



Nwanne di na mba

ICF NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO THE ICF NEWSLETTER

CONTENT OF ISSUE

COVER STORY 1

HARD TALK 2

INDIGENOUS WISDOM 2

BUSINESS NEWS 3

IGBO PERSONALITY 3

MATTERS ARISING 4

Special thanks go to all those who have worked hard in the formation and for survival of the Igbo Contact Forum, ICF. To the newly elected Board of ICF, my respect and loyalty goes to you.

At this turning point in ICF's history, all hands must be on deck to see that our organization is placed in the right place and positioned in the right direction for the best future possible.

To you who may be reading this, what you have right in front of you is only an idea, which if you support, can be made to remain a reality. In what way can you support it? Read it, bring in your own news, send in your own short articles or opinions, and most of all, stay tuned -that's the sort of support needed from you.

Let the point be made boldly and clearly

here: this Newsletter, although an ICF-Newsletter is meant to serve all in the best ways possible.

To our non-members, fellow Nigerian residents in Munich and the generality of the public who may periodically come in contact with this newsletter, I hope you will appreciate this as one medium of reaching out to ICF, as well as ICF reaching out to you.

To our ICF members, it is important to note that the forum which this Newsletter provides, neither serves as an alternative nor as a replacement to the monthly ICF General Meeting

which is our main point of reaching resolutions. This Newsletter is only posed to serve as an information pathway through which we can communicate with others outside as well as enlighten ourselves of the happenstances within our vicinity.

Having said all that has been said. The big question that needs to be answered is this: "do we really need a newsletter like this one?" Please send in your opinion to the editor via newzinfo@yahoo.com Whether a second issue this newsletter is circulated will depend on what your opinions are.

For now, consider this to be an experiment. Enjoy it!

COVER STORY

ARO LEADERS EXPLAIN ROLE IN SLAVE TRADE

Leaders of Arochukwu Kingdom have described as unfortunate the erroneous impression that the area played a negative role in the entrenchment of slave trade in the country for which uninformed Igbos are asking them to pay reparation.

Briefing newsmen as part of efforts to reposition the kingdom and ensure that it attracts positive development through internal and external mechanisms, President General of the area, Mazi Emma Kanu Ivi, insisted that his people merely acted as middlemen between the Europeans dealing on slaves and natives who needed assistance. According to him, no one in Aro Kingdom is regarded as an outcast or any other dehumanizing name, insisting that indigenes of the area honour people rather than giving them appendages that derogate them. He lamented that because of the erroneous impression, the area which ranked among top urban cities had been neglected in the provision of infrastructure, adding that the place had become a shadow of what it used to be in the past. Ivi also lamented that "This may have accounted for the non-recognition of our traditional ruler, which also in the past, had ranked alongside first class traditional rulers across the country and

among the first three in the former Eastern Region."

He explained that in order not to be waiting for government to do everything for the people, the leaders had decided to reconstitute its highest decision-making organ, the Okpankpo, to reap from the vast residue of people living within and outside the area. According to him, the 36-member group would be saddled with the responsibility of dealing with such issues as conflict resolutions involving the kingdom as well as being the umbrella and mouthpiece of the area. The president general remarked that the former body was dissolved by the traditional

ruler last January in accordance with the rules and regulations and that its reconstitution was in recognition of the pivotal role the members would play in bringing back the glory of the area.

He called on Igbos not to see the Aros as a group that perpetrated evil during the era of slave trade, insisting that his people merely assisted those in need, adding that as soon as slavery was abolished his people discontinued the business and engaged fully in commerce.

By Ben Duru

Daily Independent Newspaper (Nig.)
Thursday, July 23, 2009

HARDTALK INTERVIEW WITH SIR ANTHONY MUONEKE

Q. ICF Newsletter is happy that you accepted to grant us this interview. Thanks for your time. Please introduce yourself to our readers. who are you and what is your philosophy of life?

