



# 12th Annual National Convention Magazine



# Afrika

Celebrating the Beauty of Our Culture

August 4 - 7, 2016

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## A Message From the Founders

Welcome to the 12th Annual Umu Igbo Unite Convention! We give God all the glory for His continued guidance in our journey to Unite and Connect Igbo professionals in the diaspora, keep the Igbo culture and language alive, and continue being proud to be Igbo. Our mission to promote personal, cultural and professional growth amongst Igbo Professionals in the Diaspora is being accomplished, one person at a time!

The attendance at the last convention was overwhelming, the program was well organized and executed to perfection. We are very grateful to the National Convention Planning Team! The stories you share with us about the impact this organization has had on your lives, keeps us motivated to continue to do this year after year. From the career moves, the connections, the engagements and marriages, we are so grateful that UIU has had such a great impact!

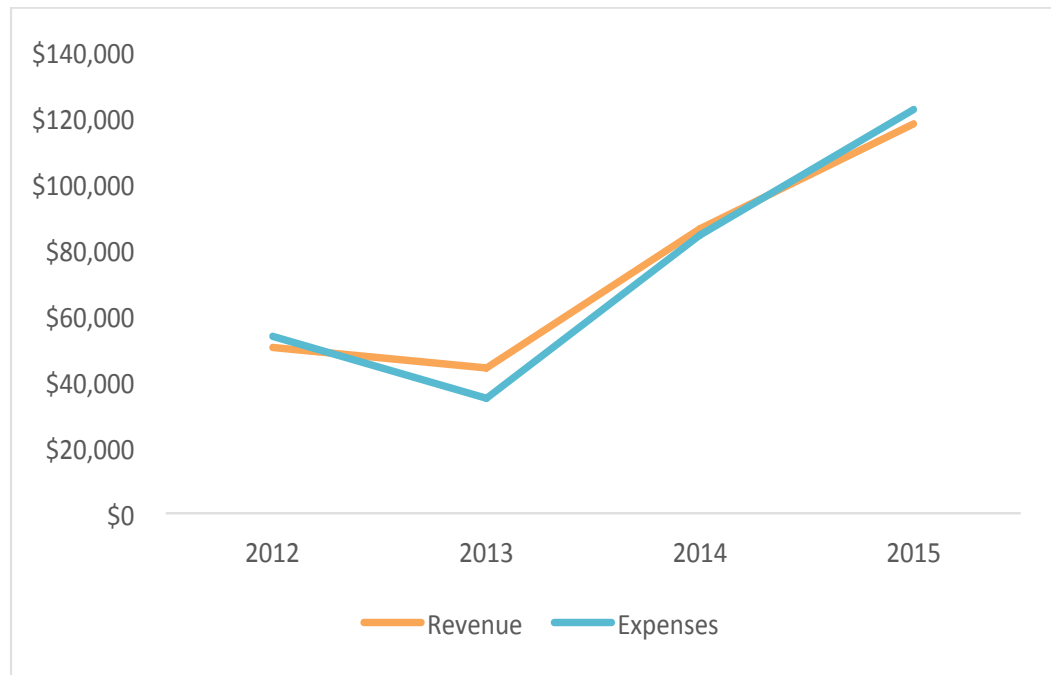
We hope you have all signed up for the national chapter membership which will ensure that this organization is sustained to fulfill the needs of our children to connect to their rich Igbo culture and heritage. Visit our website [www.umuigbounite.com](http://www.umuigbounite.com) for more information.

We value your insight and opinions which are shared through our annual survey. As a direct result we have assembled diverse speakers/panels and created a multifaceted agenda for this weekend. We appreciate your continued feedback and strive to improve your experience each year.

We are very excited about the relationship we have formed with Bridge International Academies through our foundation UIUCares, where our goal is to sponsor a full year of education for 70 students! Our 3rd mission trip is planned for early 2017 in Igbo land. Please do not forget to visit our website to donate and let us know if you will be visiting Nigeria in the next few months so you can be directly involved in the outreach. Thank you to all those that donated and/or participated in the mission trip last year. It was life changing for our members that were able to attend.

We would like to express our profound and heartfelt gratitude to our parents, Dr. & Dr. Mrs. D.I. Anadu and Reverend & Dr. Mrs. J.C. Okpukpara. We also appreciate all our supporters especially those who have been with us from the beginning when we were yet to completely formulate our vision. We hope you have the time of your life this weekend and make connections that will last a lifetime!

# Umu Igbo Unite Financial Report 2015



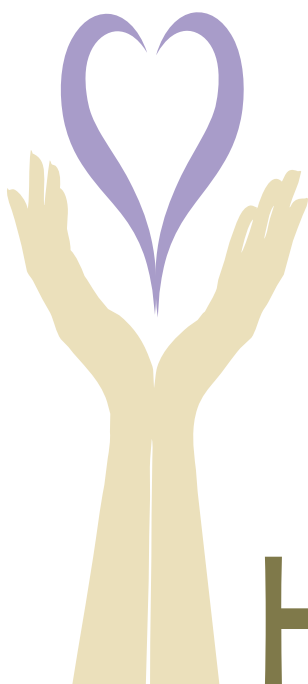
## 2015 Financial Summary

### Revenue

Convention Registration	\$100,830
Membership Fees	\$375
Sponsorship Revenue	\$25,390
Convention Registration Refunds	(\$8,724)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$117,870</b>

### Expenses

Convention Expenses	-\$108,304
Business and Professional Expenses	-\$1,174
Bank & Merchant Processing Fees	-\$3,074
Marketing Expenses	-\$2,870
<b>UIU Cares Charitable Contributions</b>	<b>-\$6,750</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$122,172</b>
<b>Net (Loss)</b>	<b>-\$4,302</b>



**MIRANDA**  
**Home Healthcare Inc.**

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Please feel free to share the links with friends and other organizations!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and you, therefore, may be entitled to a donation deduction for your gift.

Thank you and God bless,

UIUCares Team

[uiucares@umuigbounite.com](mailto:uiucares@umuigbounite.com)



#UIUCares is a community service initiative birthed out of Umu Igbo Unite in 2014. Umu Igbo Unite believes that our generation is interested in making positive changes here in the diaspora and also in Nigeria. We know that with our collective efforts we can delve into different projects that will impact our world.

It is hard for us to see children in need and we are well aware that millions of children in Nigeria live in poverty. It is especially hard for those who are orphans. With the creation of #UIUCares, we are able to contribute to that effort. Through donations and volunteering, we are able to provide the necessary support and supplies to children in underserved areas in Nigeria to further prepare them for their bright futures.

In December 2014, we had our first annual visit to two orphanages in Anambra and Enugu state Nigeria. This was a well-orchestrated trip that enabled us to provide clothing, toys and food supplies to these two orphanages. We were able to visit and play with the orphans and provide much needed support for the caretakers. We are very grateful for the opportunity to help those in need.

In December 2015, #UIUCares proved to be a success as we kicked off our second annual trip to Nigeria, volunteering and donating materials and supplies to local orphanages. The #UIUCares team diligently fundraised throughout 2015, collecting donations such as clothes, food, and toys. A group of volunteers visited four orphanages in four states in Nigeria: A Place of Hope Orphan Children Foundation (Nsukka, Enugu State), Arrows of God Community Children's Home (Onitsha, Anambra State), Agape Motherless Home in Ipupe-Ubakala Umuahia (Umuahia, AbiaState), and Save The Child Motherless/Abandoned Babies Home (Owerri, Imo State). Motherless Home in Ipupe-Ubakala Umuahia (Umuahia, AbiaState), and Save The Child Motherless/Abandoned Babies Home (Owerri, Imo State).

