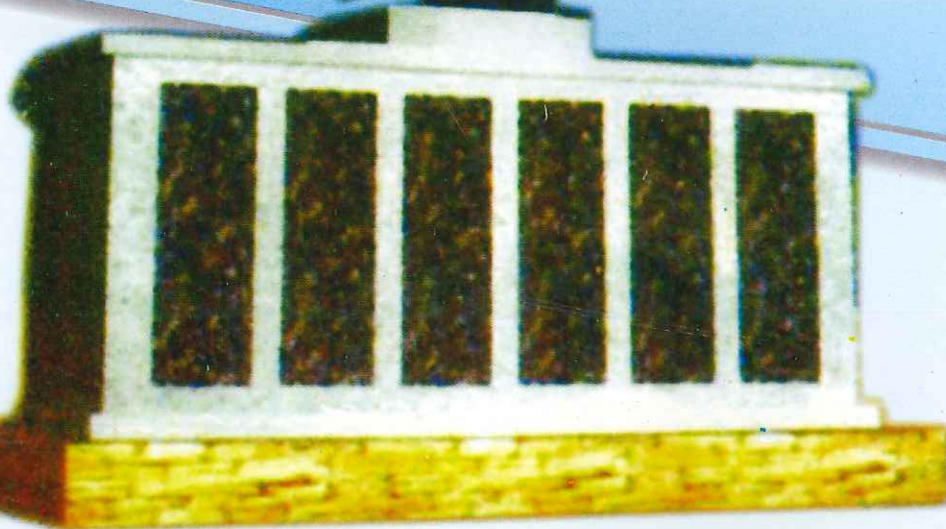


ASABA

Memorial Day

2012

In Memory Of
October 7, 1967 Nigeria
Civil War Victims
at Asaba



Courtesy: *Asaba Development Union*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Asaba Development Union (A.D.U) wishes to acknowledge the immeasurable contributions of the underlisted illustrious sons of Ahaba towards the actualization of her dream- the erection of a Monument at Ogbosowa in remembrance of the 1967 Nigerian Civil War Victims.

They are:

- (1) Prof. E.C. Nwanze**
- (2) Sir Okey Ofili**
- (3) Dr. Ify Uraih**
- (4) Ogbueshi Chuk Ndukaeze**