A: My name is sir A.C. Muoneke, a member I.C.F. I belief in live and let live

Q. You were conspicuously present in the last ICF general elections and even contested for the post of vice-chairman, what was your motivation for contesting in the election and what is it you would have loved to accomplish for ICF if you had won the elec-

tions?

A: You know I left before the election was concluded due to the fact that I was already late at work. Though I contested for the post of vice chairman. I saw my coming out as a source of motivation for others to follow, as you can see, a lot of people do not always want to vie for any elective offices, thereby making the whole thing impossible for fresh people with fresh ideas rather than recycling the old.

Q. Are there serious problems you think Nigerian immigrants are facing in this country, if so, how

serious are these problems and what are the future consequences of not having them properly addressed?

A: There is need to always communicate with the Nigerian community in the course of solving of immigration problems associating with some Nigerians. There is also a need for the forum to have able people all time to make things move. If inside or outside person or persons having any thing against ICF should bring such to the forum hence the forum is open to listen

Q. What message do you have for persons who may have been against or not satisfied with the outcomes of the last Nigerian community and Igbo Contact Forum elections?

A: You see I do not see that forum as contact for the Ibos alone, I see it beyond that and you have to be in the helm of affairs to be able to enunciate proper and juicy programs. the new elected officers should by now know the enormous task ahead of them. Let there be Peace.

INDIGENOUS WISDOM

HEALTH BENEFITS OF BITTER KOLA

GARCINIA Cola, popularly called bitter kola has been identified as a potent antibiotic which could be efficacious in the treatment of HIV and AIDS. Bitter kola is found in the tropical rain region and given different names in Nigeria. It is known as "Orogbo" in Yorubland, "Namijingoro" among Hausa, "Akuilu" in Igboland.

A researcher with the Nigeria Natural Medicine Development Agency (NNMDA), Mrs. Chinyere Nwokeke told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the kola could be used in treating opportunistic infections associated with HIV.



The bitter kola (Akuilu)

Bitter kola "is highly recommended in the treatment of HIV and AIDS because of its antibacterial, detoxification and cleansing properties," she said.

She said that the chemical Saponin in bitter kola is responsible for its cleansing effect. Saponin is mainly used as tonic for the liver, it enhances the functions of the liver and gall bladder.

"It is also very effective in the treatment of cough, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and other bacterial infections. When food is suspected to be contaminated by bacteria, chew bitter kola immediately after, it will forestall the development of any infection or poisoning," she added.

Nwokeke said that in the past, the kola was eaten mostly by the elderly because of their belief that it could prolong life.

"Actually researches in modern science have revealed that bitter kola contains chemical compounds that will help the break-

down of glycogen in the liver and has other medicinal uses which account for its longevity property in man. "Bitter kola is anti-poison too, it has the ability to repel evil men and spirits, it could sound superstitious but it works", she said.

The naturalist said that the seed and the bark of bitter kola should be eaten together in cases where food poisoning is suspected, "it helps to detoxify the system." "It can also be used to repel snakes for those who live in areas that are prone to snakes," she said.

She also said that bitter kola could be used in the treatment of breast cancer as it has anti-cancerous effect.

For children, when ground and mixed with honey, bitter kola could be used in the treatment of measles and mumps, it should be taken

orally and also applied externally in the case of mumps," she said. Nwokeke also revealed the efficacy of the bitter kola in vomiting for both children and adults.

"It can be used to clear coarse voice, it clears the voice by stimulating the production of mucus along the lining of the vocal tube which softens the dry throat," she added.

She also revealed that the body craves for bitter foods from time to time. "Nature advocates a balance in everything, when sweet foods are eaten in excess, the body tends to be more acidic, in order to balance this, bitter foods should be eaten occasionally."

"The body is at its optimum health when it is slightly alkaline," Nwokeke added.