We plan on continuing to expand our program, to not only provide for the daily needs of these children but also to prepare them and many others for a bright future. We have been searching for programs that are serving our communities, programs that are creating a way for children to learn and grow. It was a daunting task because we wanted to find a program we can trust and a program with integrity in which we can see the fruits of their labor.

This year we are excited to partner with Bridge International Academies in order to sponsor a full year of education for 70 students! Bridge International is a fantastic organization that was formed in 2008 and is responsible for setting up over 400 schools in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and India. They are supported by individual donors but also notably by the Gates foundation, the Zuckerberg education initiative and many others. A sponsorship of just \$140 covers the academy fees for a Bridge pupil for their entire academic year, as well as a new school uniform!

This includes nearly 50 hours of instruction a week for 11 months, textbooks for every subject, fun reading books, practical learning tools, homework books, co-curriculars, and more. We know that with your help we can reach this goal by the UIU Convention in August!



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# UMU IGBO UNITE: *Why Are We Here?*

By Ginikannwa Ezeude



The title of this article is what I call a loaded question. At its core, Umu Igbo Unite is an organization meant to link us – us, being the Igbo youth of this country and of the diaspora at large – on a cultural, social and professional level. While that is true, the question of “Why Are We Here” begs for a deeper answer.

First, let me start by saying that for each individual the significance of UIU varies. For the fresh out of college Igbo youth, UIU may be a place to receive professional advice on how to choose a suitable career path. For the working Igbo professional, UIU may be a place to either engage in new business ventures or to find a potential mate that one can settle down with. For the already married and professionally content Igbo young adult, UIU may be simply a means of staying connected with other Igbos across the country. Essentially, it boils down to the fact that depending on where one is in their life, they may be seeking different things here at UIU.

Regardless, I beseech every Igbo young person across the globe to adopt a new mindset as to ‘Why We Are Here’.

Which brings me to my second point: Umu Igbo Unite attendees should be here to ultimately strengthen ourselves in order to be an asset to, specifically, the Igbo youth still residing in Nigeria. Our theme should always be to “Pass It On.” Whatever gems we feel we’ve acquired whilst abroad we need to Pass It On is some form to the up and coming generation of Igbos in Nigeria. Now don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t take care of our parents, grandparents and those of the older generation, rather I am insisting that the success of Nigeria

tomorrow rides on the back of a collaborative effort by Igbo youths living abroad (us) and Igbo youth in Nigeria. We need to empower them with resources and tools to establish themselves so that they can be the future leaders of the beloved country and push the country forward. Not only on a professional and industrial level but also mentally. We need to ensure that there is a new fashion of thinking amongst the youth so that they can be in positions to implement beneficial change, while still holding true to our culture.

Umu Igbo Unite to do just that: unite. It starts with the young Igbo individuals in the diaspora but why at all should it end there?

Whatever gems we feel we’ve acquired whilst abroad we need to Pass It On is some form to the up and coming generation of Igbos in Nigeria. Now don’t misunderstand me. I’m not saying that we shouldn’t take care of our parents, grandparents and those of the older generation, rather I am insisting that the success of Nigeria tomorrow rides on the back of a collaborative effort by Igbo youths living abroad (us) and Igbo youth in Nigeria. We need to empower them with resources and tools to establish themselves so that they can be the future leaders of the beloved country and push the country forward. Not only on a professional and industrial level but also mentally. We need to ensure that there is a new fashion of thinking amongst the youth so that they can be in positions to implement beneficial change, while still holding true to our culture.

Umu Igbo Unite to do just that: unite. It starts with the young Igbo individuals in the diaspora but why at all should it end there?

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It's time to trade in that traditional outfit your aunty made for you in Nigeria for something customized, sleek, sexy, and form fitted just for you. Slim fit is reigning now so don't be left behind.

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**Thank you for all that you do for ndi Igbo.**

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# 10 Things To Consider Before Moving Back To Nigeria

By Ijeoma Anadu Okoli



**1 Mindset.** Prepare your mind to understand that Nigeria is not the US. Don't go around saying things like "In the US, we have electricity 24/7 ..." If the US was so perfect, why are you here?

**2 Plan.** Must have something on ground before moving back. A job, or verified business. It is not advisable to go back to Nigeria hoping a job or contract pops up.

**3 Destination.** Moving to Nigeria is not easy, focus on why you moved back. It is all about the destination not the journey.



**4 Experience.** Moving to Nigeria is not easy, focus on why you moved back. It is all about the destination not the journey.

**5 Language.** Learn pigeon. Nigeria has lots of languages but pigeon is universal. It's really English, just broken!

**6 Network.** Who is in your network? Just like in the US, networking is key. It's not all about what you know but also who you know. Use it.

7

**Finances.** Open up a domiciliary account to transfer your money so you can avoid carrying cash with you when you travel.

8

**Transportation.** Lagos and Abuja have uber but you will eventually need a car. Traffic is a nightmare especially in Lagos!

9

**Finances, again.** Everything does not revolve around the dollar. Don't dollarize everything you buy. Be all in Nigeria. Respect the country and the currency.

10

**Wifi.** Must have wifi also known as wif. With wif, you can have access to social media and emails all day which means you have the ability to mentally escape because you will





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# 7 Facts You Didn't Know About Flavour N'abania

By Uju Obianwu

Mr. Flavour N'abania has touched down in Chicago any second now, and while our favorite Nigerian highlife artist prepares his set for thousands of his expecting fans, I dug up all that we need to know about Mr. Tonight. Although, he successfully maintains a relatively private life, it is no match to my private investigator skills. Here are 7 facts that you may not know about Flavour N'abania.

## 1 He's a Sage!

Mr. Tonight blessed this earth November 23, 1983, which means he is no other sign than a Sagittarius. As a Sagittarius, Flavour is a clear fire sign, who can transform any negative situation into a positive one, clearly. Similarly, the symbol of a Sage, is half man/half beast, leading to a typically over-confident personality. Na so!

*See next page -->*

## 2 He is VERY Single!

(Hay, God!) If you are trying to shine your eyes and work your magic, you have a better chance if you are an Aries, Leo, Libra, or an Aquarius babe. Taurus, Cancer, Libra, Virgo and Capricorns, you better shine your eyes elsewhere, abeg. True to form, Mr. N'abania is looking for an equally strong and independent partner who will be unphased by his somewhat unconventional ways.

## 3 His family tree is extensive.

Born in Enugu State, Chinedu Izuchukwu Okoli, is known to hail from a very large family from Umunze in Orumba South LGA, Anambra State. (Anambra State, stand up!) Flavour is the first son of a large family consisting of four siblings and seven step-siblings. Flavour's growing family is most recently joined by his daughter, Gabrielle, with Sandra Okagbue, and another bouncing beauty, Sophia, with former beauty queen and actress, Anna Ebiere Banner.

## 4 He acts.

Avid Nollywood fans may have noticed Flavour's distinct locs throughout the years, as the 32 year-old artist likes to test his acting chops every now and then. Making appearances on the silver screen in minor Nollywood roles has allowed Mr. N'abania to grow his notoriety beyond the music industry. After we have all watched Golibe visuals upwards of 250 times, I'm sure we are all well convinced that Flavour has what it takes to swoon.

## 5 He is a businessman.

In addition to his own record label, Flavour N'abania, also has his own club. Located at 1 Aguileri Street, Independent Layout, Enugu, his multi-million naira establishment, 2nite Club, debuted October 24, 2012. The clementine orange chateau opened its doors to hundred of close friends, family, and fans for a listening party of Flavour's latest album, Blessed. The warm decor features detailed paintings of Mr. N'abania body of art, among the eccentric patterns of furniture and wallpaper.