CHIEF (DR) L.C.C. ODOGWU
President General
ADU

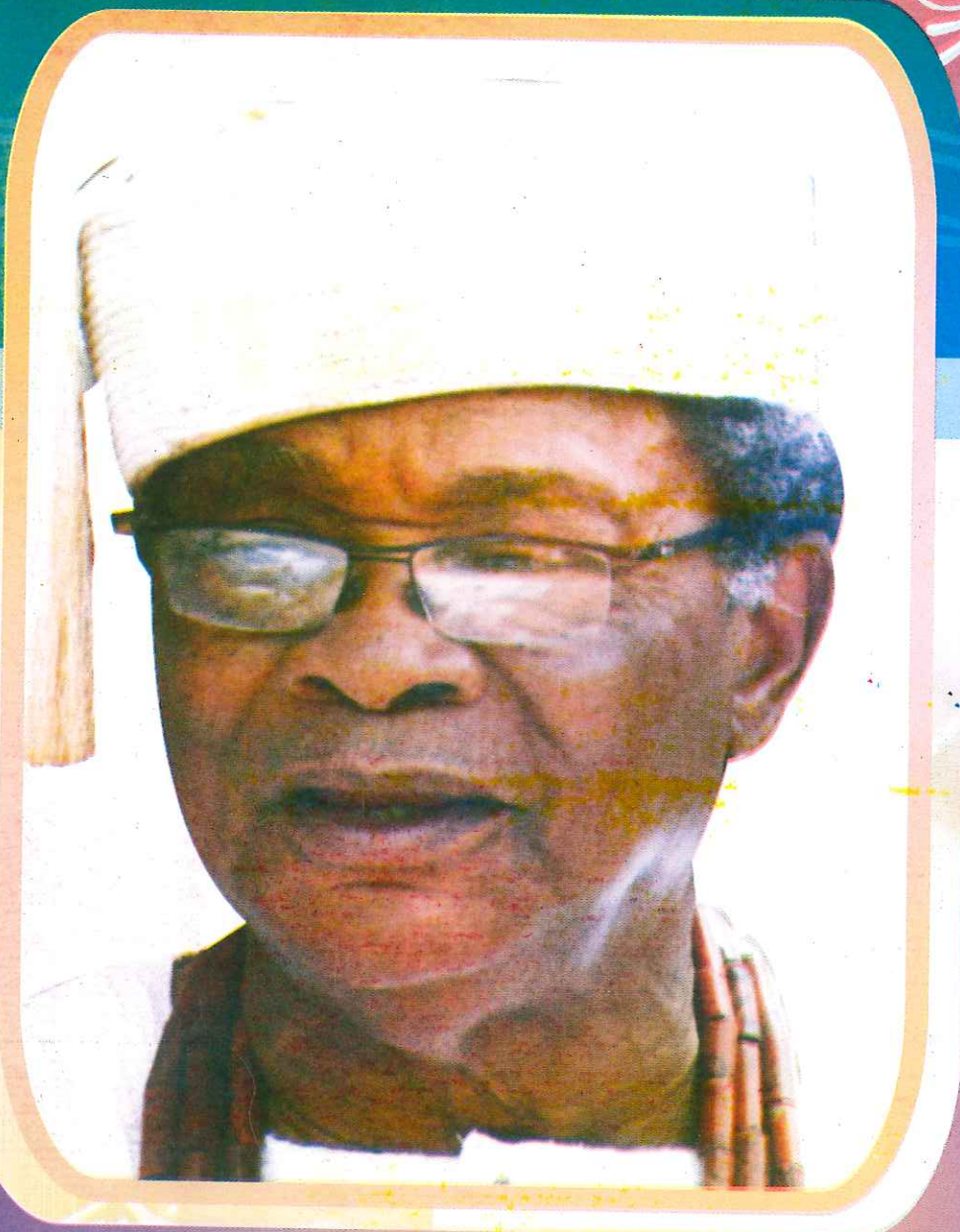
October, 2012



**His Royal Majesty
ASAGBA (PROF) JOSEPH CHIKE EDOZIEN, CFR, D.Sc, M.D., JP
Asagba of Asaba.**



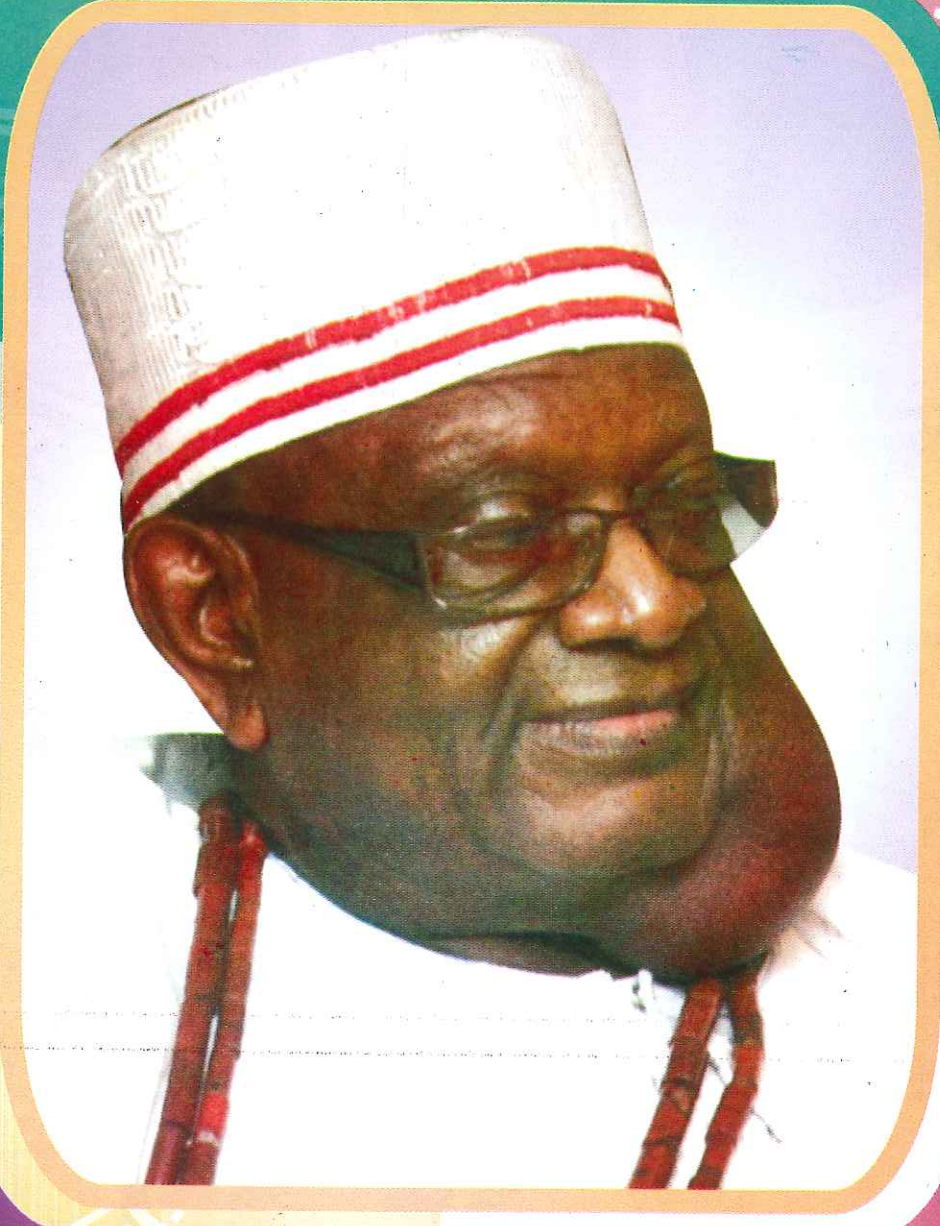
**Her Royal Majesty
AGU NWANYI MODUPE EDOZIEN
Wife of the Asagba of Asaba**



CHIEF (DR) L.C.C. ODOGWU
Imagwe of Asaba
Oboli
President General ADU



ANTHONY O. EFIANYA - PSC
Vice President General / Chairman Org. Comm.



CHIEF P.I.G. ONYEObI. JP
Iyase of Asaba
Onowu
Chairman BOT

Traditional Chiefs



CHIEF P.I.G. ONYEObI. JP
Iyase of Asaba
Chairman BOT



