

Ndigbo

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Erosion Submerging Villages, Killing People In Agulu Town

The 20 villages in Agulu town in Anaocha local government area of Anambra State comprising Obe Nkitaku, Ukunu, Okpu, Uhueme, Umubialla, Odidama, Obeagu, Nneogidi, Ifiteani, Ifite-Agulu, Isiamagbo, Umunnouwu, Amorji, Umuowelle, Okpu-Ifite, Nwanchi, Amatutu, Amigbo and others have in one accord sent a Save Our Soul message to the United Nations, the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Anambra State government respectively to urgently come to its rescue as erosion is submerging villages and killing people in the town.

This was the crux of the matter at the 80th anniversary of Agulu People's Union held at St. Peter's Church field Agulu on 31 December 2017 otherwise known as Agulu Day. It was a grand occasion as illustrious sons and daughters of Agulu community at home and in the Diaspora graced the groundbreaking ceremony where some of them were bestowed awards of excellent community service, diamond sons, diamond friends and so on.

Traditional ruler of Agulu town, Igwe Innocent Elochukwu Obodoakor Ezedinobi Ezeani, igwe iii of Agulu on the occasion thanked the entire people of Agulu community for their home-coming as well as being part of the 80th anniversary of Agulu Peoples' Union. Though he pointed out that the town would have had more development infrastructure wise but the town according to him, have had the misfortune of the Nigerian / Biafran civil war wherein the entire community sought refuge elsewhere only to return thereafter to pick up the pieces to rediscover itself again.

Although Igwe Obodoakor expressed joy at the level of human and infrastructure development in Agulu community but like the proverbial Oliver Twist, the traditional ruler lamented that Agulu town lacks a police post, courts even though he admitted also that a 5-star Agulu lake hotel is under construction; the hotel according to him, will further develop the town. The monarch told his people that most wor-



The erosion site

risome is that Agulu town has the worst erosion site in the state and that it is not what the Anambra State government can handle single-handedly. He said that the erosion site at Amigbo village Agulu is over two miles deep and has killed villagers in Agulu community as the landslide continues to spread to other nearby villages in the town.

Igwe Obodoakor stated that the magnitude of the landslide is not what even the federal government can handle except the United Nations intervenes to save Agulu town from extinction due to erosion insurgence.

Furthermore the President-General Agulu People's Union, Chief Andy Orakwelu Ochendo Agulu, while presenting his address of welcome to the people of Agulu on the occasion, said the celebration was a clarion call on the sons

and daughters of Agulu town to come home to chart a new course for the community. Orakwelu stated that the Agulu People's Union started in 1937 as an ordinary meeting in one Chief John Etolue's house but metamorphosed into what is generally known as Agulu People's Union today with branches all over Nigeria and in the Diaspora. He explained that APU offers the basis for brotherhood, sustenance of good neighbourliness with other towns as well as political relationship with government in power at the state, local and community levels respectively.

According to the boss of Agulu town union, APU has facilitated the siting of numerous developmental projects in the area to include rural electrification/installation of more transformers, general hospitals, post office, Agulu-Aguinyi, water projects, zonal NAFDAC

laboratory, fire service centre, erosion control projects, to mention just a few while requesting

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the Governor Willie Obiano to sustain the attention which he has started giving Agulu town adding that the town equally request that while initiating new projects, he should endeavour to complete all projects started in Agulu community by his predecessor Peter Obi. According to him, under the supervision of the APU, the Abbatoir project under the twenty million naira 'Choose Your Project Initiative of Anambra Government' was completed and currently awaiting commissioning. He said APU has embarked on another gigantic project he called Central Igwe Palace which would be sited at Obe village Agulu. Apart from the laudable projects of the Agulu Peoples' Union, the PG also stressed that the union is facing major challenge of paucity of funds and called on the wealthy sons and daughters of the town to support the activities of the union financially to enable it sustain tempo of development in the community.

On the other hand, Azubuike Okoye, who is the lawmaker representing Anaocha 1 state constituency in the Anambra State House of Assembly and former President-General of Agulu People's Union, noted that the most important thing that Agulu community needs is a commissioner. The lawmaker noted that for so long a time, no commissioner has been appointed from the town, stressing that the government of the day in the state should balance the political equation by appointing a commissioner from the town and equally develop more roads and other amenities. The lawmaker who received the award of diamond son; icon of good leadership, said it was a symbol of the good job he did for his people in the entire Agulu community.

Chairman of the Organising Committee of Agulu People's Union at 80 and provost of the Federal College of Education Technical Umunze, Professor Josephat Okechukwu Ogbuagu, said the event was a huge success because people invited came and those not invited but found the programme worthy also attended. Ogbuagu stated that the project being targeted would be properly done noting that the town has social amenities as well as good education programme for the people of Agulu community.

Amechi Development Union Elects New Leaders