## 6 He writes his own music.

In an interview, Flavour continued to say, "I go so deep when I compose my songs. I am never in a hurry when composing my songs. The problem with musicians while composing beats is that they are always in a hurry. A great artist who desires quality beats must learn to be patient. If the words or lyrics does not touch me, I won't release it. I won't drop a song until I get the right words. I always wait for the right inspiration, I don't write because I just want to release a song. I go through the words and lyrics every day. If I don't have the right word for a line, I don't gamble. I keep making the sound until I get the right beat for the missing link even if I don't know what I'm saying. I don't patch up my lyrics." Much respect, Flavour.

## 7 He began his career playing the drums.

Before gaining critically acclaimed notoriety for Nwa Baby Remix, Flavour received his glimpse of the industry as a drummer in his local church in Enugu. By the age of 13, young N'abania was blessed to join the ranks of the talented church choir, which brought his talent of the instrument to the forefront. After developing his craft on an educational scholarship, Flavour was soon providing keyboard instrumentals and background vocals for other musicians. By age 19, Mr. N'abania was able to join the Enugu Band as a pianist and drummer.



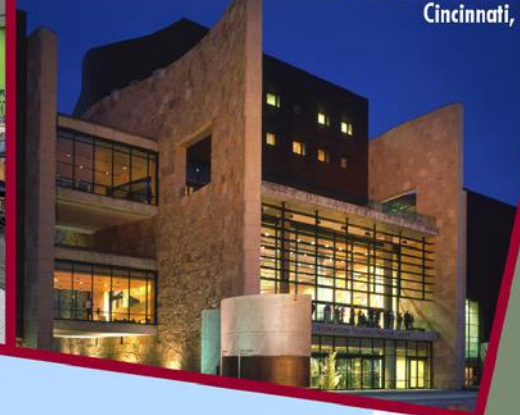
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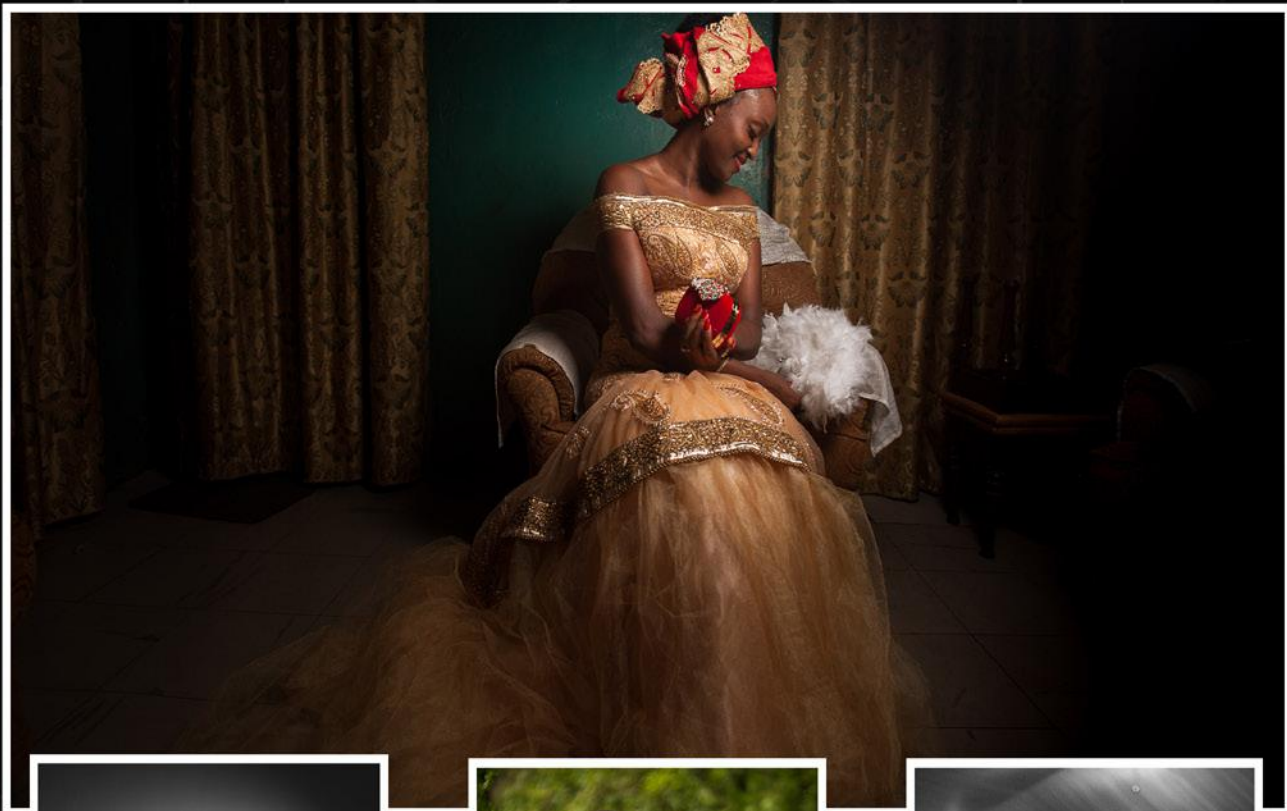
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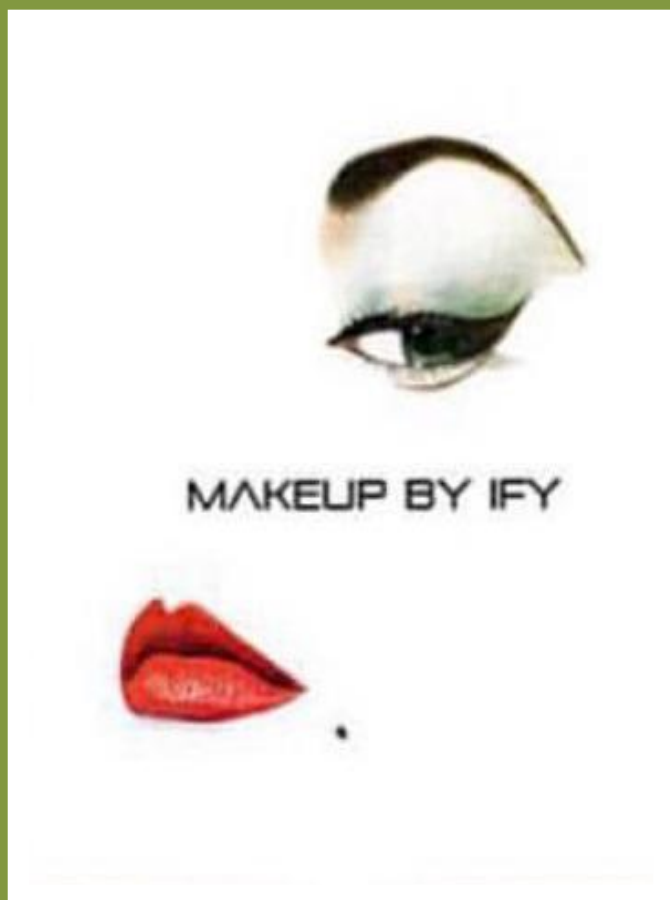
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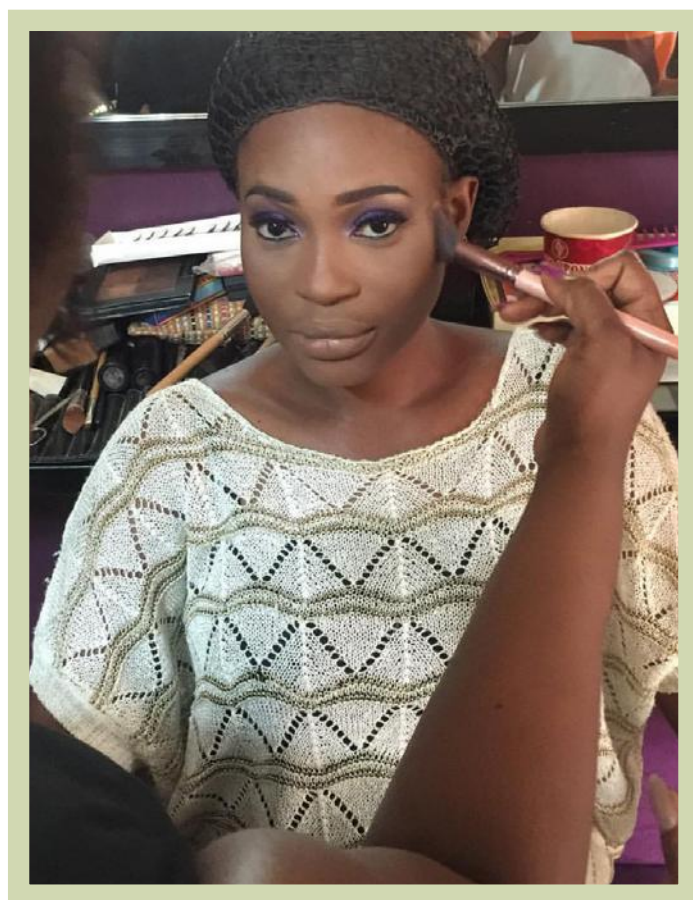
# Fresh Beat Face: Make-up 101