CHIEF (ObI) EJIME CHIZEA
Omu of Asaba
Igwe



ObI (DR) P.I. NWAMU
Odogwu of Asaba

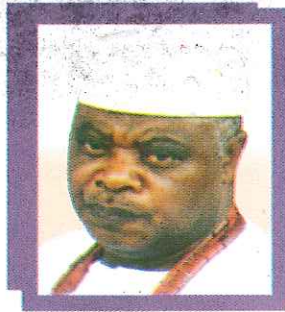


CHIEF UBaka ATTOH J.P
Onihe of Asaba

Board of Trustee Members



CHIEF P.I.G. ONYEObI, JP
Iyase of Asaba (Onowu)
Chairman BOT



CHIEF E.I. AWODU
Ogwulujame of Asaba
Ekwueme



CHIEF (DR) D.N. MADUEMEZIA
Alibo of Asaba
Nduogonogo



CHIEF (PROF) M.O. OBIAYA
Osuma of Asaba
Afaa



CHIEF A.I. ASHIOFU, FNIS
Okwuloha of Asaba
Ugobueze



CHIEF (DR) S.I. ODOGWU, CFR
Ide of Asaba
Ide



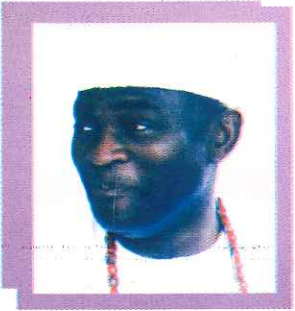
CHIEF (PROF) E.C. EDOZIEN
Ojiba of Asaba
Attaa



