

**ANIEKAN OFFIONG**

**Dream Come True**

A Story of Professor Aniekan Offiong, a role model teaches lessons we must learn to realize our dreams.

### **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to the Almighty God who made Heaven and Earth and also gave life and wisdom to all mankind. It is dedicated to my late Father, Mr. Offiong Etim Akpan, and beloved mother Mrs. Akon Offiong Akpan, my beloved wife Mrs. Janet Aniekan Offiong and my children Jacqueline DatimfonAbasi, Josephine DianaAbasi, Alexander Abasiodiong, Emmanuel Sinende, Emmanuella DaramfonAbasi and Anita AnietieteAbasi.

### Preface

The world today is in desperate need of people with good dreams. We are in dying need of people who can dream good dreams and at the same time have the skills to make their dreams come true. I have use my life history as case study. This was not done with a touch of pride but with the hope that it will help you understand better the practical tools and skills necessary to make you have dreams and live your dreams. The lessons presented here a product of a life time of learning from parents, teachers and mentors who invested their time, energy and interest in my life. There should be no attempt to generalised this lessons dogmatically even though they can be timeless lessons when employed with wisdom. If anything that I write in these pages should strike readers as being touched with pride or an attempt to colour events in ways favourable to the writer, then he must take it that they were done with the best of intentions. Whatever the label that attaches to this book-Autobiography, Memoir, Intellectual Journey, or Academic History, or something else-what I've tried to do is write an honest account of my life. I hope and pray that no one will regard the advice given in this book as authoritative. The lesson narrated should be regarded as illustrations in the light of which every one may carry on his own life according to his own inclinations and capacity. I trust that to this limited extent the lesson will be really helpful; because I am not going either to conceal or understate any ugly thing that must be said. It is my desire to point out to the reader all my faults. My purpose is to describe my intellectual life story in the finest of the academic tradition. In judging myself I shall try to be as scientific as possible, as I will want others to be. With Christian values most my story be told. When I've strayed, I've been able to look to my Executive Secretary Mrs. Ekaette UmoIkpe for her professional advise, to Directors in IRDI for their gentle but firm correctives; to the staff of IRDI for their enthusiasm and attention in shaping the manuscript through its various stages; to my children for their generous readings; and to my wonderful beautiful wife Janet for her grace and the ability to bring out the best in me. Finally, I want to thank my colleague without their constant love and support, without their willingness to let me sing their song and their toleration of my occasional wrongs, I could never been able to make it. If nothing else, I hope that the love and respect I fell for them will reflect in every page of this book. God bless you all. May you have good dreams and may your dreams come true.

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## PROLOGUE

In *Dreams Come True*, Prof. Aniekan Offiong narrates his intellectual journey from his decision to enter for Postgraduate Studies to his present position as Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo. He takes you through his days as one of the youngest brains in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka teaching staff to his days a young Head of Department in the University of Uyo. He eloquently and vividly details how his career nearly ended because the University of Uyo initially fail to identify him as a Mechanical Engineering genius thus taking him through over 14 years of endless investigation and persecution. In a candid manner he described his 14 years trial as a scholar and how he stood firm refusing to denounce any of his papers, intellectual property or innovative ideas insisting that the peer review process has been delayed simply because as a vision he lives several years ahead of his time. He also movingly recalls the momentous events leading up to his triumph in the same paper review process and his unconditional/backdated promotion to the rank of Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering of the same University of Uyo. He eloquently gives the account of how he emerge the Dean of the Faculty even before his letter of promotion as a full Professor was released to him. He pays tribute to his mentors, collaborators and students. He gives a detail account of how the University system works and maintained that in no other human organizational system could his success story have been possible.

He recalls his inaugural lecture titled “The Engineer and his experiments: decades of design and development of Engineering Systems” and vividly recounts the inaugural lecture citation on him and his sudden realization that only a dream comes true while the dream is endless. The book tends with seven lessons to be learn from the life of Professor Aniekan Offiong.

**Citation of Professor Aniekan Offiong**

B.Eng., M. Eng., PhD [Nigeria]

FNIMechE, MNIProdE, MNSE, COREN RE.

By

Dr. Aniekan Brown

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

University of Uyo, Nigeria

Standing here before you is Professor Aniekan Offiong, Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria. He was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 1969 into the Family of Late Mr. Offiong Etim Akpan and Mrs. Akon Offiong Akpan of Afaha Ikot Obio Nkan, Ibesikpo in Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Mr. Offiong Etim Akpan was a renowned School Principal in the Akwa Ibom State Secondary School System who headed several schools before his death in active service in 1997. Akon, the mother still alive was renowned Headmistress in the Akwa Ibom State Primary School System before her retirement in 2013. They both loved and supported the education of both their children and the children of other people.

As was the case with teacher's children, at the age of four years Aniekan started his Primary Education at the Lutheran Practicing School, Ibakachi in Ikono Local Government Area. The primary school was the demonstration arm of the Lutheran Teacher's Training College, where his father was a tutor. His days in the Lutheran Practicing School ended in 1977 when his father left for further studies at the University of Ibadan and his mother moved to the Teacher's Training College at Ifuho, Ikot Ekpene for further training.

Aniekan completed his primary education at Saint Ann Primary School Ifuho, Ikot Ekpene in the year 1979. That same year he was admitted into the prestigious Federal Government College Ikot Ekpene to start his Secondary Education. Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene was the best secondary school for boys and girls at the time in Cross River. It was the school for the sons and daughters of "who was who" in Nigeria. At Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene Aniekan received an excellent all around education even though he was a "book worm".

In the year 1984 aged fifteen years, Aniekan was admitted into the one and only University of Nigeria, Nsukka and he graduated in June 1989 with a Bachelors of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering. From there, he proceeded to serve the Nation in the National Youth Service Corp Scheme in Enugu for one year. There, he worked as an engineer and his work experiences were rewarding. He practice all he learnt in the university. On completion of the NYSC programme in 1991, he was admitted for a master's in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management at University of Nigeria, Nsukka graduated 1993 and in February 1994, he was employed as a Lecturer II in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The same year he enrolled for a PhD in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management at University of Nigeria, Nsukka which was awarded in the year 1997.

### **Work Experience**

His father and sponsor died immediately after he was awarded PhD, he did not live to witness the convocation. This was a very serious blow to the young Dr. Aniekan Offiong career as he had just like that become a Family Head. It was no longer possible for him to stay and work in Nsukka. He was fortunate as the University of Uyo was starting a new Department of Mechanical Engineering. On March 17, 1998 he accepted his appointment as a Lecturer I in the Department of Mechanical, University of Uyo, Nigeria. That same year he was appointed the Acting Head of the Department. This was a very huge challenge for the young Dr. Aniekan Offiong as he was only 28 years old and still unmarried. Aged and marital status notwithstanding Dr. Aniekan Offiong prove himself a great faculty builder. In building the new department put, under his care he relied on the assistance of his professor at Nsukka as most of the then volunteered to accept adjunct appointment and even arranged for some laboratory works to be done by students of the new department at Nsukka. The first batch of Mechanical Engineering students graduated in 2002, he was relieved of his position as Acting Head of Department and promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer, he became an Associate Professor in the year 2011 and full Professor in the year 2014.

In the year 2017, Professor Aniekan Offiong faculty builder per excellence was elected Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria. The work experiences of Professor Aniekan Offiong do not just end in the University of Uyo, Nigeria, but span through other universities in Nigeria. He

was been on sabbatical leave at the Federal University of Technology Owerri [2004-2005] and the Cross River University of Technology Calabar [2012-2013]. He has been Visiting Professor or Adjunct Professor to the University of Calabar, Federal University Otuoke, Akwa Ibom State University, Delta State University and River's State University of Science and Technology. He has been external examiner for the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Michael Okpera University Umudike, University of Ibadan and others.

### **Publication**

Prof. Aniekan Offiong is an intellectual and a dedicated faculty member who believes that intellectual life is a calling. He envision intellectual life directed by passion for truth seeking as a service to humanity and God the creator of all things. This principle is reflected in all his ways of life and publications.

Professor Aniekan Offiong has written 6 Research Books and published over 65 Journal articles. He was attained over 50 National and International Conferences where he presented papers. He has been Editor to many reputable Journals and Proceedings including:

1. Editor-in-Chief, Global Journal of Mechanical Engineering [2000-date]. Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
2. Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Science and Technology Research [2002-date] International Research and Development Institute, Uyo, Nigeria.
3. Editorial Consultant, Nigeria Journal of Mechanical Engineering [2002-date]. Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria,
4. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of the First National Conference of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria May 2001.
5. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of Annual Conference of Science and Technology Forum, November 16-17, 2005, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
6. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of Annual Conference of IRDI Research and Development Network, June 28-29, 2006, University of Calabar, Nigeria.
7. Associate Editor, Proceedings of International Conference on Scientific and Industrial Studies, March 13-16, 2017, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
8. Associate Editor, Global Journal of Engineering Research [2002-date].
9. Associate Editor, Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering [2016-date]



10. Associate Editor, International Conference on Research and Innovations in Engineering [2018-date].

### **Community Service**

In 1999, Professor Aniekan Offiong was appointed a member of the Akwa Ibom State Transition Committee on Public Utility. Prof. Aniekan Offiong is a Christian and a member of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria. In 2009 he was appointed a member of the Governing Council of the Lutheran Hour Ministry, the evangelical arm of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria. Mr. Vice Chancellor Sir, permit me at this point to mention here that in community services that Professor Aniekan Offiong is well known for his campaign to enhance sustainable development through his activities as patron of the International Research and Development Institute publishers of several journal titles, Research books, Educational Books and Books of General Interest. With the help of this organization and other community partners he has been able to provide several thousands of Educational Books and Journals to several institution across the country free of charge or at a reduced rate.

His book Complete Mathematics for Senior Secondary School which thousands of free copies has been distributed across the country since its publication in 2012 is design to give the basic foundation for the study of engineering and other allied discipline in the University. Mr. Vice Chancellor and chairman of the occasion permit me to mention here that seated in this audience are many beneficiaries of Professor Aniekan Offiong scholarship. Many of them are still in Primary and Secondary Schools, but quite a number have graduate from various universities and few of them are now lecturers in this university and other sister universities. Prof Aniekan Offiong loves education and is the Chairman Board of Governors of the Deltona International Schools.

### **Professional Bodies**

Professor Anienak Offiong belongs to some professional bodies;

1. Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers. [NIMechE]
2. Nigerian Institution for Production Engineers [NIProdE]
3. Nigerian Society of Engineers [NSE]
4. Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigerian [COREN]
5. Committee of Deans of Engineering and Technology in Nigerian Universities [CODET]

**Family Life**

As a Christian Professor Aniekan Offiong is a person of amiable character. He is unassuming, humble and friendly. He is simple, respectful and decent. Professor Aniekan Offiong is diligent, thorough and orderly. He is happily married to the Wife of his youth, Mrs. Janet Aniekan Offiong and together they have six lovely and adorable children: Jacqueline Datimfonabasi, Josephine Dianabasi, Alexander Abasiiodion, Emmanuel Sinende, Emmanuella Daramfonabasi and Anita Anietietabasi.

The Vice Chancellor and chairman of the occasion, distinguished academics of the University of Uyo and other sister institutions, distinguished guest, I have a great pleasure of presenting to you this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2019 an accomplished scholar, a distinguished Engineer, an educationist, fine teacher, Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers, an expert in Industrial Engineering and Management, a husband to one wife and father of six, a Christian and an inspiration to many, an investor in the sustainable development project, and a Nigerian of distinguished academic competence, the 75<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer of the University of Uyo, Nigeria, Professor Aniekan Offiong.

## INTRODUCTION

As a University teacher, I live and work in strict adherence to the four principle of intellectual life I proposed since 1996 when I was a doctorate student at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The principles are: (use the one in inaugural lecture, it is more descriptive).

1. Recognise intellectual life as a calling and envisions intellectual life directed by a passion for truth –seeking as a service to God and humanity.
2. Shape and guide your life according to the highest ideal no matter how powerful or powerless you may be in the system.
3. Let positive change begin in and around you in any system you may want to change.
4. Make arrangement for the positive change you have introduce into the system to be sustainable.

In pursuit of the above principles, I am well known for the campaign to enhance sustainable development through my activities as President and Founder, International Research and Development Institute (IRDI) owners of the Deltona International Schools, Publishers of several Journal titles, Research Books, Educational Books and Books of General Interest. Following the publication of my life history on the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lecture of the IRDI and in the League of Researchers 2014, I received a sponsorship from one the Institutes publishers to give a more detailed account of my life and time for posterity. I promised to do this in series because I am still an active Professor. I have already released the first part-*The Power of the dream* which about my early life. I have also conclude the writing of the second part living the dream which is about my life as President and Founder t of the International Research and Development Institute. This third part is about my dream of being a Professor of Mechanical Engineering and how it came true and manifested during my presentation of the 75<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University of Uyo. I present to you my ordinary living of each day as a husband, father, teacher, entrepreneur, educationist, scholar, philosopher, Engineer, Professor and Christian hoping that it will inspire the special part of you to reach your own star and to realized *The power of the dreams* in you, to lead you to *Living the dream* and to make the *dream come true*.

In the second semester of my third year at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, I had a dream of becoming a Professor of Mechanical Engineering. In the second semester of my fourth year my dream of becoming a Professor of Mechanical Engineering became a clear vision and I approach the then Head of Department, Professor D. C. Onyejekwe, who assured me that he will help,

provided I can improve my grades. The only chance I had to improve my grade at this point was at the final degree examination nicknamed the “All Might June”. In the University of Nigeria, Nsukka of my time this degree examination accounted for 50% of your final Grade.

Preparations for the “All - Mighty June” was topmost in my priority. My tactics was simply reading and solving all the possible Engineering problems that could be asked in examinations and compiled them into a book which was called the “Master Bash” by Chike Uchendu my best friend in class who was the only person allowed unlimited access to the compilation. Other classmates were only allowed specific access. The greatest contributor to the Master Bash was certainly ObikaNwobithe Mechanical Engineering genius in my class who was the best graduating student in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka of my time. Hewas not the only author but only the main author. He himself depended on The Master Bash to confirm whether his solution agreed with that of other lesser Mechanical Engineering Genius within the class who were also authors of things that Obika could not give immediate solution. I was the Editor of the Master Bash. I was also an author as my contribution to the Master Bash in Industrial Engineering and Management were adjudged the best and most splendid.

My performance in the “All Mighty June” was a surprise to me and many of my lecturers. Infact, some had to interview me before they gave the well-deserved “A” grade. This was important to my career as it was through this examination and exposure that I was offered appointment in the Department.

My lecturers, Prof. D. C. Onyejekwe, Prof. S. O. Onyegebu, Prof. A. O. Odukwe and Engr. B. Kobua-Aduma had met and decided that since I was the best student in Industrial Engineering and Management that I should be encouraged to replace Engr. B. Kobua-Aduma in the next two years when his contract would be ending. Engr. Kobua-Aduma was a Ghanaian and for health reasons and other family issues he was no longer willing to renew his contract with the University.

A day after taking Engr. Kobua-Aduma’s examination, he called me and informed me that even though I was not the best in my class but I was the best in his area of specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management that I would have vacancy in the next two years when he leaves. He said the Mechanical three – Odukwe, Onyejekwe andOnjegebu had already agreed to my appointment that I should come back for Master in Industrial Engineering

and Management. ObikaNwobi, the best graduating student was also given a scholarship to do Master's degree in the U.S.A. so the way was completely clear for me.

I accepted this appointment to the amazement of my parents and classmates including Chike. Everyone thought that I would accept the offer made to me from Mobile. Mobile at that time was the highest paying oil company. Mobile had also offered me employment due largely to the fact that my uncle was the Personnel Manager at the Lagos Head Office. Infact, this created a lot of problems for me not only the family circle but in the entire Ibesikpo Community. A former member of the House Representative in Ibesikpo led a delegation of Elders from Ibesikpo to come and persuade me.

They first confronted my father on why he should allow me to choose poverty (teaching job) when wealth (Mobile job) presented on a platter of gold. My father replied that he supported me as he considered my employment as a University Lecturer as a step more to his own achievement as a secondary school teacher. He then asked every member of the family and community not to question or attack me on that subject matter but pray for me to succeed. He sent for me and the elders who had come to persuade me to accept the Mobile job ended up praying for me to be a great scholar and teacher. Another person that my decision to go to postgraduate school could have bothered is Moji my girlfriend during the final year of the degree programme. But because it was rumoured that she was having an affair with Brain the American Exchange Student from Colgate University during my Industrial training programme at Nigerian Airways Lagos. She lost the right to query me on this issue that was certainly going to affect our relationship. Luckily for me, during a visit to Lagos to receive the terminal benefit of my industrial training at the Nigerian airways, my plane landed late around 10.00p.m.in Enugu and I was stranded along with one other girl travelling to Nsukka. She was very tall. Taller than me a bit and I thought she was a student at the University. But further interaction revealed that she was a final year student in the famous Queens secondary school, Nsukka. I convinced her that we should tarry at the Air Port terminal until morning considering the risk involved in attempting to go to Nsukka. During the long wait, we became friends and she later visited me in the hostel. Overtime, we became lovers and even planned to get married. Chike was very disappointed in this new relationship with a secondary school virgin who wrote love poems for me in week days and sang for me during weekends. Eunice was a very beautiful girl and a born artist. Infact, she was the driving force behind my staying forpostgraduate studies/lectureship at the

University. Her song was “it is nobody business, I want to live my life, I know the answer whether it is wrong or right”. She was my girlfriend at the convocation. My convocation reception was done at Professor I. O. Eyo’s resident, Margaret Cathright street on campus in the presence of my parents who later also organized a grand reception for me and my elder sister who had just graduated from the University of Calabar. The reception in our State was done at the principal’s house in the secondary school, Nung Udoe where my father as a serving principal. I had to stay at the principal house for four months while waiting for the N.Y.S.C. call-up letter. During this period I wrote my first book complete Physics for Senior Secondary Schools. University of Nigeria, Nsukka, where I was promised a lecturing position as a replacement for Engr. Benjamin Kobua-Adumamy industrial Engineering and Management Lecturer whose contract was soon going to end with the university. My National Youth Service came to an official end on April 16, 1991. I visited my parent and spend about a month with them before relocation to Nsukka to pursue my Master’s Degree. Eunice was too young to understand that my going to postgraduate school may lead to our not getting married.

### **Nkrumah Hall**

In order for the planned replacement of Engr. Kobua-Aduma to be made perfect I had to take up an accommodation at the Nkrumah Postgraduate Hall of residence of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. This was not directly possible as I was not yet an official Postgraduate student. Prof. Joseph Eyo then a doctorate student of Zoology made available his room at Nkrumah Hall for me. He was already an established Postgraduate student having been recently employed by the University. He became my role model and mentor for many years. This accommodation was lost after few months due to Eyo’s employment with the University which did not permit his renewal of the hostel accommodation. Prof. Eyo move to an off Campus accommodation at Catherine Guest House Road while I moved in to stay with Air Commodore Charles Usihin his Nkrumah Postgraduate Hall accommodation on Campus. He was the Flight Lieutenant in the Nigeria Air Force. He was doing Master Degree in Mechanical Engineering. By the time Charles was leaving for Kaduna after the completion of his master’s programme. I was formally offered admission and given accommodation in room 312 Nkrumah Hall which came to be popular as the headquarters of Akwa Ibom/Cross River State Postgraduate students. Most of the postgraduate student then were University lecturers on staff development. It was in Nkrumah Hall that I meet and befriend great minds from the University of Uyo like Prof. AntiabongEkong

(who later became a Commissioner of Education in Akwa Ibom State) Prof. Maria Ikoro (who later became the Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Secondary Education Board), Prof. Godwin Akpan, Prof. Victoria Akpan, Prof. Domingo Inyang Dr. Johnson Ekanem, Dr. Grace Ekong, Dr. Domingo Inyang and many others too numerous to mention. It is important to mention that the Nkrumah Hall connection played a major role in the establishing International Research and Development Institute. In the University of Nigeria, Nsukka of my time, taking up a residence in Nkrumah Hall was like entering a monastic order, especially for us who were singles and fulltime students. I dedicated my entire life of that time to studying and researching. Eunice my little girlfriend was now a big girl in the university and had started life asking if this intellectual life or book life (as she usually call it) will allow us marry and rise children on time. We had been friends since my final year when we first met and board a Nigerian airways plane at that landed very late at Enugu airport and we had to travel back to Nsukka the next day after spending the night at Enugu airport. Then, she was a final year student at the favour Queen of Rosary secondary School, Nsukka. Now he was a mature girl and student of Psychology at the NnamdiAzikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria. We were very seriously in love and hadplanned to get married after my PhD, but suddenly she came for a weekend and refused to go until I tell her when we are actually getting married. I could not say much as finishing my PhD was on my mind. My appointment with the University had not yet materialized and I depended solely on the monthly stipends from my father. I fumbled that night that I was confronted with the truth. She left the next morning warning me that many suitors have been coming. The next time I visited her she was fully dressed up like a married lady and after five minutes of exchange of pleasantries in their parlour, she informed me that she was expecting her in-laws any moment and that her bride prize had been paid. I felt one of the real prizes of going to a postgraduate school. Nkrumah Hall was full of grown up men and women moving about as singles. I remember the wife of Vice Chancellor who was doing a PhD then, not aware of the financial situation around postgraduate bachelors whenever we greet her' good morning mma' she will reply "Go and marry'. This became the most popular slang of the UNN postgraduate school of my time.

At this point I cannot forget a fallen Comrade Engr. EmereKaluIdiaka who was my classmate right from undergraduate days. We had started a Master's together but he told me he has to live and get a job to support his parents, train his younger ones. I tried to discourage him when he finally got a job in Nigerian Breweries, but he insisted saying that I was not trained the way he

was trained. Your father end you to the University together with your brothers and sisters, but in my own case everybody had to wait for me to finish before they can even go to secondary school. I have to go, work and make money to ensure that my younger ones get some education. With this analysis he left the programme for Nigerian Breweries only to be told within one month that he died in their swimming pool. It was a very big shock to me and I cannot comprehend even till today. May the soul of Engr. Emere Kalu Idiaka rest in perfect peace.

