHI FOR THE FACILITATION OF SOUTH EAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

1. Chief Gary Enwo Gariwey -Leader
2. Iyom Josphehine Anenih
3. Magnus Eze
4. Prof. Chika Moore
5. Dr. Austin Nweze

6. Mr. Charles Ogbu
 7. Dr. Alex Ogbonnia
 8. Fr. Barr. Anthony Ezeoke
 9. Mrs. Ebere Ifendu
 10. Mr. Collins Ugwu
 11. Dr. Laz Ude Eze
 12. Mr. Obioma Okoye
 13. Mr. Greg Muonyililio
 14. Dr. Kachi Nwoga- Secretary
- In Attendance: Mr. Ifeanacho Okoye

**30. NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM
FOR THE CALLING OFF OF ELECTION
BOYCOTT FOR THE ANAMBRA 2021
GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION**

1. Prof. Pat. Utomi
2. Senator Chris Anyanwu
3. Prof. Chika Moore
4. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
5. Engr. Chris Okoye
6. Prof. Anthony Ejiofor
7. Dr. Uju Agomoh
8. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko

**31. NZUKO UMUNNA INTERVENTION TEAM
FOR DISPLACED PERSONS IN EBONYI
STATE**

1. Mr. Bede Okoye
2. Mr. Titus Ani

32. NZUKO UMUNNA INVESTIGATION TEAM FOR DIRT/REFUSE IN ABA, ABIA STATE

1. Chief Eugene Ikoro
2. Mr. Charles Ogbu

33. NZUKO UMUNNA TOWN HALL MEETING COMMITTEE FOR OHANEZE PRESIDENT GENERAL (PG) CANDIDATES

1. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko
2. Mazi Obi Okoli
3. Barr. Austin Okoli
4. High Chief Chima Uzobuihe
5. Ogbueshi Delly Ajufu
6. Mr. Amadieube Mbama
7. Mr. Uchenna Madu
8. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke

34. NZUKO UMUNNA HANDSHAKE ACROSS NIGERIA (HATN) COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Austin Nweze
2. Prof. Maurice Iwu
3. Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe
4. Mr. Bede Okoye
5. Engr. Chima Uzobuihe
6. Mr. Chris Maduka
7. Dr. Uju Agomoh
8. Barr. Ebere Ifendu
9. Prof. Greg Ibe
10. Mr. Moritz Abazie
11. Barr. Okey Akobundu
12. Chief Charles Odunukwe

13. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
14. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
15. Chief Everest Ozonweke
16. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
17. Mr. Obioma Okoye

35. NZUKO UMUNNA SITUATION ROOM FOR THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. Dr. Uju Agomoh
2. Dr. Sam Amadi
3. Engr. Ani Titus
4. Mr. Paschal Mbanefo
5. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
6. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe
7. Mr. Charles Ogbu
8. Mr. Francis Akolazu
9. Mr. Chiemeze Udechukwu
10. Prof. Chika Moore
11. Prince Chidi Oghonu
12. Barr. Ogechi Ogu
13. Rev. Fr. Chetanna Chukwuneke

NZUKO UMUNNA STATE BY STATE INTERVENTION TEAM FOR THE FACILITATION OF SOUTHEAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION AGENDA

36. NZUKO IMO STATE DELEGATION TO GOVERNOR EMEKA IHEDIOHA

1. Senator Chris Anayanwu
2. Iyom Josphehine Anenih

3. Okoba Paul Onyia
4. Mr. Obioma Okoye
5. Mrs. Golda Obi
6. Dr. Etofolam Osuji
7. Prof. Chika Moore
8. Dr. Kachi Nwoga
9. Engr. Ukachukwu Ihekweba
10. Rev. Fr. Barr Anthony Ezeoke

**37. NZUKO UMUNNA ABIA STATE
DELEGAITON TO GOVERNOR OKEZIE
IKPEAZU FOR THE FACILITATION OF THE
SOUTHEAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTEGRATION AGENDA**

1. Mr. Emeka Onwuka
2. Iyom Josephine Anenih
3. Engr. Chris Okoye
4. Dr. Uju Agomoh
5. Mr. Obioma Okoye
6. Prof. Chika Moore
7. Dr. Kachi Nwoga
8. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
9. Prof. Greg Ibe

**38. NZUKO UMUNNA ENUGU STATE
DELEGATION TO GOVERNOR IFEANYI
UGWUANYI FOR THE FACILITATION OF
SOUTH EAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTEGRATION AGENDA**