By Laura Onyencho



Makeup is a work of art, if you know how to make it work for you. For women of color, we spend billions of dollars on cosmetics, desperately searching for anything that works. Black women, come in all shades, but struggle to find cosmetic brands that compliment our skin tones. But don't worry; one talented lady has got you covered.

Ifeoma Onuorah (pictured right) is an international makeup artist based in Boston, MA. A true nwa Onitsha, she is a sought after makeup artist in the Nigerian entertainment and fashion industry. Onuorah has worked with several Nigerian celebrities such as Kaffy the dancer, Emma Naira, and Pearl from Soundcity. She launched her brand Makeup by Ify about a year ago, and she is just getting started. We had the honor to chat with her about her work as a makeup artist, and what women need to have in their makeup survival kits to complete a fresh natural look.



Laura O: When did your love for making first begin?

Ifeoma O: I would say my love of makeup began when I entered college. I had always been a tomboy growing up. I was very awkward and shy. I think when I entered college and I was forced to be my own person and escape from under my parent's umbrella I started to dabble more in makeup.

Laura O: How long have you been doing this craft?

Ifeoma O: I have always been creative. I have been a painter since I was very young. Makeup on the face is almost like creating a painting on a face instead of canvas paper. If you think of it in that regard I have been doing this for a very long time. Professionally I would say about 3 or 4 years now.



Laura O: How have you been able to use your skills to connect with others back home?

Ifeoma O: I have been able to connect with those abroad mainly through social media. I post makeup tutorials and I believe it is through my makeup postings on social media I have been able to meet some of the popular Nigerian talents that we all enjoy musically and on television.

Laura O: Where do you see your brand in the next few years?

Ifeoma O: In the next few years I see myself teaching more makeup classes overseas. I taught a makeup class in Ikeja this past March and it was such a joy. I plan on expanding to other commodities as well. That will be revealed much later on.

Laura O: What opportunities have opened because of your artistry?

Ifeoma O: Apart from networking and meeting so many great people in the Nigerian Entertainment industry, I was able to become the official Makeup artist of the Nigerian Entertainment Awards last year. I was so excited. My logo was on the backslash for all the interviews that we're going on that night and I felt very validated. I was also lucky enough to work with the Afrimma music awards in Dallas now three years running. This year I was made the official beauty blogger for UDR media. I have so many great things planned with them. At this point I just thank God for all he has given me due to my persistence, prayer and talent.

Laura O: You work with a wide range of shades and ethnicities, what are some cons brown skins girls have to deal with dealing with makeup... pros?

Ifeoma O: The makeup industry has ignored us melanin-enriched queens for a long time. Many brands do not have our shades. Either the shades are too red too orange to this or too that. These are definitely cons but I must give credit when it is due. Many brands are stepping it up. Covergirl, Anastasia Beverly Hills, L'Oreal to name a few. Some of the pros are that our skin is beautiful. our skin tone can literally make any shade pop!!!! And don't ever let anybody tell you a lip color are too bright for your skin tone. Lip liners are a brown girls best friend (beauty hack alert).

Laura O: For women who want to create a fresh look but don't know the essentials, what should be in their survival kit?

Ifeoma O: The number one thing a girl needs to focus on is her brows! They are the windows to her face. A great brow pencil to fill in those sparse brow hairs is a must. I suggest the brow wiz by Anastasia Beverly Hills. I love that brow pencil because it has a grooming wand and a brow pencil all in one device so it saves space and it's like a two for one.

The next thing is definitely a basic eye shadow. You don't need to have the \$75 makeup palette that all the gurus are raving about on YouTube to look fly. Go to CVS, and head over to Milani or Wet n Wild. Check out their single eye shadows (\$2.00-\$5.00). The safest bet is to get a neutral shade or one close to your actual skin tone just so that you can have a wash of color on the eyes.

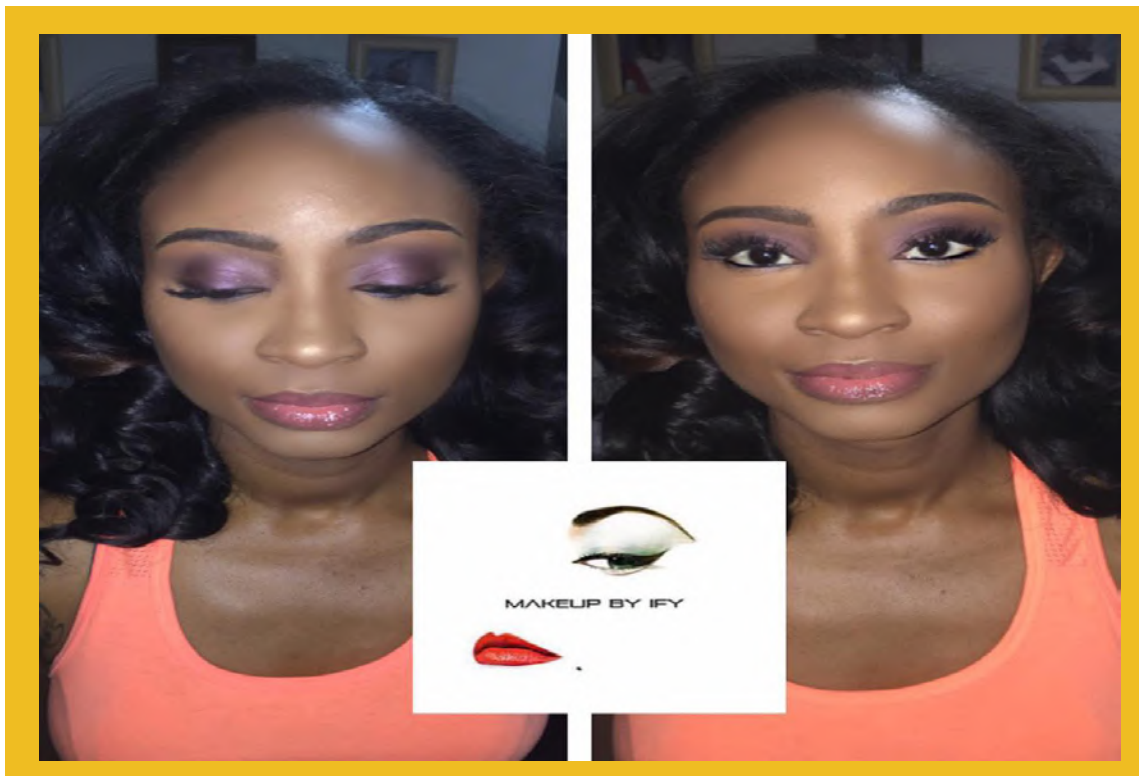
The next must have is defiantly mascara. Eyes are the windows to the soul so you want to make sure they are shining bright like a diamond. Benefit Cosmetics has great mascara products their 'better than sex' mascara will leave you checking yourself out in the mirror all day. For those on a budget that don't feel like spending twenty dollars on mascara try the Million Lashes mascara from L'Oreal.