My Nkrumah Hall life was characterized by 9 triangular movement beginning from the Hall of residence through the Department to the Energy Centre where I did most of my research and then back to the Hall of residence. At the hall of residence student from various department will meet and share their experiences. My three best friend students in the hall were for the North Umar (Economics), Ado (Public Administration) and Steven (Chemistry). Umar and Ado were Muslims from Kano State while Steven was a Christian from Kaduna. Umar was very much in love with church music. When even I wanted to go to the Abiding Word Fellowship he will follow me to the student union building where the fellowship was being held. He will hang around in the student union building until the fellowship is over and then we will live together. Before going we will normally top and enjoy suya meat at the student union suya spot. One day Umar confess that he always follow me to the fellowship venue to enjoy the music and look at sophisticated girls. He confessed that he use to watch through the video as the fellowship goes on. I said why don't you come in he replied I don't want to be captured by the Holy Spirit. He narrated how Ado followed his Igbo girlfriend to church and was captured by the Holy Spirit. I ask him let it not be that you come here to look for a beautiful girl and he replied I am not as foolish as Ado that one Igbo girl was been eating his money for nothing and at the same time has the audacity to laugh at him when he proposed to her telling him that he must become a Christian before they can get married or begin anything. He said you are free to go and get married to any girl here, but me I have to wait until I get to Kano. Here, I can only look because I don't want to be a laughing stock as Ado. From then onward I begin to appreciate the reason for his limited association with ladies.

Steven on the other hand was a Christian from the North. Even thought he was born again I suspected the he was dating one girl in Chemistry who was attending brotherhood a white garment church headquarters in Calabar. From the way he was always asking after the Christian status of the church I knew



he was contemplating marriage proposal to the girl. Steven was the one who cooks for the four of us to eat. Sometime I will cook beans, but Umar and Ado was not usually allowed to cook because according to Steve they cook rubbish. Nkrumah Hall of my time was full of rumours and scandals. It was rumoured that the Pastor living at the topmost floor was always visited by girls when the roommates have gone up school. It became a scandal when one of the girl's parent came threatening to call the Police and Immigration as the Pastor was a foreigner. I had reason to laugh when I meet three undergraduate female students coming from a prayer meeting in their fellowship leader's room call Bishop Ken who was notorious for seducing young girls with supernatural powers. As of that time he was having a serious sexual immorality case with the Hall Government which was forwarded to me as the Director of Socials in the Postgraduate Students Union Government. The young girls said they were mandated to come fast and pray for Bishop Ken in his roommate by the fellowship so that the spirit of fornication will leave him. I ordered them back with an advice to the fellowship to send brothers and not sisters to fast and pray for a man with the spirit of fornication less they become victims. When I told the President of the postgraduate students union Lady Vivian about it she said that the school security has approve that she visit or break into this room whenever she suspect something wrong was going on bases of our earlier complain. I told her the school was wrong as she herself can become a big victim since we have not fully understood his procedures. She laughed and said she will be going with me and other members of the executive committee. After two days, Lady Vivian came in with two plain cloth female security personal requesting my company to notorious Bishop Ken room following a trip off. On getting there we saw him with a very big artificial male organ and he was teaching how to use a condom to young undergraduate boys and girls. He claims to be leading crusade against HIV. We all agree that we had enough reason to send him out of the hostels for immoral behaviour as the venue or his lesson should have been in a classroom, but we disagree on how to handle the main evidence the big artificial male organ which the ladies claim where too exotic for them to handle. The most important point of my triangular movement during my postgraduate studies was the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. At the Department I occupied a fully air-conditioned Postgraduate office left for me by my predecessor Fleet Lieutenant Charles Usho. It was next door to the office of Prof. A. O. Odukwe who later became my Doctorate Supervisor. Engr. Benjamin Kobo-Aduma contract was remaining only three months and I was given an automatim to finish my Master's Project. Meanwhile, I had finished all the course work Manufacturing Engineering,

Quality Control, Numerical Analysis, Heat and Mass transfer etc. remaining only the one Dr. O. C. Onuba's Systems Engineering. Dr. Onuba was on sabbatical during this period and as a result we had to wait for him to return. This was the most dreaded course. But since I had made A in all my courses I was not afraid against because once I can get a C in Dr. Onuba's course this one I will still have good enough score to proceed for the doctorate. Everything worked out as planned I was able to get the required C and move along. The title of my Master thesis was "Design of a Computer Based Maintenance System for Industries: A Case Study of Ferdinand Oil Mill Plc., Urualla, Imo State". By the time my supervisor left in December, 1992 the work was almost complete, but never the less Prof. D. C. Onyejekwe was appointed to see me through to the Defence which was done in December, 1993. On February 18, 1994 I was offered employment as a Lecturer II in the Department based on the Master's degree thereby fulfilling my dream of becoming a University Lecturer.

### **White House**

In the month of June 1994, I started PhD programme at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. The programme was scheduled to be a six semester programme in which the first two semesters and the last semester were to be spend at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka while the remaining three semester were to be spent in the University of London under a Commonwealth Programme. With the execution of Mr. Ken Sara Wiwa Nigeria was suspended from the Commonwealth and it was decided that I should forget about the research fellowship awarded by the Commonwealth at the University of London. This was ok with me because it means I could continue to work on maintenance system. Professor J. C. Agunukamba arrange for me to be given access to the British Council at Enugu and personal took me to NnamdiAzikiwe University Library for research not less than ten times before we arrive at the subjective my PhD dissertation "Development of Coordinated Maintenance and Replacement scheduling Program for Industries".

It was at this point in my life that I had the vision to live an intellectual life and wrote down the four principles of intellectual life as state in the introductory part of this book. When it was published in the notice board of Nkrumah Hall it received a lot of followership. Infact a working class doctorate student sponsor its publication in all the notice boards of the whole seventy two Departments of the University, the Postgraduate school and the Postgraduate Hall of Residence, Nkrumah Hall.

Another reason why I was comfortable with the cancellation of my London trip was that the “Go and Marry Slogan” was beginning to make meaning to me.

I had just been employed as a lecturer II in the University and the excuse “I have no work was no longer tenable”. But why are beautiful girls refusing my hands in marriage. My friend Umar the wise had the solution: “Girls nowadays are not interested in the intellectual life we are living”. They are looking for flashy live of the oil company boys and politicians. I had just lost my girlfriend for so many years that I was planning to marry but because of too much schooling on my part because she could not wait any longer. Many young ladies then dreaded marrying lecturers so I was even very lucky that the one most beautiful girl on campus and the daughter of a professor on campus has given me green light. She suggested renting a two bedroom apartment off campus. Luckily I was able to secure a two bedroom apartment at the popular white House Ibagwa Road. With this development my stay at Nkrumah Hall came to an end, making the beginning of my stay at the white House as Bachelor and Doctorate Student. However I continue to hold on to the principle of intellectual life.

White House was the most beautiful residential apartment in the Nsukka of my time. Chioma showed great interest in setting up the White House apartment but I was very disappointed when I proposed to her and she replied that she will not marry non-Igbo or will she marry a lecturer after what she was gone through as a professors daughters. She told me point blank that she does not believe in my principles of intellectual life. I did not quite believe her so we kept on dating and I depended on her for the general organization of the house on weekends.. The other domestic chores were done by my private secretary Nkiru who comes to work 7.00a.m and leaves by 5.00p.m. As a bachelor doctorate student lecturer, I had to share my time between teaching, research and my girlfriend whom I regarded as my future wife. I was very surprise when the elder sister showed up one day in my office at the University and inform me that she will be traveling to USA and she will like me to take care of the sister so that she can have peace of mind. She narrated to me how a man came to marry her and she persistently refuse until the man was directed to her by her mother in order not to lose everything as the man had already spend a lot of money on the family as he was a very rich Nigerian based USA citizen. She told me how she had accepted the man unaware that the man first came to marry the sister at Nsukka where she leaves with the parents on Campus and was studying microbiology. She explain that she spend most of

her time in the medical school at Enugu and was not aware of the fact that her husband came originally for her younger sister. She said that she is very happy that she has found somebody as handsome as I am. I told her that am not aware of all these. She said that I need to know so that I will be able to restore peace in the house. She emphasized that the only time there will be peace in her house is when the sister is happily married. I informed her that I have proposed to the sister but she has not given any positively reply. She said that it always the problem but I must be patient with her. She said she will be very happy with her husband when my sister is happily married. She request my company at their departure ceremony over the weekend which I promised but never showed up as Chioma did not accept my marriage proposal.

As a doctorate student and Lecturer I taught undergraduate students of Food Science and Industrial Technical Education Engineering Drawing. Also teach fourth year Mechanical Engineering Students and final year Industrial Chemistry Student Work Study. With exception of fourth year Mechanical Engineering, this class were largely female dominated classes. The classes presented different challenges. Food Science and Industrial Technical Education were first year students and their main problem was centred around understanding how the University work in addition to the fact that most of them had never done Technical Drawing. The course description of the Engineering Drawing course had assumed some prior knowledge of Technical Drawing. Mr. Obasi was teaching the course before I took over from him due to the high failure rate. As Professor Onyejekwe but it was in the Departmental Board Meeting where the course was assigned to me, let us give the course to young lecturer hoping he will communicate with this freshmen better. I actually introduce a lot of audio-visual teaching aids and not only did class attendance increase to almost hundred percent each lecturer, the failure rate was only about ten percent. The students themselves confess that drawing is their most interesting course. I will normally go for the tutorial class with about four postgraduate engineering students to teach them how to draw from first principle. All the students in this class both boys and girls were singles who had the perception that they are schooling for their parents.

In the work study class the jungle had mature and some of the girls had become mothers while some of the boys even though they were not yet fathers but had become men who must soon begin to fence for themselves. Here, the students were aware that they were schooling to better their lot. In this class, I discover that the student come after me to teach them instead of my going

after them as was the case in the first year drawing course. It certainly easier to teach a graduating class than a first year class I had observed.

During the third year of my teaching drawing a graduate assistant was attached to me to enable me put more time into writing up of PhD dissertation and also to prepare him for the take over the course as it was decided that the course should be handled by the youngest or newest lecturer. When checking the marked script submitted by the graduate assistant I discovered a score higher than the quality of drawing done by a student and told the graduate assistant to review which he was reluctant to do but never the less when a head to do the review when I inform him that the girl in question had earlier come to me for help but I told her that help cannot be given during grading but only during teaching and tutorials. I told him it was part of my work as his supervising lecturer to teaching him principle guiding being a University lecturer and the art of sticking to marking scheme and being fair to all students when grading. I informed him that this girl most have also gone to the supervising professor of the course for the same help. He was very happy he did the review as the supervising professor on our submission of the result specially requested for the girls drawing sheet to see what she had drawn and what she scored. The professor was happy that the girl had gotten a well-deserved grade. Imagine the embarrassment that would have befallen us if the girl score was higher than the quality of her work.

In the work study lectures for fourth year Mechanical Engineering and final year industrial engineering I was firm and yet love by my students. Most of the students in this class were in my age group, infact the female students were in a higher group than me as most of them were engaged and some were even married. One of them kept malice with me for over seven years for rejecting a gift of drink from her.

She may have felt insulted but as a young lecturer I protected myself by not accepting gift from any person what so ever because it may turn out to be a bribe. The lady in question later became a University lecturer and when we meet in a Conference I had the opportunity to apologize to her and we became friends.

The development of a computer based maintenance management system the subject of my Master's thesis had expose me to the concept of expert system. For this reason, I was appointed a part-time lecturer in Computer Science and employed to teach expert system, Artificial intelligent and Fortran

Programming. This increases my romance with Computer Science and I wrote a book during this process. The book titled "Fortran Programming: An Introduction to Man Machine Communication". During this period I had also published a part of my PhD thesis in a bookform. The title of the book was Maintenance Management and Techniques. Thousands of copies of this two books were sold to many students in different Universities which made me instantly a very rich lecturer. My romance with the new established Computer Science Department in Nigerian Universities continue into the early part of my stay in the university of Uyo, when I published Basic Programming with two very brilliant computer scientist as co-authors. I thank God for always being there for me in time of needs. This was a time of need for me as tragedy stroke immediately after the completion of my PhD 1997. My father and sponsor died. I needed money not only for the burial rites but settle down in Uyo which was soon to become my base as new family head following the dead of my father.

The dead of my father marked the end of my stay at White House and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; as I applied and immediately was appointed a lecturer, in the newly established Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo.

### **The Guest House**

I assumed duties in the University of Uyo on March 17, 1998. On arrival I was chequed into the University of Uyo Guest House near the Ravine on the town campuses. This was to be my residence for the next one year. At the Faculty Prof. Charles Uko was the Co-ordinator while Prof. L. O. Asuquo was my Head of Department. Within three months Prof. Charles Uko who was the immediate past Commissioner of Lands and Housing in Akwa Ibom State was appointed a Director in the Niger Delta Commission. He then relinquished his post of Coordinator of the Faculty to Prof. L. O. Asuquo and I was immediately appointed the Head of the Department. While at the Guest House I was opportune to meet many young girls of marriageable age but it was not easy to strike a relationship. Also I was not quite sure of the stand of Chioma the girl friend I left at Nsukka. My book business then run under the name Kan Educational Books was still headquarter in White House, Olivert Hill, Ibagwa Road, Nsukka under the management of Mr. Francis Okafor who is now Engr. Dr. Francis Okafor, lecture at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. It was from the proceed of this book that

Francis was to run the affairs of the office in Nsukka and feed himself together with my brother Offiong Offiong who then was preparing for the JAMB Examination. This means that I had to be visiting Nsukka every month. During one of such visit Chioma made it clear to me that she was not going to marry non Igbo. At this point my attention went back to Etima who was an old time friend and now a medical doctor in Calabar. We exchange several visits but nothing serious developed, as she told me that being make a consultant was upper most in her mind at this point in time. I kept my options open until I met Princess, who was later engage to me but broken up the engagement saying that the father force her. It was a very hectic time for me as Head of Department. We work on curriculum development every day and more people joined the Department. They included, Engr. Chinatu T. Nwaukwa, Dr. Obotowo W. Obotowo, Engr. Peter Umana, Prof. AniediEte and Prof. Francis Okokon.

The Department was then called Department of Mechanical and Agricultural Engineering but six months into my headship the Agricultural Engineering Programme became full Department on its own.

Our major problems in those days was how to handle the Workshops and Laboratories but we were able to overcome that by arranging and taking our students to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka for Workshop and Laboratory courses. I devoted my time completely to the work in the Department and became actively involved in transition to civil rule. For this reason I was appointed a member of the Committee on public utility in the state during the 1999 transition to civil rule. I supported and sponsor Honourable Umoh Udonwa to represent Ibesikpo Asutan in the State House of Assembly. In the process I became close to the sister-in-law Dr. Mrs. Uwem Okome who became my marriage counselor. Initially, she tried to reconcile Princess with me but when she meet Janet she immediately withdrew her support from Princess describing her as being possessed and full of stress. She was opposed to Dr. Etima and even worked against her describing her as being fake and pretending. When I finally married Janet on December 1999 she became her tutor on marital issues for several years before relocating to Canada with her husband Prof. Onokome Okome.

From the year 1997 when I finished my PhD to the year 2000 I could only published one journal paper because of my commitment as Head of the Department in a new Department. The paper was published in 1998 and was

titled “Design of a computer based stock control system for Engineering spares”

We had to developed a new curriculum for the programmes and at the same time execute them because the students were already on ground. Every day, we were either preparing for COREN or NUC accreditation. The work was so hectic and as such I was always sick. Initially, the doctors thought I was having chronic typhoid fever until I met a polished doctor who diagnosis it as work stress and her treatment provide a permanent cure up till today. God has always been there for me by providing my destiny helpers. The polished lady who happened to be the mother of my good friend Asanedem at FGC IkotEkpene in the few years she was my doctor taught me how and why an intellectual should care of himself in a special way. With the help of God and by following those procedure and medication I have never been sick again for the past twenty years. In March, 1999 I left the Guest House to a three bedroom flat at NO. 4 Akpan Obong Street, behind the University of Uyo Annex where the Faculty of Engineering was then located. The period of my stay in the Guest House was very significant because it was about this period that we were able to secure the land and start the building project of the house that my mother is presently living. My mother upon the death of my father had stated clearly that she will not live in the family house at Afaha Ikot Obio Nkan 100 unit housing estate at Uyo behind Tropicana. My mother had always blamed the sudden death of my father few hours into his visit to the family house on what she falls the evil manipulation of the village people. My father was actual diagnosed of a heart condition but I have been unable to explain to my mother why a young man of only fifty years as she always put it will have a fatal heart condition. Needless to say that I had to stay in the Guest House for about one year because at the time my mother would not have allowed me to stay at the family house. Rather we had to rent out the adjoining houses to the main family house that has been kept unoccupied till today and maintained at a very high cost. It was this circumstances that necessitated my renting the house at Akpanobong Street.

### **Akpanobong Street**

My father paid my rent at the White House, Olivert Hill Ibagwa Road, Nsukka. The University of Uyo sponsored my stay at the University of Uyo Guest House. My first experience on renting was at No. 4 AkpanObong Street a two story building consisting of six three bedroom flats. I came to understand why rent is always the devourer of wages. To avoid embarrassment I always pay my rent in advance. I cannot remember exactly



but it use to take just a little more than my two moths salary. I did not mind because it was also used as my publishing office and as home to my younger siblings. The good thing about my residence at No. 4 Akpanobong Street was that it was a working distance to my office as the Head of Department. This allowed me the opportunity to work long hour with less travelling time. During this period was very passionate and dedicated to the establishment of a world class Department of Mechanical Engineering in the University of Uyo. To this end, I published two research papers: i. Nigerian Universities and Educating Future Mechanical Engineers and ii. Development and evaluation of a Mechanical Engineering Curriculum: The University of Uyo – Nigeria Case. I spent a total of seven years in Akpanobong Street where three of my six children were born. At Akpanobong Street I wrote about four books and published over 30 journal articles. Principles of Engineering Project Management was written during my residence at Akpanobong and for nearly two decades since it was published in collaboration with two great mentors: Prof. A. P. Onwualu, Former Director General of the Raw Material Research and Development Institute, Abuja, and Prof. S. I. Oluka of Enugu State University of Science and Technology Enugu it has been a major textbook in Nigeria for the teaching of Engineering Management and Law to undergraduate and Postgraduate students. During this period I developed many new teaching skills and methods that enable me handle experience students many of them who were workers in the Exxon Mobile Oil Company at Eket. Worthy of special mention Rev. Engr. Monday Akpan who si now Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Production Engineering. Most of these students have had the Higher National Diploma from the Polytechnic and have also been well expose to industry but what they need was more of engineering science and management techniques. For the natural smart ones like Monday Akpan it was easy but for many others it was the University of hardknock. I also have fond memories of Engr. Dr. Godwin Ekong who join the first set of Engineering student after an early carrier in business, but he was passionate about becoming an Engineer. He studied hard and mingled well with his classmates who were generally younger in age. Made a good result going further to study a Masters and doctorate in the United Kingdom. He is now a lecturer in the Akwa Ibom State University and the President of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers. It was at No. 4 Akpanobong Street that I live while the construction of the Presidential Lodge at No. 63 Itam Street was ongoing. The two story building project took about four years to complete starting from 2001 to 2006. The project was majorly founded from my proceed from the book business which at about 2002 had metamorphose into the International Research and Development Institute with Head Office at No.

66 Ikot Ekpene Road, Uyo. At the IkotEkpene Road office we occupied the top floor of the two story building. Moving my publishing office out from Akpanobong Street was a very significant event in my carrier as a scholar. I was for the first since my marriage be able to sit down in what I can a thinking position. Even though, I had a well furnish office at home you cannot actually stop the nearing of the baby's cry and the associate mental draw back while working. But never the less it was when Akpabong Street serves as my residence and office that I wrote most of my research papers. This why I am still an advocate of the home based business model.

### **Transforming Mandates**

My appointment as Head of Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo in 1998 at age 28 years, was a transforming Mandate. I had been recommended for the job by the Co-ordinator of the Faculty, Prof. L. O. Asuquo. I worked very hard to ensure that I did not disappoint the University because then people use to look down at young people ability. I pursue an aggressive recruitment policy which saw the likes of Prof. D. C. Onyejekwe and Engineer A. U. Ukpoho being appointed Adjunct Professor and Senior Lecturer respectively. Late on Professor AniediEte, Prof. E. O. P. Akpan and Dr. U. Udomon joint us as sabbatical lecturers. But the most transforming part of my tenure as Head of Department was during the First National Conference of the Department of Mechanical Engineering University of Uyo, in 2001. This conference also gave birth to the Global Journal of Mechanical Engineering our Departmental Journal. But despite the success of this Conference there was serious problems in the Faculty as the then acting Dean and some colleagues were against the Conference and its journal even though they initially gave their blessing. It was this stiff opposition from some colleagues in the Faculty headed by the acting Dean that open my eye to the fact that I have to take some of my activities as a scholar off campus.

During the last quarter of 2001. I was relieved of my position as Head of Department. In 2002, the International Research and Development Institute was born. I then began an aggressive campaign to mobilized members of the intellectual community in Nigeria to seek independence and published through independent channels like the IRDI Journals. This campaign received a very serious transformation when the University approved for me to proceed on sabbatical leave to the Federal university of Technology over between 2004-2005. Before the end of the sabbatical leave with help of subscription mainly form Lecturers in the University of Uyo and Federal University of Technology, Owerri, the IRDI was able to hold the First Annual Conference of

the International Research and Development Institute Science and Technology Forum between November 15-18, 2005. The conference was held at the Community Centre, University of Uyo under the distinguished Chairmanship of Prof. J. E. Eyo of the Department of Zoology, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. Another transforming mandate was received when I was employed as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in the newly establish Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cross River University of Technology, Calabar. This offered me the opportunity to work on the intellectual community in Calabar which is made up of the University of Calabar and the Cross River University of Technology, Calabar. With the help of the members in the intellectual community in Calabar headed by Dr. Paul Okon-Inyang, we were able to organise the First ever International Conference of the IRDI. The Conference was held at the University of Calabar Hotel Conference Centre, on June 27-30, 2006 under the distinguished Chairmanship of the Dr. Timothy Talor Mac-Ojong (University of Buea, Cameroon). The Vice Chancellor University of Calabar Prof. Bassey O. Asuquo declared the occasion open while Prof. OnokomeOkome of the University of Alberta, Canada delivered the Keynote Address, Mrs. Dianne Godwin came with Goodwill message from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. Between February 18, 1994 when I joined the University system and November 28, 2019 when I delivered my inaugural lecture as a Professor, I have done quite some research works which I refer to as experiments. I have published over sixty five journal articles in the past twenty-five years. During this period, I have taught courses Engineering Management, Engineering Law, Engineering Economic amongst other core Mechanical Engineering courses to thousands of undergraduates and postgraduate student many of whom have graduated and are now occupying important positions in the public and private services. I have supervised hundreds of final year projects over the years. During this period, I have also supervised over twenty postgraduate dissertations and thesis, five of them in the PhD programme. For the past twenty five years I have been living my dream, teaching and researching in the University. My work as a University lecturer does not end in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (where I spent 4 years) and the University of Uyo ( where I have so far spent 21 years), but span through other Universities in Nigeria. I have been on sabbatical leave at the Federal University of Technology Owerri (2004-2005) and the Cross River University of Technology Calabar (2012-2013). I have been a visiting Professor or Adjunct Professor to the University of Calabar, Federal University Otuoke, Akwa Ibom State University, Delta State University, Cross River University of Technology and the Rivers State University of Science and Technology. I have been external examiner for the University of Nigeria,

Nsukka, Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike, University of Ibadan and others. I have done my professional assessment for many universities. I love to teach my students the truth and I teach with great passion. This has been my most thrilling transformational mandates. They offer me the opportunity of pursuing my IRDI dream.