Daily Champion (Nig.)
June 10, 2004

BUSINESS NEWS**FG INTRODUCES UNIFORM DUTY RATE ON VEHICLES**

The Federal Government (NCS) has introduced a uniform import duty rate on imported vehicles based on ex-factory price. This development has taken effect in all Customs commands, a development that now eliminates the indiscriminate imposition of duties.

The duty rate before the newly introduced ex-factory rate was between 10-35 per cent depending on the age of the vehicle which limit the customs had pegged at ten years.

The value of vehicles before now were also calculated indiscriminately by customs officers carrying out examination.

In a Memorandum with reference no NCS/T&T/I&E/067S.4/VOL. X, addressed to all Zonal Coordinators, all Area Comptrollers, and all Valuation officers, the government directed that all commands are to comply with the newly introduced ex-factory price for Customs duty collection.

Confirming the development, the Service spokesman, Mr Wale Adeniyi told Vanguard that the idea behind the memo is to ensure that duties on vehicles are uniform in every ports.

"The Memo is to ensure the enthronement

of a uniform duty regime on vehicles in all ports, Customs commands, and this is because there has been a variance in the calculation of duty on vehicles," he stated.

The Memo also contained a progressive reduction of import duty on vehicles of various age – ranging from three months to four years and above.

Vehicles above three months with Odometer reading above 3,000 miles but not above one year will attract a ten per cent duty rate, while vehicles more than one year but not above two years will equally attract a duty rate of 20 per cent.

Vehicles more than two years old, but not above three years will have Customs duty calculated at 30 per cent, and 40 per cent for vehicles more than three years but not more than four years old, while vehicles more than four years old and above will attract a duty rate of 50 per cent.

Part of the Memo reads "Consequent upon directive/approval given, I am directed to forward herewith motor vehicle Ex-factory Price (In United State Dollar) for Customs Duties Collection.

"You are required to take note of allowance

for age of vehicles."The Importers of used Vehicles must produce documentary evidence showing model and cubic capacity vehicles which should be obtained from the vendor.

"You are hereby directed to comply forthwith to avoid indiscriminate collection of duties on motor vehicles. This supercede the earlier one sent". It would be recalled that Nigeria signed the international convention on agreement of Customs Valuation which is the general agreement on Trade and Tariff.

The convention is the treatment of Customs valuation which is based on the principle of Transaction value, Identical value method, Computed value method or Sale value, Similar value method, and Deductive value method.

The principles of arriving at import duty of vehicles includes the country of manufacture, cubic capacity, age rebate, wear and tear of vehicle percentage duty and ex-factory price.

By Godwin Oritse
Vanguard Newspaper
Monday, July 20, 2009

IGBO PERSONALITY**MAZI MBONU OJIKE (1914–1956)**

Mazi Mbonu Ojike was born in Arondizugo in the present Imo state of Nigeria, in 1914.

When he graduated from primary school, he broke the local norm by refusing to marry. Rather, he persisted in his studies and won a scholarship to secondary school to the CMS training college, Awka, in today's Anambra state of Nigeria. He did a Master's degree in education and Administration at the university of Chicago, USA.

During the course of his stay in the USA, he spent time writing and travelling all over the USA, giving lectures on ways of life in Africa and working hard to change the negative notions that people of that time had about the "dark" continent. His two major best-selling books were "My Africa" and "I have

two countries" published in 1946 and 1947 respectively.

He returned back to Nigeria and joined in the fight for Nigeria's independence. However, he died in 1956, just

Mazi Mbonu Ojike's greatest contribution to Nigeria's national development was through his passionate advocacy for individual mental decolonization, his insistence for a national mental emancipation, his propagation of national self-awareness and pride, and in his assiduous promotion of a self-reliant strategy of national development. He encapsulated his message in the famous slogan: "Boycott all Boycottables", which earned him the title of "The Boycott King".

To know more about, read "My Africa" by Mbonu Ojike



Mazi Mbonu Ojike (right) with Ozurumba Mbadiwe (middle)

"I am a Nigerian and insist that you treat me courteously."