1. Prof. Barth Nnaji
2. Archbishop Christopher Edeh

3. Okobo Paul Onyia
4. Iyom Josephine Anenih
5. Dr. Kachi Nwoga
6. Mr. Obioma Okoye
7. Mr. Uche Anichukwu
8. Dr. Uju Agomoh
9. Rev. Fr. Mathias Nnaemeka Udeonu
10. Prof. Chika Moore
11. Mr. Bede Okoye
12. Engr. Titus Ani

**39. NZUKO UMUNNA ANAMBRA STATE
DELEGATION TO GOVERNOR WILLIE
OBIANO FOR THE FACILITATION OF SOUTH
EAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

1. Chief Patrick Chidolue
2. Archbishop Christopher Edeh
3. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe
4. Iyom Josephine Anenih
5. Amb. Chudi Okafor
6. Amb. OzoNwoba
7. Prof. Chika Moore
8. Dr. KachiNwoga
9. Dr. Uju Agomoh
10. Mrs. Gold Obi
11. Mr. Obioma Okoye
12. Mr. Charles Ogbu
13. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
14. Mr. Bede Okoye
15. Dr. Abraham Nwankwo
16. Rev. Fr. John Manafa

STANDING COMMITTEE SET UP DURING THE LEADERSHIP OF SENATOR CHRIS ANYANWU

40. NZUKO UMUNNA INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

1. Barr. Austin Okeke
2. Mrs. Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
3. Amb. Obi Adim
4. Dr. Jude C. Eze
5. Amb. Ndubisi V. Amaku
6. Mr. Matt Agbim
7. Dr. Nzeribe Ihekwaba
8. Dr. Maurice Okoli
9. Mr. Chris O. Maduka
10. Mr. Paschal Mbanefo
11. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
12. Hon. Emmanuel Mok

41. NZUKO UMUNNA RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Tony Nwadei
2. Mr. Chimezie Udechukwu
3. Dr. Nnaemeka Obiaraeri
4. Amb. Ozo O. Nwobu
5. Dr. Nzeribe Ihekwaba
6. Engr. Ben Ezenta
7. Barr. Chris Nsoedo
8. Dr. Maurice Okoli
9. Dr. Abraham Nwankwo
10. Amb. Humphrey U. Orjiako
11. Mr. Innocent Ofoma
12. Mr. Obioma O. Okoye

13. Mr. Godwin Ukaegbu
14. Prof. Chidi Osuagwu
15. Mr. Olu Onyimadu
16. Dr. Manson Nwafor
17. Mr. Ikechukwu Eze
18. Hon. Emmanuel Mok
19. Prof. Emeka Ezeonu
20. Barr. Ikeazor Akariwe
21. Mr. Teco Benson
22. Rev. Fr. Chetanna Jude
23. Mrs. Nwanyieze Ubani-Cantle

42. NZUKO UMUNNA LOGISTICS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Mr. Chris Maduko
2. Mr. Collins Ugwu
3. Barr. Ogechi Ogu
4. Mr. Everest Ozonweke
5. Mr. Ifeanyi Maduka
6. Mr. Pat Okoye
7. Mr. Eugene Ikoro
8. Mr. Felix Onumejuru
9. Dr. Godwin Nnadi
10. Mr. Gabriel Inya-Agha
11. Mazi Obi Okoli
12. Mr. Gregory Muoyililio
13. Mrs. Ijeoma Pearl Okoro
14. Mr. Osita Agu
15. Mr. Callistus Okeke
16. Barr. Edna Ifeagwu
17. Mrs. Nwanyieze Ubani-Cantle

43. NZUKO UMUNNA LEGAL TEAM

1. Dr. Sam Amadi – Chairman
2. Barr. Austin Okeke – Vice Chairman
3. Chief Pius Ugochukwu Nnoli
4. Barr. Ejiofor Onwuaso
5. Barr. Chuba Obi-Okaro – Secretary
6. Mr. Obioma Okoye
7. Dr. Uju Agomoh
8. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
9. Chief Ikeazor Akariwe, SAN
10. Nze Ike Nze
11. Barr. Chiendu Moore
12. Barr. Ozioma Izuora
13. Barr. Ogechi Ogu
14. Barr. Amadi

44. NZUKO UMUNNA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. Madu Bright O. Alwell
2. Mr. Emeka Orjih
3. Dr. Somtochukwu Inya-Agha
4. Elder Delly Ajufo
5. Chief Benjamin Chike Alluison
6. Mr. Teco Benson
7. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
8. Hon. Chukwuemeka Agbo
9. Engr. Chinedu Ani Titus