### **Assessment and Promotion**

On January 2016 I was on my fourteenth year as a senior Lecturer in the University of Uyo despite the fact that I have published over sixty-five journals articles and have spent over twenty two years as a University Lecturer three of it as a pioneer Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, in the University of Uyo. This was not a comfortable situation no matter how you pretended. I hold on to my belief that promotion comes from God so I did not complain to anybody but remain heartbroken. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2012 one of my professors then a Pro-chancellor of a University call me and asked me if I had been promoted Professor so that he can recommend me for an appointment. He was very saddened when I told him that I was still a Senior Lecturer. He was very furious and said that I should sent him my curriculum vitae, but that I should forget about the appointment because it was a professional appointment. He said Dr. Offiong you know that no two marriages are the same, this will not have happen to you if you were here in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. But you must not hold unto a marriage that is strangling to death. I will have you interviewed and appointed professor in a nearby University if you have the required publication and you are ready to move on with your life. All your mates and even your juniors are now all Professors. I tried to pretend that I am ok, but he said no you cannot be comfortable when you know that you are qualified and you are not promoted and people you are better than by far are being made Professor. I was so heartbroken that I decided to send in my curriculum vitae to him even though I know that with my family and the Headquarters of the IRDI in Uyo this will have been a very difficult work arrangement. I prayed together with my wife for divine intervention on this matter. This arose from the fact that despite my stagnation in Uyo. God has never revealed to me that I should leave the University of Uyo. Infact, when I prayed over the invitation, God only promise to use the process to vindicate me in the University of Uyo. Eventually, I attended the interview and was recommended for appointment as a full professor in the University. But, the will of God prevailed, from reliable sources I gather that when my own letter was about to be issued, to the Dean of the Faculty over there on the instigation of my enemies in the University of

Uyo informed the Vice Chancellor that I have a case at the University of Uyo and that is why I have not been promoted. There is no smoke without fire because from then on my sorrows multiplied as many people including the Pro-chancellor of the University called me to inquire about the case I have with the University of Uyo. Reliable sources also informed me that the University contacted the University of Uyo to inquire about me sometime in the middle of 2012. This may have prompted something towards the end of the year 2012, Prof. L. O. Asuquo the incumbent Dean, who obviously was not in support of my delayed promotion called me and informed me to resubmit my papers for assessment for promotion to Associate Professor cadre as he has just received a letter from the University to that effect. With this development I called my Professor at Nsukka who was working on my appointment in a nearby University to hold on because I have been assured by the University of Uyo that my promotion will no longer be delayed as the Panel has vindicated me. He simply said I have been briefed. Your problem is there is a gag up by a cabal against you and your IRDI, instead of establishing PFQ for you, they are busy requesting the University to set up Panel for you and your IRDI. Now that the Panel report has been favourable let see what they will do.

Promotion comes from God, on the Easter Sunday of the 2016 Dr. Markson brought me a letter dated March 22, 2016 promoting me to the rank of Associate Professor in the University of Uyo with effect from October 1, 2014 I was heartbroken again because I had been robbed of my seniority. I wrote a very gentle protest and before the end of the year 2016 I receive a letter which states that the University Council has approved that my promotion to the rank of Associate Professor be backed to October 1, 2011. Make no mistake the problem of no promotion in the Faculty was not peculiar to me alone even though I was the main target as the leader the progressive in the Faculty. It was the strategy of the cabal. The cabal did not only target me but also targeted my close friends and collaborators. I knew of Dr. O. O. Antia my main collaborator in the production of palm kernel oil whose promotion was stepped down at the request of a member of the cabal simply because he was my collaborator in several publications. I knew of Dr. G. B. Basse who told me that he has no future in the University of Uyo hence he must move on. He made moves and was quickly appointed full professor at the Akwa Ibom State University from his position as Senior Lecturer in University of Uyo. In the process of holding me down together with my friend and collaborators the cabal succeeded in holding down everybody including themselves and became unpopular even among themselves. Before closing my discussion here I will

like to speak for the dead because the living can speak for themselves. I cannot forget the contributions of the following fallen heroes. They were my good friends and collaborators. Dr. E. J. Akpabio, Dr. Francis Udo, Dr. Bede Asuquo, Engr. A. U. Ukpoho and Engr. Emmanuel Udoanya. Dr. E.J. Akpabio died heartbroken before he could reprocess his Associate Professorship assessment. He has accused of writing in the Russian Language and they requested for translation. They refused the translation provide by him and never cared to give the papers to University appointed translators.

Dr. Francis Udo was lucky to scale through the assessment with me but when my own promotion was announced without his own he was rightfully upset. In phone call just before he died he told me those my papers may have been given to no existing professors. He died within one week of the announcement of my Associate professorship. Dr. Bede Asuquo died an associate Professor while awaiting his Promotion to full professor, even though by this time he had been transferred to Physics against his wish. Engr. A. U. Ukpog and Engr. Emmanuel Udoanya where first class practicing engineers employed largely because of the practical experience as practicing Engineers, because of their age a PhD will have been optional for them but the cabal insisted they must go and get a PhD at almost sixty years of age. Engr. Udoanya died heartbroken in the process of obtaining a PhD that his age and health could not carry. Engr.A. U. Ukponowas much older he refused to go for the PhD program. After a faculty board in which he was openly accused of not going for the PhD, he visited me in the house to inquire if they meant what they were saying about his going for the PhD at his age and health condition. I assured him that the university cannot use that to determine his appointment at this point. He said but they have threaten to write to the university, that was the last time I saw him as he got sick and died. The list of promotional heartbreaks in the Faculty of Engineering University of Uyo of my time is endless but analysis reveals that the problem was mainly due to the management of the issue at the Faculty level.

In my own case they made a verge accusation that the papers were too may and needed be investigated for originality. This angered many members of the Faculty because these were high quality co-authored research papers. When he discovered that this will lead to serious problems as I co-authored withover twenty Faculty members then request that only the IRDI be investigated. When the Panel cleared me of any wrong doing and recommended that I be commended for doing an excellent work in the African Intellectual community they then move on into the technical issue that I must

face a Council Panel. When the council Panel strikes out my case out and order my assessment for promotion the plan to make me loss seniority by not backdating my promotion. When my papers were finally send, the Vice chancellor and it was burnt due to the student unrest which lead to the burning of the Vice Chancellor's office they start claiming that my delay were cause by the Vice chancellor. This is was true. I believe that if those papers were processed as at when due in the Faculty the waiting time would reduce and nobody would have to spend fourteen years as a Senior lecturer. At this point, I will advice that we should be fair and willing show love to the younger generation in any organisation we find ourselves be it Government, Church, School or even Family because It is the younger ones. That will retire us.

The truth must be told. During this period of stagnation in the University system I received so many miracles from God. I got married and had six children some who are now in the University of Uyo. During my inaugural lecture my first daughter Jacqueline Datimfon was a fourth year student of Microbiology, my second daughter Joseph Diana Abasi was a fourth year student of Law and my first son Alexander Abasi Diong was a third year student of Mechanical Engineering. Emmanuel Sinende my second son and Emmanuella Daramfonabasi third daughter where in SS2 and JS2 respectively classes in the Rayfield International Secondary School, Uyo. The baby of the house Anita Anietiente Abasi was in Nursery two at the Prestigious Cedar Court British International Secondary School, Uyo. I pursue my IRDI dream opening several offices in Nigeria, Ghana and Cameroon. The Institute also opened the Deltona International Schools, Uyo and the Songhai Farm Programme at Ikot Itie Idung, opposite the NYSC permanent origination camp junction, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The Place of Learning and the Presidential lodge were constructed and commission. I will also able to assist my wife in her pet project of providing affordable housing to low income earners. I have been living my life despite the drawn backs in the University because I believe that God is always with me. Despite the passing years God has kept my youthfulness and good health to compensate for the lost years. At this point I want to thank Professor L. O. Asuquo for his tireless campaign to create a fair appraisal mechanism in the Faculty which led to the establishment my Prime FASSIE Qualification for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. I thank our former Vice Chancellor, Professor (Mrs.) Comfort M. Ekpo for overseeing and announcing my promotion to rank of Associate Professor.

### **Your Papers are too many**

The first appraisal is self-appraisal. I consider myself a talented engineering scholar. In 2002, I was promoted Senior Lecturer, in 2005 I was due for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor having met the requirement for such appointment in terms of years of teaching and publication. I had a total of 32 journal papers as against the required minimum of 12 journal papers. There were no professors in the Faculty then so I was at a loss who to present my papers to as my Head of Department said he honestly had no idea of what to do. By the time we had professors the cabal had already been formed and they were of the opinion that my papers were too many to be true. I simply told them to pass papers through the peer review process and let us see what will happen, they refused to do this, knowing fully well that it will come out positive. Later on, they told me because of the absence of the University Council that the Faculty of Engineering will not bother about appraisal this year. Next year 2006 they said the same thing. The following year 2007 the story was the same. In 2008, the University made external and internal advert for the position of Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and I decided to attend the interview. At the interview again without passing my papers through the peer review process they complained they are too many. I spent time to tell them that they are many but they are all my research findings and they are of very high quality. The decision of the interview Panel was that I should go through the internal appraisal procedure. But by this time I had already made my point clear, I am here working without being assessed for promotion as and when due. For this reason the interview could not recruit any professional lecturers in Engineering knowing that it could have been an opportunity for a Prime Fellowship Qualification (PFQ) to be established for me alongside others. After the interview an informant informed me that the cabal was thinking of charging me with any possible kind of academic fraud but that they cannot lay their hands on any because of my strict adherence to the finest of academic tradition and thoroughness. They complained that most of my works are team work and any attempt to do an arbitrary attack will bring them many enemies. They made up their mind to attack the International Research and Development Institute (IRDI) which I am founder and president. To the glory of God, this also gave them enough troubles in the long run, because the organization had over ten-twelve thousand members. When I presented myself for the 2009/2010 appraisal as directed at the interview there was nowhere again for the cabal to terminate it at the Faculty level. But still, they refused to pass my papers through the peer review process claiming that they were too many. When it got to the Appointment and Promotion Committee



and they were asked about my PFQ, they according to an informant inform the committee that I had papers from the IRDI include as some of my publication and for the fact that I am the President of the IRDI the doubted the quality of the papers presented and will like to request the University to set up an investigation Panel. The informant also inform me that some members who where away the cabal evil motives advice the Committee to remove itself from the evil plan by removing the three papers from the IRDI in my Curriculum Vitae and go ahead to establish a PFQ for me. They maintained that the University does not have any oversight function as reward to the IRDI since it was not an affiliate of the University. To me this will have been the proper thing to do. Some have also say you Dr. Aniekan Offiong you have over 38 journal papers and you only need about 12 Journal papers for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor why did you not remove this three form the IRDI journals. My reply is that it is my right for those papers to be assess for what they are. There is no rule stopping editors of Journals (the President of IRDI) publishing in their journals. Anywhere for whatever reason I will not denounce any of my papers or intellectual properties because they are valuable to me and where done in accordance with the finest of academic tradition directed by a passion for truth-seeking as a service to God and humanity. Only a superior argument can make me embark on a review. In any case a Panel was set up and it was my duty to face it. The cabal came back to the Faculty boasted that they have succeeded in convincing the University to set up a panel for me. They conclude that I will soon be dismissed in a matter of days. They even boasted that they have initiated the then Vice Chancellor into the cabal, and that he is considering a summary dismissal. Despite this I continue to discharge my duties effectively and responsibly not allowing the issue to affect my relationship with other staffs and students. One of the Faculty members who has access to the cabal hinted them one day that he has consulted a lawyer who told him that I have no wrong doing and that the Panel will surely clear me of any wrong doing. They told him off, saying we know that he has done nothing wrong but we want him to suffer these losses. Before he can prove himself innocent it will take time. Infact they way we are planning it will take him more than twenty years to get out of this and by this time he will be academically dead. So what are we saying let him face the Panel, let us delay his promotion or better still let him be sacked summarily and let him go to Court. He will never be a Professor in this University let him go to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where he came from. The Faculty member when on to inquire of them what will be their stand if closes the IRDI. They said that will be better but he will not still be promote a Professor here in the University of Uyo. Their bitterness was too much. If

there is anything I could have done to soften it, I would have done. But as it was only God could have healed them of this kind of hatred.

### **The Investigation Panel**

Immediately, after the 2009/2010 Appointment and Promotion Committee (Academic) meeting I received an invitation to appear before a panel. The Panel was headed by Professor Joseph N. Obinaju, the then Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics. In his opening remarks, he said he was a Christian, a father, 54 years of age and that he will stand by the truth and that the Panel is committed to me fair hearing. He maintained that at his age and standing he cannot be forced to act against his will. He then went ahead to introduce other members of the Panel which include the Dean of Law Prof. Nsongurua Udombang, Dean of Dean of Education Prof. Aniefiok Udo and Dean of Social Science Prof. Innocent V. O. Modo and other Deans that I cannot remember. He said that the Panel was set up during the last Appointment and Promotion Exercise when my case for promotion as Associate Professor came up. He demanded my co-operation with the Panel. I responded by promising to co-operate with the Panel but request a bite of their time to introduce myself to the Panel. This permission was granted by the Chairman to the surprise of many members who later appreciate the move later because it became a game changer for me. I started by distributing my curriculum vitae to all the members of the Panel. In my opening statement I inform them that I am from one of best families in the city of Uyo. I let them know that I came from that special class who attained the best schools in my time: Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I went ahead to inform them that I had one the best result in my GCE, and entered the University of Nigeria, Nsukka at the age of fifteen years obtaining a Bachelors of Engineering degree at the of twenty years, Masters of Engineering at the age of twenty-four years, and Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering at the age of 28 years. I reminded them that I joined the University of Uyo when I had already rose to the rank of Lecturer I in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and that I was a Pioneer Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo. I informed the Panel that in 2002 about eight years ago I was promoted to the rank of Senior Lecturer and that I see no reason why the University of Uyo is trying to treat me as an undergraduate student. I maintained that even undergraduate students are entitled to write what they know and believe to be true while we reserve the right to score them. I rest my case by saying it my right to establish the IRDI provided it is law abiding and pay tax as and when due. The Chairman then showed me many

publications we had sold to the Universities of Uyo and ask me if the eliminated from the Institute and I said yes. He brought out a number of Conference proceedings and requested to know whether it is true that those Conference were organised by the Institute and I said yes. He then said the Institutes activities are so many how do you cope with the Institute work and the University work. I informed him that the Institute works are much more than what is seen in the University as we have done a lot of work in the Nursery, Primary and Secondary School system. I told him that as President of IRDI, I am not the Chief Executive Officer. The Institute has a Chief Executive Officer known as the Executive Secretary who is responsible for the day to day running of the activities of the Institute. One of the Deans then asked why there is no Professor on our Editorial Board.

I politely replied Professor please can you furnish me with the evidence and he brought out the Journal of Research in Education which Dr. E. S. Samuel is the Editor. I then said Mr. Chairman and other members of the Panel, Dr. E. S. Samuel is a Professor of Physical and Health Education and my witness is the Dean of Education hear seated. He will bear me true witness because they are the only two Professors of Physical and Health Education that we have in this great city of Uyo. The Dean of Education packed his belonging and said to the Chairman I confirmed that Dr. E. S. Samuel is a Professor, please I want to take my leave for an important meeting at the Dean office. The Chairman when on to said that one of the acquisition level against me as a scholar is that I am involved in the publication of Journal outside my discipline. I requested for an evidence and the brought out one of our Law Journals and ask is this one of your journals and I said yes. I then went on to ask please can anyone show me where my name appeared in the journal. I then handed the journal to the Secretary who reported as follows: Mr. Chairman I cannot see Dr. Aneikan Offiong name among the list of Authors or Editors of this journal. Infact Mr. Chairman his name is not on this journal at all, he went on to say Mr. Chairman from what I am seeing this journal cannot be used to score him in this University because he is neither an Editor or an Author. For the same reason this journal cannot also to use to discredit him.

The Chairman then said Dr. Aneikan Offiong one final question for you. You have been accused of travelling without permission. What do you have to say about this I replied Mr. Chairman I have never travelled without permission. Please you can confirm from my Head of Department. However, must be quick to mention here that recently in the past few days of my travelling and movements have been embedded in secrecy because of the security situation

around me of which the Commissioner of Police can confirm. At the end of the question most of the Panelists who were against me left. All those who stayed behind were on my side. Professor Nsongurua Udombana the Dean of Law was one of those that I strongly believe were on my side. He ask who brought this case here. The Chairman thanked me for my frank answers and I thank the Panel for the opportunity given me to express myself freely. The Chairman of the Panel in his closing remarks maintained that freedom of expression is one of the most cherish academic tradition and he said that he believe that the process of establishing Prime Fassica Qualification (PFQ) will soon commence for me as soon as they submit their report. This did not happen as soon as the Chairman expected as the cabal was not happy with the report they submitted. According to an informant they keep on asking where is the punishment here. This young man's appointment should be terminated. Infant he should be dismissed. The informant warned me to prepare for the worse as all attempt by the Chairman to explain to the Cabal that there was nothing wrong with the activities of IRDI fell on deaf ears. The report in its original form was finally submitted to the University, but the cabal insisted that it should be study with a view of seeing how it can be sent to the University Council for disciplinary measures. Some members of the Panel were not happy with this approach employed by the cabal and they assured me that that I should not worry but go about my normal duties in the finest of academic tradition. I requested from whether the IRDI should suspend its activities. They responded how can, carry on. Do your best and live the rest to God. The informant letter informed me that the case has been forwarded to the University Council with the accusation that I am using the University as the based for the publication of the IRDI Journals. The Informant maintained that the University has been pushed into this by the cabal in my Faculty. He looked sad as he drop this hint and simple say good luck be careful especially with students. Later on through my students I discovered that the Vice Chancellor personally came to ask them about my performance in class only to be told I was the best lecturer.

He even went ahead to ask my Postgraduate student who works in Mobile whether they are under my obligation to buy Institutes book/journals or attain our conferences. The student said that he told him that his Lecturer cannot do such a thing but rather has given out many books/journals free to his students and has award scholarship to many.

One day, one of my father's friend who is a Professor visited and asked me why I have not told him that I am having problems in the University. I explain

to him that initial I did not know that such a thing could be taken as a problem. He said my son this Ibibio land, you have a problem. Do you think a Council Disciplinary Committee is joke, this is a threat to your existence. Brief me on this case tomorrow. The next day I went to his office and brief him. He asked have you ever received a query on this. Let me see your reply. When I told him that I have never been queried on this he said, okay I can see why you said it was not serious. Go and do your work. They cannot be any disciplinary measure without you first receiving a query. God has put them to shame. He promised me that everything will be okay especially with the report the Investigation Panel he seen this morning. He said that notwithstanding the he would reach out to all the people concerned. At this point, I want to thank all the Professors who came to my help in this case. God will bless you all. When the case was finally tried by the Council Disciplinary Committee they did not give me the opportunity to defend myself. I was in the Nwaniba Campus when a call came that I should come and face the Disciplinary Panel. Before I could reach the venue in fifteen minutes time I was told by Administrative assistant that the Panel has rounded up my case. I called the Panel Secretary who confirmed that my case has already been resolved. She said that I should go back and come back tomorrow to see her. I said I will love to see the Chairman before he goes back she insisted the Chairman says he does not want to see me in this visit. When I meet her the following morning she said that I was very lucky as the Chairman first asked if 63 Itiam Street is University property and they answered he went ahead to asked if No. 210.212 Calabar Itu Highway is a Campus of the University and they replied no. Then went ahead to asked who brought this case to council when nobody reply, he struck out the case. She confirmed that I would receive a query which is what should have been done since. She said that but for their insistent the Chairman was of the view that a query is not necessary. Because they have not shown him the evidence that I used the University as a base for the publication of IRDI Journal. He maintained that I have the right to give my address as the Department of Mechanical Engineering because it my address and will remain so provided I am a staff of the University. She said that registry had insisted on a query to keep the records straight.

