

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY HER ROYAL MAJESTY (HRM), QUEEN DEACONESS JULIAN AGOYIBO M. IDAKWO AMEH-OBONI II AT THE IGALA ASSOCIATION USA'S 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN MARYLAND, USA ON 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2014.**



**(HRM), QUEEN DEACONESS JULIAN AGOYIBO M. IDAKWO AMEH-OBONI II**

- ***The President, Igala USA***
- ***Dear Sons and Daughters of Igalaland,***
  - ✓ ***Distinguished Special guests at the Occasion***
- ***Guests from Nigeria***
- ***Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,***
- ***The Press here present***

Let me begin my speech bringing you greetings from the Father of the Igala Kingdom, my dear Husband, His Royal Majesty Idakwo Michael Ameh Oboni II who has asked me to extend His Blessings to all sons and

daughters in the United States of America (USA) and Canada. He is very preoccupied with other duties of the Monarch and not able to attend this year's Conference. However, he has asked me to assure you that he will personally attend the Conference or any other programmes of Igala Association, USA in the years ahead.

On my part, I am delighted to honour your invitation to this great land. I thank you all for inviting us to meet Igala Sons and Daughters who are all doing well in their various professions and callings. I am glad to see that you are all doing well.

My joy was profound on getting your invitation because, it is proof that you all remember your roots; there is no place like Home.

As Father and Mother to all Igala people, a big responsibility is on the shoulders of HRM and I, to care for all Igala Sons and Daughters, young or old and especially the disabled and less-privileged. Back home, I coordinate an NGO that takes care of the less privileged including poor women who have multiple births, widows, the aged and orphans. A handy example is a woman who delivered a set of triplets. On being informed of this birth, the husband, who lives on earnings from being a commercial motorcyclist (the popular Okada) simply disappeared leaving the woman, her previous children and the triplets. I have since taken both mother and children into the Palace where they live with the Royal family.

His Royal Majesty, since ascending the throne, has organized FREE EYE TREATMENTS at the Palace for the less privileged. He has also paid medical and hospital bills for citizens to access medical care to reduce untimely death in Igalaland.

Igalaland is underdeveloped educationally, yet Education is the heart of development. We have many out-of-school children. We have

demi-educated young boys and girls who are unemployable. His royal Majesty charges each and every one of you to kindly consider coming home to establish regular schools, vocational and skills acquisition centres for the benefit of our youth.

Igalaland is not economically advanced but we have vast agricultural lands and are blessed with different forms of mineral resources. We enjoin you to focus on coming home to set up various forms of Industries, small scale businesses and agriculture-based projects that will engage our youths and provide meaningful employment.

We are also delighted to encourage you to come and contribute to the development of our land by returning to build your country home to which you can frequently return to see your land and people.

Finally, note that the Palace is always ready to receive your ideas and your persons to Igalaland and we wish you the very best in your endeavours. Always remember Home is Home. Endeavour to invest at home to be part of the development of Igalaland.

In conclusion, I charge you all to be good Ambassadors of the Igala people and Kingdom. May God bless you all.

Igala Association, USA as an organization will move from strength to strength and increase in scope to meet the needs of our people.

Long live Igala Association, USA

Long live the USA

Long live Igala Kingdom

Long live Kogi State

Long live Nigeria as a Nation

### **BECOMING A QUEEN IN IGALALAND**

Becoming a Queen in the Igala Kingdom is quite straightforward. The Attah usually has many wives but the First wife is tagged the Queen. So, there is always a Queen Mother in the Kingdom even when the Attah has many wives.

However, the current Attah of the Igala Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, King Idakwo Micheal Ameh Oboni II is a Christian and married to His Beloved wife – Queen Deaconess Julian Agoyibo Ameh Oboni II.

She was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1956 to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Alhassan Williams Opaluwa both of Idah descent. She schooled in the Native Authority (NA) Primary School, Idah, Afolabi Commercial

College, Ado-Ekiti, Ochaja Secondary School in Dekina Local Government.

Our Queen, currently greeted as Iye Onyete, went further to acquire her OND and HND (the equivalent of a degree) in 2006 in Public Administration.

She served briefly as a Clerical Officer in Idah Local Government long before she acquired her HND. She is conversant with the length and breadth of Igalaland having nursed and covered for political positions in the past.

Our Iye Onyete, since the Coronation of His Royal Majesty on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 has settled into her Queenly role in the Royal Palace in Idah – Kogi State. She has extensively travelled in Igalaland and recently made the Holy Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Her hobbies are Reading, Cooking, singing and travelling. She speaks Igala, English and Yoruba Languages fluently.