45. NZUKO UMUNNA MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Marcel Mbamelu

2. Barr. Emeka Nwadioke
3. Mr. Senator Iroegbu
4. Mr. Chido Nwakanma
5. Mr. Fidelis Mbah
6. Mr. Chidi Omeje
7. Mr. Chris Maduka
8. Mr. Dickson Iroegbu
9. Mr. Charles Ogbu
10. Mr. Emeka Chris Okeke
11. Mr. Henry Shield
12. Mazi Tochukwu Ezeoke
13. Mr. Felix Awogu
14. Mr. Collins Steve Ugwu
15. Mr. Joel Goodman Nwokeoma
16. Mr. Magnus Eze
17. Mr. Chido Onumah
18. Mr. Ositadinma Agu
19. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo

**46. NZUKO UMUNNA RESOURCES
MOBILIZATION COMMITTEE**

1. Chief Patrick Chidolue
2. Mr. Rumudanka Wonodu
3. Barr. Efuru Nwapa-Obua
4. Dr. Somtochukwu Inya-Agha
5. Mr. Christian Onuorah
6. Dr. Chibuzo Oguoma
7. Mr. Emeka Chris Okeke
8. Chief Paschal Egwim
9. Mr. Moritz Abazie
10. Mr. Joe Attueyi

11. Mr. Obioma Okoye
12. Mr. Sam Onukwe
13. Mrs. Egbichi Akinsanya

47. NZUKO UMUNNA RECONSTITUTED STRATEGY COMMITTEE

1. Sir Joe Attueyi – Chairman
2. Elder Amadiebube Mbama – Vice Chairman
3. Barr. Okey Akobundu – Secretary
4. Chief Paschal Egwim
5. Dr. Uju Agomoh (Executive Council Representative)
6. Mr. Jasper Njoku
7. Mr. Chido Nwakanma
8. Mr. Moritz Abazie
9. Okobo Paul Onyia
10. Barr. Okey Akobundu
11. Mr. Chido Onumah
12. Prof. Nath. Aniekwe
13. Dr. Tony Nwaelie
14. Amb. Ndubuisi Amaku
15. Mr. Chris Maduka
16. Barr. Efurū Nwapa Obua
17. Barr. Chinedu Moore
18. Barr. Benjamin Allison
19. Dr. Jude Eze
20. Mr. Collins Eze
21. Amb. Obi Adim

48. NZUKO UMUNNA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. Mrs. Egbichi Akinsanya
2. Mr. Bede Okoye
3. Prof. Chika Moore
4. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe
5. Mr. Obioma Okoye
6. Engr. Titus Ani
7. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio

49. NZUKO UMUNNA ADHOC COMMITTEE ON VOTER REGISTRATION/ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION

1. Hon. Emmanuel Mok
2. Dr. Kachi Nwoga
3. Mr. Charles Ogbu
4. Ms. Adline Okere
5. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe
6. Mr. Osita Agu
7. Barr. Ogechi Ogu
8. Barr. Chuba Obi-Okauro
9. Mr. Goldeon Adikwuru
10. Fr. Martin Anusi
11. Mrs Egbichi Akinsanya
12. Mrs. Senator Iroegbu

50. NZUKO UMUNNA FIRST DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

1. Ogbueshi Delly Ajufu- Chairman
2. Madam May Ikokwu- Vice Chairman
3. Dr. Bede Okoye –Secretary

4. Rev. Fr. Barr Anthony Ezeoke
5. Dr. Somtochukwu Inya-Agha
6. Pharm. Mischel Uzochukwu
7. Mr. Chidi Omeje
8. High Chief Sir Chima Uzobuihe
9. Mazi Obasi Kalu
10. Chief Ifeanyi Metu
11. Mr. Emeka Okeke
12. Mr. Obioma Okoye
(Executive Council Representative)

51. NZUKO UMUNNA FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Dr. Austin Nweze – Chairman
2. Mazi Obi Okoli – Vice Chairman
3. Mr. Obioma Okoye- Secreatry
4. Mr. Gregory Muonyililio
5. Mrs May Ikeokwu

CHAPTER

6

CHANGE OF BATON

Nzuko Umunna is an association guided by strong commitment, sense of direction and tenacity of purpose. Day to day, the commitment of the members of Nzuko Umunna is unwavering. Every member believes that the organization has the key or solution to issues happening in Alaigbo and Nigeria.

For example, the number of issues for urgent concern brought by patriotic members to the platform since the inception of Nzuko Umunna is running into hundreds of thousands. What happens is that each time any issue comes up even in the remotest part of Alaigbo, this issue or challenge will be brought to the Nzuko Umunna platform. Just like in every typical Umunna setting, no one is precluded from bringing any issue or information to the platform. As

usual, once such issue is brought, members are free to comment, deliberate and share ideas. The beauty of the deliberation most times, is that it opens new sides of the argument or fact in issue. The members learn through the robust exchange of views and most importantly solutions are proffered towards the issue at hand. If it is an issue that needs the push of the leadership of Nzuko Umunna, the leaders will promptly take up the gauntlet and perform their duties creditably.