For record purposes the query dated June 15 2011 signed by the University Registrar and addressed to Dr. Aniekan Offiong and its reply date July 1, 2011 signed by Dr. Aniekan Offiong and addressed to the University are given as follows:

**QUERY**

*The Governing Council at its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held on Friday, May 20, 2011 received and considered the report on a case of Journals published by the International Research Development Centre, 63 Itiam Street, Uyo, headed by you. Council expressed its displeasure over the use of the name of the University as a base for the publication of the Journals. When the University did not have an input into determining the quality of the Journals. This act is misleading and falls short of the expectation of your responsibilities as a University teacher.*

*Consequently the governing has directed that you should explain why severe disciplinary action should not be taken against you for this act of gross misconduct.*

*Your response which should be in triplicate and be submitted within 48 hours of your receipt of this query and routed through your Acting Head of Department and Dean of Faculty to the Registrar.*

**REPLY TO QUERY**

*In response to your query dated June 15, 2011 Reference Number UU/REG/DPA/ASE/17/VOL.II/177 which was served on me yesterday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2011, I wish to state that I am not aware of the fact that the Institute at No. 63 Itiam Street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria is using the name of the University as base for the publication of their journals.*

*As a foundation member of the Institute, I wish to say that it is not the official position of the Institute to use the name of the University of Uyo or any other University for the publication of Journals. The Institute is an independent organisation established for the purpose of increasing the understanding of research and development problems confronting the developing world. Members are drawn from various Universities and Research Institutes. The Institute has its permanent Secretariat at No. 63 Itiam Street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria and its permanent Campus at No. 210/212 Calabar Itu High Way, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The Institute is an independent organisation and has to remain so in order to continue to get funding. The Institute does not even fund or provide technical assistance to University based Journals as these Journals are presumed to have access to quality staff/funding. The Institute is a well known establishment within the academic community and most researchers are aware of the fact that the Institute is not based at the University of Uyo as the Institute receives many visit scholars daily at its secretariat.*

*I wish to state that on receipt of this query, I personally visited the Institute Secretariat and conducted inspection of all the Journals made available to me and did not notice, the use of the University of Uyo or any other University as base for the publication of their Journals. I also made phone calls to some Members/Editors and they all denied the use of the University of Uyo as Base for the publication of the Institute's Journals. Even though the Institute is a big organisation with over 3000 members/staff who can act independently within the operating rules which certainly does not include the wrongful use of any name, I want to say that to my knowledge the Institute has never used or approved the use of the University of Uyo as the base for the publication of their Journals. The Institute's official policy is to give acknowledgement and credit to only those who have made input into the production of the Journals while the copyright is that of the Institute.*

*I have no other profession to protect than teaching/scholarship and it has been my only profession. I attended the University of Nigeria, Nsukka between 1984-1997 and obtained a Bachelor, Master's and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering in 1989, 1994, and 19997 respectively. I want to say that on my honour as a University teacher for the past 17 years [9 years of which I have served the University of Uyo as a Senior Lecturer and 4 years of which I served the University of Uyo as the Acting Head of the Department of the Mechanical Engineering], I will not be a party to the use of the University's name wrongly.*

*However, I want to assure the authority of the University that I have taken note of this query and will communicate to member/staff of the Institute the need to continue to maintain the independence of the Institute and move forward to delivering high quality Journals as this is one of the ways to achieve a fundamental objective of the Institute which is to promote Development Research worldwide by mobilizing the International Research Community to undertake fundamental as well as policy-oriented research from a perspective expressing relevance to the demands of all nations.*

*Finally, I want to say that I will continue to serve the University of Uyo and the entire academic community to the best of my ability, maintaining the highest possible standard and the finest of academic tradition and honesty.*

Despite my reply to the query my assessment and promotion was still placed on hold until the intervention of the new Vice Chancellor Professor Comfort Ekpo.

### **A Surprise Announcement**

On December 1, 2015 Professor Aniefiok E. Essien SAN took over the affairs of the University of Uyo as the Vice Chancellor. A few months later late Professor Obot Essien took over the affairs of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo as Dean replacing Professor L. O. Asuquo had already started the campaign of Promotion as and when due in the Faculty. When Professor Obot Essien took over as Dean he promised not only to pursue the campaign of Promotion as and when due but also to correct the anomalies which were done in the past.

It was this promise that made him to recommend the back dating of my promotion to associate professor by three years. This automatically qualified my for instant appraisal to the rank of full Professor at the 2016 annual appraisal the same year I received my letter of promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. A. P. Ihom was then the Vice Dean and the Head, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

I informed the head of Department that I was going to apply for promotion to the rank of full professor even though my promotion to rank of Associate Professor has not yet been official back dated. He arranged for a special meeting of the Department in order to consider my promotion. Only Professor AniediEte and Professor L. O. Asuquo were qualified to conduct the affairs and the both agreed. Nobody was able to oppose my promotion in the Faculty again. The wind of change was moving. The tactics of the cabal has been discredited by Faculty members including some of their ignorant followers who came to confess to me that all this years they have been following the cabal they seniority. They also complained that the cabal has been terribly battered by in-fighting and loss of political go will. The incumbent Dean was a progressive man and he pitched his tent with the progressives. The Vice Dean presented my case and he promised to do all he can. He had zero tolerance for the evil devices of the cabal who insisted that my promotion should not be back dated. He said I will be failing in my duties as the Dean of the Faculty if I allow this kind of injustice. This was a typographical error and we should not capitalize on it. He told the cabal as they insisted to please allow me process his papers for professorship for this is a typographical error or are you saying it was engineered by the Faculty again. With this exposition they allow him to go ahead with the establishment of my PFQ for full Professor with effect from October 1, 2014 assuming that my petition to Vice Chancellor will come back positive and the effective date of promotion Associate Professor



will be back dated to October 1, 2011. In what seems like a miracle PFQ was established for me in the Faculty. The Dean Professor ObotEssien said Dr. Offiong congratulations your promotion has been approved by the Faculty it is over. The Central Appointments and Promotion Committee will be a work over. The problem is usually with us. Dean later informed me that the matter when on smoothly at the Central Appointments and Promotion Committee and was successful. In a matter of weeks I received a letter informing me of the University has finally established PFQ for my promotion to the rank of full Professor. Immediately after this tragedy stroke, the news of the death of Elder Engr. Prof. Obot Ekpo Essien, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday August 20, 2017 in a hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone was report and this was a great shock to the entire University of Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday August 20, 2017 in a hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone was report and this was a great shock to the entire University of Uyo Community. We did not know him to be sick, he was dynamic and hardworking. It was as if the activities in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria was brought to a standstill by the passing away of such an academic leader known nationally and internationally. I remember him saying we need young people like you to take over from us so that there will be progress in this University. He was my long standing mentor and a pillar of support for the IRDI. I remember him as Chairman of the sixth international Conference on Research and Development, held at the University of Lome, Togo on May 14-17, 2012. He had to fly to Accra before travelling by road to Lome. This how committed he was to scholarship. May we take solace in the fact that he is resting in the bosom of our loving Father. About one month after the death of my mentor Professor Obot Essien my promotion to the rank of full Professor in the University of Uyo was surprisingly announce at the October 2017 Senate meeting. Those who present at the Senate that day said that it was a joyful occasion for everybody including my critics. The day started as a normal day for a normal lecturer. When I was leaving the house, my two grown up daughters then undergraduate students in the University complemented me by saying that the tie and suit I am wearing makes me look younger. My wife added that Italians suits are the best for me. With this state of mine I left the house with only the driver straight to University for my lecturers without passing through the Institute for my Secretary to join us. I requested that she should meet me in my office with the type document. I had a 10.00a.m. Lecture which ended by 12.00. I had an afternoon lecture which started by 2.00p.m. and ended by 4.00p.m. During this lectures, I notice that my phone was constantly ringing but when the lecture ended I rush to my office to attain to three Postgraduate Students, 2 masters

students and one doctorate student. Linda Nweto who proof-reading a manuscript for me. I had finish meeting the two masters students when Dr. A. P. Ihom the Acting Dean worked in and say congratulations Professor Aniekan Offing the surprise announcement was made in senate this afternoon your mean nobody told you as I was about to check my phone a call came in from in from Engr. Nseobong Okpura say congratulation Professor. Before I could know what was going on it was like a Party in the office with assorted drinks. The people present at this first celebration part from the Acting Dean were mainly younger lecturers. When I wanted to pay for the drinks consumed the Acting Dean said your boys have paid.

I call my wife to inform her and she said that no wonder the Spirit was in control that you unconsciously put on your best today. She quickly text “Congratulations, return home early, I and the children are arranging a banquet in your honour”. My mother had also gotten to know and had to call to say congratulations. For the next three months I was receiving congratulatory messages. It was after this my case that I observed the beauty of the University system. In no other system is my story possible be it in the civil service, military or even the church I will have been wrongly sacked. God will help us to build institutions where no man is oppressed.

I am sincerely and eternally grateful to the Almighty God for life and his benevolence. I give glory to the Almighty God who brought me from a humble background to this height in life. He brought destiny helpers my way to help move me to his designed destiny, may his name alone be exalted. This is a dream come true.

### **Election as Dean**

On November 30, 2017 less than a month since my Professorship was announced in the Senate. Mr. Sam Effiok the Faculty Officer, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo issue notice of Election of new Dean for the Faculty of Engineering in an Internal memorandum addressed to all members of the Faculty Board. The Memorandum reads as follows:

Sequel to the death of Professor Obot Ekpo Essien and his eventual burial, I write to inform all members of the Faculty Board of Engineering that the Vice Chancellor has directed that election be held to fill the vacant deanship position in the Faculty.

Accordingly, all members of the Faculty Board are hereby put on notice that the election is being scheduled to hold on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**. To actualize that intention, members are please requested to nominate a candidate of their choice by completing the attached nomination form. Duly completed nomination form will be returned to the Faculty Officer, Faculty of Engineering.

The following information should please be noted:

- (1) Filing Office: - Faculty Officer's Office
- (2) Date of Election: - Tuesday, December 12, 2017
- (3) Closing Time and Date - 3.00p.m. , Tuesday, December 07, 2017 for Nomination:
- (4) Time and Venue for Election-11.00p.m., Thursday, December 07, 2017

Members are please enjoined to give maximum cooperation so that the entire election process would be hitch free. Thank you.

The same day Dr. Idorenyin Markson a long standing ally informed me that he was about to nominate me for the post. Inform him that I am not yet ready and that I will not like to be involved in the University politics because of my busy schedule past issues with the cabal. He said Professor that means you do not want bail us out form the cabal. The former Dean was doing well out now without your acceptance to contest the future for us the younger ones is bleak.

The following day Dr. Markson came back to inform me that the Progressive lecturers of the Faculty will like to celebrate my promotion with me at the Palace of Learning. The time was fixed for 5.00p.m on Monday December 4, 2017. I arrived at the place of Learninggrounds by 5.00p.m. prompt to meet about twenty to thirty lecturers from the Faculty already seated in the place garden. During the weekend I had instructed my Secretary to arrange a cocktail for twenty people on that day using the school canteen manager. This was grossly inadequate considering the number of guest present. But the organizers of the get-together had also come with a lot of drinks, meat and food.

As the function opens every person spoke of the joy of my promotion to rank of Professor and stress the important of moving the Faculty forward. The Chairman of the occasion was Engr. Chinatu J. Nwaukwa, in his speech, went further than giving suggestion on how to move the Faculty forward and said that they are beckoning on me to come out for the Deanship Election. Dr. O. O. Antia stressed the need for me to come out at this point in time to save the

Faculty from stagnation. He stressed that the Peace and Progress we were enjoying during the tenure of the late Dean Professor ObotEssien will soon be a thing of the past if I do not come out at this point. Engr. Joseph O. Etim and Dr. AnietieOkon all spoke in the same vein. They demanded my respond, I requested for time to enable me do consultation with their leaders whom by this time I had identified. I opened up to them that I am away that the Vice Chancellor had already proposed a Dean for the Faculty but the cabal had rejected the idea insisting that it must be through an election since they are enough Professors in the Faculty now. I also reminded them that their initial plan was to go and vote the Vice Chancellor's candidate before I was surprisingly made a full Professor. I reminded them that I have not yet been issued a letter of promotion to the rank of full professor. I told them for your sake if you want me to contest this election make sure that we will emerge victorious, for if I had spend fourteen years as a Senior Lecturer you will spend twenty if this project fails. I was more worried of them than myself. Dr. O. O. Antia responded on their behalf thus: you have rest three points which I am going to reply starting from the last because it is very important to us at this point. There is no way we can loss this election because we had meet in Dr. AnietieOkon's place before coming here. On the issue of your letter we have other evidences that you are a Professor in the University of Uyo. We have two Senate attendance list and the November 2019 Convocation booklet of the University.

On our initial candidate we want him to wait for next turn because in these turbulent times he may not be able to march the cabal. We may succeed in installing him but fail in effecting the desired positive changes that the Faculty needs urgently. Our simple request now is for you to give an acceptance speech so that we can close and resume work early tomorrow.

Dr. Markson also added that I have to accept as it will look like I have been delivered and I do not want to take part in their deliverance. I promised them that I will contest the election and we move to join the congregation.

I told them that I am willing to context the election and with their support we will all be victorious. I told them I will work for you and with you to develop a world class Facility of Engineering in which every staff is offered adequate opportunity for academic and professional self-actualization. The meeting ended with prayers lead by Dr. Kingsley Egemba. It was agreed that the door to door campaign should involved everybody and it must start tomorrow. It was also agree that every person should endeavour to nominate me to avoid

the cabal targeting any individual. It worked as planned as more than forty nomination forms were submitted in my favour for the election. The young men were very excited because this was the first time they were given the opportunity of choosing their Dean. It has always been by appointment as there were not many professors. This was what the cabal was afraid of since the enactment of the University of Uyo Act. The more the young lecturers were threatened the more the campaign wax stronger. They had to reach out to all the Faculty representatives of Engineering from other Faculties to secure their vote. It was a very diversive election as some members of the cabal never believe that the younger lecturers can be given such a say in the affairs of the University. According to informants they reach out to the management on the possibility of my being disqualified because I do not have a letter to support my promotion to the rank of full Professor. Meanwhile we had failed to convince the candidate we were all supporting before my promotion to step down. The election could have gone anywhere but my presentation of the Deanship campaign manifesto change everything to my favour. I was so sure of victory that carried my acceptance speech. The Election ended with 44 votes for me while the other two candidates had 21 votes each. Below is my campaign manifesto and my acceptance speech.

**THE DEANSHIP CAMPAIGN MANIFESTO OF PROF. ANIEKAN OFFIONG, DELIVERED ON THE ELECTION DAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017 AT THE PTDF AUDITORIUM, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF UYO, NIGERIA.**

*My dear colleagues, the Deanship Election is here. I am coming out for the election and I humbly solicit your vote. If elected, I will work for you and with you to develop a world class Faculty of Engineering in which every staff is offered adequate opportunity for academic and professional self-actualization. Our Deanship mission will be to facilitate and encourage the attainment of accelerated academic growth for all members of the academia through encouraging prompt promotions, sourcing for international national research fellowship/grants and academic mentoring. This will lead to the sustenance of a knowledge based, cordial and conducive academic environment where innovation, integrity, creativity and excellence remain the watch word. These will be achieved through staff training/capacity building, knowledge sharing through conferences/workshops/seminars, skill training in academic/proposal writing, and improved academic /social welfare for members of academic /non-academic staff/students.*

*A vote for Prof. Aniekan Offiong is a vote for Quality Engineering Education, Good Government, Team Work, and Professionalism. When I am given your esteemed mandate we will:*

- *Develop a mentoring programme for young academic, to help them actualize their academic dreams.*
- *Institutionalize a system of international exposure to mid-career and senior academics.*
- *Intensify efforts to attract external research facilities to the Faculty*
- *Inspire creative teaching and modernize our classrooms*
- *Institutionalize the practice of participatory management*
- *Ensure regular publication of the Faculty Journal*
- *Promote regular organisation of International Conferences in the Faculty.*
- *Establish Faculty Alumni Office and promote regular home coming of our esteemed graduates*
- *Establish a Biennial Faculty Lecture series to mark the end of every Deanship tenure*
- *Encourage Faculty members to give prompt Inaugural and valedictory lecture*
- *Improve upon the Faculty existing welfare programme*

- *Encourage young lecturers to always see their superiors as their mentors.*

*Before going further, let me tell you how I got to this point. I came here about twenty years ago already armed with a PhD in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management. I have been in this University since 1998 when I was first employed as a Lecturer I. As a pioneer Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, I contributed immensely to the development of the Engineering Curriculum of this University. Prior to my appointment in the University of Uyo, I lectured in University of Nigeria Nsukka between 1994 and 1998. Apart from this brief stay in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, I have spent all my working life in the University of Uyo. I was promoted Senior Lecturer in 2002, Associate Professor in 2011 and Full Professor on October 1, 2014. I am married with children. I have what it takes to be a competent Dean of this great Faculty of Engineering. A vote for Prof. AniekanOffiong is a vote for progress.*

*Vote Prof. AniekanOffiong. Vote Quality Engineering Education. Vote Good Governance. Vote Team Work. Vote Professionalism. Thank you for joining the Faculty transformation train. The labours of our Heroes Past shall never be in vain. God bless you. God bless the Faculty of Engineering. Farwell to academic Stagnation. God bless the University of Uyo. Farewell to Delayed Promotion. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Peace and Unity. Thank you. Thank you all.*

*Prof. AniekanOffiong.*

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF DEAN-ELECT, FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, PROF. ANIEKAN OFFIONG DELIVERED ON DECEMBER 12, 2017 AT THE PTDF AUDITORIUM, UNIVERSITY OF UYO, NIGERIA.**

*The Acting Dean  
The Faculty of Officer  
Heads of Departments  
Dear Colleagues*

*It gives me great pleasure and honour to stand before you today as your Dean-Elect. In my Deanship campaign manifesto I sought your mandate to enable us take the Faculty of Engineering of this great University to the next level of academic leadership and performance. I am overwhelmed by the trust and confidence you have bestowed on me by electing me.*

*There has never been a more humbling moment in my life than what has happened today. I consider the trust you have placed in me sacred and I am committed to serving you and working with you for the development of the Faculty. It is my desire that we walk where others have not walked and leave a path for others to follow.*

*I would like to recognize the efforts made by my able predecessors in steering the Faculty to its current position. I thank them for a job well done. Our wining is a wining for all. I will work for you and with you to develop a world class Faculty of Engineering in which every staff is offered adequate opportunity for academic and professional development.*

*Dear Colleagues, we are going to have a true partnership and a true friendship in the management of our great Faculty. This is indeed our deanship and not my deanship. I wish to measure my success by what I have made and will make others achieve. It is my candid belief that our deanship will transform the Faculty of Engineering and make our vision that is clearly stipulated in my deanship campaign manifesto a reality.*

*As Dean, I will pursue the business of the Faculty with wisdom, I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And above all, I will ask you join in the work of making this Faculty great.*

*Looking forward to working for and with you.*



*Thank you all, God bless you. God bless the Faculty of Engineering, God bless the University of Uyo. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

***Prof. AniekanOffiong***  
***Dean – Elect.***

All the candidates who contested the election accepted my election but the cabal was still fighting to cancel the election based on the fact that I had not received my letter of promotion as full professor before the election. Later on all the Heads of Departments and Professors in the faculty were invite the Vice Chancellor's office and I was formally presented. Over the years have been able to gain their trust. I always consult them before taking any decision. They have also come to respect the fact that I will act in accordance with the rules/ regulations and in the spirit of the manifesto that I presented before my election.

During my re-election bid after the first two tenure I was returned on unopposed. God has always brought destiny helpers to my way to help in moving me to His designed destiny, may His name alone be exalted.

### **The Deanship**

I look over the office after a vacancy great by death which means I could not get a handing over note from my predecessor. However, the Acting Dean Dr. A. P. Ihom was a very seasoned Administrator and he was very closed to the former Dean so the transition was very smooth. The first decision I made on my resumption of office was the decision to appoint the Acting Dean as the Vice Dean. This did not go well with the cabal because they know that with the Vice Dean transition will be smooth. For most of them their prayers was for the new administration to fail so that their dream would come true of the fact that the younger generation are not capable of manning the Faculty. I also took the decision that the Vice Dean in a Faculty of Engineering should not be saddle with headship of a Department to enable him function well in the Dean's office. For this reason when Dr. A. P. Ihom was made the Vice Dean he was relieve of his position as the Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. After wide consultation with the professors and other senior staff of the Faculty, it was decided that all Heads of Department should be changed and new ones appointed. For this reason, new Heads of Departments wereappointed as follows: Dr. (Mrs.) Constance Kalu (Associate Professor) Electrical/Electronics and Computer Engineering Dr. Innocent Oboh (Associate Professor) Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, Dr. OruaOkonAntia(Senior Lecturer)Agricultural and Food Engineering; Dr. A.

O. Ilori (Senior Lecturer) Civil Engineering and Dr. Idorenyin Etiese Markson (Senior Lecturer) Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Dr. Obotowo W. Obotowo took over the Headship of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering in January 2019 when Dr. Idorenyin E. Markson tenure ended.

Prof. Etim U. U. Ituen was appointed the new Editor in Chief of the Journal of Engineering Research and Innovation. To work with him were Dr. A. P. Ihom (Managing Editor) and Dr. Nseobong Okpura (Technical Editor), Dr. Nseobong Okpura was also appointed to replace Dr. I. E. Markson as the staff Adviser of Nigeria Engineering Students Association. The Faculty Officer Mr. Sam Efiok was very helpful and efficient. The Dean Secretary Mrs. Winfred Ekpo was one of the best Secretary I have ever had. I brought in my personal Secretary Miss Nkoyo Hanson Sam to the Dean office in order to ease the work. I made a point of duty to go through my Deanship campaign manifesto at least once a week in the first few months of entering office. Later on I will study it once a month for self-appraisal. The Faculty Officer Mr. Sam Efiok had requested that the meeting of the Faculty Board of Studies should be held monthly to keep Faculty running smoothly. The Faculty Board of Studies is made up of the Dean, Vice Dean, All Heads of Departments and all Professorial Lecturers. A major activity approved for me by the Faculty Board was the commencement of the Faculty Conference Series the International Conference on Research and Innovations in Engineering.

The maiden edition of this Conference was held on December 3-6, 2018. The Second Edition was held in October 2019. The Board of Studies also approved that the Faculty Journal be published twice in a year. This has successfully been done since the inception of my Deanship. On welfare matters the Welfare Committee was empowered with a new Chairman Engr. Joseph O. Etim and extended with the addition of five more members making the Committee a 12 man committee. There was no end of year Party in the Faculty in the year 2017 because the Death and Burial of our former Dean Professor Obot Essien. It was agreed that half back of ice should be given to each member of the Faculty Board before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December. The following year we celebrated the end of year party in a grand style under the distinguished Chairmanship of Prof. Etim U. U. Ituen on December 6, 2018. On promotion of staff all lecturer's that were due for promotion were promoted as and when due. There was however a case in Civil Engineering that was stepped down because he refused to reply the query that

was issued to him by the Head of the Department on time. He later replied the query and was promoted the following year.

A lecturer in the Chemical Engineering whose professional assessment was stepped down because of his conducted had his case review and was promoted after he replied to the query he was issued properly. Professor Charles Uko was always there for us when it comes to giving moral instruction to the students. He initiated a welcome lecture series for newly admitted students in the Faculty in collaboration with Dean's office, Nigerian Engineering Students Association (NESA) and Victory Chapel the official Protestant Church in the University. Through this lecture series our student have greatly improved in terms of dressing mode, reading skill and in moral standing. With the use of the Nigeria Engineering Students Association, all lecturers and the Faculty Officer Mr. Sam Efiok as gatekeepers the Faculty was able to greatly improve Engineering students mode of dressing and moral character. Under this arrangement a Lecturer can deny a student entrance to his class if he is not properly dressed. The Faculty officer will not also attend to students that are not properly dressed. During my deanship The Nigeria Engineering students Association has enjoyed effective supervision from the Dean office while it was allowed to continue to enjoy its independent as a student body. The annual NUESA week has improved in quality and reach. Throughout my Deanship I have had the opportunity of attending the annual NUESA night and using it as a forum to give out of classroom advice and mentoring to future Nigerian engineers. During my tenure the following students served as NUESA president Mr. Anthony Oto, Mr. Promise and Mr. Ena John. It was a pleasure to work with these young men with their different leadership styles.