Next is skin. Now for a fresh face we don't need all the highlighting and contouring that is currently trending in makeup. I suggest simply using a tinted moisturizer or a BB cream. Can't find one in your shade I can give you a little beauty hack. Get your favorite facial moisturizer and a few drops of a foundation in your shade and mix the two together. Voila! You have a DIY BB cream. Last but not least slap on a little lip gloss or chap stick and you are good to go. You will look like an easy breezy beautiful, fresh-faced bombshell.

Laura O: What makeup brands could brown skin girls buy to compliment skin tone?

Ifeoma O: Some of my favorites are AJ Crimson for foundation. Anastasia Beverly Hills has a new very wide line of foundations coming out that I am excited about. I am a pro artist with them so I'm always keeping up with their new releases and their brown shades look very wide and promising as well as Coloured Raine, Juvias Place, and Fashion Fair (Don't sleep on them their makeup is very good).





Laura O: And for brands for dry and oily skin?

Ifeoma O: For dry skin I would suggest that ladies acquaint themselves with the Becca Cosmetics pore mate primer and thank me later. Stop using milk of magnesia every day ladies. It's not good for your skin on an every day basis. For oily skin, Smashbox has an oil primer that I love to use and their photo finish primer will have your skin feeling hydrated and like silk at the same time.

Laura O: Do name brands matter when trying to complete a simple look?

Ifeoma O: I always tell people it's not necessarily the brand the makes the makeup pop. It's the hands applying the makeup. Whether the look is simple or hard, whether you're using Nyx Cosmetics (\$10 a palette) or Natasha Denona (\$300 a palette) if you lack skill it will show and if you have skill it will show. The only way to slay any look with any product is to practice your craft and that goes for anything not just with makeup.

Laura O: What basic makeup tools should every woman need to complete a natural look?

Ifeoma O: You need mascara, chapstick or lip-gloss and your fingers. For a long time I didn't even use makeup brushes. I used my hands to apply makeup it was quick and easy.

Laura O: What are common mistakes you see when people apply makeup?

Ifeoma O: Doing more than they know. If you are not a contouring pro do not start out of the womb contouring. Why? Because you will come outside looking crazy! Take your time. Take baby steps. Learning is a gradual process. I still have not learned all there is to learn. I always practice things and ask for critiques before I debut them. I always tell people that nighttime before you take your makeup off is the best time to learn. Try that new wing liner style you have been seeing on the fashion blogs and send it to some friends and see what they think! When you are confident then take it out and debut it.)

Laura O: If people want to find you, how can they connect with you?

Ifeoma O: Social media. I am always accessible. My professional makeup Instagram is Makeupbyify. My email is [onuorah\\_ifeoma@yahoo.com](mailto:onuorah_ifeoma@yahoo.com). I love to collaborate people should definitely reach out.

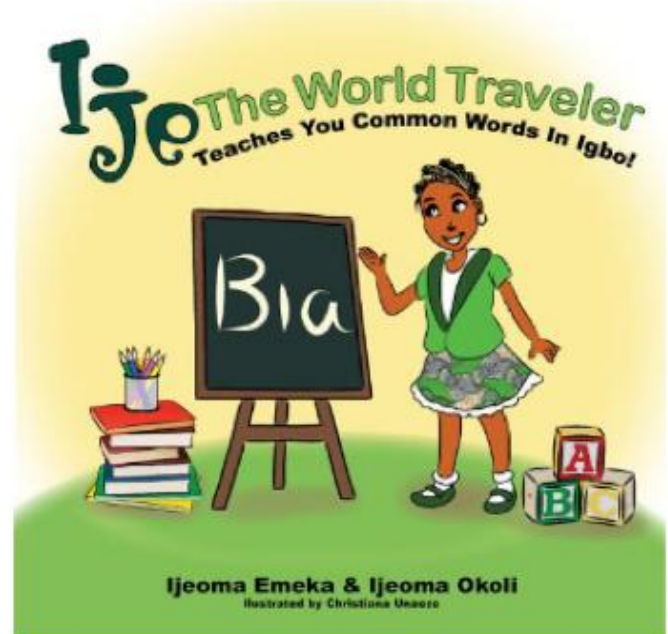
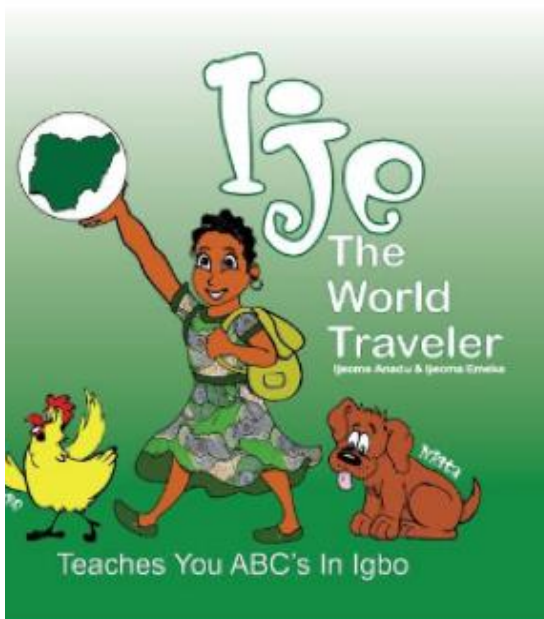
Laura O: Any new plans/ collaborations coming up for you?

Ifeoma O: My newest collaboration is the UDR media beauty blog. I will also be launching my website soon.



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Also available on Amazon.com.



# Enough With The Excuses #AsusuIgboAmaka

By Ginikannwa Ezeude

I am a firm believer in: Whatever your parents did not do for you, do it for yourself.

There are many people who grew up in single parent households or as orphans but still were able to achieve great things in life. Likewise, there are many people who grew up poor but still found a way to attend college and pursue post-baccalaureate degrees.

You may think this is me pointing my finger at you in a condemning way, but it is not. Additionally, you may also think I'm being insensitive to the difficulty attached to learning the Igbo language. But I'm not. The same way physical chemistry is a difficult course but can be and has been conquered, so can the Igbo language.

Essentially what I'm saying is: enough with the excuses! Stop blaming your parents for not having taught you. Yes, they are very much to blame at the outset... but at what point do you stop blaming them and start taking on some of the blame yourself?

Also, stop saying Igbo is hard. After all, life in general is hard. Adopt the mindset that Igbo can be conquered! You owe it to yourself and to your future kids to learn your language and use it.

Now, just because you can't speak or understand Igbo, that doesn't make you any less Igbo necessarily. HOWEVER, "Igbo" is both the

tribe and the language. To be of the Igbo people is to be of a people that are Igbo-speaking. So as you can see the two go hand-in-hand.

There are a lot of cultural connotations and ideas that are imbedded in the Igbo language. There is so much nuance that if you are fortunate enough to be privy to it, you'll find yourself head-over-heels in love with the Igbo language! Those who are catching my drift while reading this article will appreciate this statement: Everything sounds better in Igbo!

Once again, this is not me wagging my finger in disdain at non-Igbo speakers at all, kama anam a gba unu ume ka unu jisie ike n'imuta asusu ndi be anyi. Asusu Igbo amaka nno! Oburu na anyi, bu umuaka no na the Diaspora, bido imuta asusu Igbo, na-asu ya, o ga-abu ihe mara nma nke ukwu!