Apart from challenges or issues in Alaigbo, any issue that affects the welfare and security of any Onye Igbo living in any part of Nigeria and in diaspora are treated fairly and solutions provided in Nzuko Umunna. The number of backroom heavylifting interventions done by Nzuko Umunna cannot be accurately recorded and may not contain one book. The list is endless.

What does this success in providing solution brings to Nzuko Umunna?. It brings both positive and negative attitudes. First, on the positive side, it makes the members to have a sense of confidence and trust on Nzuko Umunna and leadership of the body. Secondly, it makes members to feel that there is nothing the leadership and members cannot provide solution in solving or restoring to normalcy. Thirdly, it increases full participation, communal spirit and strong committment of members in supporting and remaining a member of Nzuko Umunna platform. For example, most times some members may exit the association due to anger or conflict of interest or misunderstanding, the member will often times plead to be added back to join Nzuko Umunna.

Sometimes, when a member left due to genuine misunderstanding between members, the leadership will step in, reach out to the aggrieved member and bring the member back. That is the essence of one family, the essence of communal spirit and the will that together, we can restore the beauty of Alaigbo and make Alaigbo the cynosure of all eyes.

On the negative angle, such humongous feats by Nzuko Umunna in a short period of six years breeds in some maladjusted members and other Igbo groups, a feeling of envy, petty jealousy, blackmail, character assassination, supremacy battle, open confrontation, desire to destroy the integrity of Nzuko Umunna, to mention but a few. Regardless of all these negative attitudes, the leadership and members of Nzuko Umunna remained resolute and willing to selflessly serve every one Igbo without fear or favour.

When any negative attack hits Nzuko Umunna, the leadership always bears the heavy brunt of the attack. Some have tried in vain to discredit the leadership at various times. One thing to note is that no human being or organization is perfect. Perfection belongs to God alone. As human beings or organizations, we can only be ideal and strives towards perfection. Without mincing words, Nzuko Umunna is an ideal organization divinely created to be the bridge builder, problem solver, a balm and a solution to all the challenges bedvilling Ndi Igbo and Alaigbo.

Accordingly, an organization like this takes into account the kind of leaders and followers that makes up the

organization. In Nzuko Umunna, respect is reciprocal. Everyone shares mutual respect. Much wonder, the leadership should as Ceasar's wife be seen to be above board. Also the followers are expected to be seen as disciplined, fit and proper to be called members of Nzuko Umunna. This portrays the fact that there are no sacred cows within the ranks of the leaders and followers. If a leader or the leadership of Nzuko Umunna goes out of the line, he or she will be brought to book and made to face the necessary sanctions, the same measure goes for the followers.

Towards the end of the year 2020, the leadership of Nzuko Umunna created the Nzuko Umunna structure committee. The committee amongst other things was mandated to create a leadership structure that Nzuko Umunna shall adopt moving forward. The committee was not to work in isolation. Members were enjoined to submit memos and suggestions on what they want or desire to see in Nzuko Umunna. The structure as envisaged and as will be properly decoded from the then Ngozi Odumuko leadership of Nzuko Umunna was to lay a new leadership, build on the gains of the past and present a road map for the future. The Nzuko Umunna structure committee after rigorous work submitted their report in mid 2020. The report provided a new leadership structure for Nzuko Umunna.

The report also made some unique recommendations. The then leadership of Nzuko Umunna together with the Board of Trustees (BOT) studied the report and applied the necessary recommendations.

Around November 2020, the Board of Trustees, (BOT) announced the change of baton of leadership. The change of leadership was to commence immediately. Members of Nzuko Umunna thanked the old/pioneer leaders and welcomed the new leaders. The new leaders included:

1. Senator Chris Anyanwu - President
2. Prof. Chika Moore - Vice President
3. Dr. Ngozi Odumuko - Executive Secretary
4. Dr. Uju Agomoh - Deputy Executive Secretary
5. Prof. Emeka Ezeonu
6. Dr. Paschal Mbanefo
7. Mr. Obioma Okoye
8. Mr. Greg Muoyililio
9. Dr. Austin Nweze
10. Chief Patrick Chidolue

Senator Chris Anyanwu and her team commenced leadership immediately by setting up some standing committees for Nzuko Umunna. Some of the standing committees included:

1. Nzuko Umunna Reconstituted Strategy Committee.
2. Nzuko Umunna Research Committee.
3. Nzuko Umunna International Outreach Committee.
4. Nzuko Umunna Legal Committee.
5. Nzuko Umunna Reconstituted Disciplinary Committee.
6. Nzuko Umunna Logistics and Planning.
7. Nzuko Umunna Membership Committee.
8. Nzuko Umunna Media and Communication Committee.

