

I Fought As A Biafran Soldier - OCJ Okocha

By Allwell Sofiri Ene
Reporter



.Okocha

(SAN) O.C.J Okocha, last week, at the main auditorium of the Rivers State House of Assembly said he was part of the Biafran contingent that fought to secede from Nigeria.

Okocha who was a guest speaker at the lecture in honour of late, ex-Biafra leader, Dim Ojukwu entitled: "The Eastern Region and its Reminiscences" said, "I was trained on how to operate a weapon known as MGZ".

He said on enrolment, he was drafted into the Special Brigade Division (SBD) and later posted to the Department of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.

According to him, it was as a Biafran soldier that he

understood that Ojukwu was actually "a man of truth, justice and integrity".

He said at that time the Eastern region exhibited a spirit of resourcefulness and enterprise which made them able to produce bombs and other warfare weapons and wondered why that spirit is no more.

He hinged the collapse

P.H: NOUN Offers Admission To 21 Prisoners

Twenty one inmates of Port Harcourt prison participated in the seventh matriculation ceremony of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), 2011/2012 academic session.

The Controller of Prisons, Rivers State Command, Mr. Jerome Ogundana, expressed appreciation to the management of NOUN for extending its services to the prison community, noting that education will go a long way in helping the prison authorities achieve their aim of reforming the inmates in their custody.

He advised the inmates that have been admitted to study various courses at the university despite their incarceration, to make good use of the opportunity so as to secure a better future for themselves and become more useful to the society. He also appealed to prison officers to use the opportunity provided by the NOUN programmes to improve themselves, pointing

of Biafra to nepotism and the ploy of the Igbos to hijack and dominate it. "Even before the war ended, many had ceased to support Biafra", Okocha said.

He called on all to emulate the bravery and courage of the "late hero".

Another Speaker at the lecture and the Former Governor

of Rivers State, Sir. Dr. Peter Odili described Ojukwu as a man who stood for justice and hated suppression adding that the late Ojukwu was brilliant, focused and an eloquent man who made decisions and backed them with actions. ###

renowned legal luminary and Senior Advocate of Nigeria

Dickson Sets Up 11-Man Financial Mgt C'ttee

Bayelsa State Governor, Seriake Dickson, has appointed an 11-man Financial Management Committee led by the former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Mr. Timi Alaibe, to offer professional advice on the proposed fiscal policies, revenue generation and allocation of resources of the state for accelerated restoration and development.

Also appointed were Honorary Special Advisers to the Governor to help the government in its restoration agenda.

Meanwhile, Dickson, met with the leadership of the state House of Assembly and the Ijaw leaders from states of the Niger Delta, over the new policy direction of his administration to solicit their support on decisions to be taken to fast-track development in the state.

Dickson, who spoke at the ceremony marking the Ijaw National Day, said though the people might find it tedious to adjust to the reforms, there was the need for the Ijaw leaders to assist in explaining reasons for such reforms and see the administration as central to the Ijaw ethnic advancement.

According to the

statement by Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media and Publicity, Mr. Daniel Iworiso-Markson, those appointed Honorary Special Advisers are Chief Joshua Fumudoh, Ijaw National Affairs; King Amalete Turner, Intergovernmental Relations; Prof. T. Isoun, Education; Mr. Ben Murray-Bruce, Investment and Tourism; Dr. Daru Owei, Multinational Relations; Mr. Atedo Peterside, Finance and Economy and Chief Alex Ekiotenmi, Special Adviser.

In a related development, Governor Seriake Dickson also approved the appointment of a new General Manager for the State-owned Television station, Gloryland TV, Mr. Tamarakuro Oweifie.

Dickson, meanwhile assured the new leadership of the state House of Assembly led by the Speaker, Kombowei Benson, that he would never interfere in the affairs and asked them to assist in the restoration agenda of his administration, which he said, was already yielding dividend.