Once again, this is not me wagging my finger in disdain at non-Igbo speakers at all, instead I am encouraging you all so that you all will persevere in learning your people's language. Igbo language is wonderful! If we, the youth in the Diaspora, start to learn Igbo and speak it, it will be an exceptionally amazing thing!)



# Naija Style Brunch With Chef Obi

By Christine O. Umeh

## Suya Chicken & Plantain Waffles

Brunch has easily become a favorite meal of the day especially after sleeping in after a long night or after a long church service. It typically consists of American classics but leave it to Chef Obi Ekechukwu to turn up Brunch - Naija style!

Chef Obi was born in Texas and raised in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, but unapologetically represents Imo State, Nigeria (Man, I like this guy already!). He began cooking around 8 or 9 years old. His love for cooking was ignited by his mother whom he says he spent a lot of time watching cook, while stealing a bite or two of what she was whipping up.

Rather than discourage him from cooking as it was not seen culturally as a “man’s job”, Chef Obi’s mother put him to work and taught him all of the cooking basics.

Chef Obi began a catering service for awhile but had to pause as he was recently accepted into a Doctor of Pharmacy program in Atlanta, Georgia. After he makes his transition, he plans to get the catering services up and running again as soon as he figures out the balance between his course work and his business.



Keep up with Chef Obi and more of his delicious creations!

Facebook: Chef Obi Creations

Instagram: @chefobi\_creations,  
@naijaboy70

Snapchat: naijaboy70

## Chef Obi Tip For New Cooks:

*“My biggest advice to any new cook is to eat lots of different things... YES EAT! Food is just like anything else you have to work at it, so you have to taste lots of different things so you understand the flavors better. The more exposure to tasting and cooking the better your food will be. Also do not be afraid to try something new you will learn the most from your failures and trust me your taste buds will let you know.”*

### Ingredients:

Suya Spice	Plantains
Seasoned Salt	Brown sugar
Pepper	Powdered Sugar
Cayenne Pepper	Kosher salt
Baking powder	Vanilla
Canola Oil	Nutmeg
Whole Chicken wings	Pancake/waffle mix

### Directions: Plantain Waffles

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Cut 1 large ripe plantain into 1/4 inch slices and spread evenly on a sheet tray sprayed with cooking spray. Lightly salt plantain then roast in the oven for no more than 10 minutes turning them half way in between.
3. Next, place in a blender and purée with about 1 cup of water and 2 tablespoons canola oil. Blend until smooth, but there will be some small lumps (that is okay).
4. Pour into a bowl and add 1 tablespoon of vanilla, a dash of nutmeg, 1/4 cup brown sugar and mix to incorporate.
5. Once well mixed add pancake mix one cup at a time till batter is the right consistency. \*Test your batter in the waffle iron to make sure it is just right, if the batter is too thick add some water, to thin add more pancake mix.\*

6. Once your batter is ready you can proceed to make your waffles by pouring the batter into your preheated waffle iron and cooking till the steam stops or the waffle maker indicates they are ready.

### Directions: Suya Chicken

1. Coat chicken wings with a few tablespoons of olive oil and season with salt, black pepper, cayenne pepper, and your favorite suya spice. Once well seasoned you will lightly sprinkle the chicken with baking powder, \*this will make the chicken seem like it's friend after baking\*.
2. Preheat your oven to 425 degrees and bake your chicken till its done approximately 35 minutes. During the last 5 minutes of cooking turn your oven to broil and crisp up the chicken. \*Do Not Walk Away From The Oven\* You need to make sure that the chicken doesn't burn under the broiler.
3. Once it's nice and crispy on the top remove the chicken from the oven.

Next plate your waffles and lightly dust with powdered sugar for a little added sweetness and surround the waffles with your crispy Suya chicken! Served with warm maple sugar and you have a Nigerian twist on an American Classic.





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# UIU Spotlight: Chika Chukudebelu

By Laura Onyenehao



Chika Chukudebelu is the director of original programming at BET Networks. Developing series ideas and content for the network. Her projects include, the Second Generation Wayans, and The Game, which debuted as the number one ad-supported scripted sitcom premiere in cable TV history in 2011.

She started her entertainment career in New York at New Line Cinema as a development coordinator for Killer Films, developing TV series like three time Emmy

Award nominated show This American Life, and Blade.

Chukudebelu was the host and producer of the Blue Print Show, a podcast featuring stories of successful visionaries, and was co-producer of Yvonne Orji's sitcom First Gen, a comedy with being the first generation born Nigerian in America.

She is a graduate of Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

As a recent college graduate, many like me are faced with the never ending question of: what comes next? I am discovering that the answer to this question are: bills, bills and more obligations that are center around one paying their bills. Many never tell you while in college the importance of saving money or making investments. In fact, they leave all of that out and focus on the importance of making good grades, finding a well respected job upon graduation and probably finding your life partner out of thin air.

Here is the reality that many college grads experience: some don't get married right away as expected, nor do they find jobs immediately. Rather, six months after graduation, the first bill arrives: a kind invitation from Sallie Mae and her extended family. Trust me, this is one invitation you have no choice but to attend- by fire or by force, you're going. These loan payments can sometimes feel like you're making payments on a car that has never even been properly introduced to your driveway. Don't let this deter you Umu Igbo, as scary as the next phase may seem, there are solutions. I have discovered through extensive research some tips and tricks on how to manage your finances early and learn to budget effectively, as a college student or recent college graduate.

1. Create a Retirement Plan: Try to find job positions that offer you a 401(k) package. Try not to use your 401(k) money for emergencies either. If your employment doesn't offer you this option, turn your paychecks into an IRA. There is a \$1,000 penalty for taking money from your IRA before you reach the age of 55. The earlier you start

putting into these retirement funds, the easier it will be to become wealthy overtime. It is highly recommended that you save about 7% of your paycheck.

2. Spend Wisely: Choose who you spend your money on and the things you spend you spend your money on. Like the saying goes, show me where your money goes and I will

tell you what you cherish most. If you're money is spent on material things and not in your future or your family's necessities, then that speaks volumes. Don't choose to date someone who loves spending money and doesn't share the same financial values as you do. Don't live beyond your means; your time will come to experience what you think your mates have now. If you



# Financial Planning For The Recent Graduate

By Chinomso Odimegwu





have to move back home and live with your parents while you save money to buy your first home, then do it.

3. Save Money: Put money aside for rainy days. You can save money through payroll deductions or simply through putting small change away in a container.

4. Credit counts: Many would advise that you take out a credit card in order to build your credit, but in truth, that's not really necessary- just pay your bills on time. It's the exorbitant late fees that hold people down in credit.

5. Befriend the App: for Shopping Apps (ShopKick, Ibotta, RetailMeNot, SnipSnap), for General Finances Apps (Mint, BillTracker, YNAB), for Grocery Apps (Grocery IQ, SavingStar), for Local Deal Apps (GroupOn, LivingSocial, Amazon Local, Scoutmob), for Getting Out of Financial Trouble App (DebtTracker Pro), for Travel Apps (GasBuddy, Hotel Tonight, Compare Bookings, BestParking), for Hungry College Students App (Campus Special).

Whether you take one or none of my suggestions, your future is ultimately in your hands. After all, it's better to be prepared now through small tips than to find yourself struggling with taking part in future ambitions, due to poor finances. As Umu Igbo, wealth is bound to be our portion, but wisdom is also a gift from God, which should be used in unison. Hopefully you found these tips to be useful and applicable for you and your entire household.



## Nextier Advisory

Nextier Advisory is a multi-competency public sector advisory firm that combines expertise and capabilities across a range of industries and business functions to deliver superior value to its clients. With a focus on the Nigerian public sector, Nextier Advisory works with its clients to build high impact organisations.

