

62ND NIGERIA
INDEPENDENCE DAY
ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY
MESSAGE
by
OJIE FESTUS EGHOBOR
PRESIDENT
NIGERIAN CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION (aka NCA) GTA
CANADA

Your Excellence the Nigerian
High Commissioner (NHC),
Members of the High
Commission, Members of
Canadian House of Parliament,
(MPs), Members of Provincial

Parliament (MPP) Mayors,
Regional and City Councillors
present, our esteem Elders,
leaders of community
organizations and
associations, special guest,
Ladies and Gentlemen, warm
greetings to all and welcome
to this ceremony to mark the
62nd Independence of our
motherland – Nigeria.

As a people united in purpose,
we must act as good
ambassadors in whatever
situation or capacity we find
ourselves and set aside our
differences and harness our

energies to the task of nation building.

Today's Nigerian Independence Day celebration marks the culmination of the journey that began 62 years ago. As we celebrate the achievements of our forefathers for independence, we must not be oblivious to the evils plaguing us as a nation.

As the President of the Nigerian community in the Greater Toronto Area of Canada, I can relate to the

present unpalatable state of affairs of the nation and I feel your pain, but we can take solace in the hope that Nigeria still exists as one indivisible nation.

The current leadership model and structure may look dysfunctional and Nigeria in a state of stupor, yet at the scent of good governance it would be awakened to take its pride of place as the giant of Africa, the economic hub of the world and the shining example of progressive governance.

It is an undeniable fact that our leaders have deviated from the path of our founding fathers in nation building because of their reckless, unaccountable, irresponsible, and ineptitude in administering the affairs of the nation. These and more have brought about the agitations for breakup of the country and a loud call for referendum by others to decide the future of the nation.

I use this occasion to call on all Nigerians back home and abroad to wake up to the realities of engaging in the

politics of ideology, selflessness, responsibility, and accountability from all our leaders and political class, as this seem the only way forward.

I want to implore all Nigerians tribe notwithstanding, to join me for a moment of silence in honor of all the victims that have been killed, maimed, raped, displaced through violence, or kidnapped by faceless bandits, who disguise as herdsmen, by Boko Haram and by other nefarious actors supported by the state.

A moment of silence observed

It is very sad that wanton corruption, banditry, kidnapping and armed robbery have become the norm in our land. This is totally unacceptable, bearing in mind that we have a president that was a General in the military who gave Nigerians the confidence that he would tackle these insecurity problems. We call on President Mohammad Buhari, to rise to the occasion and consciously put a stop to these avoidable

challenges, currently ravaging Nigeria.

We are all together in this sea of struggles. We can decide to act alone and sink alone or come together and float as one. **Together we're stronger and better, this is the task before us all.**

Leaders of identical vision converge in the summit of their visions even when they are separated from one another by time and epoch, they still commune in shared vision for what is best for

humanity.

I therefore want to use this opportunity to task all our community associations and organizational leaders that there is no better time for us all to come together to build a stronger community as the African community in Canada and world yearn for Nigeria leadership.

Embracing the concept that ideas rule the world, the activities of today started as an idea that was acted upon and is become a national memorial because our

forerunners who were committed to the course despite their differences in tribes and tongue but in brotherhood they stood.

In same token, community organizing is not a one-man activity but the collective efforts of many where ideas are birthed, cultivated, and harnessed for the betterment of the membership.

I therefore urge us to continue to build on this unity handed to us as we embark on celebrating Nigerian 62 Independence anniversary in

the mist of her present predicaments.

Today Saturday October 15, 2022 the Nigerian community in the Greater Toronto Area is hosting a gala night not only to commemorate the independence anniversary, but to recognize the achievement of our Nigerian Canadian Association (NCAGTA) founding fathers and to appreciate the effort and labor of all the past and present, dead and alive to upholding and sustaining the association in all circumstances. We urge everyone to

participate, visit our website at www.ncagta.com or follow us on our social media platform to participate in the task of building and organizing the community for our next generation.

Once again, I welcome us all to this ceremony...

Thank you.