CHIEF (HON) USO ONIANWA, JP
Oza of Asaba
Okita



CHIEF L.N. ADABA
Ojiaku of Asaba
Uba



CHIEF C.H. OKOLO
Alanza of Asaba
Odua



CHIEF (PROF) J.O. OBI, OON, JP
Isama of Asaba
Ajie



MRS ROSE GWAM - ODOGWU
BOT Member



DR. F. OKOGBA



OGBUESHI ALIBAN OFILI OKONKWO



CHIEF JOHN EDOZIEN
Odafe Ahaba



PROF. P.A.C. OKWUObI



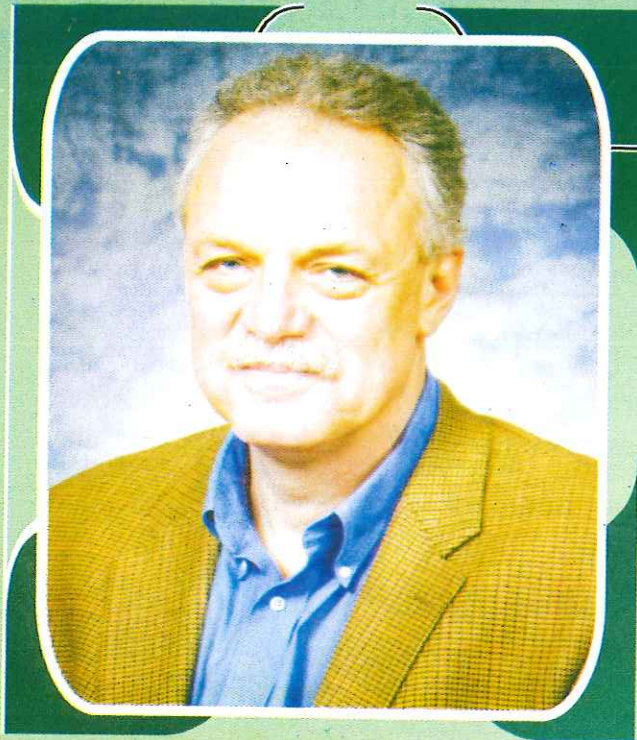
OGBUESHI P.N.O. ESO-YANYA (JP)
The Onoi of Asaba



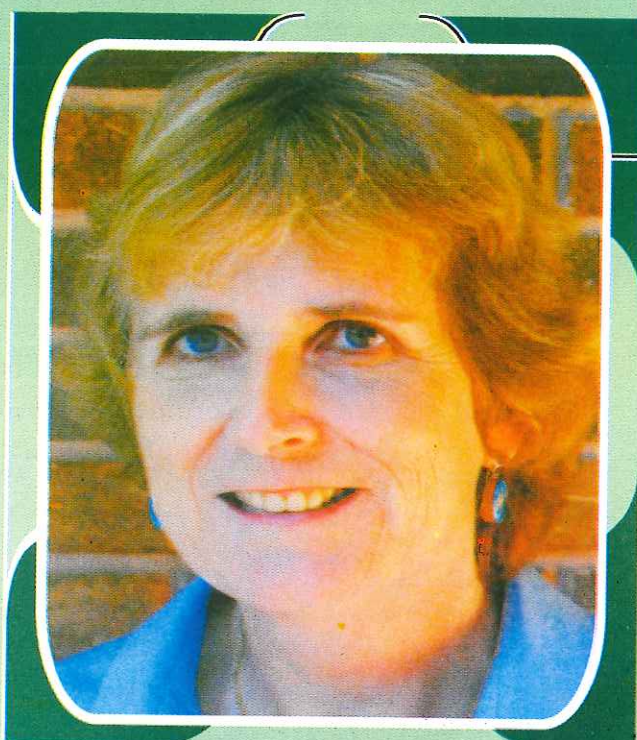
OGBUESHI ROY OGUGUA ELIKWU (JP)
The Oloto of Asaba



STANLEY IKE AMUWAH
The Ezeugbo (Ayiwe) of Asaba



Professor Fraser Ottanelli



Professor Elizabeth Bird



Organising Committee

President General Address

Dear Compatriots

FUND RAISING AND REMEMBRANCE DAY OF THE 7TH OF OCTOBER MASSACRE:

We are gathered here once again to remember the calamity that was visited on this town on the 7th day of October, 1967. October 7th is a day to be observed with solemnity and introspection. The new Executive Council of the Asaba Development Union that assumed office recently, decided to construct a cenotaph or Monument in Ogebeosowa village in memory of these compatriots senselessly massacred by Federal troops in Asaba on that day.