## Nextier Power Initiatives

### The NEH Daily and Weekly Newsletters

Nigeria Electricity Hub is an online platform that disseminates power sector news, data analysis, thoughts and opinions, events, etc The NEH daily and weekly newsletters are sent to thousands of key power sector stakeholders and general public interested in power updates and happenings in the sector

### Nextier Power Dialogue

The Power Dialogue is an initiative of Nextier Power scheduled to hold every third Wednesday of the month and aimed to share knowledge, explore investment opportunities and generate ideas for policy dialogue in the power sector.

### Management Team

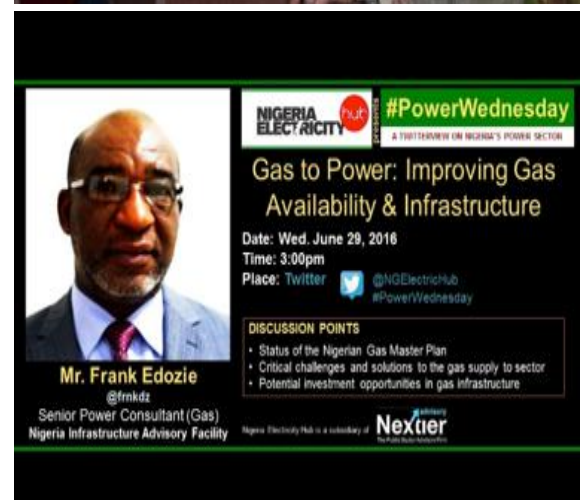
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Nextier Power is a subsidiary of Nextier Capital Limited which is registered with Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission with RC No: 933435

## About Nextier

Nextier Power is a subsidiary of Nextier Advisory that has been in existence since 2011. Nextier Power specializes in problem solving and providing solutions that tackle challenges in the electricity sector. At Nextier Power, we provide advisory services and solutions to difficult policy challenges facing the power sector. This is achieved through a number of the firm's initiatives.



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Off Ligali Ayorinde Street Victoria  
Island

6 Agluzigbo Closs Off Nza Street  
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# Why We Don't Have Light At Home And Can't Expect It Anytime Soon

By Emeka Okpukpara Jr.

Lack of a consistent and adequate access to power supply has been a problem that Nigerians have had to manage and deal with for decades. How could the Giant of Africa resigned itself to the role of becoming a sleeping giant unable to provide adequate electricity for as far back as most people can remember? How could smaller and less developed countries surpass us in generation capacity and energy delivered despite the resources we have committed and invested in developing the sector? Did they do anything special or different than we have, or is there something they know that we do not know, or is it that they are smarter than us? A list of other endless questions come to mind.

Sustainable and competitive access to power that meets the energy demands of the populace is the catalyst to development, our inability to figure out how to meet this challenge has contributed to us still being far behind compared to where we should be. Coming back to the issue at hand – why don't we have sufficient power supply that meets the energy demands of our populace in a country that has over one hundred and seventy million people, has a myriad of natural resources that has the capacity to contribute to develop it, and has invested significant amounts to develop the sector? Despite this, we produce a dismal four thousand megawatts. Put in perspective, South Africa generates 40,000 Megawatts for a population of about 40,000,000 people, the same can be said of several other countries.

How did we end up here and what is the way

forward? A journey through history will point to the 19th century when the first generating power plant was installed in the city of Lagos in 1898. By 1950, in order to integrate electricity power development and make it more efficient, the then-colonial government passed the ECN ordinance No. 15 of 1950. With this ordinance in place, the electricity department and all those undertaking came under one body. In 1972, the infamous Nigerian Electricity Power Authority (NEPA) was born out of a merger between the ECN and the Niger Dam Authority (NDA). NEPA which had come to be known as “Never Expect Power Always” had the monopoly to generate, distribute, and transmit power throughout Nigeria.

By 1989 the generation capacity that NEPA was outputting was 3,450 megawatts (Keep this number in mind). In 2005 after decades of terrible power supply and service delivery by the government run electricity company the government enacted the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005, which called for unbundling the national power utility company into a series of 18 successor companies: six generation companies, twelve distribution companies covering all 36 Nigerian states, and a national power transmission company.

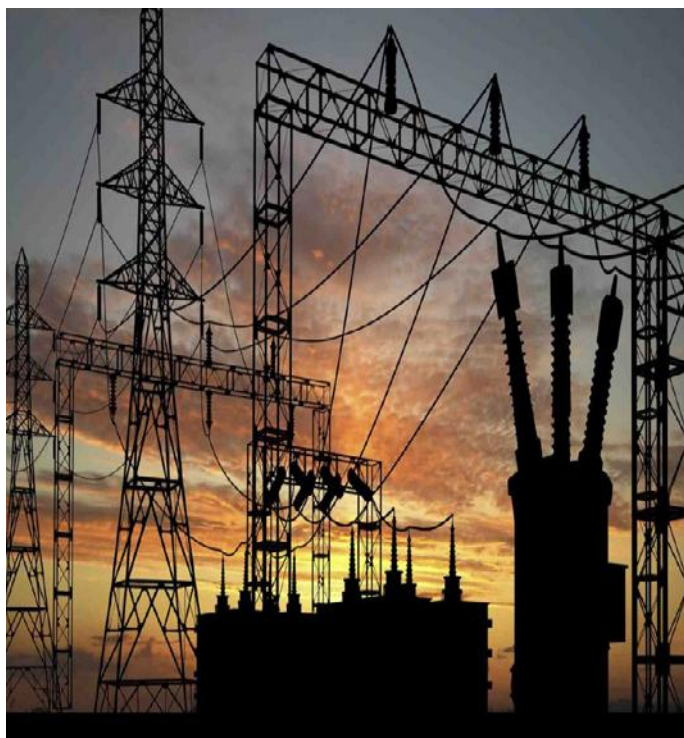
The act set up the stage for the eventual liberalization of the generation and distribution assets of the power sector. By 2013, the government had sold all eighteen distribution and generation assets with the government (through the Bureau of Public Enterprises) still holding

about 40% ownership of the assets and private investors 60%.

The transmission company was still controlled by government under a 3-year management contract by the Manitoba Hydro, a Canadian company with an option of a yearly renewal.

Why is it that after several decades of investments and reform the generation capacity of our beloved country is hovering at just around 4,500 megawatts? The reason could lie in the huge gaps and failures within the value chain process in the sector that all intertwined to create chaos.

Examining the three vital parts of the processes in the value chain of the sector; Generation, Transmission, and Distribution could reveal some clues. Assessing our generation mix which is currently made up of such sources as hydro, thermal, and renewable energy that is being produced by several companies spread across the country well below their optimal capacity, several issues come into play, first being inefficiency and mismanagement of the power assets. Another is poor or insufficient gas supply, strange for a country that is among the top ten in the world in terms of size of gas reserves. None withstanding the recent acts of sabotage on our oil



and gas infrastructure, Nigeria typically produces about 6 billion cubic scuffs of gas daily, of which 5 billion is sold as export gas (mostly LNG) on the international market and the balance of 1 billion sold at the domestic markets between industrial and gas to power plant consumers.

These gas to power consumers get about 600 million cubic scuffs per day, roughly eight percent of the total produced. This partly explains why while our installed capacity for generation is over 10,000 mega-watts, the gas supplied for gas to power is not enough to meet the demand from the installed capacity from the only 600 million cubic scuffs supplied which is less than 5,000 megawatts. From my many visits to several generation plants, I have seen and experienced firsthand some power plants functioning at a quarter of their capacity mostly due to lack of gas or minor transmission issues. Another major issue is that of liquidity where most of the gencos cannot afford to pay for the gas they are currently using since they are owned by the government, in essence, they rob Peter to pay Paul. This obviously starts and continues a vicious cycle that leads to ridiculous interest rates and so on.

