

Jonathan Might Complete Tenure Without Finishing East/West Rd

A former member of the House of Representatives and Human Rights lawyer Hon Uche Onyeaguocha has declared Nigeria a failed state.

Hon Onyeaguocha made the declaration at a colloquium organized by the Federated Correspondent chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, in honour of late Dim Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu at their Ikwerre Road Port Harcourt chapel hall.

Speaking on the theme, 'Burial of late Ikemba Dim Chukwuemeka Odimegwu Ojukwu: Lessons for Our Leaders and Our Generation', the keynote speaker argued that until there is the convocation of a Sovereign National Conference, Nigeria will never have her redemption. He berated the minority groups in Nigeria for their lukewarm approach in calling for self determination saying in other climes; it is the minorities that are always the crusaders for self determination.

Onyeaguocha who also queried why the resources of the south-south is being used to promote

...Nigeria Is A Failed State- Onyeaguocha

By Sunny Dada

languages of other sections of the country through a clause in the Nigerian constitution that says the business of the National Assembly shall be conducted in English outside Yoruba, Hausa and Ibo, urged the minorities to call for the abrogation of that section of the constitution.

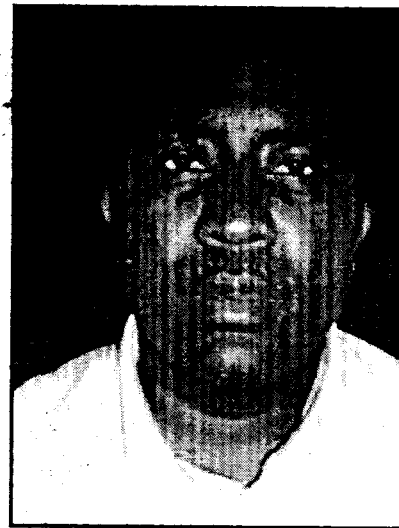
He said, "I have asked people often that why should money coming from the south-south be used for the promotion of Yoruba, Hausa and Ibo languages, because you are told that the business of the National Assembly shall be conducted in English outside Yoruba, or Ibo."

Continuing, the Human Rights lawyer who said he supported the call by some northern leaders to reduce the 13 per cent derivation to the Niger Delta, said the north was bold enough to clamor for the reduction because leaders of the south-south were inactive, saying the South-South ought to have started the agitation for an upward review of the derivation fund a long time ago.

Said he: "I support that call

from the north without pretence. The only reason why the north is clamouring for reduction is because they know that those from this area are very foolish because the constitution says a minimum of 13 per cent and you have been having that minimum since 1999 which is how many years ago? How many more years do you need to call for an increase which you are not calling for? That is why they are asking for you to reduce it. So they have seen that you are still sleeping, that's why they are saying it should be reduced."

Onyeaguocha however promised that he will start the agitation for the upward review of the 13 per cent derivation to 50 per cent directing all legislators from the south east extraction to push and commence the immediate amendment of the 1999 constitution stressing that any member from the South-South who refused to support the call



Hon Uche Onyeaguocha

should be recalled.

"I will want us to champion the call for the 13 per cent to be increased to 50 percent, and any member from the oil producing areas who does not support an increment from 13 per cent to 50 per cent should be recalled

immediately. So, without any much pretence I, as president of Igbo National Union want to start the agitation by calling on all our people in the National Assembly that they should proceed to amend the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 which is section 154, by causing an increase of the derivation from 13 per cent to 50 per cent as a minimum. And I insist that we should lobby aggressively for it and ensure that we get it. If that does not come to place, nothing should move forward again," he challenged.

He further said the north should be encouraged to continue to make that agitation which in his opinion will lead to the emergence of a sovereign national conference. In his words: "But the north should be encouraged to continue to clamour for the reduction of the 13 per cent then a sovereign national conference would've been brought to play automatically"

The president of Igbo National Union who urged the people of the South-South not to rely on President Jonathan for support, as the president may not be able to help the people of the zone. "Do not rely on Jonathan to do any of these things; he will not be able to do anything. In fact Jonathan might complete his tenure without completing the East West Road; it is possible."