THE MONUMENT:

This monument is a symbol of the sacrifice of Asaba in the unity of Nigeria. The N.E.C. feels we need a place to remind us of their sacrifices and contemplate our losses, a place to immortalize our fathers, uncles, brothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and nephews who were senselessly murdered by Federal troops on that unforgettable day. When completed it will bear the names of victims from the five villages of the town (ebos).

COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT:

The 7th of October, 1967 will ever be remembered as BLOODY 7TH OCTOBER and a day of INFAMY. The 7th of October should be a day for us to contemplate our losses; a day in which wives buried their husbands, mothers buried their children especially male children who were separated from others and then shot. This selective killing of male children shows premeditation and was aimed at ensuring the elimination and extermination of the productive section of our people. The net result is the loss of a whole generation of our sons. It was an unhappy event that should be commemorated annually, a day when a peace-loving and accommodating people, a people with a world-wide view, resplendent in their usual traditional white dresses trouped out with dances in a procession to welcome the Federal troops only to be decimated by the same troops.

DONATIONS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MONUMENT:

The construction is in an advanced stage. All we need to do now is to give befitting finishing touches to the monument. When the contract was awarded in 2010 the cost was =N=1,982,125:00. (One Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-five Naira Only). This did not include the perimeter wall and landscaping of the surroundings. With the additional cost of work on the perimeter and the surroundings the total cost of the project has now risen to =N=3,588,655;00 (Three million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Five Naira Only).

Till date we have received donations totaling =N=900,000:00 (Nine Hundred Thousand Naira Only) from six donors.

This leaves us with a deficit of =N=2,688,655:00. The donors will be sent acknowledgments and statement of expenditure.

VISITING PROFESSORS FROM UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA:

May I take this opportunity to thank the two professors from the United states- Professor Liz Bird and Professor Frazer Ottanelli - specifically from the University of Southern Florida have been intimately involved in the work of bringing this event to the world. They have visited the country on several occasions to gather materials and interview survivors and eye-witnesses.

His Royal Majesty has graciously agreed that their works be exhibited in the palace museum. We still have to complete the monument.

By this letter the National Executive is appealing for donations to this fund to enable us complete the monument.

Help us make Asaba proud.

Please make your own donations, and pay into the ASABA MONUMENT ACCOUNT in Fidelity Bank, Nnebisi Road, Asaba,

A/C No: 5210005248

Chief Dr. Louis C.C. Odogwu M.D., F.R.C.S. F.I.C.S
Imagwe of Asaba.
President-General, Asaba Development Union
In Nigeria and Diaspora...

Asaba Massacre

THE OCTOBER 7, 1967 MASSACRE OF ASABA PEOPLE: WHY?

Before Nigeria's Independence on October 1st, 1960, the name Asaba was already known world-wide through the activities of early European merchants followed later by those of Christian missionaries. These two European groups found the people of Asaba very friendly and the weather very tolerable and convenient.

They made Asaba the base of their activities west of the River Niger. Asaba people, in turn, took advantage of this early contact with Europeans to send their children to school and learnt the white man's language and culture. The consequence of this early start was that Asaba produced the pool from which educated personnel could be drawn not only to act as interpreters to the white man as he ventured into the hinter lands from Asaba but also as clerks, teachers and catechists. These people who carried the name of Asaba and different communities they went to serve were happy to associate themselves with Asaba.

The first generation of educated Asaba people ensured that their own children were better educated as many of such children were sent to school overseas where they specialized in different fields of learning. Thus by 1960, the Asaba man was found not only in different fields and positions but also at the apex. As attestation to this position, Hon. Justice R.A.I. Ogbobine writing in 1982 about Asaba had this to say, inter alia

“It is doubtful whether there is any other community in Bendel State whenever there are most highly educated people in different spheres of learning and discipline than in Asaba”.