9. Nzuko Umunna Resources Mobilization.

As it is a tradition in Nzuko Umunna, each Committee was given a terms of reference and scope of duty. Due to the continuous nature of the work of some of the committee which was why they were named as standing committee, there was no report in a formal way as committees that are time bound do. However, these standing committees performed and continue to perform selfless services to Nzuko Umunna and Alaigbo. Notwithstanding the standing nature of the committee, it is also vital to note that committees like the Nzuko Umunna International Outreach Committee and Nzuko Umunna Legal Committee submitted reports to the Executive Council of Nzuko Umunna. It is vital to note that as part of the formal handover and to ensure a seamless transition, the outgoing leadership of Nzuko Umunna which created these standing committees, directed all committees and standing committees to submit their report. Thereafter, all committees and standing committees were dissolved by the outgoing leadership. This will enable the incoming leadership to take full control and appoint new members into various committees and standing committees.

One promising standing committee at the commencement of Senator Chris Anyanwu leadership of Nzuko Umunna was the Nzuko Umunna Reconstituted Disciplinary Committee. The Reconstituted Committee produced the first Nzuko Umunna Whatsapp Discussion rules and other general rules of engagement. The rules had adequate sanctions to march any disobedience to the rules of

engagement. At that time, the disciplinary committee members were literally everywhere enforcing the rules. Members who flout the rules apologize adequately. Some serve the required sanctions. The aim of the rules was not to punish at all cost. It was to ensure a seamless, free flow of discussion that is devoid of name calling, character assassination, assaults, insults, half truths, to mention but a few. It was to also ensure factual presentation of facts, evidence based information, mutual respect, peaceful engagement and use of the right choice of words in discussion. It is vital to note that not everyone is comfortable with the decision of the disciplinary committee. It is highly expected and rightly so that each human being perceive or see things according to his own human will, thought pattern, belief and understanding. It is not expected that everyone should behave or accept anything or rule the same way. Any organization where all the members concur to every issue without questioning, putting into scrutiny any decision or raising constructive criticism of an issue, is simply an organization filled with pretenders, sycophants, praise singers, mob and herd mentality. Excitedly, Ndi Igbo are not known to be such creatures. The republican nature of Ndi Igbo makes every onye Igbo to understand his uniqueness and the need to apply human reasoning, apply native intelligence, wisdom, resist oppression and support one another.

Expectedly, the members of the disciplinary committee are human beings who cherish different opinions, belief system, etc. Those who criticize them do so based on the notion that they feel some members of the committee share one belief

or dogma and once you try to discuss about the area they have sympathy for, the hammer of the disciplinary committee will fall on you. It is expected that the disciplinary committee will see this allegation as a challenge to their common integrity, rise to the occasion and be seen to be fair to all members. Apart from this challenge, it will be appropriate to thank the disciplinary committee for the tasking and onerous selfless job of ensuring a safe platform where all and sundry are free to air their opinions without minding whose ox is gored.

The leadership of Nzuko Umunna under Senator Chris Anyanwu continued from the firm foundation laid by Dr. Ngozi Odumuko's pioneer leadership. Interventions and heavylifting duties for Ndi Igbo continued. Consultations and synergy with Ohaneze Ndigbo, Afenifere, Southern and Middle Belt Forum, Northern Nigeria and global leaders were sustained. Projects and events that will showcase and broadcast the stand of Ndi Igbo on important issues were organized.

For example, it was under the leadership of Senator Chris Anyanwu that the Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC) was activated, organized and the event hosted by Nzuko Umunna to the delight of Ndi Igbo, friends of Ndi Igbo, Nigeria and the global stage. The Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC) was conceived as an idea and vehicle with which Nzuko Umunna shall use to push that all political parties zone the presidency to South East in the interest of justice, equity, fairness, conscience, equal participation and unity.

The conference had His Excellency Dr. Okwesileze Nwodo as the Chairman of the planning committee. Dr. Nwodo worked with an array of intimidating and notable Igbo achievers from all walks of life. The event had in attendance Chief Pa Ayo Adebajo the President of Afenifere who told the world that in the spirit of justice and equity, the Presidency should be zoned to the South East. Other notable dignitaries included Mr. Pogu Bitrus, and all Igbo Presidential Aspirants from all the Political Parties in Nigeria. The Greater Nigeria Conference (GNC) was the first official event in 2022 that triggered the continuous call for presidency to be zoned to the South East. The event opened the window for lots of organizations to align with the call that the South East be ceded the presidency slot.