Through various meetings and seminars we have been able to ensure that the five year programme in Engineering is concluded within the stipulated time period. This was achieved through my agreement with al lecturers that no one will keep a final year second semester course result more than two weeks from date of examination. Also in other to ensure that students graduate on time I also reach agreement with the Head of Department all external examination for final year projects should be completed with one month from the date of last Examination in the second semester of the final year. With this two protocols the Faculty of Engineering since the beginning of my Deanship has been the best performing Faculty in terms of timely graduation of students. In terms of presentation of inaugural lectures all our Professor have either presented their inaugural lectures or have been scheduled to do so by the University. During my tenure the first inaugural lecture was delivered by

Professor Etim U. U. Ituen on February 28, 2019 and it was titled “The Oil Palm: Firing Engines and Fighting Global Warming/Climate Change”. The second one was delivered by myself on November 28, 2019 and it was titled “The Engineer and his experiments: Decades of Design and developments of Engineering Systems”.

Professor A. F. Alonge has always been there for us, he was the Chairman of the First International Conference on Research and Innovation in Engineering held on December 3-6, 2018. As a former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Research and Innovation in Engineering we rely on his experience to move the Journal from an annual publication to biannual publication. During my Deanship four Professors in the Faculty had appointment within and outside the University; they include Professor Umana Itaketo who was appointed Head of the Intellectual Property Unit in the University. Professor Benjamin Etuk was appointed the Director of the School of Continuing Education and Professor L. O. Asuquo was appointed the Director of the National Metallurgical Centre, Jos. Professor Aniedi Ette was also appointed as the Dean at Akwa Ibom State University during his Sabbatical Leave in the University.

Few months before my re-election, the Vice Dean Dr. A. P. Ihom had informed me of his intension to proceed on Sabbatical Leave to the University of Jos. After my re-election and due consultation with Professors and other senior staff of the Faculty it was decided that Dr. Innocent Oboh be appointed the Vice Dean and be relieved of his position as the Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering. In other to make room for more younger people while still stabilizing the Faculty the following were appointed or re-appointed as heads of the various Department. Dr. Orua Okon Antia (Senior Lecturer) Agricultural and Food Engineering; Dr. Essien Akpan Udo (Senior Lecturer) Civil Engineering; Dr. Youngson N. Ukaru (Senior Lecturer) Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and Dr. Simeon Ozumba (Senior Lecturer) Electrical / Electronic and Computer Engineering. Dr. Idorenyin Etiese Markson was appointed the Faculty Post-graduate studies, Coordinator taking over from Dr. Simeon Ozumba who had occupied that psot since the commencement of my Deanship.

At this point I will like to thank the Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo Professor Eniefiok E. Essien SAN for standing by the Faculty on these years in terms of appointing the right people to the right job at the right point in time. This has lead to the much desired team work and good governance

needed to make the Faculty a world class Faculty of Engineering. I thank all Faculty members for working with me in this past three years and hope that they will continue to support me to the end of my tenure and beyond. I want to specifically thank them for standing by the Faculty during both the National Universities Commission and the Council for Engineering Regulation in Nigeria accreditation exercises of the year 2019. God bless you all.

### **THE CORONATION DAY**

Wednesday June 26, 2019 was my fifth birthday. On that day in the Dean's Office I received two delegations. One from the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Akwa Ibom State Chapter and the other one from the Uyo Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. The delegation of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers to the Dean Office was led by one of my former student Engr. Dr. Godwin Ekong who then was the Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State Chapter of the Institution. They informed me that they are visiting to assure me of their support during my upcoming inaugural lecturer on November 28, 2019. They said it on their mission to wish me happy birthday and informed me of election as a Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineering considering my numerous contribution to the Field of Mechanical Engineering. They also informed me that the investiture ceremony will be done on October, 2019 at Yenogua at Bayelsa State capital. In my respond I thank them for the honour done me and promise not only to be there at the event but also to pay a courtesy visit to the National President during the COREN General Assembly coming up in Abuja on August 10-12, 2019.

I also thank them for finding the Faculty of Engineering University of Uyo fit to host the Secretariat of the Nigerian Institute of Mechanical Engineers and for electing one our own Dr. Emmanuel Odeh the State Vice Chairman. To God be the Glory I was able to visit the National Secretariat on Tuesday August 9, 2019 in the company of the Akwa Ibom State Chapter Chairman Engr. Dr. Ebong and my elder sister ACP(Mrs)UduakOkokonOtuIta Assistant Commissioner of Police in Abuja, I was very happy with the level of sophistication introduction into the affairs of the Abuja Secretariat after we left the Lagos Office. On ground to receive us where the National Chairman Dr. Robinson Elijah, the Deputy National President Professor Mohammed Ndaliman and the Executive Secretary Mr. Udeme Victor. The national Chairman, informed me that National Executive was very pleased with my contribution to the studies, teaching and practice of Mechanical Engineering in the past 30 years and wish me the best as I present my inaugural lecture. It

was a good opportunity for me to meet great Mechanical Engineers. I assured them of my Commitment to the development of the Mechanical Engineering Profession and promise them of my physical presence at Yenegoa. I was accompanied to induction ceremony by my wife and two coaster buses filled with Mechanical engineers. We had to take such big delegation to Yenegoa because I was also supporting the candidature of Engr. (Dr.) Ekerette Usak for the position of National President. I seized the opportunity to invite members of Nigerian Institute of Mechanical Engineering to my inaugural lecture of November 28, 2019 my coronation day.

Another delegation I received on that Wednesday June 26, 2019 my fifth birthday at the Dean Office was the one lead by Engr. Amiang Chairman of the Uyo Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. He congratulates me on my election as Dean of the Faculty and promise that the Chapter is very much behind me in my upcoming inaugural lecture of which the branch has received the invitation. He said that they were in the Dean office to solicit my support for their upcoming Engineering Innovation Exhibition and to inform me that I have been selected for an award of Excellence by the Chapter during the upcoming Engineering week. I thanked them for the visit and assured them the Faculty of Engineering will be fully represented at the Exhibition with many award winning Engineering Project domicile in the Faculty. Prof. E. U. U. Ituen was mandate to lead the Faculty to the exhibition. At the closing ceremony the University of Uyo was given an award of excellence in the institutional category while myself, Professor Charles Uko and Professor A. F. Alonge were honoured with award of Excellence. Again I use this opportunity to invite the members of the NSE to my inaugural lecture on November 28, 2019 my coronation day. The Executive secretary of the IRDI Miss Nwoyo Hanson Sam was also officially informed of the inaugural lecture and she promised to mobilize our members from various Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Research Institutes for the Programme. Deltona International Schools Manager was in charge of mobilization of teachers in both the Nursery/Primary School and the Secondary school. The Principal of Deltona International Secondary School request for a space for at least one hundred students for his students from the university organizing committee.

The Vice Dean Dr. A. P. Inom was in charge of mobilization at the faculty level while Dr. Obotowo W. Obotowo my Head of Department was in charge of mobilization at the Department level. Mr. Unyime Inyang Akpan was in charge of mobilization of my maternal relations while I personally took charge

of the invitation of my family. Invitation for the Church was handled by Engr. Daniel Nnadi who is also my church member at Lutheran Church of Nigeria No. 37 Enwe Street, Uyo.

As usual, the Vice Chancellor handled the official invitation of the Senate, Congregation and the entire academic community and the town. It was to be beautiful coronation. I appeared in live television interview with Dr. IdorenyinMarkson and Dr. NseobongOkpura to give a pre-lecture interview.

Meanwhile, all was not well, my wife had developed a strange sickness. I had to be taking her to the hospital at least twice a week. Sometimes while I am waiting to see the Doctor, I will be dictating the inaugural lecture to my secretary to type. After taking an X-ray of my wife heart, the doctor in charge shouted, "Jesus who has this x-ray a heart failure is about to set in call the cardiologist. From there, we move to the cardiologist meanwhile her microbiology test shows that the kidney is not functioning well. Within me, I know that these were all lies. They were manipulation of the devil. My wife personal physician had the same view with me but nevertheless he sent her for echo test where it was discovered that the heart was in perfect condition. A repeat of the microbiological test shows that there was absolutely nothing wrong with her system. They were also manipulation of the devil to distract her attention from our coronation day. Two days to the occasion my wife stop seeing any doctor and arrange to attend the function declaring whatever sickness sign her body was receiving as a message from the devil. The next day, she was well and all was set for coronation day. Over six getters were hired. The two for students, one for special guests, one for the church, one for the faculty, one for the family and another one for Seante take away. The getters were supervised by Mrs. Nsemeke Peter Jackson my sister and Mrs. EjokeOkpura the wife of Dr. NseobongOkpura the NUESA Staff Adviser. Drink was handled by Dr. IdorenyinMarkson. Engr. MfonUmana handled venue security in collaboration with the UniuyoSecurity Personneland the police. Engr (Mrs.) Agnes was in charge of Main venue and take away entertainment. Deltona Brass Band in association with Pure Brass Band provided the music at the reception venue which was at the University Multipurpose Hall a few meters away from 1000 seat capacity where the Lecture was to take place. The music at main event was naturally the duty of the Department of music, University of Uyo. The day before the event, I visited the Head of Department of Music Dr. .... to ensure that he is familiar with the inaugural lecture song you raise me up. He did not bother to give a reply. He simple Prof. please let me play the piano. He

was completely carried away as he rendered the song. There is really a Doctor of Music.

The central organization of the function was handled by the Information Unit of the University. This included Publicity and Broadcasting. On the inaugural lecture day, before going to the venue, I had spent 30 minutes at the Dean's Office to receive visiting Dignitaries from various places who came on my invitation. They include Air Commodore Charles Usuh from Abuja, Prof. O. B. Oloche from the University of Abuja, Prof. Okparaku from University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Prof. UmaroLasisi from ObafemiAwolowo University, Ile-Ife, MajoAnyadike of the Nigerian Army, Uyo and ACP Abbass the office in charge, Mobile Police, EtimEkpo. The event was scheduled for 2:45pm but by the time I arrived the venue by 2:30pm, it was completely filled. Even my wife, children, mother and siblings were already seated on the front row. I was very happy that everybody kept to time. I spent about ten minutes in the Senate Dressing room taking photographs with colleagues. Everybody was in a happy mode. By exactly 2:50pm, the Vice Chancellor arrived and was quickly ushered into the Vice Chancellor dressing room with other principal officers of the University.

Few minutes later, myself and Vice Dean joined the Vice Chancellor with other principal officers of the University. At this point, the Vice Dean had taken over my function as the Dean of Engineering so that I can perform my duty as the 75<sup>th</sup> inaugural lecturer of the University of Uyo. The Vice Chancellor requested the Vice Dean to offer prayer for a successful inaugural lecture. After about five minute prayer, the procession began to move as the music played. The University orator took time to introduce each senate member as the senate process moves in to take their seats. I was very happy when I noticed that the Chiefs and Traditional Rulers from my family the Royal family of NungAyan in AfahaIkotObioNkan, Ibesikpo and other Chiefs from IbesikpoAsutan Local Government Area have taken their seats on the front row. Dr. Aniekan Brown, the Dean of students Affairs and University Orator requested me to be upstanding as he delivered my citation. It was well applauded. It was now time for my coronation. I moved to the rostrum doff my cap and went through the protocol list. I requested for permission to begin the lecture with acknowledgement. I thanked the Almighty God, my parents, mentor and collaborators and sing the Inaugural Lecture song "You raise me up". The Head of the Music Department who lead the focal proved himself a Doctor of Music. In a congratulatory message sent to me by Dr. Sunday Ekwere of the Department of Fine Arts he wrote "Congratulations, Professor.



the lecture was fantastic, superbly garnished with an air of spirituality through ecumenical rendition in song that was carefully chosen to spice up the academic exercise”.

After introducing my topic “The Engineer and his experiments: Decades of Design and development of Engineering System”. I went on to give an account of how a visionary encounter leads me to study engineering. I then draw my mother’s attention to the fact that I am about to officially answer the question she always will ask my “who is an engineer?” Hear me “I am an Engineer my work is predominantly intellectual. It requires the exercise of original thorough judgment and the ability to supervise technical and administrative works of others”. I presented my sixty-five published research works which I referred to as my sixty-five experiments. I presented 15-points agenda on the wayford for engineering development in Nigeria. I shaded light on my future research efforts which includes 3D Printing Technology, Solar Energy Technology and Drone Technology. I predicated that with the use of a techno economic model to be developed by the AniekanOffiong pay-as-you-go solar research team, it is possible that in the next ten years, every household will have purchase it solar power generation system.

The audience was electrified as several drones developed by the AniekanOffiong Drone Research Team were released to demonstrate their ability to work in places that will have been impossible or hazardous for man to access and do work. I concluded the lecture as follows:

The Vice Chancellor gave his closing remarks and presented me an award from the University as the 75<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecturer of the University of Uyo. This was my day of coronation. The Faculty of Engineering gave me an award, followed by the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Nigerian Engineering Student Association and Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers Student body. My mother and siblings presented me a bronze portrait and all the Royal family of NungAyanpresented me a portrait. This was followed by an official photo session with the University Seinte in front of the 1000 seat Capacity Auditorium.

Before arrival at the reception venue, the whole function has turn into a carnival. I felt honoured, for me it was a dream come true. As the party ended, I was driven home with all the accolades, it became done on me that only a dream has come true while the dream remain endless. The Castle International

Schools is only the foundational stage. The Deltona University Foundation has not even concluded the land acquisition process. I want to very specially appreciate and thank my very beloved and matchless wife, Mrs. Janet AniekanOffiong. I have found favour because of you Janet. Thank you very much. I sincerely appreciate our six lovely children: Jacqueline Datimfonabasi, Josephine Dianabasi, Alexander Abasiodiong, Emmanuel Sinende, EmmanuellaDaramfonabasi and Anita Anietientabasi, thank you all. The abridge version of the lecture is here presented. The full version of the lecture can be seen in any of the University Libraries in Nigeria.

THE ENGINEER AND HIS EXPERIMENTS: DECADES OF DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENGINEERING SYSTEMS, 75<sup>th</sup>Inaugural Lecture of the University of Uyo, Nigeria, Delivered, By **Aniekan Offiong**, B.Eng., M. Eng., PhD [Nigeria], FNIMechE, MNIProdE, MNSE, COREN RE., Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management, Faculty of Engineering, On Thursday, November 28, 2019

### **Protocol**

- The Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of this occasion,  
Prof. Enefiok E. Essien, SAN
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration),  
Prof. Nyaudo U. Ndaeyo
- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics),  
Prof. (Mrs.) Enoidem B. Usoro
- The Registrar and Secretary to Council,  
Mr. Aniediabasi D. Udofia
- The University Librarian,  
Prof. (Mrs.) Ahiaoma F. Ibegwam
- The Bursar, Mr. Imoh Etiese Markson
- Deans of Faculties
- Directors of Institutes and Heads of Departments

- Distinguished members of Senate and Congregation
- My Lords, Spiritual and Temporal
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Gentlemen of the Press
- Great Nigerian Students of the Tusker's Republic
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me request your permission to begin the lecture with acknowledgements.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

An Inaugural Lecture is an Academic tradition where a newly promoted or appointed Professor is expected to give detail account of his contribution to knowledge in his chosen area of specialization and also possibly throw open the direction of his future research. This is what I am doing and I have chosen to title this Lecture “The Engineer and his Experiments: Decades of Design and Development of Engineering Systems”. I am very delighted to be given this rare opportunity by the Vice Chancellor to present myself as an Academic through the University Inaugural Lecture series

This is the 75<sup>th</sup> Inaugural Lecture of the University of Uyo, and a list of Inaugural Lectures of the University of Uyo, is provided at the end of this book. This Inaugural Lecture is the fifth in the Faculty of Engineering, second in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and first by a Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management. Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the occasion, past Inaugural Lecturers, distinguished Professors and Academics, ladies and gentlemen, this Inaugural Lecture is unique because the emphasis is moving from invention of Engineering devices to the invention of sophisticated Engineering systems for which the discipline of Industrial and Management has come to pursue since the industrial revolution brought about mass production. Before going further, let me share with you my experience in the Secondary School which lead me to study Engineering.

### 1.1A Visionary Encounter

After my primary education, I was privileged to be admitted into the prestigious Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene to start my secondary education. In the first and second years of my stay in the college, I received an excellent all round education. I was very much a “Book Worm” and invariably secured top grades in all my subjects. My main interest in those years was in the Arts, especially History which I studied with great deal of passion. In the third year, we were required to choose between the Art and Science subjects. During the long vacation preceding the commencement of third year, I had a lengthy discussion with my father who then was not only a School Principal but also a Career Counsellor. He had a master’s degree in Guidance and Counselling. He told me that considering my family background and the stage of development of the Nigerian nation, and my Mathematical abilities that he would recommend that I study the Sciences even though I was attracted to the study of the Arts as a young intellectual. I did not give my father immediate

reply then, but when I got to the school after a visionary encounter, I made up my mind. I chose the Science and wrote him that I was studying to become an Engineer. He took time to reply me the letter and blessed my endeavours as I study and work as an Engineer. He praised me for listening to his counselling and pointed out that the decision is entirely mine and that I must work hard to fulfill my dream.

My favourite Teachers were all very disappointed as I chose the Sciences because I was very good in arts. The decision to study Engineering was my first decision made based on a visionary encounter. I cannot explain what a visionary encounter is, but it involves receiving from God a clear direction in any situation, seeing green or red and not yellow. All Science students were required to offer at least one Arts subject in addition to English which was compulsory. Without much consideration I choose history. However, when I visited the college Counsellor for the final meeting and inform him of my desire to be an Engineer, I discovered that the Art course of my choice could not be History but it has to be Economics which was just introduced for the first time in the third year. As I grew up to study Mechanical Engineering with specializing in Industrial Engineering and Management, I got to understand why the college Counsellor said that my choice of Arts subject had to be Economics. As a University Professor in addition to teaching Engineering Management, I also teach Engineering Economics as my core subject. Before I go further let me attempt to answer the more frequently asked question ‘who is an Engineer?’.

### **1.2 Who is an Engineer?**

An Engineer is a practitioner of Engineering, who invents, designs, analyses, builds, and tests machines, systems, structure and materials to fulfill objectives and requirements. The foundational qualifications of an Engineer typically include a 5-year Bachelor Degree in an Engineering discipline plus 5-years of peer reviewed professional practice (culminating in a project report) and passage of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) examination.

I am an Engineer that holds Bachelor, Master and Doctorate Degrees in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management. My work is predominately intellectual. It requires the exercise of original thought and judgment and the ability to supervise the technical and administrative works of others. To stay on top of the situation at all time in

addition to publishing my research findings in reputable Journals, I must consult newly published Articles on worldwide basis. Mr. Vice Chancellor Sir, I am a Mechanical Engineer, trained to oversee the production of cars, air planes, machines, power generating systems, spacecraft and consumer goods.

There are many branches of Engineering, each of which specializes in specific technologies and products. An Engineer is required to have deep knowledge in one area and basic knowledge in related areas. The reason for this approach is that when an Engineer is developing a product, he must work with an interdisciplinary team which must communicate with each other. Most of the time in the course of career, an Engineer moves up the management hierarchy to become the Chief Executive Officer of an organization, be it government or non-governmental. The implication for this is that all Engineers must receive some trainings in Industrial Engineering and Management, the subject which I am mostly known for.

Mr. Vice Chancellor Sir, permit me at this point to give an insight into the design of Engineering systems, the main function of an Industrial Engineering and Management expert in an Engineering organization.

### **1.3 Design of Engineering Systems**

Industrial Engineering and management experts exist primarily to provide expertise to Engineering organizations using the systems approach. The services they provide include:

- i. Design and development of Production Engineering systems (Systems Design);
- ii. Design and development of Engineering Management systems (Systems Management);
- iii. Design and development of Operational Research Models in Industrial Engineering (Systems Analysis) and
- iv. Design and development of Maintenance Engineering system (Systems Maintenance).

I will examine the various tools and techniques employed by the Industrial Engineering and management expert in accomplishing his goals using the above four system Approaches

## **2.0 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION ENGINEERING SYSTEMS**

Production Engineering Systems consists of the methods and equipment used to manufacture a product or deliver a service. The analysis of the design and development of production engineering systems involved the following;

- (i) Product and Service Design
- (ii) Process Selection and Capacity Design
- (iii) Facilities and Equipment Layout Design
- (iv) Design of Work System
- (v) Distribution System Design

Nigeria has the biggest production system in Africa. We are involved in automobile manufacturing, oil and gas production, agricultural production, construction, food production and textile production. Teaching and Research in Production Engineering should be a top priority to sustain this tempo.

## **3.0 DESIGN OF ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

Engineering Management involves planning, organizing, co-ordination and control of all the activities in an Engineering organization. The design of engineering management systems encompasses decisions involving the following the design of:

- i. Quality control and continuous improvement system;
- ii. Inventory Control System;
- iii. Production Planning and Control System;
- iv. Production Planning and Scheduling System and
- v. Material Requirement Planning Systems

Production planning is the determination, acquisition and arrangement of all facilities necessary for future production of products.

## **4.0 DESIGN OF OPERATIONAL RESEARCH MODELS IN INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING**

Operational Research Models in Industrial Engineering are designed to assist the Engineer to arrive at the optimal solutions to Engineering problems based on set objective and constraints imposed on the problems. Operational Research Models often used by Engineers includes

- (i) Linear Programming Models,
- (ii) Transportation Models
- (iii) Queuing Models
- (iv) Simulation Models
- (v) Forecasting Models
- (vi) Network Analysis Models

In Industrial Engineering and management this models has be successfully use to solve problems in the areas product mix decisions, plant location, capital budgeting production scheduling and resource allocation.

#### **5.0 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF MAINTENANCE ENGINEERING SYSTEM**

Maintenance Engineering helps in maintaining and increasing the operational efficiency of plant facilities and hence, contributes to revenue by reducing the operating cost and increasing the effectiveness of the production of goods and services. The design and development of Maintenance Engineering systems include:

- i Planned Maintenance Systems
- ii Predictive Maintenance Systems
- ii Maintenance Techniques
- iv Replacement programmes

The fundamental basis of the design of any Maintenance system is deciding in advance the individual items of plant and equipment to be maintained; the forms methods and details of how each item is to be maintained.

#### **6.0 THE ENGINEER AND HIS EXPERIMENTS**

The Engineer performs his experiment by following the creative-based Engineering design process, whereas the Scientist perform experiments using the well-known scientific method. The first step in solving an Engineering problem is recognizing that it exists. You recognize a problem when you understand the way a situation is now and you can imagine a future in which things have change and improved.