Moving to the transmission sector, the bridge between the Gencos and Discos, here the main function is to carry power from the generation point to the distribution point. While transmission is still controlled by the federal government but managed under a three-year contract by Manitoba Hydro subject to renewal based on performance. Here, the issues are too numerous to list but we could focus on the critical ones. Lack of proper funding or investment in the sector is one of the top issues plaguing the sector. It is estimated that TCN needs 10 Billion dollars to upgrade and maintain its infrastructure for the next 20 years. That number seems eye popping but not that far out of reach. Currently, millions of dollars are sitting idly in the hands of TCN unutilized from the World Bank, French Exim bank, amongst others with a timeline for utilization otherwise they become moribund. In essence, lack of proper project management is another issue, where projects are not placed on any sort of priority. Typically, when the national





budget is released, TCN will allocate funds to all the projects on their book rather than critical ones that will deliver power that is stranded somewhere on the grid. With our generation at an all point low, stranded power due to transmission equals disaster. Technically speaking our grid is far behind global best practice trends. The system Operator is asleep at the wheel, because as should be the norm we do not always have spinning reserves or black start mechanisms in place. These mechanisms help start you grid up in case of a system collapse; which unfortunate we have had 10 system collapses in last 12 months compare to 4 the past two years. So as you can see the problem is getting worse.

Finally, the most interactive part of the value chain are the eleven distribution companies that distribute power throughout the country. The areas of their territory represents the geographic location that formed a part of the assets they acquired at privatization. For instance, Enugu distribution company covers Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, Imo, and Abia. The issues with this part of the value chain go from collection losses to managing energy supplied from the grid, to monetary constraints. Collection losses which dominate are due to several factors such as inadequate surveillance of area, which means some houses and businesses are enjoying free electricity affecting negatively revenue.

Sadly power supply is still viewed by some consumers as a social service rather than a business where some people will rather tap free light from a

pole in their area than pay for it. Meter distribution is also very poor, consumers are mostly stuck with estimated bills which are normally two times more expensive than a simple meter, inadvertently encouraging energy theft through illegal connections.

Another factor plaguing the sector is low supply from the grid to the distribution company due to lack of gas or lack of water supply for the hydros as well as damaged transmission infrastructure. To exacerbate this, discos do not do an adequate job in surveillance of the area to ascertain who is paying and who is rigging the system, hence, customers continue to rig the system until they are apprehended. For example, an associate helped one of the distribution companies increase their collection from 500 million Naira a month to 1.2 billion naira in the following month. Think about it







this way – this particular disco left 2 million dollars monthly on the table for years and possible decades just due to collection losses. Interestingly enough the disco mentioned is not one other major discos so you can make the assumption that other discos are losing millions of dollars monthly because they have not figured out how to adequately collect money.

In essence, the power supply problem in Nigerian is not a technical problem but a people and management problem. It is one rooted deep within Nigeria which coming out of will require discipline and tenacity. The way forward is to focus on micro and mini grids of maybe 1 to 10 megawatts embedded within the distribution network feeding to specialized clients that have the demand. This can be managed by individuals who have the focus to be profitable. They will generate, transmit, and distribute their people to their customer. This practice is already in existence in some parts of Nigeria but we need more of that to remove the dependency on the government.

The other angle that needs to be pursued with vigor is the renewable energy angle. Germany has on average less than 5 hours of sunlight daily and they produce 40,000 megawatts just on solar.

We have far more sunlight and we produce less than ten megawatts with solar. There are several projects in the works in Nigeria but at the rate our country is going we need to industrialize solar.

The question of guaranteed 24-hour light in Nigeria in ten years is still a concern to many. The simple answer is no, but it's not entirely unachievable especially when Independent Power producers focus on developing embedded clusters (Mini and Microgrids) using various sources of generations that fit into the region's resource capacity. The national grid will expectedly follow behind under the new privatized sector, slowly but they will follow. So do not give up on the Power sector in Nigeria as you can see there are layers of problems that need to be resolved before we can move to stable and reliable power supply.





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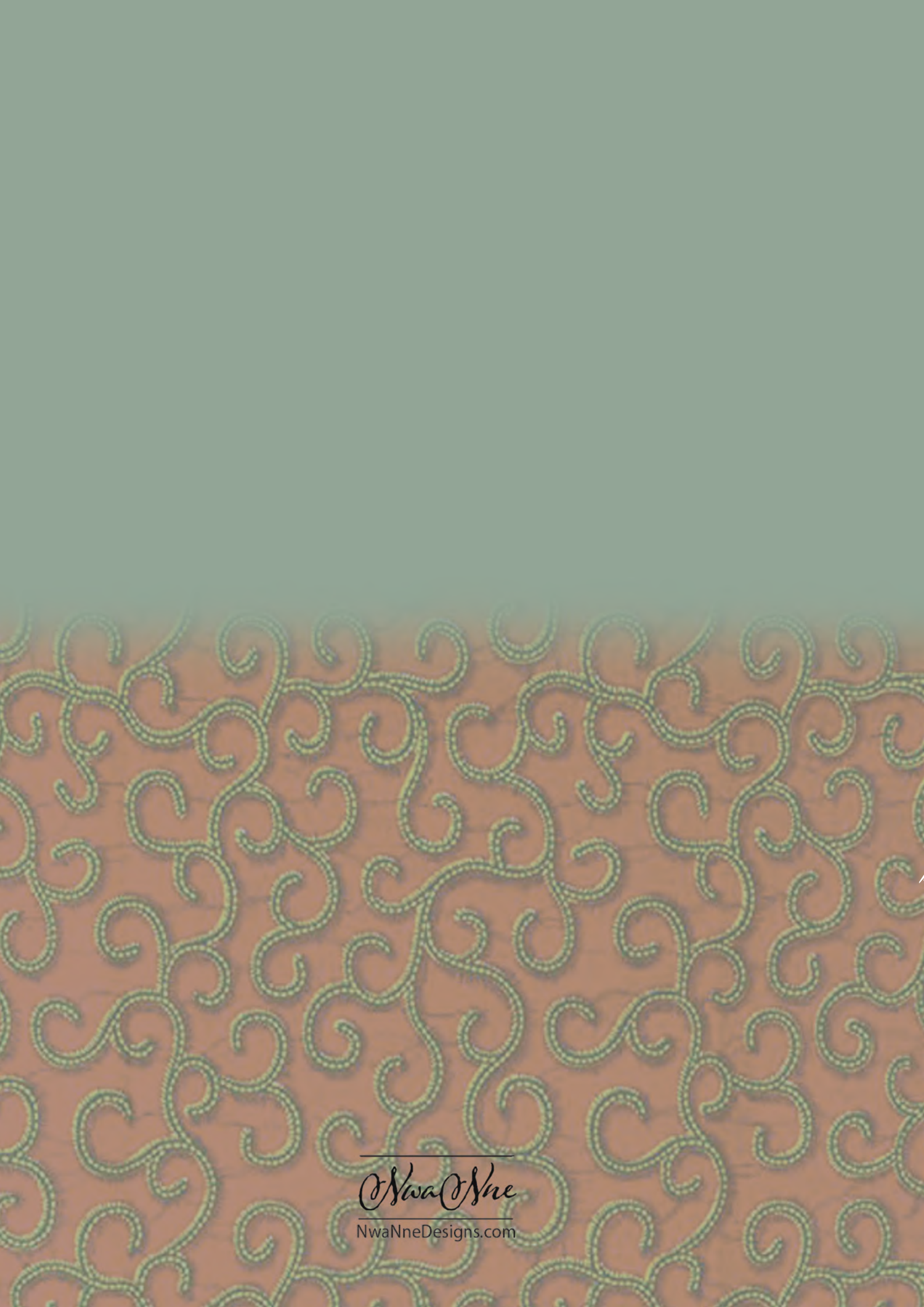
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