The above statement attracted envy which in time conceived and gave birth to concealed hatred which could not be opened demonstrated to the Asaba man.

One of the second generation of educated Asaba sons was Chief Dennis .C. Osadebay who left his law firm to join the pre and post Nigeria's independence politics. He occupied various political positions and crowned it with becoming the rallying point for the struggle for the creation of the fourth region in Nigeria, the Midwest Region carved out of the West Region- and becoming that Region's first Premier (now Governor). He thus helped in 'enlarging the coast' of Asaba. The new region had fourteen divisions and Asaba was one of such divisions. Virtually all the people in Asaba Division were simply identified as Asaba people. Roughly, Asaba Division comprised of the present north and south of both Aniocha and Oshimili local government areas as Delta State of today. Thus, irrespective of which town or village a person came from, from the old Asaba Division, he was simply identified and tagged as an Asaba man. He was proud to be so identified.

In January 1966, Nigeria's first Military coup took place. The coup leader, Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu, though from Okpanam in the present Oshimili North local government, was widely reported to hail from Asaba. As it turned out, Chief Dennis .C. Osadebay was spared while some political leaders from non-Ibo speaking areas were killed during the coup. This co-incidence was seen as Asaba man , Nzeogwu, shielding another Asaba man, Osadebay!!

At the outbreak of the civil war, the federal authorities placed embargo against Biafra and subsequently closed down movement on the Niger Bridge Linking Asaba to Onitsha. Before then the Nigeria armed forces had broken up such that officers and men were sent to their regions of origin. The crop of top military officers that returned to the Midwest was of western Ibo extraction, mainly from Asaba Division and by extension, from Asaba. But the Biafra army, on 9th August, 1967 invaded the Midwest from across the Niger Bridge that was supposed to have been closed and manned by the Nigeria soldiers.

The federal authorities took it that the action of the Biafra soldiers was aided by the 'Asaba' top military officers. It was counted against Asaba. The truth, however, was that Asaba did not have any top officer in the army as the town believed that a mother who had 'a soldier son was childless'. They loathed violence.

Then came the struggle by the federal authorities to liberate the Midwest. As events later proved, Asaba was a choice target as its liberation would launch the federal troops into Biafra. It was all 'when we reach Asaba' by the federal soldiers.

The federal soldiers eventually got to Asaba in the night of 6th October, 1967 but their hope of rolling into Onitsha across the Niger Bridge was thwarted by the retreating Biafran soldiers who had earlier that evening blown off the Onitsha tail span of that Bridge with the bitter hatred nursed against 'Asaba by the federal authorities for various crimes' purportedly carried out by people claiming to be Asaba people. They went on rampage throughout that night mauling down the defenseless Asaba citizens.

Then came the 7th of October, 1967, when the soldiers went on rampage, ran berserk with the sole aim of fishing out Asaba people. Men were separated from women and eventually, one of the world known genocides was carried out on them (Asaba men) in different locations of the town, notably at OGBEOSOWA.

Conclusion

Due to non recognition of the perceived genocide committed by the federal troops at that time and no reparation paid to the affected victims of Asaba community, the Asaba Development Union in its wisdom now deems it proper to bring the incident to the public as well as commemorating October 7, every year as Memorial Day for the repose of the souls of the 1967 war victims.

ASABA DEVELOPMENT UNION

7TH OCTOBER, 2012.

Programme of *Event*

1. Arrival of Guests
2. Arrival of Chief Host, HRM, Asaba
(Prof) J.C. Edozien, CFR, J.P
3. Welcome Address by the President General
Asaba Development Union, Chief (Dr.) L.C.C.
Odogwu
4. Inter - denomination Service
5. Candle light procession to St. Joseph's
Multi-Purpose Hall, Nnebisi Rd., Asaba
6. Film Show, Lectures & Talks by Professors Liz Bird
and Frazier Ottanelli
7. Questions & Answers / Comments
8. Refreshments! Refreshments!! Refreshments!!!
9. ~~Vote of Thanks~~
10. Closing Prayer
11. HRM with his entourage departs

Congratulation

**I, Hon. (Ogbueshi) Peter Onwusanya on behalf
of my family wish to congratulate ADU
on the auspicious occasion of Asaba
Memorial Day Celebration**

*May the souls of the War Victims rest in the
bosom of the Lord, Amen.*



Congratulation

I Hon. Chief Barr. Mrs Theodora Giwa-Amu J.P.
On behalf of my family wish to
congratulate Asaba Sons and Daughters
on the occasion of
Asaba Memorial Day Celebration.
Long Live Asaba, Oshimili and Delta
May God move us forward, Amen.