He therefore declared: "Nigeria is a failed state and been a failed state, the people will not stop agitating for a sovereign national conference and that the underlining message in their call for sovereign national conference is that we should re-organize this nation so that we can determine which way forward and the minimum that people are asking for when they talked about fiscal federalism is confederation; let us not pretend about it."

In his remark, the chairman of the Nigerian Union of Journalists Comrade Opaka Dokubo who pondered on why Nigerians cannot live together asked if indeed God does not want Nigerians to live together. He said, "is it really true that God does not want us to live together? Why is it really that much for us to think at this point that the best way for us to go is to break up?"

The state NUJ chairman who asked rhetorically if Nigerians would fare better if they live separately drew instances of failed federations like the old Soviet Union and Sudan.

He said as a boy growing up, all the things he was told about Ojukwu were "how people were killed and how people were removed from their ancestral homes and were taken away to unknown lands". These he said generated certain negative feelings about Ojukwu in him. But these changed when he became learned and discovered that

if the war was fought today, "probably the result of the war would've been different."

Dukubo, therefore declared that there is "a need to talk" which he said must be based on "peace justice and equity."

In a separate remark, chairman of the event, Uche Okuwu said it is important to state that the North did not call for the amalgamation of Nigeria. The former state chairman of the Action Congress of Nigeria in Nigeria stated that the British in a bid to sustain the North, brought the north and south together at the detriment of important factors that ought to have considered.

He said, "it is important we put on record that the north did not call for the amalgamation of Nigeria so that we can meet with them on a better footing."

Day Old Baby Dumped In A Waste Bin On Eliparanwo Road

Church members coming back from service Sunday April 1, 2012 forgot about the numerous blessings they had proclaimed as they ushered in the month of April, to lay curses and abuse on an unknown unkind parent who dumped a one day old baby in a waste bin along Eliparanwo road near Emmanuel Plaza building.

The one day baby was tied in a sack bag and thrown into a heap of waste by the road side.

This publication was informed by residents that they did not know that the sack contained a life baby until some children saw the bag just shaking. The sack was tied and a carton was covering it,

further concealing the content. The curiosity of the children who would not leave until the cause of the movement in the bag was ascertained, caused the bag to be untied.

This reporter arrived the scene as the sack bag was being untied. The refuse workers were playfully telling the inquisitive kids that the bag contained a dead dog, but when the bag was opened, they discovered that it contained he now lifeless body of a baby. The poor baby had died from suffocation, evoking tears and the curses.

The refuse workers told this publication that on a daily basis they come across life and most

By James Galaxy Nornubari

times, dead babies dumped in the bin sometimes amounting to more than seven or eight dead babies at their dump sites.

A Deeper Life Church member who saw the dead baby lamented, "I am shocked to see a day old child tied and dumped like a dead goat. How can a human being be so wicked?" She wondered how while people are looking for children someone is busy throwing away a live baby.

The baby is believed to have been dumped in the very early hours of Sunday April 1, 2012. To block such callous moves in

future, some called on government to place security personnel at dump sites and refuse collection points.

Only recently another day old baby was dumped in a newly constructed drainage along Ada-George Road in Rumuolumeni.

Many attribute the ugly trend to the harsh economic state in the country.

Meanwhile, refuse workers attached to Eliparanwo axis who face the dead bodies daily are calling on the Rivers State government to help them by warning people to cease dumping dead bodies at waste collection spots.

Ambrose Alli University Shameful Wells: Oshiomhole Under Fire

While the world was advocating for safe water, tragedy struck at Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma as a caved in well claimed three students of the university, Saturday, March 24.

Information gathered from some students in the school campus in Ekpoma indicated that seven girls, residents of a female hostel, Kudirat Hostel were fetching water from the archaic well in the morning of Friday when the well collapsed sending all of them into the deep water storage, the major means of water supply in the campus.

Another report however said the girls were lying on top the well but the accident occurred in the morning as students were preparing for school and the well area from pictures recorded at the scene depict an area too rundown to be a resting point for girls.