I have done a lot of Researches in many areas of engineering which I refer to as my sixty five (65) experiments. These include experiments in Production Engineering, Engineering Management, Industrial Engineering, Maintenance Engineering, Engineering Science and Engineering Education.

In the field of Production Engineering I have solved ten (10) significant problems. The first was the design of load sensitive tipping machine for coal conveyors using locally made materials in 2001. The other Articles on Production Engineering addressed problems in the production of palm kernel oil. In the production of palm kernel oil, working with Dr O. O. Antia, Dr Williams Olusunde and others in the Department of Agricultural and Food



Engineering, University of Uyo, between 2005-2012, we discovered the following important parameters (i) optimum impact energy for palm nuts cracking, (ii) optimum moisture content of palm nut for effective cracking, (iii) kinetic of palm kernel oil hydrolysis, and (iv) power requirement for effective cracking of dried palm nut. Also in the field of production engineering working with Dr O. O. Antia in collaboration with late Dr Emmanuel J. Akpabio of the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering, University of Uyo, in 2011, we were able to produce Glycerol from palm kernel oil.

As a Professor of Engineering Management in the University of Uyo my primary work is to ensure that the Engineering Graduate of the University of Uyo is a leader who can translate technical solutions into business reality. In the field of Engineering Management, I have published ten (10) Journal Articles. The first set of these papers are: (i) Personnel and property insurance in Engineering practice, (ii) Contract drafting and Engineering project execution practices and (iii) Reduction of wastage in match production using action research, published between 2002-2006 in collaboration with Late Engr. A. U. Ukpoho of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, University of Uyo. In 2005 working with Dr (Mrs.) Constance Kalu of the Department of Electrical/Electronics and Computer Engineering we were able to develop an Economic Model for the simulation of a mechanized garri processing system. In 2013 working with Dr Whyte Akpan and Dr Ebene Ufot both in my Department we developed a vehicle replacement programme for a road transport company.

In the field of Industrial Engineering I have published ten (10) Research Articles. My earliest works are those done with Dr I. C. Ezema my first Master student at the Department of Mechanical Engineering University of Nigeria, Nsukka between 2002-2005 and we were concerned with Optimal production-inventory parameters for a multistage serial system in industries. There after, I worked closely with two Mathematicians namely Dr E. E. Nsien of the University of Uyo and Dr (Mrs.) Mary P. Iwundu of the University of Port Harcourt. In 2003 working with Dr E. E. Nsien we published Paper on Technical manpower forecasting in a manufacturing firm using Markov Chain. In the same year I worked with Dr (Mrs.) Mary P. Iwundu on development of an exchange algorithm for the global optimization of a response function which has several applications in Engineering system optimization. In 2013 together with my Master student Mr. Emeka Great Osuya we developed a productivity improvement Model for use in breweries through line balancing

using Heuristic method. Still in the field of Industrial Engineering recently in 2014 I work with Engr. Daniel C. Nnadi of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike on the development of a decision Model for production inventory management in a manufacturing firm. In 2014 with another Master student, Raymond Manuel Udoanya we presented the application of queuing theory to the decongestion of queues at ATM Bank within Uyo metropolis using Monte Carlo simulation.

My first job on graduation was as a Maintenance Research Engineer in Ferdinand Group of Companies Enugu. It was therefore not surprising that Maintenance Engineering was the subject of Master and Doctorate Thesis. In the field of Maintenance Engineering, I have published 12 Articles. My first published work was in the field of Maintenance Engineering, "Design of a computer based stock control system for Engineering spares" was published in 1998. In 2002, I became deeply concerned with Group Maintenance and published: Heuristic procedure for the determination of group Maintenance scheduling frequencies. In 2003, I was privilege to collaborate with Prof Francis B. Okokon of the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, University of Uyo on the Maintenance of tractors. The work Maintenance management of identical farm tractors in Cross River Farm Mechanization Services Limited, Nigeria – A case study demonstrated the superiority of a group Maintenance policy in the Maintenance of farm tractors over individual Maintenance policy notwithstanding their geographical spread.

In the field of Engineering Science, I have published about twenty-one (21) Journal Articles. My earliest Papers were those done with Engr. Ime A. Equere then a senior Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cross River University of Technology, Calabar between 2003-2007. They were centred on Tensile and Flexural properties of Boron-Aluminum composite subjected to long time temperature exposure. In this field, I have also worked closely with Dr Y. N. Ukaru, a nice colleague in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, here in the University of Uyo and together between 2006-2007 we have published three papers on Cathodic protection monitoring in Niger Delta Seawater.

In 2014 while collaborating with Dr A. P. Ihom, the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo and other Scholars, we have been able to published over 12 Articles namely: The effect of holding time on the hardness of case hardened mild steel, Regression analysis of Ashaka clay-bonded sand, Statistical modelling and analysis of hardness value change with diametric

distance of heat treated steel and modelling of the thermal conductivity property of a newly developed thermo- regulated bricks just to mention a few.

In Engineering Education, I have published two articles on (i) Nigerian Universities and Educating Future Mechanical Engineers published in 2003 and (ii) Development and Evaluation of a Mechanical Education Curriculum: The University of Uyo, Nigeria case published in 2006.

It is important to note that the two Research Papers in Engineering Education above form the theoretical background for my successful participation in the development and execution of Engineering Programmes in five new Faculties of Engineering in the contemporary Nigeria.

## **7.0 DECADES OF DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENGINEERING SYSTEMS**

Before giving the shortlist of my contribution to humanity as a career practicing Engineer in the three domain of teaching, research and community service it is important to examine the challenges of Engineering development in Nigeria and the way forward. From my experiences the challenges of engineering development in Nigeria include; Lack of purposeful leadership, Lack of infrastructural base, High index of corruption, Lack of security, Poor industrial policies etc. The way forward for engineering development in Nigeria include;

- i Election and Appointment of Visionary Leader: Nigeria needs visionary leaders which can only be produced by visionary citizens. We must not sell our votes, we should only choice leaders that have the development and progress of Nigeria at heart.
- ii Provision of Adequate Infrastructure use for Sustainable Development.
- iii Development Sustainable Anti-corruption Programmes.
- iv Provision of Adequate Security for Industrial Investment
- v. Revamping of the Steel Industries: The steel industries in Nigeria should revamp in order to ensure that Nigeria takes of technological.
- vi. Implementation of Vision 2020 Agenda: It is time to implement the well-articulated Nigeria vision 2020.
- vii Involvement of Engineers in Decision Making: Engineer and other related specialist should be appointed to head ministries such as works, transport, housing, Science and Technology, telecommunication, industries etc. By their training Engineers are good leaders.
- viii Implementation of Appropriate Technology Transfer Policy.
- ix Investment in Engineering Education.

- x Development of a Dynamic Engineering Education Curriculum.
- xi Encouragement of Engineering Entrepreneurship: Government and non-governmental organization should make grants available for our young graduates who are interested in setting up their Engineering business instead of promising the none existing jobs.
- xii Improvement of Industrial Training Programmes for Engineers: Industrial training programme for Engineers will greatly improve if multinational Engineering companies are required by law to published annually names of student they have admitted into their industrial training programme and the payment made to them.
- xiii Increase in Funding of our Research and Development.
- xiv Improve Funding of Science and Mathematical Education in our Secondary Schools.
- xv Development of strong zeal for Industrialization.

Mr. Chairman and Vice Chancellor Sir, permit me to inform this distinguish audience that the way forward for the development of Engineering in Nigeria stated above have been revised a couple of times in the past three decades, and there could still be the need to revised them before my Valedictory Lecture. In any case, the solution set remains basically the same and with this solution set in mind, I have carried out my work as University Lecturer in the three domain of teaching, research and community development.

**Teaching:** Between the date I joined the University system and now, I have taught Engineering Management, Engineering Law, Engineering Economics among other core Mechanical Engineering courses to thousands of undergraduates and postgraduate students many of whom have graduated and are now occupying important positions in the public and private services. I have supervised hundreds of final year projects over the years. I have also supervised over twenty postgraduate dissertations and thesis, five of them in the PhD programme. I joined the University system in 1994 as a Lecturer II in the Department of Mechanical Engineering University of Nigeria Nsukka. After working at Nsukka for about four years, on March 17, 1998, I was appointed Lecturer I in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering University of Uyo . I rose through the ranks becoming a full Professor in October 1, 2014. Mr. Vice Chancellor Sir, for the past twenty-five years I have been living my dream teaching and researching in the University. My work as a University Teacher does not just end in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (where I spent 4 youthful years) and the University of Uyo (where I have put in over 21 years), but span through other Universities in

Nigeria as mentioned in the citation. I love to teach my students the truth and I teach with great passion.

**Research and Publication:** Mr. Chairman please, permits me to mention here that apart from sixty five experiments I have just narrated, I have also published a number of research books. Dr A. P. Ihom has been my most valuable post-Professorial collaborator. Together we have also published two research books namely: Fundamentals of Foundry Technology published by La'asuk Publications, Jos, Nigeria and Surface Finishing Engineering and Technology for Engineers and Scientist published by Sara Book publication, Ahmedabad, India. At this point, I wish to inform this distinguished audience of my lead Textbook as a Professor of Industrial Engineering and Management, "Principles of Engineering Project Management" published in 2002 by SNAAP Press Enugu. For two decades now been this book has the major Textbook in Nigeria for the teaching of Engineering Management and Law to undergraduate and postgraduate students. I thank Prof. A.P. Onwualu, the former Director General of the Raw Material Research and Development Institute, Abuja and Prof. S. I. Oluka, former Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Enugu State University of Technology for their collaboration on this.

**Community Service:** As captured in the Citation, I have made many modest and honest contributions in this component of my carrier. For instance, in 2000, I was appointed the Editor-in-Chief of the Global Journal of Mechanical Engineering, thus fulfilling the long standing dream of serving my profession as an Editor. Since then I have been appointed into the editorial board of not less than ten Engineering Journals and Book of Proceedings. In 2002, I became deeply involved in the campaign to enhance sustainable development through my involvement with the International Research and Development Institute. With the help of this organization and other community partners, I have been able to:

- i. Provide free or at reduced rate, thousands of Educational Books and Journals to several institutions across the country;
- ii. Provide full or partial scholarship to thousands of Nigerian students in various institutions at all the level of education, many of the beneficiaries are here seated.
- iii. Facilitate the establishment of Model schools at all level of education to help compliment the effort of the government. A few students and Teachers of these schools have been invited to grace this Lecture.

#### 7.4 FUTURE PLANS OF THE ENGINEER

My future research, teaching, and community effort will focus on

- i Additive Manufacturing,
- ii Drone Technology and
- iii Solar Energy Technology

**Additive Manufacturing:** Additive Manufacturing also known as 3D Printing process builds as three dimensional object from a computer aided design (CAD) model, usually by successively adding material larger by larger. Mr. Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the occasion, traditionally, engineers produce goods using connectional machining, casting and forging, processes, where material is removed from stock item (subtractive manufacturing) or poured into a mould and shaped by means of dies, presses and hammers. This usually will require heavy machine tools which presently are inadequate in the less developed world but with 3D printing technology we sick to eliminate these heavy machine tools and print 3D object directly from a single printer. I am the principal researcher in an on going research work at the Faculty of Engineering University of Uyo to an integrated build 3D printing technology workshop should we be able to secure the necessary funds. Dr. A.P. Ihom has been a very valuable collaborator in this project which we seek to gather plastic waste from the environment and shred them into an input which can be used by the 3D printer developed in the project to produce valuable products, in this project we hope to achieve two goals: Coverting waste into wealth and Printing three dimensional products without passing through the traditional or subtractive manufacturing process with it associated waste and heavy machine tools requirement.

**Solar Engineering Technology:** in Nigeria the National Grid is largely unreliable and Nigerians have been force to buy and maintain gasoline-powered generators in their households. I have done a lot work on solar energy technology but more needs to be done to put an end to power outage problem facing Nigerians. I am the principal researcher in a Faculty based research team which seeks to continuously lower the cost of solar energy generation for Nigerian households through the development of made in Nigeria Solar Accessories and the “Pay-as-you-go solar” economic model which involves renting Solar Energy Power System to households from solar electricity companies empowered to buy, install and take monthly rent for some period before giving of the power system to the beneficiaries. My major collaborator in this research is Engr. Nseobong I. Okpura of the Department of Electrical/Electronics and Computer Engineering, University of Uyo. This

techno-economic research team believes that given the needed funding, in the next ten (10) years every households will have purchase it solar power system, gasoline generators would have disappeared and “NEPA” will go the way of “NITEL”. Mr. Vice Chancellor and Chairman of the occasion, I strongly believe that these will come pass our generation.

**DRONE TECHONLOGY:** A drone is an unmanned aerial vehicle without a human pilot on board. An unmanned aerial vehicle system has two parts, the drone itself and the control system which is also referred to as a group cockpit. While drone technology like most sophisticated technology originated mostly in military applications, their use is rapidly being put to product delivery, photography, marketing, surveying, mapping, survillianle, policing, agriculture and five fighting. I am part of a research team in the Faculty of Engineering University of Uyo, experimenting on these flying robots. As an expert Industrial Engineering and Management, I am very interested on how is flying robots can be use to eliminate the need for workers to physically access hostile environment where factors such as height, wind, waves, weather, radiation and fire can lead to accidents or health issues. Drone technology is a new and emerging technology and call on companies to come forward to partner with our team on the possible benefits they can achieve using small unmanned aerial vehicles to inspect and carryout their operations. Mr. vice chancellor and chairman of the occasion, permit me at this point to inform this special audiences that the senate of University of Uyo has approved that Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering start the documentation of a Programme of Studies in Aerospace Engineering that will lead to the award of degree of Bachelors of Engineering in Aerospace/Astrountical Engineering.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION**

### **8.1 Recommendations**

I will present my recommendations in the form of exhortations because of the urgent need for changes. Mr. Chairman and Vice Chancellor Sir, after all my studies, works and researches I wish to give exhortations to intellectuals, Engineers and Nigerians before I will proceed to summarized and concluded the Lecture.

***Exhortation to Intellectuals***

The life of an intellectual can be quite challenging. First and foremost, if you want to be a successful scholar, you must have observed a strict adherence to the four basic principle of intellectual life here presented for your guide.

- i. Recognize the intellectual life as a calling and envisions the intellectual life directed by a passion for truth-seeking as a service to God and humanity;
- ii. Shape and guide your life according to the highest ideal no matter how powerful or powerless you may be in the system;
- iii. Let positive change begin in and around you in any system you want to change and
- iv. Make arrangement for the positive change you have introduce into my system to be sustainable.

***Exhortation to Engineers***

An engineer must learn to be a manager of human, monetary, and material resources. Most Engineers practice core engineering only for the first five years in their careers. Beyond that, they get into management positions. An Engineer must be prepared to be an entrepreneur, because as an Engineer you may be employed or better still an employer of labour. In any case you must strive to continually improve the Engineering system through the development of sound work method wage system, inventory control method, maintenance programme, etc

Engineers must understand that the way forward for the development of Engineering in Nigeria is not a task for them alone. The Nigerian Society of Engineers and other Professional Bodies for Engineers should stop talking to themselves alone but rise up to the expectation and agitate for their rights of involvement in decision makings. However, because of the lukewarm attitudes of Engineers in the political process, it is pitiable and common to see non Engineers lord over the affairs of Engineering in Nigeria and Africa at large. Such non-Engineers have nothing to deliver other than vague ideas in the field of Engineering practice. It is my suggestion that Engineers must individually and as a group participate in the political process and facilitate enabling laws to prevent quackery in the practice of Engineering profession especially at the decision making levels.

***Exhortation to Nigerians***

The 15 points on the way forward for Engineering development in Nigeria has already been presented. By going through them you will easily agree with me



that the task is not only for Engineers. Every Nigerian has a duty to perform when it comes to the promotion of Engineering development in Nigeria. People in all works of life must understand that Engineering is the bedrock of sustainable development and allow the Nigerian state and its citizens to channel their energy and resources toward Engineering development. The first point on the 15 point agenda on the way forward for engineering development in Nigeria is the election and appointment of visionary leaders. I strongly believe that election and appointment of vision leaders is Nigeria will be greatly facilitated, if the people and government of Nigeria should consider a single term of five years for our executive office holder in place of the current two-term of four years. This call is based on my observation as a System Engineer that most problem of the Nigerian state arises when an incumbent Chief Executive Officer is seeking for a second term. From my point of view as a system analyst, if this single term tenure of five years for Chief Executive Officer has worked for the University system in Nigeria, it is very likely to work for the Nigerian state.

Finally, I am calling on Nigerian intellectuals to rise and take up the mandate of leadership God has given them as intellectuals. They should be prepared to use their intellect to give Nigerian the best.

## **8.2 Conclusion**

As an Engineer I am not only creative, but had also imparted knowledge to the people as I pondered, researched and developed many Engineering systems. As an Engineer, I searched to found just the right solutions for engineering problems as they arrive, and what I have written is upright and directed by a passion for truth-seeking as a service to God and humanity. As a Christian scholar, I am compelled to give the warning in Ecclesiastes 12:12-14 “Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard, here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind, for God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, weather it is good or evil”. The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people – Amen.

Mr. Vice Chancellor and Chairman Sir, distinguish members of the audience, I thank you for audience.

God bless the University of Uyo!

God bless Akwa Ibom State!!

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!

**You raised me up**

I am sincerely and eternally grateful to Almighty God for life and for His benevolence. I give glory to the Almighty God who brought me from a humble background to this height in life. He brought destiny helpers my way to help move me to God's designed destiny. May his name be exalted.

I am very grateful to my parents, who brought me into this world. I am particularly grateful to my late father, Mr. Offiong Etim Akpan. He is my hero and role model. He was a seasoned teacher and a distinguished school administrator, who taught me how to be a man. My mother, a great teacher and a woman of inestimable value, Mrs. Akon Offiong Akpan here seated has been a strong support in my academic pursuit. Daddy and Mummy were my very first teachers, they taught me to be disciplined, respectful, truthful and obedient. Thank you. Daddy may you continue to rest in perfect peace. Thank you, Mummy may God continue to strengthen and keep you. I am glad you are here today to witness this presentation. I am very grateful to my siblings who have been sources of inspiration to me in this race. They include ACP (Mrs.) Uduak Okokon Ita, Mrs. Magdalene Udoumoh, Barr. Etim Offiong, Mrs. Nsemeke Peter Jackson, Mr. Offiong Offiong, Mr. Ito Offiong, Mr. Kufre Offiong and Mrs. Sitobong Ukeme Udofia. I appreciate my bothers-in-law, DCP Okokon Otu Ita, Mr. Peter Jackson and Mr. Ukeme Udofia, Hon. Uko Friday Umoh, Barr. Kenney Akakam, Mr. Charles Ita Akakam. May God bless you all. I appreciate my wonderful sister-in-law, Mrs. Emily Uko Umoh. Thank you for being such a wonderful in-law. I am grateful to my sisters-in-law, Dr. (Mrs.) Patience Etim Offiong, Mrs. Grace Offiong Offiong, Mrs. Fresunam Ito Offiong, Mrs. Vivian Kufre Offiong and Mrs. Magdalene Charles Akakam. God bless you all for your support. I appreciate my wonderful cousin Dr. Paul Okon Inyang the Head of Department of Soil Science, University of Calabar and his dear wife Affiong. My teachers did me a world of good through good teaching, discipline and good care at all levels of my education because, I went to good schools. I will name but a few here: My primary school days were easy because I was a teacher's son, always going to school with my mother and teacher. I can still remember the faces of most of my primary school teachers, but I cannot recall their formal names anymore apart from my scout teacher Mr. Anthony Akpan Obot and mother's friend, Miss Otoabasi Akpan. I thank you all. I have fond memories of the discipline and inspirations of my teachers in the secondary school days that contributed in fashioning my academic and moral perspective. I appreciate my school principal, Mr. Udofia, Mr. Obot and Mr. J.

A. Efekedo. My secondary school days were very dramatic and unforgettable period of my life because we had many good teachers who love and encourage us in many special ways. The Home Economics teacher, Mrs. P. E. Akpan [Nee Miss P. E. Okon] was always using my interest and devotion to set example for unserious girls in the Home Economic class. She is seated here as a contact point for all my secondary school teachers. Thank you Mrs. Akpan, Mr. Emebo, Mr. Okafor, Mr. Ekeanyimu, Miss Ukpe and Mr. Edidpha. I can still remember the faces of the expiates Britons, Indians and Filipinos. Thank you all.

Getting to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and being taught by lecturers rather than teachers was a new experience that confronted me. I could not see the love and encouragement that I was used to at both primary and secondary school. Even though I was a Mechanical Engineering student I felt that most of the lecturers were too mechanical. This was a great shock to me and I even contemplated a change of course and/or university until I came across some teacher figures like Prof. D. C. Onyejekwe [my mentor and Co-Masters supervisor], Prof. A. O. Odukwe [my doctorate supervisor], Prof. Samuel O. Onyegegbu [my academy adviser], Prof. Valentine Ekechukwu [my bachelors supervisor], Engr. Koba-Aduama [my Masters supervisor], Prof. Cornelius Ezekwe, Prof. Clifford Ezeilo, Prof. Samuel O. Enibe, Prof. O. C. Iloeje, Prof. J. C. Agunwamba [my doctorate co-supervisor]. I vividly remember the massive red inks on every page of the doctorate proposal submitted to Prof. J. C. Agunwamba.

These man and a few others not only demystified lecturing, but they added colour in such a way that I started nursing the hope of being university lecturer. At this point I want to specially thank Prof. D. C. Onyejekwe and all the faculty members who champion my appointment as lecturer in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I sincerely register my deepest appreciation of them. How on earth can I forget the contribution of our Chief Technologist Engr. A. U. Ekpo of blessed memory and other technologist in the University of Nigeria Nsukka workshop and laboratory of my time. I like to appreciate the special contribution of the Late Professor Isidore E. Eyo, Professor of Psychology who was my guardian at Nsukka and my mentor throughout the fourteen years I spent at Nsukka studying, practicing and teaching engineering. Others at Nsukka worthy of special mention are Mr. M. B. A. Awah, Prof. E. S. Samuel, Prof. Joseph Eyo, Prof. Elizabeth Eke and Dr. N. M. Inyang. Again I have special appreciation for Prof. Charles Uko and Prof.