He said that his administration should be considered an INC administration due to the resolve to welcome on board intellectuals of Ijaw origin into the running of the administration. ###

8 Men Charged With Murder

By Samuel Chinda
Assistant Editor

Eight (8) men, Godspower Amdi Nwakere Alias Shehu 32yrs, Bright Njoku 18yrs, Promise Mgbeodi Friday 20yrs, Happiness Nwankwo 29yrs, Chibuzor Okere Alias Rocky/Alaowere 35yrs, John Echazola Nwala Alias Eche Eche 35yrs, Chinedu Elechi 24yrs and Samuel Onwumelu Otamiri Alias Stone are standing trial before a Port Harcourt Magistrate Court presided over by Chief Magistrate E.C Woke on charge No. PMC/283C/2012 for murder.

On count one, the accused persons on the 25th day of October, 2011 at about 1900hrs at three brothers drinking joint, Nihi, Etche conspired to commit felony to wit: murder and therefore committed an offence punishable under Section 324 of the Criminal

Code Cap 37 Vol. II Laws of Rivers State of Nigeria 2004.

On count two, the accused persons on the same date and place caused the death of one Chief Benson A. Nwogu by cutting him with a machet at the right hand and shooting him with gun on the chest, and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 319(1) of the Criminal Code Cap 37 Vol. II Laws of Rivers State of Nigeria 2004.

The presiding magistrate ordered that the case file of the accused persons be sent to Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for legal advice. The case was adjourned to 21st March, 2012 for further hearing. ###

ACN Wants Marshall Harry Immortalized

By Damiete West
Editor-in-Chief

Barely nine years after the brutal murder of a prominent politician in the South-South geo-political region, Dr. Marshall Sokari Harry, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) has called on the Federal Government and other relevant agencies to immortalise the late statesman.

A chieftain of the party, Hon. Tam Fred Harry who made the call at a press briefing in Port Harcourt on Monday, extolled the leadership qualities of Dr. Harry.

The ACN Chieftain described late Dr. Harry as a "sincere politician" who had brought succour to several families, "in his community - Obuama, Rivers State and other parts of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"Dr. Marshall Harry was a father to all. While living on earth he had brought good things not only to his community, but Nigeria as a whole. He was the brain behind the emergence of a President from the South-South region. Such a man needs to be immortalised", Hon Fred Harry argued.

Hon. Fred Harry, a

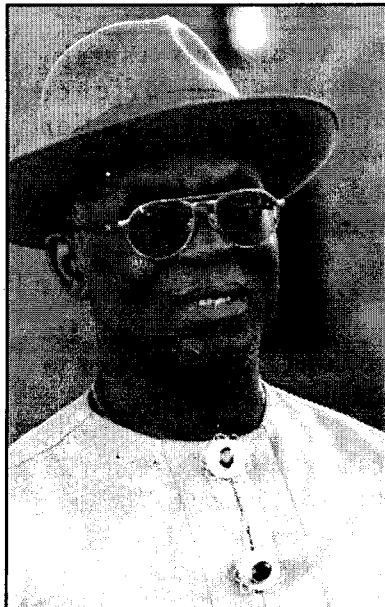
political leader in Obuama town in the Degema Local Government Area of Rivers State, declared that the late frontline politician would continue to be remembered by "democrats and progressive politicians", within and outside Nigeria.

He recalled that in the life time of the late Dr. Harry, Obuama was turned into "political Mecca" as politicians from all walks of life visited him at his Obuama residence for advise, "before contesting any

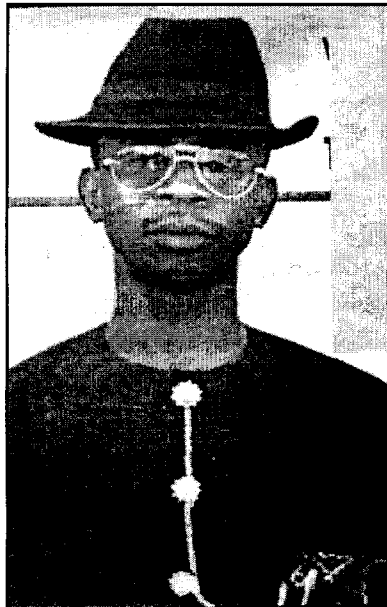
elective position".

Hon. Fred Harry said the killers of the late Marshall Harry would not have peace of mind until justice is done.

"Going by the word of God, no sinner will go unpunished. And we believe that very soon, God will visit the families of the killers of our father, brother and political mentor", Hon. Fred Harry concluded. ###



.Dr Marshall Harry



.Hon Fred Harry