

ADDRESS BY CHAIR BOARD OF TRUSTEES DR WILSON ONYEKA

The royal fathers, the chairman, distinguished Senator Dr Patrick Ifeanyi Ubah, Honourable Chris Azubogu, Honourable Prince Chukwudi Orizu, Chief Ugochukwu Udemezue, Chief Cletus Ibeto, Chief Louis Onwugbenu, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; I welcome you to this august occasion.

Today, the 4th day of January 2020 is a remarkable day, a proud day for Nnewi Advancement Charity UK and Nnewi. It is a day of fulfilment, a day of destiny, a significant day in the annals of Nnewi history, a day that the Lord has made and we all should rejoice in being alive to witness this epic event.

Nnewi Advancement Charity UK was enunciated by a few Nnewi indigenes resident in UK namely Mr Lotanna Aranotu, Dr Wilson Onyeka, Ms Chy Akamelu-Nsoedo, Dr Emeka Agbasi and Mrs Amaka Ojukwu with the support of late Prince Belonwu Iwuchukwu and Captain Uzo Orizu both of who provided the initial registration application funding. The Charity has the lofty goal of helping the less “well off” people in our beloved town in the areas of health and education promotion. Nnewi Advancement Charity UK was incorporated in 2002 and formally registered by the Charity Commission of England and Wales in 2003. Subsequently, the founding members recruited more philanthropic volunteers and inaugurated NAC UK with a membership of twenty in the summer of 2003.

In fulfilment of our major aim and objective, we commissioned a Health and Information Advisory Centre in December 2007 at Nkwo Nnewi in a rented flat adjacent to the Youth League Hall at a considerable expense, funded solely by generous donation of our members and well wishers. The health centre manned by nurses and a part time doctor has remained operational ever since; opening Monday to Saturday from 9.00am to 6.00pm to all comers entirely free of charge. The health centre focuses primarily on health promotion and disease prevention as well as managing the “silent killers”, diabetes and high blood pressure. In the 12 years since the opening of our health centre, we are glad that several thousands have been seen and treated by our dedicated staff with the result that several lives have been saved. This outcome is very inspiring and encouraging to us in working hard for the sustainability of this unique project, hence during our 10th anniversary celebration event in January 2018, we asked for a piece of land from Nnewi authorities for a permanent site.

Happily, our request was granted speedily with the allocation of this piece of land at Nnewi North Local Government Headquarters officially on 23rd March 2018. We acknowledge the positive roles of noble Nnewi sons like Obi George Onyekaba, Obidiugwu, Obi Nnewi ichi; Chief Ugochukwu Udemezue, PG Nnewi; Chief Ajulu Uzodike and of course the current Nnewi North Local Government care-taker chairman, Honourable Prince Chukwudi Orizu in making it a reality.

With the allocation of this piece of land came the big challenge of funding this project from scratch which our members took up with courage, optimism and tenacity. Our members dug deep and tasked ourselves financially and with the help our generous supporters, the project has become a reality within 18 months of the foundation laying ceremony on 19th July 2018,

thanks largely to the major funders each donating at least one million Naira as well as the exemplary oversight and dedication of our health centre manager, the indomitable Mrs Ebele Okoli and our Nnewi coordinator, the dependable, Sir Moses Ezekwo.

I wish to pay tribute to our long term donors, big and small who have supported this project annually since 2007, particularly Cutix PLC, Chief Ajulu Uzodike and Chief Louis Onwugbenu. NAC UK is proud to be associated with them. We also acknowledge and salute all donors to this building project. It would not have been possible without your generosity.

My sincere gratitude goes to honourable members of NAC UK and my co-trustee, Ms Chy Akamelu-Nsoedo for the unflinching support they have given me throughout our journey since 2003. It has been challenging at times but you have stuck at it and today you are part of history making in our home town. I am extremely proud of you all. I must not forget our dedicated charity minded clinician who has been with us since 2007 and only takes travel costs from us, Dr Chinedu Olisah, we salute you.

My special appreciation goes to my wonderful wife, Barr. (Mrs) Rose Onyeka and children for their understanding, encouragement and support throughout my energy sapping, financially draining and time consuming services to NAC UK and humanity since 2003.

Finally, NAC UK wishes to honour the memory of Elder George Obiamalu, an inaugural member of NAC UK and an ardent supporter of our ideals, a generous and wonderful man who slept in the Lord on 31st Aug 2018. He was present and played a major role in 2007 when we commissioned our health centre and so we miss him sorely today. **May his soul rest in perfect peace. Amen.**

This free medical project having been running for over twelve years with thousands treated entirely free thanks to the philanthropy of private individuals now deserves to be recognised, encouraged and supported by the state and local government alike and we look forward to their engagement with us in due course in the service of their constituents.

Distinguished guests, we are extremely grateful for your presence today and implore you to partner with us in sustaining and expanding this project. We are currently constrained financially in our ambition for this unique free medical centre, as we are currently wholly funded by membership contributions. We ask you to donate generously toward equipping and sustaining this project and in addition help spread the word about the existence of this health centre in order to utilise it to its maximum capacity to the benefit of our people.

I believe that together we can do it.

May God bless those who provide for the sustainability of this health centre, the staff who work in it and all those who attend it.

Once again, thank you all for your presence.

Long Live NAC UK!

Long live Nnewi!

Long Live Anambra State!



Dr Wilson Onyeka

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