L. O. Asuquo who champion my appointment as lecturer in the University of Uyo.

On my assumption of duties at the University of Uyo, I had the opportunity to associate with wonderful and experience colleagues. Many have played vital roles in making me fit into the University of Uyo system. In this regard, I like to appreciate the contribution of the former Deans of the Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Emem Nwa, Prof. Aniedi O. Ette, Prof. Charles Uko, Prof. L. O. Asuquo, Prof. Benjamin R. Etuk and the Late Prof. Essien. I am grateful to the following senior members of the faculty who have been instruments in the hands of God to guide me on this job, Prof. Etim U. U. Ituen, Prof. Francis Okokon, Prof. A. F. Alonge, Prof. Umana Itaketo and Dr. A. P. Ihom Associate Professor and Vice Dean, Faculty of Engineering. I cannot forget the contribution these follow heroes Dr. Bede Asuquo, Dr. I. J. Akpabio and Dr. Francis Udo, Engr. A. U. Ukpoho, Engr. Emmanuel Udoyang though they are dead, their good work lives on. On a special note I salute all my colleagues at the Faculty of Engineering. Worthy of special mention are Engr. Chinatu T. Nwankwo, Engr. Joseph O. Etim, Dr. Orua Okon Antia, Dr. Kingsley C. Egemba, Engr. Victor E. Etuk, Dr. (Mrs.) Constance Kalu, Dr. Innocent Oboh, Dr. Julius U. Akpabio, Dr. A. O. Ilori, Dr. S. B. Alabi, Dr. Simeon Ozuomba, Dr. Kufre M. Udofia, Dr. Akaninyene Obot, Dr. Kingsley M. Udofia, Dr. David Onwe, Dr. O. A. William, Dr. Christopher J. Etti, Dr. Eno C. Ukpong and Engr. Aneke C. Samuel.

I have a Department that is one big family with very interesting and committed people to work with. For providing this enabling condition, I like to appreciate the contribution the present Head of Department Dr. Obotowo W. Obot and these former Heads of Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Prof. L. O. Asuquo, Engr. Peter Umana, Late Engr. Ime Ebong, Dr. A. P. Ihom, Dr. D. K. Uko and Dr. Idorenyin Markson. I appreciate all my colleagues at the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. Worthy of special mention are Dr. Youngson N. Ukaru, Dr. Emmanuel U. Odeh, Dr. Etim S. Udoetok, Dr. White A. Akpan and Engr. Mfon Umana.

A big thank you to my students including those who are currently in the school and those who have graduated. Worthy of special mention are those who are now my colleagues in the university Dr. Idorenyin Markson, Engr. Nseobong I. Okpura, Engr. Mrs. Agnes Oboh, Dr. Anietie Okon, Dr. Aniekan Okon, Dr. Christopher J. Etti, Engr. Okon I. Esua, Dr. (Mrs.) Mfrekemfon, Akpan, Dr. Ofonime A. Harry, Engr. Ini C. Umoh, Engr. Ndifreke E. Udoh, Dr. Udeme H.

Iron, Dr. Philip M. Asuquo, Engr. Emmanuel E. Udoiwod, Dr. Kingsley M. Udofia, Engr. Bliss Stephen, Engr. Kingsley Basse, Engr. (Mrs.) Stella Udoeyop, Engr. Okorie Agwu and Dr. Daniel Onwude. I want to also specially appreciate my students who are now fellows in the practice of Engineering, Rev. Engr. Monday Akpan, FNIMEchE and Engr. Aniefiok Inyang FNSE both staff of the Exxon Mobil. Also worthy of special mention is the co-ordinator of Faculty of Engineering Alumni Affairs Engr. Eyo Akabom. My interaction with every one of you have left lessons in my life and I am very grateful that you accepted me to teach you.

I want to thank specially the Faculty Officer, Faculty of Engineering Mr. Sam Effiok and all the administrative staff in the Faculty and Department of Engineering. Equally I thank Engr. Mmeti Nkanta, Engr. Isaac Okon and other technical staff of the Faculty of Engineering for being members of my success team.

I appreciate Professor Fola Lasisi, the First Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo. Who employed me and appointed me to head the Department of Mechanical Engineering three months my appointment as lecturer in the University. I still cannot understand why he had to take such a risk with a young bachelor. I want to register my deepest gratitude to him for believing in me even when he did not know me. I want to acknowledge the role of Professor Akpan H. Ekpo, the Second Vice Chancellor of this great University. Apart from approving my promotion to the rank of Senior Lecturer, he gave me the opportunity to go for my first sabbatical at the Federal University of Technology, Owerri. I thank our former Vice Chancellor, Professor (Mrs.) Comfort M. Ekpo for overseeing and announcing my promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, worthy of special thank is that she approved my second sabbatical leave at the Cross River State University of Science and Technology, Calabar. I thank our Vice Chancellor Professor Enefiok Essien, SAN for overseeing and announcing my promotion to the rank of full Professor. I thank him for his good leadership qualities which have kept the system stable and the inaugural lecture tradition alive. Working with him has been quite rewarding as I am learning to imbibe good leadership traits that are inherent in him.

I respectfully acknowledge the contributions of Professor Ndaudo U. Ndaeyo [Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration] Professor (Mrs.) Enoidem B. Usoro [Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics], the Registrar, Mr. Aniediabasi D. Udofia and the entire management team. I also appreciate the roles of Prof.

Joseph N. Obinaju, Prof. Trenchard O. Ibia, Prof. Innocent V. O. Modo, Prof. (Mrs.) Queendoleen I. Obinaju, Prof. (Mrs.) Selina S. Ekpo, Prof. Idara O. Akpabio, Prof. Antiabong O. Ekong, Prof. Godwin A. Akpan, Prof. Joseph P. Essien, Prof. Anedi J. Ikpang, Prof. Imo J. Udofa, Prof. Uwemedimo E. Atakpo, Prof. Edet J. Udoh, Prof. Luke E. Eyo and Associate Prof. Dominic P. Okon have played in my life since I joined the University of Uyo.

In the course of my studies, teaching, research and publication, I have the privilege of working closely with some of my professional colleagues and I most admit that they have been quite interesting persons to collaborate with. They include Prof. E. O. Akpan, Prof. Mohammed Baza, Prof. E. V. Clark, Prof. Edith Chukwu, Dr. (Mrs.) Mary P. Iwundu, Dr. Fidelis Abam, Dr. Michael Ofem, Engr. Daniel Nnadi, Dr. Friday Overt, Dr. Godwin Ekong, Dr. Basse B. Okon, Dr. Johnson, Prof. H. I. Hart, Prof. Adeyemo, Dr. Joseph Mbom and Dr. Dominic Ekpo.

I want to very specially appreciate and thank my very beloved and matchless wife, Mrs. Janet Aniekan Offiong an Educationist and a seasoned teacher. This is one woman too many. She has been everything in my life. A friend, a sister, a wife, a mother and a lover of all rolled into one. A woman who manage childbearing concurrently with academic and business pursuit without lagging behind in any, even when the husband was also pursuing his academic career and had little or no time to help her. Her humility, submission, business acumen and her show of respect, most of the time beats my imagination. I have found favour because of you. Your support in prayers and in the physical constitute a power house of success in my endeavor. Her entry into my life made a whole world of difference. Janet thank you very much. I sincerely appreciate our six lovely children: Jacqueline Datimfonabasi, Josephine Dianabasi, Alexander Abasiodion, Emmanuel Sinende, Emmanuella Daramfonabasi and Anita Anitieteabasi. I thank God for them.

I respectfully acknowledge the prayers and words of encouragement I have received from the ministers of Gospel and other Christians across the various church denominations. May I appreciate my Pastor, Rev. Monday Jacob of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria No. 37 Enwe Street, Uyo for his support in prayers. I thank the entire members of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria No. 37 Enwe Street, Uyo. Most especially I thank the chairman of the Church Council Barr. Francis Ekanem, and the immediate past chairman Elder Effiong Essien and all the Elders and Deaconesses for their support in different ways. I appreciate indeed, the National President of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria,

Archbishop, Most Rev. Dr. Christian Ekong and his wife for spiritual coverage.

Finally, once again I am sincerely and eternally grateful to the Almighty God for life and his benevolence. I request everyone to join me in singing this song composed in 2002 by Rolf Lovland to the glory of God alone.

When I am down and, oh my soul so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence,  
Until you come and sit a while with me.

*You raise me up so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on storm seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be*

*You raise me up so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up to walk on storm seas  
I am strong when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be*

There is no life, no life without its hunger.  
Each restless hearts beats so imperfectly  
But when you come and I am filled with wonder  
Sometimes I think I glimpse eternity.

### **Mentors and Collaborators.**

I have been in the University of Uyo for the past 21 years (1998-2019). During these period, God has given me the opportunity to associate with wonderful and experienced colleagues. Many have played vital roles in making me fit into the university of Uyo system. The person that comes to my mind here is the first vice chancellor of the University of Uyo, Professor FolaLasisi. The distinguish Engineer who first saw the need to establish the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Uyo. He employed me and appointed me to Head the Department of Mechanical and Agricultural Engineering three months into my employment in the University. I register my deepest gratitude to him for believing in me. I must mention here that he was the first person to send me a congratulatory message on my election as Dean of the faculty of

Engineering. Even after his tenure as Vice Chancellor and his subsequent return to the ObafemiAwolowo University he has visited the Faculty several times despite his tight schedule as the President of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering. I like to appreciate the contribution of the former Deans of Engineering, Prof. EmenNwa, Prof. Aniedi O. Ette, Prof. Charles Uko, Prof. L. O. Asuquo, Prof. Benjamin R. Etuk and the Late Prof. ObotEssien. I am grateful to the following senior members of the faculty who have been instruments in the hands of God to guide me on this job, Prof. Etim U. U. Ituen, Prof. Francis Okokon, Prof. A. F. Alonge, Prof. UmanaItaketo and Dr. A. P. Ihom, Associate Professor and Vice Dean Faculty of Engineering. On a special note, I salute Dr. (Mrs.) Constance Kalu the first female Head of Department in the Faculty of whom the students refer to as mother. In my ways she has been a wonderful mentor and collaborator. During my Deanship, I was asked to give honour to whom honour is due in the faculty Journal. This involved publishing the profile of distinguished pioneers of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo in the faculty biannual journal the journal of Research and Innovation in Engineering. Which is here re-publishing hoping that it will inspire the special part of you to make your dream come true. I will like to see them as my mentors and collaborators in the project of building a great Faculty of Engineering. To this special people I will say it has been a privilege to work closely with you as professional colleagues. It was quite rewarding collaborating with you. Thank you for your tolerance of my occasional wrongs. Without you, I could never have been able to make this dream come true. God bless you. Finally, to all my colleagues, thank you for your love and support. May you see farther than your eyes can look. May your dream come true. The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people – Amen.

**TRIBUTE TO AN ACADEMIC LUMINARY: ENGR. PROF. OBOT EKPO ESSIEN**, *JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS IN ENGINEERING (JORIE), VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1, 2018,*

The news of the death of Elder Engr. Prof. Obot Ekpo Essien, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria on Sunday August 20, 2017 in a hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone was a great shock to the entire University of Uyo community. It was as if the activities in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria was brought to a standstill by the passing away of such an academic leader known nationally and internationally.



For over 17 years he labored in the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, the Faculty and the University of Uyo, Nigeria in different capacities after transferring his service from the Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic. As a professor of Agricultural Engineering since October 1, 2013, he contributed immensely in the growth of the University as the Chairman or member of several committees and panels. He was the Head of the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria between 2006 – 2008. In 2016 he was appointed Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria a position he held until his death in August 20, 2017. Prior to his joining the University of Uyo he held many administrative positions. Some of these were:

Head of Department, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Polytechnic Calabar, Head of Department, Department of Agricultural Engineering, Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic, Ikot Osurua, Acting Deputy Rector, School of Agriculture, Obio Akpa and so on.

I have observed that there are three types of colleagues in the University system. Most will make relentless efforts to correct injustice only when their own rights are denied. Some will labour diligently but in silence for fear of victimization hoping that things will work out. Very few will fight against injustice, selflessly at all cost, no matter who the victim is. Elder Engr. Prof. Obot Ekpo Essien belonged to this last group. He stood firmly for the truth always. The likes of Prof. Obot Essien are rare to find. He stood out eminently for the truth and against injustice meted out on the powerless even when he is not in any way related to the person(s) that are being victimized. Prof. Essien was an advocate for the poor, the downtrodden, and those whose academic rights were denied.

In my many years struggles to serve the University of Uyo and the entire academic community to the best of my ability I had always sought for his advice. I will ever cherish his encouraging words and moderation. His Deanship brought peace, justice and academic excellence to the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria.

As a world-wide acclaimed Professor of Agricultural Engineering, he published numerous research papers and graduated several students. Many of his students are now Lecturers in different Universities including the University of Uyo, Nigeria. Professor Essien served meritoriously in the Faculty of Engineering as Dean. It is important to mention here that it was during his Deanship that the First Edition of Journal of Research and

Innovations in Engineering (JORIE) was published. During this period I was an Associate Editor of the Journal, and he always gave us maximum support whenever we needed it, especially during the difficult formative years.

On behalf of the staff and students of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, I wish to extend our condolences to his wife, children and fellow academics especially his daughter Engr. Sinemobong O. Essien who is lecturing with us in the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria. May God grant us the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss. May we take solace in the fact that he is resting in the bosom of our loving Father.

**Engr. Prof. Aniekan Offiong**

*Dean, Faculty of Engineering*

**CONGRATULATION TO AN ERUDITE ACADEMIC AND A LUMINARY PROFESSIONAL: ENGR. PROF. LINUS O. ASUQUO, THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL METALLURGICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, JOS, PLATEAU STATE, NIGERIA,** *Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering* , Volume 3, Number 2, 2018, ISSN: 2659-1790

I am sure many will be wondering why the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, is doing a profile on Engr. Prof. L.O. Asuquo in this Edition of the volume 3 number 2, 2018 of the Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering. The reasons are obvious and many. Firstly, this Professor has green fingers; he greens and makes everything he touches fruitful. He is got Midas touch everything he touches turns to gold; including people's lives, an encounter with him will convince you. He is a difference maker. During his tenure as the Dean of Engineering the Faculty started the Faculty welfare programme under the supervision of the Welfare Committee. Staff promotions in the Faculty was his priority; to further his vision of staff growth the Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering was floated in 2015. We as his professional colleagues no doubt are duty bound and obliged to profile this professional luminary. Time will however, fail us to mention all the reasons behind our motivation to do this profiling on this egg-head who was appointed last year July by President Muhammadu Buhari to head NMDC Jos as the DG. We use this medium to say congratulation and may the good Lord protect and see you through in your new assignment.

This profiling is borne out of our deep conviction and hallowed thought that a colleague who have excelled should be x-rayed to serve as role model to the younger ones; and as encouragement to others, that hard work and trust in God still pays.

Engr. Prof. L.O. Asuquo is a Pastor with the Redeemed Church of God. He values his strong relationship with God and is not ashamed of his faith. He started his working career with the Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Kogi State May3, 1983. His hard work and commitment took him to the rank and position of Chief Lecturer and Director of School of Metallurgy and Materials Technology before he transferred his services to University of Uyo in 1997 as a Senior Lecturer. He became the pioneer HOD of Mechanical Engineering; then Coordinator, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Vice Dean, Ag. Dean, and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo. The news of his good work in the University went far and wild like wild fire. At the return of democratic government in Nigeria, he was made Hon Special Adviser for

Science and Technology, Akwa ibom state in 2000. His excellent work in that capacity convinced the Governor, Obong Victor Attah to quickly appoint him Hon. Commissioner for Science and Technology in 2003. After his excellent service in the public sector which culminated into several gains for the state, he came back to the department of Mechanical Engineering in 2007 as Vice Dean and HOD. He was promoted to Associate Prof. in 2010 and full Professor in 2013. During this period of his return he also served as Ag. Dean and Substantive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering.

Prof. L.O. Asuquo holds a M.SC. Degree in Metallurgical Engineering and a PhD in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. In terms of professional affiliations; he is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE), Fellow of the Nigerian Metallurgical Society (FNMS), Fellow of Institute of Quality Assurance of Nigeria (FIQAN), Registered Engineer (COREN), Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering (FNAE).

Prof. L.O. Asuquo has supervised student's projects at various levels of learning. He has also taught so many courses right from the time he was at the polytechnic down to his time as a University lecturer. This luminary scholar has had a positive influence on the younger ones for decades. He is well published; he has to his credit over five books, several technical reports and over fifty journals and conference papers in both local and international journals. He has attended countless conferences internationally and locally.

In 2018 in recognition of his ginormous achievements in the field of engineering the Nigerian Academy of Engineering awarded him a Fellow. The same year the President of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed him the Director General of the National Metallurgical Development Centre, Jos. The staff of the Centre are today very happy because he took over the job at a time that the Centre was virtually moribund. Today NMDC is a beehive of activities. The overgrown bushes have been cleared, standby generators reactivated and so many equipment and repairs carried out. It is heart-gladdening that everything is moving on fine. He is working relentlessly to expose the Centre and her activities far and wide.

This extraordinary gentleman, great academician is married to Felicia Asuquo and they are blessed with several children. Ladies and gentlemen, join us in thanking God for our beacon star of this journal edition. Till we come your way again with another role model in our next edition. Remain blessed.

**Prof. Aniekan Offiong**

*Dean, Faculty of Engineering*

**SPOT-LIGHTING AN ACADEMIC GIANT AND AN ERUDITE SCHOLAR: ENGR. PROF. ANIEDI OKON ETTE, PROFESSOR OF METALLURGICAL AND MATERIALS ENGINEERING IN THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF UYO.** *Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering*, Volume 4, Number 1, 2019, ISSN: 2659-1790

Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you to our journal, the Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering (JORIE), Volume 4, Number 2, 2019. In this edition our spotlight has fallen on another extraordinary gentleman. He is a pattern, a paradigm and an example of the embodiment of a role model. Engr. Prof. Aniedi O. Ette has mentored so many people, since his return to Nigeria. He came with the aim of training metallurgical Engineers for the industrialization of Nigeria. He came back at a time Nigeria had ventured into iron and steel production and needed qualified manpower to man the industry. Today his goal has been achieved, some of his students are Professors, captains of industries and leaders in various fields of endeavors. When his former students remember him, they remember him as a teacher with great intellectual capability, a great communicator, and for his philosophical sayings which have moulded their adult life.

Once more, ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to beam my spotlight on this great Nigerian, an academician par excellence, an erudite scholar of great standing, an influencer and a role model. The engineering career of this great man started outside the shores of this country, after the completion of his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Metallurgy, minor in Mathematics in 1983 from the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, USA, he lectured in the University there and had other international job offers but he turned all of them down for love of country.

Upon return to Nigeria in 1986 he picked up appointment with University of Jos, Makurdi campus, Makurdi, which later became University of Agriculture as Lecturer 1 in the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, where he remained until he transferred his services to University of Uyo in 2002. His penchant for hard work yielded result and by 2003 he became a distinguished Professor of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering. Our star has held exalted positions in the University like, head of Department, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, and Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Uyo, Uyo.

Prof. Ette as he is fondly called by colleagues is a renowned academician who has won such awards as INCO Academic Award, Philips Petroleum Fellowship, MMRRRI Fellowship, and Outstanding Contribution Award at the First Nigerian University Research and Development Fair, National University Commission (NUC). Time will fail me to enumerate all the achievements of this great scholar, but permit me to say that his research activities started way back in his days in the USA, where he carried out high level research work. Today to his credit he has pattern rights, numerous journal and conference publications in both local and international journals and conferences. Our erudite Professor is a committed Christian who is married with three children. Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure at this juncture you will agree with me that the spotlight on our role model for this edition has truly painted a picture of an icon, a gold fish, an illustrious personality and a man of glittering achievements. If that is the case, why not remain tuned to our journal, as our friends in the broadcast media will say, until we come your way again in the next edition of our journal with another illustrious personality.

I remain yours,

**Engr. Prof. Aniekan Offiong**

Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Uyo.

**SPOT-LIGHTING AN ERUDITE SCHOLAR AND AN ACADEMIC ICON: ENGR PROF. CHARLES ETIM AKPAN UKO, A PROFESSOR OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING IN FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF UYO.** *Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering*, Volume 4 Number 2, 2019, ISSN: 2659-1790

In this edition of our journal, the Journal of Research and Innovations in Engineering, Volume 4, Number 1, 2019 it is our singular honour and privilege to spot-light another academic icon and an accomplished Professional Engineer who is a Professor of Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering, of the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State-Nigeria. Prof. Charles Uko as he is fondly called by colleagues is a very humble, self-effacing, and an extraordinary gentleman. I am sure you will be wondering by now how our search-light spotted him. There is this common adage in English parlance or lexicon that a gold fish has no hiding place. A profiling of this Professor will convince you that he is not just a gold fish, but the paradigm that will inspire the upcoming engineers and many of us. Kindly join me in this write-up as I profile Engr. Prof. Charles Uko.

Engr. Prof. Charles Uko was born on December 13, 1954 to Mr & Mrs Akpan Uko of Ndiya, at Nsit Ubium L.G.A of Akwa Ibom State-Nigeria. The Professor distinguished himself very early in life by excelling right from primary school to the University level, his academic performance was a consistent one. For instance, he graduated with distinction in his First School Leaving Certificate, First Class Degree honours in Civil Engineering at University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Distinction, M.Sc Degree in Construction Engineering at Leeds, UK, and had his Ph.D in Structural Engineering in the same University in record time.

The Distinguished Professor's working experience has been equally intimidating and inspiring. His early working experience in the 70s saw him teaching mathematics in the secondary school, as a youth corper in the late 70s he lectured at Kwara College of Technology, Ilorin, Kwara State. From where he move onto MRT Consulting Engineering at Chad Basin Irrigation Project Borno State as Assistant Engineer. His quest to impart knowledge to the younger generation led him to pick-up appointment as Lecturer I with University of Port-Harcourt in 1984. He became commissioner for Lands and Housing, Akwa Ibom State in 1988 and served under Brig. Gen. J.T. Ogbaha (Rtd), and Air Commodore I.O. Nkanga (Rtd). During the period he was also the Chairman, Board of Directors, Quality Ceramics Ltd, Itu, Akwa Ibom State. He joined the services of University of Uyo in 1995 as Senior Lecturer. In 1988 he was appointed Assistant Director on Special Grade Level 16 with

PTF, Abuja this was special to him. By 1999 he was made Deputy Director, Office of the Minister for Special Projects, the Presidency, Abuja. His professional acumen led to his appointment in 2001 as Technical Assistant to Executive Director (projects), NDDC, Port-Harcourt. In 2002 he came back to University of Uyo and by 2003 became an Associate Professor of Structural Engineering and between the period of 2007-2015 became a full Professor of Structural Engineering, University of Uyo. It was within the same period that the University noticing the vast experience of the Professor made him the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Admin), and Akwa Ibom State University, Ikot Akpaden made him a Visiting Professor and later Adjunct Professor.