One of the students died instantly while others were critically injured but two more died after being rushed to the Irua Specialist Hospital.

National Point was informed that only one hostel has pipe borne water in the campus with others drawing water from the local looking well and relying on sachet water for cooking and drinking.

Following the deaths, students of the university went on a protest to register their dissatisfaction with the state of welfare in the campus. They blocked the Benin-Auchi road forcing commuters to take alternative routes.

In fear of damage to lives and property, the university management has ordered all students out of campus on brought forward Easter holidays.

The deputy registrar of the university, Mr. Chris Adamaigbo,

while confirming the incident, however denied the death of any student. He was quoted as saying that those affected were rescued and were receiving treatment in the hospital.

Engineers have meanwhile, queried the construction of the well said to be 10 years old.

"I am surprised that Ekpoma is still using wells for water supply in these times and I know that water is not far from the surface there. It is however worrisome that a well that is barely 10 years old would cave in. Does it mean it had no reinforcement? Which engineer constructed that well?" Dr Emma Duro, a senior lecturer in the Rivers State University of Science and Technology and certified Nigerian civil engineer asked.

Another engineer with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, in collaborating Dr Duro's position, said that even at 10 years the well was too young to cave in if it had been properly constructed.

Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma is an Edo State owned university.

Debunking the deputy registrar's claim, a relative of one of the dead victims said online, "Mr Chris Adamaigbo should stop fooling himself; to have opened his mouth and say no death recorded is a sin against God and spirit of the dead. To say the least, my younger sister died on the spot then two others. May their souls rest in perfect peace Amen"

Meanwhile, the Ekpoma chapter of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has berated the Edo State government under Comrade Adams Oshiomhole over the death of the female students

By Constance Meju

who fell into a well recently.

The union in a press statement released on Tuesday and signed by its chairman, Prof F. I Esumeh and secretary, Dr. S. O Omokhoje, indicted the government for what they described as poor funding of the institution which has led to the alarming decay of amenities thereby culminating in the death of the innocent students with five others sustaining various degrees of injuries.

"ASUU AAU, Ekpoma is shocked to note that in the 21st century of human development, undergraduates are still made to pass through the harrowing experiences of lack of water, electricity and other related facilities. In fact, it is more painful when youths- the acclaimed leaders of tomorrow -are made to lose their lives in search of water while our leaders globe-trot in a seemingly celebration of failed state, neglect and abandonment of the nation's university system."

"We seriously view the latest ugly incidence in our dear university as a sad reminder of years of neglect and continuing gross underfunding of the University by the Edo State government."

"Finally, the union condemns in strong terms, the parlous state of facilities in the university, particularly the decay in learning and teaching facilities and advises the Edo State government to honour the dead and injured students with a radical intervention in the decay in the university," the union said.

In a swift response, Edo State commissioner for Education Ekpenisi Omorotionwan absorbed the state government of any wrong

doing but shifted the post to the past governments. According to him, the government has been doing its best to revamp infrastructure in the institution, that even till date, the state government pays a monthly subvention of N350million to the school.

He however stated that the previous PDP led administrations should be held responsible for abandoning the institution and allowing its amenities to sink to this extent. He noted that the present government had perfected plans to build modern day hostels that can accommodate virtually all students of the institution.

Re-assuring the people of Oshiomhole's readiness to address infrastructural challenges in Ekpoma Campus, the commissioner displayed a sample and BOQs of hostels planned to be built by this government.

"I think people should stop blaming this government for the failing infrastructure in Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma. We have tried our best and we are still doing more. As you see, this is a copy of the planned hostels to be built in the school. I was privileged to be part of the state government's delegation to the school last month, where we pledged to build hostels within the shortest possible time, a promise that we are presently working towards fulfilling."

"The blame should be shifted to the past PDP government who did next to nothing to save the situation and allowed it to sink to this level", the Commissioner said.

AAU ASUU also commiserated with the parents, friends and families of the deceased and injured students over the ugly incidence.