After the successful hosting of the Greater Nigeria Conference(GNC), the President Senator Chris Anyanwu stepped aside and the mantle of leadership fell on the Vice President to continue the onerous task of leading this unique organization, Nzuko Umunna. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees (BOT) of Nzuko Umunna called on the Vice President, Prof. Chika Moore, to serve as the Acting President of Nzuko Umunna pending when a new leadership will emerge. Having been a foundation member of Nzuko Umunna, Prof. Chika Moore took the unexpected role and continued where the immediate Past President stopped. So far, he has shown his leadership acumen and mettle in the onerous task of leading one of the most powerful organizations in Alaigbo.

CHAPTER

7

MOVING FORWARD

The train of Nzuko Umunna has left the station, the Nzuko Umunna vehicle is on the move and the flight of NU has taken off. Nzuko Umunna birthed six years ago is growing from strength to strength, wisdom upon wisdom, structure upon structure. Though still growing and promising, it is right to note that Nzuko Umunna have produced disruptive changes in just few years.

The achievements recorded in the years under review bring us to the point of questioning or rather looking for a proper parameter and yard stick for measuring an organization. For example, many people rate an organization based on years of existence. It is common parlance to hear that this or that organization is 60 years older. Those who belong to the school of thought of rating an organization based on years

of existence believes that an organization that has come of age should be well experienced, have strong foundation, achieved so many feats and can be termed a big player in the scheme of things. These are valid assumptions, assertions, facts and belief based on personal opinion or research findings.

On the other hand, there is an argument against the rating of an organization based on years of existence of an organization. This school of thought believes that it is not the duration of one's life or that of the organization that count; that what count is the contributions of the organization, the services they have rendered over the years, the challenges and how they surmounted them, the twist and turns, the feats and achievement, the hopes, the desires, the structure and reach of the organization, to mention but a few. Again, it could be said that those are valid assertions, assumption, facts and belief based on personal opinion or research findings. For example, someone may just register an organization with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), abandon the organization for about thirty years and then return to dust up or reestablish the organization and then claim that they have garnered length of experience because the company was registered in some thirty years ago. From the forgoing, one could see that the growth and achievement of an organization may not be tied to age factor or years of existence. Organisations grow based on the grace of God, the sense of direction of the vision bearer, and the collective will of the members. Any organization that the members repose confidence and trust on the leadership is bound to deliver. Likewise, an organization begins to fail

once there is existence of erosion of confidence and trust. In Nzuko Umunna, the partnership between the leaders and the members is rock solid, top notch and worthy of emulation. Infact, it is a healthy and complimentary leadership followership model.

Considering the fact that at the interim, Nzuko Umunna was led by Acting President; the need to inject a new leadership became paramount. The Acting President Prof. Chika Moore and his team agreed that its time to take the back seat. Many members of the General Assembly equally reasoned that an organization like Nzuko Umunna should not be seen as led on Acting capacity when we can boast of the first eleven Igbo Professionals as members of the Organization. Prior to the announcement of the New Nzuko Umunna Executive Council team, the Acting President Prof. Chika Moore penned what could be termed a valedictory message. He wrote:

“Greetings in the name of the Lord our God. Nzuko Umunna is gradually approaching its 6th year of existence. It has been an exciting, tasking, purpose-driven and very fruitful journey so far.

The future is even promising. We remain deeply grateful to God for the enablement to take modest but momentous steps in the right directions.

Our strength has been our collective commitment to the betterment of NdiIgbo and AlaIgbo. May God continue to guide and direct our steps aright.....”³⁶

On the 30th of November, 2022, the Chairman of Nzuko Umunna Board of Trustees(BOT), Prof. Pat. Utomi, announced a new Nzuko Umunna Executive Council. Members of the new executive council are:

1. Prof. Chinedu Nebo - President
2. Prof. Emeka Ezeonu - Vice President
3. Dr. Uju Agomoh - Executive Secretary
4. Barr. Henry Onyedika Adibe - Deputy Executive Secretary
5. Dame P. May Ikokwu - Treasurer
6. Mr. Chris Emeka Okeke - Chairman Finance Council
7. Chief Magnus Eze - Director of Strategic Public Communication
8. Mr. Gabriel Inya-Agha- Financial Secretary
9. Prof. Chika Moore Ex- Officio
10. Barr. Ikeazor Akariwe, SAN Council Member
11. Mrs. Golda Obi - Council Member
12. Barr. Efuru Nwapa-Obua Council Member
13. Chief Benjamin Chike Allison Council Member
14. Mr. Felix Awogu - Council Member
15. Barr. Izu Osuigwe - Council Member

After the announcement, members of the General Assembly congratulated and applauded the choice of the

³⁶ Prof. Chika Moore message at the platform. Sourced on the 30th of November 2022 at about 12:32am

new Nzuko Umunna Executive Council Team. One of such comment was the one written by Mr. Chris O. Maduka who wrote thus:

*“How many Lions does it take to earn the title of
LION ANNIHILATOR, OGBU' AGU?”*

Just one! Even if it is a limping one. Yes!