Ladies and gentlemen, time will fail me to completely spot-light the accomplishments of our paradigm and role model, but permit me to say this, that he has been the pioneer Coordinator of the Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, a God-fearing man, a revered and respected Public Speaker who has touched so many lives, a well published academician with journal papers in both local and international journals, books, and refereed conference proceedings. He has equally served as the National Vice President of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria. He has several honours and awards to his credit and he is happily married to Mrs. Patricia Charles Uko, this union has produced five beautiful and handsome children. Ladies and gentlemen, please, join us in thanking God for our spot-light of this journal edition. Till we come your way again with another role model in our next edition. Remain blessed.

**Engr. Prof. Aniekan Offiong.**

Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Uyo.



**EXHORTATION**

Whether you are a Student, an Employee, a Lecturer, Departmental Manager, Chief Executive Officer, Businessman, Governor of a State or President of a Country, there are lessons to be learnt from my life which will help your dream come true. The first seven of these lessons I have already discussed in my first book “The Power of the Dream”. Another seven of these lessons were discussed in my second book “Living the Dream”. In this book, I will assume that you already have your dream and go ahead to discuss another seven lessons that will help make your dream come true under the following headings:

- Train and work for the actualization of your dream;
- Develop strategies for overcoming hindrances to your dream;
- Stay focused on your dream;
- Prioritize your life in line with your dream;
- Be ready to face opposition to your dream;
- Be patience for your dream to come true;
- Know that promotion comes from God;

**Train and Work for the Actualization of your Dream.**

Most of the time when we have dreams, we are not yet ready for them. We at that time may not have the ability to handle the big things that we are dreaming about. There is always the need to train and work for our dream to come true. You must understand the process of making your dream come true. For example, the dream of becoming a Professor of Mechanical Engineering will involve studying to obtain credit passes in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and any other two subject credit passes at the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination. It will involve having a Bachelors, Masters and Doctorate degree in Mechanical Engineering. After this training, you will also be required to work hard in the University that you are employed in terms of teaching, research and community development. This will involve the publication of several research papers and parenting of a couple of inventions. Even though this process seem long, it is not designed to keep us from our dream, but rather it is designed to prepare us for the Dream in character and in learning. We were not born with character and learning. We have to learn them. When we were in the postgraduate school, many people drop their dreams of becoming professors because they could not endure hardship. I believe that hardship are part of God’s perfect plans for our dream to come true. I have come to see that the delay that I encountered on my way of becoming a Professor was to prepare me to be a better Professor/Dean/University Administrator. Sometimes, we think that, just

because we are going through hardship, that God is not been working with us towards the actualization of our dreams. Sometimes, we want our dreams to come true when we are not yet qualified. For you to become a Vice Chancellor in a University you normally must have to start by being Head of Department of your Department, the Dean of your Faculty, before you can consider yourself for the high office of the Vice Chancellor. God promise to us is that he will direct our steps. He has plans for each of us, but he brings those plans to pass in a gradual way. In reality, dreams come true in installments, it is usually a process. All human beings have dreams, but only hard working human beings have their dream come true. I only needed about 20 journal articles to be made a professor but I presented 65 journal articles and 5 highly researched textbooks. Sometimes when you see people say they are unluck they may actually be lazy people. Some people will blame others for chattering their dreams but when you look closer you will notice that these are just excuses. Life will presents it challenges, but is no excused for us to abundant our dreams mid way. Finally, I want to say, know your basic job well, do it well and be better than anyone else. Here are some tips on how to be the best lecturer in your Department.

- Submit your results at least two weeks after any examination;
- Start your lecture on the first week of resumption of any semester;
- Publish at least three papers per session;
- Revise and improve your lecture notes every semester;
- Attend all classes and ensure that you cover the syllabus each semester;
- Mentor your students well especially your project students and postgraduate students;
- Be well dressed all the time and endeavor to always be a role model;
- Be very fair and thorough in your grading system which must involve the use of sound marking scheme;
- Set reasonable questions which covers the entire syllabus; and observe a strict adherence to the basic principle of intellectual life while discharging your duties.

Understand that you cannot actually be said to be a successful professor if your students do not hold you in high esteem.

### **Develop Strategies for Overcoming hindrances to your Dream.**

The best approach to overcoming hindrances to your dream is to live a discipline life. There are many people with very good dreams who are dying prematurely because the consistently take food and drinks they are not good for them. It is important that you take care of your health, if you are to live and

see your dream come true. Your dream may take thirty years to be fulfilled, so you need to eat what is right. You need good vitamins and supplement to stay healthy. Please avoid smoking and drinking excessive alcohol. When I was growing up the greatest threat to my dream was my health, until I meet my Polish Doctor who was able to treat and counselled me to good health up till today. For the past thirty years I have not been hospitalized because of the preventive medical procedure that I have learnt to use to make body fit all the time. I thank God for this Grace. Note that when you neglect your health issues, you will be falling sick always and this will hinder the progress of your dream. So many people have die half way into their dream. Be sure that you are not abusing alcohol, drugs or sex. They have the ability to easily terminate your dream. Think of what will happen to your dream if as a young man you put a woman into family way. You will be forced to marry her when you are not yet ready. If you are not willing to marry her then it means before you even start a family, you have already had a broken family. This is not good for your dream. For the young woman, it is even worse. How can you make her dream come true with a baby outside wedlock? This will certainly be a narrow path. Again, do not forget that premarital sex is associated with health risk in terms of sexually transmitted disease. Note premarital sex is an enemy to your dream at whatever level even among adults. This is the main reason why many family breaks up and several dreams are chattered. I still remember when I was first employed at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. My Professor said welcome onboard the Faculty. For you to be successful, you must not have anything to do with the female students here. As a University Professor this has to be included among the strategies for overcoming hindrances to your dream. Another area you must discipline yourself is in finances. Put your resources in things that will help you actualize your dreams. As a young lecturer, it is not advisable for you to spend money in buying things that are more expensive than you can afford and that you do not need. It is advisable for you to channel your money into research and publication. I cannot round up this discussion on discipline without a warning about what you should not spend much of your time to read as a lecturer. I do not advice you to spend much of your time reading romantic novels. They make you live in a fantasy and not your true dream. You should spend more time reading something that helps you do your work and make your dream come true.

Finally, I must say something about taking advantage of your students. Do not indulge in this kind of acts. Even if you are not caught and disgraced out of office. There will come a time when you will become talk of the town. Imagine how your life will be when you are walking around in town and your

former students now well to do people in the society will be pointing fingers at you as a morally decadent lecturer. There nothing as humiliating like that. You have to be discipline and law abiding for your dream to come true.

### **Stay Focused on your Dream.**

You have to be passionate about your dream for it to come true. This is because in the process of pursuing your dream, there will be resistance. The only way to overcome resistance is to be passionate about your dream. Passion is the ability to say, I am going after my dream, no matter what happens. Many people have not been able to actualize their dreams because they give up the first time they fail. I submitted my papers for assessment for promotion to rank of Associate Professor annually for 10 years. Every year, I will be given an unreasonable excuse why I will not be promoted. I was not disturbed but every year, I continues to research and publish in reputable journals. With all this tribulation I continue to teach faithfully. I know why I was delayed was because what I was doing was something very significant. This problem is usually there when you step outside what others expected you to be. There will be people who will come out to lie about you or start a rumour about you. Don't worry about this, keep on working and pursuing your dream. If I had been too worried about people's side talk, my IRDI dream will have long been dead, but I keep on working. I even put this down in my reply to the query thus;

“Finally I want to say that I will continue to serve the University of Uyo and the entire academic community to the best of my ability, maintaining the highest possible standard and the finest of academic tradition and honesty”.

My passion for intellectual life was certainly more powerful than the opposition from those around me. I was very clear about what I was doing and I kept on doing it. If I had buckled my dreams will not have come true. Sometimes people who are most detrimental to your living your dream are members of your family. I remember that my family was initially opposed to my taking up an intellectual life. They tried to convince me that an intellectual life will not be good for a first son since the tendency is for me to be in school for a long time and thereafter the salary will not still compare with the oil company job they had secured for me. Sometimes also, people that are dear to you may be involved. I remember a dedicated and dear member of the IRDI suggesting that we should shutdown the activities institute when the investigation panel was set up. Do not hesitate to pull away from the influence of the people that are dear to you if they are trying to limit you. Finally, my

advice to you is to be focused on achieving your dream. Keep your eyes on a goal and never take them off it, until your dream come true.

**Prioritize your Life in Line with your Dream.**

You have to learn to prioritize for your dream to make it come true. In life, you are always faced with alternatives and as such you are constantly require to make choices. Your preferences reveal who you are and what you value in life. When God has given you a dream, you need to prioritize your life in line with your dream. This will involve you examining all the activities you are currently involved in to know which of them are beneficial to your dream. There might not necessarily be anything wrong with some of the activities you are going to drop, but you must drop them because they are not right for you to be involved in based on what you need to achieve. There are some people you must drop not that they are bad people but because they are not right as far as what you want to accomplish is concerned. You may not have to read some good books because they will take your time and yet still the have the tendency to distract you. There must come a point in your life when you focus straight on your dream. You must learn at this point to say yes to only what is in accordance with your dream and not to do anything else.

Many examples are bound. During the last year of my doctorate programme in order to enable me complete the programme, I had two new year resolutions; (i) I will not attend any social function unless it is absolutely necessary and (ii) I will not spend money on anything except on necessities and my Doctorate programme.

Infact, I still belief that for you to do any good doctorate programme this two new year resolutions must somehow come into your lifestyle. Your marital life can never be healthy until you say yes to only your wife and not to every other woman. Before I close my discussion here, I have to free you from a very common mistake in life – trying to do everything. You are not born to do everything. You cannot solve all the problems of the world. All the problems in the University System cannot be solved by you. All the problems in Nigeria cannot be addressed by you. This is the reason why you must have your dream and you must constantly working to actualize it. Your priorities should be things that will help you actualize your dreams. First on your priority should be establishing personal relationship with God your creator. When you have established a good relationship with God, he will reveal to you the step by step approach to make your dream come true. With this revelation, a lot of the

extraneous things will fall away on their own, allowing you set your priorities right.

**Be ready to face opposition to your dream.**

It is interesting to know that when you have dream and begin to pursue it earnestly, all your enemies will seem to wake up. As long as you are doing nothing about your dream, there will be no problems, but immediately you decide to make your dream come true, opposition arises. Not only your enemies are prone to this kind of attacks on your dream but both your friends and associates. Your friends and associates will not like you to leave them behind and move on with your good life. Before you can make your dream come true, you must get used to the idea that people will gossip about you and even make false charges against you because of your dream. This opposition is part of the process and is often a proof that you are doing something important. It may actually advertise what you are doing. When my IRDI dream was under investigation in the University of Uyo it received the highest degree of patronage because of the news the investigation panel had created. Many people came to join the association and even in fall in love with the revival movement. At that time, we had a membership close to twelve thousand. As soon as we won the case, membership returned to about ten thousand has remain around there for a number of years. Note that the members of your family are not left out in this opposition. Members of your family may be supportive or not. But you have to carry them along. Understand that you have live with them for such a long time that they think you are just an ordinary person. I remember once my mother say this about my IRDI dream. I hope that this will not affect you, but from the look on her face I knew that she was not convenience, so I decided to be inviting her to our programmes and conferences. When she attend the First International Conference on Scientific and Industrial Studies at the University of Uyo organized by IRDI she even became our patron. By the time the University set up a panel to investigate the organization, she was already on my sight and I knew that she talk to at least three professors in University of Uyo about the legitimacy of my dream. In her everyday prayers she will not forget praying for the IRDI. She is a life patron of the Deltona International Schools, an educational facility owned by the IRDI. Sometime you need to pull away from your people to live your dream. The IRDI has not hosted programme in the University of Uyo for many years now. Also, the IRDI does not permit the sales of my books to University of Uyo students whereas thousands of these books are sold to University students worldwide. There is nothing strange about this because it is scriptural. Our Lord Jesus Christ himself did not do

many miracles at his hometown because of their lack of faith. “And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honour except in his own town and in his own home’.”

Do not sacrifice your dreams because of the fear of the investigation panel. Face it stated your case and fight back if the need be. In trying to live your dream, most of the time you will have to question the status quo. Make no mistake this is a serious issue. Do not ignore the crises that comes with this, work on it and reach out. In my fight to save my IRDI dreams, I reach out to the Government and its high ranking officials and the promise to stand by the institute provided we are law abiding and pay our taxes as and when due. In your fight against the opposition as you must keep your hands clean. Do not show fear or indecision, but do not be angry to avoid mistakes. Be sincere to yourself, acknowledge mistakes, correct them and avoid similar ones. Do enough research into what is the problem, choose reliable advisers and master the art of delivering your message. Be charismatic and committed to learning. Know when to step back and do not get caught up in personal vendettas. Above all, put yourself in other people’s place. Know that some of them are acting ignorantly, and make the best out of this bad situation. Console yourself with the fact that opposition is a proof that you are doing something significant with your life. No matter how challenging it gets, do not give up your dream, because your dream is the key to fulfilling your life’s purpose.

#### **1. Be patience for your dream to come true.**

Many people are not willing to wait for their dream to come true, but if you are hardworking and patient, your dream will certainly come true. You cannot rush your actualization of your dream. The dream was given to you by God and he will make it come true in his own time. All you need is to keep on working towards the actualization of your dream. God’s promise to us is to take us step by step to the actualization of our dream. God did not promise to catapult us to our dream. You have to continually adjust your plan for your dream to come true.

It is very good to put deadlines on your goals, but you must understand that those deadlines are subject to rearrangement as God directs, and that your dream will come to pass at just the right time. Your dream will come true at the fullness of time. I spent Fourteen years as Senior lecturer in the University of Uyo instead of the normal three (3) years, during those waiting time, if I am asked have you been made Professor, I will simply answer, I am waiting for God’s time. Waiting for God’s time brings peace in the midst of uncertainty.

For example, I was at peace when some of my colleagues who paper were burnt at Vice Chancellors office alongside mine were worrying about their delayed promotion. No one can actually delay a child of God's promotion. Professor L. O. Asuquo then my Dean will always say Dr. Offiong do not worry when your promotion comes it will come in a grand style and with additional blessing. To God be the Glory. This exactly how it came to pass. My promotion to the rank of Professor came with many other blessings. For one I was voted Dean within one month of the announcement of my Professorship. Three of my six children entered the University within that period, it really came with many other blessing as that same year I was issued with certificate occupancy for the Deltona International Schools. The scripture says a patient man is stronger than a mighty warrior. In my battle with those opposed to my IRDI dream, I discovered that what really annoyed them most was my patience. They held back my promotion for many years and I simple said there is no problem, it is just temporary after all my job is not my life. It is merely a classroom to prepare me for the IRDI dream.

When it was obvious to them that their action cannot offend me, they let go my promotion. When I was elected Dean, a Seniorcolleague and Professor who is also Pastor in one of Pentecostal Churches came to visit me in the Dean's office. He said that he has come to share the word of God with me and request my forgiveness of all those who offended me. He was so surprised when I said that those people never offended me because before their action manifested, God had already reveal to me the IRDI dream and with such Godly dream, no one can actually offend me. God only use them as tool for my promotion to come at the fullness of time. May God give us the grace to patiently wait for our dream to come true at the fullness of time.

## **2. Know that promotion comes from God.**

While working for your promotion, know that promotion comes from God. This means that for your dream to come true, you must have a daily, dynamic personal prayer life with God. Remember that God is not only the one who placed in you your dream, but your continuing support as work toward the realization of your dream. It is only through prayers that you can realize your dream because prayer is what keeps you connected to God your creator. Whenever you are attacked, opposed, envied or criticized because you are pursuing your dream, always remember to go to God in prayers. Let me share with you the scripture that has been my guide on this issue. The scripture that gave me hope during the fourteen years that I spend as a Senior Lecturer in the University of Uyo without promotion (2002-2016). Psalm 75:6-7 "For



promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. It is God alone who judges; he decides who will rise and who will fall. God promotes and He is the one who demotes”.

This revelation set me free from my expectation from other people. Use to think within myself I have serve in the University of Uyo for my years and I have not offended or insulted any of my professor, but rather I have serve them faithfully why can't they stand up for me in this issue. Why is it that only my professors at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka that are worried about my stagnation and the effect it is going to have on my carrier.

Sometimes, we think that other people should help us towards the actualization of our dreams. We think that people should see our talents and open doors for us, and if they don't, we get disappointed. This disappointment can turn into unforgiveness and if we are not careful, this unforgiveness can turn into bitterness and then we loss focus on our dream. But all these can change if we have a scriptural understanding that promotion comes from God alone. He alone knows the fullness of his plans for us. He alone is the Door-opener, when God opens, no one can shuts and when God shuts, no one can open.

Our promotion is completely up to God of course, we have to obey His words and seek Him first. God does not need anybody else's permission to promote you. However, he will use people since promotion comes from God then it follows that God honours the leaders that he Himself place over you.

God works in a miraculous way, someone who did not know you yesterday can call you tomorrow and promote you because God wants him or her to do it. When Professor FolaLasisi, the first Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo, employed me and appointed me to be the Head the Department of Mechanical Engineer at age twenty-eight he did not know me. When the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo Professor (Mrs.) Comfort M. Ekpo set me free from the cabal and order for my assessment / promotion to the rank of Associate Professor that was delayed due to unfair accusation, she did not know me. When our Vice Chancellor Professor Enefiok E. Essien SAN over saw and announce my promotion to the rank of Professor and appointed me Dean after few days of my Promotion he did not know me.

When we remind God that Promotion comes from Him alone and also choose to humblytrust in Him, He will promote us in due time. I thank God for my

promotion to the rank of full Professor on October 1, 2014 and for the opportunity to celebrate this promotion in November 28, 2019 through the University of Uyo Inaugural Lecture series.

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### **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

*Institution Attended with Date:* Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, GCE Programme.-1979 – 1984;University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Faculty of Engineering, Bachelors Programme.- 1984 – 1989; University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Postgraduate School, Masters Programme. -1991 – 1993; University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Postgraduate School, Doctorate Programme. -1994 – 1997 *Academic Qualification obtained with Date:* West African Examination Council, General Certificate of Education (GCE).1984; Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) Hon. in Mechanical, Engineering. -1989; Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Mechanical Engineering, with Specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management. 1993; Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mechanical Engineering with Specialization in Industrial Engineering and Management. -1997; *Distinctions and Awards with Dates:* Cross River State Government Scholarship for Undergraduate, Studies. -1984 – 1989; University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Staff Development Grant. 1994 – 1997

### **WORKING EXPERIENCE WITH DATE**

National Youth Service Corp Member Engineer at Ferdinand, Group of Companies, Enugu, Nigeria. 1990 – 1991, Maintenance/Research Engineer in Ferdinand Group of Companies, Enugu, Nigeria. 1991 – 1994; Lecturer II in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 1994 – 1997; Lecturer I in the Department of Mechanical Engineering,

University of Nigeria, Nsukka, 1997 –1998; Lecturer I in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Uyo, Nigeria, 1998 – 2001; Head of Department, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria. 1998 – 2001; Sabbatical Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Nigeria, 2004 – 2005; Sabbatical Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Cross River University of Technology, Calabar, Nigeria, 2012 – 2013; Senior Lecturer, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, 2002 – 2011; Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, 2011 – 2014; Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, 2014 – Date; Dean, Faculty of Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, 2017 – Date

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Cooperate Member, Nigerian Institute of Production Engineers, Membership, No. 0021; Cooperate Member, Nigerian Society of Engineer, Membership No. 11,095; Registered Engineer, Council for the Regulation Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Registration Number R. 10,277.

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3. Offiong, A. 1996, Development of a coordinated Maintenance and Replacement Scheduling Program for Industries, PhD. Thesis, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

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#### **Editorship of Journals and Proceedings**

1. Editor-in-Chief, Global Journal of Mechanical Engineering (2000-date), Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
2. Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Science and Technology Research (2002-date), International Research and Development Institute, Uyo, Nigeria.
3. Editorial Consultant, Nigeria Journal of Mechanical Engineering (2002-date), Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.
4. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of the First National Conference of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, May, 2001.
5. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of Annual Conference of Science and Technology Forum, November 16-17, 2005, University of Uyo, Nigeria.
6. Editor-in-Chief, Proceedings of Annual Conference of IRDI Research and Development Network, June 28-29, 2006, University of Calabar, Nigeria.
7. Associate Editor, Proceeding of International Conference on Scientific and Industrial Studies, March 13-16, 2007, University of Uyo, Nigeria.

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1. First National Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Production Engineers, University of Benin, Nigeria, June 22-24, 1994.
2. Second National Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Production Engineers, University of Benin, Nigeria, July 23-24, 1998.
3. First National Conference of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Uyo, Nigeria, May 2-3, 2001.
4. First Annual Conference of IRDI Science and Technology Forum, University of Uyo, Nigeria, November, 16-17, 2005.
5. Annual Conference of IRDI Research and Development Network, University of Calabar, Nigeria, June 28-29, 2006.
6. Second Annual Conference of IRDI Science and Technology Forum, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, November 22-23, 2006.

7. International Conference on Scientific and Industrial Studies, University of Uyo, Nigeria, March 13-16, 2007.
8. International Conference on Research and Development, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana, November 25-28, 2008.
9. Third International Conference on Scientific and Industrial Studies, Faculty of Engineering Board Room, University of Benin, Nigeria, February 10-13, 2009.
10. Third African Regional Conference on Sustainable Development, Commassie Hall, Imo State University, Owerri, Nigeria, July 15-16, 2009.
11. Third International Conference on Research and Development, Conference Hall, Miklin Hotels, East Legon, Accra, Ghana, November 23-26, 2010.
12. Second International Conference on Culture, Science and Sustainable Development, Salle Audio Visuelle, University of Abomey-Calavi, Cotonou, Republic of Benin, August 23-26, 2011.
13. Fifth International Conference on Research and Development, Conference Hall, Hotel Residence Carlos, Buea, South West Region, Cameroon, November 20-25, 2011.
14. Sixth International Conference on Research and Development, University Auditorium, University of Lome, Togo, May 14-17, 2012.
15. Fifth International Conference on Culture, Science and Sustainable Development, Songhai Centre, Republic of Benin, October 8-11, 2012.

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This Resume was sign by Prof. Aniekan Offiong and Dated January 1, 2020.