#Togetherwearestronger
#thetaskbeforeus

Brief History of NCA and its leader

The association which began

as a student body organization known and called the Nigerian Student Organizations (NSO). The name NSO was soon to be changed to Organisation of Nigerians In Toronto (ONIT) for the agitation of some members who were no longer student but citizens and permanent residents at the time.

With the recognition of the increase of Nigerians in the city, with the expansion and the desire to incorporate with other provinces without the desire to create a parallel body, the name was changed to it

present identity.

The Chronology of NCA Presidents From Incorporation To The Present 2022 Administration

As Student Body: Nigerian
Student Organization (NSO)

Old Name: Association of
Nigerians in Toronto (ANIT)
Toronto

New Name: Nigerian-Canadian
Association (NCA) Toronto

Original Purpose: Settlement
of New Immigrants and

Integration of
Nigerian-Canadians into the
Canadian Mosaic.

Brand and Resolution:

Non-Political, Non-Personal or
Interest Group(s) Motivated or
entrenched; directly or
indirectly.

The Presidents:

1) Dr. Ofuegbu:- Student
President (NSO)

2) Mr. Francis Omoruyi

3) Mr. Niyi Banjoko

4) Mrs. Icemi Ogunkoya (ANIT: Association of Nigerians in Toronto)

5) Prof. Evans Enyolu (NCA Founder/Incorporator)

6) Mr. Ahmed Hamis

7) Yahaya Kadiri

8) Mr. Anthony Okereke

9). Mr. Chris Olagundoye

10). Mr. Biyi Opaleye

11) Mr. Billy Etuk

12) Mr. Frank Omoruna

13) Mr. Fabian Nwaoha

14) Dr. Chidi Nwanyanwu

15) Mrs. Kemi Amusen

16) Mr. Ojie Eghobor

Source:

1. Prof. Evans Enyolu, Ph.D.

Dipl.e-commerce Inter

Continental U of Technology

E-mail:

info@icu.education

Whatsapp: (416) 206-7061.

2. Elder Felix Udoh, vivid account of his personal involvement and participation in the association till date and still actively involved.

PASSED NCA MEMBERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

In passing memory of the community members who has transitioned to the great beyond. We remember you today and acknowledge your contributions to the upholding and sustainance of NCA. Your commitment and dedication to

the service of humanity is an inspiration to us all. We will never forget your Association with us as a community. Rest In Peace (RIP).

1. Mr. Godwin kamalu
2. Mr. Albert Obi Egwale
3. Mr. Felix Udofia
4. Mr. Chris Olagundoye
5. Mr. Kola Gbadamosi
6. Mr. Peter Nwajei
7. Mr. Alfred Okposo
8. Mr. Wilson Akpovoka
9. Dr. Patricia Williams
10. Dr. Sam Agu
11. Mr. Dickson Areh

ELDERS RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

The recognition and acknowledgment of the contributions of the community elders who have stood the test of time with the association since its existence. We appreciate your commitment and effort to sustain the association despite several challenges. Today the present Executive elect to accord you this recognition with a token of our appreciation with this award. Thank you.

1. High Chief Femi Adeite
416-422-4506

2. Chief Efe Kumane
416-762-9333

3. Pa Felix Udoh
647-444-7003

4. Emmanuel Amibor
416-251-9021

5. Josiah Idowu
416-797-7200

6. Kayode Ogunaike
647-567-5881

7. Ms Truddie Edem
647-517-2613

8. Prince Julius Adeleke
416-566-0921

9. Lady Dora Iyoho
647-970-8421

10. Mrs. Bridget Ubochi
416-996-3055

11. Chief Victor Amaechi
416-509-4983

12. Dr. B.C. Emenogu
647-778-8318

13. Dr. Evans Enyeolu
416-206-7061

14. Femi Adam's
647-219-3936

15. Chief Frank Idemudia
416-566-8951

16. Engr. Ike Ukwuoma
647-501-6364

17. Chief Tunde Olagundoye
416-453-1259

18. Theo Nwogu
416-918-7399

19. Dr. Ola Kassim
416-500-0850

20. Dr. Peter Ozemoyah.
6472205115

21. Mr. Godwin Osaze Imasuen
4167288738

22. Sir Pius Ilogul
416-346-8151