Mazi Mbonu Ojike (1947)

MATTERS ARISING

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESAN ASSOCIATION BAYERN, GERMANY.

The Esan Association Bayern Germany e.V., celebrated their 10th year anniversary on the 25th of July, 2009. The location was the Veranstaltungssaal (Sieboldstr. 11, Munich).

In his welcome speech at the occasion, the chairman called for all Nigerians in Munich to unite. On the other hand, the Esans used the occasion to showcase that they are a fun-loving people who have various festivities and traditions. They showed how much their folktales and folklores can serve as forms of learning and entertainment, like the famous Igbabonelimin. It was a day of merriment not only for the Esans, but Nigerian in general, and other nationalities as well. The children were not left out, every evidence showed that they enjoyed the occasion. The Igbo, Edo, Oodua and the Nigerian communities were all invited and duly represented by their members.

Just as every occasion has its downside, the downside of the occasion was the uncontrollable noise from some sections of the audience throughout the event. This nearly marred the wonderful performances from the Benny Okos' life-band and the serenity

provided by the highly magnificent hall in which the event took place. The department of noise-making-at-events is an important area of etiquette where all our people need a lot of improvement.

However, the event was a great success. It was easy to observe that the Esans are proud of their ancestry and heritage. The people showed that they are creative, industrious and highly educated. According to the hosts of the event. History has it that they originated from ancient Bini. The word Esan is bini, meaning "to Jump or to cross." The Esans are those who jumped or actually crossed the moats dug around bini during the reign of several Benin kingdom tyrannical Kings. They are people who detest dictatorship and love independence.

They have made a great contribution to the development of Nigeria. In fact, it can be said that it was the Esans who liberated Nigeria from its colonial servitude from the then British empire –it was Chief Anthony Enahoro (at the age of 19) who raised the motion for the political independence of Nigeria. The Esans have served our country

from both bottom-up and top-down, it is very important that all Nigerians home and abroad pay them their due respect.

Most importantly, the Esans should know that they have a great role to play in the mental emancipation which many of us (Nigerian immigrants) are working hard to achieve here in Munich.



The chairman of Esan Association, Mr. Nicholas Omhenke (right) with one of the ICF officials present at the occasion

MATTERS ARISING

THE WEDDING BELLS RANG!

The wedding bells rang on the 25th of July 2009, for Mr. & Mrs. Bonny Ezekwem. It was a combined celebration of their Wedding, as well as the baptism and 2nd birthday of their daughter, Nmasinachi. The ceremony took place at the Domberg Catholic Church, Freising. It was a very joyful moment for the guests, family-members and friends of the Ezekwem family.

The occasion was braced by many. It heralded the presence of many Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike. Considering that Mr. Bonny Ezekwem is a member of the ICF, it was of no surprise to see a lot of ICF members and its cultural group at the occasion. As a mark of cultural practice, which has its roots in the ancestral reverence common in the traditional Igbo society. The ICF cultural group showed their love to the Ezekwem family by displaying the respectable "ojionu" masquerade at the occasion. The wedding was a great success, courtesy of the officiating priest who was very patient with most of the guests for their late-coming.

Please! Please!! This is a call to all our people to change from their infamous nonchalant attitude to time. We should bear in mind that time is an important part of life.

A special wish of marital bliss goes to Mr. & Mrs. Bonny Ezekwem,



The couple cutting their wedding cake



The ICF cultural group "playing" at the event

ICF NEWSLETTER

ICF NEWSLETTER is published periodically by the Public Relations Department of the Igbo Contact Forum e.V. Munich, Germany.

Igbo Contact Forum e.V. is a nonprofit organization. This newsletter is dedicated to providing communication forum for and to members. It is published electronically and free.

Matters concerning this Newsletter should be directed to:
The editor
newzinfo@yahoo.com