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WE SHALL REIGN WITH JESUS CHRIST

Felicitations

I Chike C. Ogeah Esq. on behalf of my wife, family and the Staff of the State Ministry of information felicitate with the good people of Asaba and the Asaba Development Union on this auspicious occasion of the Asaba Memorial Day Celebration

ASABA, MMA-MMA-NU!!!



Chike C. Ogeah Esq.
Hon. Commissioner for information, Delta State

FELICITATION



ASABA DEVELOPMENT UNION NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Ogwa - Ukwu Ahaba P.O Box 794, Asaba,
Delta State.

Tel: 046-281617 Email: asadevunion@yahoo.com

10TH September, 2012.

CHIEF (DR.) L.C.C. ODOGWU (JP)
President General
08037147959

MR. A. O. EFIANYA, Psc
Vice President General
08034707263

MR. P.I.G. OKONJO, ACSR
Secretary General
08028510804

MR. FRED ESEMAYA
National Treasurer
08035847973

MR. P.U. ONWUFUJU
National Financial Secretary
08033724032

MR. EMEKA OKONTA
Asst. Secretary General
07063557099

MR. B.E.M. EBOKA
National Publicity Secretary
08034066399

CHIEF (DR.) C.O. OGEDAZI
National Legal Adviser
08034033835

APPEAL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT: **CONSTRUCTION OF A MONUMENT IN MEMORY OF ASABA ASSACRE OF** **1967**

One of the projects planned for execution during the tenure of the new Executive Council of Asaba Development Union that assumed office recently, is the completion of the Monument in Ogbeosowa in memory of our compatriots senselessly massacred by the Federal troops in Asaba on the 7th of October, 1967. The N.E.C. of the A.D.U. feels the need to immortalize our fathers, uncles, brothers, sisters, aunts, cousins and nephews who were senselessly murdered by Federal troops on that unforgettable day, a day that will ever be remembered as BLOODY 7TH OCTOBER.

The construction is at an advanced stage. When the contract was awarded in 2010 the cost was N1,982,125.00 (One Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Five Naira) only. This did not include the perimeter wall and landscaping of the surroundings. With the additional cost of work on the perimeter and the surroundings the total cost of the project has now risen to N3,588,655.00 (Three Million, Five Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand Naira) only. Till date we have received donations totaling N900,000.00 (Nine Hundred Thousand Naira) only from spirited donors. This leaves us with a deficit of N2,688,655.00 (Two Million, Six Hundred and Eighty-Eight Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty-Five Naira) only.

THE MONUMENT

This monument is symbol of the sacrifice of Asaba in the unity of Nigeria. When completed, it will bear the name of the victims written on marble slabs at the base of the monument according to the FIVE EBOS of Asaba.

COMMEMORATION OF THE EVENT

The Asaba Memorial Day is a ONE DAY EVENT. It is a day set aside for us to contemplate our losses, bearing in mind that we lost a generation of our compatriots; a day on which wives buried their husbands, mothers buried their male children.

The Anniversary of the 7th OCTOBER, 1967 is a ONE Day Remembrance Event. A Day of infamy which should not be allowed to be forgotten or die in our memories. It is an unhappy event the A.D.U. hopes to commemorate annually with inter-denominational services, lectures and talks on the pogrom and of such events in other parts of the world and a procession to some traditional places in the town.