*To borrow the phrase of Ngozi Odumuko
(Ochina Nwata),*

“ NU has done heavy lifting for Ndigbo and the Nigerian people in general”. NU came to existence when the Igbos confronted serious challenges of leadership vacuum and existential threats that can only be rivaled by the events of the mid to late 60s. NU stood in gap. The distinguished members of this Great audience accomplished all they have accomplished through dint of hardwork, dedication and sacrifice, all driven by rekindled fire of patriotism.

NU members generously gave all the three assets required for individuals or organizations to thrive and succeed. These are Human asset; who we are, intellectual asset; what we know and Financial Asset; what we have. Members gave it all. Members of NU perhaps preceded the Obidients in that notion of not taking shishi or expecting shishi in the pursuit of the vision and ideals of NU.

Prof., you and a few others have earned the title of “Ogbu' Agu”. The members of NU driven by sincerity of purpose are also “Onapuru Agus, those who dispossessed the lion of what it possessed.

It is not by noise or belligent dispositions. It is by tact and wisdom. It is about self awareness knowing who you are and understanding your environment including the political space and applying the concept of game theory to completely changing the game and possibly winning it. These are some of what informed the prescient vision of forming the NU. It is also what led this formidable group to setting the right priorities, pursued, and accomplished some of the milestones that have now culminated into the formidable coalition and solidarity that is redefining leadership in Nigeria and reshaping the political landscape. Yes!, We have everything to give thanks for as a group.....”³⁷

Apart from the members of the General body, the incoming team wrote a few acceptance speech or note of acceptance. The new President Prof. Chinedu Nebo while writing his own note of acceptance noted thus:

“Good morning beloved Umunna. Waking up this morning I saw the announcement setting up a new Executive Council team to pilot the affairs of Nzuko Umunna and take over the batons from the formidable team that has been doing such a great job so far.

The NU Leadership that is stepping aside has shown unparalleled commitment to the cause and welfare of Ndi Igbo, allowing free expression of opinions within the principles of “Igwebuike” and “OnyeaghalaNwanne Ya”.

We salute them for their selfless service to the Igbo nation

³⁷ Mr. Chris Maduka's message on the platform sourced on 1st December, 2022. Chris Maduka is one of the early members of Nzuko Umunna.

and pray God to bless them immensely while urging and pleading with them to continue to be relevant in guiding, strengthening and supporting the new executive and the entire NU.

On behalf of the new leadership now established, I wish to most humbly accept the huge responsibility given to us, appreciate the deep confidence reposed on us, and thank our leaders especially Prof. Pat Utomi for their selfless decision. Although we accept to play the role with trepidation, we have faith that God Almighty whose love for Ndi Igbo is immeasurable will give us the wisdom, audacity, unwavering commitment and deep humility to continue piloting the affairs of Nzuko Umunna most diligently so that the vision and dream of the founders would be realized and expectations exceeded.

We solicit your prayers for us to remain focused, united, diligent and unwaveringly committed to the vision of Nzuko Umunna.

May God's blessings, sustaining grace, divine wisdom, tender mercies, unyielding loving kindness and extravagant favour be with us all as we work together to actualize God's will for his people Ndi Igbo, in Jesus name. Amen.

Long Live Nzuko Umunna!
Long live Ndi Igbo !!!
Long live Alaigbo!!!

³⁸ Prof. Chinedu Nebo's message on the platform. Sourced on the 30th of November 2022 at about 10:15am

*The Very Rev'd Prof. Chinedu Nebo,
CON, NPOM, FNSE, FNMS, FMSN,
FNIPE, FNATE, EPLPI, FNAENG.”³⁸*

Interestingly, the founder of Nzuko Umunna, Dr. Ngozi Odumuko was not left out in this historic moment. He penned a message titled, “A MESSAGE TO MY UMUNNA” We shall reproduce the message in full thus:

“A MESSAGE TO MY UMUNNA

Umunna,

Please I come before us with great humility and thanksgiving to God almighty for his mercies and love. Umunna, when we started this mission of activating NU we were not sure of what the future holds. As an individual I was full of fear, apprehension, anxiety and genuine concern for our people. Knowing that we were not known names or known figures we felt we may not be listened to. We feared so much knowing that we may not have the necessary skill sets, knowledge, leadership experience, political exposure and deep network to do the heavy lifting for our people.

Umunna, we came into the scene innocently and altruistically burdened for NdiIgbo with great passion, commitment and dedication. We stayed many late nights and deprived ourselves of many personal achievements just to be able to focus on group goals. It is worthy to state that our families supported us with

prayers, psychologically, morally and stood in the gap for us on many fronts per family engagements and special thanks to our families. Umunna, despite all our shortcomings you all trusted us to serve you in the humbled capacity we did.

Therefore, my task here is to come before you all with knees on the ground pleading that whomever I might have offended as an individual or as a group in the course of discharging my/ our duties as servants of this family that please you find a place in your hearts to forgive. Please we know we might have offended person(s) through our actions though innocently and this may have activated a sad memory or raised bad blood. Please with every humility and godliness I appeal to everyone or whomever that has been hurt by myself or members of the outgoing team please kindly forgive and pardon.

And please I am humbly appealing to everyone of us to support the new leadership under Prof. Chinedu Nebo. Please I encourage us to give the team great support and cooperation. Please let's continue to move in love and understanding and let's continue to push with commitment and love for our people.

To the glory of God, NU is now a major interventionist vehicle for Ndi Igbo and we are encouraged to keep it moving.

Finally, I am now very happy to operate from the floor as a

³⁹ A MESSAGE TO MY UMUNNA, being Dr. Ngozi Odumuko's message in the platform.
Sourced on the 3rd of December, 2022 at about 5:45pm

*member and also be a very good follower while our leaders continue to lead us all. And I am thanking you all for trusting us to serve you during our time. And I hope to see us again when we visit Nigeria for the physical handover at the launch of the NU Chronicles. May God bless you all. Thank you”.*³⁹

CONCLUSION

Evidently, it is vital to note that change is constant. Even those who do not want, or desire change are often swept by the wind of change. For proper perspective, the change in this context is positive change. Every organization desire growth and improvement. No one enjoy a stagnant and static organization.

Moving forward, Nzuko Umunna will continue to grow in leaps and bounds. It is instructive to note that Nzuko Umunna will need internal reform and structure of its organogram, membership eligibility, setting up of functional branches, establishing a national secretariat, choosing impact project, expanding the roles the organizations play, building more bridges on behalf of Ndi Igbo, sustaining the tempo, raising the bar of excellence and working as usual as a team to achieve all set goals, aspirations and objectives, to mention but a few.

The foundation has been laid. Nzuko Umunna no doubt is standing on terra firma (a firm land). As Nzuko Umunna moves forward, one except that the organization shall set shorts terms, medium and long term goals. The leadership of the organization must set the agenda and expectations of the organization in the next five years.

One good thing about the Nzuko Umunna is that the organization is filled with very respected and eminent personalities in Alaigbo. The forum therefore must be a shining example and lead from the front in this onerous task

of building and protecting Alaigbo. The task should be one of shared responsibilities. Everyone must participate to build a stronger, viable, efficient, innovative and resourceful Nzuko Umunna we shall all be proud of and cherish.

The task ahead is both hard and rewarding. Hard in the sense that Ndi Igbo are republicans by nature. You do not lead Ndi Igbo. You can only serve and follow them. Once you earn their trust, you will be the beloved and the toast of all and sundry. The task is rewarding in the sense that when Nzuko Umunna succeeds, it will be a mark and badge of honour to contribute selflessly in creating a peaceful, progressive and united Alaigbo. History beckons on Nzuko Umunna to do the needful.

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ABOUT THE BOOK

“It seemed like it came from the blues. Before many will say Jack, Nzuko Umunna had come from birth to becoming a, if not, the Central meeting place for setting leadership direction in Igboland.....”

**- Excerpt from the Preface written by Prof. Pat. Utomi.
(Board of Trustees Chairman Nzuko Umunna).**

“.....Within these six years of its existence, NU has deliberately and strategically positioned itself as an effective bridge builder, audacious intervention agent, a forward projecting Think Tank. The various programmes and interventions; the visit to Nnamdi Kanu at Kuje Prison, the Handshakes (across the Niger and across Nigeria), the Never Again conferences, the visits to the Governors of the SE, the Igboezue Retreat (that was botched) and it's lofty dream of a South East Economic Union, the various structured platform debates like the Quo Vadis Debate, the Igbodum Database project, the Greater Nigeria Conference, and the various critical interventions often carried through by Committees set up to handle those specific issues, etc have the combined effect of positioning NU as a trusted and much sought after Igbo Think Tank”.

**- Excerpt from the Preface written by Prof. Chika Moore.
(Outgoing President Nzuko Umunna).**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Onyedika Henry Adibe is a Biographer, Creative writer, a Lawyer and many things rolled into one. He has received numerous local and international awards. He belongs to some professional organisations.