VISITING PROFESSORS FROM UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

For some years now, two Professors, Professor Liz Bird and Professor Frazer Ottanelli from the University of Southern Florida have been intimately involved in the work of bringing this event to the world through film shows and they have visited the country on several occasions to gather materials and interview survivors and eye witnesses. His Royal Majesty has graciously agreed that their works be exhibited in a museum in the palace and in the Mongo Park museum. Over the years the remembrance celebrations have been held on an empty ground on the site of burial of the victims. Hence the A.D.U. embarked on the construction of the monument. Help us to complete the project.

By this letter the National Executive Council is appealing for donations to this fund to enable us complete the monument before the 7th of October, 2012. Please make your own donations and pay into the ASABA MONUMENT ACCOUNT in Fidelity Bank, Nnebisi Road, Asaba, Account No. 5210005248.



(Chief Dr. Louis C.C. Odogwu)
Imagwe of Asaba
President General



(Okonjo, P.I.G)
Secretary General



ASABA LADIES LEAGUE

Motto: *Action! Not Words!*

League House: No. 62 Dennis Osadebay Way, P.O. Box 798, Asaba, Delta State.
Tel: 08035408093, 08023266630, 08054915638

Other
Branches:

Lagos

Warri

Abuja

Asaba

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date:

MEMORIES ARE GOLDEN...


We, the Asaba Ladies' League, empathize with Families of victims of the 1967 Massacre and salute the courage of these martyrs. Their heroic sacrifice has brought strength and glory to all people of Asaba. It is our prayer that the good Lord will wipe away all unpleasant memories and refresh all hearts anew.

In unity there is strength and Asaba will march on and triumph to the end of time.

**"IFE NWANNE MELI NWANNE KA ANYA-MMILI AKWA
JIAGBA"**

The rest is history.

Signed
For: Asaba Ladies League


Chief (Lady) Rose Nwosu
National President


Felicia Ogosi (Mrs.)
President (Asaba Branch)



Falcon Club, Asaba.

P.O. Box 666, Asaba, Delta State, Nigeria.



**FALCON CLUB ASABA
2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7TH APRIL, 2012**

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF FALCON CLUB, ASABA.

Ogbueshi (Engr.) I.A. Okwudarue - Chairman, Ogbueshi J.O. Okafor - 1st Vice Chairman, Ogbueshi P.O. Onianwa - 2nd Vice Chairman, Ogbueshi F.P.C. Obi - General Secretary, Mr. J. Mordi - Asst. General Secretary, Ogbueshi F.O. Ogosi - Treasurer, Ogbueshi E.U.D. Ijeh - Financial Secretary, Ogbueshi E.O. Agili - Asst. Financial Secretary, Ogbueshi H.N. Onyia - Social/Publicity Secretary, E.K.O. Onukwu Esq. - House Secretary, Chief (Dr.) D.N. Maduemezia - Ex-Officio, Chief (Dr) N. Allannah - Ex-Officio, Ogbueshi (Engr.) H.C. Omo - Ex-Officio, Ogbueshi (Engr.) H. Monu - Ex-Officio.

Congratulations

*Asaba indigene on this
memorable occasion -
Asaba Memorial Day.*

Greeting from

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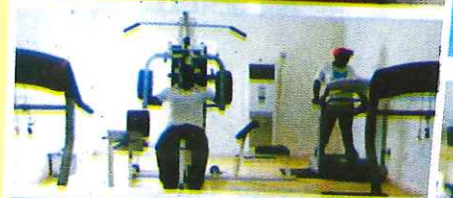
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National Treasurer



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Vice President



Mr. B.E.M. Eboka
National Publicity Secretary



Chief Dr. L.C.C. Odogwu
President General



Mr. P.U. Onwufuju
National Financial Secretary



Mr. Emeka Okonta
Assistance Secretary



Mr. Okonjo, P.I.G.
Secretary General

Appreciation

On behalf of the Asaba Development Union (ADU) both at home and in the Diaspora, I express our heartfelt appreciation to all of you who participated in today's prayer for our victims of the Nigerian Civil War on 7th October, 1967.

Our special thanks to our Chief Host and special invited guests whose presence has added colour and glamour to today's event. May the Good Lord bless and protect you and take you back safely to your respective destinations.

CHIEF (DR.) L.C.C. ODOGWU

President General, ADU

